

Integrated Approach to Local Rural Development

Report of an Interdisciplinary Seminar
Makati, Philippines
31 March - 3 April 1975

Editor: Marilyn Campbell

**ARCHIV
CAMPBE
15800**

15800

IDRC-051e

Integrated Approach to Local Rural Development

Report of an interdisciplinary seminar
Makati, Philippines, 31 March – 3 April 1975

Editor: Marilyn Campbell

018747

The views expressed in this publication are those of the individual author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of IDRC.

ISBN 0-88936-065-0

UDC: 711.3(59)

©1975 International Development Research Centre

Postal Address: Box 8500, Ottawa, Canada K1G 3H9

Head Office: 60 Queen Street, Ottawa

Microfiche edition \$1

Contents

Foreword	<i>Nihal M. Kappagoda</i>	4
Addresses to the Participants		
Welcoming address	<i>Florentino S. Solon</i>	7
Opening address	<i>Hon. Jose Roño</i>	7
Closing address	<i>Hon. Estefania Aldaba-Lim</i>	9
Summaries of Project Reports		
Integrated approaches for development programs: dangers and prospects	<i>Sook Bang</i>	13
Conceptual framework for a rural development program	<i>Oscar Echeverri</i>	16
Rural development in Korea: the Saemaeul Movement	<i>Woo Hyuk Kang</i>	19
The Integrated Rural Development Programme in Bangladesh	<i>A. N. M. Eusuf</i>	22
The Gonoshasthya Kendra project of Bangladesh	<i>Zafrullah Chowdhury</i>	25
The Thailand Rural Reconstruction Movement	<i>Somchai Yoktri</i>	27
The community development service in Yogyakarta, Indonesia	<i>Sartono Kartodirdjo</i>	29
Integrated approach to local rural development in Indonesia	<i>Ibnoe Soedjono</i>	31
An integrated approach to rural development in Malaysia	<i>Zainal Abidin bin Ahmad</i>	33
A multipronged approach to rural development: the College of Agriculture Complex of Xavier University, Philippines	<i>William F. Masterson, S.J.</i>	35
The Buhi Rural Social Development Center project, Buhi, Camarines Sur, Philippines	<i>Teresita Silva</i>	37
The Cebu Institute of Medicine rural internship program, Cebu, Philippines	<i>Florentino S. Solon</i>	40
Various governments' policies on rural development		
Introduction	<i>Gelia Castillo</i>	44
Summary of Policies		45
Summary of session on "Potentials for Regional Cooperation"		48
Recommendations		49
List of Participants		50

The Buhi Rural Social Development Center Project, Buhi, Camarines Sur, Philippines

Teresita Silva

Associate Director, Philippine Business for Social Progress, Philippines

The Buhi Rural Social Development Center (BRSDC) project is an offshoot of the efforts of St. Bridget's School in Buhi to make its programs relevant to the needs of the community it serves. The management of the school has always maintained that community development is a necessary component of its educational program.

In 1966, the school sponsored six lay people to study at SEARSOLIN (South East Asia Rural Social Leadership Institute) of Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines, to learn improved farm techniques, cooperative principles, and management leadership skills, and to be imbued with Christian social doctrines. These six lay people, after their training, formed the working nucleus of the BRSDC.

The project began when St. Bridget's School conducted an intensive adult education program together with courses in improved farm management with a group of 16 farmers in Buhi. The program was assisted by the Presidential Arm on Community Development through the provision of a P2000 (\$290) loan for buying fertilizers and other farm inputs for use by the 16 farmer participants. This group of farmers was able to double their produce that year, resulting in the increase of farmer participants to 200. These 200 farmers, largely through the intensive adult education program, participated actively in community affairs.

The farmer leaders requested BRSDC for assistance to other farmers in the area in the form of conducting an intensive farmers education program. BRSDC approached the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) (a private, nonprofit foundation established by businessmen to serve as private enterprise's

implementing arm for social development) for financial assistance in February 1972 and the project was approved for funding in April of the same year.

The direct beneficiaries of this project are the residents of six barrios in the Poblacion of Buhi and eight barrios outside the poblacion. The overall administration of the project is handled by the Board of Directors of the BRSDC.

Project Aims and Categories of Interest

The main areas of family and community needs with which the project is concerned are:

(A) Economic self-sufficiency for the individual farmer through increased productivity by applying the principles of self-help and the cooperative movement. Programs under this area are the economic assistance program and the Buhi Producers Cooperative Marketing Association, Inc.

(B) Development of personal as well as social responsibility among the individual farmers toward their community and the nation in general through the organization of viable community groups with the necessary attitudes and skills for managing their socioeconomic development.

(C) Coordination of existing cooperatives in the area through the conduct of continuous education and training for cooperative officers and members.

The project is part of a larger ongoing program consisting of:

(1) community organization and community education, focussing on the residents of six barrios with particular attention to the farmers in these barrios;

(2) a fertilizer loan assistance program to a group of farmers who will be encouraged and trained to improve methods of agricultural production, manage the fertilizer loan capital formation program, and practice the principles of cooperative organization;

(3) to complement the fertilizer loan assistance component, farmers' classes in such subjects as improved farming methods, principles and organization of cooperatives, methods of capital formation and Christian social doctrine;

(4) an Economic Opportunity Program that aims to develop income-generating activities within the target barrios to supplement family income.

The Project in Action

The BRSDC Project undertook specific programs that are relevant and that answer the expressed needs of the members of the community. The creation and organization of the BRSDC made use of indigenous community leaders and developed more indigenous leaders and organized viable community structures that could be utilized in solving community problems and needs.

The programs as implemented used the multisectoral approach in achieving its objectives. The project as a whole was not only concerned with the attainment of short-term objectives but even more with the attainment of long-term objectives such as those achieved through community education and training.

The programs as identified by the community were not dictated upon by any outside agency or group but were evolved from the actual and expressed needs of the community.

The success of the project did not depend upon any outside agency for help but success was largely due to the people's participation and involvement in the implementation and organization of the projects. No community development program can succeed without the affected community's involvement and participation.

PBSP assistance is in the form of financial advance, grants, and technical assistance to the project. The BRSDC is in turn responsible for project management and a financial counterpart of P384,180 (\$55,678) in terms of buildings and equipment. Total PBSP financial assistance to the project is P189,512.35 (\$27,466), of which P174,512 (\$25,292) was given as grant and P15,000 (\$2174) as financial advance.

However, the BRSDC project suffered from the following set-backs:

(1) Lack of trained personnel to undertake community organization work. This problem was compounded by the resistance of the community to persons who are not from Buhi, thus making recruitment of personnel limited to Buhi residents.

(2) The presence of New People's Army Members in Buhi has caused the suspension of meetings and barrio gatherings. Likewise, the misinterpretation of the Samahang Nayon program by the local government volunteer personnel who insisted that barrio meetings may be held only in connection with Samahang Nayon activities prevented the conduct of many community activities.

Diffusion and Communication in Project Areas and Beyond

The 2-year PBSP assistance to the project has resulted in the identification and strengthening of 52 core groups in all the 14 barrios where the community organization (C.O.) workers operate. The C.O. workers are working with these groups to develop their leadership, management, and problem-solving skills.

The Fertilizer Loan Assistance program, which has assisted 464 farmers, resulted in the organization and registration of the Buhi Producers' Cooperative Marketing Association, Inc. (Buhi-PROCOMA) on 25 January 1973, with 121 incorporators. To date, the PROCOMA membership has expanded to 561 farmer-members with the members coming from 17 barrios, 13 of which are not within the project's target areas.

The continuing farmers classes in improved farm management and techniques and cooperative principles resulted in the organization of the Bicol Cooperative Training Center (BCTC). The BCTC is in charge of strengthening existing cooperatives in six provinces in the Bicol area and aims to establish a federation of cooperatives in the six Bicol Provinces. To date, the centre has sponsored 20 cooperatives training and education seminars with 447 participants representing 158 cooperatives in the region.

Achievements

Social

The project through its community organization and adult education program has identified and strengthened 52 core groups in the 14

barrios under the project. Each group is capable of providing leadership management and problem-solving skills from the community.

The farmers, largely through the continuing seminars, have learned to verbalize their ideas and thus participated more actively in community affairs.

Community activities and projects heightened the social interaction between and among members of the community.

There is now a more open system of communication between community members resulting in the members' awareness of community problems and needs. Community members are reportedly less individualistic and participate more actively in the solution of problems and needs.

Economic

The Fertilizer Loan Assistance program was able to help farmers by giving easy credit terms in acquiring fertilizers and farm chemicals. This prevented the farmer members from securing loans from private lenders at usurious rates of interest. Furthermore, the farmers-beneficiaries of the program grouped together and formed the Buhi Producers Cooperative Marketing Association, Inc., with the end in view of solving their marketing and farming needs.

The Economic Assistance Program (EAP) has originally assisted only 20 members of the weavers group in giving loans as capital in their various projects. To date, the EAP is currently assisting 167 members of the weavers group, fishnet makers, abaca braiders, and nylon-craft group members. With an allowable loan of P50 (\$7.25) as capital per member payable in 4 months' time, the beneficiaries of the EAP are able to have as much as 75% turnover rate. The project, which started only as a measure to augment family income has now become the main source of income for the majority of the members of the weavers' group.

Leadership Development

The project was able to organize community structures and organizations for community planning and improvement. Likewise, it helped train leaders to assume leadership functions in their respective communities.

The C.O. workers work with the groups to develop their leadership management and problem-solving skills. In cases where the groups are assessed to be ready to function independently of the C.O. workers, pull-out strategy is planned and implemented.

The Project is Continuing

The project calls for extension into the third year of operations (1974-75) of the Buhi Rural Social Development Center under the management of the St. Bridget's School of Buhi, Inc. Year III operation of the project will consist essentially of two components: (1) community organization and education; (2) economic opportunity program.

Community organization and education work will consolidate its efforts to sustain and strengthen the 52 core groups started in the 14 target barrios. The C.O. workers will act as resource persons and will continue to be with people during Barrio Council and Citizen's Assembly meetings. In addition, the C.O. worker will strengthen the farmer leaders of PROCOMA groups, PROCOMA being an organization with members in 28 barrios in Buhi including the 14 target barrios.

The Economic Opportunity Program will intensify its training classes in swine raising and sinamay weaving, follow up its referral program on vocational training like dressmaking and tailoring given in coordination with the Bureau of Public Schools, and extend technical assistance to the basket weavers and fishnet makers in aspects of quality control, costing, and pricing, and introduce them to market outlets. The end goal of the EDP is to establish community-based workshops to coordinate economic activities in a given community.