

Development Contributions of Sangguniang Kabataan Officials: The Case of Cawayan Linuk, Marantao, Lanao del Sur

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ABSTRACT

The Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), commonly known as the Youth Council, stands as a vital conduit between the youth and the government, symbolizing the acknowledgment of the pivotal role that young individuals play in the nation's development. Positioned as a training ground for future leaders, the SK aims to enhance youth participation in governance. This study aimed to evaluate the perceived development contributions of Sangguniang Kabataan Officials from the perspective of their youth constituents. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, the research employed both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. The quantitative component employed a cross-sectional survey design, while the qualitative aspect involved in-depth interviews. The study revealed that youth constituents exhibited a commendable understanding of the structure of the Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK) and the powers and functions of Sangguniang Kabataan Officials. Contrastingly, the findings exposed a concerning gap in the knowledge of Sangguniang Kabataan Officials regarding the structure of the Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK) and their powers and functions. Furthermore, the study highlighted a significant disparity between proposed programs and projects by the SK Officials and their actual implementation. Considering these findings, it is imperative to recommend stringent supervision and orientation for Sangguniang Kabataan Officials. This strategic intervention aims to mitigate the risk of neglecting responsibilities due to a lack of knowledge. The study underscores the importance of equipping SK Officials with the necessary understanding to fulfill their roles effectively, ensuring that they contribute meaningfully to the development of the community and nation at large.

Keywords: Development contribution, Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), Youth Council, Governance, Philippines

Introduction

The transition from childhood dependence to adult independence marks the pivotal stage of youth, a period characterized by active participation in shaping significant social, cultural, and political differences within a shared community. Recognizing the potential of youth engagement, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO, 2011) emphasizes the role of youth leaders in achieving sectoral objectives. This recognition has led to the establishment of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), or Youth Council, serving as the youth's representative before the government. The SK not only acknowledges the importance of youth in national development but also acts as a training ground for future leaders, aligning with the objectives of the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act 7160) and the Constitution.

In this context, Filipinos aged 15 to 30, registered in the Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK) and residing in a barangay, possess the right to vote and be voted into the SK, solidifying its venue for youth representation. Over the years, the youth, through the SK, have organized impactful events, striving to maximize their potential and influence. SK officers are perceived as role models for morality, leadership, and effective governance, embodying community ideals and inspiring others to contribute zealously to the advancement of the barangay and the municipality (Bea et al., 2022).

Despite the commendable efforts, recent challenges have eroded public trust in the SK. Concerns regarding corruption, abuse, ineffectiveness, and inefficiency have surfaced (Baja et al., 2013). Criticisms include allegations that SK leaders are too young and easily corrupted, fail to fulfill their duties, contribute minimally to the community, and struggle to balance responsibilities with school obligations (Cornelio, n.d.). Performance indicators such as lawmaking, report submission, and community consultation reveal shortcomings, further exacerbated by a misalignment between SK projects and the genuine needs of the youth (UNICEF, 2007).

Motivated by these challenges, this study sought to investigate whether the SK is effectively executing its powers and functions outlined in the Local Government Code of 1991, The Sangguninag Kabataan Reform Act of 2015, and other relevant laws. Focusing on the barangay of Cawayan Linuk, Marantao, Lanao del Sur, where a lack of initiatives and programs is evident, the research aimed to uncover insights that can enhance the effectiveness of SK officials. The findings underscore the importance of equipping SK officials with the necessary knowledge to fulfill their roles effectively, ensuring meaningful contributions to community and national development.

Methodology

Research Design

A descriptive research design was chosen to assess the Sangguniang Kabataan's (SK) performance in adherence to the Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015 and the Local Government Code of 1991. Utilizing a cross-sectional survey design, the study employed questionnaires and interviews to collect both quantitative and qualitative data. Statistical tools such as frequency count, percentage distribution, and weighted mean were applied for data interpretation. The research aimed to identify concerns and problems related to SK officials' development contributions in Barangay Cawayan Linuk, Marantao, Lanao del Sur, offering valuable insights for improvement.

Research Locale

The study was conducted in Barangay Cawayan Linuk, Marantao, Lanao Del Sur, situated in Southern Mindanao. Led by the recently elected Barangay Chairman, Hon. Junaid S. Maunte, the barangay had a population of 1,522 residents as of the 2015 census. Marantao, a 2nd class municipality in Lanao del Sur, included thirty-four (34) barangays, with a total population of 32,974 as of 2015. The local economy, driven by trade, agriculture, and manufacturing, featured predominantly businessmen and businesswomen engaged in buying and selling goods, trading and exporting agricultural products, and manufacturing hallow blocks, black sand, cement, and other building materials. This dynamic economic setting provided the backdrop for exploring the past contributions of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) in Barangay Cawayan Linuk.

Research Participants

The study's respondents were selected from the Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK) members in Barangay Cawayan Linuk, Marantao, Lanao Del Sur, with a preference for individuals aged fifteen (15) to thirty (30). From the total population of 2,222 registered voters, the researcher opted to include only thirty percent (30%) in the study. Among the sample respondents, the seven Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials constituted seven out of the sixty-seven (67) individuals selected. The selection process employed a random sampling technique to identify the sixty (60) respondents for the study.

Research Instrument

The primary instrument for data collection was a questionnaire, adapted with minor modifications from the study conducted by Laude-Concepcion and Tancinco in 2016. The questionnaire consisted of four parts. Part I focused on assessing the respondents' knowledge of the structure of the Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK), as well as the powers and functions of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) in Barangay Cawayan Linuk, Marantao, Lanao Del Sur. Part II delved into the perceived development contributions of SK officials, specifically in terms of programs, projects, and other youth-related activities. Part III explored the sources of budget allocation to support these initiatives. Lastly, Part IV addressed the respondents' perceptions of potential problems and issues related to the development contributions of SK officials.

Data Collection and Analysis

The researcher personally administered the questionnaire enabling the retrieval of essential information. Supplementary to this, secondary data encompassed selected official documents and insights derived from an

interview with the SK chairperson. Statistical tools such as frequency count, percentage distribution, and weighted mean were employed to present the data in tabular form. Subsequently, the collected data underwent coding, examination, and summarization.

Results and Discussion

Knowledge on the Structure of the Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK) and Powers and Functions of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK)

The Structure of Katipunan ng Kabataan

Table 1 presents the frequency counts and percentage distribution regarding the respondents' knowledge of the structure of the Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK), as outlined in R.A. 10742, also known as the Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015.

Table 1: Knowledge of the respondents about the structure of the Katipunan ng Kabataan

Statement Indicators	Yes		No	
	f	%	f	%
1. The KK is composed of all youth whose age ranges from 15 to 30 years old in Barangay Cawayan Linuk.	58	86.56	9	13.43
2. The KK is represented by the elected Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials.	63	94.03	4	5.97
3. The KK serves as the highest policy-making body that decides on matters affecting the youth in the Barangay.	54	80.59	13	19.40
4. The SK officials of the KK may be elected or appointed.	62	92.53	5	7.46
5. The KK will be called in case the SK chairman refuses to assume office, fails to qualify to fill the vacancy, dies, or is removed from the position.	60	89.55	7	10.44
6. The KK will elect seven (7) SK officials aside from the SK chairman.	59	88.05	8	11.94
7. The KK will be responsible for electing the SK Chairman.	50	74.62	17	25.37

The table illustrates that the majority of respondents provided a positive response ("YES") for the seven statement indicators in Part I concerning the structure of the KK. For instance, statement indicator number 1, stating that "The KK is composed of all the youth whose age ranges from 15 to 30 years old in Barangay Cawayan Linuk," received 86.56% "YES" and 13.43% "NO." Similarly, other indicators showed varying percentages of positive responses, indicating a generally favorable understanding of the KK's structure. These findings suggest that a significant majority of respondents possess a positive orientation toward the KK's structure, by R.A. 10742. Consequently, it can be inferred that these respondents are well-informed about the KK's structure and play a role in electing members to the youth council.

However, during the interview with the SK chairman of Cawayan Linuk, Marantao, Lanao del Sur, he indicated a lack of awareness and knowledge about the KK's structure by responding with a "NO." This suggests a discrepancy in understanding, potentially indicating that the SK chairman may have been influenced or compelled to apply for candidacy without a clear understanding of the responsibilities associated with the position. In summary, while the majority of respondents demonstrated a positive understanding of the KK's structure, the interview with the SK chairman revealed a notable exception, highlighting a potential gap in knowledge and the need for further investigation into the reasons behind this discrepancy.

The Powers and Functions of the Sangguniang Kabataan Officials

Table 2 provides an overview of the frequency counts and percentage distribution related to the respondents' understanding of the powers and functions of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), as outlined in R.A. 10742, also known as the Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015. In analyzing Table 2, it becomes apparent that most respondents

answered affirmatively ("YES") to the seven statement indicators outlining the powers and functions of the SK. For example, statement indicator number 1, addressing the age range of KK members, garnered 85.07% "YES" responses and 14.92% "NO." Similarly, other indicators demonstrated varying percentages of positive responses, suggesting a generally favorable perception of the SK's powers and functions.

Table 2: Knowledge of the respondents on the powers and functions of the Sangguniang Kabataan

Statement Indicators	Yes		No	
	f	%	f	%
1. The SK shall, within three (3) months from assumption to office, formulate a three-year rolling plan, which shall be known as the Comprehensive Barangay Youth Development Plan (CBYDP) and shall serve as the basis in the preparation of the Annual Barangay Youth Investment Program (ABYIP).	57	85.07	10	14.92
2. The SK shall approve the annual budget, which is the annual slice of the Annual Barangay Youth Investment Program (ABYIP).	48	71.64	19	28.35
3. The SK shall promulgate resolutions necessary to carry out the objectives of the youth of the barangay by the CBYDP and the applicable provisions of this IRR.	54	80.59	13	19.40
4. The SK shall initiate and implement programs and projects designed to promote the general welfare, development, and empowerment of the youth.	50	74.62	17	25.37
5. The SK shall hold fundraising activities that are in line with the CBYDP, the proceeds of which shall be tax-exempt and shall accrue to the general fund of the SK.	45	67.16	22	32.83
6. The SK shall submit the annual and end-term program accomplishments and financial reports to the SK barangay.	59	88.05	8	11.94
7. The SK shall partner with the LYDC in planning and executing projects and programs of specific advocacies.	56	83.58	11	16.41

These findings indicate that most respondents possess a positive awareness of the powers and functions of SK officials, as per R.A. 10742. This aligns with their understanding of the KK's structure, reinforcing the notion that their votes are cast by their informed judgments for the Kabataan Council. However, in contrast to the respondents, an interview with the SK chairman revealed a lack of understanding of his powers and functions. The chairman expressed, "I have no clear idea about the scope and limitation of the power and function exercised by SK Officials." This lack of awareness implies potential implications: the chairman may not have implemented projects or programs due to his lack of knowledge, and the Sangguniang Kabataan Officials of Cawayan Linuk, Marantao, Lanao del Sur, may face overall weaknesses.

The key informant provided three reasons for the SK chairman's lack of awareness: being new to the organization, the absence of orientation during their proclamation, and a general lack of knowledge about the powers and functions of SK officials. These statements underscore not only the ignorance of SK officials but also the failure of the barangay chairman to initiate an orientation program for SK officials. Citing Hadji Mahmud et al. (2018), the study reveals similarities, with Sangguniang Kabataan members lacking understanding about the purpose of voting and running for election due to family influence. Furthermore, a study by the DILG and UNICEF-Manila notes mixed perceptions about Sangguniang Kabataan officials and incomplete implementation of their powers and functions, suggesting inadequacies in reports, laws, and consultations.

The key informant's inability to provide an organizational chart for the SK implies structural deficiencies within the organization. This raises concerns about the SK's ability to implement programs and activities without a clear structure, delineation of functions, and designated personnel. In line with Zeldin's (2012) assertions, the study reflects the common challenge faced by youth councils—insufficient abilities and know-how to complete tasks and programs. Additionally, the mandated annual activity of "Linggo ng Kabataan" is overlooked by both the Sangguniang Kabataan and the Pederasyon ng Sangguniang Kabataan, hindering the realization of the youth's true role in the community (Malauan et al., 2014).

Development Contributions of the Sangguniang Kabataan Officials

Programs and Projects

Table 3 presents the frequency count and percentage distribution of the perceived development contributions of Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Officials to Barangay Cawayan Linuk, Marantao, Lanao del Sur, as perceived by respondents in terms of programs and projects.

Table 3: Development contributions in terms of programs and projects

Statement Indicators	Complete		Ongoing		Stopped		Not Implemented	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
1. Seminar on Good Governance and Sustainable Development.	2	2.99	0	0	0	0	5	97.01
2. Seminar on Climate Change Adaptation	0	0	0	0	0	0	67	100
3. Disaster Risk Reduction and Resiliency	1	1.49	0	0	0	0	66	98.51
4. Youth Employment and Livelihood Program	0	0	0	0	26	38.81	41	61.19
5. Health Services and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health	1	1.49	0	0	0	0	66	98.51
6. Seminar on Anti-Drug Abuse and Mental Health Awareness	27	40.30	18	26.87	17	25.37	5	7.46
7. Human Rights Advocacy, Social Protection, and Gender Sensitivity	1	1.49	0	0	0	0	66	98.51

These findings suggest that no functions and duties were established or performed. It further implies a lack of funds allocated for the mentioned programs and projects, or that SK officials were not aware that their funds could be used for their operations. According to Peregrino's (2014) study, 45 percent of participants indicated limited involvement in SK programs due to factors such as apathy, choosing to stay at home, lack of information about projects and programs, loss of trust in SK leadership, and personal reasons (e.g., study, family business).

Furthermore, an interview with the SK chairman, the key informant, aimed to determine why programs and projects were not implemented. The key informant responded, "O di aminga katawan e powers and functions ami na how much more san" (we do not know our powers and functions, how much more about that). He also added, "o di akn nga katawan tunaa e mga maana anan nah" (I do not even know the meaning of those programs and projects). The key informant's statements imply that the SK official position and fund allocation hold no value in promoting youth participation in the development of their locality.

A study by the DILG and the United Nations Children Economic Fund-Manila revealed mixed perceptions about Sangguniang Kabataan officials and a lack of full implementation of their powers and functions. The Sangguniang Kabataan was viewed as inadequate and weak in reports, laws, and consultations, as mentioned in the study of Malaluan et al. (2014). Joshua Ybaez of Barangay Luz, Cebu, noted that his lack of understanding of governance principles hampered his official role as a youth leader.

Additionally, the researcher questioned the key informant about why statement indicator 6, "Seminar on Anti-Drug Abuse and Mental Health Awareness," was the only one nearly completed. The key informant responded, "kay gyanan e trending ago gina-instruct kami e barrio" (Because it was trending, and we were instructed by the barangay chairman). This implies that, as long as they are instructed to do so, they will. It also indicates that the majority of their responses were "not implemented" because there was no supervision and instruction from the barangay chairman. Therefore, it is noteworthy that the SK Officials were under the control of the barangay chairman, suggesting a possible glaring political influence from the time of filing candidacy in the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) in determining who would sit in the Youth Council Positions.

Similar to Peregrino's (2014) study, fifty-five percent of respondents stated that barangay leaders must issue direction, and they must follow instructions from their barangay chairman. The implementation of these programs might not be feasible, implying that youth are preoccupied with other relevant activities, such as studies or family obligations. This may also be true for youth leaders (Laude-Concepcion and Tancinco, 2016).

Youth Related Activities

Table 4 presents the frequency count and percentage distribution regarding the perceived development contributions of the SK officials to Barangay Cawayan Linuk, Marantao, Lanao del Sur, as perceived by the respondents in terms of other Youth Related Activities. The findings suggest that the majority of activities conducted by the SK officials in Barangay Cawayan Linuk, Marantao, Lanao del Sur, primarily focused on the physical aspects of the youth constituents. This observation aligns with the key informant's response, indicating that the programs and projects of the SK were intended primarily for the younger population, emphasizing sports and competitions.

Table 4: Development contributions in terms of youth related activities

Statement Indicators	Complete		Ongoing		Stopped		Not Implemented	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
1. Youth Sports Development	65	97.01	0	0	0	0	2	2.99
2. Fund Raising Activity	0	0	0	0	1	1.49	66	98.51
3. Talents and Skills Recognition	0	0	0	0	4	5.97	63	94.03
4. Youth Palarong Kabataan Barangay Based Competition	33	49.25	2	2.99	29	43.28	3	4.48
5. Youth Festivals Initiative	0	0	0	0	1	1.49	66	98.51
6. Youth Street Cleanliness and Beautification	1	1.49	61	91.05	0	0	5	7.46
7. Youth Barangay Based Pageantry	0	0	0	0	0	0	67	100

Furthermore, the key informant explained that the youth in the barangay are more interested in bonding through sports/games than engaging in social issues such as health and education. This perspective was substantiated by the key informant's statement that youth-related programs focusing on sports, competitions, and cleanliness were more relatable and appealing to the younger population.

In line with Laude-Concepcion and Tancinco's (2016) study, the Sangguniang Kabataan officials moderately implemented projects that catered to tangible needs in barangays, particularly those needed by the youth. Additionally, the key informant revealed that certain indicators, such as "Fund Raising Activity," "Talents and Skills Recognition," "Youth Festivals Initiative," and "Youth Barangay Based Pageantry," were not implemented. The reasons ranged from fund inadequacy to cultural considerations, such as the prohibition of pageantry in a Muslim area. Therefore, the SK officials face challenges in implementing certain projects due to financial constraints and insufficient support from barangay officials, as highlighted by the key informant. Peregrino's (2014) study further supports these challenges, revealing that 45 percent of participants expressed reduced involvement in SK programs due to apathy, choosing to stay at home, lack of information about projects and programs, loss of trust in SK leadership, and personal reasons such as studies or family business.

Sources of Budget Allocation to Support the Programs, Projects, and other Youth Related Activities of the SK Officials

Table 5 provides a comprehensive overview of the frequency counts, percentage distribution, and mean scores related to the Sources of Budget Allocation for supporting programs, projects, and other youth-related activities of the SK officials. The statement indicator number 1, "The SK shall have ten percent (10%) of the general fund of the barangay, and that the Sangguniang Barangay shall appropriate the SK funds in a lump sum which shall be disbursed solely for youth development and empowerment purposes," garnered the highest mean of 83.58%. It was followed by statement indicator number 2, "Request resolution for funding or solicitation for funding," which obtained 31.34%. Subsequently, statement indicator number 3, "Donations from any officials," secured a mean of 20.89%, and statement indicator number 4, "Self-initiative or personal contribution and expense," obtained a mean of 19.40%.

Table 5: Sources of SK budget allocation

Statement Indicators	f	%	Rank
1. The SK shall have ten percent (10%) of the general fund of the barangay, and the Sangguniang Barangay shall appropriate the SK funds in a lump sum which shall be disbursed solely for youth development and empowerment purposes.	56	83.58	1
2. Request resolution for funding or solicitation for funding	21	31.34	2
3. Donations from any official	14	20.89	3
4. Self-initiative or personal contribution and expense	13	19.40	4

The results indicate that the primary source of budget allocation for SK officials stems from the ten percent (10%) share of the general fund of Barangay Cawayan Linuk, Marantao, Lanao del Sur, as perceived by the youth

constituents. This suggests that the funding for implemented programs and projects, whether completed or ongoing, predominantly comes from the 10% share of the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA).

However, a contradiction arises during the interview with the key informant. When asked to rank the statement indicators, the key informant prioritized donations as the major source, followed by solicitation for funding, the 10% share of the general fund, and self-initiative or personal contributions. This disparity among responses from the key informant, SK officials, and the youth constituents indicates a lack of transparency in the handling of funds by the SK officials, operating without proper disclosure to the youth they represent. Additionally, liquidation reports for donations were utilized as supporting documents for the liquidation of the 10% SK Fund.

In addressing the contradiction, the key informant explained that the SK officials do not receive a salary and implied that the 10% share from the barangay general fund is not given to them. This raises concerns about the fiscal autonomy of the SK officials in Barangay Cawayan Linuk. It suggests that, despite their lack of awareness of their powers and functions, the SK officials may be hindered in implementing programs and projects due to the non-allocation of the 10% share from the barangay general fund. This situation may also indicate a lack of motivation among SK officials to actively participate in governance, as they perceive no tangible benefits or honorarium in return. This scenario underscores the potential role of the Barangay Council in deciding which programs or activities the Sangguniang Kabataan plans to implement, as highlighted by Laude-Concepcion and Tancinco (2016).

Perceived Problems and Issues in the Development Contributions of the SK Officials

Table 6 illustrates the frequency counts, percentage distribution, and ranking of problems associated with the perceived issues in the development contributions of SK officials to Barangay Cawayan Linuk, Marantao, Lanao Del Sur, ranked from 1 to 7. The results are as follows: statement indicator number 1 (Political Influence) received 56.71%, ranking 1; statement number 2 (No Youth Participation) obtained 41.79%, ranking 2; statement indicator number 3 (Dependent on Barangay Officials) got 29.85%, ranking 3; statement number 4 (No Knowledge) recorded 28.35%, ranking 4; statement indicator number 5 (No Spare Time) reached 19.40%, ranking 5; statement number 6 (Inobservance of Political Neutrality) achieved 16.41%, ranking 6; and statement number 7 (Unchecked Nepotism) garnered 14.92%, ranking 7. Broadly speaking, these findings suggest that the primary problems and issues in the development contributions of SK officials in Barangay Cawayan Linuk, Marantao, Lanao Del Sur, are politically influenced, as perceived by the majority of the youth constituents.

Table 6: SK Problems and issues

	Statement Indicators	f	%	Rank
1.	Political Influence	38	56.71	1
2.	No Youth Participation	28	41.79	2
3.	Dependent on the Barangay Officials	20	29.85	3
4.	No Knowledge	19	28.35	4
5.	No Spared Time	13	19.40	5
6.	In observance of Political Neutrality	11	16.41	6
7.	Nepotism unchecked	10	14.92	7

However, the key informant provided a different ranking. The key informant ranked "No Knowledge" as the top concern, expressing a lack of understanding about the SK's purpose and responsibilities. The key informant highlighted that there was minimal orientation and information provided to SK officials, leading to a lack of knowledge about the significant tasks associated with their roles. Additionally, the key informant mentioned that many SK officials were appointed rather than elected, indicating a potential lack of interest and willingness to participate in governance. This lack of understanding among SK officials is consistent with the findings of Hadji Mahmod et al. (2018) and Malaluan et al. (2014), who noted a general lack of comprehension among SK members regarding the purpose of voting and the appropriate candidates to support. This lack of knowledge may contribute to the ineffectiveness of SK officials in fulfilling their roles.

The key informant also ranked "No Spare Time" as a significant issue, citing the challenge of balancing SK responsibilities with academic commitments. This aligns with the observations of Laude-Concepcion and Tancinco (2016) and Malaluan et al. (2014), who found that SK officials often struggle to fulfill their duties due to conflicting schedules and competing priorities, primarily related to their educational pursuits. Furthermore, the key informant ranked "Political Influence" and "Dependence on Barangay Officials" equally, emphasizing a close alliance with the Barangay Chairman. This alliance, according to the key informant, results in dependency on the Barangay Officials, especially concerning the allocation of the 10% general fund. This lack of fiscal autonomy raises questions about the ability of SK officials to operate independently and implement projects according to their constituents' needs. Lastly, "No Youth Participation" was ranked fourth by the key informant. The key informant highlighted a lack of engagement and initiative from the youth constituents, indicating a general apathy towards the SK officials' performance. This lack of active participation from the youth is consistent with Peregrino's (2014) study, where 45%

of participants cited reasons such as apathy, lack of information, and personal reasons for not being involved in SK programs. In conclusion, these findings underscore the multifaceted challenges faced by SK officials in Barangay Cawayan Linuk, suggesting a need for improved orientation, increased transparency, and enhanced youth engagement to address the identified issues and contribute more effectively to youth development in the barangay.

Conclusions

The study indicates a significant knowledge gap among SK officials in Barangay Cawayan Linuk, Marantao, Lanao del Sur, where the youth constituents are well-versed in the structure and functions of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), while the SK officials lack crucial awareness. This knowledge deficit, combined with challenges in program implementation and budget allocation discrepancies, underscores the need for comprehensive training and orientation programs for SK officials. The study emphasizes the importance of addressing these issues to enhance the effectiveness of SK in fulfilling its youth development objectives.

To address the identified challenges, the study recommends an overhaul of SK qualification standards to include not only basic literacy but also a comprehensive understanding of governance. The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) is urged to consider constituents' participation levels as a criterion for recognizing high-performing SK officials. Immediate orientation programs for newly elected SK officials, grant of fiscal autonomy, improved coordination among SK officials, continuous education, and performance evaluations by DILG are suggested interventions. These recommendations aim to empower SK officials, foster effective governance, and ensure the fulfillment of their roles for the benefit of the youth constituents in Barangay Cawayan Linuk and serve as a valuable reference for future officials and researchers.

Contributions of Authors

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The author declares that she has no conflicts of interest

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