

AD MELIORA

"Towards Better Things"

OFFICIAL FACULTY RESEARCH JOURNAL
Academic Year 2023-2024



University of the Assumption
City of San Fernando (P), Philippines 2000
www.ua.edu.ph

AD MELIORA
A.Y. 2023-2024

Published & Exclusively Distributed by the
RESEARCH AND PLANNING OFFICE
University of the Assumption
City of San Fernando, Pampanga

ISSN 2094-6325

For Inquiries: Contact (045) 961 – 3617 local 203
(045) 961 – 1482 local 203
e-mail rpo@ua.edu.ph

AD MELIORA, the annually published official faculty research journal of the University of the Assumption, is a compendium of peer-reviewed interdisciplinary research papers. Articles are accepted to the Journal by the Board of Reviewers using the double-blind refereeing scheme.

Editorial Board

Emmanuel M. Bagtas, PhD, RN

Editor-in-Chief

Christine Joy G. Bitor, MBA, LPT

Alice P. Rodriguito, MBA

Jamm Colline A. Panlilio, RPh

Editors

Ruth M. Balajadia-Ducut, EdD, LPT

Arnel T. Sicat, PhD

Consultants

Board of Reviewers

Michaela D. Castillo, DBA

Romario P. Polintan, MAT, MAEd

Irene F. Sibug, PhDBA

The opinions and ideas expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position of the University of the Assumption, the Editorial Board and the Board of Reviewers. The authors take responsibility on whatever statements made in their respective articles.

University of the Assumption
City of San Fernando (P), Philippines 2000

Copyright © 2024
Copyright of individual works
reverts back to the authors.

All rights reserved.
No part of this book may be reproduced
in any form or by any means
without the written permission
of the copyright owner

Foreword

Research publication in the primary method in research dissemination. It shares results and findings through peer-reviewed journals. Hence, faculty members and academic support in academic institutions such as the University of the Assumption periodically produce research outputs through journal publication.

Faculty research in the University of the Assumption (UA) is anchored by the four major research agenda namely: **research of mission, obligation, opportunity and interest**. For the 15th edition of AdMeliora, the official UA faculty research journal, the eight studies are institutional funded research, hence, they are all **research of obligation**.

At the crossroads of growth: Lives, livelihoods and local development in Barangay Telabastagan, City of San Fernando, Pampanga by **Alia Amor D. Uy** is research of obligation. This study aimed to provide an updated socio-economic profile of Barangay Telabastagan by describing the respondents' demographic characteristics, economic activities, peace and order conditions, commonly encountered problems, perspectives on the city's flagship programs, and awareness of citizens' duties and responsibilities.

Empowering communities: Assessing the socio-economic profile of Barangay Juliana, City of San Fernando, Pampanga by **Mariepi A. Simbulan** is research of obligation. The research is a full investigation of the Barangay Juliana situated in San Fernando, Pampanga which examines several key socioeconomic indicators such as population, education, economic activities, household incomes and expenses, community problems and civic participation.

Understanding the people behind the data: A socio-economic landscape of Barangay Quebiawan, City of San Fernando, Pampanga by **Leo S. Tamisen** is research of obligation. This study aimed to present the current socioeconomic profile of the barangay by describing respondents' demographics, identifying economic activities, determining common issues, examining perceptions of city programs, and identifying civic responsibilities.

Examining the socio-economic panorama: Health, family planning, and economic activity in Barangay Sta. Lucia by **Mercedes M. Lopez** is research of obligation. This study examined the socio-economic panorama of Barangay Sta. Lucia, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, with particular emphasis on the interrelationship among economic activity, health, and family planning practices.

A community in focus: Examining the socio-economic profile of Barangay San Felipe, City of San Fernando, Pampanga by **Donna P. Simbulan** is research of obligation. This study presented the socioeconomic profile of Barangay San Felipe, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, a barangay that contributes significantly to the development of the regional capital of Central Luzon.

Assessing the socio-economic status of barangay residents: A community-level profile of livelihood, education and household welfare in Barangay Sto. Rosario, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, Philippines by **Alice P. Rodriguito** is research of obligation. This study presented a comprehensive socioeconomic profiling of Barangay Sto. Rosario, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, aiming to explain the demographic, economic, and social characteristics that define the community.

A socio-economic profile of Barangay San Nicolas: Baseline data for community development and policy formulation by **Maria Bella O. Macapagal** is research of obligation. This study provided a comprehensive socio-economic profile of the community, utilizing a cross-sectional, descriptive research design.

"A community in motion:" Assessing the socio-economic landscape of Barangay Dolores by **Emmanuel M. Bagtas** is research of obligation. The main objective of the study is to provide the latest socio-economic profile of Barangay Dolores.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
FOREWORD	v
At the crossroads of growth: Lives, livelihoods and local development in Barangay Telabastagan, City of San Fernando, Pampanga Alia Amor D. Uy	1
Empowering communities: Assessing the socio-economic profile of Barangay Juliana, City of San Fernando, Pampanga Mariepi A. Simbulan	26
Understanding the people behind the data: A socio-economic landscape of Barangay Quebiawan, City of San Fernando, Pampanga Leo S. Tamisen	50
Examining the socio-economic panorama: Health, family planning, and economic activity in Barangay Sta. Lucia Mercedes M. Lopez	75
A community in focus: Examining the socio-economic profile of Barangay San Felipe, City of San Fernando, Pampanga Donna P. Simbulan	102
A community-level profile of livelihood, education and household welfare in Barangay Sto. Rosario, City of San Fernando, Pampanga Alice P. Rodriguito	134
A socio-economic profile of Barangay San Nicolas: Baseline data for community development and policy formulation Maria Bella O. Macapagal	161
"A community in motion:" Assessing the socio-economic landscape of Barangay Dolores Emmanuel M. Bagtas	188

At the crossroads of growth: Lives, livelihoods, and local development in Barangay Telabastagan, City of San Fernando, Pampanga

Alia Amor D. Uy

ABSTRACT

San Fernando City, Pampanga, strategically located in Central Luzon, serves as a major hub due to its proximity to economic zones and transportation routes. Barangay Telabastagan, one of its northern suburban barangays, benefits from accessibility to major highways and urban services. This study aimed to provide an updated socio-economic profile of Barangay Telabastagan by describing the respondents' demographic characteristics, economic activities, peace and order conditions, commonly encountered problems, perspectives on the city's flagship programs, and awareness of citizens' duties and responsibilities.

The study employed a descriptive cross-sectional research design involving 349 respondents from Barangay Telabastagan. Data were gathered using a 90-item questionnaire covering 15 key socio-economic variables identified by city officials. Quantitative data were processed using SPSS Version 17 through descriptive statistical analysis.

Findings revealed that most respondents were high school graduates, employed in permanent day-shift jobs within privately owned companies outside the barangay but within the city. Salaries and wages served as the primary source of income, supplemented by entrepreneurial activities. Theft emerged as the most frequently reported crime, while financial insecurity and sickness were identified as the most common household problems. Other concerns included family disputes, drug addiction, alcoholism, lack of permanent residence, and unsafe environments. The study also found limited awareness among residents regarding several city flagship programs, such as the Kayabe Kard, free laptop initiatives for public school teachers, and environmental management programs. Despite this, respondents generally demonstrated active civic participation, compliance with city ordinances, and support for local traditions and products.

Key words: *Economic activity, expenditure, good citizenship, income, literacy, peace and order, salary, socioeconomic*

INTRODUCTION

The City of San Fernando, Pampanga serves as a gateway to the North, positioned strategically in the heart of Central Luzon. It is located 67 kilometers north of Metro Manila, 16 kilometers south of the Clark Freeport Zone and Clark International Airport, and 50 kilometers east of the Subic Freeport Zone. It is bordered by Angeles City to the northwest, and the municipalities of Mexico, Bacolor, and Sto. Tomas to the northeast, southwest, and southeast, respectively.

San Fernando City officially became the 99th city of the Republic of the Philippines on February 4, 2001, under Republic Act 8990. Today, the city is divided into thirty-five (35) urban barangays, encompassing a total land area of 6,774 hectares (City of San Fernando, 2024).

Telabastagan is a barangay located in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga. It is situated in the northern part of San Fernando, close to the boundary with Angeles City. This strategic location has contributed to its growth as a suburban area. The barangay benefits from its proximity to major roads and highways, including the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) and the MacArthur Highways, facilitating easy access to other parts of Pampanga (PhilAtlas, 2023).

With its rapid commercial growth, Telabastagan stands out as a prime barangay for examining socio-economic progress. In this context, the University of the Assumption (UA), recognized as the first archdiocesan Catholic university in Asia and the Pacific, has received approval from the City Planning and Development Coordinator's Office (CPDCO) to utilize the Social Economic Profile (SEP) 2023 data for faculty research and community outreach projects. This approval aims to support research and extension activities that will benefit the 35 barangays in the City of San Fernando by providing essential baseline information for developing barangay programs and guiding decision-making processes.

For the past ten years, the City Planning and Development Coordinators' Office (CPDCO) has commissioned the University of

the Assumption to lead the CSFP Household Socioeconomic Surveys. Known as the Socioeconomic Panorama (SEP), this survey is a key feature of intelligent city management planning.

The SEP data serve as invaluable resources for improving the welfare and quality of life within the community, and the University of the Assumption (UA) is recognized for its pivotal role in harnessing these data for the benefit of San Fernando. As a Higher Education Institution (HEI), UA is committed to advancing research and community extension efforts involving both faculty and students. This academic institution fosters a research-oriented culture by actively participating in various research endeavors, including institutional, commissioned, funded, and developmental projects. Additionally, UA promotes community engagement through its extensive outreach activities.

Currently, socio-economic profile studies are predominantly conducted abroad. Locally, San Fernando has seen socio-economic profile research in the years 2015, 2019, and 2023. However, there has been no specific SEP study focused exclusively on the residents of Telabastagan. Therefore, it is essential to conduct a study that draws conclusions and offers recommendations based solely on the SEP 2023 data from Barangay Telabastagan.

Literature Review

Socioeconomic status (SES) is an economic and social combined total measure of a person's economic and social position concerning others, based on income, education, and occupation Weiten & McCann, (n.d.). It is a complex and multidimensional construct that encompasses an individual or family's access to economic resources, social position, and educational attainment. It is typically broken down into three levels - high, middle, and low - based on factors like income, education, and occupation.

Several key factors are included in socio-economic profiles. The demographic profile of individuals varies significantly across socioeconomic status levels. Demographics are statistics that describe populations and their characteristics. Demographic

analysis is the study of a population based on factors such as age, race, and sex (Hayes, 2024). Education and literacy play vital roles in determining socioeconomic status across various domains. Research indicates that factors such as mean years of schooling, infant mortality, and life expectancy are strongly correlated with youth literacy rates, highlighting the significant impact of healthcare systems on educational quality (Haque, Hoyer, Huynh, et al., 2022)

The health of the residents is essential for economic development. Lower socioeconomic status is linked to poorer physical and mental health outcomes, including increased rates of chronic diseases, disabilities, and premature death. This association is due to factors such as limited access to healthcare, greater exposure to environmental stressors, and unhealthy behaviors (American Psychology Association, 2024).

Individuals with higher SES tend to participate in politics at higher rates, such as voting and contacting government officials. This can lead to disparities in representation and policy outcomes Hänni, Giger, & Breunig (2022).

Socioeconomic status is inversely related to crime rates, with lower-SES individuals more likely to engage in criminal behavior, likely due to factors like lack of economic opportunities and social resources Ramirez-Thompson, (2023).

Socioeconomic status is a critical determinant of life outcomes across numerous domains, highlighting the need to address socioeconomic inequalities in society.

The primary objective of this study is to provide an updated socio-economic profile of Barangay Telabastagan. Specifically, it aims to: (1) Describe the demographic profile of the respondents. (2) Determine the participants' economic activity. (3) Identify the most peace and order in the community (4) Determine the most commonly encountered problems of the respondents. (5) Describe citizens' perspectives on the flagship programs of San Fernando. (6) Determine the duties and responsibilities of Fernandinos.

METHOD

Research Design

The study used quantitative research that focused on determining the socio-economic of Barangay Telabastagan, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. The quantitative method is a systematic study in which a researcher collects data from various respondents that are based on numerical figures, and the data gathered is then processed to obtain the results using various mathematical, statistical, and computational techniques (Shenmare, 2022). The study employed the methods of descriptive research. Descriptive research is a method of research used to describe a population's characteristics. It collects data used to answer a variety of what, when, and how inquiries on a certain population or group. Moreover, it can study one or more variables using a wide range of research techniques (McCombes, 2022).

Respondents of the Study

The respondents of the study are residents from Barangay Telabastagan. The total no. of households surveyed is 349 while the average household size is 4.40 individuals.

Sampling Design

Raosoft calculator was used to determine the sample size of the respondents. The target number of respondents was identified, and stratified proportional random sampling was utilized. The barangay has a sufficient representative sample with a confidence level of 95% and margin of error of 5%.

The research team of SEP (2023) prepared Google Maps for the barangay and mapped-out sectors by designating numbers. Using a sample population range, 351-400 respondents would need seven sectors. Each team identified the drop-off starting pints and assigned a sub-team for each drop-off point for the household survey.

Instrumentation

The questionnaire consists of ninety (90) items with several sub-items and reference codes covering 15 key socioeconomic variables identified by the city officials. The first part of the questionnaire presents the household location and identification code, followed by the respondent's name, field enumerator and supervisor. The remaining part is a combination of items from the Community-based Monitoring System (CBMS) used by legitimate institutions, businesses and government sectors in the country. The City Planning and Development Coordinator's Office (CPDCO) and the UA-RPO handled the updating, item inclusions and amendments to the research instrument.

Information on people's migration were included under demography. The city government's flagship programs and citizenship self-assessment were assessed under the citizen's perspective. The programs were evaluated utilizing three (3) and five (5) point Likert scale tables and four (4) open- ended questions.

Data Gathering Procedure

Courtesy calls to barangay officials were made a day prior the actual data gathering. This is to ensure their cooperation and the respondents' participation. Student enumerators were assigned by partners. As much as possible, the dyad consisted of at least one male to ensure safety and security. The enumerators were tasked to accomplish a quota of five to six checklists within three hours. Upon the discretion of enumerators, the interview mode shifted from direct to pencil and paper administration, where the respondents can write their responses directly in the questionnaire with no or minimum assistance.

The accomplished research instruments were cleaned by the field supervisors to assure the quality of the information gathered. Aside from the duties of cleaning and editing by the field supervisors, they are also responsible in resolving problems arising from the actual field survey. Survey revisits were performed to meet the minimum number of requirement in the barangay.

Ethical Considerations

Application to the University of the Assumption Research Ethics Board (UAREB) was sought. The UAREB proposal form was accomplished while the research protocol and consent form were attached. The UAREB's approval was essential in ensuring that the procedures and protocols observe ethical prudence. The informed consents included all the essential elements such as the confidentiality and the right to withdraw clauses. The CPDCO disseminated the communication letter addressed to Barangay Dolores as part of their support to the research team of SEP (2023). A scheduled visit was transmitted to get the barangay officials' assistance and cooperation. An ocular visit and phone call were made to ensure that the barangay officials would extend their support and cooperation. Student enumerators were trained to be polite and observe survey guidelines in the enumerator's survey kit. Ready-made self-introductory remarks were prepared to be recited by student enumerators at the beginning of the face-to-face survey.

The enumerators observed privacy and confidentiality. The respondents agreed to sign the informed consent and participated in the data gathering. They showed collegiality in persuading difficult residents to give their consents as respondents through a diplomatic approach.

Data Analysis

Data encoders familiar with spreadsheets such as Accountancy students were recruited and trained in the encoding of data. The responsibilities of SEP encoders for the research were thoroughly presented and discussed. Through rigid hands-on training, they learned how to encode data through number codes in spreadsheets and became familiar with the instrument answers. The assistant project leader facilitated the hands-on-training for data analysis in two separate sessions at the university's computer laboratory. The submission of the encoded data was supervised and screened by the liaison officer.

Using a licensed Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 17, the quantitative data were processed and summarized utilizing descriptive statistical analysis. Frequency and percentage distribution, central tendency (mean) and data dispersion (standard deviation) were obtained to provide comparisons in terms of proportions. Cross-tabulations were computed using the software to visualize associations among the dimensions of the barangay. Evaluation of the flagship programs was measured using the scale provided. Recoding in various variables was done to sort and process pertinent data needed in determining the socio-economic classifications and other relevant constructs. The socio-economic classifications were identified following the given formula, and a frequency distribution table was generated. Tables were systematically presented, answering every research problem of the study.

RESULTS

Table 1
Demographic profile

Profile	Description	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Sex	Males	788	51.00
	Females	758	49.00
Age	30 – 34	128	8.61
	35 – 39	107	7.20
	40 – 44	94	6.32
	45 – 49	80	5.38
	50 – 54	93	6.25
	55 – 59	75	5.04
	60 – 64	83	5.58
	65 and above	138	9.28
Civil Status	Single	758	50.06
	Married	610	40.7
Religion	Roman Catholic	1,335	89.4
	Born Again	113	7.6
Educational attainment	High school graduate	237	22.66
	College Graduate	136	13.00
Literacy	Read and write	1481	95.8

The gender distribution of the respondents is relatively balanced. The percentage on age indicates a relatively similar representation of younger adults in their early thirties and older adults aged 65 and above. The table shows that half of the population is single. Majority of the respondents are Roman Catholic. The distribution on educational attainment indicates that a larger portion of the respondents consist of high school graduates compared to college graduates. The respondents have high literacy rate.

Table 2
Economic activity

Activity	Description	f	%
Distribution of employed residents according to place of work	Within city	203	38.1
Distribution of employed residents according to time of work	Dayshift	459	87.4
Nature of employment of Fernandinos	Permanent job	356	69.7
According to Class Worker	Private company	223	47.3

A substantial portion of the respondents are working within the city. An overwhelming majority of 87.4% are working in jobs with traditional daytime hours. A greater part of the respondents has permanent jobs and 47.3% are working in a private company.

Table 3
Annual household income

Total Income	Amount (PhP)
Total net income from entrepreneurial activities	6,383,100.00
Total salaries and wages	85,139,228.00
Total income from other sources	4,811,000.00
Total household income	96,333,428.00
Total household income per household	390,013.88

The majority of the total household income is from salaries and wages. Second is the income from entrepreneurial activities. Third is the income from other sources. The total household income for Barangay Telabastagan is P 96,333,428.00. Therefore, the total household income per household is P 390,013.88.

Table 4
Estimated expenditures of the household

Expenditures of the Household per Month	Amount
Food	3,812,100.00
Clothing	105,950.00
School expenses	978,865.00
Medical/ Dental Expenses	695,930.00
Leisure	181,688.00
Transportation expenses	250,681.00
Electricity	852,866.00
LPG/Gas	313,177.00
Water bill	283,210.00
Gas/Diesel	614,623.00
Rent/ Amortization	130,600.00
Insurance	145,042.00
Communication Expense	232,547.00
Others	8,500.00
Total household expenditures	8,328,436.00
Gross annual household	99,941,232.00

The highest expenditure of the respondents is food amounting to P 3,812,100.00. On the other hand, clothing is the smallest expenditure, totaling P 105,950.00. The total household expenditure is P 8,328,436.00.

Table 5
Peace and order

Crime	N	Frequency	Percentage
Physical Injury	7	1	14.30
Rape	7	1	14.30
Theft	7	3	42.90
Robbery	7	1	14.30
Motornapping	7	1	14.30

Of the 7 respondents who disclosed information on crimes, theft, with a frequency of 3, stands out as the most prevalent crime, accounting for 42.90% of the total crimes. Physical Injury, Rape, Robbery, and Motornapping each account for 14.30% of the total crimes.

Table 6

Problems encountered by the households

Problems Encountered by Households	N	Most Difficult		Slightly Difficult		Less Difficult	
		f	%	f	%	f	%
Lack of Money	262	229	87	26	10	7	3
Sickness	265	33	20	119	72	13	8
Family Dispute	44	3	7	11	25	30	68
Domestic Violence	2	0	0	0	0	2	100
Drug Addiction	4	1	25	0	0	3	75
Alcoholism	21	3	14	6	29	12	57
No Permanent Residence	21	2	10	5	24	14	67
Unsafe Environment	25	0	0	6	24	19	76

This table outlines the varying degrees of difficulty households' face with different issues. The lack of money stands out as the most difficult problem for the majority of respondents. Sickness is the problem most commonly seen as slightly difficult. Family disputes, drug addiction, alcoholism, no permanent residence, and an unsafe environment are generally viewed as less difficult problems.

Table 7

Citizens' perspectives on the flagship programs of San Fernando

Flagship Programs of San Fernando	Effective		Not Effective		Program Unknown	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
1. Fernandino Dialysis Center	157	44.7	19	5.4	175	49.9
2. Kayabe Kard	70	19.9	26	7.4	255	72.6
3. City College Amended Admission Regulations	156	42.2	36	9.7	178	48.1
4. Free Laptops for Public School Teachers	110	31.3	32	9.1	209	59.5
5. Reinforced Waterways Clean-up and Environmental Management	147	41.9	37	10.5	167	47.6

Flagship Programs of San Fernando	Effective		Not Effective		Program Unknown	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
6. Task Force against Dangling/Inactive Wires	122	34.8	39	11.1	190	54.1

The table presents the perceived effectiveness of various flagship programs in the City of San Fernando. Respondents rated the programs as "Effective," "Not Effective," or "Program Unknown." The Fernandino Dialysis Center is considered effective by of respondents. A small percentage find it not effective, while nearly half of the respondents are not aware of the program. A large majority are not familiar with the Kayabe Kard program. The amended admission regulations for City College are considered effective by 42.2% of respondents. A minority (9.7%) find it not effective, while 48.1% do not know about the program. The initiative to provide free laptops for public school teachers is rated as effective by 31.3% of respondents and a significant portion (59.5%) is unaware of the program. The waterways clean-up and environmental management program is considered effective by 41.9% of respondents while 47.6% are not familiar with the program. Over half (54.1%) are not aware of the task force addressing dangling/inactive wires.

Table 8
Citizens’ perspectives on the duties and responsibilities of Fernandinos

Duties and Responsibilities of Fernandinos	Yes, always	
	f	%
1. Registered voters who vote every election	326	92.9
2. Exercise and eat well	251	71.5
3. Follow city ordinances	301	85.8
4. Segregate and do not burn garbage	288	82.1
5. Work on ways to develop their skills and talents	268	76.4
6. Using or trying to learn and use the Kapampangan language	287	81.8
7. Support the giant lantern festival and other Kapampangan traditions	237	67.5
8. Member of a local organization and fulfill their duties	117	33.3
9. Participate in city activities	142	40.5

Duties and Responsibilities of Fernandinos	Yes, always	
	f	%
10. Support and patronize local products the community and introduce them to their friends	236	67.2
11. Working to improve their family's livelihood	275	78.3
12. Pay the right taxes at the right time	270	76.9
13. Actively gather and share information about the city	255	72.6
14. Help the barangays and fellow Fernandinos	295	84.0
1. Registered voters who vote every election		92.9

The table shows citizens' perspectives on various duties and responsibilities of Fernandinos, represented by the percentage and frequency of respondents who consistently adhere to these duties ("Yes, Always"). The top five with the most answer of yes and always include registered voters who vote every election, follow city ordinances, help the barangays and fellow Fernandinos, segregate and do not burn garbage, and using or trying to learn and use the Kapampangan language. Alternatively, the five the least answer of yes and always are member of a local organization and fulfill their duties, support and patronize local products the community and introduce them to their friends, participate in city activities, support the giant lantern festival and other Kapampangan traditions, and Exercise and eat well. An overwhelming majority of 92.9% of registered voters in the community consistently participate in every election.

DISCUSSION

The results gathered from Table 1 revealed the demographic description of the respondents from Barangay Telabastagan. The results show a well-balanced demographic profile in terms of gender. It also facilitates a comprehensive gender-based analyses. The percentages indicate that there is relatively similar representation of younger adults in their early thirties and older adults aged 65 and above. This distribution implies that the sample includes a diverse age range, encompassing both younger and older adults. The majority of respondents are single. According to Philippines Statistics Authority (2020), there were 34.8 million single persons in the

Philippines, or 44 percent of the total population 10 years old over. This is higher by 3.5 million compared to the 2010 report of 31.3 million single persons. An increasing number of Filipinos are embracing cohabitation as couples in live-in arrangements now make up nearly 15% of the population — higher than the 9% observed in 2015, according to the latest government census (Chi, 2023). A significant number of respondents are Roman Catholic, followed by Born Again. As stated by Miller (2024), The Philippines proudly boasts of being the only Christian nation in Asia. More than 86 percent of the population is Roman Catholic, 6 percent belong to various nationalized Christian cults, and another 2 percent belong to well over 100 Protestant denominations.

In the Philippines, educational attainment is often linked to socioeconomic status. Table 1 indicates that a larger portion of the respondents consists of high school graduates compared to college graduates. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (2020), more than 21% of Filipinos have attained at most a high school diploma, which is higher than the percentage of college graduates. The higher number of high school graduates than college can be attributed to several factors. One of the main reasons is the inequitable and inadequate household income, which poses challenges for students in accessing higher education (Chao, 2023). The high literacy rate signifies that the vast majority of the respondents can read and write.

In terms of economic activity, a significant number of respondents are employed outside their barangay but within the city. This can indicate that people in Telabastagan are willing to travel for work in the city which results in a degree of mobility and possibly a need to access employment opportunities not available in their barangay. People may commute to other areas in search of better job prospects, higher salaries, or more stable employment. This might be driven by a lack of job opportunities in their local barangay or a desire for career advancement (Bureau of Immigration, 2017). An overwhelming number of respondents are dayshift workers and have permanent jobs. According to the Department of Labor and Employment as cited in Jaymalin (2023), despite the reported increase in the number of unemployed

people, more Filipinos now have regular and permanent jobs. Based on the annual total income, the majority of the income comes from salaries and wages. The majority of the respondents are employed in privately owned companies which may indicate a steady form of income. Other sources of income come from entrepreneurial activities, which generate profit through the services or businesses provided. Food is the largest expenditure category, accounting for a substantial portion of the household budget, reflecting its fundamental necessity. Clothing is one of the smaller expenditure categories, indicating it is not a primary monthly expense for most households.

Based on the analysis of the crime data provided, theft occurs significantly more frequently than other crimes, constituting 42.90% of the total recorded crimes. This indicates that theft is the most common issue in the area. Physical Injury, Rape, Robbery, and Motornapping each have the same frequency, with each constituting 14.30% of the total crimes. This suggests that while these crimes are less frequent than theft, they occur with equal regularity relative to each other. According to Pinlac (2023), Theft, rape, and physical injury topped the most prevalent crimes in the Philippines in the last six months—between July 2022 and January 7, 2023. The majority of the crimes that the respondents experienced occurred within the residential areas of the city. This suggests that city residential areas are more prone to criminal activity. Crimes occurred outside the city but within the province have less criminal activity compared to city residential areas.

The results in table 6 highlight various problems encountered by households and categorize based on the perceived difficulty, with financial insecurity being the most pressing concern. Financial problems are common not only in Barangay Telabastagan but in the country per se. Zoleta (2023) stated that many Filipinos depend entirely on their salaries to cover expenses, leaving no spare cash for emergencies or savings. This can lead to a cycle of debt and financial insecurity. Only four out of every ten Filipinos have savings, and nine out of ten working Filipinos are worried about being short of money when they retire. Seven out of ten Filipinos find it

challenging to handle their finances and loan problems, leading to high levels of financial stress and anxiety (GMA Integrated News, 2024). These issues collectively contribute to the widespread financial struggles faced by many Filipinos, making it essential to address these problems through financial planning, education, and support systems. _Sickness is also primarily viewed as one of the problems in the area. The effect of sickness in households is significant and far-reaching, impacting both the health and economic well-being of the family. Sickness can result in high healthcare expenses, placing significant financial strain on households. This may force families to forego essential needs, such as food and housing, to afford medical costs (Alam & Mahal, 2014). Family disputes, drug addiction, alcoholism, no permanent residence, and an unsafe environment are generally viewed as less difficult problems. Family disputes are common occurrences in households, often stemming from various issues that arise within the family dynamic. Alcoholism in a household can have severe and far-reaching effects on family relationships, financial stability, and individual well-being. No permanent residence may be brought by several reasons. It may be influenced by legal, financial, and practical reasons. In addition, unsafe environment is also considered as an issue in the community. This may be attributed to the household members who are victims of crimes. The Philippines has a moderately high rate of crime, violence, and terrorism. In 2021, the country was in the bottom five of the order and security index ranking across the region (Statista, 2023).

A significant proportion of respondents are not familiar with many of the programs of the City of San Fernando as shown in Table 7. The two programs with the highest number of respondents who are not familiar with them are the Kayabe Kard and the initiative to provide free laptops for public school teachers. These may be attributed to the lack of awareness of the benefits of these programs. The Kayabe Kard Portal is a groundbreaking program of Mayor Vilma Caluag which digitized the system of distributing medical and financial assistance to Fernandinos. The cards distributed to residents are categorized into three colors -- white for upper class; Blue for the middle class; and Red for the poorest of the poor (Arcellaz & De Leon, 2023). Most of the

respondents are not familiar with the reinforced waterways clean-up and environmental management of the city government. This may be due to the decreased information and participation of the residents. Most residents of Barangay Dolores are unaware of the Task Force against dangling/inactive wires. They might assume that electric companies are already handling this responsibility. Among the respondents who are aware of the programs, the Fernandino Dialysis Center and the City College amended admission regulations are considered the most effective. Residents of San Fernando City who are afflicted with chronic kidney disease are poised to receive free treatment through the Fernandino Dialysis Center. The center has 25 dialysis machines which can accommodate up to 50 patients daily. The facility has its own water treatment and reprocessing room which are necessary for the operation of a dialysis center. According to Arcellaz (2023), the center was established through a private-public partnership program with the Luzon Medical System. Respondents viewed City College Amended Admission Regulations as effective. This may be attributed that respondents may have experienced or have relatives, friends, people they may know who availed the program.

In terms of citizens' perspectives on the various duties and responsibilities of Fernandinos, an overwhelming number of registered voters in the community consistently participate in every election, indicating a high level of civic engagement and commitment to exercising their voting rights. A significant portion, 71.5%, of the respondents maintain healthy lifestyles by consistently exercising and eating well. This suggests a strong awareness of and commitment to personal health among the community members. A high percentage of the respondents consistently follow city ordinances, demonstrating strong compliance with local regulations and laws. The majority of respondents are diligent in segregating and not burning garbage, indicating good environmental practices and a commitment to proper waste management. A substantial portion of respondents are committed to using or learning the Kapampangan language, highlighting efforts towards cultural preservation and the promotion of local heritage. A majority, 67.5%, of respondents actively support

the Giant Lantern Festival and other local traditions, reflecting strong cultural engagement and support for community events. However, only 33.3% of respondents are active members of local organizations and fulfill their duties, indicating lower participation and engagement in local group activities. Less than half, 40.5%, of respondents regularly participate in city activities, showing moderate engagement in community events and activities. An overwhelming 97.2% of respondents consistently support and promote local products, indicating strong local economic support and community pride. A significant majority, 78.3%, of respondents are actively working to improve their family's livelihood, reflecting a commitment to family well-being and economic stability. A considerable number, 76.9%, of respondents consistently pay their taxes correctly and on time, showing good fiscal responsibility and adherence to financial obligations. A majority, 72.6%, of respondents actively gather and share information about the city, indicating strong community awareness and a proactive approach to staying informed. A significant portion, 84.0%, of respondents consistently help their barangays and fellow citizens, reflecting strong community solidarity and support for local initiatives.

Limitations of the Study

Despite gathering significant information from respondents, this research has its limitations. Some participants were unwilling to disclose essential data regarding their incomes and expenditures, citing concerns about privacy and confidentiality. Such concerns can hinder the accuracy of economic statistics derived from the survey. To improve reliability, it is crucial to disseminate information effectively on the importance of providing accurate responses in socio-economic studies.

Additionally, the number of respondents from Barangay Telabastagan was limited. Although the data collected was rich and substantive, it may not accurately reflect the perceptions and opinions of the majority of Barangay

Telabastagan residents, given the potential number of participants calculated for a representative sample.

Conclusions

The demographic profile of Barangay Telabastagan is clearly outlined based on the study conducted in this area. The provided statistics comprehensively describe the characteristics of this specific barangay. The statistics include a population with a balanced gender distribution, a wide age range, a strong predominance of Roman Catholic faith, a high rate of literacy, and varying levels of educational attainment, with a significant number of individuals having completed high school education.

The economic data indicates a notable commuting pattern within the urban area. This reflects the employment distribution and mobility within the city, emphasizing the need for effective urban infrastructure and transportation systems to support the workforce. The data also indicate strong local employment, with most residents working day shifts in permanent positions within the private sector. This profile reflects a stable and educated community with robust job security and local employment opportunities.

Food, education, and electricity are the top three expenditure categories, reflecting their importance and cost in household budgets. The data highlights a well-balanced approach to household budgeting, prioritizing essential needs while also addressing discretionary spending and investments.

Crimes are predominantly committed within residential areas of the city as compare to the crimes occurred outside the city but within the province, showing these areas to be relatively safer. The data emphasized a need for targeted crime prevention and safety measures within urban residential areas to effectively address the higher incidence of crime.

The three most commonly-identified problems encountered by the respondents are lack of money, sickness, and family dispute. Financial hardship is the primary concern among the residents of Barangay Telabastagan.

The Fernandino Dialysis Center is widely regarded as the most effective and recognizable flagship program of the City of San Fernando. Conversely, the Task Force against Dangling/Inactive Wires is perceived as the least effective government project among respondents in Telabastagan. Additionally, the least known government initiative is the Kayabe Kard.

Residents of Barangay Telabastagan demonstrate high civic engagement, prioritizing voting during elections as their foremost duty and responsibility. On the other hand, the least prioritized duty among residents is participating in and fulfilling responsibilities as members of local organizations.

Recommendations

It is recommended to conduct a similar study with a larger number of respondents. Gathering more extensive data from these participants will provide a more accurate representation of the community. Focusing the research on both the residents and the barangay officials of Barangay Telabastagan may be more effective.

The need to commute within the city highlights the importance of efficient urban infrastructure and transportation systems to accommodate daily travel for a sizable portion of the workforce. For urban planners and policymakers, understanding that a significant portion of the workforce commutes within the city can inform decisions related to transportation planning, road maintenance, and public transit development to better support this commuting population.

Given that a significant portion of residents work within the city, further development of local businesses and industries may be prioritized to increase job opportunities within the city. This may include incentives for startups, support for small businesses, and partnerships with larger corporations.

Programs for continuous professional development, upskilling, and re-skilling can help workers adapt to changing job

market conditions and technological advancements to maintain job security. The barangay may continue to support the private sector in the city, given its role as a major employer. This may include tax incentives, streamlined business regulations, and initiatives to foster innovation and competitiveness among local businesses.

To enhance the financial health of households and optimize monthly expenditures, barangay officials may offer seminars to residents on topics such as developing a detailed budget, implementing cost-saving measures, and using financial management apps and tools to track expenses.

Given that theft is the most prevalent crime in Barangay Telabastagan, law enforcement, and community safety programs may prioritize theft prevention measures. This may include increased surveillance, community awareness programs, and strengthening of legal frameworks to deter potential offenders. Although less frequent than theft, the other crimes still represent significant concerns. Authorities may maintain consistent vigilance and resources to address Physical Injury, Rape, Robbery, and Motor napping, ensuring that these crimes do not escalate. Continuous monitoring and detailed analysis of crime data may be maintained to identify any emerging trends or shifts in crime patterns. This proactive approach may help in adapting strategies to effectively combat crime in the community.

To address the problems encountered by households of Barangay Telabastagan such as lack of money, barangay officials may implement community-based financial literacy programs to educate individuals about budgeting, saving, and managing debt, develop microfinance programs to provide low-interest loans to those in need, reducing reliance on high-interest lenders, and may create job training and placement programs to increase employment opportunities and income levels.

Improving access to affordable healthcare services and medicines through community health programs and partnerships with healthcare providers may augment the problem regarding sickness or disease. The officials may promote enrollment in health

insurance schemes to alleviate the financial burden of medical expenses. Preventative health measures may also be addressed by implementing community health initiatives focused on preventive care, such as vaccination drives and health education campaigns.

Developing family counseling and support services may help resolve family disputes and improve family dynamics. The barangay may also establish community support groups for families to share experiences and solutions to common problems.

Developing accessible rehabilitation and support programs and conducting awareness campaigns about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse and the resources available for help, may address the problems of the households regarding drug addiction and alcoholism. In terms of lack of permanent address, the local government unit may offer rental assistance and support for families facing eviction or homelessness.

Barangay officials of Telabastagan may promote community safety programs to ensure households feel secure in their environment, addressing concerns related to unsafe environments. The officials may enhance community policing efforts to reduce crime and improve safety. Barangay officials may also arrange neighborhood programs that encourage the formation of neighborhood watch groups to foster a sense of community and mutual protection. Investing in better street lighting, securing public spaces, and other infrastructure improvements to enhance safety may lessen the issues regarding unsafe environment in the area.

The government may strengthen the need for increased awareness of the flagship programs to ensure more residents can benefit from and accurately assess these initiatives. The officials may use various media channels to inform residents about the Kayabe Kard and free laptop programs, emphasizing their benefits and application processes. Engage barangay officials and community leaders to disseminate information about these programs, leveraging their influence and reach within the community.

Reinforced Waterways Clean-up and Environmental Management must be supported. Launch campaigns to educate residents about the importance of environmental management and how they can participate in the city's initiatives. Barangay Telebastagan may establish volunteer programs for residents to take part in clean-up drives and other environmental activities, fostering a sense of community involvement and ownership. The government may also collaborate with schools to include environmental education in the curriculum and involve students in clean-up activities.

Provide clear information to residents about the role of the Task Force against dangling/inactive wires and how it differs from the responsibilities of electric companies. Set up a simple and accessible reporting system for residents to notify the Task Force about issues with dangling or inactive wires.

It is recommended that the government continue its well-received flagship programs, such as the Fernandino Dialysis Center, which has been highly beneficial to less fortunate Fernandinos suffering from chronic renal failure. Develop outreach programs to ensure that all residents with chronic kidney disease are aware of and can access the services of the Fernandino Dialysis Center.

The revised admission regulations of the City College may require reinforcement. Conduct campaigns to inform potential students and their families about the amended admission regulations and how they can benefit from them. Involve alumni in promotional activities to share their positive experiences and encourage others to take advantage of the amended regulations.

References

Chao, R.Y. (2023). Higher Education in Philippines. In: Symaco, L.P., Hayden, M. (eds) *International Handbook on Education in South East Asia*. Springer International Handbooks of Education. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-8136-3_7-3

- League of Cities of the Philippines. (n.d.). BI bares new travel rules for LGU execs & employees. League of Cities of the Philippines. <https://lcp.org.ph/12/213/bi-bares-new-travel-rules-for-lgu-execs--employees>
- Moneymax. (n.d.). Top 3 money problems of Filipinos and how to solve them. Moneymax. <https://www.moneymax.ph/personal-finance/articles/top-3-money-problems-filipinos-solve>
- Khullar, D., & Chokshi, D. A. (2018). Health, income, & poverty: Where we are & what could help. *Health Affairs*, 37(3), 500-505. <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2017.1275>
- Ramirez-Thompson, E. (2023). Criminology: Foundations and modern applications. College of DuPage Digital Press. Retrieved from <https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/chapter/social-class-and-crime/>
- Traber, D., Hänni, M., Giger, N., & Breunig, C. (2022). Social status, political priorities and unequal representation. *European Journal of Political Research*, 61(2), 351-373. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.12456>
- American Psychological Association. (n.d.). Socioeconomic status. Retrieved from <https://www.apa.org/topics/socioeconomic-status>
- Weiten, W., & McCann, D. (n.d.). Socioeconomic status (SES). In *Culture and Psychology*. Retrieved from <https://open.maricopa.edu/culturepsychology/chapter/socioeconomic-status-ses/>
- Maricopa Open Education Resources. (n.d.). Socioeconomic status (SES). Retrieved June 16, 2024, from <https://open.maricopa.edu/culturepsychology/chapter/socioeconomic-status-ses>
- Zürn, M., & Checkel, J. T. (2018). Getting socialized to build bridges: Constructivism and rationalism, Europe and the nation-state. *European Journal of Political Research*, 57(1), 3-22. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.12456>
- Criminology Open Textbook Project. (n.d.). Social class and crime. In *Criminology*. College of the Desert Pressbooks. Retrieved July 16, 2024, from <https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/chapter/social-class-and-crime/>

- Philippine Statistics Authority. (2017, February 14). The single population of the Philippines (Results from the 2015 Census of Population). PSA. Retrieved from <https://www.psa.gov.ph/content/single-population-philippines-results-2015-census-population>
- City of San Fernando. (n.d.). City profile. Retrieved June 16, 2024, from <https://cityofsanfernando.gov.ph/city-profile/>
- SunStar Pampanga. (2022, November 21). CSF launches Kayabe Kard portal program. SunStar. <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/pampanga/local-news/csf-launches-kayabe-kard-portal-program>
- SunStar Pampanga. (2022, December 1). CSF Dialysis Center inaugurated. SunStar. <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/pampanga/local-news/csf-dialysis-center-inaugurated>
- Aben, E. (2023, January 5). PNP: Theft, rape, physical injury most prevalent crimes since start of Marcos administration. Inquirer.net. <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1714254/fwd-pnp-theft-rape-physical-injury-most-prevalent-crimes-since-start-of-marcos-administration>
- Philstar.com. (2023, February 17). Census: More Filipino couples now in live-in arrangements. Philstar. Retrieved from <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2023/02/17/2245649/census-more-filipino-couples-now-live-arrangements>
- GMA News Online. (2023, July 7). Money problems linked to anxiety, heart disease, premature death—study. GMA News Online. <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/healthandwellness/904520/money-problems-linked-to-anxiety-heart-disease-premature-death-study/story/>
- Philippine Star. (2023, November 10). More Pinoys have regular, permanent jobs — DOLE. The Philippine Star. <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2023/11/10/2310297/more-pinoys-have-regular-permanent-jobs-dole>
- Investopedia. (n.d.). Demographics. Retrieved June 24, 2024, from <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/d/demographics.asp>

Empowering communities: Assessing the socio-economic profile of Barangay Juliana, City of San Fernando, Pampanga

Mariepi A. Simbulan

ABSTRACT

The research is a full investigation of the Barangay Juliana situated in San Fernando, Pampanga which examines several key socioeconomic indicators such as population, education, economic activities, household incomes and expenses, community problems and civic participation. For this study, 952 individuals were surveyed using random sampling design with proportionate stratification. The results indicate that majority of residents are male 51.20%, high literacy rate 94.8% was recorded among them while almost all were Catholics 92.1%. Majority earned money through wages which accounted for 92.5% of total income earned by people within this community; majority of employees in this city 61.10 % enjoys tenure security as they hold permanent position. It was also established from the findings that even though average monthly family income here is relatively high but still most common difficulty faced by households is lack of money 95.00%. Moreover, the investigation discovered different levels of people's knowledge concerning LGU programs implemented in their locality as well as satisfaction therewith; besides they found out that many individuals participate actively during election time with turnout being 94.9 percent but less so when it comes to engagement with various organizations at grassroots level where only 25.9 % get involved. This overview offers policy makers and other stakeholders an opportunity to take stock of what works well within communities like Barangay Juliana while identifying areas for intervention aimed at addressing specific socio-economic challenges there. In addition, these results have helped us gain a deeper understanding regarding how urban barangays operate vis-à-vis wider development context of San Fernando City.

Key words: *Community engagement, economic activity and income, household demographics, socio-economic profile*

INTRODUCTION

The University of the Assumption (UA) is committed to social transformation. This is evidenced by its research agenda which focuses on studies that can contribute positively to society, culture and environment. It operates on the belief that serving communities is in line with United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for an inclusive and just development. As part of its corporate social responsibility, UA has been engaging in joint research undertakings with the local government unit of San Fernando City, Pampanga to provide inputs for policy making as well as program implementation based on evidence.

One of the 35 barangays in the City of San Fernando, Barangay Juliana prides itself for its strong Kapampangan heritage and lively community life. Situated at the very heart of this highly urbanized city, it has a mixed land use pattern composed mainly of residential areas intermingled with commercial establishments and pockets of agricultural lands. While SEP 2023 may present an extensive description about socio-economic conditions prevailing across San Fernando City; however, it would still be imperative to make deeper analysis into each neighborhood such as Barangay Juliana.

Several previous socio-economic profile studies conducted in San Fernando City like those done during SEP 2009, SEP 2012, SEP 2015, and SEP 2019 have emphasized understanding particularities involved within different local dynamics influenced by factors ranging from household composition through education and employment including income generating activities vis a vis accessibilities among resources across various barangays. An additional key point from the SEP 2023 report was that there should be a more targeted approach towards meeting specific requirements within different communities constituting this city.

Considering conceptual framework laid out under SEP 2023 report; therefore this study seeks to probe into socio economic profile situation found at Barangay Juliana with focus on housing characteristics; household composition; demography; education level attained so far by residents living here; economic activities

being pursued either formally or informally; main sources of income generation among them being health related issues including family planning as well community participation. The researcher therefore looked at these multiple dimensions surrounding socio-economic landscape within different parts of the barangay so as to bring out challenges which are unique among people living in Barangay Juliana.

The implications resulting from this study will not only provide broader insights on how things work across the whole City of San Fernando but also be useful for policy makers and other leaders at local level because such findings may help them come up with appropriate targeted interventions, allocate resources properly or even initiate those programs driven by people themselves which can address specific needs identified from residents living in Barangay Juliana thereby fostering inclusive sustainable development within the area.

Literature Review

A very important aspect in comprehending the overall growth and welfare of a community is the socio-economic profile. A number of studies have looked into the socio-economic status of different communities in the Philippines that can contribute to knowledge for this study which will be conducted in Barangay Juliana, City of San Fernando Pampanga.

The City of San Fernando at the city level has conducted several rounds of Household Socio Economic Profile Surveys (SEP) to determine how it fares on socioeconomics. SEP 2009, SEP 2012, SEP 2015, SEP 2019 were conducted alongside with SEP 2023 which gave insights about the different social economic aspects among people living within its boundaries; highlighting various factors such as household composition, education levels attained by members or residents within an area; employment opportunities available based on skills acquired through education/training programs attended by individuals residing there also taking cognizance that income generating activities

undertaken may vary greatly depending upon location vis-a-vis market centers (SEP, 2023).

Much as individual communities may exhibit peculiarities calling for specific interventions designed to address their unique challenges as well capitalize on existing opportunities, consider looking at this same issue from a barangay perspective because according to reports issued out during one time when they were being prepared all over again – there is need of studying them much deeper than what was done before thus aligning with this proposal regarding Barangay Juliana's socioeconomic landscape analysis (SEP, 2019).

One example related directly towards wider understanding comes from Henares (2021) who conducted research about heritage conservation policy and sustainability frameworks situated at large scale such as cities; in his work he stresses out importance knowing cultural/historical elements that shape urban areas' socio-economic growth so much more can be discovered through investigating particularities surrounding locations like Barangay Juliana.

At lower levels like barangay, Lacasandile et al. (2020) developed an information-based dashboard for the Barangay Information Profiling System (BIPS) which supports decision making processes in e-governance; this study reveals usefulness associated with having comprehensive data at such small administrative units thus implying relevance behind investigating various aspects about life within a given community setting like that of Barangay Juliana.

Also, Mamaclay et al. (2020) studied socio-economic status among Purok Manggahan residents in Cabanatuan City's Pangatian Village which highlighted different dynamics taking place at barangays highlighting individuality among them all. Therefore, these findings can be applied directly into understanding Barangay Juliana's situation.

Outside the Philippines some international researchers have gone further by trying to find out how socioeconomic status affects other things within communities. Chamberlain et al. (2020), noted that neighborhood socioeconomic disadvantage is associated with multimorbidity thus showing importance considering wider environments around health, this research was carried out looking into many areas but did not mention any specific one; hence giving more clue on what to expect from other studies.

In addition, Cheng et. al. (2021), and also Kraft et. al. (2020), examined link between neighborhoods' socio-economics statuses & multiple dimensions relating to human well-being; so we see there are different dimensions through which people can view their lives based on where they live vis-a-vis poverty lines.

This survey of related research materials, which includes the complete SEP reports for the City of San Fernando, brings out the significance of conducting a thorough investigation into the socio-economic profile of Barangay Juliana. The suggested study can enhance wider comprehension about socio economics in the City of San Fernando and suggest more focused intervention strategies that will meet residents' needs better by borrowing ideas from these past undertakings.

Problem Objectives

The main objective of the study is to provide the latest socioeconomic profile of Barangay Juliana in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga. Specifically, it aims to: 1. Describe the demographic profile of the residents of Barangay Juliana, including their age, gender, marital status, household composition, and migration status. 2. Determine the educational attainment and literacy levels of the residents of Barangay Juliana. 3. Examine the economic activity and employment characteristics of the residents, such as employment status, occupation, income sources, and entrepreneurial activities. 4. Identify the most commonly encountered problems and challenges faced by the residents of Barangay Juliana, such as access to healthcare, education, and basic services. 5. Describe the citizens' perspectives on the flagship

programs and initiatives implemented by the local government of the City of San Fernando, particularly in Barangay Juliana. 6. Assess the level of community engagement and civic participation among the residents of Barangay Juliana, such as their involvement in local organizations, community activities, and support for local traditions and culture. In order to do this, the study should be able to know the whole socioeconomic situation of Barangay Juliana so that it could create appropriate policies, programs and interventions which can respond to their particular needs and problems. Moreover, these findings may help people recognize what is happening around them in terms of social and economic aspects not only at San Fernando but also in other cities thus giving them enough reason for allocating resources wisely as well as promoting community development projects that work best for everyone.

METHOD

Research Design

In order to have a complete understanding of the economy in Barangay Juliana, this research will use a design based on description and cross-section. It is possible for researchers to know about the socio-economic characteristics of their contemporary setting through the descriptive method while cross-sectional approach gathers information at one specific period.

These kinds of studies were supported by previous work done in Philippines. In a study conducted by Henares (2021) on heritage conservation policy and sustainability frameworks in City of San Fernando Pampanga, it was found that such an approach enabled them get holistic view about cultural uniqueness as well historical elements which shaped their social economic development. Also, Mamacay et al., (2020) used this method when they investigated into socio-economic status of Purok Manggahan Upper Barangay Pangatian Cabanatuan City so that they can be able to find out what was happening at different times within those areas because according them no other design could have been better suited for studying current realities concerning these places.

The option of a descriptive and cross-sectional research design will allow the researcher to paint a full picture of the socio-economic landscape of Barangay Juliana at this moment in time, just as they wanted to do when planning this investigation.

Respondents and Sampling Design

To ensure that all sectors of Barangay Juliana are represented, the research will follow a probability sampling method called proportionate stratified random sampling. The investigator will determine how many people they need to interview by using an online tool like Raosoft which tells what sample size should be based on certain parameters given, in this case it would be 5% error rate and 95% confidence level.

According to the report SEP 2023 there are about 890 households in the barangay so this estimation can be used as a basis for calculating sample sizes needed, number of houses per area or sector could then serve as additional information for allocating samples among different areas accordingly while still maintaining representativeness of findings throughout the community.

Research Instrument

The survey includes 90 questions with multiple sub-questions and reference codes corresponding to 15 key socio-economic indicators established by the city officials. The first part of the questionnaire records the household location and identification code. This is followed by the name of the respondent, field enumerator and supervisor. The rest are a mix of items from different parts of the Community-based Monitoring System (CBMS) used by legitimate institutions, businesses and government sectors in this country. Updating, item inclusion and amendment to research instruments were done by the City Planning and Development Coordinator's Office (CPDCO) and UA-RPO.

Migration information was placed under demography while citizenship self-assessment along with city government flagship

programs were considered from a citizen's perspective. Programs were appraised using three (3) and five (5) point Likert scale tables plus four (4) open-ended questions.

Data Collection

A day before data collection, politeness dictated that officials be called on. Not only did this make sure they would cooperate, but also that respondents would get involved. Partners were the ones who paired student enumerators together, and it was preferred for each group to consist of one male at minimum so that safety could be ensured. In three hours, the enumerators had to complete 5-6 checklists each.

Enumerators were allowed by their discretion to change interview modes from direct administration with a questionnaire to pencil and paper administration where respondents write directly in the questionnaire without or with minimal assistance from them. To ensure reliability of information collected, field supervisors cleaned research instruments used. Field supervisors not only clean and edit but address problems arising during actual field surveys too. Survey revisits are done until the minimum number required by the barangay is met.

Ethical Considerations

They applied for admission to the University of the Assumption Research Ethics Board. They filled out the UAREB proposal form and attached it to their research protocol and consent form. The UAREB should approve all procedures and protocols that follow ethical practice standards. Confidentiality was among the things covered in informed consents, alongside the right to withdrawal clause too. A communication letter addressed to Barangay Juliana was sent by CPDCO as part of its support for the SEP (2023) research team. A visit was scheduled so as to be able to ask assistance from barangay officials for this study. A phone call and ocular visits were done so that they can ensure that there is a support coming from them; student enumerators must ensure being polite and following survey guidelines which are in their survey kit;

also they could use some ready-made self-introductory remarks which will be recited at face-to-face surveys by student enumerators.

The privacy policy shall be observed by enumerators throughout this exercise while confidentiality must never be compromised at any given time or place. The respondents consented after signing an agreement which allowed them to take part into the data gathering process.

Data Analysis

Data encoders who knew how to use spreadsheets, such as Accountancy students, were hired and trained for data encoding. The SEP encoders' tasks in the study were thoroughly explained and discussed. They underwent rigid hands-on training where they were taught how to encode numbers in spreadsheets and get acquainted with answer sheets. Data analysis hands-on-training was conducted by the assistant project leader in two separate sessions at the computer laboratory of the university. The liaison officer supervised the submission of encoded data.

Quantitative data were processed and summarized through descriptive statistical analysis using a licensed Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 17. Frequency and percentage distribution were used for comparison by proportions while central tendency (mean) and data dispersion (standard deviation) provided comparisons to. Cross-tabulations through software aided visualizing associations among barangay dimensions. Measurement of flagship programs evaluation used a scaling system. Recording on various variables was carried out so as to arrange and deal with relevant data necessary for determining socio-economic classifications among others. The socio-economic classifications followed the given formula which resulted in frequency distribution tables being generated. Such tables systematically addressed research problems stated within this study's objectives.

RESULTS

Table 1
Demographic profile

Profile	Description	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Sex	Males	487	51.20
Age	25- 29	91	9.75%
Civil Status	Single	427	49.70
Religion	Roman Catholic	747	92.10
Educational attainment	High school graduate	117	24.68
Literacy	Read and write	901	94.80

Barangay Juliana's demographic profile has majority of males having 51.20% (487) of the total population which is 952. This community also has a considerable number of middle adults with 9.75 % Singleness makes up almost half 49.70% signifying that there are many young adults or unmarried individuals living here. Roman Catholicism dominates as the religion practiced by most; 92.10% identify themselves as Catholics in this area alone. In terms of education levels achieved so far, only about one quarter has finished high school education i.e., 24.68%. However, it should be noted that literacy rate stands impressively high at 94.80%. With these figures, Barangay Juliana is slightly skewed towards men ages 25 -29 and single dominated areas but with strong religious homogeneity coupled with high literacy rates though formal schooling needs improvement.

Table 2
Economic activity

Activity	Description	f	%
Distribution of employed residents according to place of work	Within barangay	122	47.70
Distribution of employed residents according to time of work	Dayshift	224	88.50
Nature of employment of Fernandinos	Permanent job	146	61.10
According to Class Worker	Private company	59	26.50

Barangay Juliana’s economic activity profile gives an idea of how employment works in the area. The data shows that 47.70% of those who have jobs work within the barangay which means there are many job opportunities available locally. Meanwhile, 88.50% of them are engaged in dayshift work indicating that most follows traditional working hours.

It is observed that majority of employees in this city that has a percentage of 61.10% enjoys tenure security as they hold permanent positions. With such rate being high for any given place like this one, it can be expected to contribute greatly towards ensuring financial stability among households too. Talking about sectors where people are employed; private firms employ few numbers of workers with 26.50% representing their share from total workforce.

From these figures, we can see that there is a strong local labor market characterized by regular timings and large number of full-time jobs offered by companies which guarantees long term employment for many individuals also private sector involvement is quite significant here thus creating more business opportunities within the community leading to its growth in terms of economy.

Table 3
Annual household income

Total Income	Amount (PhP)
Total net income from entrepreneurial activities	2,877,060.00
Total salaries and wages	23, 161,510.00
Total income from other sources	852,100.00
Total household income	26,890,670.00
Total household income per household	244,460.64

The annual household income data for Barangay Juliana displays different economic statuses. Overall, this barangay has a total of 26,890,670.00 as its household income. Mostly this includes salaries and wages which constitutes 23,161,510.00 or 92.5% of the entire amount.

Furthermore, entrepreneurship brings in 2,877,060.00 worth of revenue thus showing presence some form of local businesses albeit much lower than salaried earnings remitted which accounts for only 5.1%. The remaining amount is represented by other sources incomes that sum up to 852,100.00 representing about 2.4% indicating that there could be other streams of earning money apart from these two but it's relatively small.

In addition to this observation made above concerning on average annual household income being at 244,460.64, this can also serve as an indicator for gauging where most families stand economically within Barangay Juliana considering that such figure may not be fully appreciated without taking into account living standards within locality against regional/national averages in terms of incomes realized yearly.

Table 4

Estimated expenditures of the household

Expenditures of the Household per Month	Amount
Food	2,662,700.00
Clothing	27,400.00
School expenses	458,950.00
Leisure	22,600.00
Transportation expenses	158,720.00
Electricity	683,595.00
LPG/Gas	208,440.00
Water bill	168,281.00
Gas/Diesel	224,450.00
Total household expenditures	5,277,336.00
Gross annual household	63,328,032.00

In Barangay Juliana, the four highest expenditures of every household are food which constitutes the amount of 2,662,700.00 of the total household expenditures, followed by electricity that covers the amount of 683,595.00, then the school expenses that has 458,950.00, and last is the expenses on gas /diesel that has the amount of 224,450.00.

This spending pattern therefore shows that although people put much money towards satisfying basic requirements like food and utilities; there still exists significant amounts allocated towards education and entertainment hence pointing out that many individuals within the community enjoy relatively higher standards of living.

Table 5
Top five problems encountered by households

Problems	f	%
Lack of money	211	95.00
Sickness	146	82.00
Family dispute	60	95.00
Alcoholism	22	65.00
Unsafe environment	44	77.00

The five main problems of Barangay Juliana present a complicated range of difficulties. Even though they earn quite an average income, lack of money and family dispute is the most widespread issue with 95.00% of those who surveyed experiencing it. Health concern such as sickness comes in second place as one of their major problems having a percentage of 82.00%. It is also significant that unsafe environment ranks third with a percentage of 77.00%. Meanwhile, alcoholism comes last as it garnered 65.00 %. These numbers indicate that the community is facing interrelated economic, health and social challenges.

Table 6
Citizens’ perspectives on the flagship programs of San Fernando

Flagship Programs of San Fernando	Effective		Not Effective		Program Unknown	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
1. Fernandino Dialysis Center	151	54.5	14	5.1	112	40.4
2. Kayabe KArd	113	40.8	31	11.2	133	48.0
3. City College Amended Admission Regulations	125	45.1	24	8.7	128	46.2
4. Free Laptops for Public School Teachers	114	41.2	30	10.8	133	48.0

Flagship Programs of San Fernando	Effective		Not Effective		Program Unknown	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
5. Reinforced Waterways Clean-up and Environmental Management	118	42.6	40	14.4	119	43.0
6. Task Force against Dangling/Inactive Wires	121	43.7	29	10.5	127	45.8

San Fernando's flagship programs have been assessed by the citizens and it showed that their perspectives differ in terms of awareness and satisfaction. The Fernandino Dialysis Center is the most acknowledged and appreciated program having 54.5% effectiveness rate, but 40.4% do not know about it. In relation to education, City College Amended Admission Regulation gained an effectiveness rating around 45.1%, but 46.2% did not know this program existed. It is also notable that environmental project such as Task Force against Dangling/Inactive Wires and Reinforced Waterways Clean-up and Environmental Management garnered percentages of 43.7% and 42.6% respectively however most of those surveyed were not aware of these projects.

Also, observable is that only 40.8% thought Kayabe KArD was effective and near half of those surveyed are unaware of such program. Further, the program Free Laptops for Public School Teachers constitutes the lowest percentage of 41.2% and 48.0% do not know about it.

In conclusion, it indicates that most of the respondents were satisfied with program's efficiency provided they had knowledge about its existence whereas across-the-board lack of understanding implies a communication gap somewhere along each scheme's process chain which could have been addressed through better dissemination strategies aimed at keeping residents informed so as to enable them reap maximum benefits from these undertakings since high rates among those who knew indicate good reception towards services offered under this programs particularly dialysis center among other environmental actions taken up by city council although numbers show otherwise.

Table 7
Citizens’ perspectives on the duties and responsibilities of Fernandinos

Duties and Responsibilities of Fernandinos	Yes, Always	
	f	%
1. Registered voters who vote every election	263	94.9
2. Exercise and eat well	211	76.2
3. Follow city ordinances	247	89.2
4. Segregate and do not burn garbage	217	78.3
5. Work on ways to develop their skills and talents	222	80.1
6. Using or trying to learn and use the Kapampangan language	222	80.1
7. Support the giant lantern festival and other Kapampangan traditions	210	75.8
8. Member of a local organization and fulfill their duties	93	33.6
9. Participate in city activities	183	66.1
10. Support and patronize local products the community and introduce them to their friends	203	73.3
11. Working to improve their family’s livelihood	218	78.7
12. Pay the right taxes at the right time	220	79.4
13. Actively gather and share information about the city	222	80.1
14. Help the barangays and fellow Fernandinos	237	85.6

The citizens’ views of their duties and responsibilities as Fernandinos reflect extreme civic consciousness and cultural pride. The top duties and responsibilities with the most answer of yes and always are: registered voters who vote every election, follow city ordinances, and help the barangays and fellow Fernandinos. Meanwhile, work on ways to develop their skills and talents, using or trying to learn and use the Kapampangan language, and actively gather and share information about the city garnered the same percentage. Further, pay the right taxes at the right time, working to improve their family’s livelihood, exercise and eat well, support the

giant lantern festival and other Kapampangan traditions, and support and patronize local products the community and introduce them to their friends shows that three-quarters of those who surveyed answered yes and always. Moreover, participate in city activities is being exercised by almost half of the respondents.

Conversely, among the duties and responsibilities with the least answer of yes and always is member of a local organization and fulfill their duties. In general, these findings reveal a community characterized by strong civic orientation, cultural sensitivity and individual accountability but lacking adequate active involvement in community life through attending meetings or becoming members of any organization.

DISCUSSION

A profile study of Barangay Juliana was conducted to give a snapshot of the current state of the community as well as an understanding of its strengths and weaknesses. The investigation covered various areas such as demographics, education, economic activities, household income and expenditure, community challenges and civic participation among others thus revealing that this is indeed a community in transition.

In terms of population structure, the number of males is slightly higher than that of females whereas there are also many people who are in their middle age years. These statistics should be considered when planning for future health care services because it means most inhabitants may require social support systems sooner than later. Education on the other hand seems to have two faces; one side shows high levels of literacy into which 94.8% fall while the other end indicates low numbers finishing up with high school; only 24.68 % complete this level indicating need for interventions aimed at increasing tertiary education enrollment which would greatly impact long term economic growths within Barangay Juliana.

Economically speaking, there appears to be some stability experienced within Barangay Juliana whereby majority individuals

work near places they live in. Additionally permanent jobs are many those employed meaning that employment opportunities abound around here but then again wage-based incomes account for approximately 92.5% meaning more needs done diversify sources revenues generated locally through enhanced entrepreneurial activities so that wealth creation can take place across all sectors within Barangay Juliana.

The findings from this research on household incomes and expenditures reveal interesting patterns; though average annual household income earned by most families living within Barangay could be seen relatively high vis-à-vis general masses elsewhere within Metro Cebu - Philippines region which might indicate prosperity among them compared to others – still a significant number of families spend much their earnings just meeting basic needs like foodstuffs implying that majority may be struggling financially. This contradiction underscores how complex it is measuring economic welfare since sometimes money alone cannot guarantee financial safety nets for individuals or even communities as whole.

One thing that is particularly striking was the fact that people were experiencing financial problems more often than not, despite appearing relatively better off economically than some surrounding areas. Family Dispute came in next as the most frequently mentioned issue which suggests there could be significant overlap between these two domains within local communities such as this one here at Barangay Juliana; thus, requiring holistic development strategies addressing both aspects concurrently.

Another intriguing aspect identified during the conduct of the study relates to citizens' active involvement in matters politics versus those relating with rest parts society. The turnout rates during elections signal high levels civic awareness among residents while on other hand few individuals join organizations working within neighborhood hence indicating need for more public spiritedness around here whereby people should participate actively in various decision-making processes affecting them directly.

Awareness levels about different government programs offered by authorities at different tiers varied significantly across sections involved within study leading us conclude were either inadequately disseminated or communicated poorly; hence such improvements would increase their impact effectiveness among targeted beneficiaries living closest where services are being rendered so that they can also benefit from these interventions accordingly.

In conclusion, what emerges out of this socio-economic profile is a community endowed with good reading skills, steady jobs and heightened sense patriotism but grappling with poor performance in higher learning institutions; limited sources wealth creation coupled by failure engage themselves fully into community-based activities aimed at improving lives of all members residing within Barangay Juliana. The policy implications drawn from these findings offer an evidence-based foundation upon which policy makers should take informed decisions regarding resource allocation towards specific intervention projects geared towards achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs) especially those related poverty alleviation programs. However, one needs note limitations study like respondents may have given wrong answers questions about their financial situations thus leading biased data while some groups were underrepresented during sampling process hence future studies could employ qualitative approaches so as unravel more details aspirations among different groups residing in Barangay Juliana.

Limitations of the Study

While many informants were interviewed, this study still possessed some limitations. There were times when the respondents did not want to reveal important information about their income or expenditure. Right to privacy and confidentiality concerns may prevent studies like this from producing exact statistics based on economic variables in the survey. It is necessary for accurate socio-economic response communication awareness among people so that they are able to provide more dependable findings.

For this research, the number of respondents from Barangay Juliana was also limited. Although detailed and extensive data came out resident's responses, it cannot be said that these represent what majority residents of Barangay Juliana think or feel considering the number of possible participants which could have been computed based on population size.

Conclusions

The social and economic description of Barangay Juliana in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga is that it is a place with many mixed strengths and weaknesses. Its population has a largest number of men and there are many middle adult people living here. Most residents are Catholics which shows that they still hold traditional beliefs but also accept changes in society. They have achieved a literacy rate as high as 94.8%, a good foundation for any community, although more students should finish high school before entering college.

Barangay Juliana appears to be economically stable at first glance. Many businesses provide permanent jobs during daytime hours within this barangay or elsewhere privately owned companies situated nearby, leading indicators to believe so indeed such stability exists hereabouts. The average yearly income per household is around 397,620.56; thus indicating prosperity relative to other areas within its vicinity where it may not be sufficient enough for one's basic needs though coupled with education fees mandatory alongside leisure activities indulged into from time by those who can afford them means majority still struggle financially through their lives even if they seem comfortable enough currently.

However, despite these strong points there are also some challenges facing the city such as financial problems among residents themselves followed closely by family dispute, health issues, unsafe environment and alcoholism rampant among youth especially during weekends when they do not attend school. This implies that socio-economic welfare cannot just be measured based on numbers showing how much someone earns because

many things affect peoples' well-being than what meets the eye alone.

Participation in elections is another area which could either portray good citizenship or laxity among members living within Barangay Juliana. People usually vote during this period but rarely participate in other local organizations hence less involvement required from them into decision making processes affecting their own communities too. On top of being culture conscious individuals who value environment conservation highly residents also need more exposure towards cultural practices being performed outside their immediate locality boundaries since few engage themselves actively in such activities despite having knowledge about them already.

A lot more needs to be done so that people get know what happens around where they live otherwise success achieved may not be significant due to lack of awareness concerning events taking place within these areas hence reduced visibility for various programs initiated by municipalities aimed at improving people's lives directly which they cannot participate in if not aware about such things happening closer home even though some may have been positive regarding implementation by governments once known among citizens this will help foster joint efforts between different stakeholders within Barangay Juliana itself leading towards overall development therefore socio-economic challenges identified must be addressed promptly through targeted interventions while also building on strengths rooted around cultural pride as well as economic activity at grass-root level so that all rounded growth takes place in the long run.

Recommendations

1. Educational improvement: Establish programs that will encourage higher education achievement. This may involve offering scholarships, adult learning initiatives, and vocational training that is relevant to the local job market. Partner with local schools and universities to develop pathways for further education.

2. Financial literacy: Design and deliver all-encompassing financial management workshops which should enable residents manage their income and expenses more wisely. The areas covered should include budgeting, saving, investment as well as debt management strategies.
3. Healthcare: Start off community-based healthcare programs concentrating on preventive care measures against common diseases as well as their management when they occur. It might be useful also if you could think about teaming up with local health institutions so that there can be regular screening exercises done alongside sensitization talks concerning prevailing health issues.
4. Involvement in the community: Increase opportunities for people to participate actively within their communities by organizing frequent local events; setting up groups at grassroots level and encouraging involvement in city activities. Introduce community service schemes aimed at nurturing civic consciousness among residents.
5. Public awareness: Enhance communication methods used in disseminating information about various services offered by the municipality; ensuring that they are widely known and understood. In order to achieve this goal, employ different channels such as social media platforms, radio stations operating within proximity of each other or even word-of-mouth method where staff members move from house-to-house giving out leaflets containing necessary details about what is being provided for whom it was meant.
6. Support startups: Create an enabling environment for entrepreneurship growth among locals by considering small loans facilities targeting start-ups, mentorship programs to be ran by successful businessmen/women based within the locality and training people on business skills.
7. Social intervention: Roll out specific interventions that would help deal with particular social challenges like alcoholism or even family dispute. Among ideas to

- consider include provision of counseling services, forming support groups where affected individuals can come together for mutual assistance as well as implementing family interventions plans aimed at restoring broken relationships.
8. Culture revival: Strengthen efforts geared towards preserving Kapampangan customs and traditions which could be done through organizing cultural festivals; teaching language in schools alongside integrating cultural aspects into community events.
 9. Environmental conservation: Take advantage of the existing environmental consciousness among residents by embarking on green drive campaigns such as recycling initiatives, clean-up exercises within different parts of the Barangay Juliana and creation more parks within residential areas.
 10. Youth empowerment: Come up with youth-oriented activities meant to engage young people residing in this area into productive endeavors such as mentoring programs targeting different talents among them while also providing avenues through which they can acquire relevant skills needed later in life.

By implementing these recommendations, Barangay Juliana can work towards addressing its challenges while building upon its existing strengths, fostering a more resilient, engaged, and prosperous community.

References

- Agaton, C. B., Collera, A. A., & Guno, C. S. (2020). Socio-Economic and Environmental Analyses of Sustainable Public Transport in the Philippines. *Sustainability*, 12(11), 4720. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12114720>
- Alfonso, S. M., Kazama, S., & Takizawa, S. (2022). Inequalities in access to and consumption of safely managed water due to socio-economic factors: Evidence from Quezon City, Philippines. *Current Research in Environmental*

Sustainability, 4, 100117.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crsust.2021.100117>

Chamberlain, A. M., Finney Rutten, L. J., Wilson, P. M., Fan, C., Boyd, C. M., Jacobson, D. J., Rocca, W. A., & St. Sauver, J. L. (2020). Neighborhood socioeconomic disadvantage is associated with multimorbidity in a geographically-defined community. *BMC Public Health*, 20(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-019-8123-0>.

Cheng, E., Soulos, P. R., Irwin, M. L., Cespedes Feliciano, E. M., Presley, C. J., Fuchs, C. S., Meyerhardt, J. A., & Gross, C. P. (2021). Neighborhood and Individual Socioeconomic Disadvantage and Survival Among Patients with Nonmetastatic Common Cancers. *JAMA Network Open*, 4(12), e2139593–e2139593. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.39593>

Henares, I. A. S. (2021, December 3). *Heritage Conservation Policy In The Age Of Tourism: Developing Frameworks For Conservation, Management, And Sustainability In Philippine Local Governments - The Case Of The City Of San Fernando, Pampanga*. https://hammer.purdue.edu/articles/thesis/HERITAGE_CONSERVATION_POLICY_IN_THE_AGE_OF_TOURISM_DEVELOPING_FRAMEWORKS_FOR_CONSERVATION_MANAGEMENT_AND_SUSTAINABILITY_IN_PHILIPPINE_LOCAL_GOVERNMENTS_THE_CASE_OF_THE_CITY_OF_SAN_FERNANDO_PAMPANGA/17108540.

Kraft, A. N., Thatcher, E. J., & Zenk, S. N. (2020). Neighborhood Food Environment and Health Outcomes in U.S. Low-Socioeconomic Status, Racial/Ethnic Minority, and Rural Populations: A Systematic Review. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 31(3), 1078–1114. <https://doi.org/10.1353/hpu.2020.0083>.

- Lacasandile, A. D., Abisado, M. B., Labanan, R. M., & Abad, L. P. (2020). Development of an Information-Based Dashboard: Automation of Barangay Information Profiling System (BIPS) for Decision Support towards e-Governance. *2020 the 4th International Conference on E-Society, E-Education and E-Technology*. <https://doi.org/10.1145/421682.3421691>
- Mamaclay, A. G., Balangue, M. O., Lara, R. J. L. D., & Vergara, V. A. (2020). Socio-Economic Status of Purok Manggahan, Barangay Pangatian, Cabanatuan City. *Open Journal of Social Sciences*, 8(9), 279–292. <https://doi.org/10.4236/jss.2020.89022>.
- Moss, J. L., Johnson, N. J., Yu, M., Altekruise, S. F., & Cronin, K. A. (2021). Comparisons Of individual- and area-level socioeconomic status as proxies for individual-level measures: evidence from the Mortality Disparities in American Communities study. *Population Health Metrics*, 19(1)<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12963-020-00244-x>.
- Mouratidis, K. (2020). Neighborhood characteristics, neighborhood satisfaction, and well-being: The links with neighborhood deprivation. *Land Use Policy*, 99,104886. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2020.104886>.

Understanding the people behind the data: A socio- economic landscape of Barangay Quebiawan, City of San Fernando, Pampanga

Leo S. Tamisen

ABSTRACT

Barangay Quebiawan in the City of San Fernando (CSFP) is part of a highly urbanized area with access to essential infrastructure, including roads, healthcare, and utilities. Its economy is driven by agriculture, small-scale businesses, and services, supported by its proximity to the city center.

This study aimed to present the current socioeconomic profile of the barangay by describing respondents' demographics, identifying economic activities, determining common issues, examining perceptions of city programs, and identifying civic responsibilities. A descriptive cross-sectional design was used, involving 1,484 respondents. Data were gathered through a 90-item questionnaire covering 15 socioeconomic indicators and analyzed using descriptive statistics with SPSS Version 17.

Results show that most households rely on salaries and wages within the barangay, followed by entrepreneurial income and external sources. Major expenditures include food, utilities, recreation, and education. The most frequently reported problems are insufficient income, illness, family conflict, intoxication, and unsafe environments. Among the city's flagship programs, only the Fernandino Dialysis Center was perceived as beneficial by over half of the respondents. Voting was identified as the most important civic duty.

The study concludes that financial hardship, health concerns, and safety issues remain key challenges. It recommends increasing employment opportunities, sustaining effective programs, and strengthening information campaigns to improve awareness of government initiatives and civic responsibilities.

Key words: *Demographics, expenditure, socio-economic landscape*

INTRODUCTION

Located between Barangay San Agustin and Barangay Maimpis, Barangay Quebiawan occupies 234 hectares of land. There are two subdivisions and nine Puroks in Barangay Quebiawan. There are 2,588 households and 12,934 people living there in all. Three land classes exist in the barangay: industrial, where San Miguel Brewery Inc. is situated; this is the first classification. In addition, there is residential land and agricultural land, which provide the kasamak, or farmers, with a source of income by cultivating various crops in their fields. In addition, the barangay comprises churches, private schools (Crown Vale School and St. Scholastica's Academy), the Barangay Hall, the Covered Court, the Health Center, the Day Care Center, and the Integrated School.

Figure 1

Vicinity map of Barangay Quebiawan, CSFP



Originally named San Vicente Quebiawan, it is a barrio in the Pampanga province's city of San Fernando. 11,002 people were living there as of the 2020 Census. According to the PhilAtlas 2024, this accounted for 3.10% of San Fernando's total population.

The landowner, Doña Mercedes Viuda de Paras, gave the region to the farmers, or "kasamak," in 1945, according to Nanay Eurofrocina Lugtu Alingarog, an elder in the barangay. Since the region was covered in sugarcane at the time, the kasamak named it Quebiawan, a word derived from the word "kabio," which

describes the milling process of sugarcane. The "normal" location, an iconic and historical symbol of Quebiawan, is where this ritual was carried out. Additionally, it was thought that the barangay was named for Doña Mercedes's patron saint, San Vicente Ferrer (Brgy. Quebiawan Profile 2024).

The Maimpis-San Isidro Growth Center includes Quebiawan, according to the City Government of San Fernando (2024). Alasas is a barrio in the service area, while Quebiawan is one of the core barangays. The Diosdado Macapagal Government Center in Barangay Maimpis is home to regional government offices, and Barangay San Isidro is home to a few industrial complexes. Quebiawan hence holds promise for future agricultural and economic development.

Socioeconomic development study on Quebiawan, a barrio seeing significant expansion in both agriculture and business, is an intriguing topic. The institution of the Assumption (UA), the first archdiocesan Catholic institution in Asia and the Pacific, has been granted permission by the City Planning and Development Coordinator's Office (CPDCO) to utilize the Social Economic Profile (SEP) 2023 data for academic research and community outreach programs. This permission intends to support research and extension projects that will benefit the 35 barangays in the City of San Fernando by providing baseline data for barangay programs and decision-making processes.

The SEP statistics are important tools for improving community welfare and quality of life, and UA is recognized for playing a key role in utilizing these data for the benefit of San Fernando as a whole. As a Higher Education Institution (HEI), UA recognizes its dedication to advancing academic and student research and community outreach. By consistently engaging in research projects involving institutional, commissioned, financed, and research and development, this academic institution fosters a culture of research. It also encourages community expansion through participation in outreach initiatives.

Studies on the socioeconomic state and characteristics of communities are now conducted overseas. Research on San Fernando's socioeconomic profile was conducted locally in the years 2015, 2019, and 2023. But there isn't a special SEP research that addresses the needs of Barangay Quebiawan's citizens. Therefore, it is essential to carry out research that would draw conclusions and offer suggestions based only on the SEP 2023 data obtained from Barangay Quebiawan.

Literature Review

A person can be classified into a certain group or population based on a combination of social and economic traits that make up their socioeconomic profile (Oxford, 2024). Among its components are social standing, income levels, occupation, economic position, and education (Baker, 2014). It also provides information on the possibilities, resources, and standard of living that people or groups may access in a particular community. Socioeconomic status, or SES, is a broad term that encompasses both measurable characteristics like wealth, education, and career as well as subjective assessments of social comparison classes, according to the American Psychological Association (APA, 2024). The concept of socioeconomic status (SES) is multifaceted, encompassing both subjective assessments of an individual's position within the socioeconomic spectrum and independent, objective characteristics such as money and education (Navarro-Carillo et al., 2020).

Research has been done on the socioeconomic profile, or SEP. A socioeconomic analysis of six villages in Mondulkiri Province was carried out by Duk, Phay, and Soeung (2013). The study concentrated on the means of subsistence and earnings of the people who were part of the Cambodia Supporting Forests and Biodiversity (SFB) Project. Alam et al. (2010) conducted a socio-economic profile study of Malaysian farmers. The North-West Selangor integrated agricultural development zone served as the study's site. The research conducted by Hamdouch, Demaziere,

and Banovac on the socioeconomic characteristics of small and medium-sized European cities was completed in 2017.

The socioeconomic profile is made up of many parts. One of its components is demography, which is the statistical study of human populations (National Geographic, 2024). According to Tarsi and Tuff (2012), demography is the study of how population characteristics change over time. Xie (2000) defined demography as the study of features such as population number, composition, and changes caused by factors including migration, mortality, and fertility.

The socioeconomic profile also includes literacy and education. Education is the process of acquiring information, skills, beliefs, and habits, whereas literacy is the ability to read, write, speak, and listen clearly (Loveless, 2023). To communicate and understand written content, an individual has to be literate (Smith, 2023). Literacy is viewed as a prerequisite for success in a range of contexts and settings (Pilgrim & Martinez., 2013). Literacy is a cultural and social phenomenon rather than a mental one (Gee, 2014).

The important role that economic activity plays in SEP cannot be understated. The basic goal of economic activity is to satisfy people's needs and wants, and this includes the production, distribution, acquisition, and sale of goods and services within an economy (Ackermann, 2023). Economic activity is defined as the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services within a society and is covered by the SEP (Harper, 2015). Economic activity depends as much on the use of resources as it does on their number (Eurostat, 2023). Getting the most out of the readily available resources and turning them into income is crucial. Most likely, the fundamental factor influencing how economic activity is distributed geographically is the flow of people and goods (Redding & Turner, 2015).

The quantity of money received in exchange for labor is known as income, and it is a crucial element of economic activity (Scott, 2023). The notion of income includes recurrent financial rewards (Merriam-Webster, 2024). According to Cornell Law School (2024), income is the amount of money that a person receives in return for employing capital to provide an item or service.

Peace and order are major factors that propel economic development. These are, in fact, the essential partners for progress (World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews, 2022). According to Einstein in Sandy & Perkins (2008), peace is the presence of justice, law, and order, or governance, in addition to the absence of conflict. It is worldwide and indivisible since it is necessary for human life (Nicor-Mangalimutan, Mejica & Caelian, 2020). Oxford (2024) defines order as the arrangement of people or things about one another using a certain method, pattern, or flow.

When it comes to economic activity, community affairs encompass all projects, activities, and programs meant to improve the standard of living, address local concerns, promote civic engagement, and build partnerships (ICMA, 2023). These are tactics used to promote the utility's civic and community position by influencing public opinion on a topic or the result of a legislative or administrative action.

Government initiatives that involve a broad variety of actions intended to solve social, economic, and environmental concerns are included in the evaluation. These projects are substantial and complex undertakings. Flagship programs are large-scale initiatives started by the government to accomplish certain objectives. The word "flagship," which refers to the biggest or most significant ship in a nation's fleet and represents the main goal of that country's expansion plan, is where its name originates. The examination of people's obligations and responsibilities comes after the assessment of government operations.

According to De Vera (2024), the government's primary duty is to protect and serve the people, even though each citizen of the

Philippines has obligations of their own. Examples include abiding by the law, maintaining a clean environment, voluntarily and on schedule paying taxes, and upholding communal peace and order. Other examples include selecting candidates who will advance the interests of the nation and exercising informed voting judgment. Additional practical examples include abiding by local laws, supporting and purchasing locally made goods in the neighborhood and recommending them to their friends, maintaining a healthy diet and exercise regimen, searching for chances to develop their abilities and talents, and taking part in community events.

Problem Objectives

Providing the most recent socioeconomic profile of Barangay Quebiawan is the primary goal of the research. Its specific objectives are to:

1. Describe the respondents' demographic makeup.
2. Ascertain the participants' economic activities.
3. Determine which issues the respondents face most frequently.
4. Describe the opinions of the populace on San Fernando's key initiatives.
5. Establish Fernandinos's roles and obligations.

METHOD

Research Design

Descriptive research designs aim to accurately and systematically describe a population, situation, or phenomenon and provide answers to the questions of what, where, when, and how (Sirisilla, 2023). The study used both descriptive and cross-sectional research designs; the former was descriptive because it characterized the socio-economic factors, and the latter was cross-sectional because it involved only one time of data gathering (Kesmodel, 2018).

Respondents and Sampling Design

The study's respondents are locals of Barangay Quebiawan. They live here in this specific community. There were 1565 households in all that were polled, with an average household size of 3.88 people.

An online sampling calculator called Raosoft was used to determine the right sample. Barangay Quebiawan's calculated sample size is 309. The barangay has a 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error, indicating that it has a sufficient representative sample.

The SEP (2023) study team created Google Maps for the barangay and assigned numbers to the regions they mapped out. Five (5) sectors would be required for 251-300 responders based on the sample population range. Every team determined the beginning sites for the household survey drop-offs and designated a sub-team for each drop-off location.

Research Instrument

The questionnaire comprises ninety (90) items in total, including multiple sub-items and reference codes. The questions cover 15 important socioeconomic indicators that the municipal officials have selected. The address and identification code of the household are shown in the first section of the questionnaire, which is then followed by the name, field enumerator, and supervisor of the responder. The remaining portion is made up of a mix of materials from the nation's lawful institutions, companies, and government sectors' use of the Community-based Monitoring System (CBMS). The UA-RPO and the City Planning and Development Coordinator's Office (CPDCO) were in charge of upgrading, adding, and changing the research instrument.

Demography contained information on population movement. The citizen's perspective was used to evaluate the municipal government's major initiatives and the citizenship self-

assessment. Four (4) open-ended questions and three (3) and five (5) point Likert scale tables were used to assess the programs.

Data Collection

One day before the actual data collection, polite calls were sent to barangay leaders. This is to guarantee both the respondents' involvement and their cooperation. Partners assigned student enumerators. To maximize safety and security, the dyad had a minimum of one male member. Within three hours, the enumerators had to complete a quota of five to six checklists. The interview style was changed from direct to pencil and paper administration at the enumerators' option, allowing respondents to fill out the questionnaire directly and with little to no help.

To ensure the accuracy of the data collected, the field supervisors cleaned the completed study devices. The field supervisors are in charge of fixing issues that come up during the actual field survey in addition to cleaning and editing. Return surveys were conducted to fulfill the barangay's minimal criterion for respondents.

Ethical Considerations

Applying to the University of the Assumption Research Ethics Board (UAREB) was the plan. The study protocol and consent form were attached, and the UAREB proposal form was completed. The UAREB certification was necessary to guarantee that the processes and guidelines follow moral prudence. All pertinent information, including requirements for confidentiality and the opportunity to withdraw, was included in the informed consent. The CPDCO distributed the letter of communication to Barangay Quebiawan (2023) as part of their assistance to the SEP research team. A planned tour was sent out to gain the barangay leaders' participation and support. A phone call and in-person visit were made to make sure the barangay authorities would lend their cooperation and help. Student enumerators were instructed on how to behave nicely as well as the survey criteria contained in the

enumerator's kit. To begin the in-person survey, student enumerators prepared pre-made self-introductory comments.

The enumerators upheld secrecy and privacy. The respondents consented to participate in the collection of data and signed the informed consent form. They demonstrated cooperation by using a diplomatic strategy to get resistant residents to agree to be responders.

Data Analysis

Data encoding training and employment were extended to accounting students and other data encoders with previous spreadsheet experience. SEP encoders' responsibilities in the study were listed and thoroughly examined. They learned how to use numerical codes in spreadsheets to encode data and were familiar with the instrument replies through extensive hands-on training. In the university computer lab, the assistant project leader led two training sessions on practical data analysis. The liaison officer oversaw and reviewed the encoded data submission.

The quantitative data was processed and summarized using descriptive statistical analysis utilizing a licensed version of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 17. The frequency and percentage distribution, the central tendency (mean), and the data dispersion (standard deviation) were obtained to allow for proportionate comparisons. Cross-tabulations were computed using the application to illustrate correlations between the barangay's dimensions. The assessment level of the flagship programs was determined using the given scale. Recoding in a range of variables was done to filter and evaluate crucial data needed to identify the socioeconomic classes and other significant constructs. The socioeconomic groups were established using the above methodology, and a frequency distribution table was created. Tables methodically examined every research topic in the study.

RESULTS

Table 1
Demographic profile

Profile	Description	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Sex	Male	722	48.7
	Female	762	51.3
Age	65 and older	156	11.04
	Voters	251	71.7
	Non-voters	99	28.3
Civil Status	Single	688	48.4
Religion	Roman Catholic	1,323	94.9
Educational attainment	Fourth year college	134	12.86
Literacy	Read and write	1,433	96.6

Older citizens, defined as those 65 years of age and above, make up the majority of the population. Approximately 50% of the individuals involved are still single. The great majority of replies are Roman Catholics. More than 12% of the participants are now enrolled in their fourth year of college. The great majority of participants are proficient writers and readers.

Table 2
Economic activity

Activity	Description	f	%
Distribution of Employment status of working age (18-65)	Yes	477	50.0
	No	477	50.0
Distribution of employed residents according to place of work	Within barangay	193	36.6
Distribution of employed residents according to time of work	Dayshift	497	92.6
Nature of employment of Fernandinos	Permanent job	416	77.6
	Private	185	35.4
According to Class Worker	Household	188	35.9
	Private company		

Fifty percent of the participants are working age, meaning they are either under 65 or between 18 and 65. Ten out of the respondents are employed by the barangay. Nearly every employee works during the day. Seventy-seven percent are employed full-time in businesses or private homes.

Table 3

Annual household income

Total Income	Amount (PhP)
Total net income from entrepreneurial activities	4,304,900
Total salaries and wages	56,943,025
Total income from other sources	1,681,300
Total household income	62,583,625
Total household income per household	306,782.48

Wages and salaries account for the bulk of a household's total income. The second-largest source of income is from entrepreneurial activities. The third place goes to revenue from outside sources. As a consequence, the income per home in Barangay Quebiawan is P306,782.48 and the total family income is P62,583,625.

Table 4

Estimated expenditures of the household

Expenditures of the Household per Month	Amount
Food	3,851,550.00
Clothing	668,100.00
School expenses	954,770.00
Medical expenses	388,878.00
Leisure	137,100.00
Transportation expenses	289,410.00
Electricity	920,730.00
LPG/Gas	266,005.00
Water bill	270,520.00
Gas/Diesel	480,490.00
Total household expenditures	8,702,499.00
Gross annual household	104,429,988.00

The top four spending categories are clothes, food, power, and schooling. Gas/diesel, transportation, and water bills are the next three expenses. Recreational and gas/LPG expenditures are the two lowest.

Table 5
Top five problems encountered by households

Problems	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Lack of money	244	90
Sickness	31	18
Family dispute	4	7
Unsafe environment	6	22

Of the respondents, nine out of 10 have financial difficulties. Eighteen percent of the subjects had health issues. A total of 7% of respondents reported having been involved in a family conflict. Out of the responses, just six expressed concern about the harmful atmosphere in the area.

Table 6
Citizens’ perspectives on the flagship programs of San Fernando

Flagship Programs of San Fernando	Effective		Not Effective		Program Unknown	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
1. Fernandino Dialysis Center	185	51.7	34	9.5	139	38.8
2. Kayabe KArd	111	31.0	51	14.2	196	54.7
3. City College Amended Admission Regulations	140	39.1	39	10.9	179	50.0
4. Free Laptops for Public School Teachers	141	39.4	46	12.8	171	47.8
5. Reinforced Waterways Clean-up and Environmental Management	147	41.1	59	16.5	152	42.5
6. Task Force against Dangling/Inactive Wires	135	37.7	57	15.9	166	46.4

Only the Fernandino Dialysis Center program—out of the six CSFP flagship programs—was deemed beneficial by more than half of the respondents. Furthermore, the programs that received

the fewest unfamiliar and ineffective comments were Kayabe Kard, City College Amended Admission Regulations, and Free Laptops for Public School Teachers.

Table 7

Citizens' perspectives on the duties and responsibilities of Fernandinos

Duties and Responsibilities of Fernandinos	Yes, Always f	%
1. Registered voters who vote every election	340	95.0
2. Exercise and eat well	273	76.3
3. Follow city ordinances	292	81.6
4. Segregate and do not burn garbage	282	78.8
5. Work on ways to develop their skills and talents	249	69.6
6. Using or trying to learn and use the Kapampangan language	302	84.4
7. Support the giant lantern festival and other Kapampangan traditions	257	71.8
8. Member of a local organization and fulfill their duties	143	39.9
9. Participate in city activities	172	48.0
10. Support and patronize local products the community and introduce them to their friends	236	65.9
11. Working to improve their family's livelihood	284	79.3
12. Pay the right taxes at the right time	277	77.4
13. Actively gather and share information about the city	242	67.6
14. Help the barangays and fellow Fernandinos	257	71.8

The top five tasks that receive the most "yes" replies out of the 14 obligations and duties that Fernandinos have are: keeping up with city ordinances; trying to learn and use the Kapampangan language; supporting their fellow Fernandinos and barangays; and sorting and not burning garbage. On the other hand, the five who said "yes" the fewest times consistently pay their taxes on schedule, take good care of their health and exercise, participate in city life, support the massive lantern festival and other Kapampangan customs, and complete their jobs.

DISCUSSION

Based on the surveys that were carried out in this specific area, the study's findings show that Barangay Quebiawan's demographic profile is well-defined. The data suggests that among the respondents, the proportion of males and women is equal. Globally, there are about equal numbers of males and women, according to data from the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2019). The majority of respondents are in their later years. This might be the case because elderly people are more easily available for in-home interviews since they are no longer employed, as opposed to those whose ages lie between those of young and middle-aged adults. There are also more individuals participating alone.

The falling marriage rate among individuals in their prime working years is the main reason behind the rise in the single population (Fry & Parker, 2021). The majority of those who replied identify as Catholics. More than thirty years ago, Spanish colonialism gave rise to the Philippines, a country with a substantial Catholic population. Many of the participants were recent high school graduates. This can be due to their limited financial resources and the requirement that they start working before attending college. The majority are regarded as literate since they can read and write.

Approximately one-third of the participants are only recent high school grads. The State of the Philippines Report (2023) reports that 30.5% of Filipinos have finished secondary education, which is relatively consistent with this statistic. Typically, many just finish their high school education since going to college would be too costly. Statistics on college graduates would continue to fall, reaching 24.4% because of the rise in tuition fees and other academic-related expenditures (Philippine Business for Education, 2024). The literacy rate of Barangay Quebiawan bears some resemblance to the 96.28% national literacy rate in the Philippines. This is explained by the government's emphasis on education.

Every year, a substantial sum of money is allocated for academic progress.

The bulk of responders are day shift workers in terms of economic activity. This is mostly true, according to the survey conducted by Lieberman et al. (2020), which discovered that 74% of participants worked all day or during office hours. Many jobs in offices and corporations require daytime hours. Permanent employment improves employee job security (Castellacci & Vinas-Bardolet, 2020). The yearly total revenue indicates that salaries and wages account for the bulk of the total income. The replies are most likely employees. They have a steady source of income because they work for either government-run or privately controlled companies. The endeavor to become an entrepreneur brings in more money. A company that charges for services rendered and produces money might be the source of this. The household expenditure found in the study is marginally higher than the 307,190 national annual household income. When it comes to household costs, food is in the top place (Sekhampu & Niyimbanira, 2013).

The study participants highlighted five concerns. As per the research, the most prevalent problem is insufficient funds. Not everyone in Barangay Quebiawan is worried about the state of the economy. It could be brought on by a decline in income, job loss, debt accumulation, and other circumstances. A family that is struggling financially is unable to meet their basic needs, which include food, clothes, and medical attention (Mimura, 2008; Zautra, 2011 referenced in Friedline, Chen & Morrow, 2021). One more of the problems is illness. The presence of illnesses or disorders presents obstacles for the participants. A sickness might make us feel unsafe and extremely anxious (Bury, 2013). Families in Barangay Quebiawan frequently worry about family disputes. Disparities in viewpoint and character can cause misunderstanding in a family.

Through its flagship projects, the government provides services in the City of San Fernando. As the number of patients with chronic renal ailments increased, a dialysis center was established to offer free dialysis treatments to Fernandinos. This is carried out,

even in the absence of significant research, to enhance the survival and quality of life for patients undergoing hemodialysis (Evangelidis et al., 2017). Most people polled had never heard of the Kayabe KARD program. The Kayabe KARD, a groundbreaking project of the City of San Fernando local government, digitalized the procedure for giving Fernandinos financial and medical assistance. The majority of respondents are unaware that public school teachers receive free computers. This might be due to the respondents' opinion that instructors should be responsible for paying for their computers and teaching supplies. Less than half of the population is unaware of City College's revised admissions guidelines. This might be the outcome of this government school providing prospective students with less information.

In terms of Fernandinos' responsibilities, it is mandatory for people who have registered to vote to do so. This may be the outcome of their duty to exercise their right to vote by showing up in their assigned precincts during election season. The participants cherish the chance to select the politicians or authorities they want to see in positions of power. This is in line with the notion that the country's democracy depends on the ability to vote (Sellers & Weinstein-Tull, 2021). Additionally, the respondents wish to improve their families' income and level of living. In addition to trying to meet their fundamental necessities, they hope to raise their standard of living. The participants would want to have extra money for other aspirations in addition to being able to cover their fundamental demands. The participants pay the relevant taxes on time. They may think that this would generate revenue for government projects and infrastructure. It is the participants in Quebiawan's obligation to help their fellow Kapampangans. Altruism is a virtue that can be shown when one's objective is to improve the well-being of another person (Benson et al., 2010 referenced in Pfattheicher, Nielsen & Thielmann).

The rescuers must follow local legislation. If they abide by the guidelines established by the city, the participants will feel like responsible citizens and will support any future regulations that will benefit the city—or barangay, to be more exact. Respondents to this survey are in favor of segregation and appropriate disposal of

waste. They may believe that to prevent diseases and further obstructions in the drainage system, the government's cleaning program is necessary.

Limitations of the Study

Even though a great deal of information was gathered from the respondents, this study has limitations. In some instances, the participants refused to divulge information that was required regarding their earnings and expenses. Studies such as this one may not produce exact numbers based on the economic factors of the survey due to issues with privacy and confidentiality. To obtain more reliable results, information regarding the significance of providing accurate answers for socioeconomic studies must be properly sent out.

Furthermore, the study's sample size for the barangay is modest. Considering the anticipated number of participants, the replies may not correctly reflect the thoughts and opinions of the majority of Barangay Quebiawan people, even if the locals supplied rich and considerable data.

Conclusions

Studies carried out in this specific area have revealed a well-defined demographic profile for Barangay Quebiawan, City of San Fernando. There is enough data to characterize this particular neighborhood.

The proximity of the businesses in the City of San Fernando's economic zone adds to the neighborhood's high level of economic activity. The two main forces influencing the economy are spending and income. The majority of a household's revenue is made up of wages and salaries. Food purchases are rumored to be the family's largest cost.

The five difficulties that respondents most commonly identified were drinking, unsafe situations, illness, family disputes,

and lack of money. The people of Barangay Quebiawan are mostly concerned about financial difficulties.

The most well-known flagship project of the City of San Fernando is the Reinforced Waterways Clean-up and Environmental Management program. On the other hand, the government initiative that the respondents in Quebiawan are least aware of is the Kayabe Kard.

The people of Fernandina are compelled to do their duties. Among all the responsibilities in Barangay Quebiawan, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, voting is the most significant.

Recommendations

It is advised that a comparable study be carried out with a larger sample size. More comprehensive information from these people will provide a more representative picture of the community. It would be good to do direct research interaction with Barangay Quebiawan locals.

Health

The problem of illness or disease will be reduced by an improved health program that involves the purchase of enough pharmaceuticals for the barangay health center. Information can also be disseminated through health-related events and seminars, such as the Expanded Program for Immunization (EPI), chronic disorders like diabetes and hypertension, and infectious diseases like pertussis and TB. Periodically, a mobile clinic could be stationed in the neighborhood to offer medical care to those who dwell far from hospitals. It will benefit the local households by having the necessary first aid supplies and prescription drugs.

It is recommended that the government continue its well-received flagship programs, including Kayabe Kard, which gives Fernandinos an easier way to get help from the local government at a lower cost. These cards may be used to get prescription drugs and other medical services at the City Health Office (CHO), RHUs, and barangay health facilities. The cards that are distributed to the

inhabitants are colored in three ways: red denotes the lowest class, blue represents the medium class, and white symbolizes the upper class.

It is a good idea to support government-run programs like the Fernandino Dialysis Center, which has assisted the less fortunate Fernandinos who suffer from chronic renal failure. Since hemodialysis is a form of palliative treatment, providing patients with free sessions would ease their financial burden for the remainder of their lives.

A more robust committee for complaints and other matters will help reduce family disputes in the barrio. Counselors at colleges such as the University of the Assumption (UA) can provide courses on marital problems and family mediation. They can also provide a family program that includes individual sessions, conversation coaching, informal mediated chats, and one-on-one coaching. Furthermore, social assistance targeted at treating or preventing family violence may be provided by the barangay. Alternative living arrangements, programs for families and caregivers, education for those who may be abused or at risk of abuse, advocacy, and counseling for victims of abuse, protective guardianship for the elderly and mistreated women, and more might all be included in the services offered.

The security and safety of the community will be improved by a mobile barangay and patrol. This might contribute to the region's restoration of peace and stability. As a consequence of this program, there will be fewer thefts and break-ins by thieves. In the late evening and early morning, curfews may also be implemented to prevent more crimes from occurring on the streets.

Increasing the number of CCTV cameras installed might have a significant impact on how well neighborhood crimes and problems are resolved. Investing in such technologies can benefit all parties involved.

By creating additional barangay outposts, the populace may feel safer and more easily ask for assistance when they need it.

Future research is advised to consider other factors connected to economic activity. As of right now, the only variables that have been demonstrated to be significant in predicting the degree of economic activity in the area under study are income and spending. Different research can cover employment-related topics in more detail. It is recommended that issues like financial scarcity, which are frequently experienced, be handled. The citizens who are struggling financially will benefit from more work opportunities. This will be accomplished by helping to organize "Job Fairs," which would give Barangay Quebiawan inhabitants employment via the support of certain private businesses and Local Government Units (LGUs).

To combat the quite evident issue of unemployment, it is advised that barangay authorities host job fairs, livelihood initiatives, and seminars.

The City College's updated admissions procedures must be strengthened. The less fortunate Fernandinos, particularly those residing in Barangay Quebiawan, ought to take advantage of San Fernando's free college education offer.

To raise the educational status of residents of Barangay Quebiawan, scholarships, and City College's recently updated admissions guidelines must be strengthened.

There should continue to be a task force against hanging or inactive wires. All electrical lines that are inactive, unsightly, or dangerous will be removed, including telephone and cable lines. Transmission lines, cables, and sagging, unused wires must also be fixed.

It is necessary to evaluate the Free Laptops for Public School Teachers program run by the City of San Fernando. This is because most respondents were unaware of the two initiatives

listed above. Getting the word out about these projects is the most crucial thing we can do to move them forward. If the findings of the study suggest that these two initiatives should be continued, then their benefits need to be highlighted.

It is suggested that a well-planned educational campaign on Fernandinos's obligations be started. This would support the development of values like unity, tenacity, and obedience among the residents of Barangay Quebiawan.

References

- Ackermann, Nicolaas (2023). Economic activity definition, types & examples.
<https://study.com/academy/lesson/economic-activity-definition-examples.html>
- Alam, M. (2010). Socioeconomic profile of farmer in Malaysia: Study on integrated agricultural development area in North-West Selangor. *Agricultural Economics and Rural Development* 7 (2), 249-265.
- American Psychological Association (APA). (2024). *Socioeconomic status*, Dictionary of Psychology.
- Baker, E.H. (2014). *Socioeconomic Status, Definition*, Wiley Online Library. <https://doi.org/10.1002/97811184110868>.
- Bury, M. (2013). *Health and Illness in a Changing Society*.
- Castellacci, F. & Vinas-Bardolet, C. (2020). Permanent contracts and job satisfaction in academia: Evidence from European countries, *Studies in Higher Education* 46 (9).
- Cornell Law School (2024). *Income*, Legal Information Institute.
- De Vera, A. (2024). *Duties and responsibilities of a Filipino citizen vision and mission of a good citizenship movement*, Academia.

Duk, P., Phay, T. & Soeung, L. (2013). *Socio-Economic Profile of 6 Villages in Mondulakiri Province*. A Focus on the incomes and Livelihoods of Engaged Communities in the Cambodia Supporting Forests and Biodiversity (SFB) Project.

Eurostat (2023). *Glossary: Economic activity*. Statistics Explained.

Evangelidis, N., Tong, A., Manns, B., Hemmelgarn, B., Wheeler, D., *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*

Friedline, T., Chen, Z. & Morrow, S.P. (2021). Families; Financial Stress & Well-being: The Importance Of the Economy and Economic Environments, *Journal on Family Economic Issues* 42:34-51.

Hamdouch, A., Demaziere, C. & Banovac, K. (2017). The socioeconomic profiles of small and medium--Sized towns: Insights from European Case Studies. *Journal of Economic and Human Geography*.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/tesg.12254>.

Harper, D. (2015). A dictionary of economics, *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* 31 (1), 1-78.

International City/County Management Association (ICMA) (2023). *What is community development?*
<https://icma.org/about-icma>.

Kesmodel, U. (2018). Cross-sectional studies-what are they good for? *Methodology in Clinical Epidemiological Research in Obstetrics in Gynecology* 97, 4 (369-399).

Lieberman, H., Agarwal, S., Caldwell, J. & Fulgoni, V. (2020). Demographics, sleep, and daily patterns caffeine intake of shift workers in a nationally representative sample of the US adult population.

Loveless, B. (2023). *The Complete Guide to Educational Literacy*, Education Corner.

Merriam-Webster (2024). *Income*, Online Dictionary.

National Geographic (2024). *Demography*, Encyclopedic entry.

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (2021). *The Cycle of Alcohol Addiction*, Alcohol's Effects on Health.

Navarro-Carillo, G., Alonso-Ferres, M., Moya, M. & Valor-Segura, I. (2020). Socioeconomic status and Psychological well-being: Revisiting the role of subjective socioeconomic status. *Frontiers in Psychology* 11.

Nicor-Mangalimutan, R.G., Mejica, M.N. & Caelian, M.V. (2020). Implementation of the community Peace and order and public safety program in Negros Occidental, *Philippines, Social Science Journal* 3, 3.

Oxford (2024). *Socioeconomic status*, Dictionary of Public Health.

Oxford (2024). *Order*, Dictionary of Languages.

Pfattheicher, S., Nielsen, Y.A. & Thielmann, I. (2022). Prosocial behavior and altruism: A review of Concepts and definitions, *Current Opinion in Psychology* 44, 24-129.

PhilAtlas (2024). <https://www.philatlas.com>.

Philippine Business for Education (2024). *State of Philippine Education Report 2023*.

Pilgrim, J. & Martinez, E. (2013). Defining literacy in the 21st century: A guide to terminology and Skills, *Journal of Education Literacy*.

- Redding, S. & Turner, M. (2015). Transportation costs and the spatial organization of economic Activity, *Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics* 5, 1339-1398.
- Sandy, L.R. & Perkins, R. (2008). *The nature of peace and its implications for peace education*. Topics in International Law. University of Oslo, Faculty of Law English for Lawyers.
- Sellers, J. & Weinstein-Tull, J. (2021). *Constructing the right to vote*. New York Law Review Rev. 1127.
- Sekhampu, T.J. & Niyimbanira, F. (2013). Analysis of the factors influencing household expenditure In a South African township, *International Business and Economic Research Journal* 12 (3).
- Scott, M. P. (2023). *Income Definition: Types, Examples and Taxes*, Investopedia.
- Smith, R. (2023). *The Importance of Literacy in Education and Life*.
- Tarsi, K. & Tuff, T. (2012). Introduction to population demographics, *Nature Education*.
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division. (2019). *World Population Prospects*.
- World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews (2022). *"Peace and order: the inseparable partners to development"*.
- Xie, Y. (2000). Demography: Past, present and future, *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 95 (450), 670-673.

Examining the socio-economic panorama: Health, family planning, and economic activity in Barangay Sta. Lucia

Mercedes M. Lopez

ABSTRACT

This study examined the socio-economic panorama of Barangay Sta. Lucia, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, emphasizing the interrelationship among economic activity, health, and family planning practices. Specifically, it described respondents' socio-economic profiles, employment, income, health-seeking behaviors, and how economic conditions influence healthcare and reproductive health service access.

Using a descriptive quantitative design, structured survey data were gathered from 328 representatively sampled residents and analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, weighted mean, standard deviation). Findings revealed that most respondents were employed in labor-intensive industries (manufacturing, construction, retail) with an average annual household income of approximately Php 120,000, indicating low- to lower-middle-income status. Most relied on public healthcare facilities due to affordability and accessibility. Overall, economic conditions significantly influenced healthcare utilization and family planning decisions; financial constraints restricted access, while higher incomes improved health outcomes.

Overall, the study recommends integrating economic initiatives with community health promotion, strengthening barangay-based health education, expanding affordable family planning, and implementing sustainable livelihood programs to enhance community resilience and provide a valuable reference for local policymakers.

Key words: *Community development, community health, economic activity, family planning, healthcare access, public health, quantitative research, socio-economic conditions*

INTRODUCTION

Health and socio-economic development are fundamentally interconnected, with each influencing the other in shaping the quality of life of individuals and communities. Sustainable development extends beyond economic growth and encompasses improvements in health, education, employment, and social well-being. A healthy population is more capable of participating in productive economic activities, while stable economic conditions enable individuals and families to access essential services that promote physical, mental, and social well-being. Consequently, understanding the interaction between economic activity, health, and family planning has become an important concern among governments, development organizations, and public health practitioners seeking to improve community welfare and reduce socio-economic inequalities.

The concept of health has evolved from merely the absence of disease to a broader understanding that includes physical, mental, and social well-being. The World Health Organization recognizes that health outcomes are strongly influenced by the social determinants of health, including income, education, employment, housing, food security, and access to healthcare services. These determinants shape the opportunities available to individuals throughout their lives and largely explain the gaps in health outcomes observed across different populations. Communities with limited economic opportunities often experience higher rates of illness, poor nutritional status, inadequate access to healthcare, and lower utilization of preventive health services. As a result, improving socio-economic conditions is widely recognized as an essential strategy for achieving better public health outcomes and fostering inclusive community development.

In many developing countries, including the Philippines, socio-economic inequalities remain a persistent challenge despite continuous economic growth and policy reforms. Differences in household income, employment opportunities, educational attainment, and access to public services continue to influence the health status of families and their ability to make informed decisions regarding reproductive health. Although national programs have expanded healthcare coverage through universal health initiatives and strengthened primary healthcare systems, many communities still encounter barriers that limit equitable access to quality health services. Financial constraints, transportation costs, shortages of healthcare professionals, cultural beliefs, and inadequate health information remain as the significant factors that affect healthcare utilization, particularly among economically at-risk households.

The Philippine healthcare system has undergone substantial reforms through the decentralization of health services and the implementation of the Universal Health Care Act. This act aims to provide equitable access to quality healthcare for all Filipinos. Local government units now play a critical role in delivering health programs, promoting disease prevention, and ensuring the availability of primary healthcare services within their respective communities. Nevertheless, disparities in healthcare accessibility continue to exist across urban and rural settings. Many households continue to depend primarily on government health centers and public hospitals because of financial limitations, while preventive healthcare services and regular medical consultations are often postponed due to competing economic priorities. These realities demonstrate that health outcomes cannot be separated from the broader socio-economic circumstances in which individuals and families live.

Family planning represents another essential dimension of community health and socio-economic development. Access to

comprehensive reproductive health information and affordable family planning services empowers individuals and couples to make informed decisions, regarding the timing and spacing of pregnancies. Effective family planning contributes significantly to improved maternal and child health, reduced maternal mortality, enhanced educational opportunities, and greater household financial stability. It also supports broader national development goals by promoting responsible parenthood and sustainable population growth. Despite the availability of family planning services through public health institutions in the Philippines, utilization remains uneven across communities. Cultural traditions, religious beliefs, misconceptions regarding contraceptive methods, gender roles, and limited exposure to reproductive health education continue to influence the acceptance and consistent practice of family planning. These factors highlight the need to better understand community-specific circumstances that shape reproductive health behaviors and healthcare decisions.

Economic activity serves as one of the strongest determinants of both health and family planning practices. Stable employment and sufficient household income provide families with greater capacity to obtain nutritionally adequate food, maintain healthy living conditions, purchase medicines, seek timely medical attention, and invest in preventive healthcare. Likewise, improved economic security enables households to make long-term decisions regarding family size and child welfare. On the other hand, unemployment, underemployment, and financial insecurity often force households to prioritize immediate economic survival over preventive healthcare and reproductive health services. Poor health, in turn, may reduce an individual's productivity, increase healthcare expenditures, and limit employment opportunities. This results in creating a cycle in which economic hardship and poor health reinforce one another. This reciprocal relationship demonstrates the importance of examining health, family planning,

and economic activity, as interconnected dimensions rather than as isolated community concerns.

Within this context, Barangay Sta. Lucia in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga, provides an appropriate setting for investigating these interrelated socio-economic conditions. As one of the city's residential communities, Barangay Sta. Lucia reflects many of the characteristics commonly observed in rapidly developing Philippine communities, where employment opportunities, household income, healthcare utilization, and reproductive health practices collectively influence the well-being of residents. Examining these factors at the barangay level provides valuable evidences regarding the lived experiences of community members and the challenges they encounter in accessing healthcare services and family planning resources, while sustaining their economic livelihoods. Such localized information is essential for designing responsive community-based programs and strengthening local government initiatives that address both public health and socio-economic development.

This study is anchored on the Social Determinants of Health Framework, which suggests that health outcomes are influenced not only by biological and medical factors but also by the broader social, economic, environmental, and institutional conditions in which people live. According to this framework, employment, income, education, housing, healthcare accessibility, and social support collectively shape the health status of individuals and communities. Utilized within the context of Barangay Sta. Lucia, the framework explains how economic activity influences access to healthcare services, health information, and family planning, while health conditions simultaneously affect productivity, employment, and household income. By examining these dynamic relationships, the present study seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic panorama of Barangay Sta. Lucia and

generate evidence that may assist policymakers, local government units, healthcare providers, and community leaders in developing integrated interventions that promote economic resilience, improve health outcomes, strengthen family planning programs, and ultimately enhance the quality of life of the community's residents.

Review of Related Literature

Global evidence consistently demonstrates that socioeconomic status is one of the strongest determinants of health outcomes across populations. The Social Determinants of Health framework emphasizes that health is shaped not only by biological and medical factors but also by the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age (World Health Organization [WHO], 2023).

Marmot (2005) argued that inequalities in income, education, employment, housing, and social support create substantial differences in health status, life expectancy, and disease burden among populations. Individuals with higher socioeconomic status generally experience better health outcomes because they have greater access to nutritionally adequate food, quality healthcare, stable housing, and educational opportunities that promote healthy behaviors and lifestyle. In contrast, individuals living under economically disadvantaged conditions are more likely to experience chronic illnesses, poor mental health, and limited access to preventive healthcare services (Marmot, 2005; WHO, 2023). These findings suggest that understanding the socioeconomic characteristics of a community is essential for identifying health gaps and developing interventions that will address both health and social inequalities.

Beyond income alone, employment has been recognized as a critical social determinant that influences health and overall well-

being. Studies conducted across Southeast Asia indicate that the quality of employment is often more important than employment status itself. Stable and adequately compensated employment provides individuals with financial security, social protection, and access to health insurance, thereby improving healthcare utilization and reducing health-related financial risks (International Labor Organization [ILO], 2024).

On the other hand, workers engaged in informal, temporary, or low-paying occupations often face job insecurity, unsafe working conditions, irregular income, and limited access to employment benefits. These factors make them more vulnerable to poor health outcomes despite being employed (Asian Development Bank [ADB], 2021). Occupational conditions also affects the individuals' capacity to seek accessible and responsive medical care, participate in preventive health programs, and maintain healthy lifestyles. These findings highlight the importance of examining employment characteristics, integrated with other socioeconomic indicators when assessing community health and welfare.

Within the Philippine context, healthcare access remains influenced by socio-economic inequalities despite ongoing health sector reforms. The implementation of the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act seeks to improve financial risk protection and expand equitable access to essential health services for all Filipinos (Department of Health [DOH], 2023). However, health system assessments continue to identify persistent barriers, particularly among low-income and geographically disadvantaged populations. Public hospitals and government health centers remain the primary sources of healthcare services for economically vulnerable households because they provide affordable or subsidized medical care (WHO, 2022).

Nevertheless, challenges such as transportation costs, long waiting times, shortages of healthcare professionals, limited medical supplies, inadequate health infrastructure, and insufficient public awareness continue to affect healthcare utilization (WHO, 2022; DOH, 2023). These constraints demonstrate that expanding healthcare coverage alone may not guarantee equitable access, unless broader socio-economic barriers are also addressed. As a result, examining the health profile and socioeconomic conditions of Barangay Sta. Lucia can provide valuable information regarding factors that influence healthcare accessibility at the community level.

Family planning has likewise been identified as an important component of public health and socioeconomic development. Research conducted in the Philippines consistently shows that contraceptive utilization is significantly associated with educational attainment, household income, access to reproductive health information, availability of family planning services, and the active involvement of community health workers (Philippine Statistics Authority [PSA] & ICF, 2023).

Women with higher educational attainment and greater exposure to health education programs are generally more likely to adopt modern contraceptive methods and make informed reproductive health decisions. Community-based health promotion activities, including counseling provided by barangay health workers and rural health units, have been shown to improve awareness, correct misconceptions, and increase acceptance of family planning methods (United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA], 2023). Despite these improvements, several barriers continue to affect family planning utilization, including misinformation regarding contraceptive methods, religious and cultural beliefs, fear of side effects, and limited access to reproductive health commodities in underserved communities (PSA

& ICF, 2023; UNFPA, 2023). These findings underscore the importance of assessing family planning awareness and utilization as part of a comprehensive socio-economic and health profile of the community.

Community-based socio-economic assessment has become an essential component of evidence-based local governance in the Philippines. The Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) provides detailed household-level data that enable local government units to identify poverty conditions, monitor community development, and prioritize interventions based on actual needs (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2024).

CBMS studies consistently demonstrate that indicators such as employment status, household income, educational attainment, housing conditions, healthcare access, and access to basic services are closely associated with community well-being and household vulnerability. These indicators help identify populations at greater risk of poor health outcomes, food insecurity, unemployment, and limited access to social services. Furthermore, CBMS data support local governments in designing targeted health, livelihood, and social protection programs while improving the allocation of public resources (PSA, 2024).

For studies such as the present research, CBMS indicators provide a valuable framework for examining the socioeconomic profile of Barangay Sta. Lucia and understanding how health, family planning, and socioeconomic activities interact to influence the overall well-being of the community.

Given these findings, the study aims to examine the socio-economic panorama of Barangay Sta. Lucia by analyzing residents' employment status, income, healthcare utilization, and family planning practices. Specifically, it seeks to determine how economic activity influences access to health services and

reproductive health decisions. The findings may provide valuable information for local government officials, healthcare providers, and policymakers in designing community-based interventions that promote better health outcomes and sustainable socio-economic development.

METHOD

A descriptive quantitative research design was employed to provide a systematic assessment of socioeconomic and health-related conditions among residents of Barangay Sta. Lucia. Descriptive research is appropriate for studies seeking to document existing conditions and identify patterns without manipulating variables.

The study involved 328 respondents selected based on community representation and available household records. Data were collected through a structured survey instrument informed by Community-Based Monitoring System indicators and local health assessment frameworks. The questionnaire covered demographic characteristics, employment status, income conditions, healthcare utilization, and family planning practices.

Data gathering was conducted with the assistance of local officials and community representatives. Respondents were informed about the purpose of the study and participation was voluntary. Ethical considerations included informed consent, confidentiality, anonymity, and responsible data handling.

Collected data were organized, coded, and analyzed using descriptive statistics. Frequency counts, percentages, means, and standard deviations were utilized to summarize responses. Findings were interpreted in relation to existing literature and community development concerns.

RESULTS

The analysis revealed that most respondents are employed, although income levels remain relatively low. Employment is concentrated in sectors such as manufacturing, construction, and services. Contraceptive use is minimal, with a large majority of respondents not utilizing any family planning methods. Healthcare services are predominantly accessed through public hospitals, indicating dependence on government-supported facilities.

Table 1

Employment status of respondents

Status	Percentage (%)
Employed	61.9
Unemployed	38.1

Employment opportunities exist within the community. However, the relatively large proportion of unemployed individuals suggests that there is a continuing economic vulnerability. Livelihood programs and skills development initiatives may help improve household income security.

The findings indicate that most respondents are employed. Nevertheless, employment alone does not guarantee economic stability. Many workers remain concentrated in labor-intensive sectors characterized by moderate wages and limited job security. Similar patterns have been documented in developing communities where employment is available, but economic advancement remains limited.

Table 2
Major industry sectors

Industry	Percentage (%)
Manufacturing	14.3
Construction	11.6
Hotel & Restaurant	11.3

Economic activity is concentrated in sectors highly susceptible to market fluctuations and labor demand. Workforce development and diversification strategies may strengthen community competence.

Manufacturing emerged as the most common industry sector, followed by construction and hospitality-related employment. These sectors contribute significantly to local economic activity and provide employment opportunities for residents. However, dependence on a limited range of industries may expose households to economic disturbances.

Table 3
Contraceptive use

Category	Percentage (%)
Uses	9.5
Does Not Use	88.1

The low utilization rate suggests a need for strengthened reproductive health education, improved access to services, and targeted community engagement strategies.

Family planning utilization remains notably low. The findings may reflect limited awareness, cultural influences, misconceptions regarding contraceptive methods, and concerns regarding side effects. Previous studies similarly report that health literacy and

community engagement play important roles in reproductive health decision-making.

Table 4

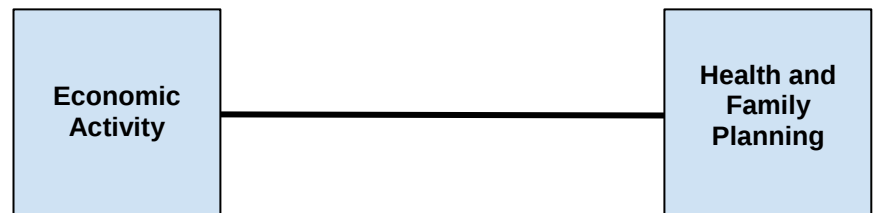
Health facility utilization

Facility	Percentage (%)
Public Hospital	24.1
Private Hospital	14.0

Public healthcare institutions continue to serve as the primary source of healthcare services. Sustained investment in public facilities is necessary to meet community needs. Reliance on public hospitals indicates the importance of affordable healthcare services. Public facilities often represent the most accessible option for households with limited financial resources. The findings align with broader national trends showing continued dependence on government-supported healthcare institutions.

Figure 1

Conceptual Framework



Note. Economic activity influences access to health services, while health conditions affect productivity and income.

Figure 1 illustrates the conceptual framework of the study, emphasizing the interconnected relationship among economic activity, health, and family planning within the socio-economic context of Barangay Sta. Lucia. The framework is anchored on the

premise that economic conditions significantly influence individuals' and households' access to healthcare services, preventive health measures, and family planning resources. On the other hand, the health status of community members directly affects their capacity to participate in productive economic activities, thereby creating a continuous and reciprocal relationship between these variables.

Economic activity serves as one of the primary determinants of household well-being. Families with stable employment, sustainable livelihoods, and sufficient income are generally more capable of meeting their basic health needs, including obtaining medical consultations, purchasing prescribed medications, accessing nutritious food, and utilizing preventive healthcare services. Likewise, adequate financial resources enable households to make informed reproductive health decisions by accessing family planning services, maternal healthcare, and educational programs on responsible parenthood. These opportunities contribute to improved health outcomes and promote healthier family structures, ultimately enhancing the quality of life within the community.

At the same time, health functions as a form of human capital that supports economic productivity. Individuals who experience good physical and mental health are more likely to maintain consistent employment, engage in entrepreneurial activities, and contribute effectively to the local economy. Healthy workers exhibit higher productivity, reduced absenteeism, and greater resilience against economic shocks. In addition, poor health conditions, chronic illnesses, and limited access to healthcare may reduce work capacity, increase household expenditures on medical treatment, and diminish overall economic productivity. Therefore, health is both an outcome of economic development and a critical input for sustaining economic growth.

Family planning occupies a central position within this framework because it influences both health and economic outcomes. Effective family planning enables households to determine the timing and spacing of pregnancies, which contributes to improved maternal and child health, while allowing families to allocate financial resources more efficiently. Smaller and well-planned family sizes may reduce economic strain, increase opportunities for educational investment, and enhance the overall well-being of household members. Furthermore, family planning empowers individuals, particularly women, to participate more actively in education, employment, and community development, thereby strengthening household economic stability.

The conceptual framework also recognizes that these relationships operate within a broader socio-economic environment where access to government services, public health programs, educational initiatives, and community development interventions may either strengthen or weaken the interaction among the variables. In Barangay Sta. Lucia, the availability of health facilities, family planning services, livelihood opportunities, and social protection programs may significantly influence the extent to which economic activity translates into improved health outcomes and vice versa. This perspective highlights the importance of integrated community development strategies that simultaneously address economic empowerment, healthcare accessibility, and reproductive health education.

Overall, Figure 1 provides the theoretical basis for examining the socio-economic panorama of Barangay Sta. Lucia by demonstrating that economic activity, health, and family planning are mutually reinforcing dimensions of community development. The framework supports the study's objective of understanding how these factors collectively shape the living conditions of residents and provides a foundation for developing evidence-based

recommendations that promote sustainable socio-economic growth, improved public health, and enhanced quality of life for the community.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study demonstrate the complex relationship between socio-economic conditions, healthcare utilization, and family planning practices among residents of Barangay Sta. Lucia. The results indicate that while a considerable proportion of respondents are engaged in employment or income-generating activities, many households continue to experience financial limitations that affect their ability to access healthcare services and prioritize preventive health practices. This finding supports the Social Determinants of Health Framework, which emphasizes that health outcomes are influenced not only by biological and medical factors but also by economic, social, and environmental conditions that shape individuals' opportunities to achieve good health (World Health Organization [WHO], 2023).

In this context, employment alone does not necessarily guarantee improved health outcomes, particularly when household income remains insufficient to meet healthcare needs and other essential expenditures.

The relationship between employment and health observed in this study reflects broader evidence in public health literature. Stable employment provides households with financial resources that enable them to purchase nutritionally adequate food, seek timely medical consultation, obtain prescribed medications, and access preventive health services. However, the findings suggest that many employed individuals may still face economic challenges due to relatively low income levels, unstable sources of livelihood, or increasing household expenses. These circumstances may

result in delayed medical consultations, reduced compliance with treatment, and lower participation in preventive healthcare programs. In addition, economic activity should not be viewed solely in terms of employment status but should also consider the quality, stability, and adequacy of income generated by such employment. These findings are consistent with previous studies indicating that employment quality has a greater influence on health outcomes than employment status alone, particularly in developing countries where informal employment remains prevalent.

Another significant finding of the study is the continued reliance of residents on public hospitals and government-supported health facilities for healthcare services. This observation highlights the important role of government institutions in ensuring equitable access to healthcare, particularly among economically disadvantaged households. Public hospitals, barangay health centers, and rural health units remain the primary providers of affordable healthcare services because they reduce the financial burden associated with medical consultations, diagnostic procedures, and medications. Their continued utilization demonstrates the effectiveness of government-supported healthcare programs in improving access among vulnerable populations. However, reliance on public healthcare facilities may also indicate the limited capacity of many households to seek healthcare from private providers due to financial constraints and limitations.

The findings further suggest that accessibility to healthcare involves more than the physical presence of health facilities. Although healthcare services may be available within or near the community, socio-economic barriers such as transportation costs, opportunity costs associated with taking leave from work, waiting time, and limited awareness of available health programs may discourage individuals from seeking medical attention. These

challenges emphasize that healthcare accessibility should be understood from both geographical and socio-economic perspectives. Improving access therefore requires interventions that address financial, informational, and institutional barriers simultaneously rather than focusing solely on expanding healthcare infrastructure.

The study also reveals relatively low utilization of contraceptive methods among respondents, indicating continuing challenges in reproductive health promotion within the community. Although family planning services are available through barangay health centers and public health facilities, utilization remains limited. This finding suggests that availability of services alone does not necessarily translate into greater acceptance or consistent utilization. Decisions regarding family planning are influenced by a combination of educational, economic, cultural, religious, and personal factors that shape reproductive health behavior. Individuals who possess adequate knowledge regarding contraceptive methods are generally more capable of making informed reproductive health choices and decisions. On the other hand, limited health literacy, misconceptions regarding contraceptive safety, fear of side effects, and cultural beliefs may discourage utilization despite service availability.

Economic conditions likewise influence reproductive health choices and decisions. Households experiencing financial difficulties may prioritize immediate daily necessities over preventive healthcare, including reproductive health consultations and family planning services. In addition, individuals working long hours or multiple jobs may have limited opportunities to attend health education sessions or visit healthcare facilities during operating and working periods. These findings support previous research indicating that reproductive health outcomes cannot be separated from broader socio-economic realities. Improving family

planning utilization therefore, requires comprehensive interventions that integrate education, community engagement, healthcare accessibility, and economic empowerment.

The findings also emphasize the integral role of barangay health workers and community health personnel in promoting public health within Barangay Sta. Lucia. Barangay health workers serve as the primary link between healthcare institutions and community residents by conducting health education activities, facilitating referrals, monitoring maternal and child health, promoting immunization, and disseminating information regarding preventive healthcare and family planning services. Their close interaction with community members allows them to establish trust and encourage greater participation in government health programs. Strengthening their capacity through continuous training, adequate logistic support, and sufficient resources may significantly improve community health outcomes and increase healthcare utilization.

From a socio-economic perspective, the results illustrate that health and economic development are mutually reinforcing dimensions of community well-being. Healthy individuals are generally more productive, experience fewer work absences, and contribute more effectively to household income and local economic development. At the same time, economically stable households possess greater financial capacity to invest in preventive healthcare, education, nutrition, and healthier living conditions. This reciprocal relationship demonstrates that health interventions should not operate independently from economic development initiatives. Programs designed to improve employment opportunities, livelihood, financial literacy, and income generation may indirectly contribute to better health outcomes by increasing households' capacity to access healthcare services and adopt healthier behaviors.

Furthermore, the findings support the importance of adopting integrated community development approaches. Health promotion initiatives become more effective when combined with educational programs, livelihood assistance, social protection mechanisms, and active community participation. Collaboration among barangay officials, local government units, educational institutions, civil society organizations, healthcare providers, and community members creates opportunities to address the multiple determinants of health simultaneously. Such multi-sectoral collaboration reflects the principles of primary healthcare and sustainable community development, through recognizing that health is influenced by policies and actions that is extending beyond the healthcare sector.

The study also highlights the importance of evidence-based planning at the barangay level. Community socio-economic profiling provides local government officials with valuable information regarding household characteristics, healthcare utilization, employment patterns, and reproductive health practices. These data serve as an important basis for identifying vulnerable populations, allocating resources efficiently, and designing interventions that respond directly to community needs. Regular monitoring of socio-economic indicators further enables local leaders to evaluate the effectiveness of existing programs and make necessary adjustments to improve service delivery. Furthermore, strengthening community-based monitoring systems may enhance local governance while supporting more responsive health and development planning.

Overall, the findings reinforce the theoretical assumption that health outcomes emerge from the interaction of economic, social, institutional, and behavioral factors. The socio-economic profile of Barangay Sta. Lucia provides important insights into how household income, employment, healthcare accessibility, and

reproductive health practices collectively influence community well-being. Addressing these interconnected issues requires comprehensive and sustainable interventions that strengthen both health systems and socio-economic development. Such integrated approaches are essential in promoting equitable health outcomes, improving quality of life, and supporting long-term community development.

Conclusion

This study examined the socio-economic profile of Barangay Sta. Lucia in terms of health, family planning, and socio-economic activity to better understand the factors influencing community well-being. The findings demonstrate that socio-economic conditions remain closely associated with healthcare utilization, preventive health practices, and reproductive health decisions among community residents. Although a substantial proportion of respondents participate in economic activities and employment, financial limitations continue to influence their ability to obtain timely healthcare services, maintain preventive health practices, and access reproductive health information and services. These findings indicate that employment alone does not necessarily guarantee improved health outcomes, unless accompanied by adequate and stable household income.

The study likewise emphasizes the significant contribution of public healthcare institutions, including barangay health centers, rural health units, and public hospitals, in providing accessible healthcare services for residents. The continued dependence on government-supported healthcare facilities reflects both their importance in promoting equitable healthcare access and the limited financial capacity of many households to seek private healthcare services. Strengthening these public institutions,

therefore remains essential in improving health outcomes, particularly among economically vulnerable populations.

The relatively low prevalence of contraceptive utilization further indicates continuing challenges related to reproductive health education, awareness, accessibility, and community acceptance. While healthcare services are available, several socio-economic and cultural factors continue to influence family planning decisions. These findings highlight the need for more comprehensive health education initiatives that address misconceptions, improve health literacy, encourage informed decision-making, and promote responsible parenthood within the community.

Moreover, the study reinforces the interconnected nature of health and socio-economic development. Economic stability supports healthcare access, while good health contributes to greater productivity, improved employment opportunities, and enhanced quality of life. These reciprocal relationships demonstrate that sustainable community development requires integrated strategies that simultaneously address healthcare services, education, employment, income generation, and social welfare. Addressing only one aspect without considering the others may limit the long-term effectiveness of community development interventions.

The findings also contribute to the growing body of evidence supporting the Social Determinants of Health Framework by demonstrating that community health outcomes are shaped by multiple interacting social and economic factors rather than medical care alone. Through its comprehensive assessment of health, family planning, and socio-economic activity, this study provides valuable baseline information that may guide local government units, healthcare providers, policymakers, and community

organizations in designing responsive, evidence-based programs that promote equitable health and sustainable socio-economic development in Barangay Sta. Lucia.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are proposed to improve health outcomes, strengthen family planning services, and promote sustainable socioeconomic development in Barangay Sta. Lucia.

1. The barangay government should strengthen community-based health education programs focusing on preventive healthcare, nutrition, reproductive health, maternal and child health, mental health awareness, and health literacy. Educational activities should be conducted regularly using culturally appropriate communication strategies that are accessible to different age groups and educational backgrounds.
2. Barangay officials should establish stronger partnerships with local health offices, public hospitals, educational institutions, non-government organizations, and civil society organizations to implement integrated health promotion activities. Collaborative programs may improve resource mobilization, expand community participation, and increase the effectiveness of health interventions.
3. Local government units should continue expanding livelihood development initiatives, skills training programs, entrepreneurship assistance, and income-generating opportunities that enhance household financial stability. Improving household income may reduce financial barriers to healthcare utilization and encourage greater investment in preventive health practices.

4. Barangay health workers should intensify community outreach activities through regular household visits, community forums, health counseling sessions, and information campaigns that provide accurate information regarding family planning methods, reproductive health, maternal care, and available government health services.
5. Local health authorities should strengthen referral systems connecting barangay health centers with municipal health offices, public hospitals, and specialized healthcare providers to ensure timely diagnosis, treatment, and continuity of care for community residents requiring advanced medical services.
6. The barangay should institutionalize regular socioeconomic and health assessments using Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) indicators and other community profiling tools. Continuous data collection will enable evidence-based planning, effective resource allocation, and periodic evaluation of health and development programs.
7. Future researchers are encouraged to employ mixed-methods or qualitative research designs to examine the cultural beliefs, behavioral factors, religious influences, gender dynamics, and institutional barriers affecting healthcare utilization and family planning decisions. Such approaches may provide deeper insights beyond quantitative findings.
8. Targeted interventions should be developed for economically vulnerable households, senior citizens, solo parents, persons with disabilities, unemployed individuals, and other marginalized groups who may experience greater barriers to healthcare access. These interventions should include financial assistance, social protection, healthcare subsidies, and community support services.
9. Health promotion activities should be integrated into the barangay's local development plans and annual investment

programs to ensure sustainability, adequate funding, and alignment with municipal and national public health priorities. Health should be recognized as an essential component of socio-economic development rather than an independent sector.

10. Continuous professional development opportunities should be provided for barangay health workers, community volunteers, and local health personnel through regular training on preventive healthcare, reproductive health counseling, health communication, digital health information systems, disaster preparedness, and community engagement strategies. Strengthening the competencies of frontline health workers will improve service quality, increase public trust, and enhance the overall effectiveness of community health programs.

In addition to these recommendations, the researchers encourage sustained community participation in all health and development initiatives. Residents should be actively involved in planning, implementing, and evaluating barangay programs to ensure that interventions remain responsive to local needs and priorities. A participatory approach fosters community ownership, strengthens accountability, and increases the likelihood that health promotion and socioeconomic development efforts will be sustained over time.

Ultimately, improving the health, family planning practices, and socioeconomic conditions of Barangay Sta. Lucia requires the collective commitment of local government officials, healthcare providers, educational institutions, civil society organizations, and community members working together toward the common goal of achieving a healthier, more productive, and more resilient community.

References

- Asian Development Bank. (2021). *Key indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021*. <https://www.adb.org/publications/key-indicators-asia-and-pacific-2021>
- Bedir, S. (2016). Healthcare expenditure and economic growth in developing countries. *Advances in Economics and Business*, 4(2), 76–86.
- Commission on Population and Development. (2023). *Philippine Population and Development Plan of Action 2023–2028*. <https://popcom.gov.ph>
- Dayrit, M. M., Lagrada, L. P., Picazo, O. F., Pons, M. C., & Villaverde, M. C. (2018). *The Philippines health system review*. World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific.
- Department of Health. (2023). *Universal Health Care implementation reports*. <https://doh.gov.ph>
- International Labour Organization. (2024). *World employment and social outlook: Trends 2024*. <https://www.ilo.org>
- Marmot, M. (2005). Social determinants of health inequalities. *The Lancet*, 365(9464), 1099–1104. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(05\)71146-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(05)71146-6)
- Marmot, M. (2015). *The health gap: The challenge of an unequal world*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Mbizo, M. T., & Phillips, S. J. (2014). Family planning: Choices and challenges. *American Journal of Public Health*, 104(1), e10–e11.

- Nassaji, H. (2015). Qualitative and descriptive research: Data type versus data analysis. *Language Teaching Research*, 19(2), 129–132. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1362168815572747>
- Philippine Institute for Development Studies. (2023). *Socioeconomic issues in the Philippines: 2023 policy updates*. <https://www.pids.gov.ph>
- Philippine Statistics Authority. (2024). *Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS)*. <https://psa.gov.ph>
- Philippine Statistics Authority, & ICF. (2023). *Philippines National Demographic and Health Survey 2022*. <https://psa.gov.ph>
- United Nations. (2023). *The Sustainable Development Goals report 2023: Special edition*. United Nations. <https://unstats.un.org/sdqs/report/2023/>
- United Nations Population Fund. (2023). *State of World Population 2023: 8 billion lives, infinite possibilities—The case for rights and choices*. <https://www.unfpa.org>
- World Bank. (2024). *World Development Indicators*. <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators>
- World Health Organization. (2023). *Primary health care*. <https://www.who.int/health-topics/primary-health-care>
- World Health Organization. (2023). *Social determinants of health*. <https://www.who.int/health-topics/social-determinants-of-health>
- World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific. (2022). *The Philippines health system review*. World Health Organization.

A community in focus: Examining the socio-economic profile of Barangay San Felipe, City of San Fernando, Pampanga

Donna Marie P. Simbulan

ABSTRACT

This study presents the socioeconomic profile of Barangay San Felipe, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. It aimed to describe residents' demographics, school non-attendance reasons, economic activities, community problems, perceptions of city flagship programs, and practiced civic duties. Using descriptive and cross-sectional designs, data were gathered from 287 households (1,213 individuals) using a 90-item questionnaire and analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Findings revealed most respondents were literate and economically active, with salaries as their primary income. Major school non-attendance reasons were educational completion, financial constraints, and employment. Common problems included lack of money, illness, unsafe environments, family disputes, and alcoholism. The Fernandino Dialysis Center was assessed most favorably, while the Kayabe KArd was the least known and effective. While voting was recognized as a key civic duty, active involvement in local organizations and city activities was low.

The study recommends addressing concerns through employment and skills-training, improving Kayabe KArd awareness, and encouraging civic participation through community meetings, social media, and information dissemination. Future research should include infrastructure and transportation-related factors to support community planning.

Key words: *Socioeconomic, economic activity, household income, flagship programs, good citizenship*

INTRODUCTION

Socioeconomic profiling plays an important role in intelligent city planning and community development. Through the City of San Fernando Socioeconomic Profile (CSFP-SEP) 2023, the University of the Assumption (UA), in partnership with the City Government of San Fernando, extended its research and community service efforts to provide reliable baseline data for policy-making, poverty alleviation, and socioeconomic improvement. The project reflects UA's mission of Christian formation, academic excellence, and community service through collaboration with local government units and community stakeholders. For the fourth time, the City Government entrusted the implementation of the CSFP-SEP to UA through its Research and Planning Office, with support from the UA National Service Training Program (NSTP), faculty facilitators, and student surveyors.

Socioeconomic profiling is an essential tool for understanding the demographic, economic, and social conditions of communities and serves as a foundation for evidence-based planning and policymaking. In the Philippines, the institutionalization of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) through Republic Act No. 11315 has strengthened the capacity of local government units to collect disaggregated household-level data for identifying priority needs, allocating resources efficiently, monitoring development outcomes, and improving public service delivery (Reyes et al., 2022). Beyond generating statistical information, socioeconomic profiling supports participatory governance by integrating local knowledge and stakeholder engagement into the planning process, enabling local governments and development institutions to design programs that respond to the specific needs of communities (Quitoriano, 2020).

Recent literature further emphasizes that socioeconomic profiling is a strategic instrument for promoting sustainable community development. Comprehensive barangay-level data on population characteristics, education, employment, income, housing, and access to services provide valuable baseline information for implementing local development plans, university extension programs, and initiatives aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (Philippine Statistics Authority [PSA], 2022; Reyes et al., 2022). Consequently, socioeconomic profiling extends beyond describing community conditions; it facilitates evidence-based decision-making, strengthens participatory governance, and supports responsive interventions that enhance the overall well-being and resilience of local communities.

The present study examines nine key dimensions of the socioeconomic profile of Barangay San Felipe: demographic characteristics, educational attainment, employment and occupation, household income, housing characteristics, religion and community values, awareness and utilization of government programs, community participation and social capital, and socioeconomic profiling in relation to local governance and sustainable community development. These variables are widely recognized in contemporary community development literature as interconnected determinants of community well-being. Demographic characteristics describe the composition of the population; educational attainment reflects human capital development; employment and household income indicate economic productivity and financial capacity; housing characteristics represent living conditions and access to basic services; religion and community values shape social cohesion and cultural identity; awareness of government programs promotes citizen participation and service utilization; community participation and social capital strengthen collective action and local resilience; while socioeconomic profiling provides the empirical foundation for

barangay planning, local governance, and the achievement of sustainable development goals. Together, these dimensions provide a holistic understanding of community conditions and serve as valuable inputs for evidence-based decision-making, resource allocation, and community extension initiatives.

The succeeding sections review recent scholarly and government literature related to each variable to establish the theoretical and empirical foundation of the study. By synthesizing contemporary findings from Philippine and international sources, the review demonstrates how these socioeconomic indicators influence household welfare, community resilience, and local development. Collectively, the literature supports the use of socioeconomic profiling as an indispensable tool for identifying community strengths, addressing development gaps, and guiding responsive programs and policies that contribute to inclusive, participatory, and sustainable community development.

Demographic characteristics—including age, sex, civil status, and household size—provide the foundation for socioeconomic profiling because they describe the composition and structure of a community. These variables influence labor force participation, educational needs, household formation, health service utilization, and dependency ratios, making them essential for evidence-based planning and resource allocation. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) emphasizes that demographic information collected through the Census of Population and Housing serves as a primary source for local development planning, allowing local government units to identify priority sectors and forecast future service requirements. Likewise, recent studies on the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) highlight that demographic data enable barangays to target vulnerable populations and monitor development outcomes more effectively.

Educational attainment is a key indicator of human capital and socioeconomic mobility. Higher educational achievement improves employability, productivity, earning potential, and participation in civic and economic activities. Recent Philippine studies emphasize that education remains one of the strongest predictors of household welfare and long-term poverty reduction despite learning disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Educational attainment also strengthens community development by enhancing workforce competencies, supporting entrepreneurship, and increasing citizens' participation in local governance. Consequently, profiling educational attainment provides local governments with valuable information for scholarship programs, workforce development, and community extension initiatives that improve human capital and inclusive growth.

Employment and occupation are fundamental measures of economic productivity and household well-being because they determine income stability, access to social protection, and overall quality of life. Recent Philippine labor market studies indicate that while employment has generally recovered following the COVID-19 pandemic, many workers continue to experience underemployment, informal employment, and unstable sources of livelihood. Livelihood diversification, entrepreneurship, and skills development have emerged as important strategies for improving household resilience and local economic sustainability. Employment profiling therefore enables local governments to identify labor market trends, prioritize livelihood interventions, and formulate policies that promote decent work and inclusive economic development.

Household income is widely recognized as one of the most reliable indicators of socioeconomic well-being because it reflects a family's capacity to meet basic needs, invest in education and

health, and respond to economic shocks. Although poverty incidence in the Philippines has declined in recent years, many households remain economically vulnerable due to unstable employment, inflation, and limited financial resources. Recent studies emphasize that household resilience depends not only on income level but also on income stability, diversified livelihood sources, and access to social protection. Consequently, household income profiling provides essential evidence for poverty reduction strategies, livelihood development, and equitable allocation of government resources at the barangay level.

Housing characteristics are important indicators of living conditions and socioeconomic status because they encompass housing quality, tenure security, access to basic utilities, environmental health, and disaster resilience. Adequate housing contributes to improved health, educational outcomes, safety, and overall quality of life, while poor housing conditions increase vulnerability to environmental hazards and socioeconomic risks. Recent Philippine and international development frameworks emphasize that housing should be assessed not only by construction materials but also by access to water, sanitation, electricity, internet connectivity, and disaster-resistant infrastructure. Housing profiling therefore supports evidence-based planning for infrastructure development, social housing programs, environmental management, and climate-resilient communities.

Religion and community values play a significant role in shaping social relationships, cultural identity, and civic behavior within communities. Religious beliefs often influence ethical values, social norms, volunteerism, and collective responsibility, thereby strengthening social cohesion and encouraging community participation. Communities with strong shared values tend to demonstrate higher levels of trust, cooperation, and mutual support,

which are important components of social capital and sustainable development.

Recent studies on community development emphasize that social cohesion promotes collaboration among residents and strengthens the capacity of communities to address local concerns through collective action. Community participation fostered by shared cultural and religious values also enhances the effectiveness of local governance by encouraging citizens to become active partners in development initiatives rather than passive recipients of government services. These findings suggest that religion and community values contribute not only to individual well-being but also to social resilience and inclusive community development.

Awareness of government programs is a prerequisite for effective citizen participation and successful public service delivery. Individuals who are informed about available programs are more likely to access health services, educational assistance, livelihood opportunities, social protection, and community development initiatives. However, awareness alone does not guarantee participation; factors such as accessibility, transparency, trust in government, and perceived program effectiveness also influence citizens' engagement.

Recent Philippine studies highlight the importance of participatory governance in strengthening local development. The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) emphasizes that evidence-based planning and community-based monitoring systems (CBMS) enable local government units to identify priority needs and design responsive development programs. Likewise, studies on Local Development Councils underscore that meaningful citizen participation improves planning, accountability, and policy

implementation, contributing to more inclusive and responsive local governance.

Community organizations serve as important mechanisms for promoting civic engagement, volunteerism, and collective action. Participation in neighborhood associations, faith-based organizations, cooperatives, youth groups, and civic organizations strengthens social networks and encourages collaboration among community members. Such organizations facilitate information sharing, resource mobilization, leadership development, and mutual assistance, thereby enhancing a community's capacity to respond to social and economic challenges.

Social capital, characterized by trust, reciprocity, and social connectedness, has been recognized as an important driver of community resilience and sustainable development. Communities with higher levels of social capital generally demonstrate greater participation in development programs, stronger disaster preparedness, and more effective local governance. Volunteerism and collective action also contribute to community empowerment by encouraging residents to participate actively in solving local problems and implementing community-based initiatives.

Socioeconomic profiling provides essential baseline information for evidence-based planning, policy formulation, and sustainable community development. By systematically collecting data on demographic, economic, educational, housing, and social conditions, local governments can identify priority concerns, allocate resources more efficiently, and monitor development outcomes over time. Community-based socioeconomic profiling has become increasingly important following the institutionalization of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS), which supports local planning through household-level data and geographic targeting of vulnerable populations.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) further emphasize the importance of evidence-based governance in achieving inclusive, resilient, and sustainable communities. Philippine development planning frameworks align local development plans with the SDGs by integrating poverty reduction, quality education, decent work, sustainable cities, climate resilience, and strong institutions into local governance processes. Recent studies likewise emphasize that comprehensive socioeconomic profiling strengthens barangay development planning, improves the implementation of local programs, and enhances community extension initiatives conducted by higher education institutions and development partners. Through reliable baseline information, local governments are better positioned to formulate responsive interventions that address community needs while supporting long-term sustainable development.

Synthesis

The reviewed literature consistently demonstrates that the nine dimensions of socioeconomic profiling—demographic characteristics, educational attainment, employment and occupation, household income, housing characteristics, religion and community values, awareness and utilization of government programs, community participation and social capital, and socioeconomic profiling in relation to local governance and sustainable community development—are interconnected determinants of community well-being. Demographic composition influences educational opportunities and labor force participation; educational attainment enhances employability and income-generating capacity; employment and household income contribute to economic stability and improved living conditions; while housing characteristics reflect access to essential services, health, safety, and environmental quality. Beyond these socioeconomic indicators, religion and community values strengthen social cohesion and

cultural identity, awareness and utilization of government programs improve access to public services and development opportunities, and community participation and social capital foster civic engagement, volunteerism, collective action, and resilience.

Collectively, the literature affirms that comprehensive socioeconomic profiling provides an empirical foundation for evidence-based policymaking, participatory governance, barangay development planning, community extension initiatives, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By integrating demographic, economic, social, and institutional dimensions, socioeconomic profiling enables local government units and development stakeholders to identify community strengths, address development gaps, prioritize interventions, and formulate responsive policies that promote inclusive, resilient, and sustainable community development. Accordingly, examining these nine dimensions in Barangay San Felipe, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, will generate valuable baseline information to support local planning, improve public service delivery, and guide future community development programs.

Barangay San Felipe is one of the barangays of the City of San Fernando, Pampanga, the regional center of Central Luzon and a major hub for industry, commerce, governance, and residential development. Based on the 2020 Census, San Felipe had a population of 6,035, representing 1.70% of the city's total population. The barangay experienced continuous growth from 2,107 residents in 1990 to 6,035 in 2020, showing increasing urbanization and development. It is strategically located near important institutions such as the City Hall, Provincial Capitol, schools, hospitals, and industrial and heritage sites. San Felipe also serves as part of the service area for the Poblacion Growth Center, identified by the city government as an area for cultural,

educational, residential, commercial, and transportation-oriented development.

Historically, Barangay San Felipe was an agricultural community under the town of Mexico as early as 1581. The barangay was named after its patron saint, San Felipe de Neri, and was known for traditional livelihoods such as kaingin farming, fishing, and palduan production of panutsa (muscovado cakes). Several pioneering families, including the Castros, Cuyugans, Singians, Aguases, and Lopezes, contributed to the development of the community.

Socioeconomic status (SES) is recognized as a multidimensional concept involving income, education, occupation, and access to resources. Previous studies emphasized the importance of socioeconomic profiling in identifying community strengths, challenges, educational attainment, employment conditions, and health disparities. However, despite previous socioeconomic studies conducted in San Fernando City, there has been no specific and updated study focused solely on Barangay San Felipe. Thus, this research aims to provide a comprehensive socioeconomic profile of the barangay using the SEP 2023 data.

The study utilized the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS)-based questionnaire covering fifteen major socioeconomic indicators, including demography, education, economic activity, income sources, health, housing, sanitation, waste management, agriculture, community affairs, expenditures, and citizen perspectives. The findings of this study are intended to provide useful information for policymakers, planners, and program implementers in developing responsive programs, improving governance, and promoting sustainable community development in Barangay San Felipe.

METHOD

Research Design

The study utilized descriptive and cross-sectional research designs to describe the socioeconomic conditions of Barangay San Felipe. Descriptive research was used to characterize the respondents' demographic and socioeconomic conditions through surveys and observations, while the cross-sectional approach allowed the researchers to gather data from a representative group within a specific period of time.

Respondents and Sampling Design

The respondents of the study were residents of Barangay San Felipe, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. The study covered 287 households with an estimated household population of 1,213 individuals and an average household size of 4.23 members. The sample size was determined using the Raosoft online sampling calculator with a 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error. To facilitate data gathering, the barangay was divided into sectors using Google Maps, and survey teams were assigned to designated areas.

Research Instrument

The study used a structured questionnaire containing 90 items and several sub-items based on the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS). The instrument covered 15 major socioeconomic indicators, including demography, education, economic activity, income sources, health, housing, sanitation, agriculture, community affairs, expenditures, and citizen perspectives. The questionnaire was reviewed and updated by the City Planning and Development Coordinator's Office (CPDCO) and

the University of the Assumption Research and Planning Office (UA-RPO).

Data Collection

Prior to data gathering, courtesy visits were conducted with barangay officials to secure cooperation and support. Student enumerators from the UA-NSTP conducted face-to-face surveys with assigned households. Respondents answered either through direct interviews or self-administered questionnaires when appropriate. Accomplished questionnaires were reviewed, edited, and cleaned by field supervisors to ensure data accuracy and completeness.

Ethical Considerations

The study followed ethical research standards and was reviewed by the University's Research Ethics Board (REB). Respondents were informed about the purpose of the study, confidentiality of information, and their right to withdraw participation at any time. Informed consent was secured before conducting the survey. Enumerators were trained to observe professionalism, confidentiality, and respect during data collection.

Data Analysis

Encoded data were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 17. Descriptive statistical tools such as frequency distribution, percentage, mean, and standard deviation were used to summarize and interpret the data. Cross-tabulations and tables were also prepared to present relationships among variables and to answer the research objectives of the study systematically.

RESULTS

Table 1
Demographic profile

Profile	Description	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Sex	Males	610	50.30
Age	30 – 34 years old	113	9.58
Election Registry	Voters (19 above)	199	77.70
Marital Status	Single	546	47.40
Religion	Roman Catholic	928	78.80
Highest educational achievement	High School Graduate	228	24.89
Literacy	Reading and writing	1,146	94.50

Male and female respondents are almost evenly distributed. Middle-aged adults account for nearly one-tenth of the total population. The population's voting rate is slightly more than three-quarters. Nearly half of the population remains single. Roman Catholics account for little more than three-fourths of the population. Almost one-quarter of those interviewed completed high school. The vast majority of participants can read and write.

Table 2
Reasons for not attending school

Reasons	<i>f</i>	%
Finished Schooling	190	28.15
High Cost of Education	162	24.00
Employment/Looking for Work	126	18.67
Marriage	49	7.26
Too Young to Go to School	35	5.19
Schools are Very Far	18	2.67
Housekeeping/Taking Care of Siblings	18	2.67
Lack of Personal Interest	17	2.52
Other	17	2.52
No School within the Barangay	14	2.07
Cannot Cope with School Work	14	2.07
Illness/Disability	8	1.19
No Regular Transportation	4	0.59
Problem with Birth Certificate	2	0.30
Problem with School Record	1	0.15

The reasons for not going to school differ from one another. Some do not attend school because they have already completed school (28.15%), the high cost of education (24%), employment concerns such as seeking for work (18.67%), marriage (7.26%), or they are too young to attend school (5.19%). Few respondents said that schools are far away (2.67%), that they are too busy with housekeeping and caring for siblings (2.67%), that they lack personal interest (2.52%), that there is no school in the barangay (2.07%), and that they are unable to deal with school work. A

minority reported illness or disability (1.19%), lack of regular transportation (0.59%), and birth certificate problems (0.30%). The problem with school records is the least common cause for not attending (0.15%).

Table 3
Economic activity

Activity	Description	f	%
Distribution of employment status	Employed (Aged 18-65)	437	53.20
Reasons for unemployment	Too young /too old to work	141	45.00
Distribution of employed residents according to place of work	Within the city	173	39.20
Distribution of employed residents according to time of work	Dayshift (7am-5pm)	415	93.50
Distribution of employed residents according to work industry classification	Construction	119	25.30
Nature of employment of Fernandinos	Permanent job	266	61.00
Distribution of employed residents according to class of worker	Private company/corporation	155	36.40

Only slightly more than half of the respondents (53.20%) are employed, with the remainder 46.8% stating otherwise. Nearly half of respondents (45%) stated that they were either too young or too old to work. Four out of ten people worked in the city (39.2%). An overwhelming majority of respondents (93.5%) worked day shifts

from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Two out of eight residents worked in construction. A little more than two-thirds (61%) of respondents hold permanent jobs. A bit more than one-third of employed residents (36.4%) were reported to work for private companies or corporations.

Table 4
Annual household income

Total Income	Amount (PhP)
Total net income from entrepreneurial activities	2,266,000.00
Total salaries and wages	70,732,275.00
Total income from other sources	4,107,100.00
Total household income	77,105,375.00
Total household income per household	358,629.65

The majority of total household income was made up of salaries and wages. Second, the income from other sources was primarily from OFW remittances (P 3,813,000). The third source of income was generated by entrepreneurial activities. As a result, the total household income for Barangay San Felipe is P 77,105,375.00, with an average household income of 358,629.65.

Table 5
Estimated expenditure of each household

Monthly Expenditure	Amount
Food	3,072,400.00
Clothing	193,300.00
School Expenses	699,740.00
Medical/Dental Expenses	524,940.00
Leisure	485,100.00
Transportation Expenses	181,500.00

Monthly Expenditure	Amount
Electricity	835,685.25
LPG/Gas	531,375.00
Water Bill	385,910.00
Gas/Diesel	375,600.00
Rent/Amortization	10,500.00
Insurance	23,660.00
Communication Expenses	200,043.00
Others	232,700.00
Total Household Expenditures	7,752,453.25
Gross Annual Household	93,029,439.00

Food, electricity, school expenses, LPG/gas, and medical/dental expenses were the top five categories of expenditures. The next four expenditures were for leisure, water bill, gas/diesel, and other items. Communication, clothing, and transportation were the next three expenditures. Finally, the remaining two expenses were insurance and rent/amortization.

Table 6

Top five problems encountered by San Felipe households

Problems	%	Mean
Lack of Money	79%	2.17
Sickness	14%	1.99
Unsafe Environment	11%	1.34
Family Dispute	10%	1.31
Alcoholism	5%	1.24

Almost eight out of every 10 respondents faced financial challenges. Almost one in every eight individuals has had a disease or illness. Just over a tenth of the population reported an unsafe environment. One in every ten respondents indicated a family

disagreement. Furthermore, one in every twenty respondents acknowledged alcoholism as a problem in their household.

Table 7
San Felipe Citizens’ perspectives on the flagship programs of CSFP

Flagship Programs	Effective		Not Effective		Program Unknown	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
1. Fernandino Dialysis Center	166	57.8	17	5.9	104	36.2
2. Reinforced Waterways Clean-up and Environmental Management	145	50.5	24	8.4	118	41.1
3. Task Force against Dangling/Inactive Wires	123	42.9	24	8.4	140	48.8
4. City College Amended Admission Regulations	121	42.2	21	7.3	145	50.5
5. Free Laptops for Public School Teachers	116	40.4	34	11.8	137	47.7
6. Kayabe KArD	82	28.6	19	6.6	186	64.8

Among the six CSFP flagship programs, more than half of respondents said the Fernandino Dialysis Center program was the most effective. It also received the fewest not effective responses and program unknown answers. Based on the responses of those surveyed, the Reinforced Waterways Clean-up and Environmental Management, Task Force against Dangling/Inactive Wires, City

College Amended Admission Regulations, and Free Laptops for Public School Teachers are the next most effective. The Kayabe KArD program received the fewest responses from participants regarding its effectiveness. It also resulted in not effective and not a known program from the residents.

Table 8

Citizens' perspectives on the duties and responsibilities of Fernandinos

Duties and Responsibilities of Fernandinos	Yes, Always	
	f	%
1. Registered voters who vote every election	268	93.4
2. Follow city ordinances	255	88.9
3. Pay the right taxes at the right time	239	83.3
4. Working to improve their family's livelihood	238	82.9
5. Using or trying to learn and use the Kapampangan language	235	81.9
6. Help the barangays and fellow Fernandinos	231	80.5
7. Exercise and eat well	219	76.3
8. Segregate and do not burn garbage	217	75.6
9. Work on ways to develop their skills and talents	208	72.5
10. Actively gather and share information about the city	207	72.1
11. Support the giant lantern festival and other Kapampangan traditions	194	67.6
12. Support and patronize local products the community and introduce them to their friends	186	64.8
13. Participate in city activities	121	42.2
14. Member of a local organization and fulfill their duties	92	32.1

As a good citizen in the community result showed that among the 14 duties and responsibilities of Fernandinos, the top five with the most answer of yes and always were registered voters who vote every election, followed city ordinances, paid the right taxes at the right time, worked to improve their family's livelihood, and used or tried to learn Kapampangan language. The following five responses with answer of yes and always were aid the barangays and fellow Fernandinos, exercise and eat well, segregate and do not burn garbage, work on ways to develop their skills and talents, and actively gather and share information about the city. On the other hand, the four with the least answer of yes and always were supported the giant lantern festival and other Kapampangan traditions, supported and patronized local products the community and introduced them to their friends, participated in city activities and members of a local organization and fulfilled their duties.

DISCUSSION

This study examined the socioeconomic profile of Barangay San Felipe, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, to provide baseline information that can support evidence-based planning, local governance, and sustainable community development. Consistent with the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) framework, the findings demonstrate that socioeconomic profiling serves not only to describe community characteristics but also to identify development priorities and guide responsive interventions (Reyes et al., 2022).

The demographic findings reveal a relatively balanced population structure characterized by an active working-age population, high voter registration, and a predominance of Roman Catholic residents. These characteristics suggest favorable conditions for civic engagement and participatory governance.

Similar demographic patterns have been reported by the Philippine Statistics Authority (2023), while Reyes et al. (2022) emphasized that demographic information is fundamental for planning education, health, employment, and social protection services. Furthermore, strong religious affiliation may contribute to social cohesion and community resilience through volunteerism and collective action (Navarro et al., 2021).

Educational attainment emerged as one of the community's strengths, with most respondents completing secondary education. However, financial constraints, employment obligations, and family responsibilities remained major barriers to pursuing higher education. These findings are consistent with Philippine studies showing that secondary education remains the most common educational level in many communities because of socioeconomic limitations (PSA, 2023; Tutor et al., 2021). Reyes et al. (2022) and Wu et al. (2025) likewise emphasized that higher educational attainment improves employability, income potential, and long-term socioeconomic mobility. The findings highlight the need to strengthen scholarship programs, technical-vocational education, and workforce development initiatives in Barangay San Felipe.

Employment and livelihood findings indicate that most respondents were economically active, primarily engaged in construction work, private employment, self-employment, and small businesses. While this reflects a productive labor force, many households remain vulnerable because employment is concentrated in labor-intensive occupations with unstable income. Similar trends have been observed in recent Philippine labor reports (PSA, 2024) and community profiling studies (Reyes et al., 2022), while the International Labour Organization (2023) stresses that decent work depends on employment quality, adequate wages, and social protection. These findings underscore the importance of expanding livelihood diversification, entrepreneurship, and skills

development programs to improve employment stability and household resilience.

Household income was derived mainly from salaries and wages, supplemented by entrepreneurial activities and remittances. Nevertheless, many respondents continued to experience financial constraints, indicating that employment alone does not guarantee economic security. This finding supports the observations of the Philippine Statistics Authority (2024), Reyes et al. (2022), and the World Bank (2023), which reported that rising living costs and inflation continue to affect household purchasing power despite improvements in employment. Correspondingly, household expenditures were concentrated on food and other essential needs, consistent with the Philippine Statistics Authority's Family Income and Expenditure Survey (2023). These expenditure patterns suggest that many households have limited financial flexibility, reinforcing the need for livelihood enhancement, financial literacy, and microenterprise development programs.

Financial constraints, limited employment opportunities, and increasing commodity prices emerged as the most pressing community concerns. These findings align with reports from the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (Reyes et al., 2022), the Philippine Statistics Authority (2024), and the World Bank (2023), which identify inflation, underemployment, and income insecurity as continuing challenges among Filipino households. Addressing these concerns requires integrated interventions that combine employment generation, social protection, financial capability, and community-based economic development.

The study also found that while awareness of government flagship programs was generally high, participation and utilization differed among respondents. This suggests that barriers related to accessibility, eligibility, or information dissemination may affect

program uptake. Similar observations have been reported by the Philippine Statistics Authority (2022), Reyes et al. (2022), and Medina-Guce et al. (2025), who emphasized that evidence-based targeting and effective communication improve public service delivery and citizen participation. These findings highlight the need for stronger information campaigns, continuous monitoring of program utilization, and more responsive local governance.

Community participation was generally positive, reflecting strong social capital characterized by civic engagement, religious involvement, and cooperation among residents. Previous studies have shown that social capital enhances community resilience, participatory governance, and sustainable local development (Navarro et al., 2021; Medina-Guce et al., 2025; United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], 2023). Strengthening partnerships among local government units, educational institutions, civil society organizations, and community groups can further promote inclusive participation and collective action.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that the socioeconomic profile of Barangay San Felipe encompasses interconnected demographic, educational, economic, and social dimensions that collectively influence community well-being. The study supports the principles of the Community-Based Monitoring System by providing reliable household-level evidence for local planning and policymaking (Reyes et al., 2022). Moreover, the findings contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). As such, the socioeconomic profile generated by this study provides a valuable empirical foundation for designing responsive policies, strengthening

community extension initiatives, and promoting inclusive and sustainable development in Barangay San Felipe.

Limitations of the Study

The study encountered several limitations during data gathering. Some respondents refused to provide information regarding their income and expenses because of privacy concerns, which affected the accuracy of the economic data. Delays in data collection were also caused by budget constraints, transportation problems, typhoons, and school-related activities.

The study only covered a limited number of respondents from Barangay San Felipe; therefore, the results may not fully represent the opinions and experiences of the entire barangay population. In addition, the study focused mainly on socioeconomic characteristics and did not include other important community concerns such as roads, drainage systems, traffic, and infrastructure. Future studies may include these areas to provide more useful information for barangay and city planning.

Conclusions

The study successfully described the socioeconomic profile of Barangay San Felipe, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. The findings showed that many residents were able to finish school, while others were unable to continue their studies because of financial problems or the need to work. Despite these challenges, most residents are literate.

Barangay San Felipe has an active local economy, with many residents employed in construction work and private companies. Household income mainly comes from salaries and wages, while common household expenses include food, electricity, and education.

The most common problems identified by residents were lack of money, sickness, unsafe surroundings, family conflicts, and alcoholism. Among these, financial difficulty was considered the most serious concern.

In terms of government programs, the Fernandino Dialysis Center received the highest positive evaluation because of its free healthcare services. On the other hand, many residents were not aware of the Kayabe KARD program and other city initiatives. The residents also recognized the importance of good citizenship, especially voting during elections. However, many residents are still not active in community organizations and city activities.

Recommendations

Future studies should include more community-related factors such as roads, drainage, traffic, and infrastructure to improve planning and development programs. Creating an online barangay profile of skilled workers and professionals may also help residents find employment opportunities locally and abroad. To address financial difficulties, the barangay and city government should provide more livelihood programs, job opportunities, and skills training that match the needs of the community. Partnerships with businesses and organizations may also help improve employment opportunities.

Health programs in the barangay should be strengthened through medical assistance, health awareness campaigns, and sufficient medicines and supplies. Programs focusing on disease prevention, maternal care, and child health should also be improved.

To reduce family conflicts and alcoholism, the barangay may establish counseling, mediation, and support programs for

affected families. Community education about the harmful effects of excessive alcohol consumption should also be strengthened.

For safety and security, installing CCTV cameras, organizing community watch programs, and conducting crime prevention seminars are recommended. Environmental programs such as clean-up drives and proper waste management should continue to promote a safer and healthier community.

The government is encouraged to continue and improve successful programs such as the Fernandino Dialysis Center. Information campaigns should also be strengthened so residents become more aware of programs like the Kayabe KArd, City College admission policies, and Free Laptop programs for teachers.

Lastly, residents of Barangay San Felipe are encouraged to participate more actively in city activities and local organizations. Regular meetings, social media updates, and community events may help improve awareness, unity, and community involvement.

References

Al Ghurair Giga Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd. (2019). Benefits of Living in Cities. <https://alghuraigiga.com/benefits-of-living-in-cities/>.

Broer, M., Bai, Y. & Fonseca, F. (2019). A Review of the Literature on Socioeconomic Status and Educational Achievement. In: Socioeconomic Inequality and Educational Outcomes. *IEA Research for Education* 5. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-11991-1_2

Bruyère, S.M, & Saleh, M.C. Leveraging employer practices in global regulatory frameworks to improve employment

- outcomes for people with disabilities. *Soc Incl.* (2018) 6:18–28. doi: 10.17645/si.v6i1.1201
- Creswell, J. W. (2022). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approach*. 6th Ed. SAGE Publications, Inc.
- Dela Cruz, J., Gutierrez, F., Garcia, A. & Yutuc, P.J., (2023). *Fernandino History, Culture and Values*. <https://www.studocu.com/ph/document/bacolod-city-college/bs-education/ferhistoryculture-and-languages-towards-the-society/25453322>
- Deshmukh, P. R. & Akkilagunta, S. (2020). Socioeconomic status: A theoretical framework for the development and use of assessment tools. *Indian Journal of Community and Family Medicine* 6(1):p 4-8. DOI: 10.4103/IJCFM.IJCFM_32_20
- Diokno-Sicat, C. J., Adaro, C. E., & Maddawin, R. B. (2020). *The Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) as a local planning tool* (PIDS Discussion Paper No. 2020-07). Philippine Institute for Development Studies.
- Froese P, & Bader, C. D. (2007). God in America: Why Theology Is Not Simply the Concern of Philosophers, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 46. 465-481.
- Global Data (2021). Literacy Rate in the Philippines (2010-2021, %)
- GOV.PH., (2024). City Government of San Fernando, Province of Pampanga. <https://cityofsanfernando.gov.ph/>
- Hernández-Torrano, D. & Courtney, M.G.R. (2021). Modern international large-scale assessment in education: an integrative review and mapping of the literature. *Large-scale*

Assess Educ 9, 17. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40536-021-00109-1>

Li, S., Xu, Q. & Xia, R. (2020). Relationship Between SES and Academic Achievement of Junior High School Students in China: The Mediating Effect of Self-Concept, *Frontiers in Psychology* 11.

Liu, S.Y., Buka, S., Kubzansky, L., Kawachi, I. Gilman, S. & Loucks, E. (2013). Sheepskin effects of education in the 10-year Framingham risk of coronary heart disease. *Social Science & Medicine* 80, 31-36. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2012.12.026>

Medina-Guce, C., Velasco, L. G., & Rey, A. M. T. (2025). *Baseline study on the state of participation in local government units: Participatory governance metrics for Local Development Councils* (PIDS Discussion Paper No. 2025-07). Philippine Institute for Development Studies.

Medina-Guce, C., Velasco, L. G., & Rey, A. M. T. (2025). *Local Development Councils: Baseline and recommendations for optimizing participatory processes*. *Philippine Journal of Development*, 49(2).

Moya, M. & Fiske, S. T. (2017). The social psychology of the great recession and social class divides. *J. Soc. Issues* 73, 8–22. doi: 10.1111/josi.12201

Munir, J., Faiza, M. & Daud, S. (2023). The Impact of Socio-economic Status on Academic Achievement. *Journal of Social Sciences* 3. 695-705. <https://doi.org/10.54183/jssr.v3i2.308>.

- MyUSTePortal (2021). Kalaw of CFAD tackles cultural heritage preservation amid pandemic through Giant Lantern Festival research. <https://www.ust.edu.ph/kalaw-of-cfad-tackles-cultural-heritage-preservation-amid-pandemic-through-giant-lantern-festival-research/>
- Navarro, A. M., Reyes, C. M., & Francisco, K. A. (2021). *UN Common Country Assessment Update for the Philippines* (PIDS Discussion Paper No. 2021-06). Philippine Institute for Development Studies.
- Navarro-Carillo, G., Alonso-Ferres, M., Moya, M. & Valor-Segura, I. (2020). Socioeconomic status and psychological well-being: Revisiting the role of subjective socioeconomic status. *Frontiers in Psychology* 11.
- Pascua Monsura, M. (2020). Socioeconomic Profiling of Communities Surrounding Polytechnic University of the Philippines as Basis of Extension Programs. *Annals of Tropical Medicine and Public Health*. 23. 231-328. 10.36295/ASRO.2020.231328.
- Pajayon-Berse , P. (2022). [Blueboard] Beyond their numbers: The youth vote, their concerns and aspirations. <https://www.ateneo.edu/analysis-opinion/2022/03/08/blueboard-beyond-their-numbers-youth-vote-their-concerns-aspirations>
- PhilAtlas (2024). <https://www.philatlas.com>.
- Philippine Statistics Authority. (2023). *2023 Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS)*. <https://psa.gov.ph/content/psa-clears-conduct-2023-community-based-monitoring-system>

Philippine Statistics Authority. (2022). *Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS): Household Profile Questionnaire Manual*. <https://psa.gov.ph>

PulseAsia Research Inc. (2023). Pulse Asia Research's September 2023 Nationwide Survey on Household Expenditures. <https://pulseasia.ph/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/MR3-UB2023-3-MR-on-Household-Expenditures-Final.pdf>

Qualtrics (2024). Descriptive research: What it is and how to use it. <https://www.qualtrics.com/experience-management/research/descriptive-research-design/>

Quitoriano, E. T. (2020). *Community profiling as a participatory approach to local development planning*. (Community development publication).

Rappler (2023). 4 out of 10 Filipinos in 2020 were single.

Reyes, C. M., Vargas, A. R. P., & Arboneda, A. (2022). *Evidence-based local planning and budgeting using the Community-Based Monitoring System (Research Paper Series No. 2022-02)*. Philippine Institute for Development Studies.

Reyes, C. M., Vargas, A. R. P., & Arboneda, A. (2020). *Evidence-based local planning and budgeting using the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS)* (PIDS Discussion Paper No. 2020-50). Philippine Institute for Development Studies.

SEP (2019). Household Socio-Economic Panorama of the City of San Fernando, Pampanga, University of the Assumption, Research and Planning Office.

- Schieman, S. (2010). Socioeconomic Status and Beliefs about God's Influence in Everyday Life. *Sociology of Religion* 71. <https://doi.org/10.1093/socrel/srq004>
- Singh, Y. (2023). Private Sector vs Government Jobs: Exploring Benefits, Lifestyles, Opportunities, And a #story. <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/private-sector-vs-government-jobs-exploring-benefits-lifestyles/>
- Sirin, S. (2005). Socioeconomic Status and Academic Achievement: A Meta-Analytic Review of Research. *Review of Educational Research*. 75. DOI:10.3102/00346543075003417.
- Turcotte, M. (2014). Persons with disabilities and employment. *Insight on Canadian Society* Statistics Canada.
- Tutor, M., Orbeta, A., & Miraflor, J. (2021). The 4th Philippine Graduate Tracer Study: Examining Higher Education as a Pathway to Employment, Citizenship, and Life Satisfaction from the Learner's Perspective. Philippine Institute for Development Studies.
- United Nations Development Programme. (2026). *UNDP convenes CSOs, development partners for CSO participation in SDG financing roadmap*.
- Wouters, M., et al. (2008). Evaluating public inputs in National Park Management Plan reviews. <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/science-andtechnical/sfc308a.pdf>
- Wu, Y., Dharamshi, A., & Wakefield, J. (2025). *Small area estimation of education levels in low- and middle-income countries*. arXiv.

A community-level profile of livelihood, education and household welfare in Barangay Sto. Rosario, City of San Fernando, Pampanga

Alice P. Rodriguito

ABSTRACT

This study presented a comprehensive socioeconomic profiling of Barangay Sto. Rosario, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, aiming to explain the demographic, economic, and social characteristics that define the community. Utilizing a quantitative-descriptive design approach, primary data were collected through household surveys, supported by secondary data from local government records and national statistics. Key indicators such as education levels, employment patterns, income and expenses distribution, water, sanitation and management, effectiveness of City Government's flagship programs and community obligations were analyzed to provide a nuanced understanding of the barangay's socioeconomic landscape. Findings reveal distinct demographic trends, significant disparities in income and expense distribution, and varying effectiveness of the flagship programs of San Fernando, Pampanga among different demographic groups and diverse perspectives on their duties and responsibilities as citizens of the community. The study underscores the importance of localized data for effective policymaking and community development initiatives tailored to address the specific needs identified within Barangay Sto. Rosario, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. Future research could use a bigger population size to find the root cause of socioeconomic issues of the community. Future study may also focus on longitudinal studies to track changes in socioeconomic indicators and evaluate the impact of interventions aimed at promoting inclusive growth and sustainable development at the barangay level.

Key words: *education, expenditure, income, socio-economic*

INTRODUCTION

The commitment of the University of the Assumption to extending its services and expertise to the immediate community was proof of the partnership between the University of the Assumption and the City of San Fernando, Pampanga. The city government of San Fernando and the University of the Assumption have completed socio-economic profiling through a survey that will help both parties acquire information for more comprehensive strategic planning and decision-making. Furthermore, the University intends to respond to the United Nations' (UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by clearly identifying community needs, priority areas, and progressive areas. The University of the Assumption, with support from various regional and local government agencies, aims to fulfill its three-fold mission of Christian formation, academic excellence, and community service, as well as, to deliver more concrete and effective solutions to various community distresses by the United Nations' SDGs.

The City of San Fernando, Pampanga is visualized to be a smart sustainable city by being a model city in terms of social development. Moreover, the city commits to providing a quality of life to the residents through collaboration with the private sector and the citizens as a whole (City Government of San Fernando, Pampanga, n.d.). San Fernando, Pampanga has thirty-five barangays secluded in a 6,930 hectares of total land area (Department of Information and Communication Technology [DICT] & IT & Business Process Association Philippines [IBPAP], 2022).

In a simple socio-economic profile exhibited on the city government's webpage, seven (7) growth centers were determined: 1) Poblacion growth center: downtown/old central business district, 2) Maimpis-San Isidro growth center: regional government center, 3) Sindalan-Calulut growth corridor: mixed-use center, 4) Telebastagan-Malino growth center: Northern City urban agri-industry center, 5) regional central business district/ regional transport hub, 6) Bulaon growth center: sustainable new township, and 7) Baliti growth center.

The City proper is located in Barangay Sto. Rosario, formerly known as *Poblacion* which is the focus of this study. Barangay Sto. Rosario is adjacent to Brgy. San Pedro, Brgy. Sta. Lucia, Brgy. Sta. Teresita, Brgy. Juliana and Brgy. Sto. Niño. Among the seven growth centers mentioned previously, Brgy. Sto. Rosario and its adjacent barangays were identified as built-up and service areas in the Poblacion growth center. Subsequently, barangays belonging to the Poblacion growth center are the areas where most integral resources and services can be found, such as the Old City Hall, SM San Fernando Downtown, Old Public Market, Metropolitan Cathedral of San Fernando, Jeepney terminals, Pampanga High School and many others.

METHOD

Research Design

The study primarily used a descriptive design where a snapshot of the phenomenon under study was described using frequency, percentage distribution, and central tendency measurements such as mean, median, mode, and standard deviation. This method is a non-experimental type of research whereby the variables are measured using numerical terms without changing or manipulating the variables gathered by the researchers. This method focuses more on the “what” of the subject being studied rather than the “why” of the research subject (Manjunatha, 2019).

Respondents and Sampling Design

The City Planning and Development and Coordinator's Office estimated a total population of 147 households for 2023 for Barangay Sto. Rosario. Since the study is not a census, an online sampling calculator, Raosoft, was used to calculate the appropriate sample size for the survey for Barangay Sto. Rosario. A total sample size of 107 was derived; Barangay Sto. Rosario has a sufficient representative sample with a margin error of 5% and a 95% confidence level. The sample selection for each community was based on probability proportional to size (Bennett et al., 1991). The research team prepared Google Maps for the barangays and mapped out sectors by designating numbers. Based on the number of households, the barangays were divided into sectors. Drop-off points were identified using Google Maps and were spread out to reduce the underrepresentation of households, especially for large barangay households (Bennet et al., 1991). For Barangay Sto. Rosario the starting points are 1093 and 1095.

The instrument is composed of 90 items that have multiple sub-items and reference codes encompassing 15 key socioeconomic indicators identified by the City Planning Office. In the first part of the questionnaire, the identification of the respondents is required including the location, household identification number, name, date and time of the interview as well as the name and signature of the enumerator/s and field coordinator. Some parts of the questionnaire were adapted from various Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) nationwide. The City Planning and Development Coordinator's Office attended to additional items, amendments, and updates with technical support from the University of the Assumption's Research and Planning Office. Matters on the migration of people were included in the demographic section of the questionnaire.

The questionnaire is also intended to determine the effectiveness of the City government's flagship programs and how the citizens of the city assess themselves in the citizens' perspective section. The flagship programs were evaluated through a 3-point Likert's Scale table whereas self-assessment is measured

through a 5-point Likert's Scale table and four open-ended questions.

The following are the specific content specifications and operational definitions of the different socioeconomic constructs of interest in the study.

Citizen's perspective refers to the member's perception or evaluation of the flagship programs of the City, the three most notable programs, specific programs that need to be prioritized, personal plan to improve living conditions, citizen's self-evaluation, and description of a Fernandino.

Community affairs refers to the general family leisure of the members of the household and the perennial problems encountered. It also includes the people they seek help and assistance from during times of difficulty and challenges. Participation in church and religious sect and barangay affairs are also included.

Demography refers to the list of household members, with their sex, current age, marital status, and religious affiliation

Education refers to the extent of literacy of household members whether they are currently attending school and reasons for not attending school.

Economic activity refers to household members' economic activity in terms of employment status, occupation, place and time of work, kind of industry, nature of employment, class of worker, and total salary/wage of the household for the whole year.

Sources of income refers to the household's earnings from entrepreneurial activities (crop farming and gardening, livestock and poultry, fishing, forestry, and hunting, wholesale and retail, manufacturing, community social recreational and personal services, transportation, storage, and communication services, mining and quarrying, and construction); total net income, total salaries and wages, total income from other sources (net share of

crops, remittances, cash supports, assistance from domestic sources, rentals, bank interest, pension, dividends), and total household income.

Water, sanitation and waste management refers to the households' primary source of water supply, toilet facility, and garbage disposal system. The people responsible for the garbage collection, and the frequency of collecting it also refers to it.

Family income and expenditure refers to the range of estimated total monthly expenses of the household, estimated expenses for the following items such as food, clothing, school expenses, medical and dental, leisure, transportation, electricity, LPG/Gas, water, gas, rent, insurance, communication, and others.

Data Gathering Procedures

Data collection was done through the collective efforts of the University of the Assumption through the National Service Training Program (NSTP) and the Barangay officials. The NSTP students acted as the enumerators while the faculty members served as field coordinators to ensure that all the data gathered were accomplished. The barangay officials were noted on the day before the data gathering. The interview was conducted either directly or on paper and pen so that the respondents had the freedom to answer. Accomplished instruments are then brought back to the University for encoding. Data gathered from the survey was encoded by thirty-three hired and trained Accountancy students who were familiar with spreadsheets. The encoders went through a 2-day hands-on training and were oriented on how to encode the data using codes that were facilitated by the assistant project leader. The encoders were given 350 research instruments each that had to be completed within thirteen weeks, and then forwarded to the UARPO's liaison officer for screening before analysis and interpretation.

To ensure the accuracy of the data collected, the field supervisors cleaned the completed study instruments. The field supervisors are in charge of fixing issues that come up during the

actual field survey in addition to cleaning and editing. Return surveys were conducted to fulfill the barangay's minimum criterion for respondents.

Ethical Considerations

The study followed the ethical procedure of research writing to ensure that the participants of the study were protected in terms of confidentiality and the right to withdraw clauses. The socioeconomic profile (SEP) proposal and informed consent were submitted to the Research Ethics Board (REB) of the University for perusal. The clearance was approved by the UA Research Ethics Board and the data gathering was conducted as planned. Through the help of the City Planning and Development and Coordinator's Office (CPDCO), a communication letter regarding the SEP was disseminated. Ocular visits and phone calls with the barangay were made. Student enumerators were trained to communicate with the respondents properly as well as to observe privacy and confidentiality. The respondents were asked to sign the informed consent and willingness to participate in the study before the actual survey. The student enumerators extended their courteousness toward the residents who had difficult tempers, thus, the execution of data gathering went on swiftly.

Data Analysis

The data analysis used in this study was descriptive statistics, specifically the mean and frequency distribution. The researchers summarized the data by calculating the range, standard deviations, and variances using a licensed SPSS, version 17. Tables and figures are systematically presented, answering every research problem of the study. The qualitative items of the questionnaire were analyzed through MaxQda software. Codes, themes, and categories were identified using the software.

RESULTS

Table 1

Demographic profile of the respondents

<i>Demographic Profile</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
Sex Distribution of Sample Population (n=405)		
Male	202	49.88%
Female	203	50.12%
Age Distribution of Sample Population (n=364)		
Preschool (0-4 years)	11	3.02%
Children (5-14 years)	38	10.44%
Adolescents (15-19 years)	35	9.62%
Adults (20-44 years)	145	39.84%
Middle-aged (45-59 years)	77	21.15%
Seniors (60 and above)	58	15.93%
Marital/Civil Status		
Single	199	14.24%
Married	161	11.52%
Widowed	19	1.36%
Divorced/separated	12	0.86%
Common Law/ Live-in	7	0.50%
Unknown	1	0.07%
Religion and Religious Affiliation		
Roman Catholic	378	95.70%
Iglesia ni Cristo	13	3.29%
Born Again	3	0.76%
Protestant	1	0.25%

Table 1 shows the demographic profile of the respondents wherein there is a very slight difference in male and female respondents. Table 2 also exhibits that the majority of the residents are adults, whereas, in terms of marital status, the highest rating belongs to the single category. The number of Roman Catholics in Sto. Rosario is notably the highest among the other religious affiliations.

Table 2*Current education status of the respondents*

	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
Currently attending school (n= 405)		
Yes	91	22.47%
No	314	77.53%
Reasons for not attending school (n=310)		
Schools are very far	3	0.97%
No regular transportation	1	0.32%
High cost of education	56	18.06%
Housekeeping/ taking care of siblings	1	0.32%
Marriage	33	10.65%
Employment/ looking for work	55	17.74%
Lack of personal interest	5	1.61%
Finished schooling	133	42.90%
Problem with the birth certificate	1	0.32%
Too young to go to school	12	3.87%
others	10	3.23%

Table 2 exhibits the current status of education in Barangay Sto. Rosario wherein a difference of 223 between those attending school and those not attending school is recorded. It can also be seen that the greatest factor contributing to a higher rate of not attending school is that the residents are already graduates followed by those who are affected by the high cost of education and preoccupied with their employment or are looking for work during the time of the survey.

Table 3*Economic activity of the respondents*

Economic Activity	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
Distribution of Employment Status of Working Age (aged 18-65, n=256)		
Yes	157	61.33%
No	99	38.67%
Reasons for unemployment (n=96)		
Not employed but looking for work; have worked in the past	12	12.50%

Economic Activity	f	%
Not employed but looking for work; have not worked in the past	13	13.54%
No job, not looking for work; have not worked in the past	1	1.04%
No job, not looking for work; have worked in the past	13	13.54%
Too young/ too old to work	57	59.38%
Distribution of Employed Residents according to Place of Work (n=178)		
Within the Barangay	122	68.54%
Within the City	45	25.28%
Within the Province	9	5.06%
Within the Region	2	1.12%
Distribution of employed residents according to work industry classification (n=178)		
Agriculture	2	1.12%
Manufacturing	7	3.93%
Construction	6	3.37%
Trade	73	41.01%
Transport (Land, Sea, Air, Storage, Communication)	10	5.62%
Hotel and Restaurant	6	3.37%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Business Services	35	19.66%
Health (Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Clinics, Laboratories, Diagnostics Centers)	5	2.81%
Services (Community, Social and Personal)	26	14.61%
Education	4	2.25%
Others	4	2.25%
Short-term or Seasonal or Casual Job/ Business/ Unpaid Family Work	34	18.89%
Distribution of employed residents according to class of worker (n=172)		
Worked for Private Household	44	25.58%
Worked for Private Company/ Corporation	45	26.16%
Worked for Government/ Government Corporation	13	7.56%
Self-employed without paid employee	49	28.49%
Self-employed in a family-operated firm/ business	21	12.21%

Table 3 reflects the economic activity of the residents of Barangay Sto. Rosario, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. Most residents within the working age range are employed and are within the vicinity of the Barangay. Trade, finance, insurance, real estate, services, casual jobs, and transport are the common industries with which the employed residents are currently associated. Most working individuals are self-employed, followed by those working for private households and private companies or corporations.

Table 4*Annual household income*

Sources of Income	Income/ Household (Php)			
	Sto. Rosario	%	San Fernando	%
Total net income from Entrepreneurial Activities	1,751,900.00	6.18%	282,341,570.00	9.13%
Total salaries and wages	26,377,700.00	92.99%	2,661,057,336.00	86.03%
Total income from other sources	238,000.00	0.84%	153,582,002.00	4.96%
Total Income of Households	28,367,600.00		3,093,325,778.00	

Table 4 presents the sources of income of Brgy. Sto. Rosario residents and the City of San Fernando as a whole. The total household income revealed that almost 1% of Brgy. Sto. Rosario contributes to the total income of the City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

Table 5*Monthly Expenditures*

Expenditures of the Household	Amount(PhP)	Rank
Food	1,196,600.00	1
Electricity	754,230.00	2
School expenses	303,700.00	3
Water bill	233,951.00	4
LPG/Gas	184,480.00	5
Communication	116,019.00	6
Insurance	97,500.00	7
Medical	86,060.00	8
Rental/Amortization	65,350.00	9
Transportation expenses	54,200.00	10
Gas/Diesel	38,450.00	11
Leisure	14,900.00	12
Clothing	14,400.00	13
Total household expenditures	3,159,840.00	

Table 6 shows the expenditures of Brgy. Sto. Rosario wherein the five highest are food, electricity, school expenses, water bill, and LPG/gas (for cooking). The total household expenditures is Php 3,159,840.00.

Table 6

Water, Sanitation, and Waste Management

	f	%
Source of Water Supply (n=107)		
Own-use faucet, community water system	101	94.39%
Shared faucet, community water system	5	4.67%
Bottled water	1	0.93%
Toilet facility (n=107)		
Water-sealed, sewer septic tank, used exclusively by household	98	91.59%
Water-sealed, sewer septic tank, shared with other households	3	2.80%
Water-sealed, other depositories, used exclusively by household	4	3.74%
Water-sealed, other depository, shared with other households	1	0.93%
None	1	0.93%
Waste Management (n=107)		
Garbage collection	99	92.52%
Composting	4	3.74%
Recycling	3	2.80%
Burning	1	0.93%

Table 6 specifies that most of the residents in Brgy. Sto. Rosario is dependent on a privately owned faucet. Likewise, the majority of households have relatively good private toilet facilities. As to waste management, most of the residents rely on barangay garbage collection.

Common problems encountered by the residents of Barangay Sto. Rosario are Lack of money, sickness, family dispute, unsafe environment, no permanent residence, domestic violence, and drug addiction with the total responses of 262, 207, 73, 38, 22, 6, and 1, respectively. The data revealed that 43% of the struggles the respondents face is due to the insufficient financial resources followed by the sickness (34%), and family feuds (12%).

During difficult challenges, the residents of the Barangay Sto. Rosario commonly seek assistance from the Barangay, City and Provincial Offices (50.50%), other relatives (21.78%) and neighbors/friends (21.78%). Other people or institutions recorded to be the residents helping-hands are from health workers, DSWD, other government agencies, and other sectors.

Table 7
Effectiveness of the city government's flagship programs

City Government's Flagship Programs (n = 108)	Effective		Not Effective		Program unknown	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
Fernandino Dialysis Center Program	59	54.63%	1	0.93%	48	44.44%
Kayabe Kard Program	45	41.67%	5	4.63%	58	53.70%
City College Amended Admission Regulations Program	56	51.85%	0	0.00%	52	48.15%
Free Laptops for Public School Teachers Program	41	37.96%	3	2.78%	64	59.26%
Reinforced Waterways Cleanup & Environmental Management	61	56.48%	6	5.56%	41	37.96%
Task Force against dangling/inactive wires	57	52.78%	7	6.48%	44	40.74%
Road Interconnectivity						
Eastgate Subdivision, Barangay San Jose	68	62.96%	0	0.00%	40	37.04%
St. Dominic Corinthian Subdivision, Barangay Dolores	68	62.96%	0	0.00%	40	37.04%
Villa Victoria, Barangay Dolores	67	62.04%	0	0.00%	41	37.96%
St. Anthony Subdivision, Barangay Sto. Nino	64	59.26%	2	1.85%	42	38.89%
Capital Town Property, Barangay Sto. Nino	69	63.89%	0	0.00%	39	36.11%

Table 7 presents the perspective of Barangay Sto. Rosario residents towards the flagship programs of the City Government of San Fernando, Pampanga wherein most residents agreed that the flagship programs are effective especially the Fernandino Dialysis Center Program, City College Amended Admission Regulations Program, Reinforced Waterways Cleanup and Environmental Management, Task Force against dangling/inactive wires and road

Interconnectivity. Kayabe Kard Program and Free Laptops for Public School Teachers Program posed a higher rating as programs unknown to the residents of Brgy. Sto. Rosario.

Table 8

Citizen's perspective on their duties and responsibilities

Duties and Responsibilities (n = 108)	Yes, always		Yes, but not always		Sometimes Yes, sometimes no		I don't do it		Don't know	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Registered voters that vote every election	104	96.30%	1	0.93%	0	0.00%	1	0.93%	2	1.85%
Exercise and Eat Well	82	75.93%	14	12.96%	6	5.56%	1	0.93%	5	4.63%
Follow City Ordinance	95	87.96%	7	6.48%	4	3.70%	0	0.00%	2	1.85%
Segregate and do not burn garbage	86	79.63%	10	9.26%	2	1.85%	3	2.78%	7	6.48%
Work on ways to develop their skills and talents	82	75.93%	14	12.96%	6	5.56%	5	4.63%	1	0.93%
Using or trying to learn and use the Kapampangan language.	97	89.81%	6	5.56%	2	1.85%	1	0.93%	2	1.85%
Support the Giant Lantern Festival and other Kapampangan traditions	87	80.56%	7	6.48%	3	2.78%	8	7.41%	3	2.78%

Duties and Responsibilities (n = 108)	Yes, always		Yes, but not always		Sometimes Yes, sometimes no		I don't do it		Don't know	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
A member of local organizations and fulfill their duties	46	42.59 %	5	4.63%	3	2.78%	39	36.11 %	15	13.89 %
Participating in city activities	62	57.41 %	11	10.19 %	16	14.81 %	14	12.96 %	5	4.63%
Support and patronize the local product of our community and introduce it to friends and tourists	91	84.26 %	10	9.26%	4	3.70%	2	1.85%	1	0.93%
Working to improve their family's livelihood	92	85.19 %	8	7.41%	6	5.56%	1	0.93%	1	0.93%
Pay the right taxes at the right time	87	80.56 %	4	3.70%	6	5.56%	8	7.41%	3	2.78%
Actively gather and share information	93	86.11 %	8	7.41%	5	4.63%	1	0.93%	1	0.93%
Help the barangay and fellow Fernandinos	96	88.89 %	5	4.63%	3	2.78%	2	1.85%	2	1.85%

Table 8 exhibits the personal experiences of Barangay Sto. Rosario residents. The respondents can be noted to be diligent citizens of the City Government as the results posed a positive

response on registered voters who: vote every election, exercise and eat well, follow city ordinances, practice proper waste management, continuously develop their skills and talents, keep the Kapampangan dialect alive, support the Giant Lantern Festival and other Kapampangan traditions, involve in activities of local organizations and city government, promote local products to tourists, strive for additional source of income, pay their tax dues on time, actively participate in information dissemination about the city and contribute to barangay and ka-Fernandinos.

DISCUSSION

The findings of the study revealed that Barangay Sto. Rosario's demographic profile is defined accordingly. The distribution of males and females is almost equal with a 1-point difference. The results, however, contradicted the findings of Statistic Times (2024) that there were more males than females globally. Adults make up the majority of the sample population of Brgy. Sto. Rosario. In terms of civil status, it was recorded that a large proportion of single individuals are single. The findings confirmed the 2015 census of population (*Philippine Statistics Authority [PSA], 2020*) that the number of single persons is constantly increasing by 44% while the number of married persons is narrowing down to 4% every 10 years. Roman Catholics in Brgy. Sto. Rosario is far greater than the residents whose religion or religious affiliation is Iglesia ni Cristo, Born Again, and Protestant. Almost 80% of Filipino households are Roman Catholics was recorded in 2020 (Philippine Statistics Authority [PSA], 2023) hence, the largest religious affiliation in the Philippines.

The current education status of the sample population based on the record shows that 77.53% of the population does not attend school. A major factor that contributed to the low school attendance is that the respondents are already graduates. However, a large number of the sample population has stated that due to the high cost of education, and employment, they cannot go to school.

Findings of the study revealed that the majority of the working-age population or those who belong to the 18-65 age group, are employed. The results unfolded that the primary reason for residents' unemployment is either they are too old or too young to work. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (2021), approximately 50 percent of the working-age population is in the labor force, including those who are 15 years or older. Normally, the age requirement in the Philippines is 18 years old and above, such that minors aged 16 to 18 are allowed to work not exceeding 8 hours a day or 40 hours a week (Jibble, 2024). The results also showed that some of the residents used to have jobs in the past and some are looking for a job, but due to the pandemic, a decline in the employment rate of Filipinos has been reported (Dela Cruz, 2023). The results showed that 93.82% are employed within the Barangay and the City which means that the location of Barangay Sto. Rosario and the presence of existing business establishments and services provided an opportunity for the residents to obtain jobs that are within the proximity of their residence. Moreover, industries in Brgy. Sto. Rosario is usually related to trade; finance, insurance, real estate, and business services; casual jobs; services; and transport being the top 5, while manufacturing, construction, hotel and restaurant, health, education, and agriculture are the other industries, whether private, government or family-owned, that brought positive impact in the economic progress of the households in the barangay. The City of San Fernando (n.d.) also recognizes Brgy. Sto. Rosario as one of the barangays in the city to be instrumental in its business growth.

Barangay Sto. Rosario's total household income primarily came from the household's total salaries and wages (92.99%), while the remaining sources of income came from entrepreneurial activities (6.18%) and other sources (0.84%). The findings are parallel with the total income of households in the city. The Philippine Statistics Authority conducted the Family and Income Expenditure in 2021 wherein an average household income of Php307,190 and an average annual family expenditure of Php228,800 was derived (Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department, 2022). The results of the study are much higher than the average household income and expenditure of a

Filipino household. Food ranked the highest among the expenses of the household followed by electricity, school expenses, water bills, and LPG.

As to water, sanitation, and waste management, the results revealed that the households use their faucets (community water system) and toilet facilities. According to the World Health Organization (n.d.), water and sanitation, along with hygiene (WASH) are vital to humans' overall welfare. Whereas, the United Nations (2023) emphasized access to clean WASH as a basic necessity. Waste management is not only for the benefit of reducing pollution, greenhouse gases, and landfills, but also to contribute to economic sustainability. Sumich (2022) of Eco Resources enumerated the three (3) economic benefits of waste management which are to 1) minimize waste disposal cost, 2) increase the need for a labor force, and 3) enhance the firm's image.

There were two major issues in Brgy. Sto. Rosario was determined namely lack money and sickness while family dispute, unsafe environment, no permanent residence, domestic violence, and drug addiction pose a minimum to a little trouble. Lack of money is not only evident in Brgy Sto. Rosario, but also around the Philippines. According to ABS-CBN News (2017), there are various reasons for the matter, including how the Filipinos handle their easy-go-lucky attitude, lack of discipline, and their commitment to constantly saving up. Consequently, a lack of money may contribute to funding medical needs when they arise unexpectedly. Luckily, the residents had somebody to run to in case a problem arose. The Barangay officials were the first to attend to their needs, considering also that it is their responsibility to maintain the safety and security of the residents (Local Government Code of the Philippines Book III, n.d.). Other relatives and city officials are also the go-to of the residents if, for instance, an emergency occurs.

The flagship programs of the city government such as Fernandino Dialysis Center Program, Kayabe Kard Program, City College Amended Admission Regulations Program, Free Laptops for Public School Teachers Program, Task Force against dangling/inactive wires, Road Interconnectivity, and Reinforced Waterways

Cleanup & Environmental Management, are patterned after the sustainable development goals of the United Nations (2023), primarily on good health and well-being (SDG 3), quality education (SDG 4), industry, innovation, and infrastructure (SDG 9), and climate action (SDG 13). All the flagship programs of the city government obtained a high level of effectiveness from the respondents.

More importantly, citizens should properly adhere to their responsibilities and duties to the community. The findings of the study regarding the residents' perspective on their duties and responsibilities as Fernandinos posed remarkable satisfaction gaining between 57% (participating in city activities) to 96% (registered voters who vote every election).

Limitations of the Study

The study obtained relevant information about Brgy. Sto. Rosario, however, there are still limitations that may have implications for future undertakings. For some cases, the participants refused to participate in the study, commonly in stating their income. Also, some of the underlying factors in socioeconomic status are limited because the respondents are reluctant to share private and confidential matters. Furthermore, only a sample of the population was extracted despite the complexity of the data that are needed to obtain more accurate results.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The socioeconomic profiling team made a significant finding to find the best solution to the rising community problems primarily on education, employment, and others. Though there were difficulties in data gathering, the researchers have secured enough data to determine the stated research objectives.

The findings of the study highlight the importance of socioeconomic profiling of Brgy. Sto. Rosario. The distribution of male and female respondents posed a slight difference. *The*

barangay officials may use this opportunity to promote gender equality programs.

It can also be noted in the recent profiling that among the 364 respondents, 145 are adults, 77 are middle-aged, 58 are senior citizens, 38 are children, 35 are adolescents and 11 are pre-schoolers. The corresponding age bracket of Brgy. Sto. Rosario is diverse, hence, the barangay must be creative in planning and implementing programs. Collectively, adolescents and adults are the stages of the age cycle when an individual is starting to look for a decent job or at least are planning to establish their own business depending on the pre-existing conditions stipulated in the Labor Code of the Philippines. *The barangay may use this chance to conduct workshops and collaborate with government agencies that provide necessary training regarding livelihood and employment.*

When it comes to the marital status of the respondents, a larger portion of the barangay are classified as single and married. The continuous growing population of single individuals and decreasing values of married individuals, in comparison to the results of the study, the researcher concludes that a bigger population is focusing on establishing their careers first before marriage. One of the probable causes of the matter is that the generation to which single individuals are exposed is highly digital and advanced. This is an issue that the barangay may find a hard time to deal with especially because it is a personal decision made by the individual. *In this regard, the barangay may use the information obtained to provide insights into the economic stability of the household, more importantly to income and expense distribution.*

Roman Catholic undoubtedly has the highest rating among the religious affiliations. The location of the Metropolitan Cathedral of San Fernando, Pampanga is located within to the residents which can be a very good reason to encourage or retain the residents to be part of the religion. There is also a nearby Catholic Church in Brgy. Sto. Rosario such as the Arzobispado de Pampanga or Chancery and Parish Church of Sta. Lucia. Barangay Sto. Rosario is also home to our Iglesia Ni Cristo Cabalens. *Considering this, the*

Barangay may establish programs that will involve all its citizens regardless of their religion.

The distribution of out-of-school citizens in Brgy. Sto. Rosario is far from those who are currently attending school. The findings showed that the primary reason for not attending school is graduation, succeeded by the high cost of education and employment. It is commendable that the majority or 42.90% of the respondents are graduates and are currently employed or looking for a job (17.74%). However, the high cost of education (18.06%) still has an impact on the decision of the residents whether to go to school or to stop studying. The daily expenses such as food allowance and fare can be a burden to the parents, especially due to the high prices of basic commodities. *With this, the barangay may develop a program that involves the participation of residents who are financially capable to donate or contribute to the education of selected and deserving out-of-school children/youth. They may also build-up a mini-tutoring sessions involving citizens who have the capacity and capability to teach out-of-school children/youth.*

The employment rate in Brgy. Sto. Rosario is higher than the unemployment rate suggesting that the barangay is contributing to the economic growth of the city as a whole. For a few unemployed residents, the primary reason was either they were too young or too weak (59%). Based on the demographic results of the study, one of the highest age distributions is the seniors (60 and above) and a combined number of residents who might still be studying (Preschool, children, and adolescents) comprises 39% of the population. The preceding statement may mean that the ability of the citizens to look for a job or to be employed is likely impossible considering their age, academic qualifications, and others. For the remaining reasons of unemployed, 26% are determined to look for a job while the 15% have no jobs or are looking for a job either. *For this matter, the barangay may be able to build partnerships with various government agencies. In some cases, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) is one of the government agencies that deliver community-based training primarily to the poor and marginal groups of society, and to those who have limited access to training on livelihood and special skills.*

The Barangay may also take this opportunity to tap its unemployed residents to take part in community development such as barangay clean-up drives, bantay-kalikasan campaigns, sport-driven activities, and others.

The results of the study also showed that 93.82% are employed in private or government agencies, or are self-employed within the Barangay and the City which means that the location of Barangay Sto. Rosario and the presence of existing business establishments and services provided an opportunity for the residents to obtain jobs that are within the proximity of their residence. *The safety and security offered by the barangay may also be one of the factors why there is continuous growth for business establishments. With this, the barangay may employ additional Barangay Tanods or provide proper training to the existing barangay safety officers. Aside from providing employment, they can also ensure that the residents will feel safe within their premises.*

The annual household income of Brgy. Sto. Rosario is higher than the average annual income of the Philippines which may be caused by the high employment rate of the barangay. *To protect the finances of the households, the barangay may encourage the residents to avail of financial insurance or investments. The barangay may deal with banks and existing insurance companies to provide seminars and inform the barangay residents regarding financial securities.*

The results of the study are much higher than the average household income and expenditure of a Filipino household. It can be noted that food ranked the highest among the expenses of the household followed by electricity, school expenses, water bills, and LPG while the lowest are leisure and clothing. This may be because the residents are prioritizing their basic utilities and necessities more than a new set of clothes and recreational activities. *While it is okay to avoid frequent buying of clothes, giving lesser attention to leisure activities is somewhat bothersome. The residents must be able to understand the importance of work and social life balance. With this, the barangay may invest in putting up fitness*

parks that may benefit not only the elderly but also the other members of the society.

Barangay Sto. Rosario is notably enjoying a safe and clean source of water, a comfortable toilet facility, and effective garbage collection. *To maintain the cleanliness of water supplies, it is recommended that the lines are regularly checked. The presence of a material recovery facility may also play a vital role in the Barangay's effective waste management system. Since Brgy. Sto. Rosario is the home of the City's old public market, V.L. Makabal Memorial Hospital, and other big establishments, it is recommended that a sewerage cleaning system be installed. This of course will be possible if there is close communication with the city government and the business establishments. Waste management advocacy may be strictly implemented and sanctions for any infractions against the campaign may be carefully implemented.*

1. Citizens' Perspective

Though it was recorded that Brgy. Sto. Rosario's annual income is higher than the average household income, it can be noted that lack of money and sickness are the most difficult problems the residents have faced so far. With this, the employed residents are seeking a higher salary rate to sustain the things that they are enjoying at the moment, or the unemployed seeking financial assistance to support their family needs. *Considering this, the Barangay may also apply the recommendation regarding financial security through investments and insurance.*

Sickness is second on the list of the issues that the residents of Brgy. Sto. Rosario is currently facing. In some instances, sickness is the result of being unprepared financially – to cover up the immediate need for medical attention. Sickness may also be brought up by other matters such as air pollution. *With this in mind, the Barangay may be able to provide innovative health programs such as regular check-ups on residents who have critical medical records, senior citizens, and low-income families. The implementation of the Clean Air Act may be intensified, emphasizing cigarette smoke ban in public places and burning of waste materials in household backyards.*

When facing problems, it is imperative to have someone or somebody to run to. In the case of the residents of Brgy. Sto. Rosario, they highly put their trust in their Barangay officials, indicating that the barangay council is dependable in times of adversity. *With this, the council may still pursue to deliver quality public service. The officials may also consider continuous development by attending seminars or dialogues on community-based programs.*

The flagship programs of the city government are indeed effective for some of the well-informed residents. However, for a few, the programs are still unknown. *To ensure the deliverance of the flagship programs, the Barangay may take advantage of social media presence. The officials may train or hire someone who is capable of developing an infographic that may be posted on the Barangays' Facebook page and other social networking sites. The power of the traditional way of announcements shall not be underestimated as it is more effective in reaching all the members of society. The Barangay may utilize pamphlets or announcements of the programs so that there will be more interaction with the residents.*

In terms of the citizens' duties and responsibilities, it is highly commendable how the members of the society adhere to the needs of the community. However, for the few, they sometimes perform or do not exercise their obligations at all, while some others are unaware of it. *With this, the Barangay may reiterate or re-educate the citizens of the things that they need to do to through seminars or informative mediums. The initiative to do so can greatly contribute to the implementation of effective good governance.*

REFERENCES

ABS-CBN News. (2017, September 25). *5 Reasons Filipinos Don't Save Money*. Retrieved July 21, 2024, from <https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/09/25/17/5-reasons-filipinos-dont-save-money>

City Government of San Fernando, Pampanga. (n.d.). Republic of the Philippines City Government of San Fernando Province Pampanga. Retrieved June 26, 2024, from <https://cityofsanfernando.gov.ph/>

Department of Information and Communication Technology [DICT] & IT & Business Process Association Philippines [IBPAP]. (2022). *Digital Cities 2025*. In *San Fernando Pampanga Digital City Roadmap*. Retrieved June 29, 2024, from <https://dict.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/San-Fernando-Pampanga-Digital-Cty-Roadmap.pdf>

Capones, E. (2007, June). Institutionalizing the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) in the Philippines. In *6th Private Enterprise Partnership Research Network General Meeting*. Lima, Peru (pp. 14-16). https://www.pep-net.org/sites/pep-net.org/files/typo3doc/pdf/files_events/6-CBMS/capones-pa.pdf

Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department. (2022). *Consumption Patterns among Filipino households, 2021*. In *2021 Family and Income Expenditures Survey* (No. 71). Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department and House of Representatives. Retrieved July 21, 2024, from <https://cpbrd.congress.gov.ph/2012-06-30-13-06-51/2012-06-30-13-36-50/1562-ff2022-71-consumption-patterns-among-filipino-households-2021>

Dela Cruz, E. M. (2023, February 16). *Examining the obstacles young job seekers in the Philippines face and what can be done about it*. Medium. Retrieved July 21, 2024, from <https://medium.com/@emiliomdelacruz/examining-the-obstacles-young-job-seekers-in-the-philippines-face-and-what-can-be-done-about-it-e48f0cc96a51>

Jibble. (2024, May 23). *Philippines child labor laws*. Retrieved July 21, 2024, from <https://www.jibble.io/labor-laws/labor-law-philippines/child-labor->

laws#:~:text=Generally%2C%20minors%20below%2015%20are,and%20age%20certifications%20for%20minors.

Mandap, A. B. E. (2001). Utilizing a Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) for development planning in the province of Palawan. *MIMAP research paper; no. 52*.

<https://idl-bnc-idrc.dspacedirect.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/714a90fa-5299-47d6-a2c0-dba2b5a46562/content>

Manjunatha, N. (2019). Descriptive Research
<https://www.jetir.org/papers/JETIR1908597.pdf>

PhilAtlas. (n.d.). *Santo Rosario City of San Fernando Province of Pampanga*. Retrieved June 29, 2024, from <https://www.philatlas.com/luzon/r03/pampanga/san-fernando/santo-rosario.html>

Philippine Statistics Authority (n.d.). *CBMS and Its Legal Basis*. Retrieved July 10, 2024, from <https://www.psa.gov.ph/cbms/cbms-and-its-legal-basis>

Philippine Statistics Authority [PSA]. (2020, February 14). *Single population in the Philippines (Results from the 2015 census of population)*. Philippine Statistics Authority. Retrieved July 21, 2024, from <https://www.psa.gov.ph/content/single-population-philippines-results-2015-census-population>

Philippine Statistics Authority [PSA]. (2021, February 19). *Employment situation in October 2020*. Philippine Statistics Authority. Retrieved July 21, 2024, from <https://psa.gov.ph/statistics/labor-force-survey/node/165148>

Philippine Statistics Authority [PSA]. (2023, February 22). *Religious affiliation in the Philippines (2020 Census of Population and Housing)*. Philippine Statistics Authority. Retrieved July 21, 2024, from <https://psa.gov.ph/content/religious-affiliation-philippines-2020-census-population-and-housing>

United Nations. (2023). *Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all*. United Nations: Sustainable Development Goals. Retrieved July 21, 2024, from <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/>

Sumich, K. (2022, July 14). *Benefits of waste management*. ECO Resources. Retrieved July 21, 2024, from <https://ecoresources.net.au/benefits-of-waste-management/>

Statistic Times (2024). Gender ratio in the world. <https://statisticstimes.com/demographics/world-sex-ratio.php>

World Health Organization [WHO]. (n.d.). *Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)*. World Health Organization. Retrieved July 21, 2024, from https://www.who.int/health-topics/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-wash#tab=tab_1

A socio-economic profile of Barangay San Nicolas: Baseline data for community development and policy formulation

Maria Bella O. Macapagal

ABSTRACT

Barangay San Nicolas, located in the City of San Fernando, plays a vital role in local development in the province of Pampanga. This study provided a comprehensive socio-economic profile of the community, utilizing a cross-sectional, descriptive research design. Data were gathered from 351 residents through a 90-item survey instrument and analyzed using SPSS version 17. The results demonstrated that Barangay San Nicolas's population is predominantly female. Regarding age, the majority of the population consists of individuals 65 years of age and above. Most of the residents involved are still single. Roman Catholics represent a large percentage of the respondents. The majority of the respondents' highest educational attainment is high school. Participants who can read and write represent the majority of the population. When it comes to economic activity, the results showed that the majority of the population was employed within the barangay. Most respondents are employed by private enterprises, have permanent jobs, and work on a day shift schedule. The top five problems identified by the respondents are financial constraints, sickness, family disputes, alcoholism, and an unsafe environment. The most recognizable flagship program of the City of San Fernando is the Reinforced Waterways Clean-up and Environmental Management. Residents are expected to fulfill their civic duties and responsibilities. It is recommended that common concerns, such as financial constraints, be addressed. Specifically, the government should increase employment opportunities for high school graduates by facilitating "Job Fairs," with the help of Local Government Units (LGUs) and a few private businesses. Furthermore, it is recommended that local government officials should continue providing programs to address these identified needs.

Moreover, the results showed that many government programs are unknown to the residents of Barangay San Nicolas. It is suggested that information dissemination drives and seminars be conducted so that residents are aware and can access available services. Finally, a structured awareness campaign regarding the duties and responsibilities of Fernandinos is recommended.

Key words: *Socio-economic profile, community development, socioeconomic status, barangay administration, public policy*

INTRODUCTION

Barangay San Nicolas is one of the 35 barangays in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga, situated on the island of Luzon at coordinates 15.0175, 120.7004. The community is located approximately 6.6 meters above mean sea level and shares borders with five (5) neighboring barangays: Del Pilar, San Pedro, and Santa Lucia in San Fernando, and San Matias and San Vicente in Santo Tomas. According to the 2020 Census, the area housed 9,889 residents, representing 2.79% of San Fernando's total population. Demographic trends reveal marginal population decline, shifting from 9,927 in 2015 to 9,899 in 2020, which reflects a negative growth rate of 0.06%. The 2015 Census also established an average household size of 5.12 individuals, with the 10-14 rate of age bracket forming the largest demographic group, suggesting a youthful population profile that requires targeted educational and social services.

The City Planning and Development Coordinator's Office (CPDCO) authorized the University of the Assumption (UA) to utilize the 2023 Socio-Economic Profile (SEP) data for faculty research and community extension initiatives. This strategic collaboration serves a dual purpose: it provides the city government with empirical baseline data to support evidence-based decision-making across all 35 barangays and empowers the university to fulfill its social mandate. By bridging the divide between the theoretical academic inquiry and the urgent demands of local governance, this partnership fosters a culture of responsive administration. As an archdiocesan Catholic university, UA maintains a strong commitment to cultivating a research culture and engaging in sustained community outreach. By immersing faculty and students in a systematic analysis of local conditions, the institution bridges the gap between academic theory and the practical requirements of urban development. Furthermore, this

immersion allows for a multi-disciplinary approach to urban planning, where sociological insights data converge to form holistic solutions.

The significance of this study extends beyond mere data collection. In the contemporary Philippine context, the barangay serves as the primary unit of governance and the most immediate interface between the state and the citizenry. As the frontline of public service delivery, the barangay is where national development goals are ultimately tested against local realities. Consequently, the quality of life at the barangay level is a direct reflection of the efficacy of national and local development policies. While socio-economic research is a standard global practice and previous studies regarding San Fernando's broader profile were conducted in 2015, 2019, and 2023, there remains a critical gap in the literature regarding the unique socio-economic variables, specific challenges, and program impacts exclusive to Barangay San Nicolas. This study fills that gap by providing a longitudinal perspective that highlights how specific community dynamics influence the success of broad governmental policies.

Generalizations derived from the city-wide data often overlook the localized nuances of an individual barangay. A community's specific economic drivers, prevalent household issues, the resident perceptions of governance are deeply embedded in its unique cultural and geographic landscape. By focusing exclusively on Barangay San Nicolas, this study provides a high-resolution lens into the community's current state. It examines not only the basic demographic composition but also the complexities of economic activity, such as employment patterns and income distribution, which are crucial for assessing local resiliency. By evaluating these variables at the granular level, the study avoids the "averaging trap," where the needs of vulnerable

sectors are masked by the relative prosperity of others within the same city.

Furthermore, this study investigates the citizen's perspective on the flagship programs of San Fernando. The success of government initiatives depends on their accessibility and the extent to which they resonate with the daily realities of the people they are intended to serve. Identifying why certain programs remain “unknown” or underutilized by residents, as suggested by initial data is for government officials to refine their information dissemination strategies. By soliciting feedback directly from the grassroots, this study transforms passive beneficiaries into active participants in the policy-making cycle. In addition, the study explores the alignment between Fernandino duties and responsibilities and the actual participation levels of the residents. Understanding the voluntary compliance and civic engagement of citizens regarding taxes, city ordinances, and community activities is vital for fostering a cohesive and participatory governance model. Such participation is the hallmark of a vibrant democracy; it indicates that the citizenry does not observe government projects but actively contributes to the stability and progress of their barangay.

In essence, this study addresses the critical need for granular, barangay-level socio-economic data. By synthesizing demographic, economic, and social variables, the study offers actionable insights that can assist local government units in tailoring interventions to the specific needs of Barangay San Nicolas. Ultimately, the objective is to provide a current socio-economic profile that serves as a cornerstone for future policy formulation, thereby fostering a more informed, resilient, and supported community. By documenting these realities, we provide the City Government with a roadmap to enhance public welfare and, by extension, strengthen the fabric of the entire City of San Fernando.

Related Literature

The Concept of Socioeconomic Status (SES)

Socioeconomic status (SES) is a multidimensional construct encompassing an individual's income, educational attainment, and occupational standing, as well as their subjective perception of social class. As defined by the American Psychological Association (APA, 2024), SES provided insights into the quality of life, opportunities, and resources accessible to specific communities. This entry focuses on education, income, and job as key indicators of socioeconomic status (Baker, 2014). SES is a complex combination of variables. It encompasses both specific things like education and income as well as people's perceptions of their own social standing (Navarro-Carillo et al., 2020). By understanding these factors, researcher can better interpret the "socio-economic profile" of a community, as these elements collectively determine the resilience and development potential of a locality.

Demographic Composition and Community Profiling

Socio-economic profiles (SEP) vary significantly across different locales. Navarro (2015) stated that the socio-economic status of barangay residents varies as well, as seen by the types of residences they live in, the nature of their employment, the educational background of the family members who work, and the household income. Hamdouch, Demaziere, and Banovac (2017) furthered this by examining the socioeconomic characteristics of small and medium-sized municipalities, emphasizing the local governance must tailor policies to the specific demographic shifts of the community.

The socio-economic profile is comprised of various variables. A key aspect of comprehending the socioeconomic

profile is demographics, which involves the examination of populations (National Geographic, 2024). Demography studies how the characteristics of populations change over time (Tarsi & Tuff, 2012). According to Xie (2000), demography focuses on aspects such as size, composition, and changes influenced by factors like fertility, mortality, and migration. Understanding these shifts is essential for achieving demographic description, as it allows for a baseline comparison of how a community like Barangay San Nicolas manages its resources relative to its population size and age structure.

Literacy, Education, and Economic Activity

Literacy and education are vital components of the socioeconomic profile. Literacy is the capacity to read, write, and communicate well, whereas education is the study of knowledge (Loveless, 2023). An individual requires literacy as a fundamental skill to communicate and comprehend written information (Smith, 2023). Literacy is considered important to success in several contexts, acting as a gateway to social and economic mobility (Pilgrim & Martinez, 2013). Furthermore, Gee (2014) argued that literacy cannot be seen merely as a mental phenomenon but rather as a cultural and social one. This perspective is crucial when assessing the “educated population” services and participate in local economic growth.

The SEP also includes economic activity, which is defined as the production, exchange, and utilization of goods and services within a community (Harper, 2015). Economic activity requires more than just possessing resources; it also depends on how those resources are used and managed. (Eurostat, 2023). Utilizing readily accessible resources to their maximum extent and for financial benefit is essential. Most likely, the movement of goods and people

are what determines how economic activity is organized in that locale (Redding & Turner, 2015).

Income is a key component of economic activity and is the amount of money obtained by an individual in return for performing labor (Scott, 2023). Income includes recurring advantages that have a monetary value (Merriam-Webster, 2024). According to Cornell Law School (2024), income is the monetary value that someone receives in exchange for using capital to provide a good or service.

Community Problems and Governance

One of the important things that promote economic activity is peace and order. These are indeed inseparable partners in development (World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews, 2022). Peace is not just the absence of conflict but also the existence of justice, law, and order, or, to put it another way, of governance (Einstein in Sandy & Perkins, 2008). It is universal and indivisible since it is essential to human survival (Nicor-Mangalimutan, Mejica, & Caelian, 2020). Order is a system, pattern, or sequence that is followed when placing people or things concerning one another (Oxford, 2024).

Concerning economic activity, community affairs include all initiatives, programs, and activities aimed at enhancing the quality of life, tackling regional issues, encouraging civic participation, and forming alliances (ICMA, 2023). These strategies aim to change the public perception of a problem or the outcome of a legislative or administrative action to support the utility of civic and community perspectives.

Flagship Programs and Citizen Responsibilities

Government projects that represent a substantial and complex undertaking and cover a wide range of activities intended to address social, economic, and environmental concerns are included in the assessment. Flagship programs are considered major activities of the government to achieve certain goals. They derive their origins from the term "flagship," which is the main or most important ship of a country's navy and is symbolic of the primary objective of the nation's developmental policy. After the evaluation of the government's programs, there is the evaluation of the duties and responsibilities of the citizens.

According to De Vera (2024), she believes that the government's primary responsibility is to serve and protect its people and that everyone has to perform their duties and responsibilities as Filipino citizens. Some examples include filing taxes voluntarily and on time, keeping the environment clean, abiding by the law, upholding community peace and order, exercising sound judgment while casting one's vote, and selecting nationalist politicians. Additional concrete examples include maintaining a balanced diet and regular physical activity, abiding by local laws, promoting and buying locally produced goods in the neighborhood and telling their friends about them, looking for opportunities to further their skills and talents, and taking part in city events.

In synthesis, these literatures underscore that a comprehensive socio-economic profile is not merely a list of statistics but a vital map of community health. By integrating these theoretical frameworks with the specific demographic, economic, and civic variables outlined in this study, Barangay San Nicolas can better align its community development initiatives with the needs and capacities of its citizens.

Problem Objectives

The main objective of this study is to provide the most recent socio-economic profile of Barangay San Nicolas. Specifically, it aims to: 1. Describe the respondents' demographic information. 2. Determine the participants' economic activity. 3. Identify the problems that participants experience the most. 4. Explain the citizens' perspectives on the flagship programs of San Fernando. 5. Discuss Fernandinos' duties and responsibilities.

METHOD

Research Design

This study used cross-sectional and descriptive research design to accurately characterize the socio-economic factors of Barangay San Nicolas. It is descriptive because it characterizes the socio-economic factors. A descriptive research design purports to accurately and systematically describe a population, situation, or phenomenon and it answers what, where, when and how (Sirisilla, 2023). It is cross-sectional because it is a time data gathering only. A cross-sectional study is defined to be the gathering of relevant data at a given point in time which means that there is no time dimension involved (Kesmodel, 2018).

Respondents and Sampling Design

The respondents for the study are residents of Barangay San Nicolas. The total no. of households surveyed is 351 while the average household size is 4.42 individuals.

Raosoft, an online sampling calculator, was utilized to calculate the appropriate sample. The computed sample size for Barangay San Nicolas is 351. The barangay has a sufficient

representative sample with a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 5%.

The SEP research team created detailed Google Maps of the barangay in 2023, dividing it into numbered sections. Seven sectors would be required for 351-400 respondents based on the sample population range. Every team determined the beginning points for drop-off and assigned a sub-team for each drop-off location to complete the household survey.

Research Instrument

The questionnaire consists of ninety (90) items with several sub-items and reference codes covering 15 key socioeconomic variables identified by the city officials. The first part of the questionnaire presents the household location and identification code, followed by the respondent's name, field enumerator, and supervisor. The remaining part is a combination of items from the Community-based Monitoring System (CBMS) used by legitimate institutions, businesses, and government sectors in the country. The City Planning and Development Coordinator's Office (CPDCO) and the UA-RPO handled the updating, item inclusions, and amendments to the research instrument.

Information on people's migration was included under demography. The city government's flagship programs and citizenship self-assessment were assessed from the citizen's perspective. The programs were evaluated utilizing three (3) and five (5) point Likert scale tables and four (4) open-ended questions.

Data Collection

Courtesy calls to barangay officials were made a day prior to the actual data gathering. This is to ensure their cooperation and

the respondents' participation. Student enumerators were assigned by partners. As much as possible, the dyad consisted of at least one male to ensure safety and security. The enumerators were tasked to accomplish a quota of five to six checklists within three hours. Upon the discretion of enumerators, the interview mode shifted from direct to pencil and paper administration, where the respondents could write their responses directly in the questionnaire with no or minimum assistance.

The accomplished research instruments were cleaned by the field supervisors to assure the quality of the information gathered. Aside from the duties of cleaning and editing by the field supervisors, they are also responsible in resolving problems arising from the actual field survey. Survey revisits were performed to meet the minimum number of requirements in the barangay.

Ethical Considerations

Application to the University of the Assumption Research Ethics Board (UAREB) was sought. The UAREB proposal form was completed while the research protocol and consent form were attached. The UAREB's approval was essential in ensuring that the procedures and protocols observe ethical prudence. The informed consent included all the essential elements such as the confidentiality and the right to withdraw clauses. The CPDCO disseminated the communication letter addressed to Barangay Dolores as part of their support to the research team of SEP (2023). A scheduled visit was conducted to get the barangay officials' assistance and cooperation. An ocular visit and phone call were made to ensure that the barangay officials would extend their support and cooperation. Student enumerators were trained to be polite and observe survey guidelines in the enumerator's survey kit. Ready-made self-introductory remarks were prepared to be recited by student enumerators at the beginning of the face-to-face survey.

The enumerators observed privacy and confidentiality. The respondents agreed to sign the informed consent and participated in the data gathering. They showed collegiality in persuading difficult residents to give their consent as respondents through a diplomatic approach.

Data Analysis

Data encoders familiar with spreadsheets such as Accountancy students were recruited and trained in the encoding of data. The responsibilities of SEP encoders for the research were thoroughly presented and discussed. Through rigid hands-on training, they learned how to encode data through number codes in spreadsheets and became familiar with the instrument answers. The assistant project leader facilitated the hands-on training for data analysis in two separate sessions at the university's computer laboratory. The submission of the encoded data was supervised and screened by the liaison officer.

Using a licensed Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 17, the quantitative data were processed and summarized utilizing descriptive statistical analysis. Frequency and percentage distribution, central tendency (mean), and data dispersion (standard deviation) were obtained to provide comparisons in terms of proportions. Cross-tabulations were computed using the software to visualize associations among the dimensions of the barangay. Evaluation of the flagship programs was measured using the scale provided. Recoding in various variables was done to sort and process pertinent data needed in determining the socio-economic classifications and other relevant constructs. The socio-economic classifications were identified following the given formula, and a frequency distribution table was generated. Tables were systematically presented, answering every research problem of the study.

RESULTS

Table 1
Demographic profile

Profile	Description	Frequency (<i>f</i>)	Percentage (%)
Sex	Females	790	50.90
	Males	763	49.10
Age	65 and older	151	10.20
Civil Status	Single	706	46.50
Religion	Roman Catholic	1272	87.80
Educational attainment	High school graduate	256	21.66
Literacy	Read and write	1440	95.30

Table 1 presents the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of sex, age, civil status, religion, educational attainment, and literacy. The results show that Barangay San Nicolas's population is roughly equal in terms of gender. Regarding age, individuals 65 years of age and above constitute the majority of the population. Most of the residents involved are still single. Roman Catholics represent a large percentage of the respondents. Regarding educational attainment, 21.66% of the participants have completed high school. Finally, the majority of the population is literate, as evidenced by the high number of participants who can read and write.

Table 2
Economic activity

Activity	Description	<i>f</i>	%
Distribution of employed residents according to place of work	Within barangay	260	45.20
Distribution of employed residents according to time of work	Dayshift	552	93.90

Activity	Description	f	%
Nature of employment of Fernandinos	Permanent job	404	71.00
According to Class Worker	Private company	230	43.70

The majority of the employed population works within the barangay. According to the respondents, most are employed by private enterprises, hold permanent jobs, and work a day shift schedule.

Table 3

Annual household income

Total Income	Amount (PhP)
Total net income from entrepreneurial activities	13,181,090.00
Total salaries and wages	109,901,645.00
Total income from other sources	10,133,600.00
Total household income	133,216,335.00
Total household income per household	445,539.58

Table 3 reveals that the primary source of income for most respondents is wages and salaries. Entrepreneurial activities constitute the second-largest income source, followed by other income streams. Consequently, the total household income for Barangay San Nicolas is P133,216,335.00, while the average family income in the community is P445,539.58.

Table 4

Estimated expenditures of the household

Monthly Expenditures	Amount
Food	3,876,400.00
Clothing	219,430.00
School expenses	1,323,560.00

Monthly Expenditures	Amount
Medical/Dental Expenses	496,480.00
Leisure	218,400.00
Transportation expenses	304,342.00
Electricity	1,004,110.00
LPG/Gas	338,880.00
Water bill	329,610.00
Gas/Diesel	471,012.00
Rent/Amortization	145,400.00
Insurance	65,525.00
Communication Expenses	324,345.00
Others	8,700.00
Total household expenditures	9,126,194.00
Gross annual household	109,514,328.00

According to the respondents, the four highest expenditures categories are food, school expenses, electricity, and medical/dental costs. These are followed by gas/diesel, LPG gas, water bills, communication and transportation expenses. Finally, rent/amortization, insurance, clothing, and leisure constitute the remaining reported expenses.

Table 5

Top five problems encountered by households

Problems	<i>f</i>	%
Lack of money	228	75.0
Sickness	66	24.0
Family dispute	8	9.00
Alcoholism	8	8.00
Unsafe environment	3	4.00

Table 5 presents the common problems experienced by the community. Financial constraints/lack of money are the most frequently reported challenge among the respondents. This is

followed by health-related issues and illnesses. The remaining identified problems are family disputes, alcoholism, and an unsafe environment.

Table 6
Citizens’ perspectives on the flagship programs of San Fernando

Flagship Programs of San Fernando	Effective		Not Effective		Program Unknown	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
Fernandino Dialysis Center	153	43.60	31	8.8	167	47.60
Kayabe KArd	91	25.90	38	10.8	222	63.20
City College Amended Admission Regulations	129	36.80	28	8.0	184	55.30
Free Laptops for Public School Teachers	130	37.00	31	8.8	190	54.10
Reinforced Waterways Clean-up and Environmental Management	156	44.40	37	10.5	158	45.00
Task Force against Dangling/Inactive Wires	126	35.90	56	16.0	169	48.10

As shown in Table 6, the “Reinforced Waterways Clean-up and Environmental Management” program is perceived by the respondents as the most effective initiative. Additionally, the data indicate that the “not effective” category received the fewest responses. Notably, “program unknown” was the most frequent response provided by the community for the programs listed in Table 6.

Table 7
Citizens’ perspectives on the duties and responsibilities of Fernandinos

Duties and Responsibilities of Fernandinos	Yes, always	
	f	%
Registered voters who vote every election	331	94.30
Exercise and eat well	240	68.40

Duties and Responsibilities of Fernandinos	Yes, always	
	f	%
Follow city ordinances	299	85.20
Segregate and do not burn garbage	253	72.10
Work on ways to develop their skills and talents	246	70.10
Using or trying to learn and use the Kapampangan language	277	78.90
Support the giant lantern festival and other Kapampangan traditions	240	68.40
Member of a local organization and fulfill their duties	113	32.20
Participate in city activities	128	36.50
Support and patronize local products the community and introduce them to their friends	219	62.40
Working to improve their family's livelihood	280	79.80
Pay the right taxes at the right time	269	76.60
Actively gather and share information about the city	211	66.90
Help the barangays and fellow Fernandinos	287	81.80

Regarding the duties and responsibilities of Fernandinos, Table 7 presents the top five items that received the most “yes, always” responses among the 14 indicators: voting in every election, following city ordinances, helping the barangay and fellow Fernandinos, working to improve family livelihood, and learning or using the Kapampangan language. Conversely, the five indicators with the fewest “yes, always” responses were paying taxes on time, segregating and not burning garbage, developing personal skills and talents, exercising and eating well, and supporting the Giant Lantern Festival and other Kapampangan traditions.

DISCUSSION

Based on the results of the study, it is stated that Barangay San Nicolas has a clearly defined demographic profile, which is supported by the surveys that were conducted in this specific area. Statistics show that the number of responders is nearly equal for men and women. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division (2019), the population of the world is about equal between men and women.

The greatest number of respondents are aged 65 years old and above. Compared with respondents whose ages range between young and middle adults, senior citizens may be more available for interviews at home because they are no longer working. Additionally, a higher percentage of participants are single. The growth in the single population is primarily driven by the decline in marriage among adults who are at prime working age (Fry & Parker, 2021). An overwhelming number of those who responded are Roman Catholics. The Philippines is a predominantly Catholic country brought forth by the colonization of the Spaniards for more than three decades. The majority of participants have only finished high school. They may have to find employment before attending college due to their limited financial resources. The majority consider themselves to be literate since they can read and write.

In terms of education, a third of the respondents have finished high school only. This figure is comparatively congruent with the result from a report on the State of Philippine Report (2023) where in the Philippines, secondary education graduates stand at 30.5%. It is common to study up until high school only due to the economic limitation of pursuing college courses. Statistics will further plummet to 24.4% for college graduates due to the increase in tuition fees and other academic-related expenses (Philippine Business for Education, 2024). The literacy rate in Barangay San Nicolas is somehow close to the national literacy rate in the Philippines which is 96.28%. This can be explained by the government's emphasis on education. Every year, a huge budget is allocated for the academic development.

Regarding economic activity, most of the respondents are dayshift workers. This is relatively true in the study of Lieberman et al. (2020) where three-fourths of the participants work during the days or through office hours. Many of the office and company jobs require work within the day shift. Permanent work promotes job

security among employees (Castellacci & Vinas-Bardolet, 2020). Based on the annual total income, the majority of the income comes from salaries and wages. The respondents are most likely employees. They are employed either in government-run institutions or privately-owned companies where more or less, have a steady form of income. Other forms of income are from entrepreneurial activities. This may be brought about by business which brings about profit for the services rendered. Regarding household expenditures, the result of this study is slightly lower than the national annual household income of 133,216,335.00. Food ranks first among household expenditures as it is mentioned to be the single largest expense (Sekhampu & Niyimbanira, 2013).

There were five problems noted by the respondents in the study. The most common issues based on the survey is lack of money. Financial constraints are indeed a major concern of people not only in Barangay San Nicolas. It may be due to a reduction in income, job loss, debt accumulation, and others. Economic hardship prevents the ability of a family to meet their basic needs of food, clothing, and health care (Mimura, 2008; Zautra, 2011 cited in Friedline, Chen & Morrow, 2021). Also included among the problems is sickness. The presence of sickness or the presence of diseases brings forth difficulties for the participants illnesses challenge the sense of security and may introduce acute anxiety into our lives (Bury, 2013). Family dispute is a common concern among individuals in Barangay San Nicolas. Personal differences based on opinions may bring forth misunderstanding among members of a family. Alcoholism is also considered a perennial problem in the community. It is described to be the frequent drinking of beverages with alcohol content. Frequent alcohol consumption brings forth changes in the basal ganglia that can be habit-forming (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 2021). Unsafe environment is considered a problem in the community. This is foreseen to be a threat or hazard to the security of the respondents.

This may also be related to an increase in the crime rate in a particular area.

The government provides services through its flagship programs in the City of San Fernando. Since there is an increase in the number of patients with chronic kidney diseases, a dialysis center was established that caters to Fernandinos literally for free. This is to promote the survival and quality of life of clients undergoing hemodialysis therapy even if there is not enough substantial research (Evangelidis et al., 2017). Most of the respondents do not know the different programs or they are unknown to them. Only Reinforced Waterways Clean-up and Environmental Management seems to be effective to them. Most likely, the residents perceive that the placed water system alone would be sufficient in solving the recurrent problem of flooding, not necessarily including the personal efforts of the individuals in this area. Most of the residents of Barangay San Nicolas are unaware of the Task Force against dangling/inactive wires. They may think that electric companies are already responsible for this. More than half of the respondents are not knowledgeable about the free laptops for public school teachers. This may be brought about by the respondents' perception of teachers availing laptops and teaching materials as personal responsibilities. More than half of the respondents are unaware of the City College's amended admission regulations. This may be due to the decreased information dissemination for the possible students of this government institution. More than half do not know the existence of Kayabe KArD. The respondents may lack knowledge of the benefits of using this card to avail of some perks and privileges.

In terms of the duties and responsibilities of San Fernandinos, the respondents are compelled to vote if they are registered. This may be because they need to exercise their right to suffrage and visit their assigned precincts during the election. The participants

value their chance to vote for the officials or politicians they want to elect. This holds to the fact that the people's right to vote is fundamental to the country's democracy (Sellers & Weinstein-Tull, 2021). The respondents also aim to improve their family's income and livelihood. They seek to meet their basic needs and look forward to improve their standard of living. The participants would also want to have extra cash to afford their other wants apart from satisfying their fundamental necessities. The participants pay the right taxes on time. They may think that this would generate funds for the projects and infrastructures of the government. The Barangay San Nicolas participants must help their fellow Kapampangans. This can be manifested through the virtue of altruism where motivation has the ultimate goal of increasing another's welfare (Banson et al., 2010 cited in Pfattheicher, Nielsen & Thielmann). The respondents are compelled to follow city ordinances. The participants will feel like responsible citizens and will support future potential regulations that will help the city, or barangay, to be more precise, if they follow the rules set forth by the city. Those that participated in this study advocated for proper garbage disposal and segregation. They might think that the government's campaign of cleaning is essential to stopping illnesses and additional drainage blockages.

Limitations of the Study

Though there were several gathered information from the respondents, this research still has its own limitations. There were some instances where the participants refused to disclose essential data on their incomes and expenditures. Due to concerns on the right to privacy and confidentiality, studies such as this may not elicit exact statistics based on the economic variables of the survey. Proper information dissemination on the importance of accurately answering socio-economic studies is imperative to produce more reliable results.

There is also a limited number of respondents in this barangay for this research. Though rich and substantive data were gathered from the residents, the answers may not best represent the perception and opinions of the majority of Barangay San Nicolas residents given the computed possible number of participants.

Conclusions

Based on the results, this study successfully assessed the socio-economic status of Barangay San Nicolas, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. The demographic profile is clearly defined, revealing a community that is predominantly female, senior-aged, and literate, with a high school education level being the most common. Moreover, there is a high level of economic activity in this barangay. Income and expenditures are the major variables that promote economic movement. Salaries and wages comprise most of the total household income. Food is considered to be the highest expenditure for the family.

The frequently encountered problems the respondents are lack of money, sickness, family dispute, alcoholism, and unsafe environment. However, financial constraints remain the leading challenge for households, compounded by issues of health, domestic harmony, and environmental safety.

The government's "Reinforced Waterways Clean-up and Environmental Management" program is the most widely recognized and deemed effective among residents. Conversely, a general lack of awareness persists regarding other government flagship initiatives, such as the "Kayabe KArd." Residents demonstrated a strong commitment to civic duties, particularly through electrical participation and adherence to city ordinances, which suggested a high level of potential for future community-based programs.

Fernandinos are compelled to perform their duties and responsibilities. Voting during elections is the top priority among the duties and responsibilities in Barangay San Nicolas, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

Recommendations

To address the findings, it is recommended that the local government initiates seminars to improve awareness of available social services and programs. Addressing financial constraints could be facilitated through localized “Job Fairs” in collaboration with private enterprises to boost employment opportunities. Furthermore, strengthening the barangay health system through improved medical equipment, training for health workers, and the establishment of health committees is essential for long-term well-being.

Regarding the domestic and social issues, the implementation of community-based mediation programs is recommended to resolve family disputes peacefully. Issues like alcoholism could be mitigated through awareness campaigns, youth prevention programs, and stricter local ordinances regulating alcohol sales. Safety can be further enhanced by expanding the Barangay Tanod Roving Patrol to deter crime and restore peace and order.

Ultimately, the findings indicate that while Barangay San Nicolas possesses a stable foundation, targeted interventions in information dissemination, economic support, and social welfare are required to bridge the gap between residents and government services. By implementing these recommendations, the barangay can significantly improve the health, economic security, and overall quality of life for its citizens.

To the future researchers: to further investigate the residents' experiences, it is recommended that future researchers employ phenomenological study to explore deeper insights and potential areas for improvement. Additionally, conducting comparative research will better track community development and determine if findings are unique to Barangay San Nicolas or systemic across San Fernando.

REFERENCES

- American Psychological Association. (2019). "Socioeconomic Status." Bias-Free Language.
<https://www.apa.org/topics/socioeconomic-status>
- Baker, E. H. (2014). Socioeconomic status. In W. C. Cockerham (Ed.), *The Wiley Blackwell encyclopedia of health, illness, behavior, and society* (pp. 2210–2214). Wiley-Blackwell.
- Banson, J., et al. (2010). *Altruism and prosocial behavior in community development*. Journal of Social Psychology.
- Bury, M. (2013). *Health and Illness in a Changing Society*. Routledge.
- Castellacci, F., & Vinas-Bardolet, C. (2020). Permanent contracts and job satisfaction in academia: Evidence from European countries. *Studies in Higher Education*, 46(9), 1950–1968.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03075079.2020.1712665>
- Cornell Law School. (2024). *Income*. Legal Information Institute.
<https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/income>
- De Vera, A. (2024). *Duties and responsibilities of a Filipino citizen: Vision and mission of a good citizenship movement*. Academia.edu.

- Eurostat. (2023). Glossary: *Economic activity*. Statistics Explained. https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:Economic_activity
- Evangelidis, N., Tong, A., Manns, B., Hemmelgarn, B., & Wheeler, D. (2017). Developing a set of core outcomes for hemodialysis trials. *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*, 69(6), 762–770. <https://doi.org/10.1053/j.ajkd.2016.12.012>
- Fry, R., & Parker, K. (2021). *Rising share of U.S. adults are living without a spouse or partner*. Pew Research Center.
- Gee, J. P. (2014). *Social linguistics and literacies: Ideology in discourses*. Routledge.
- Hamdouch, A., Demaziere, C., & Banovac, K. (2017). The socio-economic profiles of small and medium-sized towns: Insights from European case studies. *Tijdschrift voor economische en sociale geografie*, 108(4), 485–501. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tesg.12254>
- Harper, D. (2015). *A dictionary of economics*. Oxford University Press.
- International City/County Management Association. (2023). *What is community development?* <https://icma.org/about-icma>
- Kesmodel, U. (2018). Cross-sectional studies: What are they good for? *Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica*, 97(4), 388–393. <https://doi.org/10.1111/aogs.13331>
- Lieberman, H. R., Agarwal, S., Caldwell, J., & Fulgoni, V. L. (2020). Demographics, sleep and daily patterns of caffeine intake of shift workers in a nationally representative sample of the US adult population. *Nutrients*, 12(12), 3749. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu12123749>
- Loveless, B. (2023). *The complete guide to educational literacy*. Education Corner.

- Merriam-Webster. (2024). *Income*. In Merriam-Webster.com dictionary. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/income>
- National Geographic. (2024). *Demography*. Education Resource Library.
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. (2021). *Alcohol's effects on health*. <https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/brochures-and-fact-sheets/alcohol-facts-and-statistics>
- Navarro, M. K. D. (2015). Socio-Economic Scale (SES) as a measure of economic well-being: A case in Barangay Lumbia, Cagayan De Oro City, Philippines. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*, 6(2), 103–112. <https://doi.org/10.5901/mjss.2015.v6n2p103>
- Nicor-Mangalimutan, R. G., Mejica, M. N., & Caelian, M. V. (2020). Implementation of the community peace and order and public safety program in Negros Occidental, Philippines. *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications*, 10(3).
- Oxford University Press. (2024). *Order*. In Oxford English Dictionary.
- Pfattheicher, S., Nielsen, Y. A., & Thielmann, I. (2022). Prosocial behavior and altruism: A review of concepts and definitions. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 44, 124–129. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2021.08.023>
- Philippine Business for Education. (2024). *State of Philippine Education Report 2023*.
- Pilgrim, J., & Martinez, E. (2013). Defining literacy in the 21st century: A guide to terminology and skills. *Australian Journal of Language and Literacy*, 36(1).

- Redding, S. J., & Turner, M. A. (2015). Transportation costs and the spatial organization of economic activity. *Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics*, 5, 1339–1398.
- Sandy, M., & Perkins, R. (2008). *The meaning of peace: Perspectives from Albert Einstein*. Academic Press.
- Scott, M. P. (2023). *Income definition: Types, examples and taxes*. Investopedia.
- Sekhampu, T. J., & Niyimbanira, F. (2013). Analysis of the factors influencing household expenditure in a South African township. *International Business and Economics Research Journal*, 12(3), 311–322.
- Sellers, J., & Weinstein-Tull, J. (2021). Constructing the right to vote. *New York University Law Review*, 96, 1127.
- Sirisilla, S. (2023). *Descriptive research design: Definition, methods, and examples*. QuestionPro.
- Smith, R. (2023). *The importance of literacy in education and life*. Literacy Foundation.
- Tarsi, K., & Tuff, T. (2012). Introduction to population demographics. *Nature Education Knowledge*, 3(10), 3.
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2019). *World population prospects*.
- World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews. (2022). Peace and order: The inseparable partners to development. *WJARR*, 14(3), 2581-9615.
- Xie, Y. (2000). Demography: Past, present and future. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 95(450), 670–673. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2669420>

A community in motion: Assessing the socio-economic landscape of Barangay Dolores

Emmanuel M. Bagtas

ABSTRACT

With a booming commercial growth, Dolores is a formidable barangay to be studied in terms of its socio-economic progress. The main objective of the study is to provide the latest socio-economic profile of Barangay Dolores. Specifically, it aims to: 1. Describe the demographic profile of the respondents. 2. Determine the economic activity of the participants. 3. Identify the most commonly-encountered problems of the respondents. 4. Describe the citizens' perspectives on the flagship programs of San Fernando. 5. Determine the duties and responsibilities of Fernandinos. The study utilized descriptive, cross-sectional research designs. The 370 respondents for the study hail from Barangay Dolores. The questionnaire consists of ninety (90) items with several sub-items and reference codes covering 15 key socioeconomic variables identified by the city officials. Using a licensed Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 17, the quantitative data were processed and summarized utilizing descriptive statistical analysis.

Results show that most of the total household income are from salaries and wages, exhibiting a high level of economic activity. Top five problems encountered by households are lack of money, sickness, family dispute, alcoholism and unsafe environment. Only the Fernandino Dialysis Center program was deemed to be effective by more than half of the respondents among the six CSFP flagship programs. Voting during election is the top priority among the duties and responsibilities in Barangay Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga magnifying the respondents as dutiful and responsible.

It is suggested that the stated commonly-encountered problems be addressed such as lack of money. More available job openings will be beneficial to the residents who experience financial difficulties. It is recommended that the government would continue with its well-received flagship programs such as the Fernandino Dialysis Center which has been very beneficial to less fortunate Fernandinos. Some government-run programs are to be supported, while others has to be evaluated. Moreover, a well-organized information dissemination drive is suggested to take place regarding the duties and responsibilities of Fernandinos.

Key words: *Expenditure, income, literacy, peace and order, salary*

INTRODUCTION

Dolores is a flourishing barangay in the City of San Fernando, the capital of Pampanga. It is geographically located on the coordinates of 15. 0388, 120.6809 in the island of Luzon and its elevation is 11.0 meters or 36.1 above sea level (PhilAtlas, 2023). This thriving community is contiguous to six (6) adjacent barangays namely: Juliana, Lourdes, Magliman, San Jose and San Agustin in San Fernando, and Masamat in Mexico. According to PopCom (2020), the population of Barangay Dolores stands at 20,542, a mere 5.79% of the whole City of San Fernando's population.

As a regional central business district, Dolores is home to numerous business establishments where economic activities take place. Concrete examples are the commercial banks, offices, hotels, restaurants, retail stores, drug stores and other shops which contribute to the financial capacity of the barangay. According to the City Government of Pampanga (2024), Barangay Dolores is considered as a regional transport hub growth corridor. Its service areas include Barangays Magliman, San Juan and Del Carmen. Providing for a premium location to transportation hubs, it also serves as an intersection for the MacArthur Highway, Jose Abad Santos Avenue (JASA), and Lazatin Boulevard, which form the development triangle.

With a booming commercial growth, Dolores is a formidable barangay to be studied in terms of its socio-economic progress. In relation to this, the University of the Assumption (UA), the first archdiocesan Catholic university in Asia and the Pacific, was duly approved by the City Planning and Development Coordinator's Office (CPDCO) to utilize the Social Economic Profile (SEP) 2023 data for faculty research and community extension endeavors. The purpose of this approval is to facilitate research and extension activities that are intended to benefit the 35 barangays in the City of San Fernando by providing baseline information for barangay programs and decision-making processes.

The SEP data are valuable resources for enhancing the welfare and quality of life within the community and UA is

acknowledged of its significant role in leveraging these data for the greater good of San Fernando. UA is a Higher Education Institution (HEI) which acknowledges its commitment to further the research and community extension of faculty and students. This academic institution cultivates research culture by continually immersing in research undertakings pertaining to institutional, commissioned, funded, and research and development. It also promotes community extension by engaging in outreach activities.

Currently, studies on socio economic profile and status of communities are done in abroad. Locally, there are socio economic profile research of San Fernando in the years 2015, 2019 and 2023. However, there is no particular SEP study that specifically caters to the residents of Barangay Dolores. Hence, it is imperative to conduct a study that will provide conclusions and recommendations solely based from the SEP 2023 results coming from Barangay Dolores.

Literature Review

A socio economic profile is a combination of social and economic variables to characterize individuals within a specific group or population (Oxford, 2024). It constitutes aspects such as occupation, economic status, education, income levels, and social standing (Baker, 2014). It also gives insights into the quality of life, opportunities, and resources available individuals or groups within a specific community. The American Psychological Association (APA, 2024) emphasizes that socioeconomic status (SES) is a multi-dimensional construct that includes subjective evaluation on social comparison classes and objective qualities like income, education and occupation. SES is a complex construct on independent objective qualities such as income and education, and subjective individuals' ratings of their placement in the socioeconomic spectrum (Navarro-Carillo et al., 2020).

There were studies conducted on socio-economic profile (SEP). Duk, Phay and Soeung (2013) conducted a socio-economic profile of six villages in Mondulkiri Province with a focus on the incomes and livelihoods of engaged communities in the Cambodia

Supporting Forests and Biodiversity (SFB) Project. Alam et al. (2010) had a socio-economic profile research on the farmers of Malaysia. They studied on the integrated agricultural development area in North-Wets Selangor. Hamdouch, Demaziere and Banovac (2017) studied on the socio-economic profiles of small and medium-sized towns in Europe.

There are several factors included in the socio-economic profile. It includes demography which is the statistical study of human populations (National Geographic, 2024). Demography involves analyzing how characteristics change over time with populations (Tarsi & Tuff, 2012). According to Xie (2000), demography focuses on aspects such as size, composition, and changes influenced by factors like fertility, mortality and migration.

The socio-economic profile also includes education and literacy. Education is the process of acquiring knowledge, skills, values and habits while literacy is the ability to read, write, speak and listen effectively (Loveless, 2023). Literacy is a basic skill that enables individuals to communicate and understand written information (Smith, 2023). Literacy is considered important to success in several contexts and scenarios (Pilgrim & Martinez, 2013). Literacy cannot be seen as a mental phenomenon, but rather cultural and social one (Gee, 2014).

Another inclusion in the SEP is the economic activity which refers to the production, distribution and consumption of services and goods in a community (Harper, 2015). Economic activity is not just about having enough resources, but how they are utilized (Eurostat, 2023). It is imperative to maximize the full potential of the readily-available materials and use them for financial benefits. Most likely, the organization of economic activity in geographic space really depends on the transportation of goods and the people (Redding & Turner, 2015).

Income is a major factor in economic activity and is defined to be a monetary gain one receives in exchange for giving labor (Scott, 2023). Income encompasses recurrent benefits which are quantified in money (Merriam-Webster, 2024). According to Cornell

Law School (2024), income is a monetary value a person receives reciprocated for providing a service or a good through a capital.

Peace and order are salient factors that contribute to economic activity. These are indeed inseparable partners to development (World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews, 2022). Peace is not merely the absence of war but the presence of justice, law and order, in short, of government (Einstein in Sandy & Perkins, 2008). It is indivisible and worldwide because it is basic for the survival of humanity (Nicor-Mangalimutan, Mejica & Caelian, 2020). Order is the arrangement of disposition of people or things in relation to each other according to a specific method, pattern or sequence (Oxford, 2024).

Relative to economic activity, community affairs encompass the activities, programs and activities that focus on improving the well-being, addressing local challenges, promoting civic engagement and building partnerships (ICMA, 2023). These means directed toward influencing general opinion on an issue or the result of an administrative or legislative matter that would justify the utility civic and community position.

Included in the evaluation are government programs that constitute a significant and intricate endeavor, encompass a broad spectrum of initiatives designed to confront social, economic and environmental challenges. Flagship programs are considered major activities of the government to achieve certain goals. They derive their origins from the term “flagship” which is the main or most important ship of a country’s navy and is symbolic of the primary objective of the nation’s developmental policy. After the evaluation of the government’s programs are the evaluation of the duties and responsibilities of the citizens.

According to De Vera (2024), the main duty of the government is for its citizen to serve and protect while it is the obligation of the entire citizen to perform their duties and responsibilities as Filipino citizens. Specific examples are paying taxes willingly and promptly, keeping the surroundings clean, obeying the laws and maintain peace and order in the community,

voting wisely and choosing candidates who can serve the country. Other concrete examples are exercising and eating well, following city ordinances, supporting and patronizing local products the community and introducing them to their friends, working on ways to develop their skills and talents, and participating in city activities.

Problem Objectives

The main objective of the study is to provide the latest socio-economic profile of Barangay Dolores. Specifically, it aims to: 1. Describe the demographic profile of the respondents. 2. Determine the economic activity of the participants. 3. Identify the most commonly-encountered problems of the respondents. 4. Describe the citizens' perspectives on the flagship programs of San Fernando. 5. Determine the duties and responsibilities of Fernandinos.

METHOD

Research Design

The study utilized descriptive, cross-sectional research designs. It is descriptive because it characterized the socio-economic factors. A descriptive research design purports to accurately and systematically describe a population, situation or phenomenon and it answers what, where, when and how (Sirisilla, 2023). It is cross-sectional because it is one time data gathering only. A cross-sectional study is defined to be the gathering of relevant data at a given point in time which means that there is no time dimension involved (Kesmodel, 2018).

Respondents and Sampling Design

The respondents for the study hail from Barangay Dolores. They are residents in this particular locality. The total no. of households surveyed is 370 while the average household size is 4.19 individuals.

Raosoft, an online sampling calculator, was utilized to calculate the appropriate sample. The computed sample size for Barangay Dolores is 364. The barangay has a sufficient representative sample with a confidence level of 95% and margin of error of 5%.

The research team of SEP (2023) prepared Google Maps for the barangay and mapped-out sectors by designating numbers. Using a sample population range, 351-400 respondents would need seven sectors. Each team identified the drop-off starting points and assigned a sub-team for each drop-off point for the household survey.

Research Instrument

The questionnaire consists of ninety (90) items with several sub-items and reference codes covering 15 key socioeconomic variables identified by the city officials. The first part of the questionnaire presents the household location and identification code, followed by the respondent's name, field enumerator and supervisor. The remaining part is a combination of items from the Community-based Monitoring System (CBMS) used by legitimate institutions, businesses and government sectors in the country. The City Planning and Development Coordinator's Office (CPDCO) and the UA-RPO handled the updating, item inclusions and amendments to the research instrument.

Information on people's migration were included under demography. The city government's flagship programs and citizenship self-assessment were assessed under the citizen's perspective. The programs were evaluated utilizing three (3) and five (5) point Likert scale tables and four (4) open-ended questions.

Data Collection

Courtesy calls to barangay officials were made a day prior the actual data gathering. This is to ensure their cooperation and the respondents' participation. Student enumerators were assigned by partners. As much as possible, the dyad consisted of at least

one male to ensure safety and security. The enumerators were tasked to accomplish a quota of five to six checklists within three hours. Upon the discretion of enumerators, the interview mode shifted from direct to pencil and paper administration, where the respondents can write their responses directly in the questionnaire with no or minimum assistance.

The accomplished research instruments were cleaned by the field supervisors to assure the quality of the information gathered. Aside from the duties of cleaning and editing by the field supervisors, they are also responsible in resolving problems arising from the actual field survey. Survey revisits were performed to meet the minimum number of requirement in the barangay.

Ethical Considerations

Application to the University of the Assumption Research Ethics Board (UAREB) was sought. The UAREB proposal form was accomplished while the research protocol and consent form were attached. The UAREB's approval was essential in ensuring that the procedures and protocols observe ethical prudence. The informed consents included all the essential elements such as the confidentiality and the right to withdraw clauses. The CPDCO disseminated the communication letter addressed to Barangay Dolores as part of their support to the research team of SEP (2023). A scheduled visit was transmitted to get the barangay officials' assistance and cooperation. An ocular visit and phone call were made to ensure that the barangay officials would extend their support and cooperation. Student enumerators were trained to be polite and observe survey guidelines in the enumerator's survey kit. Ready-made self-introductory remarks were prepared to be recited by student enumerators at the beginning of the face-to-face survey.

The enumerators observed privacy and confidentiality. The respondents agreed to sign the informed consent and participated in the data gathering. They showed collegiality in persuading difficult residents to give their consents as respondents through a diplomatic approach.

Data Analysis

Data encoders familiar with spreadsheets such as Accountancy students were recruited and trained in the encoding of data. The responsibilities of SEP encoders for the research were thoroughly presented and discussed. Through rigid hands-on training, they learned how to encode data through number codes in spreadsheets and became familiar with the instrument answers. The assistant project leader facilitated the hands-on-training for data analysis in two separate sessions at the university's computer laboratory. The submission of the encoded data was supervised and screened by the liaison officer.

Using a licensed Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 17, the quantitative data were processed and summarized utilizing descriptive statistical analysis. Frequency and percentage distribution, central tendency (mean) and data dispersion (standard deviation) were obtained to provide comparisons in terms of proportions. Cross-tabulations were computed using the software to visualize associations among the dimensions of the barangay. Evaluation of the flagship programs was measured using the scale provided. Recoding in various variables was done to sort and process pertinent data needed in determining the socio-economic classifications and other relevant constructs. The socio-economic classifications were identified following the given formula, and a frequency distribution table was generated. Tables were systematically presented, answering every research problem of the study.

RESULTS

Table 1
Demographic profile

Profile	Description	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Sex	Males	775	50.00
Age	65 and older	159	10.49
Civil Status	Single	707	47.70
Religion	Roman Catholic	1,401	93.40
Educational attainment	High school graduate	312	27.96
Literacy	Read and write		95.40
		1,470	

Male and female respondents are equally distributed. One tenth of the population are senior citizens with the age of 65 and above. Almost half of the participants are still single. An overwhelming majority of the respondents are Roman Catholics. More than a quarter of the respondents have finished high school. An overwhelming majority of the participants can read and write.

Table 2
Economic activity

Activity	Description	f	%
Distribution of employed residents according to place of work	Within barangay	220	40.40
Distribution of employed residents according to time of work	Dayshift	491	90.30
Nature of employment of Fernandinos	Permanent job	421	79.30
According to Class Worker	Private company	196	37.90

Two in every five employed residents work in the barangay. Nine in every ten respondents are in dayshift. Four in every five of

the participants have permanent jobs. Two in every five respondents are employed in private companies.

Table 3
Annual household income

Total Income	Amount (Php)
Total net income from entrepreneurial activities	6,278,050.00
Total salaries and wages	113,098,282.00
Total income from other sources	2,895.900.00
Total household income	122,465,242.00
Total household income per household	398,909.58

Most of the total household income are from salaries and wages. Second is the income from entrepreneurial activities. Third is the income from other sources. Hence, the total household income for Barangay Dolores is P122,465,242.00 while the total household income per household is 398,909.58.

Table 4
Estimated expenditures of the household

Expenditures per Month	Amount
Food	4,494,700.00
Clothing	23,800.00
School expenses	862,310.00
Leisure	930,000.00
Transportation expenses	169,524.00
Electricity	1,071,637.00
LPG/Gas	337,535.00
Water bill	394,711.00
Gas/Diesel	614,623.00
Total household expenditures	9,892,943.67
Gross annual household	118,715,324.00

The four highest expenditures are food, electricity, leisure and school expenses. The next three expenditures are gas/diesel, water bill and LPG gas. The least two expenditures are transportation expenses and clothing.

Table 5*Top five problems encountered by households*

Problems	f	%
Lack of money	8,518	42.82
Sickness	5,999	30.16
Family dispute	2,164	10.88
Alcoholism	1,218	6.12
Unsafe environment	1,107	5.57

Two in every five of the respondents experience financial difficulties. A third of the participants has suffered from diseases or illnesses. One tenth of the population reported family altercation. One in every twenty respondents cited alcoholism and unsafe environment as their problems.

Table 6*Citizens' perspectives on the flagship programs of San Fernando*

Flagship Programs of San Fernando	Effective		Not Effective		Program Unknown	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
Fernandino Dialysis Center	195	52.7	28	7.6	147	39.7
Kayabe KArD	105	28.4	46	12.4	219	59.2
City College Amended Admission Regulations	156	42.2	36	9.7	178	48.1
Free Laptops for Public School Teachers	144	38.9	35	9.5	191	51.6
Reinforced Waterways Clean-up and Environmental Management	161	43.5	42	11.4	167	45.1
Task Force against Dangling/Inactive Wires	149	40.3	40	10.8	181	48.9

Only the Fernandino Dialysis Center program was deemed to be effective by more than half of the respondents among the six CSFP flagship programs. It also received the least number of not effective replies and program unknown answers. Based on those who answered effective, it is then followed by the Reinforced Waterways Clean-up and Environmental Management, City College Amended Admission Regulations, Task Force against Dangling/Inactive Wires and Free Laptops for Public School

Teachers. The program with the least answer of effective among the participants is the Kayabe KArD. It also garnered the most not effective and unknown answers.

Table 7
Citizens’ perspectives on the duties and responsibilities of Fernandinos

Duties and Responsibilities of Fernandinos	Yes, Always	
	f	%
Registered voters who vote every election	341	92.2
Exercise and eat well	267	72.2
Follow city ordinances	282	76.2
Segregate and do not burn garbage	269	72.7
Work on ways to develop their skills and talents	251	67.8
Using or trying to learn and use the Kapampangan language	275	74.3
Support the giant lantern festival and other Kapampangan traditions	212	57.3
Member of a local organization and fulfill their duties	96	25.9
Participate in city activities	140	37.8
Support and patronize local products the community and introduce them to their friends	223	60.3
Working to improve their family’s livelihood	290	78.4
Pay the right taxes at the right time	289	78.1
Actively gather and share information about the city	256	69.2
Help the barangays and fellow Fernandinos	284	76.8

Among the 14 duties and responsibilities of Fernandinos, the top five with the most answer of yes and always are registered voters who vote every election, working to improve their family’s livelihood, pay the right taxes at the right time, Help the barangays and fellow Fernandinos, and follow city ordinances. On the other hand, the five with the least answer of yes and always are member of a local organization and fulfill their duties, participate in city activities, support and patronize local products the community and introduce them to their friends, work on ways to develop their skills and talents, and actively gather and share information about the city.

DISCUSSION

Based on the results of the study, the demographic profile of Barangay Dolores is well-defined as evidenced by the surveys conducted on this particular locale. Statistics show that men and women are equally distributed among respondents. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division (2019), the number of men and women in the world is roughly equal. The most number of respondents are senior citizens. This may be because the elderly are readily available for interviews at home since they are not working anymore compared to those with ages belonging to young and middle adults. There are also more single in marital status among the participants. The growth in the single population is primarily driven by decline in marriage among adults who are at prime working age (Fry & Parker, 2021). An overwhelming number of those who responded are Catholics. Philippines is a predominantly a Catholic country brought forth by the colonization of the Spaniards for more than three decades. Many of the participants finished high school only. This may be due to their financial limitations and are already bound to work even before going to college. Most can read and write and are considered to be literates.

In terms of education, a third of the respondents have finished high school only. This figure is comparatively congruent with the result from a report on the State of Philippine Report (2023) where in the Philippines, secondary education graduates stand on 30.5%. It is common to study up until high school only due to the economic limitation of pursuing college courses. Statistics will further plummet to 24.4% for college graduates due to the increase in tuition fees and other academic-related expenses (Philippine Business for Education, 2024). The literacy rate in Barangay Dolores is somehow close to the national literacy rate in the Philippines which is 96.28%. This can be explained by the government's emphasis on education. Every year, a huge budget is allocated for the academic development.

Regarding economic activity, most of the respondents are dayshift workers. This is relatively true to the study of Lieberman et al. (2020) where three fourths of the participants work during the

days or through office hours. Many of the office and company jobs require work within the day shift. Permanent work promotes job security among employees (Castellacci & Vinas-Bardolet, 2020). Based on the annual total income, majority of the income come from salaries and wages. The respondents are most likely employees. They are employed either in government-run institutions or privately-owned companies where more or less, have a steady form of income. Other forms of income are from entrepreneurial activities. This may be brought about by business which brings about profit for the services rendered. Regarding household expenditures, the result of this study is slightly higher than the national annual household income of 307,190. Food ranks first among the household expenditures as it mentioned to be the single largest expense (Sekhampu & Niyimbanira, 2013).

There were five problems noted by the respondents in the study. The most common problem based on the survey is lack of money. Economic hardship is indeed a major concern of people not only in Barangay Dolores. It may be due to reduction in income, job loss, debt accumulation and others. Economic hardship prevents the ability of a family to meet their basic needs of food, clothing and health care (Mimura, 2008; Zautra, 2011 cited in Friedline, Chen & Morrow, 2021). Also included among the problems is sickness. The presence of sickness or presence of diseases brings forth difficulties for the participants. Illnesses challenge the sense of security and may introduce acute anxiety into our lives (Bury, 2013). Family dispute is a common concern among individuals in Barangay Dolores. Personal differences based on opinions may bring forth misunderstanding among members of a family. Alcoholism is also considered a perennial problem in the community. It is described to be the frequent drinking of beverages with alcohol content. Frequent alcohol consumption brings forth changes in the basal ganglia that can be habit-forming (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 2021). Unsafe environment is considered a problem in the community. This is foreseen to be a threat or hazard to the security of the respondents. This may also be related to an increase of the crime rate in a particular area.

The government provides services through its flagship programs in the City of San Fernando. Since there is an increase in the number of patients with chronic kidney diseases, a dialysis center was established which caters to Fernandinos literally for free. This is to promote the survival and quality of life of clients undergoing hemodialysis therapy even if there is not enough substantial research (Evangelidis et al., 2017). Most of the respondents do not know the reinforced waterways clean-up and environmental management as an infrastructure project of the city government. Most likely, the residents perceive that the placed water system alone would be sufficient in solving the recurrent problem of flooding, not necessarily including the personal efforts of the individuals in this area. Most of the residents of Barangay Dolores are unaware of the Task Force against dangling/inactive wires. They may think that electric companies are already responsible for this. More than half of the respondents are not knowledgeable on the free laptops for public school teachers. This may be brought about by the respondents' perception of teachers availing laptops and teaching materials as personal responsibilities. A little less than half of the population are unaware of the City College amended admission regulations. This may be due to the decreased information dissemination for the possible students of this government institution. More than half do not know the existence of Kayabe KArD. The respondents may lack the knowledge on the benefits of using this card to avail some perks and privileges.

In terms of the duties and responsibilities of San Fernandinos, the respondents are compelled to vote for they are registered. This may be because they need to exercise their right to suffrage and visit their assigned precincts during the election. The participants value their chance to vote the officials or politicians they want to elect. This holds true to the fact that the people's right to vote is fundamental to the country's democracy (Sellers & Weinstein-Tull, 2021). The respondents also aim to improve their family's income and livelihood. They seek to meet their basic needs and look forward to improve their standard of living. The participants would also want to have extra cash to afford their other wants apart from satisfying their fundamental necessities. The participants pay

the right taxes on time. They may think that this would generate funds for the projects and infrastructures of the government. It is imperative for the Dolores participants to help their fellow Kapampangans. This can be manifested through the virtue of altruism where motivation has the ultimate goal of increasing another's welfare (Banson et al., 2010 cited in Pfattheicher, Nielsen & Thielmann). The respondents are compelled to follow city ordinances. By being obedient to the rules set by the city, the participants will feel that they are responsible citizens and are supportive of other possible ordinances that will benefit the city, barangay to be more specific. Proper waste disposal and segregation is supported by those responded in this study. They may believe that the cleanliness drive of the government is key to preventing diseases and further clogging of drainages.

Limitations of the Study

Though there were several gathered information from the respondents, this research still has its own limitations. There were some instances where the participants refused to disclose essential data on their incomes and expenditures. Due to concerns on right to privacy and confidentiality, studies such as this may not elicit exact statistics based on the economic variables of the survey. Proper information dissemination on the importance of accurately answering on socio-economic studies is imperative to produce more reliable results.

There is also a limited number of respondents in this barangay for this research. Though rich and substantive data were gathered from the residents, the answers may not best represent the perception and opinions of the majority of Barangay Dolores residents given the computed possible number of participants.

Conclusions

The demographic profile of Barangay Dolores, City of San Fernando is well defined based on the study conducted in this particular locale. Statistics are sufficient to describe this specific barangay.

There is a high level of economic activity in this barangay. Income and expenditures are the major variables that promote economic movement. Salaries and wages comprise the most to the total household income. Food is considered to be the highest expenditure for the family.

The five most commonly-identified problems encountered by the respondents are lack of money, sickness, family dispute, alcoholism and unsafe environment. Financial difficulty is the leading concern among the residents in Barangay Dolores.

The most recognizable flagship program of the City of San Fernando is the Fernandino Dialysis Center. On the other hand, the least known government project among the respondents in Dolores is the Kayabe KArD.

Fernandinos are compelled to perform their duties and responsibilities. Voting during election is the top priority among the duties and responsibilities in Barangay Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

Recommendations

It is recommended to conduct a similar study which will include more respondents. Having more substantial data from these participants will equate to a more representative description of the community. A research that will specifically target the Barangay Dolores residents would be more ideal.

Inclusion of more variables for the economic activity is advised for future researchers. Currently, only incomes and expenditures were identified to be major factors in determining the level of economic activity in the locale of the study. Factors regarding employment can be further discussed in another study.

It is suggested that the stated commonly-encountered problems be addressed such as lack of money. More available job openings will be beneficial to the residents who experience financial

difficulties. This is through facilitation of 'Job Fairs', through the aid of Local Government Units (LGUs) and some private companies, that will provide work for residents in Barangay Dolores.

A more comprehensive program for health with the purchase of adequate medicines for the barangay health center will augment the problem of presence of sickness or disease. Information dissemination can also be reinforced through health-related seminars and programs regarding Expanded Program for Immunization (EPI), chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes mellitus, and communicable diseases such as pertussis and tuberculosis. A mobile health clinic may be stationed in the barangay once in a while to aid the residents who are far from the health centers. It will be equipped with the necessary medicines and first aid equipment that will be beneficial to the families in the community.

A reinforced committee for grievances and other concerns will help in easing family disputes in the barangay. A group of counselors from academic institutions such as the University of the Assumption (UA) can provide sessions on marital problems and family mediation. They can also offer a family program that includes individual sessions, communication coaching, informal facilitated conversations and individual coaching. The barangay can also provide social services designed to prevent or treat family violence. Services may include counseling and advocacy for abused victims, family and caregiver support programs, alternative living arrangements, protective guardianship for elders and battered women, and education for those at risk of abusing or being abused.

Information dissemination regarding the ill effects of heavy drinking need to be properly relayed to the residents. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) may be provided to the identified alcoholics in the community. CBT is a proven method in alleviating the burdens and hardship of alcoholism. Its main purpose is to identify negative thoughts and behaviors and replacing them with positive thoughts and behaviors.

A barangay tanod roving patrol will promote safety and security in the community. This can be useful in the implementation of peace and order in the area. Through this effort, there will be a decrease in the number of robberies committed by thieves and burglars. Curfews in the late night and early mornings may also be implemented to prevent further crimes on streets.

It is recommended that the government would continue with its well-received flagship programs such as the Fernandino Dialysis Center which has been very beneficial to the less fortunate Fernandinos who suffer from chronic renal failure. Since hemodialysis is a form of palliative care for the patients, providing free sessions would ease the financial burdens of the clients on the duration of their lives.

Government-run programs are to be supported such as the Reinforced Waterways Clean-up and Environmental Management. Environmental clean-up and pollution control will be the top priorities that need to be addressed. There will be emphasis on the framework and processes that will cause impact on the environment and the consequences on the soil, air, water and atmosphere. Hence, the advocacy of Laudato Si will serve as the baseline for the ecological work.

The City College amended admission regulations need to be reinforced. Since college is provided for free in San Fernando, this privilege needs to be availed by the less fortunate Fernandinos, specifically the residents of Barangay Dolores.

There should still be a Task Force against dangling/inactive wires. They will remove telco and cable wires, including electrical lines that are inactive, look unsightly and pose great danger. Their other tasks include repairing unused, sagging wires, cables and transmission lines.

There is a need to evaluate the doling-out of Kayabe KArd and Free Laptops for Public School Teachers in the City of San Fernando. This is because most of the respondents are not aware

of these two mentioned programs. Certainly, information dissemination should be the key activity to further promote these projects. If upon evaluation that these two programs be continued, their benefits need to be reiterated. The Kayabe KArD portal is a program which digitized the system of providing medical and financial assistance to the people of San Fernando. The cards are distributed to residents are categorized into three colors: white for the upper class, blue for the middle class, and red for the poorest of the poor.

The Kayabe Kard Portal is a groundbreaking program of Mayor Vilma Caluag which digitized the system of distributing medical and financial assistance to Fernandinos. The cards distributed to residents are categorized into three colors -- white for upper class; Blue for the middle class; and Red for the poorest of the poor.

A well-organized information dissemination drive is suggested to take place regarding the duties and responsibilities of Fernandinos. This will foster important values such as obedience, perseverance and camaraderie among the residents of Barangay Dolores.

References

- Alam, M. (2010). Socioeconomic profile of farmer in Malaysia: Study on integrated agricultural development area in North-West Selangor. *Agricultural Economics and Rural Development* 7 (2), 249-265.
- American Psychological Association (APA). (2024). *Socioeconomic status*, Dictionary of Psychology.
- Baker, E.H. (2014). *Socioeconomic Status, Definition*, Wiley Online Library. <https://doi.org/10.1002/97811184110868>.
- Bury, M. (2013). *Health and Illness in a Changing Society*.

- Castellacci, F. & Vinas-Bardolet, C. (2020). Permanent contracts and job satisfaction in academia: Evidence from European countries, *Studies in Higher Education* 46 (9).
- Cornell Law School (2024). *Income*, Legal Information Institute.
- De Vera, A. (2024). *Duties and responsibilities of a Filipino citizen vision and mission of a good citizenship movement*, Academia.
- Duk, P., Phay, T. & Soeung, L. (2013). *Socio-Economic Profile of 6 Villages in Mondulkiri Province*. A Focus on the incomes and Livelihoods of Engaged Communities in the Cambodia Supporting Forests and biodiversity (SFB) Project.
- Eurostat (2023). *Glossary: Economic activity*. Statistics Explained.
- Evangelidis, N., Tong, A., Manns, B., Hemmelgarn, B., Wheeler, D., American Journal of Kidney Diseases.
- Friedline, T., Chen, Z. & Morrow, S.P. (2021). Families; Financial Stress & Well-being: The Importance of the Economy and Economic Environments, *Journal on Family Economic Issues* 42:34-51.
- Hamdouch, A., Demaziere, C. & Banovac, K. (2017). The socio-economic profiles of small and medium-sized towns: Insights from European Case Studies. *Journal of Economic and Human Geography*.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/tesg.12254>.
- Harper, D. (2015). A dictionary of economics, *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* 31 (1), 1-78.
- International City/County Management Association (ICMA) (2023). *What is community development?*” <https://icma.org/about-icma>.

- Kesmodel, U. (2018). Cross-sectional studies-what are they good for? *Methodology in Clinical Epidemiological Research in Obstetrics in Gynecology* 97, 4 (369-399).
- Lieberman, H., Agarwal, S., Caldwell, J. & Fulgoni, V. (2020). Demographics, sleep and daily patterns of caffeine intake of shift workers in a nationally representative sample of the US adult population.
- Loveless, B. (2023). *The Complete Guide to Educational Literacy*, Education Corner.
- Merriam-Webster (2024). *Income*, Online Dictionary.
- National Geographic (2024). *Demography*, Encyclopedic entry.
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (2021). *The Cycle of Alcohol Addiction*, Alcohol's Effects on Health.
- Navarro-Carillo, G., Alonso-Ferres, M., Moya, M. & Valor-Segura, I. (2020). Socioeconomic status and psychological well-being: Revisiting the role of subjective socioeconomic status. *Frontiers in Psychology* 11.
- Nicor-Mangalimutan, R.G., Mejica, M.N. & Caelian, M.V. (2020). Implementation of the community peace and order and public safety program in Negros Occidental, *Philippines, Social Science Journal* 3, 3.
- Oxford (2024). *Socioeconomic status*, Dictionary of Public Health.
- Oxford (2024). *Order*, Dictionary of Languages.
- Pfattheicher, S., Nielsen, Y.A. & Thielmann, I. (2022). Prosocial behavior and altruism: A review of concepts and definitions, *Current Opinion in Psychology* 44, 24-129.
- PhilAtlas (2024). <https://www.philatlas.com>.

- Philippine Business for Education (2024). *State of Philippine of Education Report 2023*.
- Pilgrim, J. & Martinez, E. (2013). Defining literacy in the 21st century: A guide to terminology and skills, *Journal of Education Literacy*.
- Redding, S. & Turner, M. (2015). Transportation costs and the spatial organization of economic activity, *Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics* 5, 1339-1398.
- Sandy, L.R. & Perkins, R. (2008). *The nature of peace and its implications for peace education*. Topics in International Law. University of Oslo, Faculty of Law English for Lawyers.
- Sellers, J. & Weinstein-Tull, J. (2021). *Constructing the right to vote*. New York Law Review Rev. 1127.
- Sekhampu, T.J. & Niyimbanira, F. (2013). Analysis of the factors influencing household expenditure in a South African township, *International Business and Economic Research Journal* 12 (3).
- Scott, M. P. (2023). *Income Definition: Types, Examples and Taxes*, Investopedia.
- Smith, R. (2023). *The Importance of Literacy in Education and Life*.
- Tarsi, K. & Tuff, T. (2012). Introduction to population demographics, *Nature Education*.
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division. (2019). *World Population Prospects*.
- World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews (2022). "Peace and order: the inseparable partners to development.
- Xie, Y. (2000). Demography: Past, present and future, *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 95 (450), 670-673.