

Implementation and Challenges of Resettlement Program of a Component City in Northern Negros Occidental

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Introduction: Worldwide, people are displaced for various reasons contributing to their struggle to get out of poverty; in the ASEAN, government committed to implementation of sustainable housing but challenges remain while the Philippines enacted laws to support the sustainability of housing programs but still there is high rate of displacement particularly in cities due to migration. Although local government units in the province are implementing housing programs, yet challenges in implementation turns out a priority. This study investigates the implementation of a housing resettlement program among implementers and beneficiaries. It aims to provide baseline data and address the critical research gap in the local resettlement programs in local government units.

Methodology: This is a descriptive-comparative study using a survey questionnaire to gather primary data to measure the extent of implementation of the housing programs of the city in terms of sustainability indicators and the challenges encountered by the beneficiaries over 350 respondents using a stratified random technique. A comparative research design examines the differences and similarities within and across cases with different contexts using the designation of the respondents and the number of households.

Results: The overall extent of implementation was rated very great in practically all variables with implementers rating very great while beneficiaries as great; there were no significant differences in terms of number of households nor the type of ownership although challenges were encountered in the implementation. Findings suggests the need for enhancement of implementation which are contained in the action plan.

Conclusion: This study found that implementation of resettlement programs can lead to achievement of sustainability and thereby validates the Sustainable Development Theory, which advocates a holistic approach to development, that is, balancing social, economic, and environmental needs to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own by ensuring a healthy environment, promoting social equity, and fostering sustainable economic growth.

Practical Value: Enhanced implementation through interventions that leverage more structured processes and encourage local government units to be proactive will redound to the benefit of beneficiaries and contributes to their welfare and well-being thereby attaining the objective of sustainability of resettlement programs.

Direction for Future Research: The authors wish to encourage other researchers to conduct studies on the following future subjects such as trends of research: integration of quality and management system in implementation; long-term impacts of housing interventions, housing satisfaction, sustainable post-disaster resettlement housing, and compliance to standards set by the National Building Code. Furthermore, this is to encourage future researchers to conduct qualitative studies to capture actual discussions from the beneficiaries on what they have undergone in avail of housing programs, and by addressing to a greater extent the findings on the challenges from the beneficiaries by exploring a different method of research.

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