

Roles of NGOs and Local Government Units: The Case of Pasil, Cebu City

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Abstract

This research delved into the critical roles played by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in supporting anti-poverty programs of Local Government Units (LGUs) in Barangay Pasil, Cebu City. It involved three NGOs that were selected based on their experience, collaboration agreements, and poverty-fighting program designs. Employing a qualitative approach, the experiences and perspectives of the participating NGOs were examined through semi-structured interviews. Thematic analysis was then utilized to extract key themes from the rich qualitative data. The NGOs' profiles, programs, and strategies were explored, revealing their crucial roles in tackling the complex issues of poverty. The findings revealed that these NGOs provide significant contributions to community development, and were strongly dedicated to enhancing marginalized communities' well-being through varied missions, funding sources, and innovative programs. Furthermore, collaboration between the NGOs and LGUs supported governmental efforts, shaped local policies, and improved service provision, underscoring the value of strategic partnerships for sustainable development. The strategic sharing of resources underscored the importance of a unified approach in effectively addressing multifaceted community needs. Persistent collaboration and joint endeavors between NGOs and LGUs can help establish resilient, empowered communities, promoting inclusive development and a promising future for Pasil, Cebu City residents.

Keywords: *Non-governmental organizations, poverty alleviation programs, Philippines*

Introduction

In the Philippines, poverty remains a significant challenge, with 13 million families identified as poor and an additional 1.9 million classified as 'new poor' as of July 2023 (Philippine OCTA Research, 2023). The Philippine population in 2023 was estimated at 117,337,368 people, based on elaboration of United Nations data. Intergenerational poverty persists, affecting between 300 and 420 million people worldwide (Chronic Poverty Report, 2004), trapping families in a cycle of deprivation with limited access to basic needs such as food, shelter, and medicine (Chen, 2009).

Despite recent economic progress in the Philippines, poverty remains a persistent issue. The 2021 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) reported a poverty prevalence rate of 18.1%, indicating that 19.99 million Filipinos live below the poverty line (Philippine Institute for Development Studies, 2022). This figure underscores the urgent need for enhanced financial management and assistance. Compared to the 2018 Philippine Statistics Authority data, the poverty incidence increased from 16.7% to 18.1% in 2021, reflecting a concerning rise in poverty levels (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2022). The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), implemented since 2008, aims to address poverty, but many families continue to struggle (Ranario, 2012). Therefore, both individual efforts and systemic changes are crucial to break the poverty cycle.

Barangay Pasil, an impoverished area in Cebu City, exemplifies these challenges. Known for its fish market and high crime rates (Cabatingan, 2010), Pasil experiences intergenerational poverty due to factors such as limited education, unemployment, and inadequate social services (Fernandez & Abocejo, 2014). Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a vital role in poverty alleviation in Pasil by offering education, employment, and microfinance to help break the cycle of poverty.

This study, conducted by senior political science students from Cebu Normal University, aimed to describe the roles of NGOs in Pasil, Cebu City, in reducing poverty. By examining NGO initiatives in partnership with the local government, the study sought to highlight their effectiveness at the

grassroots level and suggest avenues for enhancing their impact. Through a comprehensive analysis of NGO programs and their collaboration with LGUs, this study aimed to provide valuable insights into how these partnerships can be further strengthened to drive positive socio-economic transformation and foster inclusive development in Pasil, Cebu City.

Objective of the Study

This study aims to describe the roles of NGOs in LGU anti-poverty programs in Pasil, Cebu City. Specifically, the study sought to answer the following queries:

1. What is the profile of the selected NGOs in Pasil, Cebu City in terms of mission, sources of funding, and primary beneficiaries of the NGO's programs and projects (PAPs)
2. What are the NGOs anti-poverty programs/interventions?
3. How are the NGOs anti-poverty programs/interventions implemented?

Literature Review

Enabling Role of NGOs. Maslang (2022) highlighted the diverse roles of NGOs, including service delivery, consultative functions, and capacity building. NGOs have driven social change by providing education and training, filling gaps left by governments, and serving marginalized populations. Stromquist (2002) identified three key tasks of NGOs: delivering direct services, offering educational programs, and advocating for public policies. These efforts have significantly contributed to poverty reduction and community empowerment.

Anti-Poverty Programs and Interventions. Anti-poverty programs and interventions designed to combat poverty seek to eliminate it by addressing its underlying causes and enhancing the welfare of the community. NGOs, banking institutions, government entities, and semi-government groups have established Business Development Programs (BDPs) to assist micro-entrepreneurs in reducing poverty and promoting development (World Bank, 2004; Verrest, 2013). Baruah (2007) discussed the challenges and opportunities NGOs face in implementing anti-poverty programs, emphasizing the importance of partnerships with public and private sectors to enhance effectiveness.

NGO-LGU Partnerships. Under decentralization, local governments have organized, developed policies, and provided services in partnership with civil society and non-governmental organizations. According to Nikkhah and Redzuan (2010), NGOs have helped develop good governance by improving management, social capital, and human resources. The 1987 Philippine Constitution and the 1991 Local Government Code emphasize the government's obligation to include NGOs in development. Mitchell et al. (2015) argued that NGOs and governments may benefit from collaboration—NGOs can expand their operations, influence, and contribute to national development by working with governmental agencies. Conversely, governments may cooperate with NGOs to obtain moral legitimacy, recover control over donor finances, eliminate opposition, and implement policies more efficiently and cost-effectively. NGOs have often been seen as portals to local governments because their involvement in local governance has improved communities and assisted poor residents. NGOs are community-based and understand people's need, which helps to improve public policies.

Role of NGOs on Policy Development. Desai (2014) asserted that NGOs have emerged as significant actors in the realms of developmental politics and economics since the 1950s. Banks and Hulme (2012) also found that NGOs have gained importance because their inventive, community-focused entities are committed to inclusive and citizen-oriented development approaches. Despite their innovative approaches, NGOs face structural challenges in implementing community empowerment projects, including political, legal, internal, economic, and budgetary limits (Ariti et al., 2018). Barnes and Laerhoven (2015) highlighted that NGOs' collaborative initiatives are essential because they frequently help facilitate community discourse on these issues.

Role of NGOs in Poverty Reduction. NGOs play a crucial role in poverty reduction by providing education, vocational training, and employment support (Dahie, 2019; Liu et al., 2021). While education and skill development programs are vital for economic progress, financial challenges can

hinder access. Overall, NGOs' commitment to education, advocacy, and cooperation makes them essential partners in the fight against poverty and for sustainable development.

Methods and Materials

Design. The study utilized qualitative research methodologies, incorporating thematic analysis. An advantageous characteristic of qualitative research is its capacity to explain complex human behavior processes and patterns (Foley & Timonen, 2015). The goal was to accurately depict each organization's approach and prevalent themes observed by the participants. Employing thematic analysis facilitated a comprehensive understanding of non-government organizations' roles.

Locale. The research was conducted in Barangay Pasil, which is located along the coast of Cebu City, Philippines. According to a recent report (PhilAtlas, 2020), the prevalence of poverty in Pasil was 18.7%, or 187 individuals per 1,000 inhabitants. Pasil was among the most populous and impoverished barangay districts in Cebu City given that their income levels were below the poverty threshold. The selection of this specific location was based on the fact that it exhibited economic and social challenges, insufficient facilities, and restricted educational chances.

Participants. The primary respondents of this research were two representatives from each of three different NGOs, selected based on their years of experience working within the respective organizations. Participants were chosen according to pre-established criteria. First, the NGOs must have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in place with the barangay, outlining the scope of collaboration, responsibilities of each party, duration of the agreement, financial arrangements, reporting mechanisms, and dispute resolution procedures. Second, the programs and interventions of the NGOs must be designed to combat poverty directly or indirectly.

Instrument. The instrument used in the data collection consisted of a semi-structured interview guide. Wengraf (2018) described semi-structured interviews as having prepared open-ended questions, with subsequent ones being improvised cautiously. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with NGO representatives to collect ideas on the roles, programs, projects, and activities that were implemented through the NGO-LGU partnership. The interview data was recorded in audio format using smartphones after obtaining consent from the participants.

Data Gathering. The data-gathering procedure of this study was rigorous and ethical. The Local Government Unit of Pasil and non-governmental organizations, the researchers have prioritized the following procedures and guidelines. Priority number one was obtaining the informed consent of respondents, which included informing them of the nature of the study and their legal rights. The researchers prepared permission letters, strictly adhered to local regulations, and reviewed the interview transcripts with great attention to detail to ensure the protection of participants' identities.

Data Analysis. The interviews were first transcribed, and then thematic analysis was used to analyze the qualitative data acquired in the study. Following Braun and Clarke's (2006) Six Phase Framework for Thematic Analysis, the research went through a six-step iterative process: First, become familiar with the data; second, generate codes; third, through the codes, generate themes; fourth, review the themes; fifth, define and name the themes; and lastly, locate exemplars. This approach ensures a thorough and organized analysis process, which makes it possible to find and understand important trends in the qualitative data and, ultimately, contribute to a sophisticated and discerning investigation of the roles of NGOs.

Ethical Consideration. In conducting this study, ethical considerations were prioritized at every stage. The researchers recognized the potential risks to participants, particularly concerning privacy and psychological well-being, and implemented stringent measures to ensure that no foreseeable or potential risks of harm or discomfort for individuals and/or groups who participated in this study would arise. A comprehensive consent process prior to the study emphasized voluntariness and guaranteed participants' rights and confidentiality. The data management plan adhered to stringent standards, safeguarding data through secure storage, anonymization, and adherence to data protection regulations, ensuring the utmost confidentiality for all participants.

Results

This section presents an overview of the key findings and interpretations regarding the varied roles and approaches of NGOs in Pasil, Cebu City, based on the perspectives of the interviewees. Information was gathered from interviews, with two representatives from each of the three NGOs.

NGOs Mission

Each mission of the three selected NGOs in Pasil is depicted in Table 1. The table distinguishes between two functions of NGOs based on their missions: "service providers" and "advocates" for the impoverished. The majority of the NGOs in Pasil primarily function as service providers.

Table 1 *Each Mission of the Three Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) in Pasil*

	Mission	Significant Statements	Role
NGO 1	Strive to teach preschoolers in economically disadvantaged parts of Cebu City the fundamentals of math and logic with the help and support of their parents.	"Our goal is to empower parents to become their child's first teacher. We help parents become more involved in their children's early education by teaching them early learning techniques and activities and providing them with free early learning resources. Our target age group for this program is children between the ages of three and five. The focus of our organization is really to educate not only the students but also their parents on how to tutor their children." (NGO Representatives)	Service Provider
NGO 2	Committed to working for continuing holistic education, strengthening families, protecting and caring for women and children, empowering communities towards sustainable development, disaster preparedness, and emergency response and rehabilitation.	"Our mission is based on the name of our organization, and we aim for a fullness of life in a transformative society." (NGO Representative 1) We aim to give education services like our alternative learning school to strengthen disadvantaged families; we aim to provide sustainable services, community empowerment, and development activities." (NGO Representative 2)	Service Provider
NGO 3	Aims to support the most vulnerable children and families within impoverished communities. Ensure equal access, opportunities, and a sense of optimism for the most marginalized children, families, and communities.	"Our first mission is to organize and empower the urban poor sector here in our City. Then along the way we specified our mission, which is to empower families and their children. We aim to give hope to families, especially children who belong to poverty". "We aim to uplift and empower our fellow Filipino people, especially the disadvantaged families, including their children." (NGO Representatives)	Service Provider

NGOs as "service providers" and "advocates," as per Banks and Hulme (2012), use one of two approaches to development—Big-D and little-d development. In the Big-D approach, development is seen as a project-based and intentional activity, with tangible project outputs, while little-d development views development as an ongoing process. In Pasil, the majority of NGOs are predominantly engaged in service delivery. With the explicit purpose of tackling social issues such as poverty and inequality, these organizations implement technical and management solutions via

service provision and welfare assistance. This means that NGOs in Pasil that focus on providing services are aligned more closely with the 'Big-D' approach to development. These organizations are often more structured and project-based, with a clear focus on achieving specific goals.

On the other hand, NGOs that advocate for the poor and focus on systemic change and ongoing processes are aligned more closely with the 'little-d' approach. These organizations may not always have tangible project outputs, but they seek to challenge and change societal institutions and arrangements. They may work towards radical, systemic alternatives that aim to reorganize the economy, social relationships, and politics in ways that promote equity and sustainability. Their approach is more holistic and focused on long-term, systemic change.

Interest in the role of NGOs in providing services has increased, not just because governments cut back on services, but also because NGOs have been seen as better at delivering services. They are perceived as being more adaptable and innovative, capable of initiating new programs without delays (Lewis & Kanji, 2009). However, in the case of Pasil, service delivery alone may not be sufficient to resolve the frequent systemic and structural causes of poverty and inequality. Failure to tackle these underlying factors may result in the continued demand for services, thereby impeding the achievement of long-term sustainability goals. Although service delivery is of utmost importance, it should be accompanied by advocacy efforts that tackle the underlying factors contributing to poverty and inequality, foster transformative shifts within systems, empower communities, and guarantee enduring and sustainable changes.

NGOs Sources of Funding

NGOs that are active in particular barangays of Cebu City, as well as their sources of funding utilized by these NGOs, with an emphasis on both conventional and non-conventional approaches, are shown in Table 2. The difference between conventional and non-conventional sources lies in their origin and nature, with conventional sources being more traditional, such as government grants and individual donations, while non-conventional sources are typically from international organizations and foundations (Anheier & Themudo, 2005).

Table 2 *Funding Sources of Non-Government Organizations*

	Funded Barangays	Source of Funding	Type of Sources
NGO 1	Barangay Pasil, Suba, Ermita	The Green Leaf Foundation (Switzerland), ICM Foundation (India and Hong Kong), Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. (RAFI)	Conventional and Non-Conventional
NGO 2	Carreta, Tinago, San Roque, Mabolo, Pasil	Individual sponsors (Germany, Netherlands, Australia), Aboitiz Group (for some housing projects)	Non-Conventional
NGO 3	Looc, Mandaue City, Pasil Cebu City	International donors (Belgium, Germany, Netherlands)	Non-Conventional

NGO 1 received funding from international NGOs such as The Green Leaf Foundation and the ICM Foundation, in addition to local support from the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc., which represented a combination of conventional and non-conventional sources. The target group involved the marginalized urban poor in Barangay Pasil, Suba, and Ermita. NGO 2 development efforts targeted impoverished families in Carreta, Tinago, San Roque, Mabolo, and Pasil, Cebu City. The organization emphasized non-conventional funding sources by securing support from the Aboitiz Group for housing initiatives and attracting individual benefactors from Australia, Germany, and the Netherlands. NGO 3 had operations in the Central Visayas, particularly in Cebu, Negros Oriental, Bohol, and Siquijor. However, NGO 3 focused on providing assistance in Looc, Mandaue City, and Cebu City, including

Barangay Pasil. It relied on funding from various international donors from Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands, showcasing a reliance on non-conventional sources. NGO 3 explored innovative or alternative approaches to fundraising to reach potential donors and diversify their income streams.

The funding sources of NGOs in Barangay Pasil, including conventional and non-conventional donors, have significant implications for LGUs. Conventional funding from local organizations like the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. provides stability and continuity for projects targeting marginalized urban poor. On the other hand, non-conventional funding from international donors and individual sponsors brings diversity and additional resources that can support innovative programs and address specific community needs. This mix of funding sources enables LGUs to leverage external support while maintaining local partnerships, ultimately enhancing their capacity to address social issues and implement sustainable development initiatives in Barangay Pasil (Anheier & Themudo, 2005).

NGOs Primary Beneficiaries

NGOs play crucial roles in society by providing specialized services, advocating for policy change, mobilizing resources, and empowering communities. They contribute to addressing social inequalities and improving the well-being of marginalized groups (Anheier & Themudo, 2005). Table 3 provides an overview of three NGOs that serve in Barangay Pasil and their target groups, highlighting their roles in serving disadvantaged or marginalized populations. NGO 1 focuses on street children from families classified as urban poor who were unable to afford tutoring for their children, targeting children aged 3-5. NGO 2 serves street families, children, and youths between the ages of 7 and 28 who have never attended school. NGO 3 assisted families and children who were disadvantaged and marginalized, out-of-school adolescents, and young people aged 18 to 24 who have suffered abuse and exploitation. The number of beneficiaries for each NGO was not specified, but they have a considerable number of participants from various barangays.

Table 3 *Primary Beneficiaries of Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) in Pasil*

	Target Groups	Age Range
NGO 1	Street children/children from families classified as urban poor, unable to afford tutoring.	3–5
NGO 2	Street families, children, and youth who have never been to school	7–28
NGO 3	Disadvantaged/Marginalized Children and families, out-of-school youths, and abused and exploited children.	18–24

The outlined roles of NGOs can have significant implications for LGUs and Barangay Pasil. NGOs can complement the services provided by LGUs and barangays by addressing specific needs of marginalized groups that may not be fully met by government programs. This can lead to improved outcomes in education, livelihoods, and overall well-being for residents in Pasil (Anheier & Themudo, 2005). NGOs advocating for policy changes that benefit their target populations can influence local policies and programs, leading to more responsive and effective governance. By mobilizing resources and building partnerships, NGOs can enhance LGUs capacity to deliver services, benefiting a larger segment of the population in Pasil. Moreover, NGOs that facilitate community engagement in decision-making can fortify local governance frameworks by guaranteeing that marginalized groups' concerns are acknowledged, and their perspectives are expressed in local development plans.

Anti-Poverty Programs/Interventions

The majority of NGOs in Pasil, Cebu City primarily focused on implementing educational programs, as shown in Table 4. The emphasis on education was consistent with the larger involvement of NGOs in Pasil as service providers, as noted in Table 1.

Table 4 *Programs Implemented by Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) in Pasil*

	Program	Description	Type of Program Services
NGO 1	Free Parent-Child Coaching	Offers every family access to 30 hours of free math coaching every 3 months, along with free early learning resources and instruction in a variety of learning strategies. Aims to decrease learning disparities and socioeconomic inequities, has helped 8,000 families by teaching preschoolers' fundamental math and logic.	Educational Services
NGO 2	Mobile School and Library	Serves as an alternative learning school, targeting indigent individuals, particularly street children, and underprivileged youth in Cebu City. By focusing on those aged 7–28 who are school leavers or have never attended school, the program delivers essential education resources directly to marginalized communities in barangays. Their main goal is to bring them back to school and at the same time encourage them that going to school will help them learn a lot of things that are beneficial for their lives. This program also offers sponsorship from elementary to college.	Educational Services
NGO 3	Enhancing Self-Wage Economic Opportunities (ESWEO)	Provides 1-year vocational training, job-hunting support, and assistance with starting businesses to their beneficiaries. This program equips individuals with skills for both employment and entrepreneurship, promoting lasting financial security.	Livelihood and Employment Services

These NGOs viewed organizational change in the education sector as a 'bottom-up' process, beginning with the school as the fundamental unit of change, and possibly affecting higher levels of education (Ulleberg, 2009). This approach was backed by evidence from a case study of NGOs in India, which found that NGOs brought value to the educational system through local-level innovation (Sequeira, 2007). For example, the Indian NGO Centre for Education Management and Development concentrated on enhancing teaching techniques and teacher training, with significant managerial backing for these advances. Similarly, the Canadian NGO Canadian Organization for Development through Education sought to improve reading and writing abilities in elementary schools by increasing institutional capacity (Sequeira, 2007).

In Pasil, NGO 1 has benefited 8,000 families through its programs, while NGO 3 has supported 500 households in Cebu City. However, there was no specified number of beneficiaries for NGO 2's Mobile School and Library Program. The focus on educational programs in Pasil could have significant implications for the community, including improving literacy rates, enhancing teaching methodologies, and promoting a literate environment to end the cycle of poverty. This emphasis on education underscores the critical role of NGOs in addressing social issues through grassroots initiatives, local innovation, and community engagement.

Implementations of Anti-Poverty Programs/Interventions

NGO 1, NGO 2, and NGO 3 are strongly committed to alleviating poverty through strategic partnerships and innovative programs. The NGOs used a systematic approach that combined house-

to-house coaching sessions, mobile schools, and vocational training to tackle the diverse challenges in their target communities as shown in Table 5.

Table 5 *Implementation of NGO Programs*

	Partnerships and Regulatory Bodies	Program Implementation	Program Outcome
NGO 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NGO collaborates with various partners, including international and local NGOs like GLEAF, ICM Foundation, RAFI, and UBS Optimus. Registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and Department of Social Welfare & Development (DSWD). 	NGO 1 implements its programs through a combination of house-to-house and center-based coaching sessions, aiming to overcome challenges such as parental motivation and security concerns in target areas. Strategies include partnering with daycare centers for referrals and community immersion to understand local dynamics and needs. Through these approaches, AELF ensures effective delivery of its early childhood education initiatives to marginalized urban communities.	Since 2012, NGO 1 has significantly impacted Cebu City, benefiting 8,000 families. Its free, research-backed parent-child coaching programs empower parents as their children's first teachers, enhancing early math/logic skills in preschoolers. Successfully expanded across multiple barangays, the program aims to continue growing. Collaboration with local government and international partners ensures sustainability, reducing learning gaps and social inequalities in underprivileged communities.
NGO 2	NGO 2 is registered with regulatory bodies such as the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), and Department of Social Welfare & Development (DSWD). Its partners include the Department of Education, international organizations like KKS, Aboitiz, Netherlands, Australians, and various LGUs.	NGO 2 implements antipoverty programs primarily through education initiatives like the Mobile School & Library, offering access to education for qualified children from low-income families. Challenges include addressing client mindsets towards instant money and ensuring consistent school attendance among children. Strategies to overcome these challenges include providing incentives, engaging in enjoyable activities, and fostering approachable relationships with communities	NGO 2's program has significantly impacted low-income families, particularly through its mobile school initiative, which has improved educational access and academic success for many children. Engaging activities and strong partnerships sustain participation and motivation. Additionally, NGO 2's housing projects have provided shelter to numerous families, with specific projects in areas like San Pio Village and Miramar. Overall, their efforts have contributed to community development and poverty reduction.
NGO 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGO 3 collaborates with various partners such as commercial sectors, educational institutions like UCLM, private companies like Ayala, and potentially 	Among the anti-poverty initiatives carried out by NGO 3 is Enhancing Self-Wage Employment Opportunities (ESWEO), which offers opportunities for employment, career development, and job readiness. They face challenges	NGO 3's program equipped disadvantaged youth and families from 500 households with employable skills through vocational training and job readiness support. Collaborating with private sector partners, they created job opportunities

DOLE for labor-related support. •The organization is registered with regulatory bodies like DSWD, TESDA, and the Security and Exchange Commission.	in finding suitable training venues and partners willing to accept individuals with past issues. However, they navigate these challenges by finding supportive partners like Ayala and UCLM. Additionally, they aim for sustainability through social enterprises like Saraban and digital printing, involving beneficiaries in income-generating activities. Their approach emphasizes empowerment, teaching individuals to become financially independent rather than relying solely on government aid.	and reduced dependency on government aid, fostering self-reliance and financial stability. Despite challenges like delayed training and workplace discrimination, they sustained efforts through international funding and social enterprises, contributing significantly to poverty reduction.
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By leveraging partnerships with private companies, educational institutions, local and international organizations, as well as other non-government organizations, these three NGOs were able to customize their interventions to meet the specific needs of the communities they served. This process emphasized not only the delivery of services, but also the cultivation of sustainable solutions that empower individuals to achieve long-term self-sufficiency. Furthermore, these NGOs actively engaged in advocacy initiatives at both the local and national scale to enhance public understanding of poverty-related matters and to exert influence on policy-making processes that could bring about beneficial changes for marginalized communities (Asian Development Bank, 2022). By working together with governments and other stakeholders, they made sure that their initiatives aligned with existing programs and made a significant contribution to wider strategies for reducing poverty.

A potential research implication could involve investigating the scalability and replicability of the innovative program implementation methodologies employed by the three NGOs. This could include assessing the feasibility of adapting these strategies to different contexts and evaluating the potential for broader dissemination across regions with similar socio-economic challenges. Scholars may provide significant insights for governmental bodies, NGOs, and foundations seeking to maximize the impact of their interventions through an examination of the factors that facilitate or hinder the expansion of effective poverty reduction models.

Discussion

This study aimed to describe the roles of NGOs in supporting Local Government Unit anti-poverty programs in Pasil, Cebu City, by addressing key aspects of their operations and impacts. The profiles of the NGOs, as revealed through their missions, sources of funding, and primary beneficiaries, illustrated a diverse yet focused approach to tackling poverty. The majority of NGOs in Pasil primarily function as service providers, aligning with a Big-D development approach. This involves structured, project-based activities aimed at delivering specific services to address immediate community needs, such as education and vocational training. Their missions emphasize both technical and managerial solutions to social issues like poverty and inequality. Financially, these NGOs rely on a mix of conventional sources (local foundations like the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc.) and non-conventional sources (international donations from organizations and individuals), enabling them to sustain and expand their programs effectively. The primary beneficiaries are typically marginalized groups, including street children, out-of-school youth, and disadvantaged families, highlighting the NGOs' commitment to improving the well-being of the most vulnerable populations in Pasil.

The anti-poverty programs and interventions implemented by these NGOs are varied but predominantly focus on education and capacity-building. These programs aim to address immediate needs while fostering long-term self-sufficiency among beneficiaries. For example, educational programs targeting street children and out-of-school youth provide not only basic literacy and numeracy skills, but also vocational training to enhance employability. Such initiatives are crucial in breaking the cycle of poverty and creating pathways for a better future. Moreover, these NGOs actively engage in advocacy work, aiming to influence local policies and address systemic issues that perpetuate poverty and inequality. This dual approach of direct service provision and systemic advocacy ensures a comprehensive strategy for tackling the multi-faceted nature of poverty.

The implementation of these anti-poverty programs and interventions is characterized by strategic partnerships and innovative methodologies. NGOs in Pasil leverage collaboration with private companies, educational institutions, and international organizations to enhance the reach and effectiveness of their programs. For instance, house-to-house coaching sessions, mobile schools, and vocational training are some of the tailored interventions designed to meet specific needs of the communities they serve. Additionally, a blend of local and international funding sources allows for financial stability and the capacity to innovate. These programs are systematically executed, often involving community engagement, to ensure that interventions are culturally relevant and effectively address local needs. By combining direct service delivery with advocacy and strategic partnerships, these NGOs contribute significantly to LGU efforts to combat poverty in Pasil, creating a more sustainable and empowered community.

Conclusion

Given the thorough analysis of NGOs' involvement in LGU anti-poverty initiatives in Pasil, Cebu City, this study reaffirms the vital contributions of non-governmental organizations towards addressing poverty and fostering community development. Through an in-depth analysis encompassing the profile, programs, and implementation strategies of NGOs, several key insights have emerged. Firstly, the varied profiles of NGOs in Pasil, including their missions, funding sources, and primary beneficiaries, underscored the diversity of approaches employed in combating poverty. Secondly, the array of anti-poverty programs and interventions offered by these NGOs exemplified their commitment to addressing multifaceted challenges faced by disadvantaged communities. Thirdly, the meticulous implementation of these programs, characterized by strategic partnerships and innovative methodologies, highlighted the effectiveness of NGOs in catalyzing positive change at the grassroots level.

Notably, the collaborative partnership between NGOs and LGUs was evident, with NGOs complementing government initiatives, influencing local policies, and enhancing service delivery. By leveraging both conventional and non-conventional funding sources, NGOs and LGUs can synergize their efforts, thereby amplifying the impact and fostering sustainable development.

The findings of this study offer valuable insights for shaping future research endeavors and policy interventions aimed at poverty alleviation. By adopting a multifaceted approach that combines service delivery with advocacy, stakeholders can strive towards addressing the systemic issues underlying poverty and inequality more effectively.

In conclusion, the unwavering dedication of NGOs in Pasil to synergize with government initiatives underscores their pivotal role in driving positive socio-economic transformation. Through concerted efforts and collaborative endeavors, NGOs and LGUs can continue to work towards realizing their shared vision of building resilient and empowered communities, ultimately fostering inclusive development, and improving the quality of life for all residents of Pasil, Cebu City.

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