

# Social Development And The Effectiveness Of The Local Government Administration In Sulu, Philippines

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## Abstract

The primary purpose of this study was to assess the level of social development and the effectiveness of Local Government Administration for the various local populations dispersed throughout the Sulu province during the fiscal year 2022. It used a descriptive-correlational study design. Using the purposive sampling approach, two hundred (200) respondents were chosen from among the several LGUs in the province of Sulu. When data are categorized according to respondents' demographic profiles in terms of gender, age, marital status, level of education, length of service, and position at the local government, there is no statistically significant difference in how respondents rate the level of social development programs and initiatives of the local government administration in the province of Sulu. When data are categorized according to respondents' demographic profiles in terms of gender, age, marital status, level of education, length of service, and position at the local government, there are no appreciable differences in how respondents rate the efficiency of government administration in the province of Sulu in the contexts of budget and planning, monitoring and management, and analyzing and feedback. The outcome demonstrated a strong association between social progress and the perceived efficiency of local government administration in the province of Sulu. Most likely, the same respondents who agreed that social development programs and projects were successfully implemented through infrastructure development, expenditure-related activities, and income-generating activities also thought that local government administration was highly effective in terms of budget and planning, monitoring and management, and analysis and feedback. To ensure the delivery of basic services, it is advised that local government administrators and officials continue implementing social development programs and projects; to ensure effective social service delivery, local

government administrators and officials should conduct proper pieces of training for employees responsible for budget and planning, monitoring and management, and analyzing and giving feedback; employees of local government units should understand the importance of social development programs and projects; and students conducting research in the subject of public administration are also urged to conduct a similar study in a different environment and incorporate additional profile variables such as employee morale, involvement at work, and work environment.

Keywords— Social Development, Effectiveness, Local Government, Administration, and Public Benefits.

**INTRODUCTION** The institutions of local government now play a significant role in advancing democratic values as well as quickening the pace of development. Because they are elective in nature, they have enabled local residents to effectively participate in and be involved in the development of their communities. According to Sikander, T. (2015), development, whether social, political, or economic, has meaning and substance only when it is initiated at the grassroots level.

The municipal government in the Philippines is divided into three tiers. The highest tier is composed of 79 provinces; the second tier is composed of around 200 cities; and the highest tier is composed of approximately 1500 municipalities. The third tier is comprised of more than 40,000 barangays (villages or wards); the highest tier is composed of 79 provinces; and the highest tier is composed of approximately 1500 municipalities. Local government units (LGUs), encompassing provinces, cities, and barangays, are characterized by the presence of an elected local chief executive and a council composed of elected members. Governors are the top officials in each province, followed by mayors in cities and municipalities and barangay leaders in small communities. It is the responsibility of the national elections commission to supervise the electoral process that determines the selection of municipal chief executives and council members who serve three-year terms.

Local governments are defined as inferior entities that must look to higher governmental levels for the delegation of authority because they lack any inherent powers. Additionally, these are "geographic subdivisions"—restricted geographic areas—that deal with issues that only affect the residents of a specific locality. According to Mark M. Alipio (2020), who referenced the United Nations (1966), any definition of local government must include the presence of a territorial boundary and a higher authority. Local governments have the legal right to exercise their functions even when they lack any inherent authority. The

Philippines' geographic quirks, experience with centralism, and the origins of its barangays may be responsible for the country's multiple levels of local governance.

The International Union of Local Authorities (2016), which Mark Alipio (2020) quoted, stated that geography, the number of basic units, the level of centralization, and population all affect the number of tiers of local administration. In the Philippines, the legislature has the authority to establish municipal corporations since it "is inherent in sovereignty." Therefore, Congress by law establishes LGUs; however, a vote among the inhabitants who would be impacted is a must before practical operation. Area and Power's editor, Maas (1959), asserts that local governance is shown as a method of distributing power by area or authority. He emphasized how the establishment of local governments is "beneficial for the promotion of rural development." Particularly in communities with a high degree of ethnic homogeneity, local administrations serve as a source of self-identity.

Through the use of the authorities, duties, and services transferred to them, local government administration has achieved tremendous strides in aiding the social and economic development of their communities. According to Nyakecho, A., all municipal administrations (2019) have a variety of activities and exchanges. Local government administration therefore faces the challenge of ensuring that all operations run according to plan while simultaneously fostering social development. This required a system for forecasting and planning the future, standardizing operations, and detecting failures. This fulfills the primary responsibility of local and national governments to their respective populations, which is social development.

Despite extensive success stories, the majority of local governments in the Philippines continue to struggle to provide programs and services that reduce poverty and conflict and promote peace, social well-being, and economic development. LGUs continue to face a number of obstacles in planning and carrying out their responsibilities, including insufficient capacity, insufficient finances, and unfavorable national policies. One of the greatest challenges confronted by local governments, especially smaller ones, is the efficient generation and administration of revenue. Concerning the quality and accessibility of local government services, there are still numerous unresolved issues, and many LGUs struggle to secure sufficient funding to meet the needs of their constituents.

Especially for less populous local government units (LGUs), federal transfers, typically in the form of internal revenue allotments (IRA), are the most significant source of local revenue. The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao has the highest poverty rate in the entire country, which contributes to the unpredictability

surrounding IRA transfers. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the proportion of impoverished Bangsamoro whose per capita income is insufficient to meet their fundamental food and non-food needs decreased to 39.4 percent in the first semester of 2021 from 55.9 percent in the first semester of 2020. This is a substantial decline from the previous percentage of 54.9 percent. In the Bangsamoro region, the minimal income necessary for an individual or family to meet basic food and non-food requirements has increased from Php13,599.00 (2018) to Php14,126.00 (2021). This represents an increase of 3.0% over the previous year.

As a consequence of this, the administrative arm of local governments is tasked with the challenge of ensuring that all activities proceed in accordance with the plan while also promoting the expansion of the social fabric. To put this another way, this necessitated the need for a system that was capable of predicting and preparing for the future, standardizing operations, and locating potential failure areas. This satisfies the fundamental obligation that both the national and local governments have to the people that they serve, which is to encourage the development of social life.

After giving local government administration in the province some serious thought, the researcher would naturally begin to wonder about the administrative efficiency and socioeconomic growth of the many local populations dispersed throughout the province of Sulu.

#### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The study made a modest attempt to fulfill this purpose in the social development and the Effectiveness of the Local Government Administration to the respective local populations scattered all over the province of Sulu.

In order to answer the primary question, the following sub-questions was developed, to wit:

1. What is the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of: Gender, Age, Civil Status, Educational Attainment, Length of Service, and Position at the Local Government?
2. What is the level of social development of the Local Government Administration in Sulu in terms of the following: Infrastructure Development, Expenditure Related Activities, and Income Generating Activities?
3. What is the perceived effectiveness of Local Government Administration in Sulu in terms of the following: Budget and Planning, Monitoring and Management, and Analyzing and Feedback?

4. Is there significant differences in the level of social development of the Local Government Administration in Sulu in terms of Infrastructure Development; Expenditure Related Activities and Income Generating Activities when data are grouped according to the respondents' demographic profile?
5. Is there significant differences in the perceived effectiveness of Local Government Administration in Sulu in terms of Budget and Planning, Monitoring and Management; and Analyzing and Feedback when data are grouped according to the respondents' demographic profile?
6. Is there significant relationship between Social Development and Perceived Effectiveness of Local Government Administration in Sulu?

#### **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

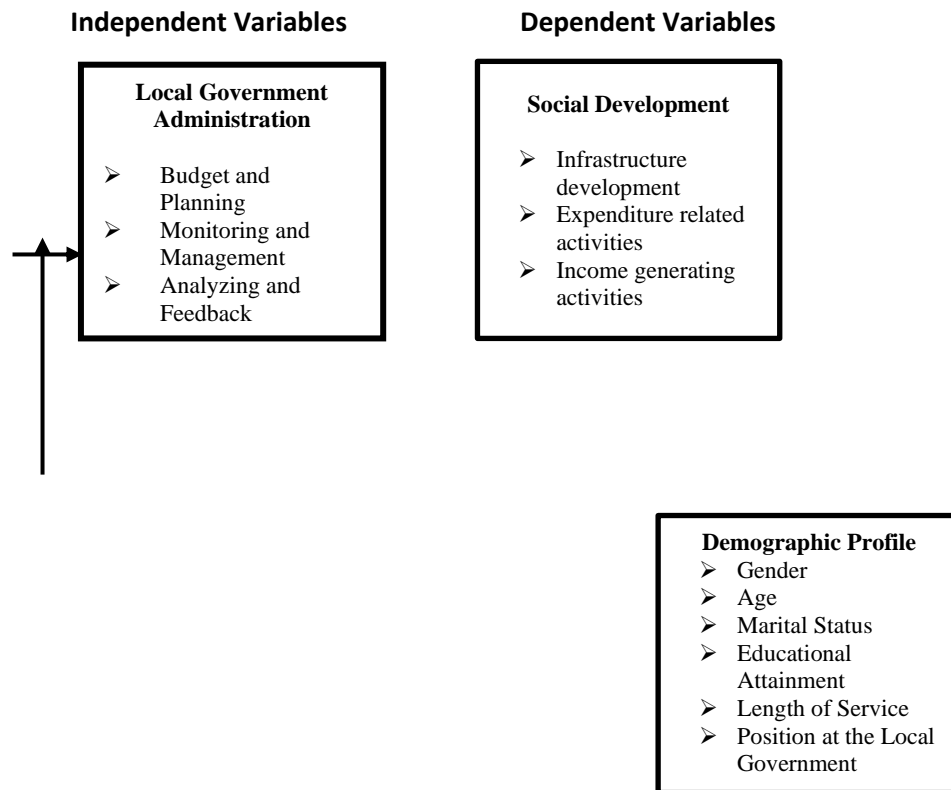
The objectives of the study were as follows:

1. To ascertain the respondents' demographics, including their gender, age, civil status, level of education, length of service, and position within the local government;
2. Assessing the level of social development of the Sulu Local Government Administration in terms of expenditure-related activities, infrastructure development, and income-generating activities;
3. To ascertain the perception of Sulu's local government administration's effectiveness in terms of budget and planning, management and monitoring, analysis, and feedback;
4. To identify any notable variations in the level of social development of the Local Government Administration in Sulu with regard to infrastructure development, expenditure-related activities, and income-generating activities when data are grouped in accordance with the demographic profile of the respondents;
5. To ascertain whether there are any notable variations in the respondents' perceptions of the effectiveness of local government administration in Sulu in terms of budget and planning, monitoring and management, analysis, and feedback;
6. To establish a meaningful connection between social progress and the perception of the Sulu local government's administrative effectiveness.

#### **CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

This study was conceptualized base from the following variables: the independent variables will be the Local Government Administration which are categorized into three such as a) budgeting and planning, b) monitoring and

management and c) Analysing and Feedback. Meanwhile the intervening variables will be the demographic profile of which are a) Gender; b) Age; c) Civil Status; d) Educational Attainment; e) Length of Service; and f) Position at the local government. And finally the dependent variables of the study will be the Social development such as a) Infrastructure Development; b) Expenditure related activities; and c) Income generating Activities.



### Intervening Variables

Figure 1. Conceptual Framework of the Study

### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study is beneficial specifically at a time when local government has come to assume an overwhelming influence on the process of economic development, it becomes more relevant to examine much more closely the characters and effectiveness of local government administration and to clarify the major contradiction that have tended to impede its capacity to promote social development at the local government level. Specifically, the current study is of benefits to the following:

**Policy Makers and Researchers** - this study will generally add to the growing numbers of literature on local government affairs, more particularly on the roles of local government administration in economic and social development of rural area in the province and pragmatic

solutions offered towards making them more efficient and responsive to the needs of its citizens

### **HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY**

The study is guided with the following hypotheses:

1. There is no significant differences in the level of social development of the Local Government Administration in Sulu in terms of Infrastructure Development; Expenditure Related Activities and Income Generating Activities when data are grouped according to the respondents' demographic profile.
2. There is no significant differences in the perceived effectiveness of Local Government Administration in Sulu in terms of Budget and Planning, Monitoring and Management; and Analyzing and Feedback when data are grouped according to the respondents' demographic profile.
3. There is no the significant relationship between Social Development and Perceived Effectiveness of Local Government Administration in Sulu.

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **Research Design**

This study adopted a descriptive where quantitative methods using cross-sectional survey will be use. Survey will be employed such that it enables collection of data from many respondents. Non survey design will assist in collection of data from documented materials for example, magazine, newspapers and textbook.

#### **Research Locale**

This study was conducted in the province of Sulu, it is situated in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao its capital is the Municipality of Jolo. Sulu has a land area of 4,547.16 square kilometers or 1,755.67 square miles. The province comprises of nineteen (19) municipalities that are organized into two legislative districts and further subdivided into 410 barangays. The nineteen municipalities are the following: Jolo, Indanan, Parang, Talipao, Patikul, Maimbung, Pangutaran, Panglima Tahil, Panamao, Panglima Estino, Luuk, Kalinggalan Caluang, Lugus, Siasi, Pandami, Tapul, Pata, Omar and Banguingi, these can be seen in the figure below:



Figure 2. Map of the Province of Sulu Where the Study is conducted

**Research Respondent**

The key personnel in the 19 municipalities’ municipal governments whose positions are mandatory under the Local Government Code were chosen as participants. These include the Secretary to the council, the municipal Administrator, planning officer, budget officer, Treasurer, Assessor, Health Officer, Engineer, Accountant and selected department heads or regular/contractual employees of each of the 19 municipalities. The researcher will get ten respondents from each of the municipalities and another ten respondents from the provincial government with total target respondents of two hundred.

**Table 1 distribution of respondents by municipalities**

No	Municipality	Size of Respondents		Total
		Key personnel/ selected department heads	Regular/ contractual employees	
1	Jolo	5	5	10
2	Indanan	5	5	10
3	Parang	5	5	10
4	Talipao	5	5	10
5	Patikul	5	5	10
6	Maimbung	5	5	10
7	Pangutaran	5	5	10
8	Panglima Tahil	5	5	10
9	Panamao	5	5	10
10	Panglima Estino	5	5	10
11	Luuk	5	5	10
12	Kalingalan Caluang	5	5	10



13	Lugus	5	5	10
14	Siasi	5	5	10
15	Pandami	5	5	10
16	Tapul	5	5	10
17	Pata	5	5	10
18	Omar	5	5	10
19	Banguingui	5	5	10
20	Provincial Govt.	5	5	10
	GRAND TOTAL			200

### Sampling Design

The study was carried out on employees and administrators in the nineteen municipalities of the local government in the province of Sulu. The researcher will use purposive sampling techniques on the employees and local government authorities.

### Research Instrument

The researcher utilized two methods such as questionnaires and observation methods in order to obtain the necessary data. The main instrument of data collection for the study will be the survey questionnaires which will design and deliver personally or the research assistant to the respondents in their predetermined localities as it is written in the research procedure. They will then be collected at an agreed data. The questionnaire categorized into three parts. Part I dealt with the demographic profile, Part II dealt with the Social Development and Part III dealt with effectiveness of the Local government Administration.

Then the observation method, here there will direct use of naked eyes for the purpose of gathering data on the events which the researcher is interested in, the beginning point will be matching and writing down of a phenomenon as it occurs in the nature with regards to interpersonal relationship among the learners. The researcher will be able to obtain first-hand information from the public, employees and local government authorities in the province of Sulu.

### Statistical Treatment of Data

Upon receiving the data from respondents, the researcher edited, code, tabulate and present the data for analysis and using appropriate statistical method to attain the objective as shown below:

First to determine the demographic profile of respondents on Gender; Age; Civil Status; Educational Attainment; Length of Service; and Position at the local government, frequency counts and percentage will be use.

Secondly, to examine the level of Social Development of the Tausug in Sulu in terms of the Infrastructure Development; Expenditure related activities; and Income generating Activities means and standard

deviations will be computed for each of the variables in the study.

Third, to assess the perceived effectiveness of Local Government Administration in Sulu in terms of the Budget and planning; Monitoring and management; and Analysing and Feedback means and standard deviations will be computed also for each of the variables in the study.

Then, to know the significant differences in the level of social development of the Tausug in Sulu in terms of Infrastructure Development; Expenditure related activities and Income generating activities when respondents are group according to demographic profile ANOVA test will be employed.

And to know the significant differences in the perceived effectiveness of Local Government Administration in Sulu in terms of: Budget & planning; Monitoring & management; and Analysing & Feedback when respondents are group according to demographic profile ANOVA test will be also employed

Finally, to know the significant relationship between Social Development and perceived effectiveness of Local Government Administration in Sulu, a correlation matrix will then generate to examine the correlations between the respective scores.

## **SUMMARY OF THE RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

This presents the summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations based on the data collected that were properly tabulated, computed and analyzed for this study.

### **Summary of Findings**

This study revealed the following findings:

**1) For Research Question Number 1: On demographic profile of respondents;**

Out of 200 respondents, majority are female, within 24-30 years of age range, are married, have Bachelor's degree, have 5 years & below of length of service, are regular employees of the local government units in the province of Sulu.

**2) For Research Question Number 2: On the Extent of Social Development;**

On the average, respondents agreed that local government administration in the province of Sulu provided social development programs and projects through Infrastructure Development, Expenditure Related Activities, and Income Generating Activities.

**3) For Research Question Number 3: On the Extent of Perceived effectiveness of Local Government Administration**

On the average, respondent affirmed that local government administrations in the province are highly effective in providing basic services as manifested in Budget and Planning, Monitoring and Management, and Analyzing and Feedback.

**4) For Research Question Number 4: On Differences in Levels of Social Development**

Generally, there is no significant difference in the assessment of respondents toward the level of social development programs and initiatives of local government administration in the province of Sulu when data are categorized according respondents' demographic profiles in terms of gender, age, marital status, educational attainment, length of service, and position at the local government.

**5) For Research Question Number 5: On Differences in Perceived Effectiveness of Local Government Administration**

Generally, there is no significant difference in the assessment of respondents toward the effectiveness of government administration in the province of in the context of Budget and Planning, Monitoring and Management, and Analyzing and Feedback Sulu when data are categorized according to respondents' demographic profiles in terms of gender, age, marital status, educational attainment, length of service, and position at the local government.

**6) On Research Question Number 6: On Correlation between Social development and Effectiveness of Local Government Administration**

On the average, there is very high correlation among the sub-categories subsumed under social development and perceived effectiveness of local government administration in the province of Sulu. Respondents who expressed agreement on successful implementation of social development programs and projects through Infrastructure Development, Expenditure Related Activities, and Income Generating Activities, are most probably the same respondents who assessed the effectiveness of local government administration as highly successful in terms of Budget and Planning, Monitoring and Management, and Analyzing and Feedback.

**Conclusions**

According to the study's findings, respondents are fairly represented in terms of their gender, age, marital status, level of education, length of service, and position within the local government. Programs and projects for social development are typically carried out successfully. In Sulu, local government administration is quite efficient. In general, respondents' assessments of the level of social

progress are unaffected by factors such as gender, age, marital status, educational level, length of service, and position within the local government. However, respondents' assessments of the perceived efficacy of local government administration are unaffected by respondents' gender, age, marital status, level of education, length of service, or position within the local government. Administration by local governments and social development are closely intertwined. This study tends to agree with Sikander, T. (2015), Theoretical Framework of Local Government, which claims that local government institutions boost the effectiveness and responsiveness of the government by providing the most effective means of resolving the gap between community needs and demands and generating public benefits.

### **Recommendations**

This study recommends the following:

1) Local government administrators and officials should continue implementing social development programs and projects to ensure the provision of basic services.

2) To ensure effective delivery of social services, local government administrators and officials should conduct proper trainings to employees responsible in Budget and Planning, Monitoring and Management, and Analyzing and Feedback.

3) Employees of local government units should recognize the value of self-discretionary efforts or voluntary services that are contributory to the achievement of local governments' goals and objectives.

4) Student-researchers in the field of public administration are encouraged to replicate this study but to include other profile variables such as employees' morale, work engagement, and work environment in some other settings.

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