

WORKSHOP

"Building an Asian community of practice on monitoring and budget analysis"

09-11 July 2007 Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Organized by SILAKA and Social Watch
in collaboration with OXFAM- Novib/KIC

PARTICIPANT'S QUESTIONNAIRE

SYSTEMATIZATION OF EXPERIENCES

To be submitted before 3 July, 2007

Congratulations on being selected to participate in the workshop. Since this workshop is based on the exchange of knowledge contained in specific practices, please fill in this form as fully as possible so that we can make the most of it. If you have any queries about how to complete it, do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

I. Personal Information

(Please check your personal and contact data)

Gender | F_x | | M |

Name(s) | Gay

Surname (s) | Defiesta

Nationality | Filipino

Name of the Organization/Movement/Community (and Acronym)

Social Watch, Philippines/University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV)

Describe your current position in the organization

Social Watch Phils - Member ; UPV - faculty member

Does your organization take part in or does it have bonds with local, national, regional or international networks? If so, which?

The University of the Philippines in the Visayas is at the forefront of research and extension services at the local as well as the regional level, our gender and development program is part of the UGSAD Regional Gender Resource Network, we have core programs that independently assist and support communities.

II. Description of experiences and selection of a practice:

Please answer the following questions. Use the necessary space.

What is a practice?

We understand a practice to be a process, strategy or activity of an organisation or a group of organisations to achieve social change. A practice may vary from an agricultural technique or an educational method to more complex processes like international coalition building. Its scope may be limited, but it may also correspond to entire projects or programmes.

1. ¿Which are the principal fields of expertise of your organization? (E.g., social development, human rights, budget monitoring, sexual and reproductive rights, etc)

The principal fields of my organization, University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV) is fisheries and ocean sciences but we have a strong gender and development program, we have extension services that promotes social development, faculty members including myself had a number of trainings on sexual and reproductive rights.

As for Social Watch Visayas, we are into social development, human rights and budget monitoring.

2. ¿Which are the main strategies used in your organization? (E.g., education, research, campaigning, advocacy, lobbying, satisfaction of specific demands, etc.)

The main strategies used in our organization (UPV) is education, research and advocacy. The same for Social Watch Visayas.

3. Among the activities and experiences of your organization, please chose one you consider relevant to be transmitted to the other participants. The practice selected should be a specific action, plan, intervention or process in one of the four topics that will be explored in the workshop (ESCR, Budget analysis, monitoring, advocacy). And you should be able to divide it into the following elements:

a. **Summary** of the practice (no more than 5 lines, please).

This experience is about the collaboration of social watch Visayas and my university. Community Development is a Bachelor's Degree program offered by UPV. Part of the curriculum is a practicum course. The faculty member who handled the course a year ago is also part of Social Watch Visayas. She conducted the course in the community being helped by Social Watch in monitoring MDGs. Part of the students' exposure to the community were; the organizing of capability building workshops to help the local government personnel become familiar with the monitoring templates, the students also conducted a survey on the indicators, their final output is to come up with a set of indicators based on the data they gathered.

b. Motivation: Situation or problem that the practice aimed to resolve.

The idea behind the strategy is 2-pronged. One is to expose students not only to community work but more importantly to social development and actual monitoring. By doing so, they were able to translate whatever theory they have learned in the classroom into practice. The second motivation was to help the local government unit with their monitoring activity. One of the main obstacles of monitoring is the lack of personnel to do it. With the help of the students, some of the work was accomplished.

c. Objective(s)

The objectives are: 1. to expose students to actual monitoring of social development and 2. to provide assistance to the community in its monitoring efforts.

d. Strategies used to solve the problem or situation.

The strategies: 1. Introducing the students to the community to establish rapport between them, the community leaders and the people; 2. exposing the students to development work by letting them take care of the organizing and facilitating monitoring-related activities such as capability building seminars, 3. letting the students extend assistance to the community particularly on the use of the monitoring templates; 4. research, data collection and analysis of MDG indicators.

e. Resources (financial, human, materials, etc.).

The strategy required minimal expenses the students stayed at the community. Hence costs were lessened. Resources used were mostly human, especially for the survey and the capability building workshops. Questionnaires were prepared and used during the survey.

f. Level of action (local, national, regional and/or international, and if there are any relations among them)

The level of action is local but it could serve as a model in other areas

g. Brief description of the process (main activities, beneficiaries, when and where it was carried out, methodology, collaboration with partners, etc.).

The main activities were strengthening of collaboration between social watch and the university, the students had be thoroughly oriented with field methods, this was taken cared of in their other subjects. Trainings and field research were conducted. The beneficiaries were the local government unit and its personnel due to their increased knowledge of the monitoring tools.

h. Main results and changes made during the implementation (if it is still running, please comment on the potential outcomes, obstacles, etc.)

The students have successfully carried out their activities in the community. The problem however is continuity of the practice since it depends on the teacher that is handling the course.

3 Evaluation of the Practice.

1. What is the general evaluation of the practice? Was the practice successful in achieving the objectives stated? Was the situation/problem resolved?

I think that the practice was successful in achieving the objectives, however it was not continued because of the change in the faculty handling the practicum course.

2. What were the key factors for success or failure?

The strategy was successful because the objectives were carried out, as mentioned, the main problem is continuing the practice.

3. What are the major lessons learned?

One of the major lessons learned is the need for continuity of strategies to make it sustainable. This is not possible if there is no specific course intended for social development. The practice is not only limited to a practicum course. It could be a project required in a related course offering.

Please submit this questionnaire before **3 July 2007** to:

SILAKA: silaka@silaka.org
Fax: (855) 23 213108

Social Watch: dciganda@socialwatch.org
Fax: (598 2) 411 92 22