

Relevance and Responsiveness of Curricular Programs to Sustainable Development: Bases for a Model Curriculum

Anabell C. Aban – Gacayan
Faculty, Palawan State University
agacayan@psu.palawan.edu.ph

ABSTRACT

This qualitative-quantitative research assessed the relevance and responsiveness of the curricular programs in selected PSU-CCRD-ESCs to sustainable development along socio-cultural, environmental and economic perspectives. Triangulation of research methods was used in this study which includes documentary analysis, researcher-prepared questionnaire and focus group discussion. Using purposive sampling, sixty (60) stakeholders from each host municipality were taken as respondents. The data gathered were treated statistically using weighted means. This study revealed that the strategic directions based on the sustainable development plans of the host municipalities are comprehensive. They support the three perspectives of sustainable development namely: socio-cultural, environmental and ecological perspectives. However, documentary analysis implied that there is a felt need to have a more specific and measurable evaluation of LGUs accomplishments along the areas of sustainable development. The stakeholders' assessment on the curricular program revealed that all the curricular programs in the PSU-CCRD-ESCs are quite relevant and quite responsive to the development plans of host municipalities. This means that all the curricular programs provide considerable amount of contribution to the attainment of the sustainable development plans of the host LGUs. Likewise, the curricular programs provided the graduates with considerable amount of knowledge, skills attitudes and values that are appropriate to the current demands of sustainable development. However, despite the aforementioned findings, the curricular programs need to be redirected to make them even more relevant and more responsive. Hence, a model curriculum in BS Entrepreneurship (Ladderized Program) with core courses in agriculture is developed for PSU-CCRD-ESC Brooke's Point and Roxas. The model curriculum was based on the strategic directions of the sustainable development plans of the host municipalities where the LGUs envision for "sustainable and profitable quality crops, increased crop production and improved quality of livestock and poultry production."

Key words: sustainable development, curricular programs, relevance, responsiveness, socio-cultural, environmental and ecological aspects