

## **Acquisition of Knowledge and Practice of Sangguniang Kabataan Officials on Department of Interior and Local Government Mandatory Training**

**Bea Liza S. Madrid<sup>1</sup>, Mikko D. Manlincon<sup>1</sup>, Maria Kristina P. Zaratan<sup>1</sup>,  
Gener Denzel B. Andaya<sup>1</sup>, Menard P. Nava<sup>2</sup>**

Bachelor of Public Administration Students, Pangasinan State University Lingayen Campus<sup>1</sup>  
Bachelor of Public Administration Faculty Member, Pangasinan State University Lingayen Campus<sup>2</sup>  
Lingayen, Pangasinan, Philippines

**Abstract** – *The Republic Act 10472 or the “Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015” provides Mandatory Training for SK Officials as one of its key reforms. The SK Officials should undergo the training before he or she can assume office. This study determined the acquisition of knowledge and practices of SK Officials on the Mandatory Training. The study has the research design of descriptive survey and descriptive normative. It used questionnaire and test examination as data gathering instruments. The SK Officials of the barangays with the highest population in each municipality under the second district of Pangasinan served as the respondents. The data gathered are analyzed with frequency, percentage, scale values, score range, descriptive rating and ranking as statistical tools. It was found out that most of the SK Officials are 18-21 years old, male, single, college graduate, without family members who have political background and new in politics. The study revealed that the over-all score of SK Officials in terms of knowledge acquisition is 31-40 which means that the SK Officials are highly knowledgeable. As per topic, the SK Officials are very highly knowledgeable in code of conduct and ethical standards, while knowledgeable in decentralization and local governance, SK history and salient features, meetings and resolutions, and planning and budgeting. The SK Officials practice in general the attendance and participation to SK-related trainings. Further, the SK Secretary practices the preparation of notice and minutes of the meeting, while the SK Treasurer submits financial-related reports to Local Youth Development Office (LYDO). The problem met by the SK Officials is on the consideration of other topics for the training. The researchers recommended that the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) should conduct an assessment with the SK Officials for the necessary topics. Other findings should be highly considered for DILG’s training program development.*

**Keywords** – *Acquisition, Knowledge, Practice, Sangguniang Kabataan, Mandatory Training*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) is a council representing the youth of each barangay in the Philippines. When RA 7160 or the Local Government Code of the Philippines was passed in 1991, SK was institutionalized as a body that aims to provide an avenue for the youths to be trained as leaders. The law also provides that the main functions of the SK are focused on promulgation of resolutions, initiation of programs for members’ development and conduct of fund-raising activities.<sup>[1]</sup> However, certain issues were raised regarding SK such as absence of law-making and

lack of youth developmental programs, politicking, nepotism, corruption, and repetitive projects and programs.<sup>[2]</sup>

For the purpose of emphasizing the role of the youth in nation-building, the Congress enacted RA 10742 which requires SK Officials to undergo DILG Mandatory Training before they assume office. The benefits that they may get from the trainings are performance and skills development.<sup>[3]</sup>

This study intended to determine the acquisition of knowledge of SK Officials on the mandatory training and the practices in performing their roles and functions as to their acquired knowledge.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

This study serves as a reference for the DILG to review on the points or areas to which it could improve the provision of the mandatory training. Wherein, the study looked into the SK Officials’ profile, acquisition of knowledge and practices as to their acquired knowledge from the mandatory training. The coverage topics of the training are Decentralization and Local Governance, SK History and Salient Features, Meetings and Resolutions, Planning and Budgeting, and Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards. The study also identified the problems met by the SK Officials during the conduct of the training.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

This study employed descriptive survey method and descriptive normative as its research design. It used questionnaire and test examination to gather data from the respondents. The instruments were pre-tested to SK Officials who are not covered of the actual study. The results of the pre-testing were used to improve the contents and items of the instruments. For the test examination, test analysis was applied for the equal distribution of questions as to the level of difficulty. The experts from DILG and research instructors of PSU, and the SK Federation President of Pangasinan validated the instruments. Their comments and suggestions were incorporated.

The distribution of instruments took several weeks as it required face-to-face appointment with the respondents for the purpose of rigid administration of test examination. Using a purposive sampling method, the SK Officials covered in this study are the elective and appointive officials from barangay with the highest population in each of the eight municipalities under the second district of the Province of Pangasinan. With the targeted 80 respondents, there are two SK Officials, however, who were not able to participate because of their acceptable and valid reasons of unavailability. The data gathered from the respondents were interpreted using simple tools such as frequency, percentage, scale values, score range, descriptive rating and ranking.

The study was conducted during the First Semester of School Year 2019-2020.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This study found out that most of the SK Officials belong to the age bracket of 18-21 years old. The result is supported by Section 10 of RA 10742 that the age qualification of a running SK must at least eighteen (18) years but not more than twenty-four (24) years of age on the day of the election.<sup>[4]</sup> In terms of sex, the result showed that most of the SK Officials are male. Based on Commission on Elections’ data, men have always been more winnings than women in the past six election years (1998-2013). Citing as an example is the election result in 2013 with 36,000 (men) against 8, 000 (women).<sup>[5]</sup> The results also revealed that in terms of civil status and highest educational attainment most of the SK Officials are single and college undergraduate. In terms of family political background, the result presented that most of the SK Officials have no family members who are involved in politics and they joined politics for the first time. In terms of position, most of them are SK Kagawads since the position has seven seats in each barangay.

Table 1. Profile of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18-21	45	57.7
22-25	32	41.0
26-29	1	1.3
Total	78	100

  

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	43	55.1
Female	35	44.9
Total	78	100

  

Civil Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single	75	96.2
Married	3	3.8
Total	78	100

HEI	Frequency	Percentage (%)
High School Graduate	12	15.4
College Undergraduate	35	44.9
College Graduate	24	30.8
Vocational	7	9.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>100</b>

  

Political Background	Frequency	Percentage (%)
With Family Members Involved in Politics	9	11.5
Without Family Members	69	88.5

Involved in Politics		
Total	78	100
First Time	77	98.7
Have Experience	1	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>100</b>

  

Position	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Chairperson	8	10.3
Kagawad	55	70.5
Secretary	7	9.0
Treasurer	8	10.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 2. Acquisition of Knowledge of SK Officials

Over-all Score				
Score	Frequency	Percentage	Descriptive Rating	
0-10	1	1.3	Poorly Knowledgeable	
11-20	11	14.1	Fairly Knowledgeable	
21-30	31	39.7	Knowledgeable	
31-40	33	42.3	Highly Knowledgeable	
41-50	2	2.6	Very Highly Knowledgeable	
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>100</b>		

  

Score per Topic				
Topics	Score	Frequency	Percentage	Descriptive Rating
Decentralization and Local Governance	0 – 2	5	6.4	Poorly Knowledgeable
	3 – 4	17	21.8	Fairly Knowledgeable
	5 – 6	32	41.0	Knowledgeable
	7 – 8	15	19.2	Highly Knowledgeable
	9 - 10	9	11.5	Very Highly Knowledgeable
<b>Total</b>		<b>78</b>	<b>100</b>	

  

SK History and Salient Features	0 – 2	4	5.1	Poorly Knowledgeable
	3 – 4	12	15.4	Fairly Knowledgeable
	5 – 6	31	39.7	Knowledgeable
	7 – 8	26	33.3	Highly Knowledgeable
	9 - 10	5	6.4	Very Highly Knowledgeable
<b>Total</b>		<b>78</b>	<b>100</b>	

Meetings and Resolutions	0 – 2	8	10.3	Poorly Knowledgeable
	3 – 4	24	30.8	Fairly Knowledgeable
	5 – 6	31	39.7	Knowledgeable
	7 – 8	14	17.9	Highly Knowledgeable
	9 - 10	1	1.3	Very Highly Knowledgeable
Total		78	100	
Planning and Budgeting	0 – 2	7	9.0	Poorly Knowledgeable
	3 – 4	28	35.9	Fairly Knowledgeable
	5 – 6	31	39.7	Knowledgeable
	7 – 8	12	15.4	Highly Knowledgeable
	9 - 10	0	0	Very Highly Knowledgeable
Total		78	100	
Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards	0 – 2	3	3.9	Poorly Knowledgeable
	3 – 4	3	3.9	Fairly Knowledgeable
	5 – 6	10	12.8	Knowledgeable
	7 – 8	21	26.9	Highly Knowledgeable
	9 - 10	41	52.6	Very Highly Knowledgeable
Total		78	100	

Results of the study showed that most of the SK Officials are highly knowledgeable to all the topics they learned from the mandatory training. As per topic, the SK Officials are very highly knowledgeable in code of conduct and ethical

standards, while knowledgeable in decentralization and local governance, SK history and salient features, meetings and resolutions, and planning and budgeting.

**Table 3. Practices of the SK Officials as to their Acquired Knowledge**

Practices of SK Officials	Frequency	Rank
Attend and participate to mandatory and continuing training programs.	76	1
Consider needs and concerns of KK members for the SK Planning.	72	2
Conduct an annual activity to be known as the Linggo ng Kabataan.	64	3
Conduct SK monthly meeting.	64	3
Conduct income-generating activities to raise funds.	62	4
Coordinate activities to Local Youth Development Office (LYDO)	61	5
Craft Comprehensive Barangay Youth Development Plan (CBYDP) and Annual Barangay Youth Investment Program (ABYIP)	60	6
Present CBYDP and ABYIP to KK General Assembly	60	6
Conduct KK meeting once every six months	53	7
Practices of SK Secretary		
Prepare notice of the meeting	6	1
Document meetings through minutes of the meeting	6	1
Document meetings through resolution	4	2
Prepare a profile of Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK) Members	3	3

Practices of SK Treasurer		
Submit Annual and End-of-Term Program Accomplishment to LYDO	4	1
Submit Financial Reports to LYDO	4	1

Results of the study revealed that the top three practices of the SK Officials are: attendance and participation to mandatory and continuing training programs; consideration of needs and concerns of Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK) members for the SK Planning; conduct of an annual activity to be known as the Linggo ng Kabataan; and conduct of SK monthly meeting. For SK Secretaries, they practice the preparation of the notice of the meeting and documentation of

meetings through the minutes of the meeting. While the SK Treasurers practice the submission of Annual and End-of-Term Program Accomplishment and submission of financial reports to LYDO. The results implied that DILG Mandatory Training contributed in the improvement of SK officials' practices of their roles and responsibilities. The training is an example of leadership training development and support and guidance systems for the youth leaders.<sup>[6]</sup>

**Table 4. Problems Encountered by the SK Officials during the Conduct of the Training**

Venue	Frequency	Rank
Lack of proper ventilation	16	1
Venue cannot accommodate all the participants	15	2
Distance of the venue	13	3
Speaker		
Discussion/presentation of the speaker is not interactive	13	1
Voice of the speaker is soft and cannot be clearly heard by the participants	11	2
The speaker arrives late	10	3
Topic		
Other relevant topics should be considered in the training	21	1
Too much number of topics	20	2
Some topic objectives are not discussed	12	3
Food		
Late serving of food	17	1
Food is limited and not all participants are provided with snacks and lunch meal	15	2
Taste of the food is not satisfying	12	3
Technical Service		
The technical support team is not responsive to the needs/requests of the participants	17	1
The number of technical support team staff is few	15	2
Technical difficulties as to sound system and lack of modules/kits distributed	11	3

The findings showed that the problems encountered by the SK Officials during the conduct of the mandatory training are: lack of proper ventilation of the venue; discussion or presentation of the speaker is not interactive; other relevant topics should be considered in the training; late of

serving of food; and the technical support team is not responsive to the needs or requests of the participants.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based from the gathered data, the SK Officials are 18-21 years old, male, single and college undergraduate. They have no family members who are involved in politics. They are neophytes in politics having the position as SK Kagawads. They are highly knowledgeable to all the topics they learned from the mandatory training. The SK Officials practice in general the attendance and participation to SK-related trainings. For specified roles, the SK Secretary practices the preparation of notice and minutes of the meeting, while the SK Treasurer submits financial-related reports to LYDO. The top problem met by the SK Officials is on the consideration of other relevant topics for the mandatory training.

From the conclusions made, it is recommended that the DILG should undergo an assessment with the SK Officials to identify other topics for the mandatory training which are more relevant in the practice of their actual roles and responsibilities. The DILG should also consider that five topics or more must not be scheduled for one day only for a more conducive learning of participants. A DILG-PSU partnership is also recommended for the improvement of mandatory training design using the results of this study.

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