

The implementation of sustainable livelihood program in the municipality of Paete, Laguna

Ma. Kathrina N. Umali, John Matthew A. Aquino, PhD, RPDO,
Maria Kristina M. Cay, MBA, DPA, CRS, CRDC, CHRA,
Charis Jean R. Del Valle, MAED, Elmer C. Escala, PhD, EdD

umalimakathrina@gmail.com

Graduate School, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng San Pablo, Laguna, Philippines 4000

Abstract

The Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is a key initiative aimed at reducing poverty through inclusive, eco-friendly, and community-driven economic empowerment. This study assessed the implementation of the SLP in Paete, Laguna—a culturally rich but economically vulnerable municipality—focusing on its effectiveness, efficiency, and the challenges faced by beneficiaries. Paete's residents, primarily dependent on fishing, woodcraft, and tourism, face limited market access, environmental risks, and socio-economic constraints. Using a descriptive-correlational research design, the study surveyed 344 purposively selected SLP beneficiaries active from 2020 to 2024 through a validated questionnaire. Data analysis employed frequency counts, percentages, means, standard deviation, and Pearson correlation to determine the relationship between program performance indicators. Findings showed that SLP implementation was generally effective during its early phases, including social preparation and resource mobilization. However, ongoing issues such as lack of post-project support, skills training, and access to capital and markets hindered long-term impact. A significant correlation between program effectiveness and efficiency highlighted the need for better strategic planning and participatory approaches. Weak monitoring systems and limited coordination between agencies were also identified as barriers to sustained success. The study recommends localized policy development, improved training and evaluation mechanisms, enhanced collaboration between DSWD and local government units, and stronger post-implementation support. These insights may inform future program adjustments and policy reforms to optimize livelihood outcomes, promote resilience, and sustain cultural heritage while addressing poverty in rural communities like Paete.

Keywords: Sustainable livelihood; participatory development; poverty reduction; livelihood issues; community empowerment

1. Introduction

In recent times, the support for sustainable livelihood **became** an important policy and approach in anti-poverty and inclusive development initiatives. With the growing awareness of social equity and environmental sustainability, government programs **started** to focus on long-term, inclusive solutions that **benefited** underserved communities. In the Philippines, the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) **was** one of the flagship programs aimed at improving the economic condition of the poor families. Our aim **was** at sustainable eco-friendly, socially inclusive and economically viable economic empowerment and long-term community development.

The SLP **was** implemented with the cooperation from both national and local government units (LGUs). The national government, including the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), **designed** policies, **financed** the program, and **reflected** a policy in the form of guidelines. As such, LGUs **were expected** to implement the program in the field, adapting interventions according to their communities'

needs and context. This down-to-earth methodology **guaranteed** that livelihood activities **were** appropriate, accessible, and also managed effectively at the decentralized level so as to enhance community involvement and ownership.

Supporting the development of these and other marginalized groups, including indigenous people, women, and the poor, to gain access to resources, training, and microfinancing **was** mainly the responsibility of the SLP. SLP **assisted** these communities to 'graduate' from subsistence or informal production to commercial enterprise. This empowerment **enabled** them to be more economically productive, and it also **drove** social inclusion and resilience to economic and environmental shocks.

The study on the implementation of the SLP in Paete **was** of great importance. Paete **had** a heritage of life and work filled with culture and art, which also **had** to endure economic and environmental hardships. How the SLP **was** implemented in this setting **yielded** much useful information regarding what **had worked** well, where there **had been** struggles, and potential avenues for improvement. A context-specific study of this nature **had** the potential to provide valuable insights about the ways that sustainable livelihoods interventions **could have been optimized** to the benefit of communities with specific socio-economic and cultural regimes, which in turn **could have informed** policy decisions and progress towards inclusive development.

1.1. Background of the Study

Poverty and work availability were persisting problems in rural communities in the Philippines, like the town of Paete in Laguna. Being a typical fishing-village and cottage industry town located along Laguna de Bay, Paete faced inherent economic and socio-cultural challenges that prevented the full development of its residents. Poverty remained as it did due to restricted access to alternative sources of livelihoods, lack of infrastructural facilities, and fluctuating market demands for the local wares. They also generally depended on small-scale fishing, woodwork, and tourism-related work – all of them activities sensitive to environmental and economic setbacks.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) had implemented the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) to help alleviate the issues, designed to empower the poor communities through comprehensive interventions to develop the economic and human capital aspects. Key objectives for the SLP included strengthening the self-reliance of targeted communities, increasing access to resources, and promoting sustainable livelihood systems that were able to cope with external shocks. The program was integrated with formal training, micro-financing, and the development of communities in terms of alternative livelihoods and addressing the social determinants interaction.

Paete's economy was based on its own rich culture, having been known to carve wood and make papier-mâché works of art that attracted tourists both locally and abroad. Though the town had a bounty of cultural resources, its economic landscape was limited by restricted market access, an aging population of craftspeople, and environmental challenges, such as flooding and resource depletion. These were also some of the factors that reinforced the importance of conducting the evaluation to check the program's effectiveness in improving the community's socio-economic status.

The examination of the way SLP was implemented in Paete was important for a number of reasons. First, it offered clues as to how state action could turn into palpable gain at the local level, including in some of the country's most culturally wealthy but economically hard-hit places. Second, it assisted in identifying the program's strengths and weaknesses, informing policy reforms as well as future livelihood interventions. Finally, the formative evaluation of the impact of the program would have furthered the larger goal of sustainable community development so residents of small communities could have lived in relative economic ease while also maintaining their cultural traditions.

The implementation of the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) in the municipality of Paete, Laguna was confronted with several challenges that limited its effectiveness and impact on the lives of the program's beneficiaries. Although the appendage represented an important plan underpinning the economic

stability and self-sufficiency of low-income families, there was much room for improvement in the implementation of the gap.

Most of the availing beneficiaries faced challenges in access to key resources like capital, training, and market information, which were important in engaging in sustainable livelihoods activities.

There was an inadequate monitoring and evaluation system to measure the impact of the SLP on recipients. In the absence of systematic measurement of progress and results, it was difficult to pinpoint areas for improvement and had no yardstick to measure the impact of the program on the livelihoods of the target group.

They had to address these problems to optimize the effectiveness of the SLP in Paete, Laguna. Examining common problems and developing successful solutions allowed the program to achieve short-term and long-term success by bringing about sustainable development in the municipality.

1.2. Theoretical Framework

The study was anchored in Memorandum Circular No. 12 Series of 2018 or the Implementation of the Sustainable Livelihood Program, which **facilitated** interventions through two tracks: Employment Facilitation, wherein participants who **were** qualified and **ready** for available employment opportunities **could opt** to proceed, and participants who **exhibited** potential and willingness for entrepreneurship **could opt** to proceed with the Micro-enterprise Development track.



Figure 1.1. Sustainable Livelihoods “SIBOL” Framework

(Source: <https://cda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/DSWD-SLP-presentation.pdf>)

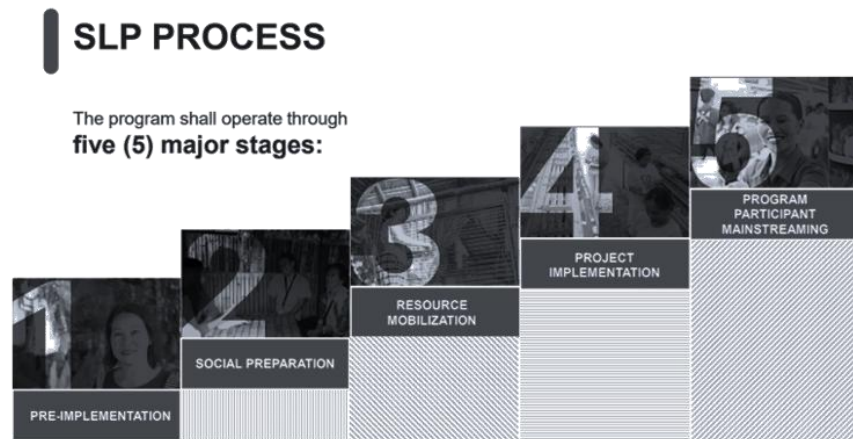


Figure 1.2. Sustainable Livelihood Program Process

(Source: <https://cda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/DSWD-SLP-presentation.pdf>)

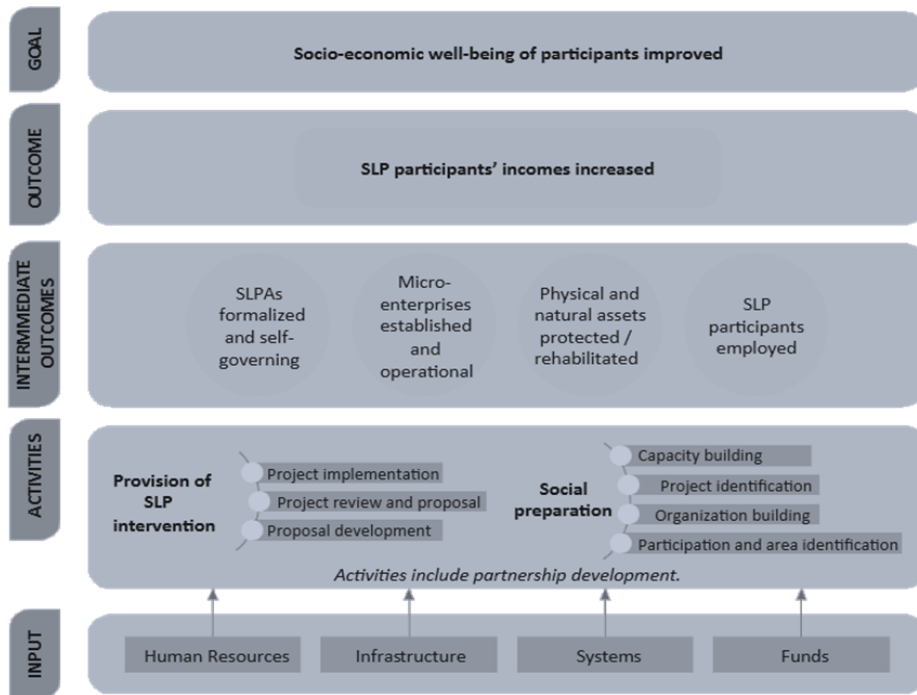


Figure 1.3. Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF)

(Source: Acosta, Pablo & Avalos, Jorge. (2018). *The Philippines Sustainable Livelihood Program: Providing and Expanding Access to Employment and Livelihood Opportunities*. 10.1596/29873.)

This framework served as a roadmap, illustrating how the program's various inputs could effectively lead to significant changes in the lives of its beneficiaries. By understanding these connections, it could better design the monitoring and evaluation efforts to measure the success of the program in fostering sustainable livelihoods.

SLP aimed to improve the social and economic well-being of people and families by helping them find opportunities to work for themselves and get paid. This quest wasn't only about making money; it was also about giving individuals the power to shape their own lives. The SLP planned to do this by turning important inputs into real outputs through carefully planned phases of implementation. These outputs could then lead to important short-, medium-, and long-term results for participants.

The program started with important steps, like finding the money it needed, building infrastructure, and employing and training personnel who were motivated to make a difference. The SLP had a number of things to do that helped individuals turn these inputs into real-life benefits. The program's goal was to give people the tools they needed to succeed by finding and organizing beneficiaries into organizations called Sustainable Livelihood Program Associations (SLPAs), giving them important training, helping them find jobs, and giving them money. The program's performance was ultimately measured by the final results, which showed the percentage of participants who saw their income rise, either through their company initiatives or through work.

1.3. Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework of the study was outlined in the Social Protection (SP) Operation Framework of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, wherein the goal was to ensure the

improved level of well-being of each beneficiary through the different programs and strategies implemented through convergence of services among the different national, provincial, municipal, and barangay local government units. This framework showed the relationship of the level of effectiveness and level of efficiency to the output of the success of SLP.

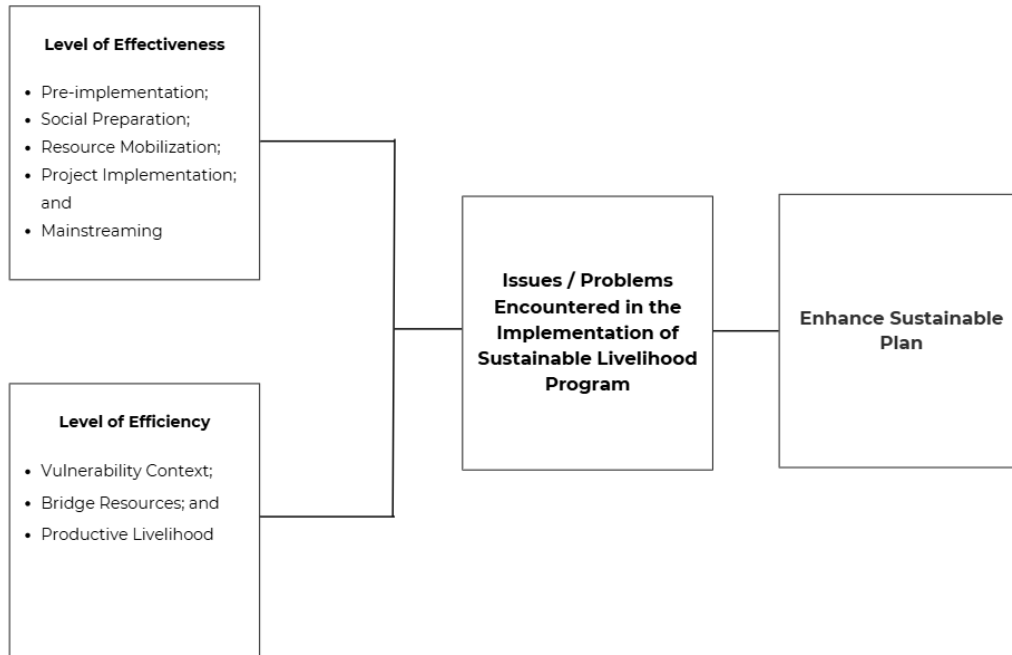


Figure 1. 4. Conceptual Framework

1.4. Statement of the Problem

The study assessed the effectiveness and efficiency of the Implementation of Sustainable Livelihood Program in the Municipality of Paete, Laguna.

Specifically, this study sought answers the following questions:

1. What is the level of effectiveness of Sustainable Livelihood Program in terms of:

- 1.1 pre-implementation;
- 1.2 social preparation;
- 1.3 resource mobilization;
- 1.4 project implementation; and
- 1.5 mainstreaming?

2. What is the level of efficiency of Sustainable Livelihood Program in terms of:

- 2.1 vulnerability context;
- 2.2 bridge resources; and
- 2.3 productive livelihoods?

3. What are the issues / problems you encounter during the implementation of Sustainable Livelihood Program?

4. Is there a significant relationship between the level of effectiveness and efficiency of Sustainable

Livelihood Program?

5. Based on the result, what program initiative may be proposed to enhance the effectiveness of the Sustainable Livelihood Program in Paete?

1.5. Hypothesis

H₀: There is no significant relationship between the level of effectiveness and efficiency of SLP.

1.6. Significance of the Study

This study established a focused framework that guided the investigation and analysis of sustainable livelihood program implementation in the Municipality of Paete, Laguna. It also clarified the potential stakeholders involved in community development and sustainability efforts. The following benefited from this research:

The beneficiaries of the Sustainable Livelihood Program. This helped the program participants in understanding the advantages and difficulties they encountered. By emphasizing their experiences and promoting more resources and assistance, the research might have given them more influence. More community ownership and involvement in the initiatives resulted from this.

The Sustainable Livelihood Program Implementers. This helped them to deliver services and monitor livelihood groups easily with the help of the LGUs and ensured the provision of the challenges encountered by the beneficiaries.

The Municipality of Paete, Laguna. This helped local government officials figure out how well current sustainable livelihood programs were working and what effects they had. The study's findings could have helped politicians improve their policies, use their resources more effectively, and create programs that better fulfilled the needs of the community.

The Local Businesses and Entrepreneurs. This could have helped them learn about the results and economic effects of programs that help people live sustainably. This could have led to partnerships, collaborations, and support networks that assisted boost the local economy.

The SLP Municipal, Provincial, and Regional Operations Office of Paete, Laguna, Province of Laguna, and DSWD Region IV-A Field Office Sustainable Livelihood Section. This could have assisted the program to get better and bring services closer together so that the goal of making the lives of the beneficiaries in the municipal, provincial, and regional offices was met.

The Future Researchers. This could have been a useful reference for students who wanted to do research on the Sustainable Livelihood Program or another study on public program assessment that could have been used to make decisions about public policy, enhance programs, and offer public services.

Scope and Limitations

This study focused on the evaluation of the implementation of the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) in the Municipality of Paete, Laguna that served as the basis for the enhancement of the economic stability and promoted sustainable living of the program beneficiaries.

The livelihood groups and beneficiaries of Paete, Laguna by the year 2020 – 2024 participated in the data gathering using a mixed method of survey, Google Form, and printed questionnaire that gathered the level of effectiveness, level of efficiency, and the issues/problems encountered during the implementation of the Sustainable Livelihood Program which affected the implementation of the livelihood programs in the Local Government Unit of Paete, Laguna that addressed the observed gaps of the SLP groups.

Definition of Terms

This section provided the operational definitions of key terms used in the study. These definitions were intended to clarify the meaning of each concept as it was specifically applied within the context of the research on the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) in Paete, Laguna.

Bridge Resources: Resources and strategies that helped individuals or communities transition from a

vulnerable situation to a more sustainable and resilient livelihood.

Capacity Building: Initiatives designed to improve the skills, knowledge, and abilities of individuals and communities, enabling them to effectively participate in economic activities and improve their livelihoods.

Implementation: The process of putting the Sustainable Livelihood Program into action within the Municipality of Paete, which involved planning, executing, monitoring, and evaluating program activities and strategies to achieve intended outcomes.

Mainstreaming: Process that focused on ensuring that the individual program participants were being continuously monitored and provided technical assistance in managing the livelihood project for sustained gain.

Poverty Alleviation: Efforts and strategies aimed at reducing the incidence of poverty within communities, which may include economic, social, and educational initiatives designed to enhance individuals' livelihoods.

Pre-implementation: Period that involved a series of activities that focused on identifying, assessing, organizing, and capacitating the program participants until the grants were released and utilized.

Productive Livelihoods: Economic activities that generated income and enhanced the well-being of individuals and communities, enabling them to meet their basic needs and improve their quality of life.

Project Implementation: Phase of the project lifecycle where the actual execution of plans and activities took place, including starting up the micro-enterprise, monitoring the project, and providing capability-building activities.

Resource Mobilization: Involved identifying available resources, securing funding or support, and efficiently deploying them to achieve desired outcomes.

Social Preparation: Process of equipping the project participants and the project association with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to effectively engage in social, economic, or environmental initiatives.

Vulnerability Context: External factors and conditions that affected the livelihoods of individuals and communities, particularly those who were already disadvantaged or marginalized.

1.7. Review of Literature and Studies

This chapter discussed reviewed literatures and studies that discussed the best practices, challenges, and outcomes of sustainable livelihood initiatives both locally and globally, identified gaps in the current program, and explored successful models for improvement towards sustainable livelihood implementation.

The labor supply was one of the things that made a livelihood viable, but the predicted null impacts on household income, spending, savings, and capital expenditure were not correct. The study had certain problems, such as not having pre-intervention characteristics for matching, possible biases from choosing target locations that weren't random, possible spill-over effects, and not enough power. To enhance the efficacy of SLP, the study recommended the integration of livelihood assistance with complementary interventions such as life skills coaching and savings promotion; the recognition of the comparative advantages of group-based versus individual livelihood initiatives; the optimization of project development and selection for increased commercial viability; and the fortification of existing supportive interventions including capacity-building, business monitoring, and technical assistance. (Orbeta Jr. et al. 2020)

To enhance the stability and sustainability of poverty alleviation measures, it was essential to bolster farmers' resilience to sustainable livelihoods. The study enhanced research on farmer livelihoods within the realm of sustainable development, particularly in relation to poverty reduction, and addressed deficiencies in international resilience theory research. In response to turbulent situations such as the current COVID-19 pandemic, the findings assisted governments in identifying low-resilience groups, determining the factors essential for fostering sustainable livelihood resilience development among various impoverished populations, and establishing a solid foundation for rational, targeted decision-making. They also gave local governments a scientific basis for setting goals for assistance and making policies and support plans that fit the needs of the

region. This helped farmers improve their livelihoods, reduce poverty, and promote the long-term sustainable development of farmers' livelihood resilience. (Yue Sun et al., 2023)

The community's sanitation standards were shown to have had a big part in helping rural households make a living in a way that would last. The frequency of online buying and the distance from home to the nearest stores also had positive effects. Additionally, the beneficial impact of the rural home family situation—income satisfaction—livelihood sustainability pathway was more pronounced. Nonetheless, there was no mediating function regarding income satisfaction in the process of infrastructure development impacting livelihood sustainability. (Mengqi Guo et al., 2023)

One of the local studies was to ascertain whether a substantial correlation existed regarding beneficiaries' perceptions of current livelihood initiatives in relation to the support provided by trainers, implementers, and the city administration. Long-Term Livelihood Beneficiaries of the current livelihood programs faced some difficulties regarding the support from trainers, implementers, and the government. Although these challenges were minor, the implementing office had to take steps to address them. They made recommendations to improve the system and market the finished products of the livelihood programs effectively. This would ensure that marketing the livelihood projects was not a problem as more people joined the programs. Enhancing the communication campaign for livelihood initiatives to get more people to sign up. There had to be meetings in all barangays to talk about the current livelihood programs, and there had to be information advertisements or notices available. (Delos Reyes, et al., 2022)

Taiwan's coastal regions were susceptible to anthropogenic and natural environmental alterations, jeopardizing the income stability and lives of coastal inhabitants. This study investigated the correlation between the vulnerability context and respondents' perceptions of livelihood factors, employing the sustainable livelihoods approach (SLA) to elucidate the disparities in perceptions among coastal residents across various clusters in response to the challenges of coastal sustainability. We examined the typology of the respondents and the variations in their perceptions of livelihood determinants using exploratory factor analysis (EFA), cluster analysis, analysis of variance, and cross analysis. The EFA results showed that the respondents prioritized five aspects that affected their livelihoods: context, supporting benefit, network, productivity, and autonomy. Then, we used the segmentation method to figure out what types of the three resident groupings there were and how they saw different aspects of their livelihoods. Based on these results, we suggested that the key to a sustainable livelihood strategy was diversification of livelihoods, which could make livelihoods more resilient. Consequently, we contended that employing the SLA as a strategic planning tool for coastal regions could enhance the formulation of effective countermeasures. (Hsu, Kang et al., 2023)

A research investigation was undertaken regarding the involvement of women in the livelihood programs administered by the Department of Agriculture Office in Paete, Laguna. This sought to address the following inquiries: what were the various livelihood projects, what opportunities and benefits did the respondents gain from their participation in these projects, and was there a significant relationship between the livelihood projects and participation variables? We used descriptive research and a survey to conduct this study. The participants in this study consisted of thirty women engaged in livelihood initiatives, selected using snowball sampling. We used mean, frequency, and percentage to describe the data. The results of this study indicated that the D.A. of Paete had various livelihood initiatives, including the FAITH (Food Always in the Home) garden, Animal Dispersal Projects, the ADP (Agribusiness Development Project) Lanzones, Fingerlings Distribution, Vegetables Seedling Dispersal, Meat Processing Project, and the Pinakbet Project.

Furthermore, the main focus of the business was on pigs and growing veggies. People who took part in the survey were involved in everything from making things to selling them. Some of the benefits they obtained from taking part were helping to make the barangay project better (26.7%), finding a different source of food, and learning how to raise animals and crops. Extension staff visited the people who answered the questions once a month, twice a year, or once a year. The main challenge with the livelihood project was money. The respondents got help with their livelihood projects from the barangay committee on agriculture and the municipal agricultural officials. (Garcia et al., 2020)

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) stated that the SLP was a program to help poor, vulnerable, and marginalized families and communities improve their economic and social conditions by helping them get and keep good jobs. The program's goals were to improve human assets through vocational and life skills training, improve social assets through membership and participation in SLP associations and community groups, improve financial assets through seed capital and access to credit and savings facilities, improve natural assets that protected and contributed to community livelihoods, and create or obtain physical assets for more efficient livelihoods. There were many things that made this SLP effective.

First, the program took a holistic approach to improving the socio-economic conditions of poor, vulnerable, and marginalized households and communities. It did this by focusing on technical-vocational and life skills training that the person who received it could keep and use in their daily life, which made it sustainable. The SLP also encouraged people to get involved in their communities and work together by joining SLP groups and community groups. It had both good and bad points. One major worry was that the program relied on funds, which could limit its potential to grow and reach the most disadvantaged people and communities. Additionally, people might not have considered how the SLP was good for the environment. Because it didn't have a lot of money, there was also a chance that resources might not have been shared fairly. (DSWD Sustainable Livelihood Program 2025)

Micabalo (2022) conducted a study, and Academia was seen as the main group that could give people authority and help make the community a better place. Schools had a duty to connect with the community by teaching skills and giving knowledge to people who were less fortunate so they could realize their full potential. The research aimed to assess the community's condition regarding economic sustainability, social viability, and environmental quality, with the ultimate goal of establishing a sustainable livelihood program designed to foster growth and enhancement within the community. 359 people from a village in an urban poor neighborhood participated in the study. Slovin's formula was used to figure out the sample size, and data was collected using a cluster sampling method. We used frequency and simple percentage, weighted mean, and the Chi-Square Test of Independence to look at and understand the data.

The findings showed that people in the area thought social viability was very important, whereas economic sustainability and environmental soundness were only somewhat important. The Community Livelihood Program Training Center was the most popular program among the people who answered the survey. The development of People's Cooperative for Businesses, the start of Community Microfinancing, and Community SMEs were all evaluated as "fair." The study also found a connection between the respondents' gender, marital status, level of education, monthly income, and source of income and the community's social, environmental, and economic sustainability. Additionally, there was a strong connection between the community's economic sustainability, social viability, environmental quality, and the chosen sustainable lifestyle program. The study found that the people who lived in the village cared a lot about the social, economic, and environmental parts of community growth and development. It also said that the town needed a Sustainable Livelihood Training Center, which the residents thought was the best way to make the most of the community's existing condition. People's views on how well the community was doing were affected by how well they were doing as local residents. And if people's lives and personal situations got better, the community would also have seen more growth and development. (Micabalo, K.G., 2022)

A study in Papua New Guinea was conducted institutionalizing Evidence Use in the Sustainable Livelihood Program (2019). The concept of evidence-based decision-making in the context of SLP involved using data, research, and analysis to inform decisions and interventions. This method stressed how important it was to acquire useful information on the target demographic, their lives, and how the program had helped them. After the data was obtained, it was looked at to find trends, patterns, and relationships. The results were then used to make a decision.

This evidence-based approach helped the sustainability of Livelihood programs in their implementation as it gathered the trends of a specific target community, thus eliminating the community engagement gap by following the specific trend in a certain target population.

A thorough needs assessment was a crucial step in evidence-based decision-making for SLP. This systematic process identified and analyzed the needs of a specific population or community, helping to determine the target population's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. (Papua New Guinea was conducted institutionalizing Evidence Use in the Sustainable Livelihood Program). By conducting a needs assessment, it could help identify the most pressing needs and priorities of the target population, informing the design and implementation of program interventions and activities. This improved the relevance of the program, ensuring that interventions were tailored to cater to the target population's needs.

Another study was conducted in 2021 about data-driven decision-making for Sustainable Livelihoods. Data-driven decision-making was an approach to decision-making that relied on data analysis and interpretation. Similar to evidence-use decision-making in Papua New Guinea, data-driven decision-making involved using data to analyze trends, patterns, and correlations, and then using that information to make informed decisions. Data-driven decision-making for sustainable livelihoods understood the meaning behind the data collected as well as its implications and used it to identify areas for improvement. In data-driven decision-making, progress was tracked, ensuring accountability, identifying areas of greatest need and impact, and ultimately identifying and addressing the root causes of the problem.

There are also, however, challenges associated with data-driven decision-making. The primary challenge is ensuring the quality of the data, as poor quality can lead to inaccurate or misleading conclusions. Data analysis also requires specialized skills and expertise, and data interpretation requires understanding the context and implications of the data. (World Bank, 2018. Data-driven decision making for sustainable livelihoods).

An article discusses the relevance of Data Quality (2024). Data Quality refers to the accuracy, completeness, consistency, and reliability of data, which is essential for informed decision-making, effective business operations, and reliable research findings. Unwise data quality leads to bad decisions and reduces productivity, which could cost money. There are many things that may go wrong with data quality, such as people making mistakes, not validating data enough, problems with data integration, not having enough standards, and data that is old or missing. You can make mistakes when you input data by hand, and if you don't check it thoroughly, it can be wrong or fail to match up with other data. When you try to combine data from different places, you could run into problems with data integration. Also, it can be hard to put data together and make sense of it if there are no rules. If the data is old or missing, it could lead to wrong assumptions and bad decisions. Organizations can find bad data in a number of ways, such as data profiling, data validation, data quality assessments, and data lineage.

Furthermore, data validation checks data against a set of rules and limits to make sure it is correct and consistent. Data quality metrics examine aspects like accuracy, completeness, consistency, and timeliness to ensure the data is good. On the other hand, data lineage tracks where data came from and how it got there so that mistakes or differences can be detected. Once problems are recognized, solutions such as data cleaning, data standardization, data validation, data integration, data quality monitoring, data governance, and data education and training can be put into action. Data cleansing means repairing or removing data that is inaccurate, invalid, not usable, or missing. Standardizing data ensures that it is always organized, labeled, and formatted in the same way. Data validation ensures that data is correct by using rules and restrictions. Data integration brings data from multiple sources into one view. Data governance sets rules, policies, and standards for how to improve and maintain data quality. Data quality monitoring keeps an eye on quality indicators to identify problems early. Lastly, data education and training teach knowledge workers how to use management tools and methods and improve data quality.

Organizations need to set data standards, ensure that data validation aligns with those standards, and regularly check data quality through the data profiling process. They should also establish data governance and provide employees with proper data training to maintain high data quality. Organizations can maintain high-quality data and ensure that insights and decisions are accurate by understanding the causes of bad data

quality, identifying problems early, and applying remedies and best practices. (DATA QUALITY: What to look for, where to find it, and how to remedy it in 2024 and 2025).

Orbeta et al. (2020) state that the Microenterprise Development Assistance program of the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) in the Philippines aims to help people who receive money from the Pantawid Pamilya program improve their businesses by providing Seed Capital Fund (SCF) grants of up to ₱10,000. The research indicates that, although recipients exhibited heightened participation in income-generating activities, this did not lead to notable improvements in household income, expenditure, savings, or capital investment. The small effect on the economy shows that while access to finance is an important part of starting a business, it is not enough on its own to sustain economic stability in the long run. One of the main problems found was that businesses were closing at a significant rate, especially group-managed microenterprises. Many also struggled with the day-to-day management of their businesses, keeping them afloat and getting them through the door to profitability. Group businesses were particularly weak as few members participated, leading to inefficient operations. These challenges were exacerbated by a lack of follow-up support, financial literacy education, and long-term monitoring. As a result, many recipients were unable to sustain their businesses beyond the initial funding phase.

Orbeta et al. (2020), based on their findings, propose a multi-faceted strategy to improve the program. The research emphasizes the importance of integrating education on life skills, promotion of savings, and assistance in business development alongside the provision of cash transfer support. By creating long-term income streams rather than relying on short-term financial aid, microenterprise programs can become economically viable, provided there are improved methods for monitoring and offering technical assistance. These policy proposals underscore the need for a comprehensive system that not only provides financial aid but also equips individuals with the skills and support they need to thrive in their businesses.

Orbeta et al. (2020), This study critically reviews the Sustainable Livelihood Program's (SLP) Microenterprise Development Assistance and focuses on its impact on the economic lives of beneficiaries. The study highlights that, while cash transfers lead to increased involvement in income-generating activities, they do not guarantee long-term improvements in household income, savings, or investment. A larger issue is the overwhelming closure rate of businesses, particularly group-managed microenterprises. The lack of participation and the struggle with long-term profitability make it difficult for these businesses to survive.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) also reports on the progress of its major programs, including the SLP. The DSWD (2020) states that its goal in 2020 was to assist 59,734 targeted beneficiaries, but a series of setbacks meant only 23,119 households were helped, or 39% of the target. A significant reason for this shortfall was the realignment of funds, including the ₱1.1 billion allocated to the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) as part of the government's pandemic response. Additionally, ₱2.4 billion was still unreleased, further complicating the program's ability to educate people and help them create sustainable livelihoods.

The paper discusses several obstacles to implementing the SLP, such as inconsistent funding, lack of operational efficiency, and the challenges of maintaining microenterprises among recipients. These issues align with what Orbeta et al. (2006) referred to as the "availability effect," which highlights the high business closure rates among recipients of the program. Their findings suggest that while monetary assistance is important, it is insufficient for long-term success. Instead, they argue for integrating entrepreneurial development, financial literacy programs, and after-assistance support to maximize livelihood outcomes.

According to DSWD (2020) and Orbeta et al. (2020), financial aid is essential for livelihood initiatives, but it must be paired with skill-building programs and effective execution plans to ensure sustainability. Improving financing sources and technical support for grantees could significantly enhance the program's long-term success, increasing participants' chances of achieving stable and self-sufficient livelihoods.

Castillo and Mantillas (2024) conducted a supplementary study on the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) in Rizal Province, Philippines, which examined challenges in the execution of the Microenterprise Development Track. Their research underscores the importance of the Seed Capital Fund (SCF) as the

primary financial support system for beneficiaries. While financial aid is crucial for starting microenterprises, Castillo and Mantillas found that a lack of knowledge about activities that help individuals develop essential skills severely impacts the long-term success of these businesses. Many participants struggle with financial literacy and entrepreneurship, which hampers their ability to manage and grow their businesses effectively.

The study also found that issues with the program's implementation go beyond just financial concerns. Some of these problems include ineffective training assessments, insufficient coordination, and the absence of a dedicated SLP office to ensure smooth program execution. Program administrators also face difficulties in tracking the progress of businesses and providing necessary support due to a lack of contact information for beneficiaries. Another major concern is the uncertainty regarding the long-term viability of livelihood interventions. Participants are unsure if the assistance will help them achieve lasting financial stability.

To address these challenges, Castillo and Mantillas (2024) proposed a detailed action plan, which includes better methods for assessing training, improving program integration, and implementing ongoing monitoring mechanisms to track the success of livelihood interventions.

The findings of various studies emphasize that financial assistance alone is insufficient for sustainable microenterprise development. For long-term economic growth, a structured approach that includes training, mentorship, and continuous support post-aid is essential. This holistic approach is critical for the success of livelihood projects. To ensure sustainable development, it is not enough to provide initial financial support; there must also be capacity-building programs, regular program reviews, and robust implementation methods. Without these additional steps, livelihood programs may struggle to meet their goals of poverty reduction and enhancing economic empowerment.

In 2024, the DSWD Field Office VIII conducted a comprehensive analysis of the Sustainable Livelihood Program Associations (SLPAs) in Ormoc City, Philippines. This study examined the challenges these associations face and their strategies for sustaining their businesses. The research found that many beneficiaries of the livelihood initiatives struggle with long-term financial stability, market adaptability, and effective business management. These difficulties hinder the growth of their businesses even after receiving initial financial aid. Key barriers to sustainability include a lack of business knowledge, poor financial literacy, and insufficient entrepreneurial skills. These challenges prevent beneficiaries from expanding their businesses and maintaining profitability.

To address these issues, the implementation of Project Development Officers (IPDOs) is crucial. IPDOs play a vital role in monitoring, coaching, and educating beneficiaries to ensure the continued viability of their businesses. In 2017, IPDO Nelia Oledan and LGU Livelihood Focal Nenita Ceniza introduced a groundbreaking initiative by merging 82 SLP Associations (SLPAs) into one federation. The goal of this move was to pool resources from small business owners, fostering collaboration and improving financial stability. By combining various lifestyle groups, members could learn from one another, exchange business ideas, and identify better market opportunities. This collaboration enhanced their chances of success by allowing them to negotiate better prices for supplies, reach broader markets, and outcompete others in local markets.

The study revealed that participants in federated livelihood projects were more engaged, better at managing their finances, and had stronger support networks than individuals working alone. The research also highlighted Memorandum Circular No. 12 (MC12), issued in June 2018, which facilitated the wider adoption of programs by implementing stricter monitoring protocols. This policy ensured continued assistance for microenterprises, including business evaluations, technical advice, and progress measurement.

The monitoring framework allowed SLP implementers to track the performance of beneficiaries, identify struggling businesses, and intervene early to prevent closure. The memorandum helped extend the lifespan of livelihood projects by requiring frequent evaluations and capacity-building programs.

The study conducted by DSWD Field Office VIII (2024) underscores that providing financial aid alone is not sufficient for ensuring long-term success. While seed capital is necessary to start businesses, beneficiaries also need continuous training, business development, and mentoring programs to maintain

stability. Many small businesses fail due to poor financial management, inefficient operations, and limited market access. These findings highlight the need for ongoing support from livelihood officers to guide and sustain these businesses. The research suggests that government livelihood initiatives should adopt a more comprehensive strategy, integrating business development training, collaborative enterprise frameworks, and continuous technical support to strengthen the resilience of microenterprises.

The results further demonstrate the importance of institutional support, structured livelihood interventions, and clear monitoring procedures for the long-term success of the SLP. By integrating livelihood associations and utilizing more robust training and evaluation methods, the program can have a greater impact on reducing poverty and enhancing economic empowerment. The study advocates for additional policy improvements focused on sustainable economic methods, entrepreneurship development, and capacity-building activities, which would provide recipients with the essential skills and resources for resilient and self-sustaining livelihood ventures.

According to Dang, X. et al. (2020), global conservation initiatives, such as China's Grain-for-Green Program (GGP), have a significant impact on the livelihoods and socio-economic conditions of participants. However, there is limited credible information about the effectiveness of the GGP, the largest conservation project in the world, in enhancing participants' livelihoods while achieving environmental goals. Recent research used a sustainable livelihood framework and structural equation modeling, employing household survey data from Shaanxi province, to compare the livelihood outcomes of participants and non-participants in the GGP.

The study found that the GGP did not negatively affect participants' livelihoods. Despite a slight reduction in natural capital due to decreased landholdings, participants gained increased off-farm income, subsidies, and social assets. Although participants generally believed the initiative would benefit the environment, they were less optimistic about its economic and social impacts. Factors like labor availability, education, healthcare, off-farm income, subsidies, and transportation access significantly influenced their perceptions of the program's environmental benefits. The study concluded that improvements in education, healthcare, and infrastructure could create additional off-farm employment opportunities for participants. Policymakers could consider adapting such programs to better support the rebuilding of poor families' lives through ecological service payments.

A study by Romano et al. (2022) examined the effects of the SLP in Butuan City, Philippines, on the lives of underprivileged Filipinos. Using a descriptive-correlational approach, the study evaluated both the economic and social impacts of the program, such as employment and skill development, as well as improvements in peace and personal fulfillment. Despite limitations in time, scope, and budget, researchers collaborated with local social workers and community leaders to gather credible data through purposive and convenience sampling, interviews, and observations. The findings revealed that the SLP significantly contributed to social protection and economic improvement, especially for women beneficiaries who gained additional income streams. About 32% of respondents reported improved happiness and health due to the program, and 41% indicated it helped them escape poverty. The program also enhanced community cohesion and motivation. The high R-squared value of 0.948 suggests that 94.8% of the impact variance could be attributed to factors linked to economic and social development, confirming the program's effectiveness in assisting marginalized groups.

In his 2022 study, Edgar Naganag explored the preparedness of beneficiaries to engage with the SLP and how this affects intervention development. Data was collected on respondents' profiles, including age, gender, household income, family size, and other income sources, as well as their readiness and the community's preparedness for SLP implementation. The research demonstrated that both the community and the beneficiaries were fully equipped for project identification, implementation, and microenterprise development. Respondents expressed strong interest in the SLP projects, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, seeing it as an opportunity to improve their livelihoods. Naganag's study highlights that the adoption of the SLP is seen as a dynamic process that provides valuable information about running a business,

particularly in rural areas with low incomes.

Research by Fauziyanti and Hizbaron (2020) analyzed the resilience of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the context of disaster management. Using the Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA) and the Pentagon Asset framework, they studied MSMEs' resilience to disasters, particularly in urban areas. Their findings revealed that MSMEs in cities are more likely to survive natural disasters, such as earthquakes, due to a strong mix of physical, natural, and financial assets, along with social, human, and political capital. The study classified disaster risk management strategies into three types: survival strategies during disasters, consolidation strategies post-disaster, and accumulation strategies for improving conditions after a disaster. The authors proposed integrating systemic issues like policy frameworks, institutional dynamics, and cross-sectoral coordination into the SLA framework for a more comprehensive disaster management approach.

Building on Pascual's (2025) research that demonstrated how interdisciplinary performance tasks anchored in the Sustainable Development Goals can enhance academic achievement and foster community engagement, the present study extends this educational approach into the socio-economic domain. By examining the implementation of the Sustainable Livelihood Program in the municipality of Paete, Laguna, this study explores how integrative, real-world learning principles can inform and support local efforts toward sustainable development and inclusive growth.

Lastly, Pani and Mishra (2022) examined the sustainable livelihood security (SLS) in Odisha, India, through a holistic framework that incorporates ecological, social, and economic aspects. Their research found significant disparities in livelihood security across the state. While some districts performed better, others, particularly those in economically disadvantaged areas, struggled to meet the criteria for sustainable livelihood security. The study stressed the need for region-specific development initiatives, inclusive policies focused on tribal welfare, and tailored responses to local challenges for achieving long-term equitable growth.

Synthesis

The Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) wanted to encourage people to live in a way that was good for the environment and made their homes more financially stable. However, people were still worried about how well it worked. Studies suggested that the program didn't have much of an influence on important financial measures like income, consumption, savings, and capital investments. These results were exacerbated by problems including spillover effects, selection biases from non-random participation, and the lack of trustworthy pre-intervention data, which made it hard to get correct ratings. Experts had advised that the program be improved by incorporating life skills training, assessing whether individual or group projects were more effective, making sure that livelihood initiatives could work in the market, and making support systems for participants stronger. The SLP had potential, but it wasn't able to bring about long-term financial stability and communal growth until these big challenges were fixed.

Sustainable Livelihood projects (SLPs) and similar poverty reduction initiatives revealed significant trends, insights, and persistent challenges that influenced the efficacy and longevity of these programs. There was a general agreement that financial help was an important part of livelihood programs in many places, from rural areas in the Philippines and India to coastal areas in Taiwan and cities in Indonesia. However, financial help alone was rarely enough to guarantee long-term success or a decrease in poverty. Many studies (Orbeta et al., 2020; DSWD, 2020; Castillo & Mantillas, 2024) stressed that seed money and help could help microbusinesses grow and get those who had been left out of the economy involved. But these financial contributions frequently didn't lead to long-term increases in home income, savings, or business growth. People often blamed high rates of firm closures and little progress in the economy on poor management skills, a lack of training for entrepreneurs, and not enough help after getting money.

To overcome these constraints, research continually emphasized the necessity for integrated, comprehensive methodologies. Financial aid and capacity-building activities, such as life skills coaching, financial literacy, business development training, and organized mentorship, were all important parts of

effective SLPs (Orbeta et al., 2020; DSWD Field VIII, 2024). These all-inclusive models gave recipients not just the tools they needed to run and expand their microenterprises, but also the skills and confidence they needed to do so. It was also important to keep monitoring, evaluating, and adapting management, as these activities helped program implementers' deal with new problems and better serve beneficiaries (Castillo & Mantillas, 2024).

It was also important to get people involved in the community and have strong support from institutions. Research showed that livelihood programs were more successful and lasted longer when they encouraged people to work together, as by creating federated groups or cooperatives (DSWD Field VIII, 2024; Micabalo, 2022). These structures made businesses stronger when the economy and the environment were tough by giving them more leverage to negotiate, making it easier to share resources, and making it easier to get into markets.

Additionally, partnerships with local government entities and ongoing communication with participants were vital for ensuring that interventions were pertinent and attuned to community need (Delos Reyes et al., 2022). The study highlighted the significance of evidence-based and data-driven decision-making in the development and execution of projects (World Bank, 2018; Papua New Guinea SLP, 2019). To find the right groups of people to help, adjust interventions, and keep track of progress, you needed to do full needs assessments, get accurate data, and arrange the data correctly. But problems like bad data quality and not having the proper analytical skills could have made these efforts hard. This showed how important it was to spend money on training and data infrastructure (Data Quality, 2024). In addition to looking at the economic implications, good SLPs also looked at the social and environmental effects.

Enhancements in community infrastructure, sanitation, and social capital fostered general well-being and resilience (Guo et al., 2023; Hsu, Kang et al., 2023). Interventions targeting women, indigenous communities, and other marginalized groups, complemented by customized assistance and training, had notably significant positive benefits (Garcia et al., 2020; Romano et al., 2022). Even with these new concepts, there were still big problems that needed to be fixed. Funding constraints, operational inefficiencies, and inadequate market linkages continued to hinder the full realization of SLP objectives (DSWD, 2020; Orbeta et al., 2020).

The literature called for more support from policymakers, better coordination between stakeholders, and continuing changes to program initiatives to meet local needs and changing situations (Pani & Mishra, 2022). The academic literature concurred that sustainable livelihood programs must extend beyond just financial assistance. They also needed to help people learn new skills, get involved in their communities, give extra help to the most vulnerable, and be managed well with data. Only through such diverse and flexible methods could SLPs make a real difference in reducing poverty and making communities more resilient.

2. Methodology

This chapter discussed the methodologies and materials that were utilized in the study, the respondents of the study provided information needed for the success of the study, the sampling techniques and research instruments were used to gather important and relevant information, the mode of data collection and how the data was analysed, and the statistical treatment that was performed to interpret the data gathered.

2.1. Research Design

The researcher utilized a descriptive-correlational approach to assess how the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) was being implemented in the Municipality of Paete, Laguna. A thorough examination of the program's efficacy, difficulties, and effects on the neighbourhood was conducted, wherein the collected quantifiable data on program outcomes.

2.2. Respondents of the Study

The respondents of the study consisted of 344 active SLP beneficiaries from the 18 SLP Association within the Municipality of Paete, Laguna from the period of C.Y. 2020 to 2024, making sure that recent and relevant experiences relating to the municipality's livelihood programs were the main focus.

2.3. Sampling Technique

The study's participants were selected via purposive sampling from the entire population of sustainable livelihood groups and 344 beneficiaries who engaged in the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) in the Municipality of Paete, Laguna, from 2020 to 2024. The qualifications included that the grantees were personally active in carrying out the SLP, were of legal age, and were part of the program's vulnerable groups. The purposive sampling technique was selected to guarantee that the study would obtain comprehensive, pertinent, and detailed information from individuals with direct engagement in the program. The research examined the unique challenges, accomplishments, and intricacies of SLP implementation from the perspective of a meticulously chosen group of participants. This strategy helped us better grasp the things that affected the program's effectiveness and efficiency, as well as the challenges that beneficiaries faced.

2.4. Research Instrument

The research instrument employed in this study was a researcher-developed questionnaire, categorized into three primary sections: Level of Effectiveness, Level of Efficiency, and Issues or Problems Encountered during the implementation of the Sustainable Livelihood Program in the Local Government Unit of Paete, Laguna. To confirm the instrument's validity and reliability, a pilot test was administered to 30 individuals affiliated with the Sustainable Livelihood Program in neighboring villages within the 4th district of Paete, Laguna.

The survey was done to collect data using both online Google Forms and paper questionnaires. This dual approach was adopted to accommodate participants' varying levels of familiarity with digital tools, as some beneficiaries were not comfortable using online forms. By providing printed questionnaires as an alternative, the researcher ensured that all respondents could participate effectively, thereby improving response accuracy and inclusivity.

2.5. Data-Gathering Procedure

The researcher handed over a researchers-made Survey questionnaire as a primary tool for the data gathering. It was handed to the thesis adviser and other member of the panel for checking, revisions and recommendations to ensure the relevance of the study. Ethical clearance was acquired from the office of the vice president for research and innovation and a certificate of content validation was accomplished. After the validation of questionnaire, researcher sought permission to the Local Government of Kalayaan through MSWD Kalayaan, Laguna to conduct pilot testing for the study. Pilot testing was participated by 30 randomly SLP Beneficiaries from the Municipality of Kalayaan, Laguna. The Data Privacy Act of 2012 was also discussed with the respondents and was also attached to the survey questionnaire. This ensured that the study aligns with established ethical guidelines. This compliance not only protected the rights of participants but also enhanced the credibility and reliability of the research outcomes. Respondents were also informed that they could withdraw their participation at any portion of the study when they wanted to.

For the actual collection of data, the researcher sought permission to the Local Government of Paete, Laguna then the survey questionnaires were disseminated to the 300 SLP Beneficiaries. Each respondent was

given same set of questionnaires via Google forms and printed survey questionnaires to determine the level of effectiveness and level of efficiency as well as the issues/problems encountered in the implementation of SLP in the Municipality of Paete, Laguna.

2.6. Statistical Treatment of Data

The data gathered in this study was subjected to the following treatment: Frequency counts and percentages were employed to condense categorical data concerning participation and the challenges faced throughout the execution of the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP). These measures provided a good picture of the study participants' traits and how their answers were spread out. The mean and standard deviation used to figure out how well and quickly the SLP worked. These numbers were used to see how well the program worked at each of its five main stages: before it started, during social preparation, during resource mobilization, during project implementation, and during mainstreaming. The same methods were used to see how well the vulnerability context, bridging resources, and productive livelihoods worked. The mean scores reflected how the people who took the test felt overall, while the standard deviation showed how different their answers were. The Pearson R Correlation Coefficient was utilized in the study to assess the efficacy and performance of the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP). Only those who were directly involved in carrying out the program, were of the right age, and were part of the vulnerable groups were chosen as respondents to make sure the answers were relevant and reliable. This method made ensured that the results showed the views of the people who were most affected by the program.

3. Results and Discussion

This chapter presents the results, analysis, and discussion of the findings with regards to the level of effectiveness, level of efficiency and the issues / problems encountered during the implementation of sustainable livelihood program. Finally, the test of relationship between the level of effectiveness and level of efficiency in the implementation of sustainable livelihood program in the local level.

Table 1.1

Level of Effectiveness of Sustainable Livelihood Program in terms of Pre implementation

Indicator	M	SD	Interpretation
<i>The Sustainable Livelihood Program of Paete, Laguna... (Ang Sustainable Livelihood Program of Paete, Laguna ay...)</i>			
1. effectively addressed the actual needs of the community. (<i>epektibong tumugon sa tunay na pangangailangan ng komunidad.</i>)	3.42	0.56	Effective
2. ensures that the goals of the program is successfully communicated to all stakeholders. (<i>sinisiguradong matagumpay na naipaliwanag ang mga layunin ng programa sa lahat ng stakeholder.</i>)	3.30	0.60	Effective
3. strictly adhered to the DSWD Guidelines in participant selection. (<i>mahigpit na nakaayon sa mga panuntunan ng DSWD ang pagpili ng mga benepisyaryo ng programa.</i>)	3.48	0.66	Effective
4. ensures that stakeholders, including DSWD, Municipal, and Barangay officials, were actively involved in the planning and consultation processes. (<i>sinisiguradong ang mga stakeholder, kabilang ang DSWD, mga opisyal ng munisipyo at barangay, ay aktibong kasali sa mga proseso ng paglaplano at konsultasyon.</i>)	3.44	0.67	Effective

5. make sure that potential risk factors and issues were thoroughly identified and addressed during the pre-implementation phase. (<i>sinisiguradong ang mga posibleng panganib at isyu ay lubusang natukoy at natugunan sa yugto ng pre-implementation.</i>)	3.28	0.70	Effective
Overall	3.38	0.47	Effective

Legend: 3.51-4.00 Highly Effective; 2.51-3.50 Effective; 1.51-2.50; Slightly Effective; 1.00-1.50 Not Effective

Table 1.1 shows that the Sustainable Livelihood Program was rated as "Effective" during its pre-implementation phase, with an overall mean of 3.38. This means that important parts like figuring out what the community needs, picking participants, letting everyone know what the program's goals are, getting stakeholders involved, and figuring out what risks there are were all taken care of. The standard deviation of 0.47 shows that the participants' responses were quite consistent, which suggests that they all thought the same thing about how effective the program was.

Reyes, Mabunga, and De Castro (2021) discovered that initiatives characterized by robust pre-implementation frameworks, including community engagement and clear objectives, yield more durable results. Ligsay and Velasco (2021) highlighted the beneficial impact of early stakeholder engagement on program adoption and efficacy. Agustin et al. (2022) confirmed that robust groundwork, encompassing direction and planning, enhances the efficacy of livelihood interventions.

These results suggest that the SLP in Paete has built a strong foundation during the pre-implementation phase. To ensure the program is successful and lasts for a long time, these kinds of activities are needed. To make pre-implementation even better, it is recommended that participatory planning and monitoring processes be refined on a regular basis.

The strict following of DSWD criteria while choosing participants got the highest score, with a mean score of 3.48. This shows that the persons who answered the question believe that the process of finding recipients was fair and followed the regulations set by the institution. This result shows that the selection techniques were fair and included all qualified and deserving individuals. Dulay, Morales, and De Jesus (2023) found that following national norms ensures targeted accuracy and fairness, which in turn boosts public trust in programs that help people make a living. Cabrito and Santos (2020) said that following formal selection criteria makes programs more open and less likely to be crooked. The DSWD Central Office Report (2022) also said that following the guidelines of the program all the time is very crucial for making service delivery reliable and helpful. This high level of compliance shows that the institution has a strong structure and that people are following the rules. It is essential for program administrators to uphold this practice and to offer ongoing orientation and assessment to guarantee that selection processes remain impartial and in accordance with changing rules.

The indicator with the lowest mean, which is nonetheless rated as "Effective," has to do with finding and dealing with risk concerns before the project starts. A mean score of 3.28 and a standard deviation of 0.70 show that people had different opinions on how well this part was done. This could mean that risks were dealt with to some degree, but the procedure may not have been thorough or uniform across all areas of implementation.

Lopez and Tan (2022) noted that inadequate risk assessment in livelihood initiatives may lead to diminished adaptation to obstacles, particularly in times of crisis. Valencia and Bautista (2021) recommended the incorporation of risk-mapping techniques during the pre-implementation phase to foresee and address logistical and environmental issues. De Jesus and Villar (2023) emphasized the necessity for dynamic planning frameworks that incorporate contingency measures for project sustainability.

Table 1.1 illustrates that the SLP needs to take a more proactive approach to risk management before it starts. Implementers should be taught how to do risk analysis and adaptive project planning so they are

better ready for probable problems. Improving this area can make the software far more resilient and responsive.

Table 1.2

Level of Effectiveness of Sustainable Livelihood Program in terms of Social Preparation

Indicator	M	SD	Interpretation
<i>The Sustainable Livelihood Program of Paete, Laguna... (Ang Sustainable Livelihood Program of Paete, Laguna ay...)</i>			
1. effectively conducted orientation sessions about the SLP for the target program participants. (<i>nagkaroon ng epektibong orientasyon tungkol sa SLP para sa mga target na miyembro ng programa.</i>)	3.36	0.59	Effective
2. provided ample opportunities for members to discuss their interests and desired livelihood projects. (<i>nagbigay ng sapat na pagkakataon sa mga miyembro na pag-usapan ang kanilang mga interes at nais na livelihood project.</i>)	3.32	0.68	Effective
3. successfully conducted capability-building activities to enhance the skills and capabilities of the members. (<i>matagumpay na nagsagawa ng mga capability-building activities upang mapalago ang kakayahan ng mga miyembro.</i>)	3.19	0.78	Effective
4. actively encouraged members to work collaboratively with other group members. (<i>aktibong hinihikayat ang mga miyembro na makipagtulungan sa kanilang kapwa miyembro.</i>)	3.26	0.67	Effective
5. effectively conducted orientation on cash grants bank transactions such as withdrawal and deposit). (<i>epektibong naisagawa ang orientasyon tungkol sa proseso sa bangko ng cash grants tulad ng withdraw at deposit.</i>)	3.35	0.62	Effective
Overall	3.30	0.53	Effective
<i>Legend: 3.51-4.00 Highly Effective; 2.51-3.50 Effective; 1.51-2.50; Slightly Effective; 1.00-1.50 Not Effective</i>			

Table 1.2 demonstrates that the average score of 3.30 means that the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) is effective when it comes to social preparation. This result shows that important preliminary steps, like orientation, community involvement, and strengthening basic skills, were done well. The beneficiaries believed they were sufficiently equipped to engage in the program. The low standard deviation (0.53) indicates a uniform perception among respondents.

Castillo and Mantillas (2024) stressed how important it is to have a structured orientation and capacity-building to encourage ownership and long-term involvement in SLP initiatives in Eastern Visayas. Their findings validated that proficient social planning enhances the enduring sustainability of programs. Romano et al. (2022) emphasized that individuals in Mindanao who underwent extensive social training exhibited enhanced community engagement and cohesion, resulting in improved project outcomes. Valencia and Garcia (2020) demonstrated that comprehensive orientations and beneficiary discussions in Laguna resulted in enhanced comprehension and readiness, leading to improved implementation outcomes.

This means that the SLP program in Paete, Laguna was able to get people to take part. If the community keeps getting instructional, participative, and skill-building sessions, they might be able to sustain the program's results and make their lives more stable. This was the item that obtained the highest average score of 3.36 out of all the items in the social preparation phase. This means that the people who got the benefits thought the orientation meetings were helpful and useful since they helped them understand the program's goals, how it worked, and what their roles were.

This outcome indicates the efficacy of the early communication and information distribution tactics

utilized by the implementers.

The DSWD Monitoring Report (2023) says that good orientation sessions help make program goals clearer and help beneficiaries trust and work together better. Mendoza and Sabado (2021) also found that complete orientation programs make programs more open and help stakeholders work together, which makes it easier to carry out projects in Northern Luzon.

This means that a strong initial orientation makes sure that participants know what to expect and are ready to take part in the program. As the project goes on, there should be regular updates and refresher sessions to make sure that this is a best practice in all SLP implementations.

This indicator got the lowest mean of 3.19, although it was still in the "Effective" range. This could mean that even while skills training was done, it may not have been enough, useful, or relevant for everyone. It could also mean that the quality of instruction varies from group to group or place to place.

Santos and Lorenzo (2021) stressed that generic and infrequent training sessions typically lead to skill mismatches, which can lower the output of livelihood groups in CALABARZON. Bautista et al. (2023) discovered that training customized to the specific livelihood projects of participants led to markedly improved implementation success and decreased dropout rates in livelihood programs in the Visayas.

The findings in Table 1.2 indicate a necessity to improve the relevance, frequency, and quality of the delivery of capability-building activities. One way to close this gap would be to tailor training to the community's specific needs and use practical, hands-on methods. Ongoing mentorship and assistance after training would give participants even more power and make the project more likely to last.

Table 1.3

Level of Effectiveness of Sustainable Livelihood Program in terms of Resource mobilization

Indicator	M	SD	Interpretation
<i>The Sustainable Livelihood Program of Paete, Laguna... (Ang Sustainable Livelihood Program of Paete, Laguna ay...)</i>			
1. ensured that resources were distributed fairly and equitably among participants. (<i>sinisiguradong antay-pantay ang pamamahagi ng mga yaman sa mga miyembro.</i>)	3.41	0.70	Effective
2. provided resources that matched the specific requirements of the livelihood projects. (<i>naghahanda ng mga yaman ay tumutugma sa partikular na pangangailangan ng proyekto.</i>)	3.25	0.66	Effective
3. involved community members in the resource planning process. (<i>isinapasali ang mga miyembro ng komunidad sa pagpapalano.</i>)	3.22	0.74	Effective
4. effectively coordinated with other stakeholders, such as LGUs and NGOs. (<i>epektibo ang koordinasyon sa ibang sektor tulad ng LGU at NGO.</i>)	3.29	0.64	Effective
5. ensured the availability of tools and capital needed for the implementation. (<i>tiniyak ang pagkakaroon ng mga kasangkapan at puhunan para sa implementasyon ng proyekto.</i>)	3.33	0.62	Effective
Overall	3.30	0.52	Effective
<i>Legend: 3.51-4.00 Highly Effective; 2.51-3.50 Effective; 1.51-2.50; Slightly Effective; 1.00-1.50 Not Effective</i>			

The mean score of 3.30 from Table 1.3 shows that people think the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) in Paete, Laguna is effective when it comes to mobilizing resources. This means that the program largely worked to collect, manage, and give out the resources needed for programs that help people make a living. The standard deviation of 0.52 shows that the people who answered were mostly in agreement, which

means that the experiences of different beneficiaries were rather similar.

Lopez and Salazar (2021) performed a regional analysis of DSWD programs and discovered that effective resource mobilization is strongly associated with the successful execution of livelihood interventions, especially in economically disadvantaged rural areas. Balboa et al. (2022) emphasized that community-based livelihood programs flourish with timely access to resources, financing, and institutional support, reflecting the experiences of SLP users in Paete. Almario and Vergara (2020) stressed that good communication between local government agencies and NGOs makes better use of resources, which in turn makes DSWD initiatives last longer.

This information reveals that the SLP in Paete, Laguna has satisfied the minimum requirements for getting resources, which is a crucial aspect of making people's lives better. But in the long run, making it easier for people to get involved and distributing money to initiatives based on what they need might make the program more responsive and have a bigger effect.

The indicator "Ensured that resources were distributed fairly and equitably among participants" had the highest average score of 3.41. This means that the people who got the resources thought they were given out fairly and equally. This is an important part of community-based initiatives that work because it encourages people to be included, cuts down on fights amongst members, and makes recipients happier and more willing to work together.

Dela Peña and Rufino (2023) said that when government assistance programs share resources fairly, it makes people more confident and involved in their communities. Gatchalian (2021) contended that perceived equity in government assistance enhances program retention and fosters improved group cohesion among participants.

This outcome suggests that SLP implementers in Paete have cultivated confidence by ensuring transparent and equitable resource distribution. To keep this view, the SLP may want to keep using open and participatory methods in the distribution process. This would get more people in the community involved.

The statement "Involved community members in the resource planning process" got the lowest mean score of 3.22 out of the five statements about resource mobilization. This is still in the "Effective" area. The outcome indicates that, despite attempts to engage the community in planning, their participation may have been restricted or erratic. This could cause problems when the resources given to a project don't match the needs of the people who will benefit from it.

Estrella and Domingo (2020) noted that restricted involvement in the planning phase frequently leads to diminished project satisfaction and underutilization of resources. Reyes and Aquino (2022) emphasized that community involvement in the planning process enhances project relevance, refines targeting precision, and fosters long-term sustainability.

This suggests that participatory processes in resource mobilization planning need to be made stronger. Getting more people involved in the program can help identify needs more accurately and give beneficiaries more ownership of it, which is important for long-term success.

Table 1.4

Level of Effectiveness of Sustainable Livelihood Program in terms of Project implementation

Indicator	M	SD	Interpretation
<i>The Sustainable Livelihood Program of Paete, Laguna... (Ang Sustainable Livelihood Program of Paete, Laguna ay...)</i>			
1. implemented the livelihood project according to the original plan. (<i>naipatupad ang proyekto ayon sa orihinal na plano.</i>)	3.13	0.78	Effective
2. ensured that all SLP group members were actively involved during the entire implementation process. (<i>tiniyak na lahat ng miyembro ng grupo ay aktibong kalahok sa kabuuan ng pagpapatupad.</i>)	3.26	0.67	Effective
3. clearly assigned and followed roles and responsibilities. (<i>malinaw ang pagkakahatihati ng tungkulin at ito ay nasusunod.</i>)	3.16	0.77	Effective

4. provided consistent guidance during the implementation. (<i>may tagapagpatupad na patuloy na nagbibigay ng gabay sa pagpapatupad ng proyekto.</i>)	3.31	0.66	Effective
5. resolved issues that emerged quickly and effectively. (<i>agad at epektibong nareresolba ang mga problemang lumilitaw.</i>)	3.21	0.72	Effective
Overall	3.21	0.59	Effective

Legend: 3.51-4.00 Highly Effective; 2.51-3.50 Effective; 1.51-2.50; Slightly Effective; 1.00-1.50 Not Effective

The overall mean of 3.21 in table 1.4 shows that the project implementation phase of the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) in Paete, Laguna was rated as Effective. This shows that the SLP was mostly able to carry out its plans for improving people's lives, but there are certain areas where it could do better. A standard deviation of 0.59 means that the respondents' perceptions varied moderately, which suggests that the implementation was not consistent across all groups or projects.

Domingo and Panganiban (2022) examined SLP implementation in CALABARZON and determined that successful execution is significantly dependent on consistent coordination, role clarity, and beneficiary engagement—elements that are mirrored in this study's indicators. Neri and Santiago (2021) found that the success of livelihood initiatives is typically restricted by inconsistent monitoring and a lack of assistance after orientation. This could explain the moderate ratings shown in Paete. Carreon and Balais (2023) stressed that even well-thought-out plans might have problems with execution because of logistical issues or a lack of follow-through by those who are supposed to carry them out.

This result means that the SLP in Paete, Laguna is working well during its implementation phase, but it needs to be improved in terms of methodical planning, responsive troubleshooting, and ongoing supervision to make the projects better and get better results. Improving program monitoring and giving refresher assistance during the implementation phase could lead to better results.

The highest mean score was 3.31, which means that the area of project implementation that was done best was providing ongoing guidance. This probably helped keep the project's operations in line with its original goals and helped beneficiaries deal with problems that came up during implementation.

Garcia and Salcedo (2021) discovered that continuous assistance from field implementers significantly influences project efficacy, particularly in impoverished regions where business acumen is still maturing. Padilla and De Luna (2020) emphasized that program participants are more inclined to adhere to regulations and effectuate changes when implementers assume roles beyond basic facilitation. This means that the SLP facilitators in Paete are doing a great job of helping people with both technical and motivational problems while they work on projects. This level of advice might be embedded into the program's rules and structure to make sure that support is given the same way in other areas and in future SLP cycles.

The mean score of 3.13, which is the lowest in this group, is for sticking to the original project plan. This score is still in the "Effective" area. This score demonstrates that the original plans weren't followed exactly. This could be because of problems that weren't prepared for, such not getting resources on time, not communicating well, or not having enough capacity. It shows that you can finish a thing without being strict or adaptable.

Alcantara and Rivera (2022) found that community-based projects commonly run into problems because the people in charge of them don't plan well or the money changes. Lopez et al. (2020) observed that although adherence to plans is optimal, contextual adaptation is frequently essential for programs to remain attuned to the immediate requirements of users and local circumstances.

This indicates that even while it's vital to be flexible when dealing with real-life situations, there need to be adequate ways for everyone to be accountable and stay focused on the project's main goals. You can make project management systems stronger and teach facilitators how to change how they use them to improve plan adherence without losing relevance.

Table 1.5
Level of Effectiveness of Sustainable Livelihood Program in terms of Mainstreaming

Indicator	M	SD	Interpretation
<i>The Sustainable Livelihood Program of Paete, Laguna... (Ang Sustainable Livelihood Program of Paete, Laguna ay...)</i>			
1. is sustained even with minimal external support. (<i>patuloy ang proyekto kahit kaunti na lang ang tulong mula sa iba.</i>)	3.39	0.67	Effective
2. conducts regular and effective monitoring and evaluation. (<i>regular at epektibo ang pagmonitor at ebalwasyon ng proyekto.</i>)	3.02	0.99	Effective
3. ensures continuous technical support is available when needed. (<i>handa ang teknikal na suporta sa proyekto kung kinakailangan.</i>)	3.34	0.62	Effective
4. has a well-functioning documentation and reporting system in place. (<i>maayos ang sistema ng dokumentasyon at ulat ng proyekto.</i>)	3.13	0.77	Effective
5. uses monitoring to help improve the quality of the project over time. (<i>gumagamit ng monitoring upang patuloy na mapaunlad ang proyekto.</i>)	3.18	0.77	Effective
Overall	3.21	0.59	Effective
<i>Legend: 3.51-4.00 Highly Effective; 2.51-3.50 Effective; 1.51-2.50; Slightly Effective; 1.00-1.50 Not Effective</i>			

The average score of 3.21 with a standard deviation of 0.59 shows that the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) in Paete, Laguna is working. This indicates that there are some basic things in place to make sure the project lasts, such as access to technical support, ways to keep an eye on things, and some level of independence from outside help. But there is certainly potential for growth in making sure the program lasts a long time and becomes a permanent component of the school. This is especially true for ways to keep an eye on, evaluate, and keep records.

Dela Peña and Macalinao (2021) discovered that effective integration of livelihood initiatives necessitates constant monitoring, robust documentation systems, and the eventual transfer of project ownership to the community. Santos et al. (2023) stressed that technical help and advice after a project is over are very important for the long-term success of livelihood programs. Torres and Espejo (2020) contended that the durability of community-based programs is bolstered when beneficiaries recognize unequivocal institutional support and possess the inherent capacity to function autonomously.

This result shows that the SLP in Paete is getting closer to being sustainable, but it still needs to work on how it checks, records, and raises quality. SLP initiatives may endure longer if they focus more on building capacity in monitoring and reporting and slowly progress toward decentralization.

The highest-rated indicator scores of 3.39 demonstrates that the community can maintain doing things that assist them make a living even if they don't have a lot of help from outside. This is a strong sign that the folks in the program are learning to depend on themselves more. It shows that core routines and organizational structures are working well enough to keep things going on their own.

Bautista and Delos Santos (2022) found that SLPs with built-in local leadership and decision-making systems are more likely to keep going when the first assistance ends. Agustin and Lopez (2021) said that projects in areas where the community is strong and people are motivated from inside tend to last longer, even if they don't get a lot of outside help.

This means that the people in Paete's SLP are slowly becoming self-sufficient, which is a main goal of any livelihood program. To make this progress even stronger, the people in charge of the SLP may create advanced training in financial and operational management. This would make sure that local organizations

had full control over the project's future.

The lowest mean score of 3.02, which is nonetheless seen as "Effective," shows that regular and systematic monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is the hardest part of mainstreaming. The significant standard deviation of 0.99 shows even more that people don't agree on how often and how well M&E methods are working. This could be because they don't have the right technical skills, the rules aren't clear, or they don't have enough time to do evaluations.

Reyes and Francisco (2023) discovered that poor or inconsistent monitoring and evaluation techniques are among the primary obstacles to achieving lasting impact in livelihood programs. Lacson and Ignacio (2020) pointed out that not enough monitoring might cause projects to get stuck, make it hard to fix problems, and stop new ideas from coming up.

This data suggests that Paete's SLP needs better organized and consistent M&E systems. Training local implementers and beneficiaries in M&E frameworks, giving them easy-to-use tools, and adding regular reporting checkpoints will probably help the program get better and keep track of its long-term effects.

Table 2.1

Level of Efficiency of Sustainable Livelihood Program in terms of Vulnerability Context

Indicator	M	SD	Interpretation
<i>The Sustainable Livelihood Program of Paete, Laguna... (Ang Sustainable Livelihood Program of Paete, Laguna ay...)</i>			
1. effectively addressed the specific needs of individuals affected by poverty. (<i>epektibong tinugunan ng programa ang mga partikular na pangangailangan ng mga taong apektado ng kahirapan.</i>)	3.39	0.63	Efficient
2. provided responsive interventions for vulnerable groups, such as women, PWDs, and disaster survivors. (<i>may mga interbensyon na tumutugon sa pangangailangan ng mga vulnerable groups tulad ng kababaihan, PWDs, at biktima ng sakuna.</i>)	3.16	0.76	Efficient
3. understood and addressed local challenges effectively. (<i>nauunawaan at tinutugunan ng programa ang mga lokal na problema.</i>)	3.33	0.63	Efficient
4. utilized local data on vulnerability in designing livelihood support. (<i>ginagamit ng lokal na datos tungkol sa vulnerability sa pagbuo ng suporta sa kabuhayan.</i>)	3.29	0.62	Efficient
5. efficiently targeted beneficiaries, reaching the most vulnerable individuals. (<i>maayos ang pagpili sa benepisyaryo at umabot sa mga pinaka-nangangailangan.</i>)	3.37	0.60	Efficient
Overall	3.31	0.52	Efficient
<i>Legend: 3.51-4.00 Highly Efficient; 2.51-3.50 Efficient; 1.51-2.50; Slightly Efficient; 1.00-1.50 Not Efficient</i>			

Table 2.1 overall mean of 3.31 shows that the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) in Paete, Laguna was good at dealing with problems in the vulnerability context. This shows that the program effectively recognized and addressed the needs of individuals and communities facing economic hardship, vulnerability owing to gender, disability, disaster risk, and other contextual factors affecting their lives. The standard deviation of 0.52 shows that the people who answered the question had a highly consistent idea of how well the program was operating.

This efficiency demonstrates that the SLP was able to make sure that its interventions were relevant and well-targeted by taking into consideration the fact that many people in the community are poor and on the fringes of society. Using local data and letting people determine who would benefit from the campaign made

it even better at reaching the places that needed it the most.

Lim and Santiago (2021) performed a study that showed how important it is for a livelihood program to be able to find and work with disadvantaged groups in order to be sustainable and effective. Their findings align with the current results, as both demonstrate a systematic and adaptive approach to local weaknesses. Bustamante (2022) said that livelihood programs that use vulnerability data to plan and target usually have better results for everyone. This supports the plan for putting things into action in Paete, Laguna. Manlapaz (2022) also discovered that effectively targeting beneficiaries, particularly in areas affected by disasters and among marginalized populations, resulted in improved long-term livelihoods and a reduced dropout rate from government programs.

The strategies of SLP are aiding in the resolution of the social and economic issues in Paete, Laguna. This signifies that the program is doing the right thing to help people who are most at risk of poverty by putting them first and giving them help. It also means that data-informed planning, community involvement, and inclusive practices should continue to have a long-term effect and make sure that no one is left behind.

The mean score of 3.39, which was the highest, showed that the people who answered thought the program was best at meeting needs related to poverty. This suggests that the interventions were not only well-thought-out, but they also worked well in the actual world for the people who took part. A low standard deviation (0.63) shows that most people agree with each other.

Palabrica-Costello (2020) contends that personalized interventions addressing individual poverty situations improve program efficacy and beneficiary satisfaction. The findings demonstrate that direct support customized to participants' actual experiences is crucial for achieving sustainable livelihoods. Almazan (2023) asserted that customized program design, rooted in the local poverty context, enhances outcomes for income generation and community resilience. This supports the high score for this indicator. This result shows that the SLP's focus on aiding those who are poor is working and is making their lives better straight away. It stresses how important it is to keep putting poverty-related indicators at the front of the list when making and improving program strategies.

Despite having the lowest average score of 3.16, this indication was nonetheless seen as useful. This means that even when there exist programs to help vulnerable populations, they could not be responsive or inclusive enough, especially for women, people with disabilities (PWDs), and those who have survived disasters. The higher standard deviation (0.76) indicates variability in respondents' impressions, implying that the level of support may not have been uniform across all vulnerable groups.

Ramos (2021) found that SLP has protections for vulnerable individuals, but they are often not followed by all municipalities, especially after a disaster. Cruz and Tolentino (2020) also suggested that support programs shouldn't be too wide, therefore they need to be carefully monitored and tailored for certain groups.

This result shows that the SLP has to improve how it targets and customizes support for vulnerable groups so that help is both easy to find and appropriate for the situation. In the future, the focus should be on improving inclusion mechanisms and offering personalized interventions that meet the specific needs of each vulnerable group.

Table 2.2

Level of Efficiency of Sustainable Livelihood Program in terms of Bridge Resources

Indicator	M	SD	Interpretation
<i>The Sustainable Livelihood Program of Paete, Laguna... (Ang Sustainable Livelihood Program of Paete, Laguna ay...)</i>			
1. provided trainings that were relevant and directly applicable to the livelihood project. (<i>nagbibigay ng mga pagsasanay na may kinalaman at kapaki-pakinabang sa kabuhayan.</i>)	3.33	0.60	Efficient

2. ensured that the financial capital provided was sufficient for starting the project. (<i>sinisiguradong sapat ang puhunan na ibinigay para masimulan ang proyekto.</i>)	3.22	0.66	Efficient
3. established linkages with other government or private services. (<i>mayroong koneksyon o tulong na ibinigay ng ibang ahensya o pribadong sektor.</i>)	3.24	0.64	Efficient
4. had community facilitators who helped bridge gaps in knowledge and resources. (<i>mayroong mga tagapatupad na tumutulong punan ang kakulangan sa kaalaman at mga resources.</i>)	3.28	0.62	Efficient
5. ensured that resource distribution was efficient and well-monitored. (<i>sinisiguradong epektibo at maayos ang pamamahagi at pagsubaybay ng mga resources.</i>)	3.18	0.71	Efficient
Overall	3.25	0.52	Efficient

Legend: 3.51-4.00 Highly Efficient; 2.51-3.50 Efficient; 1.51-2.50; Slightly Efficient; 1.00-1.50 Not Efficient

Based on the data presented in Table 2.2, the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) in Paete, Laguna had an overall mean of 3.25, which means that it was "Efficient" in terms of Bridge Resources. This means that the program has successfully given recipients the connections, support networks, and ways to distribute resources they need to move from being vulnerable to having a stable income.

"Bridge Resources" are the tools and people—like training, money, technical support, and connections between institutions—that help people find long-term job possibilities. The scores were consistent (with a standard deviation of 0.52), which means that most people had a positive view of all the things. However, some areas may still need work to have a bigger impact.

Cabral and Dulay (2021) contend that the efficacy of community-based livelihood projects is predominantly dependent on the provision of bridging resources, including pertinent training, institutional connections, and financial support. Their research indicated that even fundamental logistical and capacity assistance markedly enhances program uptake and sustainability. In a similar way, Orbeta et al. (2020) stressed the need for trained facilitators and monitored resource flows as important parts of effective livelihood delivery in their evaluation of DOLE and DSWD programs. This agrees with the findings of this study. Nuguid and Aquino (2023) also talked about how important strategic relationships and cooperation between sectors are for closing knowledge and funding gaps. They said that connections with commercial sectors and local government units make the implementation framework stronger.

The Efficient grade means that the program has set up basic institutions to help beneficiaries, like training, money, and access to outside resources. This shows that Paete's SLP implementation has worked to provide communities more authority through intermediate structures and support networks. To make things even more efficient, monitoring, resource adequacy, and sectoral collaborations need to be strengthened all the time so that beneficiaries may do well even after the first support phase.

The most highly rated indication in the Bridge Resources dimension was the relevance and application of training, which had a mean score of 3.33, which means it was efficient. This indicates that beneficiaries perceived the training modules as relevant to their actual livelihood initiatives, facilitating the application of gained information and skills in practical, income-generating manners.

Reyes et al. (2020) discovered that livelihood programs integrating training content with project realities generally achieve elevated participation and company sustainability rates. Training that is hands-on and tailored to the local context enhances understanding and the transfer of skills. Lopez and Baldonado (2021) also found that how relevant the training is having a big effect on how well the program is put into action, especially for first-time business owners. This confirms the excellent level of efficiency that people think this part of the Paete SLP has.

This finding suggests that the SLP's training program adequately addresses the learning requirements

of the beneficiaries. To keep things running smoothly and have a lasting effect, it will be important to keep training materials up to date with market trends and local job needs.

This indicator got the lowest score, with a mean of 3.18, yet it was still in the efficient range. This means that even while resources were given out, there may have been problems with how well they were monitored or how fairly or quickly they were given to beneficiaries. The higher standard deviation (0.71) means that replies varied more, which means that some people may have had problems with how resources were managed, such as delays or discrepancies.

Garcia and Manalo (2022) stressed that ineffective use of resources is typically caused by broken monitoring systems and a lack of local oversight in community-based projects. Even well-funded programs can underperform if the flow of goods, tools, or funds is not tracked properly. Bautista (2021) further noted that uneven distribution and poor monitoring affect beneficiary satisfaction and livelihood outcomes, particularly in programs dealing with vulnerable sectors. These results support the lower score on this indicator.

This result points to a need for improved monitoring and resource tracking mechanisms within the program. Efficient distribution is critical to ensuring the success of projects, especially for financially constrained beneficiaries who rely entirely on government-provided capital and tools. Implementers should invest in real-time monitoring tools, periodic audits, and feedback loops to strengthen this weak point.

Table 2.3

Level of Efficiency of Sustainable Livelihood Program in terms of productive livelihoods

Indicator	M	SD	Interpretation
<i>The Sustainable Livelihood Program of Paete, Laguna... (Ang Sustainable Livelihood Program of Paete, Laguna ay...)</i>			
1. implemented the livelihood project efficiently and according to the timeline. (<i>epektibong naipatupad ang kabuhayan ayon sa iskedyul.</i>)	3.26	0.65	Efficient
2. ensured that project activities were well-organized and properly executed. (<i>siniguradong maayos at organisado ang mga aktibidad ng proyekto.</i>)	3.26	0.66	Efficient
3. maintained livelihood activities that were sustainable and aligned with market demand. (<i>may mga kabuhayang matatag at tugma sa pangangailangan ng merkado.</i>)	3.33	0.62	Efficient
4. facilitated effective collaboration among group members to run the livelihood project. (<i>epektibo ang pagtutulungan ng grupo sa pagpapatakbo ng proyekto.</i>)	3.16	0.76	Efficient
5. efficiently managed the overall livelihood process—from planning to implementation. (<i>epektibong na-manage ang buong proseso ng kabuhayan mula sa pagpapalano hanggang pagpapatupad.</i>)	3.31	0.64	Efficient
Overall	3.26	0.54	Efficient

Legend: 3.51-4.00 Highly Efficient; 2.51-3.50 Efficient; 1.51-2.50; Slightly Efficient; 1.00-1.50 Not Efficient

Table 2.3 shows that the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) in Paete, Laguna got an overall mean of 3.26 and a standard deviation of 0.54 for the dimension of Productive Livelihoods. This result shows that the livelihood initiatives were well-planned and carried out well from start to finish, from idea to implementation. The results show that the initiatives were able to fulfill most of their stated goals quickly and efficiently, had operational mechanisms in place, and were able to respond to local economic needs.

This level of efficiency shows that the SLP is working well to promote self-sufficient income-generating enterprises and encourage community involvement in useful projects. The grade is good, but there

is still space for development in how people work together and how groups work together.

Orbeta et al. (2020) stressed how important it is to make sure that livelihood activities fit with the local economy and what the market needs. Their assessment of government livelihood projects emphasized that effective execution is essential for achieving productive results and long-term viability. Balaba and Rabago (2022) also discovered that livelihood programs work much better and get more done when they are well-planned, the people who would benefit are trained, and the program is watched. Their research indicated that simplifying implementation methods yields superior outcomes, particularly in rural regions. Rosal and Cacanindin (2023) contended that SLPs prioritizing capacity-building and sustainability methodologies yield more prosperous livelihoods, dependent on contextually relevant and participatory design and execution.

The Efficient grade suggests that the SLP in Paete, Laguna performs a good job of helping individuals make a living in a way that satisfies the needs of the community and encourages production. This has big effects on reducing poverty, making homes more resilient, and boosting local economic growth. But the program needs to keep working on how it puts things into action, especially when it comes to keeping individuals interested over time and staying relevant as market requirements change.

The indicator that obtained the highest score was the sustainability and market alignment of livelihood activities, which got a mean score of 3.33, which suggests it worked well. This indicates how well the program may help the beneficiaries' businesses stay profitable over time and address real market requirements, which is a crucial aspect of long-term success. This suggests that the folks who came up with the livelihood interventions thought about both the economy and the need for long-term stability.

Lopez and Baldonado (2021) say that planning projects around the market makes them work better and helps people make a living better. Their research showed that businesses that are more focused on the market are more likely to make money and stay in business for a long time. Diaz and Ramos (2022) corroborated this by emphasizing the significance of market research and business development services in sustaining community livelihood initiatives. They said that a good fit between the product and the market has a direct effect on both short-term and long-term success.

The high efficiency rating in this area demonstrates that the SLP has done a great job of helping people find jobs that are good for the economy. This is good for the long-term effectiveness of the program and helps people learn how to take care of themselves. Businesses need to keep undertaking market research and asking other businesses for ideas to be competitive and flexible.

The least effective sign of group collaboration in project implementation has a mean score of 3.16, which is still in the efficient category. This score indicates that the group may not be collaborating effectively. This could be due to issues with coordination, collective responsibility, or conflicts among beneficiaries. This result indicates that facilitation and capacity-building in team processes may not be fully developed or consistently employed, despite the importance of collaboration for the success of group-based livelihood projects.

Cabral and Dulay (2021) stated that group-based livelihood programs generally have problems, like poor communication, weak leadership, and less unity. Their findings indicate that, in the absence of deliberate group facilitation, collaborative implementation may be obstructed. Roxas and Santiago (2023) noted that successful collaboration among SLP participants frequently relies on dedicated facilitators and clearly defined responsibilities, especially in initiatives involving many members.

This result shows how important it is to strengthen group management and internal leadership skills in programs that help people make a living. To work successfully as a team, it's important to have good group dynamics training, clear roles, and ways to settle arguments. Even if a project has a lot of money behind it, it could still fail or fall apart if it doesn't have enough internal coherence. This can happen if the group doesn't agree on things or if the leader isn't doing a good job.

Table 3

Issues/problems Encountered during the Implementation of Sustainable Livelihood Program

Issues/Problems	Frequency (f)
Inadequate market access	173
Limited capacity and skills	157
Lack of post implementation support	133
Cultural and social barriers	130
Insufficient funding or capital	117
Corruption or mismanagement of funds	114
Weak monitoring and evaluation	95
Fragmented coordination among agencies	65
Poor project identification and planning	56
Low participation or motivation	45
Policy inconsistencies	34

Table 3 demonstrates that many of the persons who took the survey had a lot of problems while the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) was going on in Paete, Laguna. The most common problems are not being able to go to markets easily, not having enough skills and abilities, and not getting enough aid after the project is over. Over time, all of these problems make it harder for livelihood programs to work. Policy inconsistencies, low engagement, and poor project planning were highlighted less often, but they are still extremely big difficulties. The distribution of replies shows that even while beneficiaries had early access to resources and training, structural problems still make it hard for them to keep, grow, and fit their livelihoods into larger economic systems.

Orbeta et al. (2020), in their assessment of the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) livelihood initiatives, identified insufficient market integration and the absence of post-project support frameworks as significant barriers to sustainable impact. Balaba and Rabago (2022) discovered that poor project oversight and minimal post-implementation assistance resulted in diminished beneficiary retention and constrained income expansion, especially among female and disadvantaged populations. Roxas and Santiago (2023) asserted that insufficient project identification and misdirected interventions stem from disjointed coordination across agencies and erratic policy execution. This makes it harder and less effective to deliver.

The results highlight how vital it is to make institutional support systems, capacity-building programs, and market connecting strategies better for SLP implementation. In the long run, fixing these common problems can make projects considerably more sustainable and useful. These issues also suggest that we need better governance, more people involved in planning, and policies that work better together to make sure the program is strong and open to everyone.

The most common problem, with 173 responses, was not being able to enter into the market. This means that even while many of the people who get the commodities or services have things to sell, they still have trouble finding markets that are stable and profitable. This rule makes it much harder for livelihood projects to make money and could possibly mean that the programs have to stop since there isn't enough demand or money.

Gomez and Peralta (2021) stressed that getting to markets is still a big difficulty for rural livelihood projects, especially in regions that are hard to get to. Their analysis showed that poor infrastructure and weak marketing networks made it much harder to succeed. Cruz and Navarro (2023) said that the only way to fix

this problem is to do market mapping, value-chain research, and digital marketing.

They argued that employing market development techniques together makes income more reliable and makes the people who benefit from them happier. The fact that this problem happens so often shows that strategic market growth is needed right away. This includes working with private sector businesses, integrating e-commerce, and taking part in local trade fairs. Projects that are well-funded and well-planned may not fulfill their aims if they can't access to markets. The SLP needs to use a market-driven strategy to make sure that its recipients can generate money and be in business for a long period.

Policy disparities (34 answers) are the least common issue, but they still need to be looked at. It could be challenging to follow implementation processes, give out money, and target projects if policies are inconsistent or clash with each other, especially between national agencies and local government units (LGUs). Changes in leadership or administration can also have an effect on how well projects go on.

De Leon and Francisco (2020) discovered that policy fragmentation is a concealed yet potent factor that complicates program delivery. Their results show that even little differences might lead to bigger problems. Torres and Dizon (2022) also mentioned that it's necessary to make sure that local and national policies are in sync with each other to avoid service gaps or overlaps, which can undermine program continuity and community trust.

Even if they aren't always made public, policy differences can make it harder to prepare for the long term, make stakeholders less likely to trust you, and slow down project implementation. This study demonstrates that agencies need to work together better, policies need to be more consistent, and implementation frameworks need to be clearer if programs are going to work better and more jointly.

Table 4

Test of Relationship between the Level of Effectiveness and Efficiency of Sustainable Livelihood Program

Level of Effectiveness	Level of Efficiency							
	vulnerability context		bridge resources		productive livelihood		Overall	
	<i>p</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>r</i>
pre-implementation	.759**	.000	.749**	.000	.738**	.000	.789**	.000
social preparation	.815**	.000	.827**	.000	.780**	.000	.851**	.000
resource mobilization	.849**	.000	.816**	.000	.844**	.000	.882**	.000
project implementation	.865**	.000	.821**	.000	.892**	.000	.907**	.000
mainstreaming	.851**	.000	.821**	.000	.864**	.000	.892**	.000
Overall	.907**	.000	.882**	.000	.904**	.000	.947**	.000

** $p > .05$

Table 4 shows a very strong and statistically significant positive relationship between the level of effectiveness and efficiency of the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) at all stages of implementation: pre-implementation, social preparation, resource mobilization, project implementation, and mainstreaming.

The total correlation coefficient ($r = .947$, $p = .000$) shows that as the software gets better at using resources, completing tasks on time, and being responsive, it also gets better at reaching its goals. This relationship shows how important it is for livelihood programs to have both good management (efficiency) and a real impact (effectiveness).

The strongest association was seen during the project execution phase for productive livelihood ($r = .892$) and overall ($r = .907$). This means that the way the livelihood initiatives are planned, organized, and used resources has a direct effect on how well they are carried out. It confirms that operational excellence and

well-coordinated execution are essential for maximizing the program's benefits.

The weakest association was found during the pre-implementation phase for productive livelihood ($r = .738$). This link is still strong, but not as strong as some others. This means that even if planning is important, other factors in the environment, such community readiness and support networks, may affect how well things operate during this first phase. This emphasizes the necessity for comprehensive preparatory measures that transcend basic logistical efficiency, integrating participatory planning and community involvement.

Orbeta, A., et al. (2020) performed an impact analysis of the DSWD's SLP, identifying program efficiency—particularly in resource allocation and project execution—as a significant indicator of project success and long-term sustainability, especially throughout the implementation and mainstreaming phases. Alfonso, M., & Tejada, J. (2022) underscored that livelihood initiatives with rigorous monitoring systems and improved coordination mechanisms yield superior results in job creation and poverty reduction. Javier, C. & Mendoza, S. (2023) emphasized that successful resource mobilization and early community participation are essential, but their maximum effectiveness is achieved only when complemented by efficient delivery systems during implementation.

The strong and important links across all phases show that efficiency should be seen as a key strategy, not just a goal for operations. To make programs more effective, they need to make sure that resources, project schedules, and support systems are all used in the best way possible and fit with the local context. More precisely, throughout project implementation, the focus should be on making sure that logistics, facilitation, and monitoring are done efficiently to improve the quality of the results. During pre-implementation and resource mobilization, contextual adaption and participatory design should be bolstered to ensure that plans are not merely efficient on paper but are also rooted in the community's realities. For mainstreaming, effective post-implementation structures (e.g., support systems, markets, linkages) are essential for maintaining program benefits.

Investing in capacity-building, data-driven planning, and strong monitoring systems will make things more efficient and effective, which will lead to long-term benefits in the lives of beneficiaries.

4. Summary, Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations

This chapter reveals the summary, findings, conclusions, and recommendations arrived at after the collection and analysis of the data taken from the responses of the Sustainable Livelihood Association members/beneficiaries in the Municipality of Paete, Laguna with regards to the Level of Effectiveness, level of Efficiency and the Issues/Problems encountered in the implementation of Sustainable Livelihood program.

4.1. Summary

The following findings were drawn from the study:

1. The Sustainable Livelihood Program in Paete, Laguna works well and is effective, especially during the pre-implementation, social preparation, and resource mobilization stages.
2. Market access, support after implementation, and skill development are still important areas that need to be improved in order to make sure that people can make a living in the long run.
3. There is a close link between effectiveness and efficiency, which shows how important strategic planning, participative approaches, and capacity development are.
4. Addressing the problems with implementation and the system as a whole, such as poor monitoring and coordination, will make the program work better.
5. The findings endorse the development of targeted policy and program interventions to enhance the SLP for greater and more profound impact.

4.2. Conclusion

The study shows that the Sustainable Livelihood Program's effectiveness and efficiency are affected by a number of things, such as limited market access, lack of skills, lack of finance, and lack of assistance once the initiative is over. These problems demand a complete solution that takes care of both short-term needs and long-term problems that make it hard to keep a job. There are strong links between different parts of the program, which means that making it more effective also makes it more efficient. The findings, corroborated by studies such as Chambers and Conway (1992), underscore the necessity for a cohesive, participative approach centered on capacity building, resource management, and inter-agency coordination to attain sustainable and significant results for beneficiaries.

4.3. Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions made, the following recommendations were forwarded.

1. It is strongly recommended that policymakers create localized policy frameworks that improve market integration and encourage SLP beneficiaries to take part in the economy. And make post-project support systems and resource-boosting policies a part of LGU and DSWD rules.
2. The Department of Social Welfare and Development is advised to improve the usefulness and quality of technical training and business coaching.
3. It is highly suggested that the Department of Social Welfare and Development routinely update its monitoring and evaluation systems to include feedback loops and adaptive program management.
4. The Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Municipality of Paete, Laguna is highly recommended to work together better so that the program's services are delivered more smoothly.
5. The Municipality of Paete, Laguna is encouraged to support community-based research and new ways to improve people's lives that are right for the area.
6. It is advised that SLP implementers offer venues for market access, advanced training, and finance support.
7. Beneficiaries of the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) are recommended to engage actively in all phases of the program, particularly in post-implementation monitoring and market access initiatives, and to contribute in establishing sustainable group companies while maintaining records of livelihood advancements.
8. Future researchers are advised to explore longitudinal studies concerning the sustainability and income trajectories of SLP participants. Look into how well digital tools work to improve people's lives and help different groups work together.

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