

Performance of Sangguniang Kabataan Officials As Mandated By the Local Government Code of 1991

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Abstract - *This paper assessed the performance of SK officials based on the mandated duties provided by the Local Government Code (LGC) of 1991 and the perception of the Lyceum Community on the issue of SK abolition. Two hundred (200) members, composed of the students, faculty members and administrative personnel of the community, who were randomly chosen, served as the respondents. The descriptive method was used to attain the objectives. The results showed that the Sangguniang Kabataan has been able to perform their mandated duties and responsibilities by the LGC being rated as Good. Moreover, it can be drawn that although there are defects, the respondents still believe that reformation, not abolition would correct SK failures and shortcomings.*

From the results, there are recommendations that have been formulated. First, the government, specifically the DILG, may review the provisions of RA 7160 implementing the duties and functions mandated to the SK. Second, the DILG may also evaluate the performance of the SK officials based on their annual and end-of-term reports. Third, the SK officials may improve or strengthen the duty to conduct an annual activity known as the Linggo ng Kabataan through the collaboration of the Sangguniang Bayan/Panlungsod and the Barangay. Future researchers may conduct similar study using different variables.

Keywords – performance, SK, Local Government Code

“The youth is the hope of the nation”. This truism is been as old as its real source, Gat. Jose P. Rizal, but is still surviving up to the present.

The future of any nation belongs to the youth. The real wealth of the nation is not in its natural resources, but in its youth. A nation makes no greater investment than that made toward the upbringing of its younger age band. The youth constitutes the most vivacious, energetic, and prolific segment of the humanity, they are therefore without any elusiveness, key stakeholders in any nation. The youth make up the embodiment of the nation’s future, the signpost of the nation’s hopes, and objective. The youth is the crest of our future, the icon of our stability, and the veritable catalysts of our

national growth and development. A nation has no superior way to prepare for its future than to effectively and intentionally equip the upcoming generations. The distinctive implication of the above declaration is that a country that neglects its youth, is neglecting its future, and the cost is often monumental (Ilechukwu, 2011).

However, due to the high-speed changes of the world brought by modernization and liberalization, a lot of people are now in doubt if they would still hang on to what Rizal used to believe before. The modern era has conveyed a lot of changes that really affects even the young cohort.

Here in the Philippines, the government supports and believes in the capacity of the youth not just to lead but also to empower the country. They are confident that these people have the fresh mind and ideas that will certainly mould a better future of the country.

Article II, Section 13 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that;

“The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.”

The Constitution expresses that the youth has a very vital part in refurbishing the nation thus, leading to the creation of the Sangguniang Kabataan or what all of us know as SK which is embodied in the Local Government Code of 1991.

Chapter 8, Section 423, Paragraph (a) of the LGC states that;

“There shall be in every Barangay a Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) to be composed of a chairman, seven (7) members, a secretary, and a treasurer.”

According to the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO), “youth” is best understood as a period of conversion from the dependence of childhood to adulthood’s independence and mindfulness of our interdependence as members of a community. It added that for statistical consistency across regions, youth has been demarcated as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years, without prejudice to other description by Member States. All UN data on youth are based on this depiction, as clarified by the annual yearbooks of statistics published by the United Nations system on demography, learning, employment and health.

The creation of SK marked to create a venue where the youth involvement in governance can be exercised and enhanced. It has been envisioned to be the training ground of the youth to be the future leaders of the country. Former Senator Aquilino Pimentel, author of the Local Government Code (LGC) where Sangguniang Kabataan provisions were integrated, which imagined that it will be the best avenue for the youth to participate in the leadership and governance in the barangay. The 1991 LGC or Republic Act 7160 formally abolished the Kabataang Barangay (KB) then created by the former President Ferdinand Marcos and provided the youth another chance to directly participate in governance from the mass level to the national level.

Through the years, the youth has been an active chunk in the barangay holding important and worthwhile activities that aims to develop the potentials of the youth and their capabilities. Officers of the Sangguniang Kabataan are icons for their youth constituents in terms of good governance, leadership and moral values. They are epitomized as role models in their community that leads to the zeal of the other people to contribute to the development of the barangay and the municipality as well. However, in this recent time, the trust and confidence given to this organization seemed to decline because of various issues thrown to them. Issues of inefficiency, ineffectiveness, abuse, and worse, corruption are the queries on the mind of the public. Is SK still needed or should it be abolished?

It really bothers that the youth of today are tagged with different anomalies on their young age. On the age on when they should only start realizing social responsibility, maturity, leadership, integrity and governance, they were already bombarded by these actions that try to remove them to the direct control and authority in the community.

At present, the Senate and House of Representatives are jam-packed by bills proposing the abolition and

reformation of the Sangguniang Kabataan. On an article entitled “ The Great SK Debate: Do we Really Need the SK” by Bringas in 2010, he stated that ironically, the very author of RA 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, former Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, which created the SK in 1991, is also pushing for SK’s demise. On his last term, he filed a bill intending its elimination. Former Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla filed a similar bill in 2004. Tersol and Domingo (2012) conveyed that House Bill 2770 introduced by Marikina 1st District Representative Marcelino R. Teodoro moved for the reformation of the sanggunian stating that it has been mired with allegations of corruption and inefficient governance. Another bill handed for the reformation was House Bill 2845 or the SK Reform Act of 2010 by Congresswoman Rachel B. del Mar of the 1st District of Cebu. Senator Francisco N. Pangilinan also introduced the Senate Bill 2429 otherwise known as an “Act Strengthening and Reforming the SK Amending for that Purpose Certain Provisions of RA 7160 and RA 9340 and Resetting the Barangay and SK Elections.”

The researchers chose the Lyceum Community as the respondents of the study since it is indeed a community on its own. It has the students who of course are mostly cogitated as youth who were directly affected by the governance of the Sangguniang Kabataan and the faculty staff and administrative personnel who stand as the older members of the community who can assess the work and exertion given by the SK officers on their respective places.

The motive that drives the researchers for conducting this study is the curiosity to identify whether or not the Sangguniang Kabataan is carrying out its powers and functions as provided by the Local Government Code and other pertinent laws and to see to it if they are performing what they are expected to do. Another significant election for youth representatives in government is supposed to be held this year. However, the authority chooses to postpone the said election for a term without holding the officials in position which means that there will be no SK for a meantime. The researchers sought to know if it is worth it to give SK another try to serve their fellow youth constituents. It also aims to recognize the perception of the general public about the performance of the said organization. In this way, our youth leaders will know their level of performance regarding their duties through youth’s evaluation and that of the older members of the community and be made aware of it so as to resolve the same for the benefit of the youth in the locality. Also, this study will determine the effectiveness of the SK and may serve as guideline for the State legislators to be

acquainted whether the Sangguniang Kabataan must be abolished or not. Most importantly, as paralegal students and as youth in the community, this study will serve as an informative knowledge of the vast world of law in our country that primarily affects the researchers. Being involved in the study of law, this study will give more acquaintance of its rules and procedures. Likewise, it will enlighten not just them, but the entire community of the condition of today's SK. It will help the researchers know the key functions and duties of the organization in the locality so as to rouse our consciousness whether the SK in their locality is doing these vested duties, therefore proper for them to evaluate them personally based on their performance.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study generally aims to determine the perception of the Lyceum Community in the proposed abolition of the Sangguniang Kabataan. More specifically, to describe the profile of the respondents; to assess the performance of the SK officials with regards to mandated duties and responsibilities by the Local Government Code (LGC); to determine the perception of the respondents regarding the abolition of the SK; to test the difference in the perception of the respondents when grouped according to profile variables and to propose an action plan to improve the performance of SK officials.

Ho: There is no significant difference on the perception of the respondents regarding the abolition of SK when grouped according to profile variables.

III. METHOD

Research Design

The researchers made use of descriptive research method, which, according to Lomax and Li (2013), describes the phenomena being studied. Data are gathered and descriptive statistics are then used to analyze such data. Thus descriptive research considers one variable at a time (i.e., univariate analysis), and is typically the entry-level type of research in a new area of inquiry. Descriptive research typically describes what appears to be happening and what the important variables seem to be.

This method was used by the researchers on their attempt to assess the performance of the SK officials with regards to their mandated duties and responsibilities and at the same time, to know how the public perceive on the issue of abolishing the institution. It is used to define what are the problems and situations surrounding the institution and tries to

explain why there are calls for its reformation / abolition.

Participants

The sample of the study with a margin of error of 7 percent is composed of 200 members made up of the students, faculty staff and administrative personnel from the whole population of LPU Community.

Instrument

The study made use of a researcher- made questionnaire based from the mandated functions of the Sangguniang Kabataan vested by the Local Government Code. The researchers gathered facts in regard to the proposed abolition of the Sangguniang Kabataan. They used the Local Government Code itself specifically Chapter VIII- X to know the mandated powers and functions of the organization. They also made use of the opinions gathered which are composed of reasons why or why not the organization must be abolished in order for them to come up with the questionnaire that they used to attain their objectives and to solve the problem.

The data- gathering instrument is consist of two parts. Part I deals with the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of age, gender, educational attainment, and category in school. Part II is further subdivided into two division. The first part deals with the mandated duties and functions by the LGC as stated in Chapters VIII- X of the Code which are made up of seven (7) items, and the second part is consist of the reasons for SK abolition which are composed of twenty- four (24) positive and negative reasons and perception.

Procedure

The researchers gathered facts about the performance of the SK officials of their mandated duties and functions and the perception of the public on the issue of abolishing/ reforming SK. Data are gathered through the combined efforts of the researchers to look on matters relating to the topic. After gathering the data, a questionnaire was prepared. The questionnaire was submitted to the adviser for comments and suggestions regarding the format and item content and after the approval of the adviser, the said questionnaire was validated by Atty. Anunciacion C. Bernardo, the Department Head for Social Science and for the Paralegal Studies program. The researchers then asked the consent of the Officer- In- Charge of College of Education, Arts and Sciences, to allow them to administer the questionnaire to respondents. The researchers distributed the questionnaire to the

respondents and immediately collected it for efficient process of data- gathering.

After the information was gathered, the quantitative result were computed by the statistician while qualitative data were first transcribed, analyze and then categorized to derive the significant information. For further supports of the results of the study, the researchers decided to conduct interviews to some Sangguniang Kabataan officials about their opinions on the said study. They are SK Regional Federation President Mark Laurence Alvarez and an SK chairman of Bauan, Batangas, Hon. Myra A. Manalo.

Data Analysis

All data were encoded, tallied, and interpreted using descriptive statistics. Frequency distribution was used to describe the profile of the respondents; weighted mean was used to determine the performance of the duties and functions mandated by Local Government Code and the perception regarding SK Abolition; and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was utilized to assess the significant difference on the reasons for SK Abolition when grouped according to profile variables. The data were also supported using PASW version 18 using 0.05 alpha level.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Percentage Distribution of the Respondents' Profile (N = 200)

Profile Variables	F	(%)
Age		
15- 21 years old	168	84.00
22-28 years old	15	7.50
29- 35 years old	10	5.00
36- 42 years old	5	2.50
43-49 years old	2	1.00
50 years old and above	-	-
Gender		
Male	61	30.50
Female	139	69.50
Educational Attainment		
College Undergraduate	171	85.50
College Graduate	12	6.00
With Masteral Unit	4	2.00
Master's Degree	11	5.50
With Doctoral Unit	1	0.50
Doctoral Degree	1	0.50
Classification		
Student	172	86.00
Faculty	8	4.00
Administrative Personnel	20	10.00

Table 1 presents the profile of the respondents. Majority belong to the 15 to 21 years old age bracket (84 %), female (69.50 %), college undergraduate which comprised of 171 (85.5%). In addition, majority of the respondents are students which comprised of 172 (86%), followed by administrative personnel (10%), and faculty (4%). Students are the majority respondents since they are composed of the youth who are experiencing the kind of governance the SK provides.

Table 2 shows that the over-all assessment of the respondents on the performance of the SK Officials with regards to mandated duties and responsibilities by the LGC was rated Good (3.01). Among the items mentioned, initiation of programs designed to enhance the social, political, economic, cultural, intellectual, moral, spiritual, and physical development of the members ranks first with weighted mean of 3.12 and rated Good. The SK officials indeed become successful in initiating programs that enhanced the skills and morals of its youth constituents like having environmental protection activities, infrastructure development, sports development activities and different competitions on their respective barangay. An interview with an SK chairman, Myra Manalo of Bauan, Batangas supports the finding stating that Sangguniang Kabataan has its own power distinct from the power of the Sangguniang Barangay (SB). The projects implemented depend upon the capacity and initiative of the youth officials. However, the study conducted by University of the Philippines- Center for Integrative Development Studies (UP- CIDS) negates the aforementioned result since it reveals that there is a mismatch between SK projects and what the youth really needs. Programs on education and training, health and nutrition, anti-drug abuse and livelihood were hardly mentioned.

It is followed by implementation of policies and programs within his jurisdiction in coordination with the sangguniang barangay by the SK Chairman followed by submission of annual and end- of- term reports to the sangguniang barangay on their projects and activities for the survival and development of the youth in the barangay with 3.07 and 3.05 mean value, respectively. The SK chairman usually undergoes different trainings and seminars in implementing policies and programs. An interview with the Sangguniang Kabataan Regional Federation (SKRF) President, Hon. Mark Laurence Alvarez, supports this finding since the SK Chairman really ensures that the policies and programs they are going to implement are very much needed and that it would enhance its youth assembly through proper guidance and consultation

with the SB. This is also supported by an article posted in Sangguniang Kabataan Explained (June 18, 2013), young leaders of a certain province conducted

leadership seminar that help SK presidents to become self-reliant, dynamic and creative community leaders and strengthen the moral values of the SK.

Table 2. Assessment on the Performance of the SK Officials With Regards to Mandated Duties and Responsibilities by the Local Government Code (N = 200)

Duties and Functions	WM	VI	Rank
1. Promulgation of resolutions necessary to carry out the objectives of the youth in the barangay.	3.03	Good	4
2. Initiation of programs designed to enhance the social, political, economic, cultural, intellectual, moral, spiritual, and physical development of the members.	3.12	Good	1
3. Submission of annual and end-of-term reports to the sangguniang barangay on their projects and activities for the survival and development of the youth in the barangay.	3.05	Good	3
4. Meeting regularly once a month on the date, time, and place fixed by the said Sanggunian.	3.00	Good	5
5. Consultation and coordination with all youth organizations in the barangay for policy formulation and program implementation.	2.98	Good	6
6. Implementation of policies and programs within his jurisdiction in coordination with the sangguniang barangay by the SK Chairman.	3.07	Good	2
7. Coordination with the “Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan in the conduct of an annual activity known as the “Linggo ng Kabataan”.	2.81	Good	7
Composite Mean	3.01	Good	

Legend: 3.50- 4.00 = Very Good; 2.50- 3.49= Good; 1.50- 2.49= Fair; 1.00- 1.49= Poor

Even though all were positively assessed, items such as consultation and coordination with all youth organizations in the barangay for policy formulation and program implementation which has a weighted mean of 2.98 with a verbal interpretation of Good and the coordination with the “Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan in the conduct of an annual activity known as the “Linggo ng Kabataan” got the lowest ranks with a weighted mean of 2.81 and an interpretation of Good. Although they are all rated Good, they still garnered low weighted mean which shows that the respondents or some of them do not consider these functions as effectively performed by the officials. It should be noted, however, that the same study conducted by UP- CIDS supports this finding which shows that there was very little consultation with the youth in situational analysis, planning, monitoring, and evaluation. Hon. Alvarez also supports this finding by admitting that the SK officials have activities separate with that of other youth organizations in the barangay thus the youth participation in the barangay activities and programs are also separated. As a remedy, he is planning to unite all youth organizations in the province of Batangas by creating what he called Provincial Youth Organization (PYC) that will serve as their partners in performing their functions in the barangay. However, Manalo negates the finding saying that in their barangay, they are ensuring that they are

coordinating with other organizations for the welfare of the youth. Furthermore, the Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan, in its plan of action includes the annual celebration of the “Linggo ng Kabataan” as a major project. Though it was rated Good, it garnered low weighted mean which means that the respondents are not at all convinced on this action by the Pederasyon. This finding is supported by Hon. Alvarez who also mentioned that the implementation of conducting this annual activity is very low. He added that there is also lack of communication between the SK officials themselves and with its youth constituents in informing this matter while the other SK official’s contentions are due to lack of budget.

If there would be failure to meet regularly on terms fixed by the Sanggunian, it may result to vague and formless plans for the youth. Even though they have great objectives at the start of their term, such were not realized since subsequent planning are not being attained and activities are not being prepared well due to lack of efficient communication. Interviews show that due to conflict of schedule of the officials since most are students having their priorities, this function are not at all being observed. The study also revealed that though rated Good, the duty of consulting and coordinating to other youth organizations for policy formulation and program implementation got low reception. Brought by their young hood and immaturity,

their lack of coordination and consultation as well as with the Sangguniang Barangay itself, may in effect make wrong plans and actions that may result to problems such as not thoroughly planned activities, inconsistent and irrelevant objectives, insufficient funds and uncomplimentary projects with other organizations. Furthermore, the mandated annual activity of conducting a “Linggo ng Kabataan” is not given enough attention by the Sangguniang Kabataan and even by the Pederasyon ng Sangguniang Kabataan. And because of this, the true essence of the purpose of the youth in the

community is not being realized. A lot of the youth does not know that there is such an activity since they do not feel that it exists. Interviews with several youth in the community proved that this was not being implemented well since they are not in cognizance with the said task. All this mandated duties that gained low reception lead to the awareness that the organization must really be vigilant in performing their functions especially because some of their constituents are not at all convinced that they are really serving their purpose in the community.

Table 3. Perception of the Respondents Regarding the Reformation /Abolition of the SK (N = 200)

	WM	VI	Rank
1. he SK officials are too young (aged 15-18) to handle government positions and be given responsibilities for a town or a city’s young population	2.79	Agree	14
2. The SK officials, being mainly students cannot balance their education or their work with being a barangay official.	2.67	Agree	17
3. If a youth is elected as SK, he needs to give up or surrender his studies.	1.81	Disagree	24
4. SK officers must be exposed to education and training to come up with better projects.	3.46	Agree	1
5. The SK fund has been used to important, efficient and meaningful projects and activities for the youth.	3.16	Agree	4
6. The SK has been a very good and efficient venue for youth participation in local governance.	3.11	Agree	6
7. SK contributes much in the holistic development of the youth, molding them at a very young age in leadership and managerial skills, for the youth are deemed to be the successors of today’s leaders.	3.05	Agree	8
8. SK officials are actually implementing projects that benefit both the youth and adults in the barangay.	2.97	Agree	10.5
9. SK has been a good role model for their youth constituents.	3.07	Agree	7
10. Despite the weaknesses of the SK, there have been success stories that show its potential as an important organization.	3.13	Agree	5
11. With SK, the youth sector has been given an active opportunity to become real partners in all levels of governance.	3.04	Agree	9
12. The SK officials have gained experiences and learned new skills; and have become responsible and accountable individuals.	3.18	Agree	3
13. The SK’s possession of power makes them prone to abusing it.	2.74	Agree	16
14. The SK has been the gateway to the propagation of political dynasty.	2.90	Agree	12
15. The SK has been a breeding ground for corruption.	2.56	Agree	22
16. Only the SK officials benefit from their project.	2.58	Agree	20
17. The youth’s interests have not been captured by the SK governing them and its activities.	2.76	Agree	15
18. The SK projects are mere waste of money and should be diverted to other projects beneficial to the barangay.	2.59	Agree	19
19. SK officials do not perform their functions effectively.	2.57	Agree	21
20. To be heard in the community, the youth sector needs a parallel government like the SK.	2.97	Agree	10.5
21. The abolition of the SK is impractical.	2.64	Agree	18
22. The abolition of the SK is necessary.	2.52	Agree	23
23. The abolition of the SK would have a negative effect on youth participation in local governance.	2.82	Agree	13
24. Reformation, not abolition of the SK organization would correct its failures and shortcomings.	3.23	Agree	2
Composite Mean	2.79	Agree	

Legend: 3.50 – 4.00 = Strongly Agree; 2.50 – 3.49 = Agree; 1.50 – 2.49 = Disagree; 1.00 – 1.49 = Strongly Disagree

From Table 3, it could be observed that the over- all perception of the respondents on the abolition of the Sangguniang Kabataan has a verbal interpretation of Agree (2. 79). Topping the list is the SK officers must be exposed to education and training to come up with better projects with the rank of first and weighted mean of 3.46 and interpreted as Agree. This explains why SK officials, in order for them to be more responsible and competitive, must undergo several trainings and be more educated with the mandated duties so that improved activities shall be initiated in the community.

The national SK Study funded by UNICEF and spearheaded by DILG National Barangay Operations Office and National Anti- Poverty Commission or DILG NBOO and NAPC Youth and Students Sector supports the above finding which provides that the SKs need support and guidance for them to succeed. They need proper orientation on their functions and how to go about with them. However, Manalo once stated that the trainings provided by the DILG are not at all efficient and the SK officials themselves are mostly not serious with the objectives of the seminars. Some have their personal motives on attending other than learning things to enhance their performance in the barangay.

Coming in as close is reformation, not abolition of the SK organization would correct its failures and shortcomings, which has a weighted mean of 3.23 similarly interpreted as Agree. Although it is evident in the study that SK has its defects and shortcomings, the respondents assessed that through reformation, it may be corrected. This finding is supported by Marcos (2012) who avowed that he sees the need for strengthening SK rather than abolishing it. He further stated that he stands for the reform of the Sangguniang Kabataan rather than the abolition. Hon. Alvarez is also for reformation since the SK is already institutionalized and in fact, last April 2013, they have already made the necessary amendments with the SK Constitution and By-laws.

SK officials have gained experiences and learned new skills; and have become responsible and accountable individuals followed by the SK fund has been used to important, efficient, and meaningful projects and activities for the youth rank third and fourth having a weighted mean of 3.18 and 3.16 respectively. Through successive seminars and activities that truly enhanced not just the proficiency, capacity and aptitude of their constituents and also that of their officers, this institution progressively become responsible and accountable. As supported by Bautista (2010), some SK's have served their communities by funding the establishment of day care centers,

livelihood and tree planting projects. Some have passed no-smoking ordinances, curfew on minors, ban on waste chemical dumping, and sports facilities for the youth. Manalo also said that their funds are not just devoted on sports league or other petty competitions but to valuable projects like giving of school supplies to students and infrastructure endeavours. In addition, Hon. Alvarez said that before they execute projects and programs, he sees to it if it will benefit the youth at large and what they will be doing are among their mandated duties or under the SK Constitution and By-laws in order to save the government's funds from insignificant projects.

Trailing the rank is despite the weaknesses of SK, there have been success stories that showed its potential as an important organization with a weighted mean of 3.13 rated as Agree. Although there were weaknesses; still, there are projects and programs spearheaded by the SK not just to improve their leadership skills but also to involve the youth into meaningful programs that would benefit them and their community. This finding is sustained by the study conducted by Lara (2008) who states that one good example is Councilor Allen Reodanga of Naga City. He urged his fellow SK officers to celebrate the Linggo ng Kabataan in every community. An addition is Joshua Ybañez of Barangay Luz, Cebu. His official role to lead the youth was hindered by is unfamiliarity with the tenets of governance. Fortunately, Ronnia Sab-a, a barangay administrator, served as his mentor. Sab-a tutored him in the complexities of governing. He also exposed Ybañez and his fellow councillors to expanded possibilities beyond the holding of summer sports fest for the youth. Furthermore, Councilor Reodanga conducted youth consultations to understand the present situation of the youth in Naga City. The outputs of these consultations shall be used in crafting the youth agenda of Naga City. Furthermore, Sangguniang Kabataan Explained (June 18, 2013) supports it. It stated that the best example of SK is SK Bohol which accomplished several programs such as "Linggo ng Kabataan 2002", The ISKOLAR- BOS, Lakbay-Aral, SK-Eco Adventure Challenge Race, and Student Government Management Training Program.

However, even as rated Agree, only the SK officials benefit from their projects only got a 2.58 weighted mean making it 5th to the lowest rank. This means that some of the respondents are not all convinced that projects and policies implemented by the officials are only for their respective convenience. The study of Loyola (2013) on the other hand, negates the finding saying that the possession of power can make one prone

to abusing it, a fairly apparent problem. Teenage officials with a significant amount of money are quite possibly a recipe for disaster. It is followed by SK officials do not perform their functions effectively with a weighted mean of 2.57 rated as Agree. Some of the respondents still believe that SK is carrying out what they are expected to do. Furthermore, this finding is in support of the general finding of the second objective which is the respondents assessed the performance of the SK officials with its mandated functions by the LGC as Good. Tersol and Domingo (2012) support this by mentioning that there have been numerous projects organized by SK that have greatly affected communities and barangays. It has been a big aide in executing the functions of the barangay council. The current SK constitution and by-laws oblige the youth council to be encompassing. It has divided the SK into a multi-faceted organization which is able to accommodate the major needs of the youth.

And because of the aforementioned results, the SK has been a breeding ground for corruption was rated Agree having a low 2.56 weighted mean. Each project of the Sangguniang Kabataan has an equivalent statement of account/budget that contains the list of all the expenditures that preclude the exploitation of funds. Hon. Alvarez and Manalo also said that their budget is being audited by the Commission on Audit (COA). The article of Castillo sustains the finding. It is stated that Rep. Teodoro of Marikina said that if there are instances of corruption as stated by the President, the system need to be reviewed if not strengthened. He further stated that it is not the SK who is corrupt but the system itself. The SK falls prey and is taken advantage of by unwieldy and unscrupulous contractors. The youth should play an important part in nation building and should not be immediately dismissed without reviewing their mandate and finding ways to reform the SK system.

Likewise, the call for abolition of the said institution gained low response since the abolition of the SK is necessary got the 2nd to the lowest rank which garnered 2.52 weighted mean rated as Agree. The SK, though has problems, need not be abolished. It still plays a vital role on youth development and is still considered by the youth as their voice in the government. The study conducted by Cornelio (2008) complements the finding. It was found out that despite the many challenges, the SK, an embodiment youth participation in nation building enshrined in the constitution and supported by many laws, is an institution worth continuously developing.

Although most items are assessed as Agree, interestingly, only one item turned out to be rated Disagree which is if a youth is elected as SK, he needs to give up or surrender his studies which has a weighted mean of 1.81 and ranked as the lowest item. Once you become an SK official, it presupposes that you have a good standing as a person and most of the time performing well in school.

The study shows that the respondents agree that abolishing SK is impractical and it will have a negative effect on the youth participation in local governance since the SK is a necessary mechanism to uphold the interest and welfare of the youth sector through a democratically established institution for governance. Abolishing the SK is equivalent to repression of the democratic rights and welfare of the youth. What the SK needs right now are reforms, not abolition. Problems and issues identified have appropriate reforms to address such problems that would cure its defects. Bills must prosper aiming for the enhancement and betterment of the only government youth sector in the world. On the other hand, the Sangguniang Kabataan itself and those individual composing it must take a little stop and think of why all of this clamor of removing them into existence are filling up the news and the bucket list of the legislators. They must take into account that the organization really is ill; and it must be healed, as soon as possible.

Table 4. Difference of Responses on the Perception Regarding the Abolition of the SK When Grouped According to Profile Variables ($\alpha = 0.05$)

Profile Variables	F _c	p-value	Decision	I
Age	1.402	0.076	Accepted	NS
Gender	1.361	0.096	Accepted	NS
Educational Attainment	1.444	0.060	Accepted	NS
Classification	1.165	0.253	Accepted	NS

Significant at p-value < 0.05; HS = Highly Significant; S = Significant; NS = Not Significant.

A look on the table shows that all computed F-values were all less than the critical value and the resulted p-values were all greater than 0.05 level of significance, thus the null hypothesis of no significant difference on the perception regarding the abolition of SK when grouped according to profile variables is accepted. This means that no difference exists and implies that all of the respondents' have the same perception on the abolition of SK. What are deemed important are merely their views about the performance

of the organization. Either they belong on the youth group or the older member of the community, or they are male or female, or they have reached different levels of educational attainment or either they belong to any of the classifications as part of the Lyceum Community, their perception does not vary.

Table 5. Proposed Action Plan to improve the performance of SK officials

Specific Objectives	Program	Responsible Persons
1. To improve and ensure that the annual activity known as the “Linggo ng Kabataan” is being performed so as to inform the youth assembly and be participative of it.	Sangguniang Bayan, Panlungsod and Barangay’s collaboration with the annual activity of “Linggo ng Kabataan”.	Local Government Unit Officers SK Officials
2. To improve the duty of the SK officials in consultation and coordination with other youth organizations in the barangay for policy formulation and program implementation.	Information- Dissemination SK and other youth organizations quarterly meetings	SK Officials
3. To ensure that the SK officials are conducting a monthly meeting on the terms fixed by the said Sanggunian.	Implementation of monthly meeting through a systematic schedule which will not be prejudicial to any of the officers	Barangay and SK officials
4. To disseminate the learning acquired by the SK officials from various seminars and conferences that they are attending.	Echoing of Seminars in the Barangay and Municipality	SK Officials

CONCLUSIONS

Majority of the respondents are from the age ranging from 15- 21 years old, female, undergraduate and students. The respondents assessed the performance of the SK officials with its mandated functions by the LGC as Good. Instead of abolition, the respondents perceive that reformation would correct SK’s failures and shortcomings. There is no significant difference in the perception of the respondents with regards to the abolition of the SK when grouped according to profile variables. An action plan was proposed to further improve the performance of the SK officials.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The government, specifically, the DILG may review the provisions of RA 7160 implementing the duties and functions mandated to the Sangguniang Kabataan and seek for its stronger implementation. The SK officials may strengthen the implementation of the activity “Linggo ng Kabataan” through stricter rules and collaboration with other LGU in the locality and disseminate information especially between officers. The SK officials may meet at least quarterly with other youth organizations so as to consult and coordinate with them on issues of policy formulation and program

implementation. The SK officials may re-echo seminars to their youth constituents in the barangay or in the municipality on where they attended to disseminate the learning they acquired from various seminars and conferences. The SK officials must be more serious with this endeavour that they entered. They must imbibed all the learning and skills taught to them by the higher officials so that they would really live up on the purpose on why they are created. The DILG may also evaluate the performance of the SK officials based on their annual and end- of- term reports to see to it if they are performing what they are expected to do. Lastly, the action plan proposed by the researchers may be implemented to make the SK a more effective organization for local youth participation.

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