

Assessing Responsiveness: Resource Allocation in Selected CAMANAVA Barangays Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

This research investigated the responsiveness of selected barangays in CAMANAVA during the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing specifically on fund utilization and program allocation. CAMANAVA stands for the cities located in the northern district of Metro Manila namely, Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, and Valenzuela. The primary objective of the study is to assess the responsiveness of barangay officials in managing the allocation of COVID-19 funds. It explored the disparities in perspectives between the Punong Barangay (Barangay captains) and constituents regarding resource allocation. A descriptive method was used to explain the survey data from two groups, namely barangay captains (n=118) and barangay constituents (n=188) in the CAMANAVA areas. The sample size was determined using Slovin's formula. Findings indicate a lack of consensus between the barangay captains and the constituents regarding the adequacy of resource allocation. While the barangay officials perceived that there is adequate allocation of funds for social development, environmental, economic, and infrastructure domains, constituents expressed only moderate satisfaction with regard to fund allocation for social services, youth programs, mental health webinars, and support for affected livelihoods. Both groups, however, agreed that there is sufficient allocation for community pantries, cash assistance, and groceries. Recommendations include conducting comprehensive annual budget planning to identify necessary funds and expenditures, establishing an effective manpower and service structure within barangays, providing financial intelligence training to foster

community participation, and soliciting feedback from constituents and local leaders to improve resource allocation practices. An analysis of the pandemic's impact on the local economy and its effects on resource allocation efforts is recommended in addition to a systematic evaluation of current resource allocation practices in the selected barangays within the CAMANAVA area.

Keywords: Assessing responsiveness, resource allocation, COVID-19 pandemic