



# Provision of Basic Services to the Relocated Families in Lingayen, Pangasinan, Philippines

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**Abstract** – Residential relocation significantly affects the quality of life of families and their community. It is the role of the government to assist these relocated families to adjust in their environment by providing them or establishing in their community basic services. Employing the descriptive survey method, 233 household representatives chosen through purposive sampling answered the research questionnaire focused on confirming the provision of basic services and determining the satisfaction of the relocated families who benefitted from these services. This study collected strong confirmation and satisfaction on the provision of educational needs in the community. There was further confirmation on the provision of water services, power supply, waste disposal, roads and health services by the local government unit. However, lack of livelihood tools and limited inclusion of residents to trainings, and issues on medical assistance were noted as problems, hence should be responded with priority.

**Keywords** – basic services, relocation

## INTRODUCTION

Home relocation refers to a process of adjusting to residential conditions by changing the place of residence, usually of short distance within the same city. It has significant impacts on an individual's quality of life, and also to urban development (Wang, 2015). As cited by Alkay (2016), Brown and Moore in their study entitled "The intra-urban migration process: a perspective" identified stress as the crucial determinant for families to decide to relocate. This stress is generated with the increasing gap between a household's needs, expectations and aspirations, and to that of their actual conditions and environmental setting (Knox and Pinch, 2010).

More specifically, one of the reasons that drive families to move is their desire to live and work in city centers that offers economic opportunities. As long as economic activities are congested in only few places, people, especially the poor, will live informally and see through inconveniences and hazards; as they are pushed by the poverty in their hometown and pulled by city opportunities (Gilles, 2012; Punongbayan, n.d.) People move as the benefits of relocation outweighs the cost (Wang, 2015). With the influx of families to economic centers brought by urbanization and opportunities, informal settlers have increased, organizing themselves to withstand pressures from the government and rightful property owners (Gilles, 2012).

To address the increasing problem on informal

settlement, the government implements social housing. The RA 7279 known as Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992 was promulgated to uplift the conditions of the underprivileged and homeless citizens in urban areas and in resettlement areas by making available to them decent housing, basic services, and employment opportunities. The basic services that shall be provided by the local government units (LGU) or the National Housing Authority (NHA) are potable water, power and electricity and an adequate power distribution system, sewerage facilities and an efficient and adequate solid waste disposal system, and access to primary roads and transportation facilities. In addition, the LGU, in cooperation with concerned agencies should prioritize planning and implementing provisions of other basic services and facilities such as health, education, communications, security, recreation, relief and welfare (RA 7279, 1992).

It is then interesting to study whether the services that are promised to the relocated families are being delivered satisfactorily or not. Also, problems relative to its provision will be looked into since literatures in the struggles in the basic services and amenities in relocation sites have been noted. Informal settlers' needs are excluded and overlooked (Gukurume, 2012). The Philippine government's initiative on decentralizing housing responsibilities through the Local Government Code has been inadequate as analysis concludes that the Philippine government has not devolved enough resources to local government units

(Olessen, 2009).

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

Generally, this study aimed to determine whether the local government unit has satisfactorily provided the needed basic services to the families in the Lingayen Gulf Resettlement Project site of Lingayen, capital town of Pangasinan, Philippines. Common problems in relation to the provision of these basic services, as experienced by the relocated families were also pointed out.

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Employing the descriptive survey research design, the researchers utilized a set of questionnaire to collect data from the respondents. A five-point Likert scale was used. Frequency, mean and ranking were utilized to analyzed collected data.

### **Locale of the Study**

The study was conducted in the Lingayen Gulf Resettlement Project site at Sitio Aplaya in Barangay Pangapisan North, Lingayen, the capital town of the province of Pangasinan, Philippines during the year 2015. The resettlement site is covered by the Presidential Proclamation No. 499 issued by former Pres. Fidel Ramos in 1994 to accommodate displaced families affected by calamities and those living in public lands. During the time of the study, 556 households were listed to be occupying the 2.4 hectare lot which started accommodating relocated families since 2000.

### **Respondents of the Study**

Purposive sampling was adapted wherein the head of the household of relocated families were involved as respondents of the study. In his/her absence, the spouse or his/her substitute as head of the family was asked to answer the questionnaire with follow up interview. Using the Sloven formula with 0.05 margin of error for sampling computation, 233 households from the list of 556 relocated families provided by the local government unit of Lingayen, Pangasinan, Philippines were visited by the researchers.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Profile of the Respondents**

The table below presents the profile of the respondents from the relocation site in Lingayen, Pangasinan.

Table 1. Profile of the Respondents

<b>Age</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
19-31	74	31.75
32-43	77	33.05
44-55	50	21.46
56-67	27	11.6
68 & above	5	2.1
<b>Sex</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Female	169	72.53
Male	64	27.46
<b>Civil Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Single	25	10.72
Married	176	75.54
Separated / Widow(er)	26	11.16
Cohabiting	6	2.58
<b>Educational Attainment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Elementary	4	1.72
Undergraduate		
Elementary Graduate	36	15.45
High School	15	6.43
Undergraduate		
High School Graduate	127	54.51
College Undergraduate	17	7.29
College Graduate	28	12.02
Vocational	6	2.58
<b>Status of Employment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Employed	95	40.77
Unemployed	138	59.23
<b>Years of Residency</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
6months-4years	13	5.57
5years-9years	89	39.19
10years-14years	131	56.22
<b>No. of Household Members</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1-4members	67	28.76
5-9members	150	64.37
10-14members	16	6.87

Young to middle adults dominate the respondents. They are mostly female, married, high school graduates and unemployed. They have been residents in the resettlement site for 10-14 years already, majority of which belong to a family with 5-9 members.



In a study conducted by Alkay (2016), families with household heads whose age ranges from 30-44 has the highest actual mobility rate. Majority of the families in the Lingayen Gulf Resettlement Project are headed by adults who belong or are close to the said age bracket. There were more female respondents in the study, which may be due to the availability of these female residents who are unemployed high school graduates staying in their homes, making them available during the conduct of the study, and as they do typically respond to survey more often than males (Smith, 2008). Anyhow, according to Alkay (2016) majority of those families in actual mobility have household heads with less than 8 years of education – that is, receiving at least high school level of education, just like majority of the respondents of the study. Based on an interview with the Pangasinan Provincial Housing and Urban Development Office, the Lingayen Gulf Resettlement Project started its operations of accepting relocated families since 2000, hence the families with the longest years of residency in the site is justifiably more than 10 years.

**Satisfaction of the Services Provided for Relocated Families**

Table 2. Services for Relocated Families

<b>Services</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>D</b>
Water services for household consumption	3.67	HS
Power supply and distribution	3.86	HS
Waste disposal system	4.11	HS
Roads and transportation	4.05	HS
Health and nutrition	3.59	HS
Education	4.35	VHS
Livelihood	3.09	MS
<b>AWM</b>	<b>3.82</b>	<b>HS</b>

*Legend: 4.21 – 5.00 VHS – very highly satisfied  
3.41 – 4.20 HS – highly satisfied  
2.61 – 3.40 MS – moderately satisfied  
1.81 – 2.60 SS – slightly satisfied  
1.00 – 1.80 NS – not satisfied*

The families who were relocated in Lingayen Gulf Resettlement Project site in Lingayen, Pangasinan, Philippines are very highly satisfied with the educational assistance provided to them by the local government unit. At present, there is an existing Aplaya Elementary School which caters the primary educational needs of the residents not only in the relocation site but also neighboring areas in the barangay. Ravenstein, as cited by Wang (2015), mentioned educational facilities and benefits as one of the main reasons that is considered by

families for a satisfied household relocation experience. Having a community that assists in the restoration of growth and self-reliance through education and training helps in dismissing the “slum mentality” in the locality (Gilles, 2012).

The high satisfaction rating given by the respondents towards the provision of roads and transportation, waste disposal system, water services and power supply may be attributed to the land development project implemented by the NHA and the provincial government of Pangasinan amounting to Php11.6 million since 2012. Said development project with huge funding was to build concrete roads, set up electrical and water supply system, drainage and riprapping in the site. The provincial government allocated Php3.3 million while the National Housing Authority (NHA) shouldered Php8.3 million of the total project cost which hopes to benefit informal settlers living in riverbanks, shorelines and public places (Tibalao, n.d.), (Aquino, n.d.). True to the promise of providing basic services to help ordinary people, the provincial government receives high satisfaction from the residents of the Lingayen Gulf Resettlement Project.

Aside from water and power services, waste disposal system, roads and drainages, and education, slum upgrading applies a holistic approach of neighborhood improvement including health, housing, livelihood and gender aspect of the community. Generation of livelihood and provision of employment opportunities are very crucial in the relocation sites (Olessen, 2009). People are more satisfied if they are able to enjoy livelihood that can compete with the average income of those outside the relocation area. It is noted, however that livelihood aspect got the lowest satisfaction rating. Majority of the respondents are unemployed, stay-at-home mothers. They admitted that they are informed of livelihood trainings and seminars being organized in their community as extension services of academic institutions in Lingayen, Pangasinan but they do not prioritize participating since they are busy doing household chores. Further, they miss attending to the said livelihood trainings and seminars due to lack of tools and materials, and that they have encountered biases in the selection of beneficiary-participants. These responses are supported by Table 3 wherein the respondents identified problems that they have experienced in relation to the provision of basic services to them by the local government.

**Problems on the Provision of Basic Services to the Relocated Families**

Table 3. Common Problems Experienced by Relocated Families

<b>Problems</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Lack of livelihood training tools / materials.	95	1
Medicines are only distributed to few selected people.	83	2
Livelihood trainings do not cater majority of the relocated families.	81	3
The resettlement area do not have a nearby medical facility / clinic.	36	4
The water is polluted and potentially hazardous to health.	33	5
The drainage system needs repair.	3	6
Some of the relocated families do not have comfort rooms.	2	7
Lack of calamity assistance.	1	8

Lack of training tools and selective inclusion to livelihood trainings were the topmost problems identified by the respondents of the study. The local government officials of the barangay where the relocation site is situated shared that livelihood trainings and seminars are seldom organized and these are mostly initiated by institutions like Pangasinan State University, and Grace Baptist Church as extension activities. Moreso, bias distribution of medicines, and absence of accessible medical facility are also serious problems encountered by the families in the resettlement area. These 2 factors - that is livelihood and medical in nature, should be addressed with urgency and importance. According to Olofsson & Truong (2007), if relocation sites cannot fully provide basic services like schools, health facilities, utilities and lacks or are far from jobs, people would definitely choose staying in hazardous places where there social support structure have already been established. The same has been analyzed by Gilles (2012) wherein organizing livelihood and employment opportunities and improvement in health condition of relocated families is suggested.

**CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

The relocated families in the Lingayen Gulf Resettlement Project site of Lingayen, capital town of

Pangasinan, Philippines are generally highly satisfied with the provision of basic services by their local government unit, especially its education services. Sustainability of the efforts and resources extended by the local government unit to promote inclusivity in delivering basic services like utilities, roads, waste disposal, health, and livelihood projects expected of them by the general public is recommended. It should also scheme responsive strategies for issues with regards to the conduct of livelihood trainings and medical assistance.

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