

Community Needs Assessment among Residents of Barangay Palico II in Imus City, Cavite: Basis for Community-Based Extension and Development Programs

Cromwell R. Cabalu

Cavite State University-Imus Campus, Imus City, Cavite, Philippines

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ABSTRACT

This community needs assessment was conducted among 95 residents of Barangay Palico II in Imus City, Cavite, to identify sectoral needs and perceptions aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The demographic profile showed a predominantly young and middle-aged population, with 46.32% aged 13–32 and 41.05% aged 33–52, mostly male (60%) and unmarried (53.68%). Household sizes ranged from 3 to 6 members, reflecting extended family arrangements. The community demonstrated a robust existing support system, with 80–85% reporting access to health and nutrition centers, ambulatory services, and emergency response units, supporting SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being). Educational infrastructure was well-established, with 75–76% recognizing school facilities and scholarship grants, contributing to SDG 4 (Quality Education). Social welfare programs such as financial aid and disaster reduction are accessible to 66.79% of residents, aligning with SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

Residents prioritized emergency services (mean = 3.80), health/nutrition centers (3.76), and medical assistance (3.74). Perceptions across most demographic variables were homogeneous, except in perceptions of health seminars and infrastructure, which significantly varied with education level ($p = 0.039$ and $p = 0.022$, respectively). The community collectively recognizes the importance of healthcare, education, safety, and environmental sustainability, supporting SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). These findings provide a foundation for developing targeted community extension programs focused on strengthening emergency healthcare, expanding educational support, improving infrastructure, and promoting environmental conservation, thereby fostering inclusive and sustainable community development in line with the SDGs.

INTRODUCTION

Communities are often characterized by their geographic boundaries, but they can also be defined by shared interests or traits such as religion, ethnicity, age, or occupation (CDC, 2013). They consist of individuals from diverse backgrounds, with varying habits, values, and cultural perspectives. Harnessing this diversity is essential for accurately identifying community needs and formulating effective strategies for development. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emphasize a holistic approach to community well-being, aiming for inclusive, sustainable growth that eradicates poverty, promotes health, quality education, clean water, and environmental protection (UN, 2015).

This community needs assessment among residents of Barangay Palico II in Imus City, Cavite, aligns with SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 13 (Climate Action). It aims to identify socioeconomic, health, educational, infrastructural, and environmental challenges to inform targeted development programs that promote resilience, equity, and sustainability. Using a descriptive research design, data were collected via a self-administered questionnaire from 95 residents, with supplementary secondary sources. The findings will support efforts to achieve SDG targets by addressing community-specific gaps and fostering inclusive growth.

Conceptual Framework

This study outlines the planning stages for developing community extension programs and activities, as depicted in Figure 1. The process begins with a community needs assessment to understand the barangay's perceived issues. The findings from this assessment are then used to conduct feedback sessions and focus group discussions (FGDs). The insights gained serve as the basis for proposing relevant programs and activities tailored to the community's needs. Once these programs are formulated, the next step involves their implementation within the barangay, completing the planning cycle.

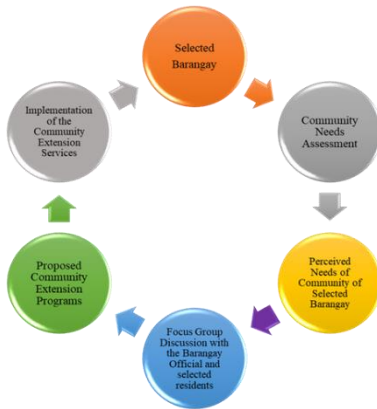


Figure 1. Planning Process of the Community Extension Programs for Barangays

Although research on extension and community services remains somewhat limited, existing studies underscore the significance of community assessment and participatory research approaches. These methods demonstrate the benefits of integrating research into community evaluations, despite employing diverse techniques. For instance, Ahari et al. (2012) implemented participatory action research (PAR) by establishing a steering committee composed of university faculty, health officials, NGO representatives, and community members from twelve blocks. Trained representatives facilitated focus groups and crafted questionnaires, which were then administered through face-to-face interviews or self-completion by approximately 600 households. The study addressed critical health issues like limited medical access, family addiction, and youth unemployment, with high levels of community involvement indicating appreciation for the PAR process. Similarly, Garcia (2016) explored livelihood needs in Sitio Malanas by engaging 35 residents in focus groups, revealing that while most residents engaged in farming and selling agricultural products, they faced challenges related to marketing and transportation, prompting calls for livelihood programs and collaborative training efforts with local government and educational institutions. Lawas et al. (2018) employed a mixed-methods approach across municipalities along Tayabas Bay, identifying concerns such as water access, poverty, and seasonal income variability, and emphasizing the importance of empowering women through community cooperation. Borbon (2020) assessed economic, health, sociocultural, and environmental factors in Taysan, Batangas, noting an aging population and prioritizing environmental and health initiatives, which led to the proposal of a sustainable tourism program. Duquinal et al. (2020) evaluated training needs in Bantay, Ilocos Sur, discovering a community eager to develop skills in silk screen printing and cosmetology, with unemployment and malnutrition identified as major issues. In Cebu City, Amparo and Colonia (2020) recommended university-led programs in literacy, livelihood, and health, highlighting the university's vital role in community development. Alarte (2022) examined Sitio Sapa, Rizal, emphasizing ongoing poverty and limited educational opportunities despite industrial growth, and proposed partnerships and capacity-building efforts. Patalinghug and Bustamante (2022) utilized the POSASE framework to assess governance needs in Dumingag, focusing on safety and disaster preparedness, urging intensified community development. Uy et al. (2023) recognized the need for livelihood support, financial literacy, and organizational capacity in Barangay Bangcud, advocating for collaboration with government agencies. Chowdhury et al. (2024) examined how social media conversations, particularly on Reddit, can be leveraged to identify community needs and assets through computational natural language processing techniques. The study introduces a dataset of over 3,500 conversations annotated for community needs and assets, aiming to automate the analysis of community strengths and issues. It explores methods to distinguish discussions about community problems (needs) from those highlighting community strengths (assets), offering

a novel approach that complements traditional community assessment methods using social media data. Building on this, Dinglasan et al. (2024) evaluated the specific needs of Barangay 694 in Manila, focusing on priorities such as disaster preparedness, education, livelihood, and health to guide the development of tailored extension services. Llamedo et al. (2024) aimed to identify and evaluate the comprehensive needs of Barangay Tinago in Cebu City, emphasizing community participation and collaboration with higher education institutions to promote sustainable development. Valdez (2025) investigated disparities among barangays in Roxas, Isabela, assessing social, infrastructural, and economic conditions to recommend targeted interventions for inclusive growth. Morre et al. (2025) explored community needs in Sitio Langan, Valencia City, using surveys and interviews to develop Project LIFE, which addresses livelihood and financial literacy to foster economic stability. Armada et al. (2025) focused on needs assessment in Barangay Batangan, Bukidnon, highlighting challenges related to human rights, gender sensitivity, and public safety to inform the design of targeted extension programs like the RIGHTS initiative. Lastly, Diaz et al. (2025) investigated skills gaps among rural communities in Barangay Masaplod Sur, Negros Oriental, emphasizing community-based, context-specific training to enhance local governance, employability, and resilience. Collectively, these studies illustrate diverse approaches to community needs assessment, ranging from computational social media analysis to field-based surveys, all aimed at fostering inclusive and sustainable community development.

The community needs assessment aligns with the five-point agenda of the City Government of Imus (CGI), which focuses on health, education, public service, good governance, housing, livelihood, infrastructure, and environmental protection. The Office of the City Mayor aims to transform Imus into a leading city by prioritizing these areas to enhance residents' quality of life, promote transparency, and address key development concerns.

Imus City, situated in northeastern Cavite, is recognized as the province's de jure capital and is celebrated for its historical and cultural heritage. According to PhilAtlas (n.d.), it has a population of roughly 496,794 residents as of the 2020 Census, spans 171.66 square kilometers, and has a population density of approximately 2,894 inhabitants per square kilometer. Comprising 97 barangays, Imus became a city in 2012 through a plebiscite following Republic Act 10161. Its strategic location makes it a hub for trade, industry, and commerce, attracting people and businesses from neighboring areas. Notable historical sites such as the Imus Cathedral and Imus Heritage Site reflect its rich cultural background (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2021).

Barangay Palico II in Imus City, Cavite, has a population of 1,801 residents based on the 2020 Census, accounting for approximately 0.36% of the total population of Imus (PhilAtlas, n.d.). In the 2015 Census, the barangay recorded 361 households with a total household population of 1,556 members, resulting in an average household size of 4.31 members (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2016). This data highlights the barangay's demographic profile and household structure within the context of Imus City.

This study aimed to conduct a thorough evaluation of the socioeconomic and communal characteristics of households in Barangay Palico II of Imus City, Cavite. Participants were categorized based on various demographic variables, including age, gender, marital status, number of dependents, household size, employment status of members, educational attainment, income sources, total monthly earnings, income allocation for essentials, type of residence, sources of drinking water, and sanitation facilities.

Additionally, the study reviewed existing community policies, programs, and resources related to public health, education, housing, livelihood, infrastructure, governance, and the environment. It also sought to assess the level of needs within these sectors and to explore significant differences in perceptions of current services and needs based on civil status and educational background. Through quantitative analysis, the research identified service gaps and provided insights to aid policymakers and community leaders in designing targeted interventions to enhance living conditions and community well-being in Imus City. Moreover, the findings contributed to the development of extension programs aimed at community development.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a mixed-methods research design to gather comprehensive insights into the community needs of Barangay Palico II in Imus City, Cavite. The research methodology involved both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis.

Quantitative Data Collection

A self-administered questionnaire was distributed to 95 residents of Barangay Palico II. The questionnaire was divided into three sections: household demographic profile, community practices, services, and facilities, and the community's needs related to these areas. Data analysis involved calculating frequency counts and percentage distributions to describe demographic characteristics, while mean and standard deviation were used to evaluate the importance of community needs, measured on a four-point Likert scale ranging from "Not Important" to "Very Important."

Qualitative Data Collection

A Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was facilitated on May 10, 2025, at Brgy. Palico II, with 10 residents and all barangay officials attending the meeting. The FGD aimed to validate the results of the quantitative survey and gather more in-depth insights into the community's perceptions and concerns. The discussion centered around existing services and facilities as well as the extent of needs for these services and facilities. Key points discussed during the FGD included:

1. Health: The community emphasized the need for improved medical assistance and support services.
2. Education: Residents stressed the importance of expanding scholarship programs and educational assistance.
3. Public Service: Financial assistance and funeral service assistance were identified as crucial needs.
4. Good Governance: Peace and order, school safety, and police visibility were top priorities for the barangay.
5. Housing: The community highlighted the need for available space for housing projects.
6. Livelihood: Employment assistance was identified as a significant need.
7. Infrastructure: Neighborhood CCTV cameras, road clearing operations, and efficient traffic management systems were recognized as essential.
8. Environment: Regular street sweeper operations and waste collection efforts were acknowledged as crucial.

The FGD provided a rich source of qualitative data that complemented the quantitative findings, offering a deeper understanding of the community's needs and concerns.



Figure 2. Photograph of the Focus Group Discussion held at Barangay Palico II on May 10, 2025 (Research Team, 2025).

Data Analysis

Data analysis involved a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the community's needs. Frequency counts, percentages, means, and standard deviations were used to analyze the quantitative data. The non-parametric tests employed included the Kruskal-Wallis H test for analyzing differences across more than two groups (e.g., age, educational level of household heads), and the Mann-Whitney U test for comparing perceptions between two groups (e.g., sex, civil status). These tests were chosen due to the ordinal scale of the data and the absence of assumptions of normality. Thematic analysis was employed to interpret qualitative data from the FGD. The results from both data sources were integrated to provide a detailed understanding of the community's needs and priorities.

Limitations

This study, while comprehensive in assessing the socioeconomic, health, educational, infrastructural, and environmental needs of Barangay Palico II residents, had some limitations. The sample size was relatively small, which may limit the generalizability of the findings. Additionally, the study relied on self-reported data, which may be subject to biases and inaccuracies. However, the study's mixed-methods approach and the use of both quantitative and qualitative data helped to mitigate these limitations and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the community's needs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic and Household Profile

As shown in **Table 1**, the demographic profile of Barangay Palico II reveals a predominantly young to middle-aged population, with 46.32% of residents aged 13 to 32 and 41.05% aged 33 to 52, indicating an active and economically productive community. The community is primarily composed of males, who constitute 60% of the population, suggesting that men may serve as the main household decision-makers or breadwinners. Most residents are unmarried, with 53.68% being single and 38.95% married, highlighting a community with many young individuals still in the pre-marital or early family-building stages.

Household sizes are generally extended, with 40% of households having 1 to 2 dependents and 30.53% having 3 to 4 dependents, representing typical Filipino family arrangements. Household members, excluding the head, mostly range from 3 to 6, reflecting extended family living patterns common in the area. The number of working members per household is mostly 1 to 2, accounting for 69.47%, which supports household income and community economic activity. Educational attainment of household heads is moderate, with 27.37% having completed college and 25.26% with high school diplomas, indicating a reasonably educated workforce.

Most households earn low to moderate incomes, predominantly between Php 5,001 to Php 10,000 monthly (26.32%) and Php 15,001 to Php 20,000 (21.05%). Housing conditions are moderate, with 62.11% living in concrete structures and only a small fraction in nipa or barong-barong houses. Water sources are primarily waterworks systems (64.21%), and sanitation facilities are generally adequate, with 71.58% having water-sealed toilets. Overall, the demographic data depict a young, extended-family community with modest income levels and decent living conditions.

Table 1. Demographic and Household Profile

Household Profile	Frequency	Percentage	Key Insights
Age			
13 to 32	44	46.32	Predominantly young - middle-aged residents, indicating an active working population and potential for community growth.
33 to 52	39	41.05	
53 and above	12	12.63	

Sex			
Male	57	60.00	Males predominate, possible primary household informants
Female	38	40.00	
Civil Status			
Married	37	38.95	A high proportion of residents are unmarried, indicating a community with many young individuals building families or still in premarital stages
Separate	1	1.05	
Single	51	53.68	
Widow	6	6.32	
Number of Dependents			
None	19	20.00	Households mostly have 1–4 dependents, with 40% having 1–2 dependents, reflecting typical family sizes and extended family living arrangements
1 to 2	38	40.00	
3 to 4	29	30.53	
5 to 6	7	7.37	
7 and above	2	2.11	
Number of Household Members (Head Not Included)			
None	6	6.32	Household sizes are generally 3–6 members, indicating extended family living arrangements common in the community
1 To 2	8	8.42	
3 To 4	30	31.58	
5 To 6	34	35.79	
7 and above	17	17.89	
Number of Working Members			
None	5	5.26	Most households have 1–2 working members, which supports household income and economic activity in the community.
1 To 2	66	69.47	
3 To 4	21	22.11	
5 To 6	4	4.21	
7 and above	2	2.11	
Educational Level (Head of the Family)			
College Graduate	20	21.05	The educational attainment of household heads is moderate, with a significant portion having completed college or high school, indicating a reasonably educated community workforce
College Level	26	27.37	
Doctorate Level	1	1.05	
Elementary Graduate	3	3.16	
Elementary Level	5	5.26	
High School Graduate	24	25.26	
High School Level	14	14.74	
Technical/Vocational	2	2.11	

Source of Income			
Employment-Based Income	28	29.47	
Self-Employed/Entrepreneurship	49	51.58	The community's livelihood is primarily selfemployment and entrepreneurial activities, reflecting a largely informal economy with diverse income sources.
Agriculture & Fishing	5	5.26	
Domestic Work/Services	3	3.16	
Overseas Work	3	3.16	
Miscellaneous	2	2.11	
Other Income Earners			
Immediate Family	80	84.21	Residents depend heavily on intra-household income support. This indicates strong family support networks but limited diversification of income sources
Spouse/Partner	6	6.32	
Other Relatives	1	1.05	
Non-Family Sources	2	2.11	
None/Not Applicable	5	5.26	
Household Income			
5,000 and above	16	16.84	Income levels are varied, with a significant portion earning between Php 5,001–10,000 monthly, indicating low to moderate economic status.
5,001 to 10,000	25	26.32	
10,001 to 15,000	13	13.68	
15,001 to 20,000	20	21.05	
20,001 and above	21	22.11	
Type/Kind of Dwelling units			
Barong-barong	3	3.16	Most households reside in concrete or semiconcrete structures, indicating moderate housing standards. A small proportion live in nipa/bamboo or barong-barong houses, reflecting varying housing conditions
Concrete	59	62.11	
Nipa/Bamboo	2	2.11	
Renting	1	1.05	
Semi-concrete	18	18.95	
Wood	12	12.63	
Source of drinking water			
Deep well	15	15.79	Majority of households access water through waterworks systems, with some relying on deep wells and springs, indicating varying levels of water security.
Open dug well	5	5.26	
Spring	14	14.74	
Water works system	61	64.21	
Type of toilet facilities			
Antipolo type	1	1.05	Most households have water-sealed toilets, suggesting adequate sanitation facilities, though a small percentage still utilize open pit or no toilet facilities.
None	6	6.32	
Open pit	20	21.05	
Water sealed	68	71.58	

Existing Practices, Services and Facilities in the Community

Based on the data collected, the existing practices, services, and facilities in the community across various sectors can be summarized as follows:

As reflected in **Table 2**, the health sector in Barangay Palico II demonstrates a robust and accessible healthcare support system, with approximately 82.50% of residents reporting the presence of essential health services such as health and nutrition centers, ambulatory services, and emergency response units. Specifically, 80% of respondents acknowledged the availability of health and nutrition centers, while 80% also reported access to ambulatory services. Community hospitals are accessible to 64.21% of residents, and over half of households (57.89%) have lying-in clinics, underscoring the community’s capacity to provide maternal and outpatient care. Furthermore, the widespread availability of medical assistance (73.68%) and emergency services (76.84%) highlights the community’s emphasis on health emergency preparedness and preventive care, ensuring residents have vital access to health facilities and services.

In the educational sector, Barangay Palico II exhibits a well-established infrastructure supporting youth and adult learning. About 75.50% of community members recognize the existence of sufficient school facilities and access to scholarship grants, with 65.26% confirming the availability of educational assistance. The presence of day care centers is acknowledged by 76.84%, indicating strong support for early childhood development. Additionally, digital literacy programs, such as computer literacy initiatives, are actively implemented, with 55.79% of residents participating. These educational services collectively foster a learning-conducive environment, equipping residents with the skills and support necessary for academic and socio-economic advancement.

The community’s public service and environmental sectors also demonstrate active and widespread initiatives. 72.50% of residents report the availability of social welfare programs such as financial aid, disaster risk reduction, legal aid, and welfare support for senior citizens, women, and children, indicating a comprehensive social safety net. Safety and security are reinforced through active governance practices, with 76.00% of residents perceiving high levels of transparency, community involvement, and police visibility, which contribute to peace and order. Environmental management is equally active, with 64.50% of residents recognizing heritage site maintenance, eco-tourism projects, and waste management programs, including garbage collection and recycling initiatives. These efforts reflect a community committed to sustainable development and environmental conservation, promoting a healthy, safe, and environmentally resilient Barangay Palico II.

Table 2. Consolidated Summary of Existing Practices and Services in Barangay Palico II

Sector	Key Practice/Facility	Percentage	Key Insights
Health	Health/Nutrition Centers, Ambulatory & Emergency Services	82.50%	Strong health support system.
Education	School Facilities, Scholarships, Day Care, Computer Literacy	75.5%	Well-established educational programs.
Public Services	Financial Aid, Disaster Reduction, Legal & Welfare Services	72.50%	Accessible social support programs.
Good Governance	Transparency, Community Involvement, Safety, Police Visibility	76.00%	Active governance and safety practices.
Housing	Affordable, Safe, Quality Housing	76.00%	Adequate housing options.
Livelihood	Skills & Livelihood Training, Job Fairs	57.00%	Support for employment and entrepreneurship.
Infrastructure	Internet, Water, Street Lights, CCTV, Roads	70.00%	Basic infrastructure well in place.
Environment	Heritage Sites, Eco- tourism, Waste & Green Projects	64.50%	Environmental conservation actively promoted.

Extent of Needs on the Practices, Services and Facilities in the Community

As gleaned in **Table 3**, the health sector in Barangay Palico II highlights the community’s urgent needs for emergency and primary health services. Residents rate these practices as very important, with the Extent of Needs for Emergency Services scoring a mean of 3.80, indicating it is the top priority. Similarly, Health and Nutrition Centers (mean of 3.76) and Medical Assistance (mean of 3.74) are highly valued, emphasizing the community's demand for accessible and responsive healthcare facilities. The widespread recognition of these services underscores the community’s desire for swift emergency responses and comprehensive health support systems that can effectively address both preventive health and emergency situations.

In the education sector, community members perceive the need for improved and expanded educational facilities and programs as highly significant. Scholarship Grants, School Facilities, and Educational Assistance are rated with mean scores of 3.64, 3.59, and 3.62 respectively, reflecting a strong community emphasis on supporting students and enhancing learning environments. The establishment of Day Care Centers is also prioritized, with a mean score of 3.61, indicating the community’s focus on early childhood development and access to quality education. Additionally, the Computer Literacy Program holds a mean importance score of 3.47, illustrating a recognition of the importance of digital skills in preparing residents for modern socio-economic demands.

The community’s social welfare and governance needs are also prominently expressed. Social safety nets such as Financial Assistance (mean of 3.74), Disaster Risk Reduction Programs (3.66), and Free Legal Assistance (3.64) are identified as key priorities, reflecting the community’s concern for safety, disaster preparedness, and legal support. Governance practices emphasizing transparency, community involvement, and safety are highly valued, with mean scores of 3.59, 3.56, and 3.64 respectively, indicating a community that seeks active participation, accountability, and peace and order. Environmental concerns, including Waste Management, EcoProjects, Heritage Site Maintenance, and Green Programs, also register high importance scores (around 3.38 to 3.73), demonstrating a collective recognition of environmental sustainability as a vital aspect of community development.

Table 3. Community Needs on Practices, Services, and Facilities in Barangay Palico II

Sector	Key Practice/Facility	Mean Importance Score	Key Insights
Health	Emergency Services, Health/Nutrition Centers, Medical Assistance	3.80 3.76 3.74	Residents prioritize swift emergency responses and accessible health facilities; these are critical needs.
Education	Scholarship Grants, School Facilities, Day Care, Computer Literacy	3.64 3.59 3.62 3.47	Education support is vital, especially scholarship programs and early childhood facilities, with high community demand.
Public Services	Financial Aid, Disaster Reduction, Legal & Welfare Services	3.74 3.66 3.64	Social safety nets are crucial; residents emphasize the need for disaster preparedness and welfare assistance.
Good Governance	Transparency,	3.59	Governance practices focusing on transparency, safety, and
	Community Involvement, Safety, Police Visibility	3.56 3.64 3.64	community participation are highly valued and seen as essential.

Housing	Affordable, Accessible, Safe, Quality Housing	3.57	Safe and affordable housing remains a top priority, reflecting residents' aspirations for secure living conditions.
		3.58	
		3.66	
		3.60	
Livelihood	Job Fairs, Skills & Livelihood Training, Microenterprise Support	3.54	Economic empowerment through employment and skills development is highly needed for community resilience.
		3.53	
		3.46	
		3.45	
Infrastructure	Water Supply, Street Lights, Roads, Traffic Management	3.73	Infrastructure improvements are paramount; residents seek safer, more reliable transport, water, and lighting facilities.
		3.49	
		3.62	
		3.63	
Environment	Waste Management, Eco- Projects, Heritage Sites, Green Programs	3.73	Environmental sustainability remains a community focus, with a strong need for waste reduction, eco- tourism, and conservation initiatives.
		3.46	
		3.55	
		3.38	

H^o There is no significant difference on the perceived importance of government support and facilities when grouped according to the demographic profile of the household

As gleaned in **Table 4**, a series of Kruskal-Wallis and Mann-Whitney tests revealed that most demographic variables, including age ($p > 0.05$), sex ($p > 0.05$), civil status ($p = 0.968$), household size ($p = 0.335$), number of working members ($p = 0.579$), and source of income ($p > 0.05$), do not significantly influence perceptions of community services across various sectors. Similarly, no significant differences were observed with respect to household main earners' characteristics, such as the educational level of household main earners ($p = 0.813$), source of drinking water ($p > 0.05$), and type of toilet facilities ($p > 0.05$). These findings suggest that residents' perceptions regarding the importance of community services are generally homogeneous, with most demographic variables not impacting the overall perception of community services.

A significant difference was observed in the perception of community health orientation seminars, with residents having elementary education rating the importance of these services differently compared to those with higher education levels ($p = 0.039$). This suggests that educational background plays a role in shaping perceptions of health services, with lower educational attainment potentially leading to a greater emphasis on health seminars due to limited access or awareness. Furthermore, a significant difference was found in the perception of infrastructure services, with residents having college education perceiving infrastructure needs more critically than those with elementary or high school education ($p = 0.022$). This indicates that higher educational attainment is associated with increased awareness or valuation of infrastructure development priorities. Understanding these significant differences is crucial for designing inclusive and targeted community development programs that consider educational disparities. By recognizing these nuances, policymakers and community leaders can tailor interventions effectively, ensuring equitable development and community participation in barangay initiatives.

Table 4. Analysis of differences on the perceived importance of government support and facilities when grouped according to the demographic profile of the household

Variable	Sector/Service	Test Used	Decision	Interpretation
Age	All sectors	Kruskal- Wallis	Accept H ^o	Perceptions similar across age groups
Sex (Gender)	All sectors	Mann- Whitney	Accept H ^o	Perceptions similar between males and females

Civil Status	All sectors	Kruskal- Wallis	Accept H ^o	No significant difference based on civil status
Dependents/Household Size	All sectors	Kruskal- Wallis	Accept H ^o	No significant difference based on household size
Number of Working Members	All sectors	Kruskal- Wallis	Accept H ^o	No significant difference based on employment within households
Educational Level (Head of Family)	Health (Health seminars)	Kruskal- Wallis	Reject H ^o	Lower education levels perceive health seminars as more important
Educational Level (Head of Family)	Infrastructure (Main earners)	Kruskal- Wallis	Reject H ^o	Higher education levels perceive infrastructure needs more critically
Household Water Source	Perception of water-related services	Mann- Whitney	Accept H ^o	No significant difference based on water source
Type of Toilet Facility	Sanitation perceptions	Mann- Whitney	Accept H ^o	No significant difference based on toilet type

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the comprehensive analysis of the community needs and perceptions in Barangay Palico II, Imus City, Cavite, it is evident that residents share a common outlook on the importance of community services, with most variables showing no significant differences across demographic groups. The statistical data support this, as most perceptions did not vary significantly, with p-values exceeding 0.05 (e.g., health services $p = 0.919$, education $p = 0.475$), indicating a generally homogeneous community perception. However, notable exceptions were identified in perceptions related to health seminars and infrastructure, where educational background significantly influenced responses (e.g., Kruskal-Wallis $p = 0.039$ for health seminars and $p = 0.022$ for infrastructure), highlighting the role of education in shaping community awareness.

The residents prioritized health services, with emergency services rated as most critical, reflected by a mean importance score of 3.80, followed by health and nutrition centers (3.76) and medical assistance (3.74). Similarly, in the education sector, scholarship grants (mean = 3.64) and school facilities (mean = 3.59) were deemed highly important, emphasizing the community's need to support educational development. Social welfare services such as financial assistance (mean = 3.74) and disaster reduction programs (3.66) also emerged as vital, underscoring the community's concern for safety, disaster preparedness, and social support. Infrastructure and environmental needs, including water supply (mean = 3.62), street lights (3.49), waste management (mean = 3.73), and eco-projects (3.46), further reflect the community's aspiration for sustainable and resilient development.

The findings suggest that while Barangay Palico II residents generally perceive community services as important and share similar viewpoints across most demographic variables, targeted interventions should consider the influence of education levels. Addressing the community's top priorities—improving emergency healthcare, expanding educational support, and enhancing infrastructure and environmental sustainability—will be vital in crafting effective, inclusive community extension and development programs. The statistical evidence indicates a community ready for targeted development, with most needs underscored by high importance scores and the recognition that inclusive strategies can foster sustainable growth aligned with residents' aspirations.

Based on the detailed analysis of the household profile, current community services, and the specific needs identified in Barangay Palico II, as reflected in the attached document, the following revised recommendations are suggested to promote community development and enhance overall well-being while aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

1. **Enhance Emergency and Healthcare Services.** Prioritize strengthening emergency response systems by establishing adequately equipped emergency clinics and providing comprehensive training for first responders. Expand community health education programs and conduct seminars focused on preventive health practices to reduce vulnerabilities (WHO, 2020). Given that residents rated emergency services as the most critical need with a mean importance score of 3.80, addressing these areas directly supports SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being.
2. **Improve Educational Infrastructure and Digital Literacy.** Increase investments in upgrading school facilities, expanding scholarship grants, and implementing digital literacy initiatives. Enhancing technological infrastructure and providing skills training in digital tools are essential for preparing residents for the digital economy and fostering sustainable socio-economic growth (DepEd, 2018). The community's emphasis on education, with high importance scores for scholarship grants (mean=3.64) and school facilities (mean=3.59), supports SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure.
3. **Strengthen Community Safety and Social Welfare Programs.** Implement comprehensive disaster preparedness protocols, expand legal assistance, and develop support services for vulnerable groups such as senior citizens and women. Conduct community awareness campaigns to boost resilience and promote inclusive safety measures (DILG, 2019). These initiatives, aligned with the community's needs for safety and social protection, advance SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities and SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.
4. **Upgrade Infrastructure for Safety and Accessibility.** Enhance street lighting, improve mobile network coverage, and upgrade road conditions to bolster safety, mobility, and connectivity. Establish routine maintenance and monitoring systems to ensure sustainability and durability of infrastructure projects (DPWH, 2021). These efforts contribute to SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure and SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, especially considering the community's specific needs for safer and more reliable infrastructure.
5. **Promote Environmental Sustainability and Green Practices.** Encourage active community participation in waste management programs, green projects, and habitat conservation initiatives. Promote eco-tourism and environmental stewardship to stimulate the local economy while safeguarding natural and cultural resources (DENR, 2019). Such activities support SDG 13: Climate Action and SDG 15: Life on Land, aligning with residents' expressed needs for environmental conservation and green development.
6. **Develop and Support Livelihood Programs.** Expand livelihood initiatives such as skills trainings, microenterprise support, and employment assistance. Establish community cooperatives, facilitate microfinancing, and create market linkage strategies to diversify income sources and strengthen economic resilience (ILO, 2020). These strategies, which address the community's significant livelihood needs, support SDG 1: No Poverty and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.

Future Research

Future research should consider longitudinal studies to monitor how community perceptions and needs evolve over time, especially as new development initiatives are implemented. This approach can help evaluate the effectiveness of current programs and identify emerging issues that require attention. Additionally, in-depth qualitative studies such as interviews and participatory action research can provide a deeper understanding of the specific barriers residents face in accessing essential services like healthcare, education, and infrastructure, enabling more targeted and culturally sensitive interventions.

Furthermore, exploring the community's technological readiness and digital literacy could offer valuable insights into how digital solutions and e-governance can be integrated into service delivery. Comparative analyses with neighboring barangays or similar communities can also identify best practices and scalable strategies for sustainable development. Engaging residents actively in future research efforts will promote

inclusive participation, ensuring that community-based programs remain relevant, effective, and aligned with residents' evolving needs and aspirations.

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