Empowering Communities: The Extension Services of College of Education in State Universities and Colleges in Region III

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Abstract- This study analyzed and assessed the factors affecting the level of effectiveness of community extension services of college of education in state universities and colleges in the region.

The general problem of the study was: How do various factors affect the level of effectiveness of community extension services of college of education in state universities and colleges in the region? The study aimed to 1) identify the a.) personnel profile of the extensionist-respondents b.) community extension service profile and the c.) community extension service activities, 2) determine the factors affecting the level of effectiveness of community extension services in terms of appropriateness of program, relevance of program, participation scheme, personnel competence and effectiveness of projects 3) determine the significant effects of the various factors taken singly or in combination on the level of effectiveness of community extension services.

There were two groups of respondents, 123 extensionists who are faculty members directly involved in extension services and 330 recipients from the members of the community who benefited from community extension services. The data were gathered through the self-constructed questionnaire which was patterned from the locally made instrument to measure effectiveness of community extension services. All the data gathered were subjected to statistical analysis using frequencies, mean and multiple regressions. The data were processed through the SPSS software using Regression Analysis.

Based on the findings of the study, the personal profile of the extensionists nor the community extension service program profile do not affect the level of effectiveness of extension services. Not one from the various factors has significant effects on the level of effectiveness of community extension services in terms of appropriateness and relevance of programs, participation scheme, personnel competence and project effectiveness.

It was recommended that a similar study may be conducted to determine the factors that affect the level of effectiveness of community extension services but with a different measure of evaluation parameters specifically consistent with the 21st Century Vision of Community Extension on Services. To ensure a more defined result of evaluation of extension services, an impact study TIP model (Target Impacts of Program) by Rockwell (1995) may be employed as alternative to this kind of study. This model uses both program development assessments and program performance evaluation. Supporting a broader agenda of engagement in evaluation augmented by state of the art extension services challenges the fiscal resources of most extension services. The extension administrator or coordinator should manage resources effectively by resource procurement, staffing patterns and accountability and program evaluation. Further studies on the following topics are recommended: effectiveness of extension services in terms of quantifiable results like technology transfer, education results, problem solving and development of competencies and in terms of expectations and concerns of clientele or recipients.

Keywords- Community Extension Services, Extensionists, Level of effectiveness

Remark: The full paper may be found in www.inrit2011.com or www.ijcim.th.org.