

Advancing local knowledge: Evidence-based studies in education, environment, health, and community development

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FROM THE EDITOR

It is with great pleasure that we present this latest issue of the *Mindoro Journal of Social Sciences and Development Studies (MJSSDS)*. This issue exemplifies the journal's continued commitment to promoting rigorous, locally relevant, and interdisciplinary research that informs policy, practice, and community development. Across diverse domains including education, environmental management, community livelihoods, and maternal health. The articles compiled in this issue demonstrate how evidence-based research can illuminate challenges, identify opportunities, and guide meaningful community interventions in the Philippines.

Education remains a cornerstone of societal development, and this issue features two important studies that explore interventions and individual capacities in learning contexts. "*Effectiveness of Brigada Pagbasa Program on Students' Academic Performance in Filipino: A Comparative Study*" investigates the effect of a national literacy initiative on students' academic achievement. The study demonstrates a statistically significant improvement in Filipino language performance among participants, highlighting the value of structured reading sessions, tutorial activities, and volunteer-supported interventions. This research not only provides empirical evidence on the effectiveness of literacy programs but also highlights the critical role of community participation and school-based initiatives in enhancing learning outcomes.

Complementing this is "*Adversity Quotient and Teaching Internship Achievement of Pre-Service Teachers: A Cross-Sectional Study*," which examines how resilience, operationalized as adversity quotient, affects pre-service teachers' performance during their internships. The study shows a strong positive correlation between adversity quotient and teaching internship achievement, showing that students who can navigate and overcome challenges are better prepared for professional teaching roles. These findings have important implications for teacher education programs, suggesting the need for interventions and training modules that promotes resilience and adaptive capacity among future educators.

Further extending the focus on education and professional development, "*Organizational Justice, Work Resilience, and Teacher Affective Attitudes of Public Elementary School Teachers in a District in Occidental Mindoro*" explores the relationships between perceptions of organizational justice, resilience, and affective attitudes among teachers. The research reveals that high levels of perceived organizational justice contribute significantly to teacher resilience and positive affective attitudes. These results reinforce the notion that supportive organizational cultures, fair practices, and transparent decision-making processes are crucial for sustaining teacher motivation, well-being, and effectiveness in the classroom. Collectively, these three factors offer a complex understanding of educational success, highlighting the relationship between program interventions, individual capacities, and organizational environments.

Environmental sustainability and community resilience constitute another central theme in this issue. "*Hydro Morphological Assessment Using the Habitat Survey Method of Pandurucan River in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro*" provides an evaluation of a river's physical and ecological state. By employing the River Habitat Survey method, the study identifies low habitat diversity and significant human-induced modifications, emphasizing the urgent need for river rehabilitation and evidence-based management of aquatic ecosystems. This research contributes to a growing body of literature advocating for environmental monitoring as a foundation for sustainable natural resource management, policy formulation, and community-based conservation strategies.

Likewise, community empowerment is highlighted in "*Seas of Opportunity: Development of an Innovative Capacity Building Program for Thriving Seaweed Producers*." This article addresses the challenges faced by coastal farmers in Occidental Mindoro. The study documents knowledge gaps, training needs, and entrepreneurial aspirations among seaweed farmers, highlighting the potential for participatory, community-based capacity-building programs to enhance skills, market orientation, and livelihood resilience. By integrating sustainability practices with entrepreneurship and innovation, the study provides a framework that can help coastal communities transition from subsistence-based aquaculture to sustainable and market-responsive enterprises.

Finally, the issue addresses public health and maternal care through “*Examining the Predictive Role of Breastfeeding Knowledge on Self-Efficacy Among Second-Time Nursing Mothers in Angeles City, Pampanga.*” This research demonstrates that breastfeeding knowledge strongly predicts maternal self-efficacy and maternal confidence in breastfeeding. These findings highlight the importance of knowledge-based interventions in prenatal and postnatal care, supporting national and global targets for exclusive breastfeeding, and reinforcing the role of maternal education in improving health outcomes for both mothers and infants.

Taken together, the articles in this issue reflect the journal’s interdisciplinary focus and its dedication to addressing the multifaceted needs of communities in the Philippines. From fostering literacy and teacher resilience to improving environmental stewardship, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and enhancing maternal health, the research presented here underscores the vital role of evidence-based interventions in shaping positive social outcomes. These studies collectively illustrate how local research can inform policy, guide practice, and contribute to sustainable and inclusive development across sectors.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the authors for their rigorous and insightful contributions, to our reviewers for their careful and constructive feedback, and to the editorial team for ensuring the quality and integrity of this publication. We also invite our readers, scholars, practitioners, and policymakers alike to engage with the findings in this issue and to share these insights with their respective communities. It is our hope that the knowledge presented here will not only inform but also inspire meaningful action, ultimately contributing to the development of more resilient communities.