

MULTI-SECTORAL APPROACHES TOWARDS THE REALIZATION OF UNITED NATIONS' SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ON WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN MANILA CITY

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ABSTRACT

The promotion of gender equality and women empowerment, as one of the goals of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, is perceived as essential in achieving all of the other goals. In the Philippines, Manila City, being the country's capital and center of economic opportunities, is giving paramount importance to gender equality. This research aims to identify the Multi-sectoral Approaches Towards the Realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals on Women Economic Empowerment in Manila City. The research utilizes descriptive and qualitative approach and experts involved in strengthening women economic empowerment were interviewed and findings revealed that women of Manila City were empowered and given equal, or to some extent, even greater opportunities than men. Moreover, the LGUs were able to conduct costly programs, projects, and activities because they are supported financially, unlike the NGOs, which catered less expensive but educational approaches. Similarly, the accomplishment of empowering women economically is congruent to the Liberal Feminist framework, which is to deliver knowledge and raise women's awareness of their rights. Nevertheless, lobbying the support from the concerned agencies is an important move towards the greater mobilization and advancement of programs, projects and activities on women. Hence, the goal of promoting women economic empowerment in Manila City must not be stopped. Albeit the respondents have made significant actions towards enhancing the lives of women, the most critical challenge is not by achieving Sustainable Development Goal No. 5, rather, the consistency and sustainability in promoting women empowerment even after 2030.

Keywords: Gender Equality, Women Economic Empowerment, Sustainable Development Goals, Local Government Unit, Non-government Organization

INTRODUCTION

Women are an essential part of the society. Although they are historically inferior to men, they still can live up to their full potential, making them large contributors to the growth and development of a community. For women to be able to showcase their capabilities, all social and economic assets should be utilized, especially in an increasingly globalized and interconnected world. However, despite progress, women continue to confront discrimination, marginalization and exclusion, given the fact that equality between men and women stands as a universal international precept – a fundamental and inviolable human right. (UN Women, 2011)

Gender inequality and discrimination against women are the major factors of poverty and all other forms of human deprivation. These hinder the process

of sustainable socio-economic development and the overall progress of human rights. When women's status is low, family size tends to be large, which makes it more difficult for families to thrive. However, when women are given equal opportunities with men and are provided with resources, the whole family benefit, and these benefits often have ripple effects not only to the household but also to the community (Srivastava, 2009). Moreover, the empowerment of women can bring great changes to the global economy. The former United Nations' Secretary General Kofi Annan once said, "There is no tool for development more effective than women." (United Nations, 2011)

It is very clear that empowering women economically is essential in building economies, achieving internationally agreed goals for development and sustainability and improving

the life for women, men, families, and communities. (UN Women, 2011) However, women's positions and contributions in the economy were unrecognized and their work undervalued. (ICRW, 2010) Therefore, in order to realize the untapped potentials of women, they must first be given expanded opportunities and increased options to improve their lives.

According to Opportunity International, empowering women economically requires a responsive business environment involving wide range of actors, collaborators, contributors, and innovators to open more opportunities for women. Moreover, it also involves active and interactive participation of governments, international institutions, private sectors, investors, non-government organizations, academia, and professional to work together to uphold women economic empowerment. (Opportunity International, 2014)

In the Philippines, the gap in women's participation in various fields has narrowed down in recent years. Accordingly, women have been viewed as important contributors to the society. In the 2016 Global Gender Gap ranking, the country has placed 7th, from its 8th ranking in 2011, among the 135 countries. Similarly, in the Global Gender Gap 2013, the Philippines have improved, making it to the 5th place next to the countries of Norway and Sweden. This survey simply is a reflection of the adherence of the country to laws such as "Women in development" law as well as the "Magna Carta of Women", in which both seek to eradicate gender discrimination and empower women. Also, this survey shows the efforts of various non-governmental organizations and local government units to address gender disparities.

Nowadays, the need to address the issue on women economic empowerment has increased as NGOs and LGUs collaborate. Prior efforts to uplift empowering women economically did not manifest women's visibility and involvement in the society as it was challenged and hampered by several factors like illiteracy, lack of proper training, negative stigma towards women, and inefficient governance of programs, projects, and activities. Henceforth, this has fuelled the researchers to determine whether or not the promotion of women economic empowerment has improved nowadays by examining the actions taken by the local government units of the Philippines, particularly the city of Manila and NGOs in accordance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals on Women Economic Empowerment.

Manila City, being the country's capital and center of economic opportunities for both women and men have been a strong advocate of gender equality; greatly recognizing the important role of women when it comes to economic development. In fact, Manila City is one of the most active cities in the Philippines in putting

the UN Sustainable Development Goals on Women Economic Empowerment of paramount importance.

The study presented the adherence of local government unit of Manila City and various non-governmental organizations to the promotion of women economic empowerment under United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. It will identify the specific programs, projects, and activities established by these various sectors. Moreover, this study will seek to determine the sectors of women involved in promoting women empowerment and how they can effectively improve the lives of the beneficiaries. Lastly, the study will also discuss the policies that can be recommended to further strengthen the promotion of economic empowerment in Manila City.

This study can contribute to the strengthening of policies towards a better understanding of the capabilities that women can contribute to the economic development of a community, Furthermore, this can give policymakers and NGOs ideas as to what improvements they still have to make in order to attain the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal on Women Economic Empowerment.

Theoretical Background

This study is largely based on the feminism theory, specifically Liberal Feminism strand. Feminism is defined as a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression. (Hooks, 2000)

According to several authors of international politics, feminism is linked to women's movement and an attempt to advance the social role of women. Ideally, Feminists have sought to breakdown the distinction between the public and private life by transferring the responsibilities of private life to public sphere. (Haywood, 2012 and Burchill et. Al, 2013) Moreover, feminists have also challenged the notion of patriarchy in which men are seen supreme over women in terms of sex and generation. They believe that gender differences are socially and politically constructed. (Haywood, 2012)

The famous French Feminist and author of the book entitled *Second Sex*, Simon de Beauvoir asserts that woman has been held in a relationship of long-standing oppression to man through her relegation to being man's "Other". He is the Subject, the Absolute, and she is the "Other". In addition, Beauvoir maintains that human existence is an ambiguous interplay between transcendence and immanence and that men have been privileged with expressing transcendence through projects, while women have been forced into the repetitive and uncreative life of immanence. Beauvoir thus proposes to investigate how this radically unequal relationship emerged as

well as what structures, attitudes, and presuppositions continue to maintain its social power. (Mussett, IEP) Another American writer and feminist Betty Friedan asserted that women are just as capable as men regardless of any kind and type of work they are bound to. Moreover, she argues that women especially housewives should not be trapped and imprisoned in their own homes attending to their home and family needs and questioning themselves if these are already all they are capable of doing. Friedan expresses that women should not be forced into specific roles, but should be given equal opportunity to work in their desired industries. (Collins and Quindlen, 2013)

Likewise, Liberal feminist theory postulates that there should be an equal competition between men and women. Haywood (2012) argued that liberal feminism lies in the principle of individualism, the belief that human individual is important and therefore that all individuals are of equal moral worth. This notion implies that individuals are entitled to equal treatment regardless of their sex, race color, creed, or religion. According to Haywood (2012), liberal feminists do not wish to abolish the distinction of public and private sphere; instead, they are arguing that reform should be done because it is necessary to ensure the establishment of equal rights in the public sphere such as the right to pursue a career, right to education, right to political participation, and others.

Therefore, Liberal Feminism will be necessary to this research because the theory promotes equality between men and women in all aspects of life. As such, by using this theory, researchers can easily determine whether the projects, programs, and activities that are being implemented by the Local Government Units of Manila City and other nongovernmental organizations are in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal on Women Economic Empowerment.

METHODS

The researchers utilized the qualitative and descriptive design in research. The key informants of the study are the following: 1) selected NGOs in the City of Manila which are the Visayan Forum, SENTRO, Center for Women's Resources, and Urban Poor Associates, 2) local government offices or units in the City of Manila which are the DSWD - Manila, offices of selected city councillors of Manila City LGU which conduct or who have conducted programs, projects, and activities that support the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal on women economic empowerment in the city of Manila. Generally, the researchers conducted an in-depth interview in order to have a thorough and more in-depth discussion between the researchers and the target key-informants. In the selection of the key-informants of the study, the researchers used Purposive Sampling Technique in which the population is identified based

on their relevance to the study. After data gathering, the researchers transcribed all the recorded interview sessions. Thematic data analysis is employed in order to interpret the data. In addition, a matrix was devised to help the researchers in analyzing the data; the same matrix was used to produce an organized set of interpretations and codes. From those interpretations, the researchers established insights regarding the collected data.

FINDINGS

Projects, Programs, and Activities of the NGOs and Manila City LGU

"Ganito, sa mga riles kasi natin kasi ako mayroon akong sakaop na riles eh. So yung mga nanay doon, na wala masyadong ginagawa, let's say yung kanilang mga dead na oras, yung mga idle na time nila, so ang inilunsad ko noon ay mga livelihood, katulad ng paggawa ng basaban, paggawa ng tocino, nakipag coordinate din ako sa TESDA na mapa-train sila para magkaroon sila ng experience. Meron naman ibang syempre... na hindi ko naman lahat makukuha. Yung iba naman nag-succeed, yung iba bumalik sa pag-bibingo. -LGU 1"

"We have, dun sa community prevention program. Yung ventures for freedom, its an economic empowerment program. We coach them how to start a program kasi not everyone can have their own business, because not everyone can be an entrepreneur... -NGO 1"

"Specific to my committee we do job fairs kasi regularly. We do job fairs here, more or less three time a year. Three times a year in the whole Manila yun... -LGU 4"

The critical part of the implementation of the programs, projects, and activities of the NGOs and LGU is that they differ in their pursued approach. Most of the key-informants from the LGU highly promote livelihood programs such as making rugs and preserving foods, and other skills based programs which are usually done in cooperation with TESDA. NGOs on the other hand, do not cater livelihood programs because they know that it will not suffice the needs of women, which are long term jobs and opportunities. They see livelihood programs unsustainable and will not benefit women in the long run. However, one NGO key-informants stated that they do cater livelihood programs because they have the capacity to do so, and see it as a successful move towards women economic empowerment.

In the case of some NGOs key-informants, they prefer to conduct seminars that have topics regarding gender sensitivity, gender and development, advocacy, and anti-violence against women and children.

In addition, NGOs key-informants from CRW and SENTRO stated that their organizations are dedicated to not just empower women economically but more importantly, to create and develop future women leaders in our society.

Moreover, unlike NGOs, LGU have been facilitating job fairs, which is the main program of one of the key-informants. Some have programs like availability of soft loan which is one of the programs of DSWD. When it comes to supporting small and medium enterprise, LGU provides not just livelihood training but also the capital for their desired business. Furthermore, LGUs said that aside from assisting the women in economic empowerment they are also assisting them in terms of emotional and physical aspects most especially those who are victims of abuse by providing them legal assistance and counselling. Even though it is not a scope of women economic empowerment, it can, by implication, affect women because they cannot unleash their full potentials and capabilities if their physically-unconditioned and mentally depressed.

In addition, the Manila City LGU has strengthened women's position in the Solo Parent Act Ordinance. This ordinance is applicable for both parents. But, according to the LGU, they cannot deny the fact that women benefit more from this because there is a high awareness that more and more teenage women get pregnant and are forced to get married early. Moreover, since most of them had quit their studies, lesser opportunities are apt for them. In this case, the DSWD offers assistance by giving loans and livelihood trainings so that they can start their own income generating business. This strategy can help the young mothers to be able at raising their children.

Sectors of Women Involved

“Una, labat. Kabit lalaki nakikinabang. Although may mga special projects kami na pang babae, kasi hindi natin ma-deny sa constitution kasi ng Pilipinas. May special treatment yung babae bilang isang sector lipunan. Di ko masasabing unfair yun kasi lalaki ako. Pero abb... ganun talaga ang kulturang Pilipino. Medyo feministic ang bansa. Kabit lalaki ka medyo may feminine side ka. Wala pa ako nakikitang barong na may mga bungo dito. May mga bulaklak yan dito. Kaya nga ang pinakamasakit namura ay yung may “ina”. Kasi feminist tayo eh. Pero more on sociological aspect na yan. – LGU 4

“Halos labat ng ano ng women pero karamiban yung mga less- privileged. Ano ibig kong sabihin? Ito yung ano sa informal sectors kasi kapag although mayron din dito ng mga empleyado, mga government staff na women employees na, organized yan dito yun ganon amin. Pero yung mga mayayaman, parang wala naman.” – LGU 1

“Women and children. Labat kasi yung human trafficking multisectoral sila meron out of school youth, mga students, sa communities naman illegal settlers, sa Pandacan commonly illegal settler merong mga na relocate lang. May mga domestic helpers. Sakop niya halos labat. Meron ding mga na rescue. Technically all marginalized women. Meron din kami non marginalized like young women in schools. Pero youth is considered marginalized sector.” – NGO 1

According to one of the key-informants, when we speak of the particular sectors involved on the programs, projects, and activities conducted by these NGOs and LGUs, all sectors of women are involved especially when it comes to women empowerment.

However, upon looking at the responses of the NGO key-informants, majority of the sectors who benefit from these programs, projects, and activities are unemployed mothers, youth workers, and those in poverty stricken communities.

Furthermore, one key-informant argues that these programs, projects, and activities are not restricted to women only, but caters to men as well. Hence, gender and development should also be disseminated to men so that they will be aware of things such as those of violence and oppression that may happen.

Similar to the NGOs, majority of the sectors of women who benefited from the programs, projects, and activities conducted by the Manila City LGU are mothers and less fortunate women ranging from 20-30 years old. Although, the LGU does not seclude their projects to women alone, one of the key-informants argued that we cannot deny the fact that the present Philippine constitution has a special treatment of women.

Affiliated Agencies and Sponsors

“We do have a network of NGOs pero ang network na to ab nag wo work for women and children, hindi pinag hihivalay yung dalawa na yun.” – LGU 1

“We don't do sponsorship kasi e...we're not allowed to and secondly, may budget kami so we don't really need to. So we do it on our own lang labat.” – LGU 3

“Marami we have CBCP. Universities, particularly Adamson University. St. Paul, Dumaguete. For the government we have CFO, POEA, DOJ, Coast Guard, PNP, NBI, 2Go, NALA. Yung barangays sa Manila, kasi strong yung partnership naming sa LGU ng Manila. North Harbor. Sa international, Netherlands Embassy, Philatrophist from Australia, Christian Aid. In terms of funding mostly are embassies.” – NGO 1

“Wala naman kami particular sponsors dun sa women kasi anu siya e, part na talga siya ng activity or program ng UPA, so kung sino yung fund naming sa taas, ayun siya. Sa mga affiliated agencies, tulad ng alyansa women, yun ng PWC, grupo ng mga kabababan, patinga Gabriella, pero yun mga hard liner, so sila sin a masyado. DSWD yan meron. Pero yung mga donors naming mga Christian Aid, mga Catholic groups, mga international groups.” – NGO 4

Most of the key-informants have maintained partnership with other agencies ranging from local groups, national organizations, religious organizations, private corporations, national government agencies, and various international agencies. Few of the informants are not focused on women empowerment but they collaborate with other agencies because to discuss women economic empowerment in a holistic manner. Tackling empowerment of women holistically includes their security, health, environment, and basic necessities. Thus, this collaboration results to careful and effective planning.

Fifty percent of the LGUs in Manila affirmed their partnership with various agencies and sponsors coming outside their office. Aside from that, these agencies, mentioned previously, are usually composed of local, national, and international non-governmental organizations. Among the three councilors of the Manila City LGU they said that as much as possible, they avoid asking help from outside of their organization as they have their own funds to be used for the implementation of their projects, programs, and activities for women empowerment. This connotes that although they have all the authority to establish collaboration with some agencies, they prefer to accomplish women empowerment programs independently.

Similarly, in the case of the NGOs, they have been maintaining close partnership with other agencies that help them to promote women economic empowerment. Moreover, one of the key-informants added that their office is also collaborating with some educational institutions. Some assistance even comes from religious organizations, whether local or international. International agencies have also been collaborating with these NGOs and they also support through funding. Most importantly, the government agencies are in constant support of NGOs for a more effective execution of their programs, projects, and activities in promoting women economic empowerment. Among the government agencies in the national level mentioned are CFO, POEA, DOJ, Coast Guard, PNP, NBI, 2Go, and DSWD.

Moreover, most of the NGOs have tried to build strong partnership with the Manila City LGUs, especially with the barangays, because most of the funds for their projects are coming from the five percent GAD budget of those barangays. Hence, its

strong partnership with the Manila City LGU poses a salient role in the execution of the projects, programs, and activities as the LGU knows the areawell and they are at the frontline in providing the basic goods and services in the city. On the other hand, funds may also be sourced out from other funding agencies. In the case of one of the key-informants, it is written in their constitution and by-laws that the source of funds will be coming from dues collection from its members which costs 30 pesos per month. Thereafter, the monthly collection from its members will be allocated to their target programs.

Accomplishment of the Programs, Policies, and Activities

“Since 2013, we have employed about 22,000 people in the city of manila. That’s on paper, direct hiring as a result of the job fairs. Wala kaming record mula dun sa mga pinabalik....” – LGU 3

“Accomplishments...recognized international, isa to sa mga accomplishments naming. We are among the top 5 among 83 NGOs, madami eh. But you can see it later sa baba. Malaki ang changes sa mga clientele namin and the impact to their lives.” NGO 1

“Yung mga accomplishments nito, yung increase awareness on women’s rights, tapos na involve sila sa mga community activities like livelihood, recreation, tapos relationship. Kasi dati chismisan lang yan ngayon, na establish yung raport, pagtutulungan nila, pagdadamayon. Women empowerment of course, na empower sila.” – NGO 4

One of the distinct accomplishments of both the Manila City LGU and various NGOs is that, both sectors are successful in raising the awareness of women regarding their rights. This awareness has always been an essential step for them to recognize what they are entitled to do not just in their home, but more importantly in their community as a part and parcel for it. The effects of raising their awareness have been very visible as women have become more mindful and assertive about their rights, being more involved in the activities of their communities such as livelihood and recreation. Instead of using sitting at home doing nothing, these women became responsive and efficient. This efficiency has made them generate income which aids the family with expenses.

Moreover, there has been a significant increase in women’s participation in the decision making process. They now have the capacity to organize themselves in order to raise some issues and demands such as access to resources through negotiation with the local government officials and through joining rallies. In fact, one key-informants coming from the NGO supports election candidates who back their agenda, primarily to raise political consciousness. Furthermore, they have also helped to

develop leadership among women through seminars.

In economic aspect, empowering women through employment is one of the major accomplishments of the Manila City LGU and various NGOs. In fact, one councilor from the Manila City LGU, claims that in 2015, they were able to employ around 22, 000 people because of the series of job fairs they conducted throughout the year. This 22, 000 people is a significant number because the unemployed people in Manila in 2015 was around 160, 000.

In the case women who have been abused, NGOs like the Visayan Forum and UPA have given enough support to the victims such as providing counseling, trainings, and legal assistance. In fact, according to the NGOs, those who underwent traumatic experience had already healed and now ready to work; in the case of children, they are now in college.

However, women empowerment programs do not always lead to good effects. In fact, DSWD Manila office revealed that there have been cases in which women are receiving demand letters from a welfare agency or a lawyer as they have been reported by their husbands, asking for protection against from their wives. This implies that today, men are now afraid because women tend to be more knowledgeable about their rights and this gives women the opportunity to prove that they must not be inferior to men.

DISCUSSION

Based on the gathered data, the researchers observed that the LGU have more capacity to implement projects, programs, and activities that require necessary budget such as livelihood programs. According to LGUs, they are more confident to conduct costly programs, projects, and activities because they are supported by a Gender and Development Budget given by the national government (GAD Joint Circular, 2102). In contrast, since most of the NGOs are non-profit organizations, they said that most of their programs, projects, activities require less budget but more on imparting of knowledge such as seminars. It is found through our interview that existing women empowerment programs, projects, and activities also engage men and the whole community. In one of our interviews with an LGU informant, it is said that this engagement contributes to the goal of promoting and achieving gender equality and women empowerment, providing women with jobs that are necessary for development and ensuring the welfare of the families and the community; this is coherent with UN's sustainable development goal on women and gender development (SDG5).

Moreover, it was highlighted that jobless women, who are target benefactors of programs, projects, and

activities of the NGO and LGU are supported in forms of livelihood trainings and awareness seminars. Similarly, it was stressed that some key-informants do not just value and provide opportunities for women, but also to men. This reflects that the key-informants are able to show their advocacy and commitment towards gender equality and empowerment (SDG 5). In contrast, the importance of empowering women economically not simply by providing livelihood programs, jobs, or business was stressed. An informant noted that agencies must stress sustainability and suitability to living conditions of women.

Since there has been an active collaboration between the Manila City LGU and some NGOs in promoting women economic empowerment, the Manila City LGU have continuously been doing their effort to seek collaboration with numerous NGOs and even national agencies in order to further enhance their services to their people, particularly for women (LGU informant).

Although the result of our interview implies that some of the LGU councilors tend not to ask for any assistance or help from other agencies, this does not hamper them in maintaining their projects throughout their terms of service. It is found that the NGO did not fail to promote women empowerment in Manila City as they enumerated their projects, programs, and activities with the help of other agencies. Generally, they have been successful in seeking help both in domestic and international agencies.

Furthermore, some of the NGO informants have been reluctant to say that there is a continuous and sustained relationship with the Manila City LGU. In consequence, some of our NGOs said that their collaboration with the Manila City LGU can go only as far as their partner barangays. In order to empower women, it is very essential to think holistically (World for Women, 2017). One should know the accomplishments and present an outlook that these offices have given to empower its constituents especially women. These accomplishments can serve as a proof that there are services and actions towards the improvement of their living standards being made by the LGU and NGOs to better facilitate the lives of the people.

The discussion with NGOs and LGU informants emphasize the crucial consideration to give women what they believe will help them to become economically empowered, in order to uplift their living standards. This consideration includes a consistent evaluation of existing programs, projects, and activities and their contribution to helping women achieve their goals of empowerment in the society as a whole (Bayeh, 2016).

Several governments in the international community strives to achieve greater economic empowerment for women through legislations and

policies that eliminate discriminatory practices, guaranteed equal pay, and enhanced protection against sexual harassment in the workplace. Laws are implemented in every region in the world to outlaw the idea of women's inferiority to men in the workplace. (UN Women, 2011)

In the Philippines, the local government units (LGUs) as frontline institutions that support and respond to the needs of the constituents to ensure the responsive implementation of programs, projects, and activities that are in line with the UN development goals. Moreover, the LGUs allocates larger proportion of local resources on basic social services such as education, health, reproductive health services, water and sanitation and nutrition that indirectly stimulate economic growth but also directly pose an impact on human development. (Panadero, 2004 and HDN, 2010)

The commitment of NGOs on women empowerment, in particular, has been greatly emphasized with the enforcement of UN MDGs and UN SDGs. In many parts of the world, persisting violence and discriminations threatens the future of millions of women and their communities. However, even though the international community has already recognized women empowerment as one of the goals in MDG and SDG, still, there is a need for NGOs to intervene in the achievement of women empowerment and other goals. To fully ensure and secure the realization of these goals, NGOs must build strong cooperation with other international organizations, more importantly, with the national and local governments. Also, NGOs must cultivate collaboration among themselves so that there will be an effective network of actions.

CONCLUSION

The UN Development Goals has effectively put most of the women in many parts of the world, particularly the Philippines, in a sound environment and satisfactory conditions. In the past few years, it is very evident that the Philippines has been very active in promoting women's rights, through the passage of laws. Moreover, it has been a mandatory for each of the local government units to have a portion of its budget dedicated for the Gender and Development (GAD) programs. Aside from the local government units, other sectors in the society such as the non-governmental organizations have also been actively participating in the battle for gender discrimination.

After the careful analysis of data, the findings revealed that women in Manila City were given equal or, to some extent, even greater economic opportunities than men. The initiatives of the Manila City LGU, as well as the efforts of various NGOs, have significantly proven that women were given the chance to unleash their full potentials and later on,

pursue whatever desired path they wish to take in which they would be as equally competitive as men.

Despite their difference with regard to the nature of their office and organization, both have implemented that they have projects, programs and activities that cater women economic empowerment. Primarily, the creation of livelihood programs and job fairs by the LGU prove that they are more capable and have ample budget. Meanwhile, some of the NGOs argued that they seldom conduct livelihood programs because of insufficient budget and that they see these as unsustainable, thereby, diverting their attention into the creation of seminars and advocacy campaigns.

Both key-informants argued that the sectors of women involved in their projects, programs and activities are mostly mothers and less-privileged women. Saliiently, these women are also the beneficiaries of those projects, programs and activities.

The empowerment of women economically has produced profound impact on women. The most important accomplishment which is congruent to the Liberal Feminist framework is to considerably raise awareness and deliver knowledge regarding the rights of women.

In addition, the key-informants also gave their views as regard to UN-SDG 5. For the LGUs, they argued that the compliance can be seen through laws and policies crafted by the national government to uplift women's rights although one of them argued that he is not familiar with the SDG. On the part of NGOs, conversely, they believe that the attainment won't be achieved unless the patriarchal system in the country will be abolished.

Moreover, LGU and NGOs have been skeptical about SDG because they knew that the monitoring of the international community regarding the compliance of a country is only based on statistics or numbers. They furthered that there is a need to eliminate policies in the government that would put women in a detrimental position.

To sum up, the goal of promoting women economic empowerment in Manila City must not be stopped. Albeit the key-informants have made significant actions towards enhancing the lives of women, the most critical challenge is not by achieving SDG 5 in 2030, but rather, their consistency in promoting women economic empowerment after the target date of UN Sustainable Development Goals.

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