

## Disability Prevalence and Training Needs of Persons with Disability (PWDs) in Labo, Camarines Norte: A Bases for Extension Agenda

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### ABSTRACT

Various agencies are collaborating to extend support to the Person-with Disability (PWD) to address different concerns and particular needs of the PWDs in the society. The present study assesses the demographic profile, disability prevalence, and training needs of the selected 71 PWDs in Labo, Camarines Norte. The results revealed that functional limitations and disability prevalence must be considered when conceptualizing the training activity. Four (4) possible training courses emerge: swine raising, organic agriculture, recycling/re-using of solid waste and indigenous, soap making, and urban or container gardening can be organized for the participants. This suggests that training should cater to the nature of the disability/special needs of PWDs. This would be the initial step for various researchers/extensionists before developing the appropriate program suited to this population group.

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## INTRODUCTION

Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) are groups of people that seem to be neglected sector in society. With this concern in society, various governmental agencies and non-governmental agencies are collaborating to extend support and address different concerns and special needs of PWDs. The scope of PWDs was clearly defined by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which comprises people with longterm physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory disabilities that may avert them from fully and equally contributing in society when combined with other challenges. (Morrissey, 2012).

Moreover, Mactaggart et al. (2018) discussed the connection between Asian people's ability to access livelihoods and their impairment. It draws attention to the variety of ways in which people with disabilities are excluded from possibilities for employment. There is evidence between poverty and disability, as people with disabilities participate in the workforce at a considerably lower rate than people without impairments. Additionally, the various studies reveal factors that predict access to livelihoods, such as differences in employment involvement between genders (Banks et al., 2022). Existing studies highlight how crucial inclusive development is in guaranteeing that persons with disabilities in both countries receive similar opportunities (Stienstra & Lee, 2019). The disparity in access to livelihood in Asia is one of the concerns that needs immediate action, particularly in the Philippines.

These concerns are usually escalated, and their prevalence can be observed in various provinces throughout the Philippines. It is also evident that based on the previous research conducted by the National Disability Prevalence Survey (NDPS), 12 percent of Filipinos aged 15 and older experienced severe disability (Philippine Statistics Office (PSA), 2019).

According to the 2019 census of the Philippines Statistics Authority, Persons with Disability (PWDs) account for around 1.4 million or around 1.57 percent of the national population. In connection with this number of PWD population, various research was conducted, particularly in Metro Manila, where PWDs are considered living below the poverty index residing in Metro Manila where their economic status and kinds of disability were explored (Yap et al., 2014). In Labo, Camarines Norte, there are 691 PWDs recorded in the office of the Person with Disability Affairs office as of 2019. Therefore, the PWDs are essential to receive aid from the different societal sectors to alleviate their condition and empower them for holistic functioning.

In addition, According to the Washington Group (2016), measuring a person's disability serves a number of goals related to various aspects of the condition or various conceptual elements of models of disability. It measures six domains of functioning: sight, hearing, mobility, knowledge/remembering, self-care, and communication (washingtongroip-disability.com, 2016). The present study also adopts this measure as the basis for the conceptual and theoretical development of training suited to the participants' level. The present study aims to identify the PWDs profile and disability prevalence. Likewise, Camarines Norte State College Extension Services Division has a tool for training needs assessment anchored to the services offered by the College of Agriculture and

Natural Resources. Both results were used for program or training development for PWDs.

### *Objectives*

This study generally aims to assess the PWDs disability prevalence and training needs in Labo, Camarines Norte.

Specifically, it aims to:

- a. Determine the demographic profile of the PWDs;
- b. Identify the disability prevalence of the PWDs; and
- c. Evaluate the training needs for capability building of PWDs using the CNSC Extension Services Division training needs assessment instrument.

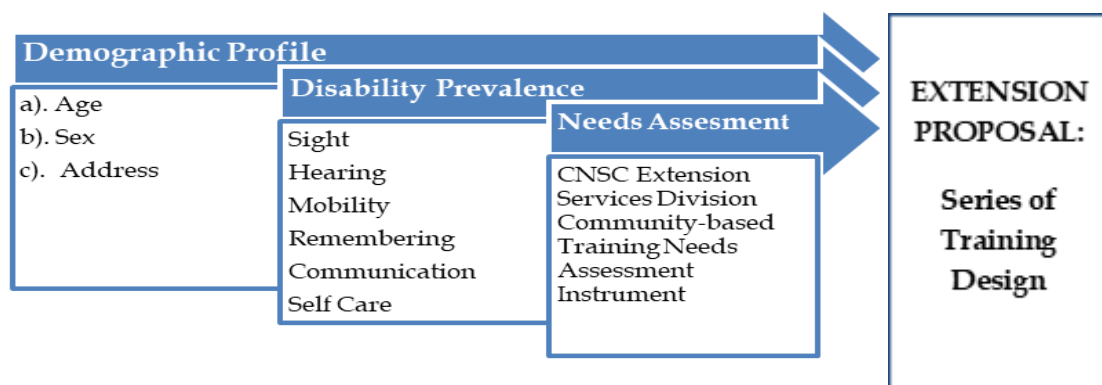
### **THEORETICAL REVIEW**

With these pressing needs, the government took the initiative to pass a Magna Carta for Disabled Persons or the Republic Act 7277- An Act Providing, Self-Development and Self Reliance of Disable persons and their incorporation into the mainstream of society and for other purposes that grants the protection, privileges, and rights of the PWDs that they need to receive privileges to increase their wellbeing and emotional development. Integrating the Law assures them their rights will protect them and receive various privileges (Cruz et al., 2019). This provision was formulated to help the least sector of society, specifically PWDs, for optimal and holistic functioning.

However, emerging concerns were identified on what measures will be used to determine the prevalence of disability among the population. This would be the initial step for various researchers before they can begin developing the appropriate program suited to this population group.

Last 2002, the Washington Group (WG) convened conferences to agree on specific measures to address the lack of tools or measurements. Thus, valid and reliable measures across cultures and populations must be used to identify persons with disabilities at the combined level. These aggravated measurements aim (1) to deliver services, including the advance of programs and policies for service provision and the assessment of these programs and services, (2) to monitor the level of functioning<sup>1</sup> in the population, and (3) to assess equalization of opportunities (United Nations, 2021).

## Conceptual Framework



**Figure 1. Conceptual Framework on Disability Prevalence, Needs Assessment, and Program Development Agenda**

Figure 1 shows the variables that were measured in the study. A demographic Profile was used as the baseline data to gather the age, sex, and address of the participants. Moreover, disability prevalence was employed to capture the disability prevalence and needs assessment using the Camarines Norte State College Extension Services Division Community-Based Training Needs Assessment Instrument. The present study aimed to craft an extension proposal agenda that can be used to craft the training design that can be utilized in the community.

## METHODOLOGY

This section expounds on the methods employed in this study. It includes the following sections: research design, study setting, respondents, data collection instruments, and data analysis, which were utilized throughout the study.

### *Research Design*

The present study employed a quantitative research design to determine the demographic profile, disability prevalence, and assessment for training needs of the PWDs in Labo, Camarines Norte. Data collection involved a survey using two questionnaires: the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability (WGSQ) and the community-based training needs assessment instrument to further explore the different variables under the context of the study.

### **Data Collection**

### *Setting*

The present study was conducted and focused in Labo, Camarines Norte. Since the municipality of Labo has 52 barangays and 691 PWDs recorded in the Person with Disability Affairs office as of 2019, the researchers cannot cover all the municipalities of Camarines Norte due to limited resources and time constraints. Thus, the study was purposely conducted only in the municipality of Labo.

### ***Respondents***

During the orientation -seminar conducted by the researchers, there a total of 71 participants were identified and invited by the social worker in Labo. However, only forty-eight (48) PWDs attended the said activity and participated in answering the survey questionnaires.

### ***Data Collection Instrument***

Two instruments were used in this study. First, the CNSC Extension Services Division Community-based Training Needs Assessment Instrument was anchored on the agricultural services offered by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Moreover, the Filipino version of the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability (WGSQ) was utilized to assess the participants' disability prevalence. Local dialect was used as the medium of communication. Moreover, at the interviewer's discretion, follow-up questions were used as a necessary tool to clarify and guide participant's accounts.

### ***Data Analysis and Interpretation***

The data collected from two survey instruments were analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20. SPSS was used to sort, analyze, and summarize the data. Descriptive statistics, such as frequency distributions, percentages, and measures of central tendency (mean and standard deviation), were utilized to identify patterns and trends in the data. A table was created to present the frequency and percentage of each data point and was analyzed for further insights.

### ***Reporting of the Data***

The researchers presented the data in a tabular meta-matrix form. Detailed and descriptive language was used to articulate the necessary information from PWD participants. The results of this study will create program recommendations, which can be an instrument to help PWDs in Labo, and further recommendations for instrument and program development to improve and connect more to the present-day needs of the PWDs.

## **RESEARCH RESULTS**

This section of the paper presents the findings of this study from the gathered data. It also presents the analyses, significant findings, and interpretation of the study results. Researchers also present the implications and limitations of the study and provide direction and recommendations for future research and extension programs or training.

The following tables show the frequency and percentage of the variables presented, such as a demographic profile of the PWDs, Disability prevalence based on WGSTQ, and the collated training need assessment.

Table 1. Demographic profile: Age of PWDs

<b>Age</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>(%)</b>
20 and below	16	33.33

21-30	7	14.58
31-40	6	12.5
41-50	6	12.5
51-60	6	12.5
61-70	7	14.58
<b>N</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1 shows that the majority of the participants' age ranges (M=34.85, SD: 19.55) from 20 and below (33.33%), while the lowest percentage falls into three ranges such as 31-40 (12.5%), 41-50 (12.5 %) and 51-60 (12.5 %). The age range between 20 and below has 4 participants (8.33%) who fall between 19 and 20 years old, while the lowest age in this range is two (2) years old (2.1%) but were accompanied by their parents across the PWDs orientation.

Table 2. Sex of PWDs

<b>Sex</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>(%)</b>
Male	17	35.4
Female	31	64.6
<b>N</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 2 shows the distribution of sex of the respondents (M=1.64, SD=0.48), which makes the majority of the participants are female (64.6%) while male is the lowest percentage (35.4 %).

Table 3. Exact Address/Location of PWDs

<b>Address</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>(%)</b>
Gumamela	12	25
Daguit	11	22.9
Maot	5	10.4
Cabusay	5	10.4
Dalas	3	6.3
Malangcao Basud	3	6.3
Canapawan	1	2.1
Other municipalities	8	16.67
<b>N</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3 shows that the majority of the participants reside in Gumamela (25.0%) and Daguit (22.9%), while there is one participant from Canapawan (2.1%). On the other hand, there are also participants from other municipalities (16.67 %) such as Basud, Capalonga, Talisay, Daet, Paracale, Sta. Elena, Mercedes, and one participant from Bato, Camarines Sur, but he was staying here in Labo. Although the invitation about the orientation was exclusive only to PWDs and guardians in Labo, there are also students from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources who participated and belonged to the criterion of PWDs. They joined the orientation seminar and were involved in the advocacy and objectives of the activity.

On the other hand, Disability Prevalence based on Washington Group Short Sets of Questions on Disability (WGSQ) was also explored to measure the

degree of disability of the participants. There are two groups of participants: the identified PWDs and the guardians. The proponent of the extension also included their guardians since they are also the ones who guide and supervise the PWD members of their families. Washington Group Short Sets of Questions (WGSQ) on Disability has six domains. It explores and determines which among the six domains were affected by their disability and functioning.

Table 4. Disability Prevalence based on Washington Group Short Sets of Questions on Disability (Sight)

<b>Sight</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>(%)</b>
No Disability	22	45.8
Mild Disability	21	43.8
Moderate Disability	3	6.3
Severe Disability	2	4.2
<b>N</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4 shows the disability prevalence in terms of Sight functioning (M=1.68, SD=0.77). This revealed that there are 45.8% of the participants have a mild disability in seeing, while 4.2% have a severe disability. The 45.8% might fall into the parents/guardian or some PWDs with no eye disability or no concern about seeing.

Table 5. Disability Prevalence based on Washington Group Short Sets of Questions on Disability (Hearing)

<b>Hearing</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>(%)</b>
No Disability	40	83.3
Mild Disability	6	12.5
Moderate Disability	2	4.2
Severe Disability	0	0
<b>N</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 5 shows the disability prevalence in terms of Hearing (M=1.20, SD=0.50). This revealed that there are 12.5% of the participants have a mild disability in hearing, while 4.2% have a moderate disability. The results indicated that 83.3% of the participants had no hearing difficulty. Thus, this suggests that some emerging limitations of the activity/training-based interventions should be addressed.

Table 6. Disability Prevalence based on Washington Group Short Sets of Questions on Disability (Mobility)

<b>Mobility</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>(%)</b>
No Disability	27	56.3
Mild Disability	7	14.6
Moderate Disability	11	22.9
Severe Disability	3	6.3
<b>N</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 6 shows the disability prevalence in terms of functioning in mobility (M=1.79, SD=1.00). This revealed that there are 22.9 % of the participants had moderate disability in terms of mobility, while 6.3 % had severe disability. The findings suggest considering the accessibility of the place for those participants with mobility concerns in the planning. The results revealed that 56.3 % of the participants have no mobility difficulty, which suggests that half of the participants are concerned about mobility.

Table 7. Disability Prevalence based on Washington Group Short Sets of Questions on Disability (Remembering)

<b>Remembering</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>(%)</b>
No Disability	15	31.3
Mild Disability	19	39.6
Moderate Disability	14	29.2
Severe Disability	0	0
<b>N</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 7 shows the prevalence of disability in terms of memory ability (M=1.97, SD=0.78). The results yielded that there are 39.6 % fall into mild disability in terms of remembering while there are 29.2 % have moderate disability. Since the assumptions can be supported based on the participants' nature, these might be attributed to the participants whose age ranges fall between 51-60 and 61-70. This can also be used as one of the considerations for the proposed activity, considering the participants' ability to remember since there are only 31 participants. 3% have no disability in this domain.

Table 8. Disability Prevalence based on Washington Group Short Sets of Questions on Disability (Self-Care).

<b>Self-Care</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>(%)</b>
No Disability	37	77.1
Mild Disability	4	8.3
Moderate Disability	6	12.5
Severe Disability	1	2.1
<b>N</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>

On the other hand, table 8 shows the disability prevalence in terms of their functioning to care for themselves (M=1.39, SD=0.78). The results yielded that there is 12.5 % fall into moderate disability while there are 8.3% have a mild disability in terms of self-care domain. Thus, the majority of the participants can able to take care of themselves (77.1%).

Table 9. Disability Prevalence based on Washington Group Short Sets of Questions on Disability (Communication)

<b>Communication</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>(%)</b>
No Disability	30	62.5

Mild Disability	8	16.7
Moderate Disability	8	16.7
Severe Disability	2	4.2
<b>N</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 9 shows the prevalence of disability in terms of communication functioning (M=1.62, SD=0.91). The results revealed that there are 16.7 % fall into mild disability and moderate disability, which has a concern on communication. Thus, 4.2% have severe disability in the communication domain. Thus, most participants have no disability in communication/ language.

After identifying the participants' nature and profile, the researchers will integrate this consideration in conceptualizing programs and capability building suited for the participants. With this, the Community-Based Training Needs Assessment was conducted to identify their perceived needs for capability building. The tool, Community Based Training Needs, was anchored in the extension services offered by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The findings presented below will be used to develop the programs/capability building for the PWDs.

Table 10. Collated Community-based Training Needs Assessment

<b>Ranking of Training Needs</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>(%)</b>
1. Training on Swine Raising	24	51.06
2. Training on Organic Agriculture	23	48.93
3. Training on Recycling/ Re-Using of Solid Waste and Indigenous	22	46.80
4. Training on Soap Making and Training on Urban / Container Gardening	19	40.42
<b>N=48</b>		

Table 10 shows the top 4 out of 28 identified training titles/courses offered by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The collated scores were arranged based on their rating on the perceived importance of the respondents. This study revealed the four possible training courses; these training are swine raising (51.06%), organic agriculture (48.93%), recycling/ re-using of solid waste and indigenous (46.80%), soap making (40.42 %), and training on urban or container gardening (40.42%).

This implies that the majority of the PWDs with their parent/guardian expressed their training needs and interest in swine raising (rank 1), then followed by organic agriculture (rank 2), recycling/re-using of solid waste, and indigenous materials (rank 3), and lastly, training on soap making and urban/container gardening (rank 4). To address their pressing needs and interests, capability building and psychological empowerment through a series of training sessions will be recommended for implementation by the concerned institutions (CNSC, Labo Campus with partner LGUs).

## **DISCUSSION**

The present study was conducted to identify the demographic profile disability prevalence and conducted a training needs assessment for PWDs who attended the orientation on PWDs empowerment and capability building. The present study revealed that most of the participants belong to the middle age population. This will be suitable for conducting training for this population group. Thus, most participants were female, and most resided in different barangays in Labo, Camarines Norte.

Alternatively, the four potential training courses—swine raising, organic agriculture, solid waste recycling/reuse, indigenous soap making, and urban or container gardening—require thorough analysis to accommodate the prevalence of disabilities among respondents. This necessitates tailoring the training to suit the specific nature of disabilities or special needs of persons with disabilities (PWDs). Notably, participants may have mild disabilities related to sight, hearing, and communication, particularly within the knowledge/remembering domain, which aligns with their age group characteristics. Thus, it underscores the importance of providing guidance and assistance during the learning process.

For instance, participants with mild hearing, sight, and memory disabilities can engage in activities like organic farming, soap making, recycling, and container gardening with appropriate support from guardians/parents, program/project coordinators, and facilitators. This approach aims to empower and equip them with livelihood skills to enhance their daily lives. Conversely, PWDs facing challenges related to mobility and communication may have functional limitations, as evidenced by moderate disabilities in mobility among some participants. This raises concerns about their ability to engage in activities like swine raising, which necessitate mobility for tasks such as feeding and caring for the animals. The study's findings provide valuable baseline data for initiating more feasible techno-demo projects aimed at improving the current situation of PWDs.

The findings of the study support Mactaggart et al. (2018) research that Evidence suggests a correlation between poverty and disability, as individuals with disabilities participate in the workforce at significantly lower rates than those without impairments; hence, intervention is needed to aid this particular group on their access to the livelihood. Stienstra and Lee (2019) also highlighted the importance of inclusive development, whereas existing research emphasizes ensuring that persons with disabilities in both countries receive similar opportunities. This would narrow the gap and the disparity in access to livelihoods at the community level. Future extensionists can utilize the assessment results for project development and conceptualization, ensuring that interventions are better tailored to the needs of PWDs.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability only covers six domains of functioning, highlighting the need to utilize the extended version to pinpoint specific domains requiring intervention. Consequently, training objectives must align with participants' needs. Additionally, participants encountered difficulty with the community-based training needs assessment instrument, suggesting translation into Filipino or local dialect for better

comprehension. It's crucial to acknowledge that guardians/parents may have chosen training on behalf of PWDs, underscoring the importance of considering both parties' perspectives.

Participants with communication limitations can benefit from guided scaffolding. Patience is paramount for extensionists/program developers, especially considering that 39.6% of participants expressed concerns about remembering instructions. Tailored training protocols and modules addressing these limitations can effectively support PWDs.

Expanding the project to other municipalities enhances its generalizability, while the recommendations aid extensionists in crafting inclusive projects suited to participants' needs. The paper presents comprehensive points for drafting extension projects and suggests integrating youth beneficiaries to broaden project impact, given that many participants are adolescents or young adults.

### **FURTHER STUDY**

Future researchers could adopt a quantitative approach to gather data, mainly focusing on PWDs, and utilize separate assessment tools to differentiate between responses from parents/guardians. Implementing distinct tools for parents/guardians would enable assessment of their perceived training needs for their PWD dependents, facilitating comparison with the recipients' responses.

Moreover, training courses should establish parameters tailored to their target recipients, considering factors such as functional age, accessibility, and prevalence of disability. It is advisable to define specific thresholds of disability prevalence suitable for particular training courses. This approach would enhance the effectiveness of the training program in addressing recipients' needs and assisting them in their daily lives, ultimately fostering increased self-esteem and holistic functioning.

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