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GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING AND ITS IMPACT ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND MEN IN PASAY CITY AND SOME POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

This study on the gender responsive budgeting in Pasay City is primarily based on the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) individual-level and household-level data as of 2005 to determine whether the City's programs and budgets have been responsive to gender differentials in the different aspects of quality of life of women and men. Specifically, it analyzed if there are significant differences in the social and economic situation of women and men, girls and boys.

A total of 263,019 qualified respondents (in about 65,000 households) were covered in this current study. Only the variables on education and economic activity were disaggregated by gender, while the data on the variables on sanitation, nutrition, health, credit, and other services were not disaggregated by gender but were based on the household level.

From the available set of information, both from CBMS and the Pasay City documents, findings revealed that: (1) based on the proportion of females and males who are studying, more girls appear to be enrolled in and are able to complete school than boys until high school; (2) based on the proportion of females and males who are working, less women appear engaged economic activity than men; (3) the nutrition programs of Pasay City are

primarily aimed at mothers and children specifically Operation Timbang, the Food Supplementation Program, and the Micronutrient Program, and one of the positive effects of these are the rehabilitation of undernourished children; (4) the health programs of Pasay City are responding to women's and children's needs, particularly the Maternal Health Care Program, the Expanded Program on Immunization, the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses Program, and the Family Planning Program; (5) in terms of sanitation, although the data was not gender-disaggregated, the most common sources of drinking water of households was the Community Water System; the most common type of toilet used by households was their own water sealed pour flush to sewerage system/septic tank; and the most common sanitation service provided is through the form of garbage

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collection; (6) the most commonly availed of program by the households are those related to peace and order and anti-drug campaign; and (7) the most frequently mentioned program related to gender issues is the assistance from Pasayena in the form of household expenses subsidy, protection of women's rights, and increased women awareness.

Moreover, there is also evidence that the Pasay City Local Government has made an attempt to promote the general welfare and provide basic services and facilities to their constituents through the creation of the Pasay City Gender and Development (GAD) Focal Point. These services and facilities are related to education, economic activity, gender issues, and health. And based on the CBMS data, these were availed of by a number of households.

Although there is a detailed Pasay City budget, it does not address the improvement of the different aspects of quality of life, as shown by the proportion of budget allocation, where education gets only 20%, health and nutrition get only about 10%, and economic activity gets only a measly 0.4%. The budget is also not gender disaggregated except for the Gender and Development (GAD) Fund required by law. Therefore, it cannot be established that the programs and budgets of Pasay City have been responsive to gender differentials in different aspects of quality of life.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following policies and strategies are hereby proposed to improve gender development, empowerment, and equality in Pasay City.

Related to the CBMS Data and Pasay City Reporting

1. Implement the update and gender disaggregation of CBMS statistics on nutrition, sanitation, health, credit, etc. To disaggregate the data, the questions have to be revised from household level to individual level, especially for the questions regarding programs and services availed of and their effects.

2. Improve the quality of data gathering, the accuracy of data encoding, and the precision of data editing. This is based on the data processing phase where the original number of 270,147 respondents was reduced to 263,019 because of invalid responses to the CBMS questionnaire. The process of cleaning the data from the CBMS database was a tedious process, and took a lot of time to complete.

3. Train the researchers to be more gender-sensitive when it comes to gathering data from individuals and households, and to be discriminating in recording responses.

4. The budgets of Pasay City and other LGUs should address different aspects of quality of life and be more gender-disaggregated in response to mainstreaming gender and development (GAD) like economic activity such livelihood, skills training, and credit, nutrition, some of the health indicators, sanitation, and other social services. This can be done by specifying the gender of the beneficiary of the services rather than taking the response as a household.

Related to Programs and Budgets of Pasay City

1. **ECONOMIC ACTIVITY:**

Provide more livelihood and employment opportunities to economically needy women and their

families (e.g., livelihood programs that are home-based); provide skills acquisition training which include food processing and cooking, handicrafts and apparel, hairdressing, nutrition and business seminars, basic and advanced reflexology, and soap making (through PESO in coordination with TESDA or BWYW) for women to give them additional sources of income; increase the support given to the Cooperative Development Office (CDO) so that it can continue to implement workshops on locating and identifying job generators in the Pasay and mobilize more business establishment locators as well as help reintegrate OFWs (Balik Pinoy); and more importantly, increase the allocation of the City budget from the 0.40% in 2005.

2. NUTRITION AND HEALTH:

Intensify support for family planning and responsible parenthood services, projects, seminars, and symposia for women of child-bearing age. The City Health Office which is assigned to implement these programs should be given more financial and administrative support. The City Health Office should also aim to strengthen their help to women by: (a) integrating values formation to targeted groups by conducting HIV/AIDS awareness seminars; (b) reducing maternal death and low birth weights of infants; (c) reducing causes of deaths from cervical cancer; (d) reducing causes of death from breast cancer; (e) increasing the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR); (f) procuring family planning commodities such as pills, injectibles, and condoms, and (g) intensifying health education on family planning, among others. Lastly, increase the allocation of the

City budget from the 10% in 2005.

3. GENDER ISSUES:

Implement and monitor closely Pasay City's compliance to the provisions of the Women in Development and Nation-Building Act of 1992 to ensure the full participation and involvement of women in the development process in Pasay City. The City should also implement and monitor closely its observance of the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004 to protect the family and its members particularly women and children, from violence and threats to their personal safety and security. Specifically, increase financial and administrative support to the established Crisis Centers for Women and Relief Centers against abusive and violent men aimed to address incidence of domestic violence victimizing disadvantaged women, husbands, partners, and family members. Review the budget a location and actual expenditure for the Gender and Development Plan of Pasay City from the 0.17% in 2005.

4. PEACE & ORDER AND ANTI-DRUG

CAMPAIGN:

Strengthen the peace and order programs of the City through the Barangays. Specifically, increase the financial support and administrative support of the programs related to peace and order and anti-drug campaign that the households in Pasay City receive which include barangay patrols, drug awareness programs, police presence/hotline, and general peace and order programs.

5. EDUCATION:

Continue to intensify functional

literacy program in coordination with non-formal education of the Department of Education. It should address the low level of education of women, and target illiterate women and drop-outs. More scholarships especially in the tertiary level for women should be provided. Increase the budget allocation which was only Php 100,000 in 2005.

6. HOUSING PROGRAMS:

Housing programs that the households in Pasay City received include housing loans from government (NHA and PAG-IBIG) and private institutions. The Pasay City local government should be able to develop and implement its own housing programs so that more people will have access to affordable housing, low-cost housing, and avail of housing loans. This can also solve the problem of illegal squatting and people living under the bridge.

7. CREDIT PROGRAMS.

The credit programs that the households in Pasay City received should be strengthened and provided more financial support. This credit programs include neighborhood associations, cooperatives, paluwagang-bayan, microfinance/microcredit, insurance, and mutual card. These credit programs enabled both men and women to get additional capital for business and additional income, more cooperatives were formed, they increased their savings, and they were able to access low interest rate loans. These programs were funded from part of the budget of the City Cooperative and the Barangay Development Fund, and therefore should be continued.

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