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The Physical Health Condition and Income of the Pot Makers

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ABSTRACT

This study determined the relationship between the physical health condition of the pot makers and their household gross monthly income. It used the correlational descriptive method and was conducted in 2018. There were 17 identified as respondents of the study. The tool used was a researcher made questionnaire and underwent validation process. The study was granted the notice to proceed by the university and were approved by the local executive heads. The researchers personally distributed the questionnaires to assist the respondents and further explained in vernacular the purpose of the study to their level of understanding. The questionnaire was translated into Filipino language. The percentage was used to determine the age, physical health condition and household gross monthly income. The spearman rank was used to determine the relationship between the physical health condition and the income. This paper arrived at the conclusions that there is a less participation in the pot making among the young generation. Likewise, most of the respondents were suffering mild illness and had a very low income. It is recommended that the state university in the locality needs to conduct trainings and provide technical assistance, establish programs to support the health condition of the people in the pot making, collaborate with government and non-government organizations addressing poverty alleviation. Further, household monthly gross income can be augmented by providing technology to provide fast production of better products and lessen the physical task.

Keywords: Pot makers, Health, Household monthly gross income, Community development, Needs assessment, Poverty alleviation, Hypertension, Numbness, Basic needs

INTRODUCTION

The routine from pounding to molding and firing makes the pot makers exposed to a very tiring daily task. As they age in the industry, they develop illnesses like numbness caused by holding things by hand⁽¹⁾. Hypertension is also a common illness among people aging 50 and older⁽²⁾. An article⁽³⁾ stressed the financial and technical support necessary for the pot makers after the attack of super typhoon Haiyan. This study is anchored on the concept of offering a scientific method in determining the profile of the pot makers of Tanauan, Leyte in order to come up with appropriate action that will contribute to the development of the people in the industry. Likewise, it determined the profile as age, health condition and monthly income. Further, it also determined the relationship between the health condition and the monthly income of the pot makers in the municipality. Pottery industry is playing a great role in the lives of the people of Tanauan, Leyte. This industry has lasted for already three centuries old.⁽⁴⁾ The campus as part of a university under the Commission on Higher Education is mandated to invest in the Filipino people to address to the priorities as (1) poverty reduction and empowerment of the poor, (2) rapid, equitable and sustained economic growth⁽⁵⁾ determined the relationship between the health condition and the monthly income of the pot makers.

This study determined the relationship between the health condition and the monthly income of the pot makers to identify on how the campus could contribute to the development of the people engaged in the industry. The study further hypothesized that there is no significant relationship between the pot makers' health condition and the monthly income.

METHODS

This study used the correlational descriptive method and was conducted in 2018 at Tanauan, Leyte. There were seventeen pot makers of the municipality identified as respondents of the study. The health condition and the monthly income were determined of its relationship. The tool used was a researcher made questionnaire. The study was granted the notice to proceed by the university. The dry run was conducted in Maripipi Biliran upon approval by the campus director, the municipal mayor and the barangay chairperson. The conduct of the study in Tanauan, Leyte was approved by the municipal mayor and the chairperson of the barangay. The researchers personally distributed the questionnaires (answerable for about 5 minutes) to assist the respondents and further explained in vernacular the intention and purpose of the study to their level of understanding. The questionnaire was translated into Filipino language. Immediately the questionnaires were retrieved. The percentage was used to determine the age, health condition and monthly income. The spearman rank was used to determine the relationship between the physical health condition and the monthly income.

RESULTS

The tables below presents the results of the study.

Table 1. The profile of the pot makers as to age

Age bracket	Frequency	Percentage
56 and above	3	18.00
36-55	12	70.00
16- 35	2	12.00
Total	17	100.00

Table 2. The physical health condition of the pot makers

Physical health condition	Frequency	Percentage
With serious illness	0	0.00
With mild illness	12	70.59
No illness	5	29.41
Total	17	100.00

Table 3. The household monthly gross income of the pot makers

Income range	Frequency	Percentage
50,251 and above	0	0.00
15,917-50,250	0	0.00
5,167- 15,916	4	23.53
5,166 and below	13	76.47
Total	17	100.00

Table 4. Relationship between the physical health condition and household monthly gross income of the pot makers

Variables	r-value	p-value
Physical health condition and monthly income	0.2958	0.0374733

DISCUSSION

Table 1 indicates that the pot makers were at middle age as classified in this study. It can be gleaned that respondents at age 16-35 were not engaged in pot making since they were into schooling and preferred to work in a fast food as a food server or crew. They looked at a fix amount that they will earn at the end of the day. This finding is supported by Rothelii⁽⁶⁾ which he cited that agents' optimization is simply by using money. The

respondents with age 36-55 composed the majority involved in pot making, implying that they have the children needing attention that hindered them to work far from their families. The respondents at age bracket 56 and above had the least percentage due to illnesses like numbness and hypertension.

On the physical health condition, the respondents with no illness had the least percentage, implying that the respondents in this group were not actively involved in pot making. The respondents with mild illness is parallel to the percentage of the age bracket who actively engaged in pot making. The identified illnesses were numbness of both hands and hypertension and were classified as mild. This is evidenced by their continued management to produce ceramic products with the aid of medications. However, medications taken need to be monitored to assess effectiveness of the treatment regimen.

On the household monthly gross income, majority of the respondents had a very low income, implying that the production becoming slow when the pot makers suffer illnesses. It may not be enough for the whole family for households with no other source of income except pot making. This further implies that the lesser the income of the pot makers, the lesser the opportunity to purchase medications to maintain health conditions. This study emphasizes the need to consider health issues among pot makers to address the target of the government on poverty reduction; rapid and equitable sustained economic growth.

The physical health condition had a significant relationship to the household monthly gross income of the pot makers as shown in table 4. This implies that pot makers should not as much as possible acquire illnesses that may hamper their production which indirectly affects their income. The family needs like food, education for children, and financing their source of livelihood can also be affected when the pot maker is sick.

CONCLUSION

Based from the interpretation of the results, this paper arrived at the conclusions that there is a less participation in the pot making industry among the younger generation. Likewise, most of the respondents are suffering mild illness and had a very low income. It is recommended that the state university in the locality needs to conduct trainings and provide technical assistance to the pot makers, establish programs to support the health condition of the people in the pot making industry, collaborate with government and non-government organizations to address poverty alleviation. Further, their monthly income can be augmented by providing them technology that will create fast production of better quality products and lessen the physical task.

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