

Thesis Title The Barangay Health Workers:
Factors Affecting Their Decision
to Continue or Discontinue as
Health Volunteers, Zamboanga del
Sur, Philippines

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ABSTRACT

The Primary Health Care as a partnership approach among community, the government and the private sector emphasizes on the significant role the community plays in the development of the individual. The Department of Health underscores the importance of a community leadership, initiatives and participation through the Barangay Health Worker (BHW) program, which is confronted with alarming increase of attrition or drop-out rate.

Thus, the main thrust of the present study is to find out the factors affecting the BHW's decision to continue or discontinue and how these factors affect their decision.

It is hypothesized in this study that socio-economic demographic profile of BHWs, motivations during recruitment and motivation to continue, attitudes of BHW toward their being BHWs, attitudes of BHW toward DOH and problems encountered as health volunteers affect their decision to continue or discontinue.

The subjects of the study were 280 Barangay Health Workers serving as health volunteers in the Zamboanga del Sur District Health Services, Region IX, Philippines. The study involved 185 active and 95 inactive BHWs.

A questionnaire checklist aided by an unstructured interview were the tools used and the information from these were carefully analyzed, classified, tallied and ranked and presented in tabular form.

All items in categories 2 (attitudes), 3 (motivation to continue) and 4 (problems met as health volunteers) in different degrees of responses were computed for average frequency of response which were subjected to chi-square test of independence. Three variables were involved: one, the independent variables

such as the four categories; two, the responses in varying degrees; and three, the dependent variables - the respondents (active and inactive).

The findings of the study are:

1. The socio-economic demographic profile of BHWs except for occupational background, the attitudes of BHWs toward being BHWs and toward DOH, and problems met as health volunteers do not show significant association with the status of volunteers, while

2. Motivations to continue show significant association with status of health volunteers.

Definitive conclusions cannot be drawn out of these statistical outcomes due to possible mislabelling of the questionnaires by the respondents themselves which could mean that a number of "active" are in reality "inactive".

Insights, however, can be gained as to how these factors mentioned affect their decision process. Two of these are highly relevant to the PHC movement: the socio-economic stability of the volunteer and the service and personnel management of the host agency.

The recommendations are mainly focused on regular evaluation of BHW strategy, provision of training program for the BHW, re-orientation of both health administrators and the BHW on Primary Health Care, and a follow-up study.