

## Impact of Capacity-Building Project on Socio-economic Well-being of Women in Higaonon Community

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### Abstract

Capacity-building projects are crucial for developing the skills of indigenous communities, fostering sustainable business growth, and empowering individuals. However, women in the Higaonon community had limited access to modern technologies and business management training. To address this gap, a project was implemented by the Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP), in collaboration with the Food Technology Department of Bukidnon State University. After several years of implementation, the project's impact on the community remained uncertain. To evaluate this impact, a convergent mixed-methods research study was conducted to assess the project's impact on the socioeconomic well-being of Higaonon women and the effectiveness of the trainings in enhancing their financial management and technology operation and maintenance skills. The study was grounded in the theory of change framework. Participants were members of a Higaonon women-led social enterprise. Descriptive analysis revealed that the trainings were highly effective in addressing the women's capacity-building needs. Thematic analysis yielded four relevant themes: empowerment and improved livelihoods, capacity building and skill development, challenges and opportunities, and community development and sustainability. A joint display analysis further confirmed that the

trainings' effectiveness aligned with the capacity building and skill development theme. These enhanced skills empowered women, improved their livelihoods, and opened new opportunities to overcome challenges. The improved financial literacy, technical skills, and business management capabilities have the potential to contribute to the long-term sustainability and prosperity of the community. Future research could explore the scalability of this social impact to inform policy and practice in community-based enterprise development.

**Keywords:** *Capacity building, women empowerment, community development, indigenous communities, Higaonon*

## Introduction

Capacity-building projects are crucial for developing the skills and knowledge of indigenous communities, essential for sustainable business growth and empowerment (Franco & Tracey, 2019; Al-Roubaie, 2010; Raditloaneng et al., 2015). Studies have highlighted the positive impact of such initiatives on economic development and social empowerment (United Nations, 2020; Fukuda-Parr et al., 2002). Well-designed projects often provide essential training on modern technologies and business management, which are critical for overcoming barriers to economic progress.

Indigenous communities have successfully managed various projects and services extended to them. Factors contributing to their success include community ownership, control over decision-making, and the centrality of cultural values. However, the lack of long-term commitment from external funding agencies, human capital, and capacity can undermine economic development. Consequently, this can trigger social and health problems that may erode indigenous communities' social and cultural capital (Morley, 2015).

The Higaonon tribe is one of the 18 indigenous communities in Mindanao. Most of their members reside in the hinterlands of the central and northeastern parts of the province. Their traditional knowledge, beliefs, and practices are interconnected with nature, where the forest is considered a fundamental source of food, livelihood, and cultural foundation (Panuncio & Tabudlong, 2024). The Higaonon, an indigenous group in Bukidnon, Philippines, face various challenges that hinder their economic development. These challenges limit their access to modern technologies and business management training (Asian Development Bank, 2012).

To address these challenges, an extension project with localized information was developed specifically for the Higaonon community in Bukidnon. This initiative was undertaken in 2019 by the Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) and the Food Technology Department of Bukidnon State University (BukSU). The project included tailored training in modern food processing techniques, business management, and the utilization of appropriate technologies to enhance productivity and market reach. These localized efforts were essential for addressing the unique needs and challenges faced by the Higaonon community, ensuring that the interventions were culturally relevant, inclusive, effective, and sustainable.

After a couple of years of implementation, it was unknown whether the project had brought positive changes and improvements related to their socioeconomic well-being. This study

investigated the impact of the implemented capacity-building project on the socioeconomic well-being of the beneficiaries, the women in the Higaonon community. The primary objective was to assess the critical changes experienced by the Higaonon Indigenous Peoples' Organization (IAHTCO) after receiving capacity training and technology transfer. By equipping the beneficiaries with enhanced capabilities, the project sought to uplift the community's economic status and ensure the sustainability of its business operations. Such efforts align with broader development goals that aim to empower Indigenous communities through targeted interventions (Smith, 2012, 2021).

The gap that propelled this study was the lack of empirical data on the effectiveness of capacity-building initiatives and community development practices in Indigenous communities (Morley, 2015). While numerous anecdotal reports and theoretical discussions existed on the benefits of similar projects, concrete evidence was needed to guide future project design and policy decisions (World Bank, 2015). This study sought to fill this gap by providing a detailed analysis of the outcomes of the IAHTCO Food Processor project, thereby contributing valuable insights into the role of capacity-building in fostering economic development in indigenous communities.

### ***Study Objectives***

The study evaluated the impact of the capacity-building project on the socioeconomic well-being of women in the Higaonon community. The study may contribute valuable insights into the effectiveness of capacity-building projects in empowering Indigenous communities and fostering their economic development. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

1. Assess the effectiveness of the capacity-building project on improving IAHTCO members' skills in financial management and technology operation and maintenance.
2. Evaluate the impact of the project on the socioeconomic well-being of IAHTCO members in terms of employment opportunities, income generation, and poverty alleviation.
3. Explore the convergence between the impact of the project on the socioeconomic well-being of IAHTCO members and the effectiveness of the project in improving their knowledge and skills in financial management and technology operation and maintenance.

### **Framework of the Study**

This study is anchored on Weiss's (1997, 1995) theory of change. The theory of change serves as a roadmap for explaining how a program was supposed to work. It details the long-term goal, the planned activities, and the expected outcomes. Importantly, it highlights the assumptions about how these stages connect and lead to the desired impact. Weiss believed that programs or projects can be designed thoughtfully and evaluated effectively to ensure a greater chance of achieving their social change goals (Weiss, 1997, 1995). It underscored the crucial role of the theory of change in driving social change, program design, and evaluation efforts.

The following key concepts underpinned the study: capacity-building, sustainable development, and indigenous empowerment. Each concept was woven into the study's design to ensure a comprehensive approach to evaluating the impact of the capacity-building program on the Higaonon community. Capacity-building is the process of developing and strengthening the skills, abilities, processes, and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt,

and thrive (UNDP, 2009). In this study, capacity-building was central, as it involved providing the Higaonon with training in modern food processing techniques, business management, and the utilization of appropriate technologies. This concept guided the interventions designed to enhance the IAHTCO Food Processor's capabilities and improve the community's economic status. Capacity-building programs are crucial in developing the skills and knowledge necessary for sustainable business growth, particularly in marginalized communities. Numerous studies have highlighted the positive impact of such initiatives on economic development and social empowerment (United Nations, 2020; Fukuda-Parr et al., 2002). These programs often provide essential training in modern technologies and business management, which are critical for overcoming barriers to economic progress.

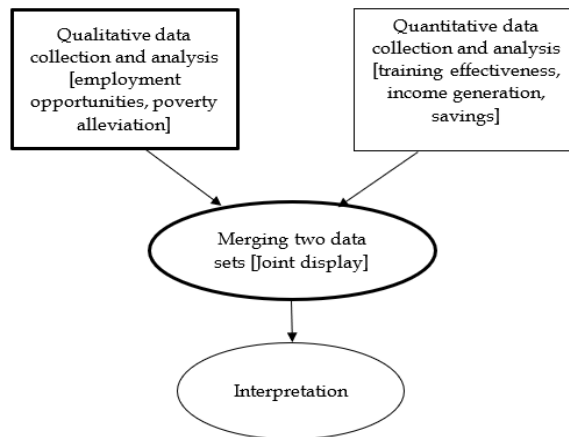
Sustainable development is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Emina, 2021). The study framework incorporated sustainable development to ensure a lasting improvement in the Higaonon's economic practices. The focus of the project was to equip the community with sustainable business practices. This was to ensure that the economic benefits would be long-lasting and not detrimental to future generations.

Indigenous empowerment involves increasing the control and influence of Indigenous peoples over the decisions and actions that affect their lives (Smith, 2012, 2021). This study integrated indigenous empowerment by actively involving the Higaonon community in designing and implementing capacity-building activities. This participatory approach ensured that the interventions were culturally appropriate and resonated with the community's needs and aspirations.

## **Methods**

### *Research Design*

The study employed a convergent mixed-methods research design, as proposed by Creswell and Clark (2018), to evaluate the impact of the capacity-building project on the socioeconomic well-being of women in the Higaonon community. It combined quantitative and qualitative datasets for a more comprehensive understanding of the problem. Data collection and analysis were conducted simultaneously. The selection of this design was intentional, aiming to bring together the strengths and weaknesses of quantitative and qualitative methods. The design is underpinned by pragmatism. Thus, participants in the qualitative component were allowed to construct their realities, perspectives, and experiences as they recalled past experiences of the phenomenon, particularly the changes and improvements they experienced after the capacity-building and technology transfer. The figure below further illustrates the application of this design to the present research.

**Figure 1***Convergent Design of Mixed Methods*

To describe the effectiveness of the capacity-building via seminars and training sessions, the study employed a quantitative descriptive design. This quantitative design describes the present condition of the studied phenomenon. The participants evaluated the effectiveness of the training sessions against a set of criteria (e.g., timeliness, relevance, etc.). In evaluating the impact of the project on the socioeconomic well-being of women in the Higaonon community, the study applied a descriptive qualitative approach via a thematic analysis. This component of the convergent mixed-methods design is exploratory in nature, wherein the study has no predetermined constructs or themes to describe and explain the impact of the project. Moreover, a joint display is used to illustrate the extent to which the two datasets converge. Another round of analysis is performed to investigate whether the effectiveness of the trainings resulted in or contributed to the impact of the project on the socioeconomic well-being of women.

*Locale*

The study was conducted in Sitio Kagahuman, Barangay San Luis, Malitbog, Bukidnon. This site is the operational base of the IAHTCO Food Processor and the residence of Higaonon women. The location is ideal for understanding the impact of capacity-building initiatives on the socioeconomic well-being of participants. It was strategically chosen to ensure proximity and direct engagement with community members and organizational stakeholders, providing a contextual backdrop for evaluating the project's outcomes within its socio-cultural and environmental context.

*Participants, sampling and sample*

Members of the IAHTCO Food Processor were considered as participants. These individuals had undergone capacity-building training provided by the Food Technology Department of Bukidnon State University. They were diverse in terms of demographic characteristics such

as age, educational background, and years of experience in the food processing industry. Most participants were middle-aged adults, ranging from their early twenties to late fifties. Educational backgrounds varied widely, with some participants having completed only primary education while others had attained secondary education qualifications.

In terms of experience, participants ranged from novices (who were relatively new to food processing) to seasoned practitioners (with several years of experience in the industry). This diversity in demographics provided a rich and varied perspective on the effectiveness and impact of the capacity-building program, ensuring that the findings represented different segments within the IAHTCO Food Processor community.

The study used purposive sampling, which included all participants present for every training session. The training on financial management had 16 actual participants, while the training on food safety was attended by 21 participants. This means that five individuals were added in the second session. For the key informant interviews, the study involved two members representing all women in the Higaonon community where the project was implemented. These individuals were selected purposefully, as they were believed to be the best representatives of all members who could provide accurate and relevant information to open-ended and closed-ended interview questions.

### *Data Collection*

The study employed two methods of data collection. During the training sessions, the implementers administered a tool to evaluate the effectiveness of the capacity-building sessions provided by the extensionists and partners. This tool measured the extent of project effectiveness against nine criteria: objectives, timeliness, relevance, utilization, practicality, participation, the use of instructional materials, content, and quality. The tool embedded a 5-point Likert scale to determine the degree or magnitude of project effectiveness. Responses from participants were categorized as follows: Best (4.50–5.00), Better (3.50–4.49), Good (2.50–3.49), Fair (1.50–2.49), Needs improvement (1.00–1.49).

The second method utilized was the Key Informant Interview, in which the proponents were asked to respond to both open-ended and closed-ended questions. This method explored the impact of the project on the socioeconomic well-being of women in the Higaonon community. Before the KII, the chosen participants were provided with a short profiling survey including items such as past and present sales or income and savings. The KII posed closed-ended questions to validate their responses before the interview. Most of the questions were open-ended, which explored the changes and improvements they had experienced after the trainings and technology transfer to their community. This method of data collection allowed researchers to obtain both quantitative and qualitative data from the participants.

### *Data Analysis*

The data obtained from the evaluated training sessions were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentage. Additionally, data on sales, income, and savings were computed to arrive at totals and averages or means. The study also applied the thematic analysis

of Braun and Clarke (2006), who described TA as a “method for identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns (themes) within data. Their analytic framework for TA includes the following steps: familiarizing with the data, generating initial codes, searching for themes, reviewing themes, defining and naming themes, and producing the report. The data set generated from the Key Informant interviews was subjected to these procedures.

This research went beyond measuring the effectiveness of the capacity-building sessions by incorporating the Theory of Change (ToC) framework. It provided a structured approach to assess how the project achieved desired outcomes and impacts. It presented details about the project, following the components identified by.

A structured survey was administered to IAHTCO members to collect quantitative data. The survey captured information on various aspects, including past and present sales records, income generation before and after technology transfer, financial management practices, and technology operation skills. Data analysis likely involved calculating descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages, means) to assess changes in these areas following the implementation of the capacity-building program and technology turnover.

## Figure 2

*Schematic Representation of the Study Framework, the Weiss's Theory of Change*



### *Ethical Considerations*

The study strictly adhered to the principles of research ethics. Informed consent was secured from all invited key informants, ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Data Privacy Act of 2012. The inquiry strictly observed confidentiality, cultural sensitivity, and other relational ethics. Throughout the research process, the priority was to respect and protect the Higaonon community. The researchers acknowledged that their non-Indigenous background might influence their engagement with, understanding of, and interpretation of Higaonon worldviews.

### *Trustworthiness*

To ensure trustworthiness, the researchers took the following steps: 1) engaged in constant reflexivity and mindfulness of their personal biases and prior knowledge of the phenomenon under study; 2) acknowledged their outsider perspective on the phenomenon; 3) maintained continuous engagement with participants to clarify aspects of the study, especially their responses

and meanings; and 4) conducted member-checking processes.

## Results and Discussion

### *Effectiveness of Capacity-Building*

The evaluation of the project included the assessment its effectiveness in improving financial management skills among members. As shown in Table 1, the training on financial management received an overall mean of 4.97, described as best, indicating that the training was highly effective. The overall mean revealed that it did an excellent job of providing food processors with knowledge of product costing, pricing, financial ethics, and the skills to accurately calculate production and marketing expenses and determine appropriate profit margins. Additionally, participants learned the importance of ethical financial practices, which helped them understand the financial aspects of running a successful community-based enterprise. The five criteria (objectives, timeliness, participation, use of IEC/IMs, and quality) received a perfect score of 5.00. This result demonstrates that participants found the training relevant, timely, and of high quality.

**Table 1**

*Financial Management Training Effectiveness*

Criteria	Frequency	Mean	Descriptor
Objectives	16	5.00	Best
Timeliness	16	5.00	Best
Relevance	15	4.94	Best
Utilization	15	4.94	Best
Practicality	14	4.88	Best
Participation	16	5.00	Best
Use of IEC/IMs	16	5.00	Best
Content	15	4.94	Best
Quality	16	5.00	Best
Over-all		4.97	Best

Note: 4.50 – 5.00 (Best); 3.50 – 4.49 (Better); 2.50 – 3.49 (Good); 1.50 – 2.49 (Fair); 1.00 – 1.49 (Needs Improvement)

The high evaluation ratings in financial management training are consistent with Kirsten's (2018) findings, which noted that financial management training improves financial self-efficacy and the likelihood of business survival and growth. The training helped participants understand the financial aspects of running a successful community-based enterprise, promoting long-term economic stability.

The other training conducted was focused on equipping participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to operate and maintain transferred technology. The food safety training received an overall mean score of 5.00, described as best, indicating that the training was extremely effective. Participants evaluated the training highly in all criteria, including objectives, timeliness, relevance, utilization, practicality, participation, use of IEC/IMs, content, and quality. The perfect

scores suggest that the training effectively equipped participants with the knowledge and skills needed for safe food handling practices. This outcome supports the idea that comprehensive training programs are essential for ensuring product quality and safety, as noted in various studies on food safety and community-based enterprises.

**Table 2**  
*Food Safety Effectiveness*

Criteria	Frequency	Mean	Descriptor
Objectives	21	5.00	Best
Timeliness	21	5.00	Best
Relevance	21	5.00	Best
Utilization	21	5.00	Best
Practicality	21	5.00	Best
Participation	21	5.00	Best
Use of IEC/IMs	21	5.00	Best
Content	21	5.00	Best
Quality	21	5.00	Best
Over-all		5.00	Best

Note: 4.50 – 5.00 (Best); 3.50 – 4.49 (Better); 2.50 – 3.49 (Good); 1.50 – 2.49 (Fair); 1.00 – 1.49 (Needs Improvement)

The evaluation results suggested that participants perceived the project as effective, exceeding their expectations. The overall mean of the training revealed that it did an excellent job at providing them with the knowledge and skills for safe food handling practices. The said training emphasized safety and wholesome foods, maintaining high standards of hygiene and sanitation, proper handling of raw materials, and adhering to processing protocols.

Young et al. (2019) reported that food safety training can improve food handler knowledge. They also recommended that further research is needed to focus on strategies that can change food handler behaviors. Nissanka and Dissanayake (2019) supported the idea that conducting training is not only about acquiring knowledge but also about sharpening skills and changing behaviors to do things better or differently.

The findings in Table 3 indicated a substantial increase in income and savings among members of the community, particularly Higanonon women. Specifically, the income from turmeric tea sales increased from PHP 4,700 in 2019 to PHP 33,210 in 2023, which reflect a 14.15% increase. Additionally, the members have managed to save PHP 30,000 over three years, which demonstrates an improved financial stability among members. Thus, the project and the technology that was transferred unto them have made significant changes and improvements in their lives.

*Project Impact*

The Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP), together with Bukidnon State University’s training, equipped participants with the knowledge and skills to

produce and sell turmeric tea. This resulted in increased income, savings, and confidence among the women. Additionally, the project fostered community development by creating new income opportunities and promoting the use of local NTFPs. The project was a successful example of how training and resource provision could improve economic well-being and community development. The project had demonstrably empowered women, improved their livelihoods, and offered potential for community development. By addressing the identified challenges and exploring opportunities, the project's sustainability and broader positive impact could have been strengthened.

**Table 3**  
*Project Impact on Socio-economic Well-being*

Indicator	Before Training (2019)	After Training (2023)	Percentage Increase
Income from Turmeric Tea (PHP)	4,700.00	33,210.00	14.15%
Savings (PHP)	0.00	30,000.00	-
Income Improvement Respondent Group A	0.00	2,000.00/year	-
Income Improvement Respondent Group B	0.00	3,000.00/year	-

**Empowerment and Improved Livelihoods.** Before the project, the participants struggled to meet their daily needs. However, they now have a means to support themselves. The participants reported increased income and savings, proving the project's success in empowering women. Additionally, the project helped Higaonon women gain self-confidence. They were able to provide for their families, become more financially independent, and participate more actively in household and community decisions. These findings align with the Asian Development Bank's (2024) report, which highlights the importance of providing specific training and support to help women build resilience against economic challenges and establish sustainable livelihoods.

**Capacity Building and Skill Development.** Higaonon women mentioned that the trainings provided by NTFP-EP and BukSU were essential for learning new skills in processing and packaging turmeric tea. Consequently, when village officials informed the community about upcoming seminars or trainings, participants personally requested to join. This enthusiasm led them to participate in the capacity-building project, which enabled them to produce their own turmeric tea. The women acknowledged that the invitation to learn new skills in processing and packaging turmeric tea was a means to generate additional income. The training received by women involved in turmeric tea production not only introduced them to new processing methods but also emphasized quality control and market readiness (Andaya, 2022).

**Challenges and Opportunities.** Participants raised several challenges during the interview, including maintaining product quality, managing market fluctuations, and overcoming limited access to raw materials. These concerns were identified as potential risks to the project's impact. The concerns suggest that the absence of proper cold storage may hinder the ability to process

turmeric tea. In high-temperature environments, the lack of refrigeration can lead to spoilage, contamination, and waste. Wild (2023) asserted that food products require strict temperature management to ensure safety and quality. Without adequate cold storage, products can become unsafe for consumption. However, despite these challenges, opportunities such as expanding the turmeric tea market and exploring other NTFPs were suggested for future endeavors.

**Table 4**  
*Emerging Themes on Qualitative Impact of the Project*

Themes		Description
Theme 1	Empowerment and Improved Livelihoods	The increased income, savings, and confidence reported by the respondents highlighted the project's success in empowering women.
Theme 2	Capacity Building and Skill Development	The women had mentioned the training provided by NTFP-EP and BukSU as essential for learning new skills in processing and packaging turmeric tea.
Theme 3	Challenges and Opportunities	Maintaining product quality, market fluctuations, and limited access to raw materials identified were identified as potential risks.
Theme 4	Community Development and Sustainability	The increased income for the women contributed to their families' well-being and the development of the Higaonon community.

**Community Development and Sustainability.** The increased income among Higaonon women contributes to the well-being of their families and the development of their Higaonon community. This impact underscores the potential of community-oriented initiatives to create broader social and economic impacts beyond individual benefits. Thus, the impact extends beyond the lives of those who directly benefited from the capacity-building project. This reality affirms that community-building can simultaneously strive for sustainable development and achieve community goals and aspirations (Franco & Tracey, 2019).

The last objective of the study was to find out whether the training effectiveness and project impact converge when they are merged. The joint display presented in parallel the part and parcel of training effectiveness and impact of the project on the socioeconomic well-being of women in the community. To reiterate, the participants had evaluated the trainings sessions with high extent of effectiveness in all topics such as financial management and food safety. Both sessions were deemed best, suggesting that the capability building sessions have addressed their training needs and expectations. These effective trainings resulted in skills development and eventually empowered women. Consequently, the project improved their livelihood as evidenced in their increased sales or incomes. They can now save portions of their income compared to their previous years and livelihood. The explicit changes and improvement indicate that the knowledge and skills they acquired, and the transferred technology become sources of income.

**Table 5**  
*Joint Display*

Training Effectiveness	Socioeconomic Well-being
Financial Management (M=4.97)	Capacity building and skill development, Empowerment and improved livelihood,
Food Safety (M=5.00)	Increased income by 14.15%, and savings.

### Theory of Change Levels

To further illustrate the journey from conceptualization and planning to the project's demonstrated impact, the theory of change levels are presented. The capacity-building project was deemed effective by participants and demonstrated an impact on the socioeconomic well-being of women. The theory of change levels illustrate the alignment between our initial plan, the implementation process, and the achieved impact.

One study reported that financial literacy and management training significantly improve the performance of small and medium enterprises. Enhanced financial planning and resource allocation were critical for achieving sustainable economic growth (Tan & Ng, 2007). In the case of the present project, enhancing financial management capacities has led to more sustainable business practices and long-term economic stability. Yet, one of the themes revealed that the limited access to raw materials identified was identified as among the potential risks of sustainable impact.

**Table 6**  
*ToC Change Levels of the Capacity Building Project*

Input	Output	Intermediate Outcome	Impact
<i>What do we do as part of the program? What resources are used?</i>	<i>Tangible products or services produced as a result of activities- usually can be counted</i>	<i>Short-term behavioral changes that result from the output (ex, preventive health habits, usage of tablets)</i>	<i>Long-term changes that result from outcomes- the result of the program</i>
Activities: Seminar or training on NTFP (Non-Timber Forest Products) provided by NTFP-EP together with Bukidnon State University (BukSU) in 2019	Output: Tangible products: Turmeric tea  Increased sales of turmeric tea (90,000 pesos over three years)	Short-term behavioral changes:  Increased knowledge and skills in processing and packaging turmeric tea  Improved decision-making in business operations	The improved economic well-being of IAHTCO members and their families  Increased empowerment and self-reliance of IAHTCO members
Resources: Production of turmeric tea by IAHTCO Women's Livelihood	Savings of 30,000 pesos  Improved income for one respondent (2,000 pesos per year) and another (3,000 pesos per year)	Increased confidence in marketing and selling the tea  Increased collaboration and teamwork among IAHTCO members	Enhanced community development through income generation and savings  Preservation and utilization of local NTFPs

## Conclusion

The evaluation of the project highlights the effectiveness of capacity-building in promoting sustainable livelihoods through community-based enterprise development. The training conducted received high ratings for relevance, timeliness, quality, and effectiveness. The participants gained the critical financial management skills essential for the sustainable operation of their community-based enterprise. Furthermore, the food safety training achieved perfect ratings across all evaluation criteria, indicating that participants had the knowledge and skills needed for safe and efficient production. This supports the view that comprehensive and practical training is vital for ensuring product quality and safety in community enterprises.

The project had improved the livelihoods of women in Higaonon community, and it offered potential for community development. Specifically, the livelihood project demonstrated significant positive impact on the socioeconomic well-being of Higaonon women in Bukidnon, Philippines. Also, it made substantial increase in their income and savings, respectively.

The project serves as a model for successful community-based enterprise development. It highlights the transformative potential of targeted capacity-building programs in empowering marginalized communities, particularly Indigenous women. The success of the project underscores the importance of financial management, practical skills training, and market development in promoting sustainable livelihoods.

Future initiatives should build on these findings by addressing identified challenges and implementing the recommended actions. By doing so, they can further enhance the economic well-being, empowerment, and self-reliance of indigenous communities, contributing to the broader community. The training conducted received high ratings for relevance, timeliness, quality, and effectiveness. The participants gained the critical financial management skills essential for the sustainable operation of their community-based enterprise. Furthermore, the food safety training achieved perfect ratings across all evaluation criteria, indicating that participants had the knowledge and skills needed for safe and efficient production. This supports the view that comprehensive and practical training is vital for ensuring product quality and safety in community enterprises.

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