



Participation of Fathers

Project: Quezon, Philippines

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Program background: For decades the sponsorship program in Quezon has encouraged the participation of mothers. With the goal of holistic development of sponsored families it was realized that fathers needed education and formation as well. The belief that fathers play an important role in family development motivated Quezon Project to find strategic ways to increase father involvement in program activities and family life.

In 2012, Quezon project initiated a partnership with FamNet to administer the Ang Mapagkalingang Ama Module to educate fathers on their role as a father. Then project staff identified 22 fathers and 3 male staff to attend the training. These attendees then replicated the program in their communities.

Purpose of the evaluation: Determine if the strategies being implemented to encourage fathers' participation in program activities and family life are effective.

Methods:

- Individual interview among randomly selected mothers.
- Survey questionnaires for fathers and mothers (to validate the fathers' responses) with a sample of 825.
- Focus Group Discussion with program staff, AMA Facilitators (these are group of selected fathers who were trained to deliver the module to other fathers in the community, community leaders, AMA sector leaders (officers of organized fathers organization))

Key findings and Conclusions:

- 78.05% of the mothers/children reported that their husband/father was now more nurturing than prior to participating in the AMA seminar
- 67.89% of the mother respondents that their husband was now more interested in the program activities

Learnings and Report recommendations:

- The AMA module is an effective tool to encourage father's genuine participation to the program. Thus, the Project will continue to reach out all the fathers of sponsored members and re-educate them of their intrinsic role as a father.
- The project will enhance the session on violence against women and children and incorporate the Unbound Child Protection Policy so with other laws on family based from the Family Welfare Code of the Philippines. This can be a follow-up module for the years to come.