

GREAT Women Project



Firming Up Partnerships for GAD

Barugo's Tri-Partite Partnership Towards A Gender-Responsive Local Government Unit



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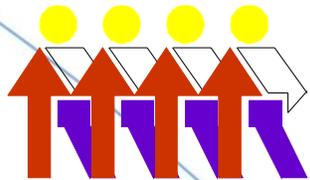
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Barugo's Tri-Partite Partnership Towards A Gender-Responsive LGU

Implementation of the Great Women Project in Barugo, Leyte saw the emergence of a tripartite partnership among the LGU, the GWP and the Rungggiyan Social Development Foundation, Inc., a non-government organization promoting women's welfare and development.



The LGU's partnership with Rungggiyan started way back in 2004, when the latter helped organize the Barugo Roscas Producers Association, an organization of women producers of roscas (a local cookie). The presence of this women's organization paved the way for making Barugo, a priority municipality in the province of Leyte under the One-Town-One-Product (OTOP) program of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).



Later, Rungggiyan also helped organize the Native Chicken Raisers Association and put up the DA-InFRES, a native chicken raising project for women. Rungggiyan also started implementing the Gender Sensitivity Training (GST) among the native chicken raisers, both husbands and wives. With already two (2) women microntrepreneurs organized, Rungggiyan also deployed a full-time Gender and Livelihood Advisor.



In nearly two years in Barugo, Rungggiyan had already identified the needed capacities of the WMEs to help them improve their enterprises. In 2006, Rungggiyan started conducting capacity building trainings for women-managed food enterprises in Barugo. These included trainings on product standardization, costing and pricing, procurement, bookkeeping and recording, among others. Parallel to the interventions conducted with WMEs, Rungggiyan also conducted different phases of the Gender Responsive and Results Based Budgeting (GRRB) program in Barugo until 2007.

In 2008, Barugo was identified as a pilot LGU partner of the GREAT Women Project (GWP) mainly because of its deep-rooted GAD and women economic empowerment (WEE) foundation laid down by its active partnership with Rungggiyan. Presence of the Barugo Roscas Producers Association and Native Chicken Raisers Association already set the stage for further empowering the women entrepreneurs. The conduct of GRRB, on the other hand, complemented the GWP's thrust of mainstreaming GAD and WEE in the LGU's plans, policies and budgeting process.

While there was no concrete partnership forged between the Rungggiyan and the GREAT Women Project, the cooperation that existed between the two was fused by their common goal of transforming the Municipality of Barugo into a gender and WEE

Footnotes

¹Local Government Unit of Buenavista, Municipal Pro le, 2006

²Stories from oral tradition of Buenavista

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responsive LGU of the province of Leyte. With the LGU's implementation of the GWP activities, Runggiyan continued to be a willing partner by providing technical assistance.

Runggiyan continued to plant the seeds for women economic empowerment in Barugo. The Foundation helped the LGU on GAD Plan implementation and on its assessment of the 2009 GAD Plan and Budget. Similarly, the Foundation conducted GST for lady legislators and Plan-Budget Link Workshops, and engaged in project conceptualization for the establishment of People's Economic Enterprise Development Center (PEEDC) in Barugo.

Continuous immersion of LGU officials and staff in gender-related advocacies and capacity development trainings since 2004 was effectively transforming the LGU in having a firm gender-responsive mindset. Whereas when the LGU was new to the concept of GAD, the LGU found it difficult to comprehend the whole purpose of efforts and advocacies towards promotion of women's development, including women's economic empowerment.

When GREAT Women Project was introduced in 2008, the LGU came to understand and appreciate all the efforts and advocacies initiated by Runggiyan on GAD and women empowerment. Engr. Judith Borrel, the Municipal Planning Development Officer (MPDO) and Technical Working Group member explained, "The GREAT Women Project was instrumental in making GAD efforts clearer to the LGU, with all these initiatives intending to promote local economic development through WEE."

Among the GREAT Women Project capacity building, the Gender-Sensitivity Training conducted for LGU officials and staff in Tagaytay City, leveled off LGU appreciation on GAD and the GREAT Women Project. LGU staff reached the same level of understanding and appreciation of GAD.

"There is no longer a need to remind us that we should be gender-responsive. Gender has been mainstreamed in us not only in our policies. Gender is being considered in everything that we do. Gender responsiveness has become part of our normal way of life and thinking in the LGU," Engr. Judith Borrel said. She mentioned that technical personnel apply their gender-responsive mindsets in crafting and formulating plans, policies and budgets.



About The Project

The Gender Responsive Economic Actions for the Transformation of Women (GREAT Women) Project is a governance and capacity development project that aims to promote and support a gender-responsive enabling environment for women's economic empowerment, particularly those in microenterprises.

The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), the national machinery for the advancement of women in the Philippines, is the lead executing agency for the Project.

The Commission forged partnership with key national government agencies involved in micro-, small- and medium-scale enterprise (MSME) development and select local government units to create a gender-responsive enabling environment for women's economic empowerment. This project receives technical and financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

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