

THE MAKATI TRAINING, PLACEMENT AND LIVELIHOOD CONSORTIA: AN EVALUATIVE STUDY

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INTRODUCTION

Authorities (Stufflebeam, 2001; Schalock, 2001; Uphoff, 2003) are all in agreement that evaluation plays a key role in determining the success or failure of a program. The outcome of any program may be attributed to certain variables that are input-process or product related. Possibly, the entry of uncontrollable factors during the conceptualization, planning or implementation stage may also contribute to the status of a program. Thus, the results of any program evaluation serve as inputs for decision-making activities in the management of any program.

City Ordinance No. 2001-001 created the Makati Training, Placement and Livelihood Consortia (MTPLC). As a backgrounder, the MTPLC was initiated by Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines, Atty. Jejomar C. Binay, then Chairman of the Metro Manila Development Authority and conceptualized by the President of the University of Makati, Professor Tomas B. Lopez, and Executive Vice President Dr. Edita I. Chan, then Vice President for Academic Affairs (The Makati Mirror, January—February 2001).

Prior to the establishment of the MTPLC, a number of government and non-government organizations as well as the private sector offered non-formal education programs in their own way. In most cases, this type of operations led to the duplication of efforts. Thus, paved the way to the creation as well as the development of the MTPLC. This therefore ushered-in the integration of skills training efforts of the various offices in the city management and the education system.

As a result, the on-going training courses were coordinated among partner organizations and the graduates were funneled in one major city-wide placement effort. The tasked of the Makati Training, Placement and Livelihood Consortia are as follows:

1. Coordinate and avoid overlapping or duplication of efforts by participating organizations.
2. Develop an integrated skills training program delivered from the barangay level up to University of Makati and neighboring cities and municipalities.
3. Establish a Central Placement Center that will seek and explore placement opportunities for all trainees, and
4. Provide opportunities for graduate of livelihood courses to start their own business and placement offers abroad.

To note, the organizations involved in the MTPLC are non-government agencies such as Bagong Ina ng Bayan Foundation and Culi-Culi Foundation. The different Local Government Units (LGUs) that committed membership to MTPLC are the Makati Social Welfare and Development (MSWD), Ligangmga Barangay, Public Employment and Service Office (PESO), and the SangguniangKabataan Foundation (SKF). Representing the education sector are the Department of Education—Makati and the UMAK-College of Technology Management (CTM). Private and religious organizations were also invited to participate in the programs and activities of the MTPLC. Further, the Technical Education and Skills

Development Authority (TESDA) served as the Advisory Council of the Consortia, while the Office of the Executive Vice President served as the Secretariat of the MTPLC.

The MTPLC caters to the needs of Makati City residents, specifically, the out-of-school youth, women, unemployed and underemployed adults, University of Makati students seeking part-time employment and UMak graduates. Its establishment is a major step in pulling the resources of member agencies towards a common goal which is to train out-of-school youth and underemployed adults and provide employment opportunities through linkages and networking. The steps followed in the conduct of training are: 1) submission of project proposal to the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Committee; 2) review and approval of project proposal; 3) inspection/evaluation of project site; 4) implementation of project; 5) monitoring; 6) testing; and 7) placement of graduates. The combined efforts of member agencies may also work for a truly relevant and functional vocational education program not only for the out-of-school youth and unemployed adults of Makati City but also for Makati residents who want to enhance and upgrade their skills. Training programs may be enriched or revised to make these responsive to the current needs and demands of society particularly those of the industry.

It may be underscored that the MTPLC played a very significant role in addressing the issues of gender and development where majority of its clientele are male out-of-school youth, or underemployed adult males. Approximately during the first half of 2009, the trainees were males. This demonstrates the City Government's thrust and commitment in accomplishing its goal on human development.

Further, the local government of Makati has prioritized the development and provision of access to Vocational Technology Education skills training through MTPLC. It became a network-partnership organization committed to train skills and provide entrepreneurship education, a mechanism to create more jobs and enhance the poverty reduction in the city. In an effort to improve the delivery of social services needs of constituents in skills training and livelihood education, this became a course of action to strengthen the abilities of individuals, institutions and an enabling environment factor to make effective use of the resources of one's organization.