



LA CONSOLACION UNIVERSITY PHILIPPINES
Bulihan, City of Malolos, Bulacan 3000

GRADUATE STUDIES DEPARTMENT



Solo Parents Programs and Services of Local Government Unit of Quezon City: It's Impact on Economic Condition among Beneficiaries

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Science in Social Work

Lovely S. Ramilo

La Consolacion University Philippines

ABSTRACT

This research evaluated the programs and services provided by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Quezon City to support solo parents. The study looked into the views of 368 solo parents on the quality of services they received and how the services impacted their economic condition. This quantitative study evaluated Quezon City's LGU programs for solo parents, using descriptive-comparative and descriptive-correlational research designs. It examined registered solo parents' characteristics and relationships, focusing on economic perceptions. Quezon City's commitment to solo parent support made it an ideal locale for assessing program outcomes. Solo parents in the study fall within the 31 to 50-year-old age group, with a notable representation in the 41 to 50-year-old category. Over 80% of the sample comprises females, and a significant proportion earns below Php 11,313 per month, reflecting diverse educational backgrounds and family sizes. Program assessments indicate that solo parents, on average, rate services as "fair," with positive views on Support Services, particularly family counseling. However, other areas, such as Parenting Effectiveness Sessions, Livelihood support, Educational Assistance, and Health and Medical Assistance, are perceived as "fair." The economic condition of solo parents is found to be poor, with significant variations related to age, income, and the number of children. The study underscores the substantial impact of programs and services, explaining 11% of the variability in the economic condition of solo parents with strong statistical significance. To enhance program quality, the LGU of Quezon City can implement targeted strategies such as conducting regular needs assessments and service audits to identify gaps and areas for improvement. Collaborating with experts in relevant fields and incorporating evidence-based practices can ensure that services are up-to-date and effective. Additionally, the LGU can invest in professional development for service providers, ensuring they are well-equipped to address the specific needs of diverse solo parent groups. In terms of accessibility, the LGU should consider implementing outreach programs that provide information in multiple languages, ensuring that language barriers do not hinder access. Developing user-friendly online platforms and mobile applications for program information and service requests can also improve accessibility, especially for tech-savvy individuals. Moreover, establishing satellite service centers in different neighborhoods and partnering with community organizations can bring services closer to where solo parents reside. To expand outreach, the LGU can employ targeted communication strategies, such as social media campaigns, community workshops, and collaborations with local schools and healthcare facilities to reach a broader audience. Culturally sensitive and inclusive outreach materials can resonate better with different demographic groups, addressing the unique challenges faced by various solo parent segments. Furthermore, creating support networks and mentorship programs within communities can develop a sense of belonging and encourage solo parents to seek assistance. Stakeholder engagement and feedback mechanisms should involve regular surveys, focus group discussions, and town hall meetings to gather input from solo parents. Establishing advisory committees that include representatives from different solo parent demographics ensures diverse perspectives are considered. The LGU can also leverage technology for real-time feedback through dedicated hotlines, chat services, or mobile applications. Revising economic empowerment programs should involve planning interventions to the specific needs of solo parents based on their age, income levels, educational backgrounds, and family sizes. This may include targeted skills training programs, financial literacy workshops, and mentorship initiatives. The LGU can collaborate with local businesses for job placement programs and negotiate discounts on essential services for solo parents. The success of the program and services of the Local Government of Quezon City to solo parents can serve as a model for other regions and municipalities. Therefore, the LGU should document and share best practices, creating a knowledge-sharing network that promotes the nationwide improvement of support systems for solo parents. This collaborative approach can ensure sustained success and positive outcomes for solo parents across the country. While the study provides valuable information about the demographic profile, program evaluations, and economic conditions of solo parents in Quezon City, this study has some limitations. Firstly, using quantitative methods may limit the depth of understanding, overlooking discrete qualitative aspects of solo parents' experiences. Second, the findings cannot be generalized to the whole population of solo parents. The generalizability of findings to other regions and municipalities may be affected by the unique socio-economic and cultural contexts of Quezon City. While the sample size of 368 solo parents may be representative, it might not capture the full diversity of the solo parent population in Quezon City. Third, the "fair" rating of services might lack specificity, warranting further qualitative exploration to uncover the reasons behind these perceptions. Finally, the study acknowledges the solo parents' economic conditions but does not delve into the broader socio-cultural factors that may influence solo parents' experiences.

Keywords:- *Solo Parents Programs and Services of Local Government Unit of Quezon City: It's Impact on Economic Condition Among Beneficiaries*”.

CHAPTER ONE

THE PROBLEM AND ITS BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

In the Philippines, solo parenting is a prevalent and pressing issue that affects numerous individuals and families across the nation. Solo parents, who are typically individuals raising children on their own due to various circumstances, such as the loss of a spouse or separation, face a multitude of challenges that impact their well-being and that of their children.

Today, solo parent families have become even more common, headed by mothers, fathers, and even a grandparent raising their grandchildren. The challenges of modernization, and the impact of crime and violence have contributed to the rising phenomenon of solo parenting. Life of a solo parent can be quite stressful for adult and children which is a combination of psychological, physical, and emotional anxieties. The experience compounded the responsibilities of juggling caring for children, maintaining a job, and keeping up with the bills and household chores. More so the family's finances and resources are drastically reduced following the loss of or separation from a partner is an intensely painful experience and the grieving process cannot be ascertained. (American Psychological Association, 2022)

Out of the 94 million people living in the Philippines in 2017, there are 14 million solo/single parents. Out of the 15.1 million families assessed in the nation, 1.8 million, or 11.9%, have a solitary parent member, according to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). In the upcoming years, the number of single parents will rise further. In other regions of the world, single parents are also following this pattern (Stack & Meridith 2017; Burgund et al. 2013). Hence, the Philippines passed legislation to safeguard the welfare of solo parents. The law is known as Republic Act No. 8972 or "The Solo Parents' Welfare Act of 2000". This law classifies "solo parent" according to marital status and domestic affairs. Women raising a child as a consequence of abuse are likewise considered as solo parents.

Similarly, a parent who is left to care for a child on their own because their spouse has passed away, been convicted, become physically or mentally incapable, been legally separated from them or their marriage has been annulled, or has been gone for an extended period is referred to as a solo parent. According to law, single parents in the Philippines whose income falls below the National Economic Development Authority's (NEDA) definition of poverty are eligible for assistance as long as their situation has been evaluated by DSWD, the main government body responsible for implementing the aforementioned Republic Act.

A solo parent is entitled to housing benefits, medical aid, and educational benefits for the child or children. The entire package for single parents also includes training in fundamental business management, value orientation, and livelihood skills, as well as the supply of seed money or job placement. However, a flexible work schedule, parental leave, and protection from workplace discrimination are also granted to assist claimants who are classified as income earners who make more than the poverty line.

Financial hardship is one of the primary concerns faced by solo parents in the Philippines. Many struggle to provide for their children's basic needs due to limited financial resources, lack of stable employment, or insufficient government support. The burden of being the sole provider often leads to financial stress, affecting not only the parent's economic stability but also the overall quality of life for their children. According to Stack and Meredith (2018), financial hardship has significant psychological consequences, including feelings of isolation, anxiety, depression, paranoia, and even suicidal thoughts. Single parents feel dissatisfied with psychological services, as they felt their unique needs as single parents were not adequately addressed. It is essential for support systems to recognize the impact of social circumstances and give more consideration to the economic drivers of distress for single parents.

Despite the presence of available channels for aid, there continue to be numerous reported cases of poverty, socio-economic challenges, and emotional and psychological issues among single mothers. To Binti Mahat et al (2019), it is every person's social responsibility to support and assist this vulnerable group, considering that many single mothers prefer to conceal their marital status and avoid the typical stigma associated with it. This paper proposes that empowering single mothers could be enhanced through the implementation and acknowledgment of existing laws.

Lopez and San Juan (2019) argued that despite the availability of small and part-time job opportunities to solo parents their daily income is relatively low and non-regular. To improve their economic conditions, programs must be implemented aiming for the scaling-up of occupational skills and the accessibility of local-based work for solo parents.

Solo parenting is a multi-faceted struggle. Aside from being low-income earners, they are vulnerable to psychological and physiological health problems due to various stressors, such as economic pressure and stressful life events (Del Mundo, Macanlalay, & Del Mundo, 2019). Such predicaments require immediate intervention by the government through the implementation of social support services for vulnerable sectors, such as solo parents.

Tuazon, et al. (2022) emphasized the significance of the passage of RA 8972 or “The Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2000” in the efficiency of solo parent workers in their respective job posts. The law strengthens both the roles of the government and the employers in safeguarding the interests of solo parents while maintaining their productivity in work.

Solo parents face economic challenges due to limited job opportunities, often linked to educational constraints, lack of skills, or limited work experience. Financial instability is common, with the absence of a second income source straining daily expenses, providing for children, and saving for the future. Despite existing laws and support programs, accessing financial assistance, housing benefits, and educational support can be challenging for solo parents, adding to their economic difficulties (Stack, 2018).

Psychologically, solo parents endure stress and anxiety from juggling parenting, work, and household chores. This constant balancing act takes a toll on their mental well-being. Feelings of isolation are widespread, especially if solo parents lack a strong support network. This social isolation intensifies loneliness, impacting mental health. Furthermore, the psychological challenges faced by solo parents can affect their children, potentially leading to behavioral and emotional issues (Baluyot, et al, 2023).

Socially, solo parents face stigma and judgment, particularly in cultures valuing traditional family structures. Societal pressure can impact self-esteem and hinder social interactions. Limited opportunities for socializing and building support networks contribute to feelings of isolation. Striking a balance between personal life and parental responsibilities becomes challenging, requiring extra effort and resources to navigate social relationships while fulfilling their roles as parents (Vyskocil, 2018).

The City Government of Quezon City stands out as one of the Local Government Units (LGUs) that acknowledges the economic, psychological, and social challenges faced by single parents. Solo parents, who often find themselves in a vulnerable position due to the inherent difficulties of single-handedly raising children, are recognized as facing economic, psychological, and social hurdles. In the ideal context of child-rearing, the presence and support of both parents are considered fundamental. Understanding this, the Quezon City government has taken proactive steps by implementing laws designed to provide special protection for solo parents.

The LGU’s acknowledgment of the unique struggles faced by solo parents aligns with the city's commitment to adopt good governance. In keeping with this commitment, the Quezon City government has established a comprehensive framework of services and benefits to meet the specific needs of solo parents. By doing so, the government not only recognizes the challenges faced by this demographic but actively seeks to alleviate them, thereby contributing to the broader well-being of its constituents.

The city's dedication to serving its community has not gone unnoticed, as evidenced by the numerous accolades it has garnered in the field of good governance. As reported by Lu (2023), the recognition received by Quezon City underscores the effectiveness of its initiatives and the positive impact they have had on the lives of solo parents within its jurisdiction. This acknowledgment from external sources further attests to the city's commitment to excellence in governance and its success in implementing policies that address the unique needs of its diverse population.

While this research paper aimed to highlight the impacts of these programs, it is essential to recognize the diverse nature of solo parenting experiences and the varying effectiveness of support systems across different contexts.

One potential counterargument could center around the scalability and adaptability of Quezon City's initiatives to other regions. Some may contend that what works well in one locale may not necessarily translate seamlessly to another, given the unique socio-economic, cultural, and infrastructural differences between regions. Consequently, understanding the limitations and potential challenges in replicating these initiatives on a broader scale becomes crucial.

Moreover, alternative perspectives might question the comprehensive nature of the support programs, suggesting that certain aspects may inadvertently exclude specific segments of the solo parenting population. It is essential to acknowledge that solo parents face a number of challenges, and while these initiatives address some, there may be room for improvement or expansion to encompass a broader spectrum of needs.

The Local Government Unit of Quezon City conceptualized and implemented programs and services in line with RA 8972. This study delved into the multifaceted challenges faced by solo parents in the Philippines, particularly in Quezon City, where solo parenting had become a prevalent and pressing issue affecting millions of individuals. The research focused on evaluating the effectiveness of programs and services provided by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Quezon City in supporting solo parents. Hence, the study answered the question on whether these programs and services impact on the economic condition of the beneficiaries.

The study quantitatively evaluated Quezon City's LGU programs for solo parents, using descriptive-comparative and descriptive-correlational research designs. It examined 368 registered solo parents' characteristics and relationships, focusing on economic perceptions using a regression analysis model. Quezon City's commitment to solo parent support made it an ideal locale for assessing program outcomes.

The findings of this study served as the basis to help the Local Government Unit of Quezon City enhance programs and services among solo parents to reduce the deprivation of basic needs of solo parents. This study's evaluation of Quezon City's initiatives provides essential knowledge about the effectiveness of support systems. These programs aim to alleviate the intricate challenges faced by solo parents, offering a blueprint for other regions to enhance their support frameworks and contribute to the nationwide well-being of solo parents.

A. *Review of Related Literature*

The theories are employed to explain some existing realities on respondents' social world and some phenomena being studied. Both published and unpublished materials are found to be functional in gaining a glimpse on what this study had gone through. Empirical data from the international and local databases are providing factual information that serves as springboard for the exploration of knowledge.

Solo Parents. Solo parents in the Philippines, both men and women, face unique challenges as they fulfill the dual roles of provider and caregiver. Often, they find themselves in this situation due to various circumstances such as the loss of a spouse, separation, divorce, or even choosing to raise a child independently. Regardless of the reasons, solo parents embody unwavering love and devotion towards their children, creating a nurturing environment against all odds.

Legal Framework. Enacted in the Philippines, the Expanded Solo Parent Act, or Republic Act No. 11861, delineates the concept of solo parents and extends specific rights and benefits to individuals facing the challenges of single parenthood. It acknowledges the government's recognition of the family as the cornerstone of the nation. It aligns with the state policy that the family, as the foundation of the country, reinforces its unity and guarantees its overall advancement. The Act commits to formulating a comprehensive program of services for solo parents and their children, to be implemented by the government agencies specified in this legislation (Philippine Official Gazette, 2022).

Solo Parents' Welfare Act of 2000 defines solo parent as following:) "Solo parent" - any individual who falls under any of the following categories: (1) A woman who gives birth as a result of rape and other crimes against chastity even without a final conviction of the offender: Provided, That the mother keeps and raises the child; (2) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to death of spouse; (3) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood while the spouse is detained or is serving sentence for a criminal conviction for at least one (1) year; (4) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to physical and/or mental incapacity of spouse as certified by a public medical practitioner;(5)

Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to legal separation or de facto separation from spouse for at least one (1) year, as long as he/she is entrusted with the custody of the children; (6) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to declaration of nullity or annulment of marriage as decreed by a court or by a church as long as he/she is entrusted with the custody of the children; (7)

Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to abandonment of spouse for at least one (1) year; (8) Unmarried mother/father who has preferred to keep and rear her/his child/children instead of having others care for them or give them up to a welfare institution; (9) Any other person who solely provides parental care and support to a child or children; (10) Any family member who assumes the responsibility of head of family as a result of the death, abandonment, disappearance or prolonged absence of the parents or solo parent.

The law was later amended into Republic Act 11861, or the Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act that was enacted on June 4, 2022. Act now includes six categories of solo parents. These categories encompass: (1) a parent who solely cares for and supports their child or children, (2) a spouse, family member, or guardian of the child or children of an overseas Filipino worker (OFW) who has been away for 12 uninterrupted months, (3)

An unmarried parent who raises their child or children, (4) a legal guardian, adoptive parent, or foster parent providing sole parental care and support, (5) a relative within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity who assumes parental care and support due to the absence or loss of parents for at least six months, and (6) a pregnant woman who solely cares for and supports her unborn child or children (Lu, 2023). This means that in the expanded solo parent act, guardians like uncles and aunts and grandparents can now be considered solo parent.

With the help of RA 8972, solo parent employees, who are solely taking care of their children can reap the exclusive benefits provided by the government. Section 7 of RA 8972 mandates that no employer shall discriminate against any solo-parent employee with respect to terms and conditions of employment on account of his/her status. Thus, employers of solo-parent employees should be guided by the employment-related benefits available to all solo parents, such as:

➤ *Flexible Work Schedule*

The employer shall provide for a flexible working schedule for solo parents: Provided, that the same shall not affect individual and company productivity: *Provided, further*, that any employer may request exemption from the above requirements from the DOLE on certain meritorious grounds.

➤ *Work Discrimination*

No employer shall discriminate against any solo parent employee with respect to terms and conditions of employment on account of his/her status.

➤ *Parental Leave.*

In addition to leave privileges under existing laws, parental leave of not more than seven (7) working days every year shall be granted to any solo parent employee who has rendered service of at least one (1) year.

➤ *Educational Benefits*

The DECS, CHED and TESDA shall provide the following benefits and privileges:

- Scholarship programs for qualified solo parents and their children in institutions of basic, tertiary and technical/skills education; and
- Nonformal education programs appropriate for solo parents and their children.

➤ *Housing Benefits*

Solo parents shall be given allocation in housing projects and shall be provided with liberal terms of payment on said government low-cost housing projects in accordance with housing law provisions prioritizing applicants below the poverty line as declared by the NEDA.

➤ *Medical Assistance*

The DOH shall develop a comprehensive health care program for solo parents and their children. The program shall be implemented by the DOH through their retained hospitals and medical centers and the local government units (LGUs) through their provincial/district/city/municipal hospitals and rural health units (RHUs).

Under the Solo Parents Act, solo parents are entitled to several rights and benefits designed to support them in life (Alngag, 2022). These include provisions for flexible work schedules, an annual parental leave of up to seven working days, and opportunities for educational scholarships or financial assistance for their children's education. Additionally, the law places an obligation on employers to furnish appropriate support and benefits to solo parents within the workplace. This legislation stands as a crucial acknowledgment of the unique circumstances solo parents may face and seeks to provide meaningful assistance to them in navigating their parental responsibilities.

Legarde (2023) indicates that the Act has significantly improved the socio-economic conditions of single-parent households, providing financial assistance, educational opportunities, and social services. It has also strengthened the well-being and resilience of single parents, enabling them to effectively cope with their responsibilities. Despite these positive outcomes, certain areas need attention, such as enhancing coordination among government agencies, raising awareness of support programs, and developing specific interventions to address specific challenges faced by single parents.

Tuazon, et al. (2022) has given emphasis on the importance of RA 8972 or “The Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2000” in the protection of the welfare of solo parents. However, it was revealed that solo parents had several misconceptions about this law, especially on the part the law granted them monetary aid, which in reality does not. Whatever they receive as assistance may have been by virtue of local ordinances.

Pinatil, et al. (2023) highlights the fortitude developed by solo parents as they navigate their roles, maintaining control over their circumstances, solidifying family relationships, serving as home counselors, and holding onto hope for the future. To improve the lives of solo parents and uphold the principle of social justice, the study recommends implementing sustainable livelihood programs, offering scholarships for vocational courses, providing access to legal aid services, and conducting personality and development training for solo parents.

In this study, the researcher involved solo parents in Quezon City as respondents to evaluate the effectiveness of their programs and services. The population of solo parents in Quezon City is diverse and distributed across its six districts as can be observed in Figure 1. Based on the 2023 data of the local government, in District 2, the highest number of solo parents is recorded with 2,169 individuals, suggesting a significant concentration in this area. Districts 4 and 5 also have substantial solo parent populations, with 1,648 and 1,500 individuals, respectively. Meanwhile, Districts 1, 3, and 6 have comparatively lower numbers of solo parents, with 863, 1,102, and 1,303 individuals, respectively.

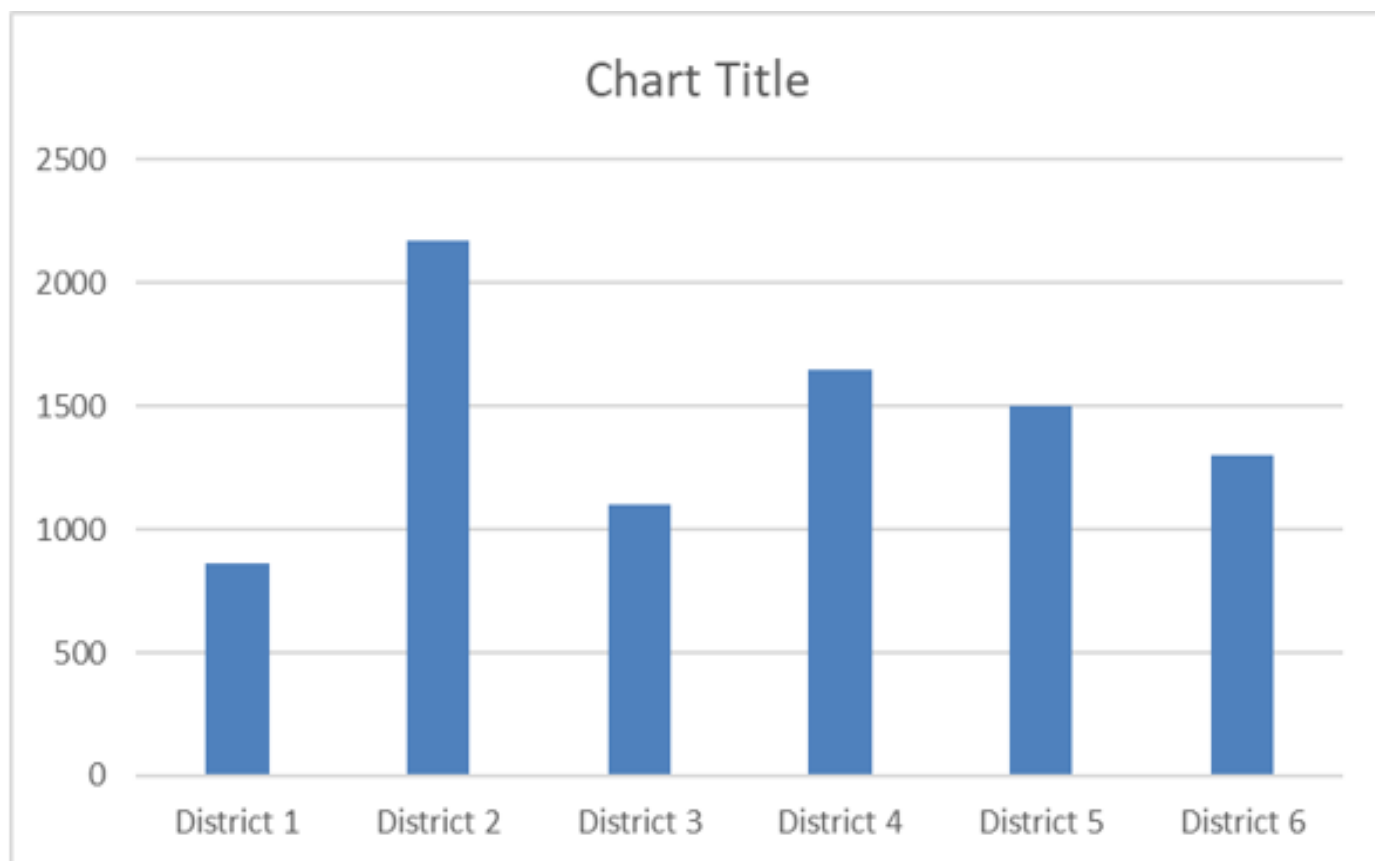


Fig 1 Population of Solo Parents in Quezon City

B. Psychological Impact.

Numerous studies were conducted regarding solo parenting however, the emphasis is on the psychological impact on the child and the social inclination and anxiety confronting the solo parent brought about by single rearing of a child.

Despite the rise in the prevalence of single-parent households over the past few decades, they continue to encounter various obstacles such as financial struggles, health issues, and societal judgment. Studies, conducted on a global scale, seek to comprehend the experiences and hardships confronted by single-parent families, exploring how cultural and social influences contribute to these challenges. Most indicate that single parents tend to undergo more adverse experiences compared to parents in coupled relationships (Jain & Mahmoodi, 2022).

According to Liang, et al. (2019), parents from single-parent families typically exhibit elevated levels of emotional distress, experiencing heightened instances of stress, depression, anxiety, alcohol use disorders, and somatization disorder when compared to parents in two-parent families. Likewise, Given the prevalence of social stigma, it is likely that the true count of young single parents, particularly single mothers, exceeds the figures reported by the statistics office.

More and more single mothers worldwide are facing challenges, and researchers have been studying their problems and health issues. Zakaria, et al. (2019) aimed to understand the mental health difficulties of single mothers and the tough situations they go through. Accordingly, one big problem that stands out is money troubles, especially for those with low incomes, no jobs, or living in poverty. This shows a clear connection between being poor and having mental health issues for single mothers. Single mothers struggle financially due to low-paying jobs, working for themselves, being unemployed, having limited education, not having enough skills, and their age.

All these factors create a complicated set of challenges that make the financial situation of single mothers even tougher. Additionally, analysis shows that many single mothers face another big problem of not getting enough support from the people around them. Many studies highlight how important it is for single mothers to have support from their community. When this support is lacking, it becomes a major factor contributing to their mental health difficulties.

Bain (2020) pointed out that up to the present solo mothers are the subject of discrimination due to paternalistic and stereotypical biases and ideals mostly hurled by church members. In such case, there must a bridge between the government and the church to close the gap that perpetrates the ostracization of single mothers. Collaboration must be established to develop empowerment of women in hostile and discriminating environment.

Jones, et al. (2022) delves into the psychological aspects of single mothers and fathers by choice to give understanding on their mental health and social support experiences. Through quantitative analysis, the research reveals a noteworthy finding: there are no statistically significant differences in the mental health of single mothers compared to single fathers.

This challenges preconceived notions or stereotypes regarding the psychological well-being of these distinct groups of solo parents. The study further highlights the proactive nature of both groups in seeking supportive networks, both prior to becoming parents and during their experiences as single parents.

A significant aspect of the study of Jones, et al. involves a thematic analysis exploring single fathers' descriptions of social responses to their family type. The results indicate a mix of supportive and negative reactions, with a predominant perception of interactions as positive. However, a noteworthy observation emerges—references by the public or media to their family structure as novel or different. This introduces a potential societal influence on the psychological well-being of single mothers and fathers, as such references may either challenge or reinforce prevailing norms about family structures.

C. Social Capital.

Another important consideration is social capital. Social capital according to Woolcock, as cited by Gannon and Roberts (2020), refers to the norms and networks that regulates collective actions for common or mutual benefit. In a sense, it basically assumes that the joint efforts of members of society can be capitalized to achieve societal goals.

Social capital has several manifestations in the literature because of its broad application in economics, such as the dimensions of network, trust, and norm. It is a vital asset for those in poverty since it can provide access to that which is lacking: capital. Poverty is a state or condition in which a person or community lacks the capital required to meet their needs. The poor would benefit from more of all forms of capital. However, social capital is not like other capitals; the 'capital' in social capital is more analogous to tangible and intangible resources, benefits, productivity, and savings. As such, it is a metaphor rather than representing the standard economic definition of capital. Therefore, from an individual perspective, social capital could be simply explained as social relationships, that are positive and imbued with solidarity, that facilitate the mobilization of *capital*. From a community perspective, social capital includes the social processes and structures that shape the quantity and quality of a society's social interactions. It can provide a framework for understanding the broad social processes involved in poverty and its alleviation. Social capital is a lens for exploring important social issues. Although seeming to have an economic focus, social capital can be a deeply social tool when the 'capital' is understood as a metaphor. Social capital can focus attention on important social factors and processes at a strategic program level and can be an important tool to shape project design. For poverty alleviation projects social capital can illuminate potential risks and opportunities that can have significant implications for overall project success. Widiyanti et al. (2018) talked about poverty through women's empowerment by engaging in social activities. They revealed that network, trust, and norm social capital dimensions have positive and significant effects on women's empowerment.

In other words, capacitating single parents to participate actively in the many affairs of society, especially employment and trade, despite disadvantages helps build a better society where vulnerable sectors are protected and supported.

D. Economic Empowerment.

Empowerment of single parents come in many forms. Economic empowerment, which refers to strengthening access to job opportunities, trade or business, capital, and income, eventually leads to better psychological wellbeing (Stack & Meredith, 2018). Harkness, Gregg, and Fernandez-Salgado (2020) opined that increasing the income of solo parents results in better investment in children's development. Relatively, it was found out that children in single-parent families had poorer outcomes in various measures.

Providing various support systems and opening floodgates of opportunities to solo parents establishes social empowerment. These areas help build autonomy, power, confidence, and other essential means that motivate change and better social standing. Rahman, et al. (2021) underscored the important role of social support from family and society as well as moral support in ensuring the improvement of the lives of single parents with their children.

Fajardo-Jarilla (2023) discusses the general challenges faced by single mothers in the Philippines, including social stigma and discrimination. It was highlighted that the negative attitudes and stereotypes towards single mothers are prevalent in society, often labeling them as irresponsible or morally deficient. Nonetheless, the resilience and determination of single mothers who strive to overcome these barriers are surprising. It emphasizes the importance of changing societal attitudes and providing support networks and initiatives to empower single mothers and improve their overall well-being. Hence, there are calls for greater recognition of the strength and resilience of single mothers and advocates for a more inclusive and supportive society for them.

De Gendre et al. (2021) maintained that single mothers around the world face significant constraints in terms of time and income, leading to a heavy reliance on government transfers. Which was the reason why the Philippine government intended to enhance the scope and benefits provided by the original Solo Parent Welfare Act (RA 8972) to ensure a broader range of solo parents can qualify for support Through the introduction of HB 907, which would later become the Expanded Solo Parent Act. The bill seeks to expand the definition of "solo parent" to encompass the diverse experiences and stages of parenting. For instance, under

the Welfare bill, a mother will be able to apply for a card during pregnancy, enabling her to receive assistance in covering expenses related to pre-natal supplements, laboratory tests, and medical bills. This expansion aims to provide early support and alleviate financial burdens for solo parents, recognizing the unique challenges they face throughout different phases of parenting (Castañeda, 2021).

Extensive research consistently demonstrates that single-parent families are more prone to experiencing income poverty compared to other types of families, a pattern observed across high-income countries. Consequently, numerous studies have confirmed the vital role of cash transfers in mitigating the prevalence and severity of poverty among single parents. Morissens, as cited by Gornick (2019), emphasizes that countries achieving the most favorable outcomes in terms of poverty reduction for single parents and ensuring a decent standard of living are those that combine generous universal benefits with supplementary family benefits specifically targeting single parents based on their status, rather than their income. This approach recognizes the significance of providing comprehensive support to single-parent families, regardless of their income level, to enhance their economic well-being and overall quality of life.

Many poverty theories conceptualize negative traits in poverty-related decision-making including impertinence and impulsivity which are thought to perpetuate poverty cycles, such as if minority mother has a child and does not marry the child's father, the culture of poverty view would suggest that family structure is partly to blame for her poverty;

The individualists' poverty theory contends that the poor possess some particular characteristics that ensure that they will become and remain poor. As cited by Stoeffler and Joseph (2020), the culture of poverty theory proposed by anthropologist Oscar Lewis argued that there is a unique culture (or subculture) among the poor, that embodies a set of values and behaviors which are not similar to their counterparts.

Considering this theory, it is noteworthy to revisit some areas of development that may contribute to the perennial predicaments of single parents. On the other hand, the structuralists' poverty theory views poverty as a defect of capitalism. With the accumulation of wealth to the privileged few and the abuse of the working class perpetrated by the capitalists, many are put in situations of dire disadvantage without fault. Accordingly, evaluating how social and economics systems affect the status of single parents is among crucial points of investigation. Also, how social justice or justifiable distribution of wealth through social and welfare supports can alleviate distress among single parents is an important area. Single parents are more likely to experience disruptions such as moves and remarriage. Major changes can affect children. Children do well in a controlled environment. Any emotional turmoil and uncertainty may lead to increased psychological problems.

Stack and Meredith (2018) gave a common explanation for the problems found among single-parent families are at high risk of financial hardship which may impact on psychological wellbeing. This study explored the impact of financial hardship on wellbeing on 15 single parents. Semi-structured interviews were conducted and analyzed using constructivist thematic analysis. Participants described food and fuel poverty, and the need to make sacrifices to ensure that children's basic needs were met. In some cases, participants went without food and struggled to pay bills. Isolation, anxiety, depression, paranoia, and suicidal thoughts were described. However, participants reported that psychological services not able to take the needs of single parents in to account. Support for single parents must acknowledge the impact of social circumstances and give more consideration economic drivers of distress.

Lopez and San Juan (2019) conducted a study of 489 registered solo parents in Catanduanes, majority of which are widows. The average age of solo parents is 38.9, an age group with potential for entrepreneurial and livelihood activities. Despite being college graduates and primarily employed in government or private sectors, 62% of these solo parents belong to the low-income group, facing financial challenges with an average monthly income of Php 7,500.

Specific municipalities like San Andres, San Miguel, and Bagamanoc have a higher percentage of unemployed solo parents, with identified skills in gathering shells, food vending, abaca stripping, and fish gathering. The study emphasizes the need to enhance the existing skills of these solo parents, particularly focusing on entrepreneurial skills such as marketing strategy, to enable them to turn their capabilities into sustainable income sources and address financial struggles caused by the lack of buyers for their products.

In the study of Eborá and Calimutan (2020), it was revealed that solo-parent teachers found their source of motivation from "financial freedom; fulfilling one's child needs; and day-off from work." On the other hand, "poor financial/ resource management; stress and fatigue; and child discipline" are primary apprehensions as single parents. These experiences relate on safety and security and esteem needs of the respondents.

Empowering single parents involves addressing economic challenges, societal attitudes, and individual well-being comprehensively. Economic empowerment, particularly through increased income and entrepreneurial opportunities, contributes significantly to the psychological well-being of single parents. However, persistent challenges, such as social stigma and discrimination, underscore the need for societal attitude shifts and strong support systems.

E. Programs and Services for Solo Parents

The challenges faced by solo parents, particularly in the Philippines, have garnered attention in academic literature, highlighting various dimensions of their struggles and the need for effective support.

Solo parents often encounter significant economic hardships, as evidenced by studies such as the one conducted by Lopez and San Juan (2019) in Catanduanes, Philippines. Financial struggles are pervasive, with many solo parents belonging to the low-income group, facing challenges in meeting their basic needs. Despite possessing skills, economic opportunities are limited, leading to financial instability.

De Gendre et al. (2021) discuss the broader systemic constraints faced by single mothers globally. Economic disparities, time constraints, and heavy reliance on government transfers underscore the need for comprehensive policy interventions. While Ebor and Calimutan (2020) emphasizes the need to explore educational and employment opportunities for solo parents. Motivations, such as financial freedom and fulfilling children's needs, drive solo-parent teachers, while barriers include poor financial/resource management.

Dagupon and Garin (2022) reveal that lack of awareness about support associations and financial difficulties persists, indicating gaps in policy implementation and communication. While legal frameworks exist to address these issues, effective implementation, awareness, and targeted interventions are crucial for alleviating the plight of solo parents and fostering a supportive environment.

In recognition of the unique challenges faced by solo parents in the Philippines, the government, along with various organizations and agencies, has implemented programs and services to provide support and assistance to this vulnerable group. According to Macasero (2022), the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act outline several additional benefits available to solo parents in the Philippines. These benefits aim to provide further support and assistance to solo parents in various aspects of their lives. One of the key benefits is the provision of scholarships for both the solo parent and one child until the child reaches 21 years of age. This educational support aims to help solo parents and their children access higher education opportunities. Additionally, solo parents are entitled to a 20% discount on hospital bills, alleviating the financial burden of medical expenses.

Macasero further explains that for those earning less than P250,000 annually, the law offers a 10% discount and a value-added tax exemption on goods specifically for children up to the age of six, including essential items such as food, micronutrient supplements, sanitary diapers, medications, vaccines, and other health-related needs. Furthermore, solo parents can enjoy a 15% discount on school supplies, which eases the financial strain of back-to-school expenses. Those earning minimum wage or less may also receive a cash subsidy from their local government, provided they are not beneficiaries of other cash assistance programs. Lastly, solo parents with school-going children have priority enrollment for the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program cash aid, given that their income falls within the minimum wage or below threshold.

Also, according to Macasero, these additional benefits supplement the existing provisions of the original solo parents law, ensuring that solo parents receive comprehensive support in their journey of parenthood. According to new law, solo parents who earn minimum wage or below will be eligible to receive a monthly cash subsidy of P1000 from their local government units (LGU). It is a requirement that they are not currently benefiting from any other cash assistance programs provided by the government.

General Santos City held a program to mark its first national solo parent week in line with the Extended Solo Parents Welfare Act (DXDX GenSan News, 2023). The event was attended by solo parents from different barangays. The program was followed by information campaigns and barangay-level activities throughout the week, aligned with the theme "Bagong Batas na Mas Pinatibay, Kaakibat ng mga Solo" (Stronger Support through the New Law, Together with Solo Parents).

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in collaboration with the Abra provincial local government unit (LGU), disbursed cash assistance amounting to P2,000 to approximately 2,850 solo parents during the Abrenian Kawayan Festival or Abra Foundation Day. This assistance is in line with Republic Act 11861, also known as the amended "Solo Parents' Welfare Act of 2000," which mandates social safety programs for single parents. The distribution was made to solo parents from Abra's 27 communities. Additionally, DSWD statistics indicate that 588 solo parent-headed households in Abra are beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, and 36 qualified solo parents have received livelihood support through the Sustainable Livelihood Program (Cruz, 2023).

The province of Iloilo in the Philippines commemorates Solo Parent's Day through Resolution No. 2018-283, which institutionalizes the celebration in the province. With over 5,000 solo parents in Iloilo, the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) praises their determination and resilience in single-handedly raising their children. The provincial government of Iloilo emphasizes its commitment to supporting solo parents in various ways. Solo parents are eligible to receive assistance through the province's Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) program.

The PSWDO also collaborates with the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to provide scholarship grants for the children of solo parents. Moreover, the participants were informed about the recently passed Provincial Ordinance 2023-294, which enacts comprehensive programs, services, privileges, and benefits for solo parents and their children in the province of Iloilo (Conserva, 2023).

With 6,719 registered solo parents holding a solo parent ID, Taguig stands out as one of the first cities in the National Capital Region (NCR) to provide this identification card as a benefit (James, 2023). Registered solo parents in Taguig receive a range of services, including information campaigns on the Solo Parent Welfare Act, seminars, training on livelihood and health, job fairs, counseling services, and the opportunity to connect with fellow solo parents through the Solo Parent Association. The City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO), is dedicated to supporting and assisting solo parents and their children. Each barangay has a designated focal person to guide and inform solo parents about their rights and the benefits available in Taguig. The city plans to expand the city-wide registration for solo parent IDs and strengthen the services provided by help desks in all barangays. Mayor Lani Cayetano emphasizes that the welfare of solo parents is a priority, and the CSWDO will continue to enhance and extend its programs and services to provide ongoing support to solo parents and their families. Solo Parent Week serves as a reminder of Taguig's commitment to the well-being of its solo parents.

In Quezon City, the Quezon City Social Services Development Department (QC SSDD) recently provided educational assistance to 500 children of registered indigent solo parents in the city. As mandated by the "Quezon City Expanded Benefits of Solo Parents and their Children Ordinance," these beneficiaries are eligible for financial aid and scholarships in basic and tertiary education, as well as non-formal educational programs. In addition to educational assistance, registered solo parents in Quezon City have access to employment referrals and assistance through the Public Employment and Services Office (PESO). They are also entitled to a seven-day parental leave and can participate in various livelihood programs, such as the "Tindahan ni Ate Joy" and "Pangkabuhayang QC" initiatives. The financial assistance is facilitated by the Quezon City Small Business and Cooperative Development and Promotions Office (QC SMCDPO)(Yalao, 2022).

Despite the legislation of the law, solo parents remain to be as among the most vulnerable sectors in society. Dagupon and Garin (2022) revealed that many respondents faced physical undernourishment due to poor diets and experienced mental and emotional distress due to increased responsibilities and feelings of betrayal. Lack of awareness about the Solo Parents Association, which could provide assistance, was also noted. Financial difficulties were common among the respondents, as they lacked a regular source of income to meet their needs.

In accordance with existing research on single parents and family policies, there is compelling evidence supporting the notion that family policy effectively reduces poverty for all families with children. Moreover, certain studies propose that single parents may derive greater advantages from universal family policies compared to couples with children (Nieuwenhuis & Maldonado, 2018).

According to the findings of a 2015 survey, the primary support that single-parent families considered crucial was financial assistance, including covering living costs and parenting expenses. This was closely followed by the need for housing support, such as access to suitable facilities and affordable rental housing. These results indicate a strong desire among single-parent families for economic assistance (Kim & Kim, 2020).

It is undeniable that single parents and their children require cash transfers and benefits, and this extends to the fact that cash transfers are highly effective in alleviating their poverty. In today's context, it is increasingly crucial for countries to employ cash transfers in conjunction with other strategies to address the inequities prevalent in the labor market. Nations that implement sufficient cash transfer programs significantly decrease child poverty rates in families headed by single parents. Conversely, countries that choose not to adopt such programs are making political decisions that result in neglecting the well-being of their children (Bradshaw, et al. 2018).

This research significantly advanced the understanding of challenges faced by solo parents in the Philippines by synthesizing diverse perspectives. It underscores the pervasive economic hardships experienced by solo parents, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions. Additionally, the study expands the lens to global systemic constraints faced by single mothers, stressing the importance of comprehensive policy interventions. Information regarding educational and employment opportunities, gaps in policy implementation, and innovative localized efforts contribute discrete dimensions to the understanding of solo parents' struggles. The research advocates for ongoing evaluation and adaptability of policies to effectively address the evolving needs of solo parents to make a substantial contribution to the discourse on solo parenting challenges and support mechanisms.

Due to compelling reasons, such as the need to continuously evaluate the programs and services offered by the government to ensure the welfare of solo parents as vulnerable social group, this study aimed to explore the perspectives of solo parent participant regarding the programs and services offered by the local government of QC for the solo parents and their impact on their economic conditions.

F. Economic Status of Solo Parents

The economic status of solo parents in the Philippines is an important aspect to consider, as it reflects the challenges and vulnerabilities faced by this particular group within society. In the Philippines, a solo parent is defined as an individual who is left alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to various circumstances such as death, abandonment, separation, or pregnancy resulting from rape.

Solo parents often face income disparities compared to two-parent households. Many solo parents, particularly single mothers, struggle to secure stable employment or face limited job opportunities due to various factors such as lack of education, skills, and experience, as well as gender biases in the labor market. As a result, their earning potential may be lower, making it difficult to provide for their children's needs adequately.

The lack of financial support from absent parents or spouses can significantly impact the economic status of solo parents. The Philippines has laws in place that require financial support from the non-custodial parent, but enforcement can be challenging. Many solo parents experience difficulties in obtaining consistent and sufficient financial assistance, which places additional strain on their economic well-being.

Access to education and employment opportunities is crucial for solo parents to improve their economic status. The Philippine government has implemented programs and policies aimed at supporting solo parents, such as scholarships, livelihood assistance, and employment opportunities, but there are still significant gaps. The lack of affordable and accessible child care facilities poses a challenge for solo parents who need to balance work and childcare responsibilities.

Solo parents are more vulnerable to poverty due to their limited economic resources. The poverty rate among solo parents in the Philippines is generally higher compared to two-parent households. The government provides social welfare assistance through the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and the Solo Parent Welfare Act, which grant financial aid, healthcare benefits, and educational support. However, the reach and effectiveness of these programs can be limited, and some solo parents may not be aware of or able to access these resources.

Empowering solo parents through skills training, education, and entrepreneurship programs can enhance their economic prospects. Community support networks, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society groups play a crucial role in providing assistance, counseling, and advocacy for solo parents. Such initiatives can help improve their economic status and overall well-being.

Efforts to improve the economic status of solo parents in the Philippines require a multi-faceted approach. This includes implementing comprehensive employment policies that address discrimination, promoting accessible and affordable childcare facilities, enhancing educational opportunities, and strengthening social welfare programs. By addressing these challenges and providing adequate support, solo parents can have better economic opportunities.

There are various interventions through which the government try to help solo parents. According to Araña (2023), under the newly enacted Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2022, solo parents in the Philippines will now receive added benefits when purchasing various items at drug stores, pharmacies, grocery stores, and similar establishments. The law, authored by Cagayan de Oro City 2nd District Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, entitles solo parents to discounts and VAT exemptions. The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) is expected to implement a 10% discount and a 12% exemption from Value Added Tax (VAT) for solo parents with children under the age of six and annual incomes below P250,000. This legislation allows solo parents to avail themselves of discounts and VAT exemptions on a range of products. These include baby formula, food and micronutrient supplements, sanitary diapers, medicines, vaccines, and other medical supplements.

Over time, there has been some notable improvement in the government's support for solo parents. However, significant challenges still persist in their daily lives. According to Abing (2018), single parents consider familial, educational, and economic values to be of moderate importance, with familial values being the most crucial. In terms of their experiences, single parents reported maintaining a fair and balanced approach to child rearing, time management, financial management, and self-image perception. Nevertheless, they encounter the greatest difficulties in managing their finances and maintaining a positive self-image. To cope with these challenges, single parents prioritize spending quality time with their children and engaging in work or household activities.

During the pandemic, single mothers from a socioeconomic group experienced significant impacts on their lives, particularly in social, economic, and psychological aspects (Zakaria, 2022). The financial constraints resulting from income reductions brought about by the crisis compelled these single mothers and their children to adopt a frugal lifestyle, foregoing luxuries and non-essential expenses. Additionally, to support their children's needs, single mothers had to take on multiple jobs simultaneously during the pandemic. This situation reflects the challenges faced by single mothers and the resilience they demonstrated in navigating the difficulties brought about by the pandemic.

Due to the ongoing challenges faced by solo parents, particularly in terms of economic well-being, this study aims to assess the economic status of solo parents in Quezon City. The objective is to determine the effectiveness of existing programs and services designed to support them. By evaluating their economic conditions, the study aims to shed light on the impact of these initiatives on the lives of solo parents.

G. The Impact of Solo Parents Programs and Services to Economic Status

Solo parenting presents unique challenges and vulnerabilities, particularly in terms of economic stability and financial well-being. In response to the specific needs of solo parents, various programs and services have been developed by governments, organizations, and communities to provide support and assistance.

This research aims to examine the impact of these programs and services on the economic status of solo parents. It seeks to explore the extent to which these interventions have been successful in improving the financial situation of solo parents and their ability to meet the economic needs of their families. By evaluating the effectiveness of different programs and services, this research seeks to provide an unbiased assessment of their impact on economic outcomes, such as income, employment opportunities, financial literacy, and access to resources.

Rahman (2022) underscored the important role of policy measures aimed to support solo parents, especially during the pandemic. It is indicated that the government's policy measures have improved the financial security of single-parent families. However, in terms of mental health, the support provided to single parents did not significantly improve their quality of life. Many single parents experienced severe effects of the pandemic, particularly during the lockdown period, before receiving assistance from the government.

Yusof, et al (2021) revealed that some single mothers take on multiple jobs to support their families, as some divorced husbands do not provide child support. Policies and services for childcare and financial support are crucial to prevent single mothers from falling into poverty. A draft national action plan with strong policies and programs has been developed to empower single mothers and address the underlying causes of their struggles. The goal is to provide custom-built policies and programs for areas such as childcare, education, and skills training. The implementation of the national action plan is expected to motivate and equip single mothers to face their challenges more positively. The survey results and formal report have been submitted to the government to establish the necessary institutional support and efficient policies and services for single mothers to lift them out of poverty.

In Catanduanes, there is a significant population of registered solo parents, mainly widows, who are in their late thirties on average (Lopez & San Juan, 2019). Despite having education and employment in the government or private sectors, many of them struggle with low income. Unemployment rates are highest among solo parents in the municipalities of San Andres, San Miguel, and Bagamanoc. These solo parents possess a range of skills that can be leveraged for additional income, including gathering shells, food vending, abaca stripping, fish gathering, cooking, hog-raising, and sewing. Enhancing their existing skills and fostering entrepreneurial abilities, particularly in marketing, is crucial for their success. Identifying community needs and promoting business incubation can empower solo parents, who derive motivation and empowerment from earning through their work and collaborating with others. Establishing cooperatives and developing action plans for livelihood projects can provide significant support to solo parents in their entrepreneurial endeavors.

Since 2000, a problem-solving model has been widely implemented and taught in Iran to various groups, including the Society for Protecting the Rights of the Child, social work students, and teachers. UNICEF also played a role in training social workers, psychologists, and psychiatrists in this model from 2006 onwards. In 2008, a research project focused on empowering Iranian single mothers by teaching them this model, which was traditionally used by professionals. Addelyan Rasi, et al, (2020) revealed that all the women effectively utilized the model, leading to more deliberate decisions in improving their lives. Positive outcomes included increased employment opportunities and enhanced family relationships. The study suggests that empowerment-oriented social work has the potential to support clients in achieving their goals, and the psychosocial intervention project could serve as a valuable model not only in Iran but also in other societies.

Based on the data and feedback from single parents involved in their project, Dromey, et al. (2020) developed a four-point plan to address poverty and improve access to employment after the pandemic. The plan includes providing comprehensive employment support and specialized coaching for single parents, promoting the creation of high-quality flexible and part-time jobs, enhancing childcare assistance by reducing upfront costs and revising Universal Credit rules, and ensuring an effective social security system that supports both unemployed and employed single parents. It is crucial to take action as the findings indicate that without intervention, the effects of pandemic will further exacerbate inequalities and increase child poverty rates significantly.

Melad, et al. (2020) conducted a study on poverty alleviation programs and their effects on beneficiaries. The research revealed positive outcomes, particularly in terms of improved access to education and healthcare services. However, challenges related to program targeting and compliance still exist. To maximize the impact of these programs, the study recommends strengthening targeting mechanisms and monitoring compliance more effectively. Additionally, expanding the program to include support for livelihoods and financial education is suggested as a means to address other dimensions of poverty reduction.

Social assistance plays a vital role in reducing poverty and inequality and promoting inclusive growth in Asia and the Pacific. However, the need for equitable distribution of social assistance and the importance of balancing its protective and investment roles must be given enough attention. Additionally, the importance of resource mobilization and sustainable financing for strengthening social assistance programs should also be emphasized. (Barrientos, 2019).

According to Ayoo (2021), to address poverty, several strategies can be pursued. These include promoting economic growth to increase incomes and employment opportunities, implementing economic and institutional reforms to enhance resource utilization, prioritizing the basic needs of the poor in national policies, facilitating microfinance programs to encourage innovation and smallscale businesses, improving marketing systems to enhance production, providing incentives to the private sector, and implementing targeted cash transfers and affirmative actions to ensure inclusivity and reach marginalized demographics with poverty reduction initiatives.

It is evident that the limited and lack of up-to-date literature about the struggles and development of solo parents highlights a significant gap in our understanding of their experiences. The available studies, though valuable, may not capture the evolving dynamics and emerging issues that solo parents face in today's rapidly changing society.

This comprehensive review reveals the various understanding of the challenges faced by solo parents and the efficacy of existing policies and programs. The research investigated the impact of interventions on the economic status of solo parents, delving into dimensions such as income, employment opportunities, financial literacy, and resource access.

While acknowledging positive outcomes of government policies in enhancing financial security, the study also underscores persistent challenges, particularly in mental health improvement, echoing Rahman's (2022) findings. The global perspective, as presented by Yusof et al. (2021), emphasizes the importance of childcare and financial support policies to prevent single mothers from falling into poverty. The exploration of the solo parent population in Catanduanes sheds light on regional variations, with a focus on skills enhancement and entrepreneurial support for economic upliftment. Insights from Iran and the UK introduce empowerment-oriented social work models and targeted post-pandemic plans, respectively, showcasing diverse strategies to address poverty among solo parents.

However, Melad et al.'s (2020) study emphasizes the need for improved targeting mechanisms and program expansion for more comprehensive poverty reduction. The concluding remarks draw attention to the broader context of social assistance in Asia and the Pacific, emphasizing the significance of equitable distribution and sustainable financing. Ayoo's (2021) strategies for poverty reduction are considered, providing a holistic framework for addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by solo parents. Hence, this evaluation of existing policies and programs emphasizes the necessity for ongoing adaptation and comprehensive support to effectively address the evolving needs of solo parents in contemporary society.

Researches in this area are concerning, as they hinder our ability to comprehensively address the needs and concerns of solo parents. By gaining deeper knowledge into their challenges, coping mechanisms, and development, we can develop more targeted and effective programs and services that aim to improve their overall well-being and economic status.

Future Directions. The review of existing programs and services for solo parents suggests several potential future directions that could enhance support and address emerging challenges faced by this vulnerable group. Firstly, there is a need for planned initiatives to address mental health aspects, as highlighted by Rahman (2022). Implementing counseling services, mental health awareness campaigns, and stress management programs could significantly contribute to the overall well-being of solo parents.

Secondly, acknowledging the diverse skills possessed by solo parents calls for the development of appropriate training and entrepreneurial programs. Empowering solo parents with the skills needed for self-employment, business management, and market access could develop economic independence and resilience. Additionally, a closer examination of the educational and employment opportunities for solo parents, as advocated by Ebor and Calimutan (2020), can guide policy changes. Introducing sufficient scholarship programs, vocational training initiatives, and employer incentives for hiring solo parents could enhance their access to stable and fulfilling employment opportunities.

Furthermore, considering the global perspective on childcare and financial support, policies should be expanded to ensure comprehensive coverage and prevent single mothers from falling into poverty, following the model proposed by Yusof et al. (2021). This includes refining child support regulations, facilitating affordable childcare options, and incentivizing companies to provide family-friendly work environments.

In line with the positive outcomes of empowerment-oriented social work models in Iran (Addelyan Rasi et al., 2020), future research and programs could explore the implementation of similar models in other societies. Such models focus on enhancing decision-making skills and self-efficacy, contributing to improved employment opportunities and family relationships.

Moreover, the post-pandemic plan proposed by Dromey et al. (2020) in the UK could serve as a blueprint for governments worldwide. Implementing a comprehensive strategy that includes specialized coaching, flexible job opportunities, enhanced childcare support, and a strong social security system would contribute to mitigating the economic impact of crises on solo parents.

Lastly, ongoing research and evaluation are crucial to adapt policies and programs to the evolving needs of solo parents. Continuous monitoring and assessment of the effectiveness of existing initiatives, coupled with a commitment to fill the gaps identified in this comprehensive review, will ensure that future programs are responsive and based on the unique challenges faced by solo parents in today's rapidly changing society.

H. *Significance of the Study*

The result was utilized as the basis for development programs and policies on the following individuals, sectors, and institution:

➤ *For Solo Parents.*

This study contributes to the development of human development strategies for solo parents by providing a detailed and clear analysis of their specific needs and challenges they faced. Through a thorough examination of the impact of existing programs and services, the research offers ideas about areas requiring planned intervention. By understanding the unique circumstances of solo parents, administrators can effectively make initiatives to address economic, educational, and social aspects effectively. This knowledge ensures the creation of more precise, comprehensive, and empathetic strategies that enhance the well-being and resilience of solo parents, thereby creating a more supportive environment for their personal and familial growth.

➤ *Local Government Unit of Quezon City.*

The findings serve as an informative resource for refining and strengthening existing programs and services dedicated to this vulnerable group. Local government officials can use the principles and recommendations derived from the study to make informed adjustments and enhancements. This approach ensures that local government programs are better aligned with the actual needs of solo parents, leading to more impactful and supportive initiatives that address economic, educational, and social dimensions of their well-being.

➤ *Policy Maker.*

This study plays an important role in informing policy-making by providing evidence-based information on the issues faced by solo parents. Policymakers can use the comprehensive understanding to formulate and refine policies that specifically target the gaps identified in this study such as quality and accessibility, engagement of beneficiaries, and diversity of solo parents. By incorporating these research-based recommendations into policy frameworks, policymakers can ensure that their initiatives are not only well-informed but also responsive to the dynamic realities faced by solo parents, contributing to the creation of more impactful and supportive policy measures.

➤ *Social Worker.*

This study provides invaluable support for social workers by offering understanding of the challenges and needs faced by solo parents. Social workers can utilize the implications and recommendations derived from this research to enhance the effectiveness of their interventions and support services for solo parents. The study equips social workers with a deeper comprehension of the economic, educational, and emotional struggles unique to solo parents, enabling them to make their assistance more precisely. Additionally, the research aids social workers in identifying gaps in current support systems and devising strategies to address these shortcomings. By incorporating the study's findings into their practice, social workers can optimize their efforts in providing the right and meaningful support to solo parents in various dimensions of their lives.

➤ *Future Researchers.*

The significance of this study extends to future researchers in the field. The findings and ideas generated from this study will serve as a valuable foundation for further research and exploration of solo parenting issues. Future researchers can build upon this study by delving deeper into specific aspects of solo parenting, investigating new dimensions of support and intervention, or exploring the long-term impacts of existing programs and policies.

I. *Theoretical Framework*

This research undertakes to adopt a theoretical framework from the theory of change, which is an explicit process of thinking through and documenting how a program or intervention is supposed to work, why it will work, who will benefit, and the condition required for success (Goldsworthy, 2021).

The term “theory of change” was popularized by Weiss and became prominent in the 1990s as a theory-driven evaluation that sought to transition from a mere input-output concept, in which assumptions about the program were implicit, to a framework that explicitly states the objectives and expected outcomes of a program (Reinholz & Andrews, 2020). A theory of change was a tool designed to communicate the underlying assumptions of an initiative to evaluate effectively the achievements of community-based programs aimed at social change.

The theory of change is essentially a comprehensive description and illustration of how and why a desired change is expected to happen in a particular context. It is focused in a particular on mapping out or filling in what had been described as the missing middle between what a program or change initiative does and how these leads to desired goals being achieved. It does this by first identifying the desired long-term goals and then working back from these to identify all the conditions that must be in place for the goals to occur. (Springer, 2021).

The implementation by the government of various social welfare projects and programs aims to elevate the living condition of every Filipino, especially those belonging to the vulnerable sectors of society. Short-term and long-term development plans invest largely in seminars, training, and financial aids to inspire improvement and change in character and perspectives among beneficiaries. Hence, the success of these projects may only be determined by measuring the change that occurred after placing all necessary conditions. Success may be indicated by careful evaluation of the program objectives and priorities priority and the continued relevance of the project in light of the present environment, including changes in government policies (Andrews, 2021).

Volden (2018) argued that a program’s relevance is determined by the necessity of delivering such a program to give solutions on to social ills or problems, in consideration of key priorities and preferences by stakeholders. As long as an endeavor produces the change or outcome it is expected to elicit, the existence of a program and its continued implementation will be an indicator of success and relevance.

The research process incorporated the principles of the theory of change. Objectives were clearly defined to outline the expected outcomes of the programs. Indicators were identified to measure progress and success. For instance, indicators included changes in participants' income levels, improvements in financial literacy, and increased access to support services. The theory of change guided the selection of these indicators, ensuring they align with the expected outcomes and contribute to a robust evaluation.

Moreover, the theory of change was instrumental in identifying potential challenges and assumptions inherent in the programs. This allowed for a detailed understanding of the contextual factors that may influence the effectiveness of interventions. By systematically examining the inputs, activities, and expected outcomes, the research uncovered areas where the program may fall short or where adjustments are needed.

In this study, the programs and services for solo parents as implemented by the local government unit (LGU) of Quezon City were the subject of a thorough investigation and analysis to estimate the amount of change they cause to augment the beneficiaries’ economic state. The monitoring of the programs’ outcomes is essential in determining areas in the implementation that needs improvement and the possible institution of a nation-wide program for said vulnerable sector.

Table 1 Theoretical Framework

INPUT	OUTPUT	OUTCOME
Support Services	Attend regular session of family counseling and parenting effectiveness session	Solo Parent develop social and emotional capabilities
Livelihood and Skills Training	Avail “Tindahan ni Joy” and Livelihood training/s and seminar/s	Generate employment and access to financial services such as banking, credit, and GSIS/SSS
Educational Assistance Program	Inclusion to Education Assistance Program (EAP)	Personal and professional development
Health and Medicine Assistance	Provision of medicine and inclusion to Government Sponsored Philhealth	Reduce financial burden

J. Conceptual Framework

The main concept of this study was confounded on the impact of the solo parent's program and services such as case management, livelihood, and skills training, educational assistance programs, and health assistance on the economic status of its beneficiaries.

The conceptual framework suggests that the implementation of various components of the solo parent's program and services, such as support services, livelihood and skills training, education assistance, and health and medical assistance can potentially have an impact on the economic status of solo parents. These program and service interventions aim to empower solo parents, enhance their skills, provide educational support, and improve their overall economic well-being.

Support services encompass a holistic approach aimed at addressing the diverse needs of solo parents. Family counselling services form an essential component, offering psychological and emotional support. Through professional counseling, solo parents can navigate challenges, enhance coping mechanisms, and build resilient family structures. In this study, family counselling services were measured by its accessibility and timeliness. Parenting Effectiveness Sessions (PES) constitute another crucial element that provides solo parents with practical skills and knowledge to develop effective parenting. PES sessions cover topics such as child development, positive discipline, and communication strategies to empower solo parents in their parenting journey. It was measured based on the perception of the respondents of its organization and benefits.

Livelihood and skills training initiatives aimed to contribute significantly to the economic empowerment of solo parents. "Tindahan ni Joy" serves as a microenterprise program, offering solo parents an opportunity to establish small businesses. This initiative not only provides a source of income but also improves entrepreneurial skills and financial independence. They equip solo parents with a diverse skill set, which may enhance their employability or enabling them to pursue entrepreneurship successfully. This component is measured by its sufficiency in terms of support and resources for solo parents to start their own small businesses. While, livelihood and skills training sessions were evaluated based on its planning and effectiveness as delivered by Vocational Development Division (VDD) of Social Services Development Department.

The Education Assistance Program (EAP) plays a vital role in supporting the educational needs of solo parents and their children. Assessing the effectiveness of EAP involves gauging its impact on academic achievement and educational attainment. The program's responsiveness is measured by its ability to adapt to the evolving needs of solo parents, ensuring that it remains relevant and accessible. By addressing financial barriers and providing scholarships, EAP aims to enhance educational opportunities and outcomes for solo parents and their children. Inclusion in the EAP was assessed based on its implementation and responsiveness to the needs of its target beneficiaries.

Health and medical assistance programs are essential for the overall well-being of solo parents and their families. The provision of medicines ensures access to necessary healthcare resources, addressing immediate health concerns. Additionally, inclusion in the Government Sponsored Philhealth program offers a comprehensive health coverage framework. Evaluating the effectiveness of these components involves assessing the extent of healthcare access, improvements in health outcomes, and the overall impact on the quality of life for solo parents and their families. The provision of medicine was measured based on its reliability and accessibility for solo parents. While, inclusion in the government-sponsored Philhealth program was measured based on its seamlessness and necessary health coverage for solo parents.

The dependent variable, economic status, is measured through indicators such as educational status, occupation, and income. These factors are influenced by the independent variable, solo parents program and services, which directly or indirectly contribute to the economic well-being of solo parents. This variable covers various aspects of economic stability, including the presence of a stable income, the ability to meet basic needs, satisfaction with savings and financial security, utilization of earnings, access to financial services, membership to SSS or GSIS and others, perceptions of career opportunities and growth, possession of skills, affordability of education and training, entrepreneurial aspirations, and optimism about the economic future of the Philippines. This comprehensive set of indicators aims to capture a holistic picture of an individual's economic status and attitudes towards their financial situation. The economic conditions and perceptions of the surveyed population.

Understanding the temporal aspects of the research is crucial for grasping how the impact of the solo parents program and services may evolve over time. Initially, the study focused on assessing the immediate effects of the program on solo parents' economic status. In the short term, indicators like stable income, meeting basic needs, and satisfaction with savings are likely to demonstrate changes. The program's influence on these factors could manifest relatively quickly, providing knowledge into its initial efficacy.

In terms of long term effects, these programs might affect career trajectories, income growth, and overall economic mobility over an extended period. Factors like affordability of education and training might become pivotal as they can influence the continued development of skills, potentially contributing to sustained economic well-being. Moreover, the study assessed the enduring optimism about the economic future of the Philippines among program participants, seeking to gauge the program's lasting impact on the broader socio-economic landscape.

This conceptual framework provides a basis for understanding how the implementation of specific components of the solo parents program and services can potentially impact the economic status of solo parents. Further research can explore the relationships and effects of these variables, informing the development and improvement of programs and policies that support the economic empowerment of solo parents.

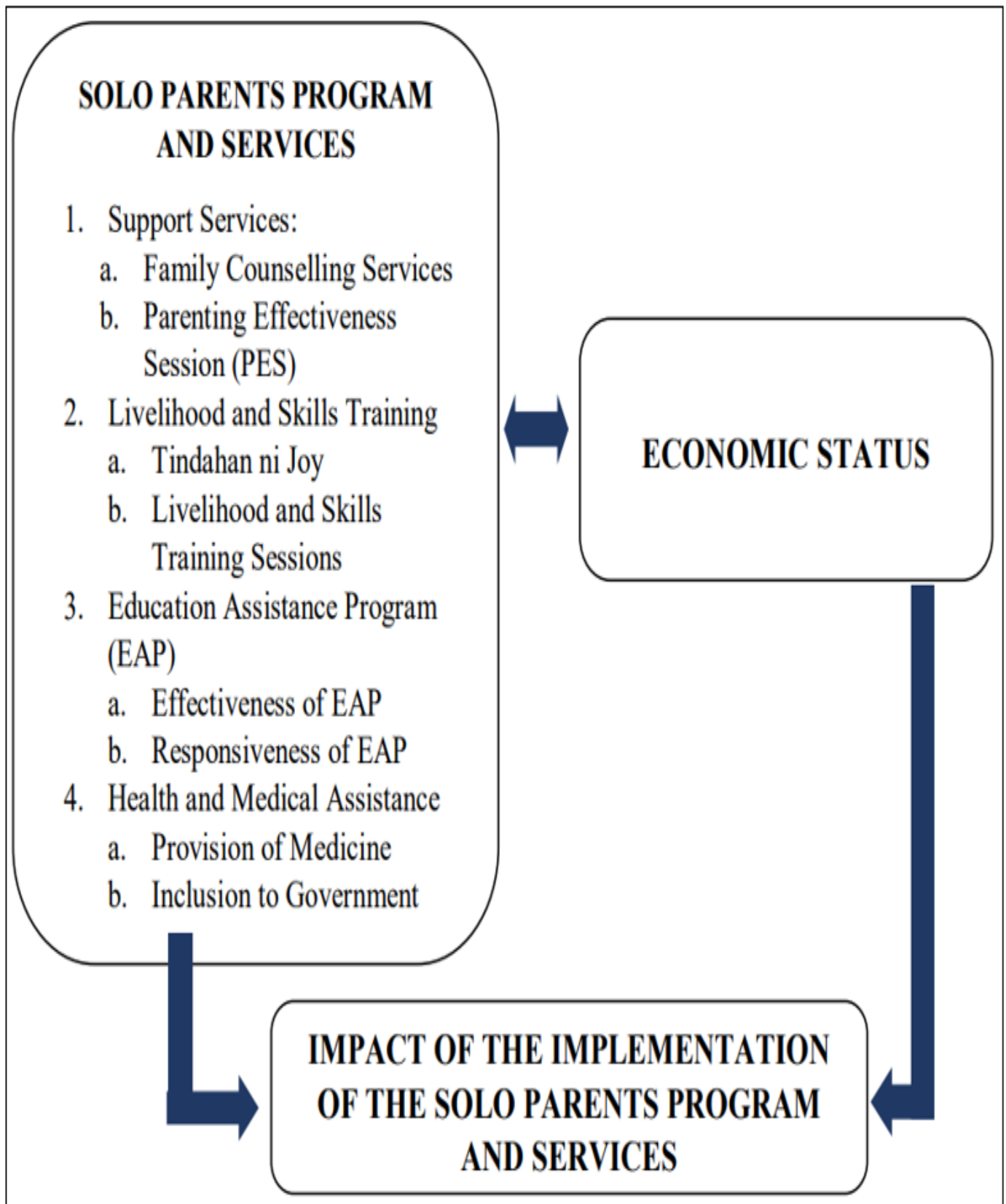


Fig 2 Conceptual Model of the Study

The causal relationships between the independent variable, the solo parent's program and services, and the dependent variable, economic status, are expected to be positive. The various components of the program are anticipated to contribute to improvements in economic well-being through distinct pathways.

The expected relationships between support services, livelihood and skills training, education assistance programs (EAP), and health and medical assistance to economic status are generally anticipated to be positive. Support services, encompassing family counseling and parenting effectiveness sessions, are likely to positively impact mental health and parenting skills, which might potentially contribute to improved focus and productivity in economic activities. Livelihood and skills training, aimed at enhancing employability, is expected to have a positive influence on economic status by providing individuals with the skills needed for better job opportunities or income-generating activities.

Similarly, EAP, through its support for education, is likely to positively impact economic status by improving qualifications and expanding career opportunities. While, health and medical assistance, contributing to overall well-being, is expected to reduce the financial strain associated with health expenses, positively affecting economic status. While the anticipated direction is positive, the actual strength of these relationships may vary based on program effectiveness, individual circumstances, and broader economic factors, warranting thorough empirical investigation.

To capture solo parents' feedback and experiences, the research implemented structured feedback mechanisms, such as surveys, and recommended the development of stakeholder's engagement to encourage continuous assessment and adjustment. By actively seeking input from solo parents, the study ensured their perspectives were considered, promoting a more participant-centric evaluation.

K. Statement of the Problem

This research aimed to investigate and analyze the impact of the program and services of the Local Government Unit of Quezon City. Specifically, this study sought to answer the following problems:

➤ *How May the Respondents be Described by the Following Demographic Characteristics:*

- ✓ Age;
- ✓ Gender;
- ✓ Monthly Income;
- ✓ Educational Attainment; and
- ✓ Number of Children?

➤ *What is the Assessment of the Participants on the Programs and Services of the Local Government Unit of Quezon City for Solo Parents in Terms of:*

- Support services;
 - ✓ Family counselling services
 - ✓ Parenting Effectiveness Session (PES)
- livelihood and skills training
 - ✓ Tindahan ni Joy
 - ✓ livelihood and skills training sessions
- Education Assistance Program (EAP);
 - ✓ Effectiveness of EAP
 - ✓ Responsiveness of EAP
- Health and medical assistance;
 - ✓ Provision of medicine
 - ✓ Inclusion to government?

➤ *What is the Economic Condition of the Beneficiaries of solo Parent Programs and Services in terms of:*

- Stable Income;
 - Meeting Basic Needs;
 - Satisfaction with Financial Security;
 - Maximizing Earnings;
 - Access to Financial Services;
 - Improvement in Personal Financial Situation;
 - Financial Security and Emergency Savings;
 - Career Growth Opportunities;
 - Possession of Professional Skills;
 - Affordability of Education and Training;
 - Ability to Invest and Start A Business;
 - Optimism about Economic Future?
- Is there significant difference in the assessment of the participants on the programs and services of the Local Government Unit of Quezon City for Solo Parents when grouped according to demographic profile, including age, gender, monthly income, educational attainment, and number of children?
 - Is there significant difference in economic condition when grouped according to demographic profile including age, gender, monthly income, educational attainment, and number of children?
 - What is the impact of programs and services of LGU, QC for solo parents to the economic condition of the beneficiaries?
 - Based on the findings of the study, what plan can be proposed to improve the program and services for solo parents?

L. Hypothesis of the Study

The following hypotheses were tested at a .05 level of significance:

- H_{01} = The assessment of the participants on the programs and services of the Local Government Unit of Quezon City for Solo Parents, when grouped according to demographic profile, is not significantly different.
- H_{a1} = The assessment of the participants on the programs and services of the Local Government Unit of Quezon City for Solo Parents, when grouped according to demographic profile, are significantly different.
- H_{02} = The evaluation of economic condition when grouped according to demographic profile is not significantly different.
- H_{a2} = The evaluation of economic condition when grouped according to demographic profile is significantly different.
- H_{03} = The programs and services for solo parents do not positively impact to the economic condition of the beneficiaries.
- H_{a3} = The programs and services for solo parents do impact positively on the economic condition of the beneficiaries.

M. Definition of Terms

The following important terms used in this study were defined to establish a common frame of reference to facilitate understanding of the problem and avoid ambiguous meanings of terms that may be interpreted differently.

- Economic Status is the economic situation with respect to circumstances of economic growth in a particular time period representing the state of personal and collective welfare of citizens/consumers. (IGI Global, 2022)
- Program/s refer to organized and structured plans of action developed in response to specific needs, problems, or issues (Law Inside, 2019). These programs are carefully designed to address challenges and bring about positive changes in the lives of the participants. For instance, skills training sessions, Parenting Effectiveness Sessions (PES), and the Education Assistance Program (EAP) are examples of such programs. Skills training sessions aim to enhance the employability of solo parents, PES addresses parenting challenges, and EAP supports educational pursuits. Each program is made to meet a particular need and is implemented with a deliberate strategy to create a positive impact.
- Services encompass a set of activities that are beneficial to the end user but may not be structured in a way that change can be easily measured (Law Inside, 2019). These activities are designed to provide direct assistance and support to individuals. Examples include family counseling services, the provision of medicine, inclusion in government-sponsored PhilHealth, and financial counseling. Services are individual components that contribute to the overall effectiveness of the programs but may not be as structured or measurable in terms of their impact.
- Solo Parent/s is a parent, not living with a spouse or partner, who has most of the day-to-day responsibilities in raising the child or children. (Educalingo, 2021)
- Social Workers are professionals who aim to enhance overall well-being and help meet the basic and complex needs of communities and people. Social workers work with many different populations and types of people, particularly focusing on those who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty (Social Work License Map, 2022)
- Welfare refers to a type of governing in which the national government plays a key role in the protection and promotion of the economic and social well-being of its citizens. (Investopedia, 2022)

N. Scope and Delimitation of the Study

This study was limited only to the perception of the Solo Parents of Quezon City inclined toward programs and services. It involves 368 solo parents. The participants must be registered members of solo parents of Quezon City from 2022-2023. They must have obtained the Solo Parent ID application form from the local Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) office, filled it out with accurate information, and gathered supporting documents such as proof of solo parenthood, barangay certification, and proof of income. This ID grants solo parents access to various government-mandated benefits and privileges. The data gathering took place from July 2023 to September 2023.

The framework of this study is confined to the theory of change in describing the possible impact of the Quezon City Local Government program and services to solo parents including (a) support services; (b) livelihood and skills training; (c) education assistance; (d) health and medical assistance. Support services adopt a comprehensive strategy to meet the diverse needs of solo parents, with a core component being family counseling services that provide crucial psychological and emotional support. This professional counseling assists solo parents in navigating challenges, developing coping mechanisms, and developing resilient family structures. The study evaluates the accessibility and timeliness of family counseling services.

Another essential element, Parenting Effectiveness Sessions (PES), equips solo parents with practical parenting skills and knowledge, covering topics like child development and communication strategies. The study measures the organization and benefits of PES based on respondents' perceptions. Livelihood and skills training initiatives aim to economically empower solo parents, exemplified by the "Tindahan ni Joy" microenterprise program. This initiative not only offers income sources but also enhances entrepreneurial skills and financial independence. The study assesses the sufficiency of support for solo parents to start businesses and the planning and effectiveness of training sessions by the Vocational Development Division (VDD).

The Education Assistance Program (EAP) supports the educational needs of solo parents and their children, measured by its impact on academic achievement and responsiveness to evolving needs. Inclusion in the EAP is evaluated based on implementation and responsiveness. Health and medical assistance programs, crucial for overall well-being, provide access to necessary healthcare resources and comprehensive coverage through the Philhealth program. The study assesses the reliability and accessibility of medicine provision and the seamlessness of inclusion in Philhealth, considering their impact on health outcomes and the quality of life for solo parents and their families.

This research took into account to the disclosure of the amount of income, thus those respondents who were willing to reveal their income in the data. It is crucial to acknowledge that the research relies on voluntary income disclosure, and this factor may significantly impact the generalizability of findings. The voluntary nature of income disclosure introduces a potential source of bias, as those who are willing to disclose their income may differ systematically from those who choose not to disclose. This self-selection bias raises concerns about the representativeness of the study sample and may affect the external validity of the results. Individuals willing to disclose income may exhibit distinct socio-economic characteristics or levels of financial comfort, potentially influencing the study's outcomes. In the conduct of the study, no respondent refused to divulge the amount of income they earned mainly because anonymity and confidentiality were employed in the data collection and analysis. Sensitivity to the disclosure of income information is crucial, and the research paper explicitly addressed potential biases stemming from this approach if there were any.

This researcher ascertains the details of solo parents' economic perspective and description of their development. In this connection, this study followed a methodology of descriptive design involving cross-sectional elements. The study is a cross-sectional study because it gathers data at a single point in time, providing a snapshot of the conditions, characteristics, and relationships among registered solo parents during the fiscal year 2023. In a cross-sectional design, researchers collect information from participants at a specific moment, allowing for an examination of variables and relationships at that particular instance. This approach contrasts with longitudinal studies, which involve collecting data from the same participants over an extended period to observe changes and trends over time. The decision to use a cross-sectional design in this study stemmed from practical considerations, such as resource constraints or a focus on obtaining a comprehensive understanding of the current situation rather than tracking changes over time.

In terms of inclusion criteria, the researcher engaged participants who qualify as solo parent taking in consideration the enumeration in Section 1 of the Solo Parents Act of 2020 as amended. They must also be registered as a solo parent in Quezon City and remain as such during the conduct of the study. Only those applicants issued with a Solo Parent ID or Certificate from the Solo Parent Association Office (SPA) will be considered a duly registered solo parents for the purpose of study. The study did not include factors such as the duration of solo parenthood or the number of dependents since the programs were considerably new and recent.

As part of the exclusion criteria, the study did not engage those solo parents receiving grants and aids other than those provided under the solo parent programs and services by Quezon City. The rationale behind excluding solo parents receiving grants and aids other than those provided under Quezon City's solo parent programs stems from the need to maintain the focus and control of the study for potential extraneous variables that could impact the analysis and interpretation of data. By specifically targeting solo

parents benefiting solely from Quezon City's solo parent programs, the research aims to create a more homogeneous and comparable group.

Including those receiving additional grants and aids from external sources could introduce variability that might confound the study's findings, making it challenging to attribute observed outcomes solely to the local government's initiatives. This exclusion criterion, therefore, serves to enhance the internal validity of the study by isolating the effects of Quezon City's solo parent programs and services, providing a clearer understanding of their impact on the economic status of the participants.

The researcher rigorously adhered to ethical standards throughout all stages of the study, following guidelines set by the University and adhering to prescribed formats. Emphasizing the protection of participants' rights, including free will, privacy, and confidentiality, the study minimized the burden of participation and maintained professional standards for scientifically rigorous research. Informed consent, detailed and comprehensible, was obtained from participants, who were given the choice to ask questions and had the freedom to withdraw without repercussions. Measures to ensure confidentiality were explained, and signed consent forms were securely stored. The researcher maintained impartiality, disclosing and addressing any conflicts of interest promptly. Ethical review by the Research Ethics Committee of La Consolacion University Philippines was undertaken, with approval sought before data collection. This comprehensive approach underscores the commitment to transparency, integrity, and the highest ethical standards, ensuring the credibility and validity of the study's findings.

CHAPTER TWO

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

➤ *Methods and Techniques Used*

This chapter tackled the methods to employ to accomplish this study. They are the research design, the sample size, the sampling design, the data gathering tool, data gathering procedures, the construction and validation of the questionnaire, ethical consideration, and the statistical treatment of data.

➤ *Research Design*

The study employed the quantitative research approach. Quantitative research is a method used to measure and quantify attitudes, opinions, behaviors, and other specific variables. It aimed to generate numerical data that can be analyzed statistically and used to generalize about a larger population based on a sample (Mohajan, 2020). In this study, the quantitative research method design was most appropriate to provide an objective and concrete evaluation of the offered programs and projects by the local government unit (LGU) of Quezon City in monitoring the realization of its goals.

The choice of the quantitative research approach for this study was driven by its suitability in generating numerical data that can be statistically analyzed, offering several advantages in assessing program effectiveness and understanding correlations. Quantitative methods allow for the systematic measurement and quantification of attitudes, opinions, behaviors, and other variables, providing a structured and objective evaluation of the impact of the Local Government Unit's programs and services for solo parents. Numerical data facilitate statistical analyses, enabling the identification of patterns, trends, and correlations that contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the relationships between program factors and outcomes. This approach is particularly effective in providing quantifiable understanding about the economic status of solo parents and the perceived effectiveness of the programs, offering a rigorous and objective foundation for drawing meaningful conclusions and making informed recommendations. The use of quantitative methods enhances the study's precision, replicability, and generalizability of findings, aligning well with the research goals and the need for statistically sound assessments in the context of program evaluation.

The study employed descriptive-comparative and descriptive-correlational research designs to examine the characteristics and relationships among registered solo parents. The research aimed to gather comprehensive information on their development, including their perspectives and descriptions. This was achieved through a descriptive survey methodology, specifically focusing on the intangible aspect of solo parents' perception of their economic status. The primary objective of the researcher was to collect data on the current situation of the respondents, which helped answer questions regarding the effectiveness of the program and services provided by the Local Government Unit of Quezon City. This method provided answers to research questions about the demographic profiles of the respondents, the implementation of programs and services for solo parents, and their economic status. In terms of economic status, the findings of the study should be understood to be applicable only during the fiscal year 2023, which is the time frame of the study since economic conditions may change over time. The study implemented the data gathering procedures from July 2023 to September 2023.

In a descriptive-comparative research design, researchers aim to provide a detailed description of each group or variable and then compare them to identify similarities, differences, patterns, or trends. This design allows researchers to examine multiple groups or variables simultaneously and draw comparisons between them to gain understanding about their unique features or variations. In this study, the variation in the responses of the participants considering their demographic profile including age, gender, monthly income, educational attainment, and number of children was discussed. This approach provided inferences on the variation in the implementation of the programs and services for solo parents and the economic status of the participants when their profile characteristics were used as factors. The analysis of these demographic variables provides valuable assessment of the potential differential impact of programs and services, allowing for a clearer interpretation of the study's findings.

On the other hand, a descriptive-correlational research design is a quantitative research approach that aims to describe the relationship between variables without establishing a cause-and-effect relationship. It involves collecting data on multiple variables of interest and examining the strength and direction of their association through statistical analysis. The researcher used a descriptive design to have a better and deeper understanding of the condition of solo parents on the basis of an in-depth study on the impact of the Local Government Unity of Quezon City program and services. This method was used to give answer to the research question whether the programs and services for solo parents improve significantly or not the economic status of the respondents. In this study, the Quezon City Local Government program and services to solo parents including (a) case management; (b) livelihood and skills training; (c) education assistance; (d) health and medical assistance were correlated with their economic condition.

While the chosen quantitative research approach provided an objective evaluation of the programs and projects offered by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Quezon City, several potential limitations should be acknowledged. Firstly, the use of a quantitative method, specifically descriptive-comparative and descriptive-correlational research designs, offers information about the characteristics and relationships among registered solo parents. However, the generalizability of findings beyond the specified time frame (fiscal year 2023) may be constrained, as economic conditions are subject to change over time. Furthermore, the descriptive-correlational design employed to explore the relationship between variables does not establish a cause-and-effect

relationship. This limitation highlights the need for cautious interpretation of the study's findings, recognizing that correlations do not imply causation. Additionally, while the descriptive-comparative design allows for the comparison of groups or variables, it may not capture the complexity of individual experiences. These limitations underscore the importance of considering the study's scope and design constraints when interpreting and applying the findings.

➤ *Locale of the Study*

The study investigated upon the impact of the programs and services of solo parents to their economic condition in the locality of Quezon City. Quezon City served as a suitable locale for conducting a study because it has demonstrated a commitment to supporting solo parents through various programs and services. The LGU had established specific ordinances and policies to address the needs of solo parents, making it an ideal setting for evaluating the implementation and outcomes of these initiatives.

➤ *Respondents of the Study*

The population of the study comprises the entire registered solo parents in Quezon City, totaling 8,585 individuals, as identified by the office of the Social Services Development Department in the fiscal year 2023. Quezon City is subdivided into six congressional districts. District 1, which was composed of 37 barangays, had 863 registered solo parents, while District 2, with only 5 barangays, had 2,169. In District 3, there were 36 barangays with 1,102 registered solo parents. There were 38 barangays in District 4 with 1,648 solo parents. District 5 had 14 barangays with a total of 1,500 potential solo parent participants. Lastly, in the 11 barangays of District 6, 1,303 registered solo parents were registered. The inclusion criteria involved being a duly registered solo parent in Quezon City, and the exclusion criterion related to solo parents receiving grants and aids other than those provided under Quezon City's solo parent programs.

The sample size of 368 was determined to be sufficient based on a careful consideration of several factors, including the level of confidence, margin of error, and practical considerations. The researcher used Open Epi version 3.0 to compute the sample size from the total population of 8,585 registered solo parents in Quezon City, with a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 5%.

A confidence level of 95% indicates that if the study were to be repeated multiple times, the true population parameter would fall within the calculated confidence interval in 95% of those repetitions. The margin of error of 5% reflects the acceptable deviation of the sample estimate from the true population parameter.

Practical considerations, such as the feasibility of reaching and obtaining responses from the entire population, may have influenced the decision to use the entire population rather than a smaller sample. In this case, the manageable size of the registered solo parent population in Quezon City allowed for the inclusion of all eligible participants, ensuring a comprehensive representation of their perspectives and experiences. The retrieved instruments from 368 respondents reflected a 100% turnout from the identified population, further supporting the sufficiency of the sample size for the study's objectives.

Table 2 Distribution of Registered Solo Parents and Sample Size across Quezon City Districts

No.	Districts	Number of Barangays	Number of Registered Solo Parents	Number of Sample
1	District 1	37	863	37
2	District 2	5	2169	93
3	District 3	36	1,102	47
4	District 4	38	1,648	71
5	District 5	14	1,500	64
6	District 6	11	1,303	56
Total			8,585	368

The representativeness of the sample in relation to the entire population of registered solo parents in Quezon City is a crucial consideration. The study aimed to include the entire population of 8,585 registered solo parents, covering all six congressional districts in Quezon City. However, it's important to acknowledge potential limitations in generalizing findings beyond the sampled districts. The study collected data from all six congressional districts, ensuring a diverse representation of the registered solo parent population. However, variations may exist between districts in terms of socio-economic factors, access to resources, and program implementation. Therefore, while the sample provides the experiences and perceptions of registered solo parents in Quezon City, caution should be exercised when generalizing findings to solo parents in other locations or districts with distinct characteristics. Furthermore, the study's exclusion criterion, which omitted solo parents receiving grants and aids from other programs, may introduce a bias as it excludes a subset of the registered solo parent population.

➤ *Sampling Design*

The researcher used the one-stage cluster random sampling. One-stage cluster sampling is often used when it is more practical or cost-effective to sample clusters rather than individuals directly. It is especially useful when conducting surveys in large and geographically dispersed populations, where it may be logistically challenging or prohibitively expensive to sample individual units. In the context of the study, the target respondents belong to different districts of Quezon City with various barangays.

The use of a one-stage cluster random sampling method for this research is aptly suited to the study's focus on solo parents and their diverse geographical distribution in Quezon City. Given the dispersed nature of solo parents and the community-based nature of the support services under examination, this sampling approach allows for a representative inclusion of various regions, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the localized impact of support programs on economic well-being. The method's efficiency in terms of cost, resources, and feasibility aligns with the practical considerations of studying a population with dynamic characteristics. Additionally, the enhanced homogeneity within selected clusters contributes to a more accurate analysis of factors influencing economic outcomes among solo parents, making this sampling approach well-suited to the research objectives.

The choice of the one-stage cluster random sampling method in this study was driven by practical and logistical considerations that align with the unique characteristics of the solo parent population across various districts in Quezon City. Solo parents are dispersed across different geographic areas, and employing a one-stage cluster random sampling method offered a pragmatic approach to efficiently gather representative data from multiple districts.

Practically, the solo parents in Quezon City are organized into distinct congressional districts, each comprising several barangays. By using a one-stage cluster random sampling method, the study could treat each district as a cluster, easing the logistical challenges associated with reaching solo parents spread across the entire city. This method reduced the complexity of data collection, making it more manageable and cost-effective.

Logistically, solo parents within the same district may share similar characteristics due to factors such as local policies, economic conditions, and community resources. Clustering participants within districts allowed the study to capture both the individual experiences of solo parents and the potential variations between districts. This approach facilitated a clearer understanding of the impact of the solo parents program and services within specific geographic contexts.

To determine the distribution of sample size per district, the study made use of the proportionate cluster sampling. This involved calculating proportions for each congressional district based on the total number of registered solo parents. The sample size for each district was then determined by multiplying these proportions with the overall desired sample size. Practical considerations, such as accessibility and feasibility, were factored in during this process. Clusters representing districts were randomly selected, ensuring an unbiased representation. The rationale was to capture the diverse characteristics of solo parents across districts, enhancing the generalizability of findings to the entire solo parent population in Quezon City. In this sampling method, the likelihood of choosing a cluster was directly related to its size, meaning that a larger cluster has a higher chance of being selected compared to a smaller cluster. As shown in Table 1, results of computation revealed the proportion of sample for each congressional district in which District 1 was allotted with 37 registered solo parents, District 2 with 93, District 3 with 47, District 4 with 71, District 5, with 64, District 6 with 56.

The chosen proportionate cluster sampling method demonstrated efficiency in terms of cost, resources, and feasibility. By selecting clusters based on the proportional distribution of solo parents across districts, the approach optimized the use of resources and minimized costs associated with data collection. This method allowed for a representative sample without the need to survey the entire population, making the research more feasible within practical constraints. Additionally, it efficiently captured the diverse characteristics of solo parents in Quezon City by ensuring proportional representation from each congressional district, enhancing the study's generalizability and validity.

The enhanced homogeneity within selected clusters contributes to a more accurate analysis by ensuring that the chosen clusters represent groups of solo parents with similar demographic and socioeconomic characteristics. This aligns with the study's objectives as it allows for a focused examination of specific district-based variations, providing a clear understanding of the impact of the solo parents program and services. The proportional distribution across districts enables a comprehensive exploration of homogenous groups within each cluster, enhancing the accuracy of the analysis. This approach recognizes the diverse characteristics of solo parents in different districts and promotes a more targeted investigation, reflecting the unique socio-economic contexts within each cluster.

➤ *Instruments of the Study*

The study utilized a set of self-made instruments consisting of quantitative research questionnaires. The following are the components namely:

- Part I contained items to describe the profile characteristics of the solo parent respondents. It includes age, gender, monthly income, educational attainment, and number of children.
- Part II was a 4-point Likert-scale with indicators to gather data on the assessment or perception of the beneficiaries of the implementation of the solo parents programs and services of the of the Local Government Unit of Quezon City for Solo Parents. The assessment will focus on support services, livelihood, education assistance program, and health and medical assistance. The instrument consisted of scales, namely, strongly likely (4), likely (3), unlikely (2), and strongly unlikely (1).
- Part III included an instrument to characterize the economic condition of the respondents. It is a 4-point Likert scale in which respondents need to signify their agreement or disagreement based on how each item is applicable to them.

- The construction of this questionnaire followed the standard of questionnaire construction. The survey questionnaire was cost-efficient in describing the characteristics of the entire solo parent population of Quezon City Construction and Validation of the Questionnaire

To ensure the integrity and accuracy of the data collected, the study assessed the validity and reliability of the measurement instruments. Validity is important as it ensures that the instruments accurately capture what they are intended to measure. In this study, content validity was employed to ensure that the questionnaire adequately covers the relevant aspects of the research topic.

The initial step in the construction of the survey instrument was to identify the standard profile of the solo parents and the different aspects of development, which become for constructing the specification of the instrument. After this, the specification of the instrument was constructed was validated by a measurement and evaluation specialists. The input of the specialist was integrated in the final test specification. It was followed by deciding on the format of the test.

After all the design is planned, direct and question per item was created. Then it was assembled to come out with the whole constructed survey instrument. It underwent review, revision, and face and content validation from the test and the subject matter expert. The study engaged professionals with expertise in measurement and evaluation to validate the specifications of the instrument as shown in Appendix E. These specialists brought a deep understanding of research design, survey construction, and statistical analysis. Their input helped refine the test specifications, ensuring that the questions were structured in a way that would yield meaningful and reliable data. The collaboration with measurement and evaluation specialists added a methodological rigor to the instrument construction process. The researcher then incorporated the suggested revision. The finalized instrument submitted to the researchers' adviser proposal.

Eventually, the study conducted a pilot test using the approved survey questionnaire. It was pretested to 10 solo parents not belonging to Quezon City registered solo parents; thus, the researcher is preparing to explain and eliminate possible confusion and make necessary adjustments in the administration of the survey questionnaire to achieve its goal of gathering valid data.

The first instrument meant to measure the implementation of the programs and services for solo parents of the LGU of Quezon City was found reliable, as evidenced by Cronbach's alpha of 0.938. On the other hand, the instrument for economic condition was found reliable at 0.946 alpha.

➤ *Construction and Validation of the Questionnaire*

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➤ *Data Gathering Procedure*

The data collection process was subdivided into three undertakings namely; documents analysis, survey and focus group discussion. Documents such as educational attainment, salary/income, and matrix of numbers and distribution of solo parents per district were obtained from the administrative section of the solo parent section after asking permission from the Solo Parent Association Office (SPA) division head.

The administration of survey questionnaires was undertaken by asking permission from the Social Services Development Department Government Head to conduct the study in the registered solo parent in Quezon City. Upon obtaining permission, approach the division head who then informed the concern of the solo parents to participate in the study. The researcher administered the questionnaire using social media platforms in the context of the convenience of the respondent. Recognizing that not all solo parents were active on social media platforms, efforts were made to collaborate with community centers, local government units, and support organizations known for assisting solo parents involved reaching out to community leaders and distributing personally the informed consent form and survey instruments to respondents. By employing a combination of online and offline recruitment methods, the research aimed to ensure a more inclusive and representative sample, acknowledging the diverse ways in which solo parents access information and support services. Every respondent was given enough space and time to understand and answer the survey questionnaire.

The data gathering was conducted from July to September 2023. The obtained documents, such as educational attainment and salary/income records, as well as the matrix of numbers and distribution of solo parents per district, were securely stored. It was important to ensure that access to these documents was restricted to authorized personnel only.

The researcher handled the data gathered from the study with strict confidentiality. Only authorized persons had access to the data. Any identifiable information was anonymized or removed to ensure the privacy and confidentiality of the participants. The researcher complied with the Data Privacy Act to protect the personal information of the participants. This included obtaining informed consent, ensuring secure storage and handling of data, and using data solely for the purposes of the research.

➤ *Data Processing and Statistical Treatment of Data*

To achieve the objectives of this study and to determine the impact on the economic component of the program and services provided by the Local Government of Quezon City to solo parents in areas of support services, livelihood and skills training, educational assistance program, and health and medical assistance, the researcher utilized inferential statistics. The descriptive statistic included measures of central tendency for quantitative variables. The inferential statistics used simple linear regression to determine the significant correlation between two variables. The data collected were tabulated, analyzed, and presented with statistical tools.

➤ *Frequency Count and Percentage.*

The researcher evaluated the responses of the respondents and computed the retrieval rate of the questionnaire. Frequency count and percentage are commonly employed to describe categorical variables, providing a clear overview of the distribution and prevalence of specific characteristics within the sample. In this study, these procedures were used to describe the demographic profile of the respondents, including age, gender, monthly income, educational attainment, and number of children.

➤ *Weighted Mean.*

This is the sum of the product scores multiplied by the frequency divided by the number of cases. In this study, the weighted mean was used to assess the programs and services provided by the Local Government of Quezon City to solo parents in areas of support services, livelihood and skills training, educational assistance programs, health and medical assistance, and the economic condition of solo parents in Quezon City. In interpreting the mean scores, the high or low range scales were used by which the range scale of 1.00-1.75 is very low, 1.76-2.50 is low, 2.51 to 3.25 is high, and 3.26 to 4.00 is very high. It is used to allow the incorporation of varying weights assigned to different observations, providing a clearer understanding of central tendencies, which can be particularly relevant when dealing with diverse responses or participant characteristics.

➤ *Analysis of Variable (ANOVA).*

This analysis tool was utilized to test the variance of caused by a dataset to another. In this study, it employed ANOVA to determine whether there are significant differences in the assessment of the program and services of the Local Government of Quezon City and the economic condition of solo parents their profile characteristics were taken into account. It is proper for examining differences in means across multiple groups, offering information about the potential variations within the sample.

Simple Linear Regression Analysis was used to measure the impact of the program and services of the Local Government of Quezon City and the economic condition of solo parents in Quezon City. It is suitable for exploring relationships between two continuous variables, aiding in understanding the nature and strength of associations. Each method appears to be well-suited for the respective types of data and research questions posed in the study, contributing to a comprehensive and rigorous statistical analysis.

➤ *Ethical Considerations*

To ensure that the research followed widely accepted standards for ethical conduct, from the design of the study through implementation, dissemination, and reporting the researcher followed the standards set by the University and the format prescribed in writing this study.

The researcher ensured the protection of the rights of free will, privacy, confidentiality, and well-being of research participants and minimized the burden of study participation to the greatest extent possible. It observed professional standards for managing and conducting scientifically rigorous research at all stages of the study. The data gathered from the study were used solely for this research. Thus, the responses were analyzed and interpreted as a whole with an assurance that they were treated with strictest confidentiality.

The researcher developed an informed consent document that provides detailed information about the study, its purpose, procedures, potential risks and benefits, confidentiality measures, and the rights of participants. The document was written in clear and easily understandable language. The researcher explained the study to the potential participants, either in person, through written materials, or through online platforms. This explanation covered the key aspects of the study mentioned in the informed consent document, allowing participants to make an informed decision about their participation.

Participants were given an opportunity to ask any questions they might have about the study to address any concerns and ensure that participants fully understand what is expected of them. The researcher emphasized that participation in the study was voluntary. Participants were informed that they had the right to refuse participation or withdraw from the study at any time without facing any negative consequences. During the data collection process, participants were actively encouraged to seek clarification and address any questions or concerns they might have had regarding the study. The researcher ensured an open and transparent communication channel, emphasizing the importance of participants fully understanding the expectations associated with their involvement. This proactive approach aimed to create an environment where participants felt comfortable and informed about their role in the study. Moreover, the researcher underscored the voluntary nature of participation, emphasizing that individuals had the explicit right to refuse involvement or withdraw from the study at any point. Importantly, participants were assured that such decisions would not result in any negative consequences.

The researcher explained the measures taken to protect the confidentiality and privacy of participants' information. This included how data were stored, accessed, and anonymized to ensure that individual identities were protected, especially those deemed to be sensitive. After the study had been explained and before questions had been answered, participants were asked to sign a consent form. The consent form indicated that they have read and understood the information provided, agreed to participate voluntarily, and consented to the use of their data for the research purposes stated. It ensured confidentiality and privacy were maintained throughout the study.

The researcher securely stored the signed consent forms in accordance with data protection regulations. These forms served as a record of participants' informed consent and could be referred to if any questions or issues arose in the future. The researcher diligently adhered to data protection regulations by securely storing the signed consent forms obtained from participants during the research process. This meticulous record-keeping not only ensured compliance with ethical standards but also provided a valuable resource for future reference. The signed consent forms serve as a tangible and documented record of participants' informed consent, offering a transparent and auditable trail. This practice adds an extra layer of assurance, allowing for the resolution of any potential questions or issues that may arise in the future regarding participant consent.

The researcher conducting this study ensured the absence of financial or personal interests that could potentially bias the design, implementation, analysis, or reporting of the research findings. The study was conducted with the sole purpose of advancing knowledge and understanding in the field of solo parent programs and services. In the event that a conflict of interest arose during the course of the study, it was promptly addressed and resolved following appropriate procedures. The researcher disclosed any conflicts of interest that might arise, whether personal or financial, to the relevant parties, such as the research advisor, research ethics committee of LCUP, or funding agencies, as required by applicable regulations and guidelines.

To resolve conflicts of interest, the researcher took the necessary steps to minimize their impact on the study. This might include recusing oneself from certain decision-making processes, seeking independent oversight or review, or involving additional researchers or experts who are free from conflicts of interest. Transparency and integrity were maintained throughout the research process to ensure the credibility and validity of the study.

The study underwent the process of ethical review by the Research Ethics Committee (REC) of the La Consolacion University Philippines to ensure that details on informed consent, data handling, and participant confidentiality were scrutinized thoroughly. Before the implementation of the data collection procedures, the study sought the approval of the REC.

CHAPTER THREE PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

This chapter presents the results, analysis, and interpretation of data on the implementation of solo parent programs and services of the local government unit (LGU) of Quezon City that impacts the economic condition of beneficiaries.

- *How the Respondents May be Described by the Following Demographic Characteristics: age, Gender, Monthly Income, Educational Attainment, and Number of Children?*

Table 3 Profile of the Respondents Based on Age

Age	f	Percentage
15 - 20 years old	3	0.82%
21 - 25 years old	11	2.99%
26 - 30 years old	39	10.60%
31 - 35 years old	49	13.32%
36 - 40 years old	65	17.66%
41 - 45 years old	71	19.29%
46 - 50 years old	77	20.92%
51 - 55 years old	44	11.96%
56 - 60 years old	8	2.17%
61 - 65 years old	1	0.27%
Total	368	100%

Table 3 presents a comprehensive breakdown of the respondents' demographics based on the age of 368 solo parents. The data reveals that a relatively small proportion of respondents, 0.82% (3 individuals), falls in the age range of 15 to 20 years. The age group of 21 to 25 years constitutes 2.99% of the total, with 11 respondents. The largest age segment, comprising 10.60% (39 respondents), falls within the 26 to 30 years range. The 31 to 35 years age group is the next most prominent, representing 13.32% (49 individuals) of the respondents. The distribution remains varied across other age groups: 36 to 40 years (17.66%), 41 to 45 years (19.29%), 46 to 50 years (20.92%), and 51 to 55 years (11.96%). The older age brackets have fewer respondents, with 2.17% (8 individuals) in the 56 to 60 years group and 0.27% (1 individual) in the 61 to 65 years range. This data provides a comprehensive understanding of the age distribution among the respondents, which is crucial for further analysis related to this research variable.

Table 4 Profile of the Respondents Based on Gender

Sex	f	Percentage
Female	295	80.16%
Male	73	19.84%
Total	368	100.00%

In Table 3. 4, a comprehensive profile of the respondents based on their sex is provided. According to the data, the majority of respondents, a substantial 80.16% (295 individuals), identify as female. This significant female representation reflects the survey's sex composition, suggesting that a substantial portion of the study's participants are women. On the other hand, male respondents comprise a smaller proportion, accounting for 19.84% (73 individuals) of the total sample. While the male respondents are fewer in number, they still represent an important segment of the study population. The data offers a clear and insightful view of the sex distribution within the surveyed population. The belief that children belongs with their mothers is firmly ingrained within the Philippines' social and legal tenets.

Table 5 Profile of the Respondents Based On Monthly Income

Income	f	Percentage
below Php 11,313	276	75.00%
Php 11,313 to Php 21, 914	66	17.93%
Php 21, 915 to Php 43, 828	25	6.79%
Php 43, 829 to Php 76, 669	0	0.00%
Php 76, 670 to Php 131, 484	0	0.00%
Php 131, 484 to Php 219, 140	0	0.00%
above Php 219, 140	0	0.00%
Others	1	0.27%
Total	368	100.00%

Table 5 presents the gathered data on the monthly income of the respondent solo parents. The data reveals that the largest segment of the surveyed population, comprising a substantial 75.00% (276 individuals), falls into the category of "below Php 11,313" as monthly income. This dominant presence of respondents in the lowest income bracket indicates that a significant portion of the surveyed population earns relatively modest monthly incomes. The next income category, encompassing 17.93% (66 individuals), falls within the range of "Php 11,313 to Php 21,914." This group represents a smaller yet noteworthy proportion of the respondents, suggesting a moderate income level in this segment. An additional 6.79% (25 individuals) of respondents are placed in the income range from "Php 21,915 to Php 43,828." This category indicates a relatively higher income level when compared to the previous segments. It is noteworthy that there are no respondents in the remaining income categories. Additionally, one respondent, accounting for 0.27%, is categorized under "others," implying a unique income situation not covered by the defined income ranges. It is evident that the majority of respondents have relatively low monthly incomes, while smaller segments represent moderate and higher income categories.

Table 6 Profile of the Respondents Based on Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	f	Percentage
Prefer not to say	1	0.27%
No Formal Education	5	1.36%
Elementary Level	23	6.25%
Elementary Graduate	11	2.99%
High School Level	78	21.20%
High School Graduate	113	30.71%
College Level	64	17.39%
College Graduate	54	14.67%
Vocational	19	5.16%
Post Graduate	0	0.00%
Other	0	0.00%
Total	368	100.00%

As can be observed in Table 6, a very small proportion of respondents, 0.27% (1 individual), preferred not to disclose their educational attainment. Additionally, 1.36% (5 individuals) indicated that they did not have formal education, suggesting a segment within the population with limited or no formal schooling. A larger portion, 6.25% (23 individuals), is at the "Elementary Level," signifying that they may not have completed elementary school, while 2.99% (11 individuals) are categorized as "Elementary Graduates," implying the completion of elementary education.

A substantial 21.20% (78 individuals) of the respondents reported "High School Level" education, indicating that they are either currently in high school or have completed it. Further emphasizing the significance of high school education, 30.71% (113 individuals) are "High School Graduates," confirming the presence of a substantial number of individuals with high school diplomas. In terms of higher education, 17.39% (64 individuals) are at the "College Level," suggesting enrollment in or completion of college courses.

Meanwhile, 14.67% (54 individuals) are "College Graduates," indicating successful completion of a college degree. A smaller but notable group, 5.16% (19 individuals), holds "Vocational" education or training. On the other hand, no respondents fall in the "Post Graduate" or "Other" categories. The data obtained highlight the diversity of educational attainment within the respondent group, ranging from no formal education to high school graduates and college degree holders, with a distinct segment possessing vocational training.

Table 7 Profile of the Respondents Based the Number of Children

Number of Children	f	Percentage
1-2	217	58.97%
3-4	122	33.15%
5-6	18	4.89%
7-8	9	2.45%
9 and above	2	0.54%
Total	368	100.00%

Table 7 provides the data with regard to the number of children of the respondents. The largest group of respondents, representing 58.97% (217 individuals), fall into the category of having 1 to 2 children. This indicates that a significant proportion of the surveyed population has relatively small families with one or two children. A substantial 33.15% (122 individuals) of respondents have families with 3 to 4 children, which indicates a notable portion of respondents have families with multiple children. This suggests a preference for larger family sizes within this group.

A smaller yet significant segment, 4.89% (18 individuals), have 5 to 6 children, signifying a group with relatively larger family sizes. There is also a smaller group, 2.45% (9 individuals), with 7 to 8 children, indicating an even larger family size. Finally, a very small portion, 0.54% (2 individuals), have 9 or more children, suggesting that an extremely minor portion of the surveyed population has very large families. The results underscore the diversity in the number of children within the respondent group, ranging from small families to those with many children, indicating a wide range of family sizes and preferences among the surveyed population.

Table 8 Solo Parents Programs and Services of Local Government Unit of Quezon City

Indicators		Mean	SD	Verbal Interpretation
Support Services	Family counseling services by social workers of Social Services Development Department-Special Program Division have been accessible and timely.	3.50	1.14	Good
	Parenting Effectiveness Sessions (PES) have been well-organized and beneficial for participants conducted by social workers of Social Services Development Department- Family Welfare Program.	3.26	1.18	Fair
Livelihood	Inclusion in "Tindahan ni Joy" under Office of the City Mayor has provided sufficient support and resources for solo parents to start their own small businesses.	3.45	1.12	Fair
	Livelihood and training sessions have been well-planned and effectively delivered by Vocational Development Division (VDD) of Social Services Development Department.	3.27	1.14	Fair
Educational Assistance	Inclusion in the Education Assistance Program (EAP) has been implemented smoothly and effectively.	3.28	1.24	Fair
	Inclusion in the Education Assistance Program (EAP) has been responsive to the needs of solo parents.	3.24	1.28	Fair
Health and Medical Assistance	The provision of medicine has been reliable and accessible for solo parents.	3.20	1.34	Fair
	Inclusion in the government-sponsored Philhealth program has been seamless and has provided necessary health coverage for solo parents.	3.21	1.33	Fair
Average Weighted Mean		3.30	1.00	Fair

Table 8 describes the implementation of the programs and services for solo parents by the local government unit of Quezon City. As shown by the data, the programs and services were perceived as “fair” by the respondents as evidenced by the average weighted mean score of 3.30. The results indicate that, on average, the respondents view the programs and services as moderately satisfactory.

In Support Services, the first indicator, which evaluates the accessibility and timeliness of family counseling services, received a mean score of 3.50, suggesting that respondents generally perceive these services as "Good." However, the second indicator, assessing Parenting Effectiveness Sessions, received a mean score of 3.26, indicating a perception of "Fair" quality.

Under Livelihood, the first indicator, which concerns the support provided to solo parents for starting small businesses through "Tindahan ni Joy," received a mean score of 3.45, implying a perception of "Fair" sufficiency. The second indicator, related to the planning and effectiveness of livelihood and training sessions, received a mean score of 3.27, also suggesting "Fair" quality.

In Educational Assistance, the first indicator, evaluating the implementation of the Education Assistance Program (EAP), received a mean score of 3.28, indicating that this aspect is perceived as "Fair" in terms of effectiveness. The second indicator, assessing the program's responsiveness to the needs of solo parents, received a mean score of 3.24, implying a "Fair" level of responsiveness.

Lastly, for Health and Medical Assistance, the first indicator, examining the reliability and accessibility of medicine provision, received a mean score of 3.20, indicating a "Fair" perception. The second indicator, which evaluates inclusion in the government-sponsored Philhealth program, received a mean score of 3.21, suggesting that this program is perceived as "Fair" in terms of providing necessary health coverage.

The standard deviations provide insight into the degree of variation in respondents' perceptions. A smaller standard deviation suggests that responses are more closely clustered around the mean, while a larger standard deviation indicates greater variability in responses. Hence, the standard deviations ranging from 1.00 to 1.34 connote that the respondents' perceptions are relatively consistent and that there is a reasonable level of agreement in their evaluations or only minor variations in their individual assessments are observed. The results collectively reveal how solo parents view the government services and support provided to them, which may indicate areas where enhancements might be considered.

Dagupon and Garin (2022) pointed out that despite the legislation of the law, solo parents remain to be as among the most vulnerable sectors in society. It is revealed that many respondents faced physical undernourishment due to poor diets and experienced mental and emotional distress due to increased responsibilities and feelings of betrayal. Lack of awareness about the Solo Parents Association, which could provide assistance, was also noted. Financial difficulties were common among the respondents, as they lacked a regular source of income to meet their needs.

According to the findings of a 2015 survey, the primary support that single-parent families considered crucial was financial assistance, including covering living costs and parenting expenses. This was closely followed by the need for housing support, such as access to suitable facilities and affordable rental housing. These results indicate a strong desire among single-parent families for economic assistance (Kim & Kim, 2020).

Table 9 Economic Condition of Solo Parents in Quezon City

Indicators	Mean	SD	Verbal Interpretation
I have a stable source of income.	2.36	1.06	Poor
I am able to meet my basic needs, such as food, shelter, and clothing.	2.37	0.99	Poor
I am satisfied with my current level of savings and financial security.	2.04	0.89	Poor
I am able utilize or maximize my earnings	2.44	0.95	Poor
I have access to affordable and reliable financial services, such as banking and credit, or become a member of GSIS/SSS among others.	1.96	0.93	Poor
I have experienced an improvement in my personal financial situation recently.	1.97	0.85	Poor
I feel financially secure and have enough savings for emergencies.	1.98	0.88	Poor
I have opportunities for career growth and advancement.	2.40	0.87	Poor
I possessed professional, technical, occupational skills	2.38	0.93	Poor
I am able to afford education and training opportunities to enhance my skills and knowledge.	2.20	0.88	Poor
I am able to invest in and start my own business if desired.	2.14	0.92	Poor
I feel optimistic about the future economic prospects of the Philippines.	3.11	0.79	Fair
Average Weighted Mean	2.28	0.91	Poor

Table 9 presents data on the economic condition of solo parents in Quezon City, focusing on various economic indicators. As can be observed from the results, the economic condition of the respondent solo parents is poor as evidenced by a low average weighted mean score of 2.28. The data indicates that solo parents in Quezon City are facing economic challenges, as most indicators receive a "poor" verbal interpretation. The mean scores for most indicators range from 1.96 to 2.44, suggesting that solo parents perceive their economic condition as *poor* in various aspects. They report challenges in having a stable source of income, meeting basic needs, utilizing their earnings effectively, accessing financial services, and achieving financial security.

Additionally, opportunities for career growth, skills possession, and affordability of education and training are also perceived as limited, contributing to the *poor* economic assessment. However, there is a notable exception in Indicator 12, where respondents express moderate optimism about the future economic prospects of the Philippines. This suggests that while their current economic conditions may be challenging, they maintain some hope for improved economic conditions in the country. Based on the results, it is evident that there is a need for support and interventions to improve the economic well-being of solo parents in the area.

The scores were derived from a survey or assessment where participants expressed their perception regarding aspects of their economic well-being. The mean score for each indicator was calculated, and a weighted mean was determined by considering the weights assigned to each indicator.

The specific aspects of economic conditions assessed include stability of income, meeting basic needs, satisfaction with savings and financial security, ability to utilize earnings, access to financial services, recent improvement in personal financial situation, feeling financially secure with emergency savings, opportunities for career growth, possession of professional skills, affordability of education and training, ability to invest in and start a business, and optimism about the future economic prospects of the Philippines.

Abing (2018) highlighted that significant challenges still persist in the daily lives of single parents. They consider familial, educational, and economic values to be of moderate importance, with familial values being the most crucial.

In terms of their experiences, single parents reported maintaining a fair and balanced approach to child rearing, time management, financial management, and self-image perception. Nevertheless, they encounter the greatest difficulties in managing their finances and maintaining a positive self-image. To cope with these challenges, single parents prioritize spending quality time with their children and engaging in work or household activities.

According to Zakaria (2022), during the pandemic, single mothers from a socioeconomic group experienced significant impacts on their lives, particularly in social, economic, and psychological aspects. The financial constraints resulting from income reductions brought about by the crisis compelled these single mothers and their children to adopt a frugal lifestyle, foregoing luxuries and non-essential expenses. Additionally, to support their children's needs, single mothers had to take on multiple jobs simultaneously during the pandemic. This situation reflects the challenges faced by single mothers and the resilience they demonstrated in navigating the difficulties brought about by the pandemic.

➤ *Is there Significant Difference in the Assessment of the Participants on the Programs and Services of the Local Government Unit of Quezon City for Solo Parents when Grouped According to Demographic Profile?*

Table 10 Significant Difference in the Assessment of the Participants on the Programs and Services of the Local Government Unit of Quezon City for Solo Parents in Terms of Age

Source of Variation	SS	Df	MS	F	P-value	F crit	Remarks
Between Groups	23.94	8.00	2.99	3.93	0.00	1.97	Significant
Within Groups	215.68	283.00	0.76				
Total	239.62	291.00					

Table 10 presents the analysis of variance (ANOVA), aimed at understanding the the variation in the assessments of programs and services provided by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Quezon City for solo parents when age is considered. The F-ratio is reported as 3.9, which suggests that there is a notable difference in the means of these groups, indicating that age might indeed have an impact on how participants assess the programs and services provided by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Quezon City for solo parents. The p-value of 0.00 is less than the significance level of 0.05.

The result implies that the observed differences in the assessments of participants across age groups are highly unlikely to be the result of random chance. Therefore, there is a statistically significant difference in the assessment of the respondents of the LGU's programs and services for solo parents based on their age. In other words, age is a factor that significantly cause variation on how participants perceive and evaluate the programs and services provided by the LGU for solo parents in Quezon City. Based on these results, the study rejects the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference in the assessment of the participants on the programs and services of the Local Government Unit of Quezon City for Solo Parents when grouped according to demographic profile when it comes to age.

The identified significant variation in solo parents' perceptions of programs and services provided by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Quezon City based on age has crucial implications for the design and implementation of support initiatives. Recognizing that age influences how solo parents assess and value these services allows for more user-specific and effective interventions.

The LGU can now develop specifically its programs to cater specifically to the varying needs, preferences, and challenges faced by solo parents in different age groups. For instance, younger solo parents may benefit from programs that focus on education and career development, while older solo parents might require more health-related assistance. This detailed approach ensures that the LGU's efforts align with the diverse life stages and circumstances of solo parents, ultimately enhancing the overall impact and relevance of the support services provided.

Table 11 Significant Difference in the Assessment of the Participants on the Programs and Services of the Local Government Unit of Quezon City for Solo Parents in Terms of Gender

Source of Variation	SS	Df	MS	F	P-value	F crit	Remarks
Between Groups	1.18	1.00	1.18	1.18	0.27	3.87	Not Significant
Within Groups	367.56	366.00	1.00				
Total	368.74	367.00		Total	368.74	367.00	

Table 11 exhibits the data determining whether there are significant differences in the assessments of participants regarding programs and services offered by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Quezon City for solo parents based on gender. As can be gleaned from the table, the F-ratio is reported as 1.18, and the associated p-value is 0.27. The F-ratio is low, implying that there is no substantial difference in the assessments of male and female participants regarding the LGU's programs and services for solo parents. In other words, the F-ratio being close to 1 indicates that there is relatively little variation between the genders in terms of their assessments.

Relatively, the p-value, of 0.27 exceeds the level of significance set at 0.05. When the p-value is high, as it is in this case, it suggests that the differences observed in the assessments of male and female participants are more likely to have arisen by random chance. Hence, the computed data does not provide strong statistical evidence to support the existence of significant differences in the assessments of programs and services offered by the LGU of Quezon City for solo parents based on gender.

Any observed differences between male and female participants are more likely due to random variation rather than any systematic effect related to gender. Therefore, the study fails to reject the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference in the assessment of the participants on the programs and services of the Local Government Unit of Quezon City for Solo Parents when grouped according to demographic profile with respect to gender.

Table 12 Significant Difference in the Assessment of the Participants on the Programs and Services of the Local Government Unit of Quezon City for Solo Parents in Terms of Income

Source of Variation	SS	Df	MS	F	P-value	F crit	Remarks
Between Groups	9.41	3.00	3.14	3.25	0.02	2.63	Significant
Within Groups	350.71	364.00	0.96				
Total	360.12	367.00					

As can be observed from Table 11,12 the data reveals that there is significant differences in the assessments of participants regarding programs and services offered by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Quezon City for solo parents when income is considered. A F-ratio of 3.25 is reported, suggesting that there are notable differences in the assessments made by participants with varying income levels regarding the LGU's programs and services for solo parents. An F-ratio greater than 1 indicates that there is more pronounced variation between income groups, which could suggest a significant effect. The p-value, on the other hand, is reported as 0.02, signifying that it is less likely that the observed differences in assessments occurred by random chance. The results mean that the observed differences in assessments of programs and services for solo parents based on income are statistically significant. Therefore, it can be confidently concluded that income plays a significant role in shaping how participants perceive and evaluate the LGU's offerings. In other words, there is strong statistical evidence to support the assertion that income level significantly influences the differences in participants' assessments. Considering these premises, the study rejects the null hypothesis stating that there is no significant difference in the assessment of the participants on the programs and services of the Local Government Unit of Quezon City for Solo Parents when grouped according to demographic profile in terms of income.

The significant differences in participants' assessments based on income levels highlight the critical influence of economic factors on how solo parents perceive and evaluate the programs and services provided by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Quezon City. Recognizing the impact of income on program perceptions suggests that initiatives addressing economic empowerment, financial support, and opportunities for income improvement could contribute significantly to enhancing the effectiveness and inclusivity of the LGU's services. Policymakers and program developers should prioritize strategies that account for income disparities, ensuring that interventions cater to the unique needs and challenges faced by solo parents across various economic groups.

Table 13 Significant Difference in the Assessment of the Participants on the Programs and Services of the Local Government Unit of Quezon City for Solo Parents in Terms of Educational Attainment

Source of Variation	SS	Df	MS	F	P-value	F crit	Remarks
Between Groups	8.90	6.00	1.48	1.40	0.21	2.13	Not Significant
Within Groups	236.94	224.00	1.06				
Total	245.84	367.00	Total				

Data in Table 13 reveals whether there are significant differences in the assessments of participants regarding the programs and services provided by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Quezon City for solo parents, with a focus on educational attainment. The study reported an F-ratio of 1.40, measuring the variability between different educational attainment groups in comparison to the variability within each educational group. The relatively low F-ratio shown in the table suggests that there is no substantial difference in the assessments made by participant solo parents with varying educational backgrounds concerning the LGU's programs and services for solo parents. An F-ratio close to 1 indicates that the variation between educational groups is not particularly pronounced. In relation to that, the p-value of 0.21 is greater than the level of significance. This phenomenon connotes that the observed differences, if there is any, are more likely to be attributed to random variation. Thus, the data does not provide strong statistical evidence to support the existence of significant differences in the assessments of programs and services offered by the LGU of Quezon City for solo parents based on educational attainment. In terms of educational attainment, the study fails to reject the null hypothesis stating that there is no significant difference in the assessment of the participants on the programs and services of the Local Government Unit of Quezon City for Solo Parents when grouped according to demographic profile.

Table 14 Significant Difference in the Assessment of the Participants on the Programs and Services of the Local Government Unit of Quezon City for Solo Parents in Terms of Number of Children

Source of Variation	SS	Df	MS	F	P-value	F crit	Remarks
Between Groups	13.35	4.00	3.34	3.41	0.00	2.40	Significant
Within Groups	355.39	363.00	0.97				
Total	368.74	367.00	Total				

Table 14 reveals the significant differences in the assessments of participants regarding the programs and services provided by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Quezon City for solo parents, specifically with respect to the number of children in the family. The F-ratio describing the variability between different families sizes (number of children) compared to the variability within each family size group is reported as 3.41. The relatively high F-ratio suggests that there are notable differences in the assessments made by participants with varying number of children concerning the LGU's programs and services for solo parents. The p-value, on the other hand, is recorded as 0.00, which is less than the 0.05 level of significance. The result implies that it is highly unlikely that the observed differences in assessments occurred due to random chance. Therefore, it can be confidently concluded that the number of children in the family plays a significant role in shaping how participants perceive and evaluate the LGU's offerings. In other words, there is strong statistical evidence to support the assertion that family size significantly influences the differences in participants' assessments. With the results on the number of children, the study is bound to reject the null hypothesis stating that there is no significant difference in the assessment of the participants on the programs and services of the Local Government Unit of Quezon City for Solo Parents when grouped according to demographic profile.

The significant differences in participants' assessments based on the number of children in the family emphasize the clear impact of family size on how solo parents perceive and evaluate the programs and services offered by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Quezon City. The elevated F-ratio indicates substantial variability between different family sizes, underlining the need for specialized interventions that consider the unique challenges associated with varying family structures. Policymakers and program developers should recognize the influence of family size on program perceptions and strive to implement initiatives that address the specific needs arising from the number of children in a family. This finding contributes valuable assessment for program optimization, suggesting that a family-size-sensitive approach is crucial for maximizing the effectiveness and relevance of LGU services for solo parents.

➤ *Is There Significant Difference in Economic Condition when Grouped According to Demographic Profile?*

Table 15 Significant Difference in Economic Condition in Terms of Age

Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit	Remarks
Between Groups	2.49	9.00	0.28	0.61	0.79	1.91	Not Significant
Within Groups	163.13	358.00	0.46				
Total	165.63	367.00	Total	165.63			

Table 15 presents the data regarding whether there is significant difference in the assessment of their economic condition by solo parents in terms of age. As can be observed in the table, the F-ratio is reported as 0.61, and the associated p-value is 0.79. The F-ratio (F-statistic) represents the variability between different age groups concerning their economic condition, relative to the variability within each age group. In this case, a low F-ratio of 0.61 suggests that no significance differences exist in the assessments made by participants of different age groups regarding their economic condition. An F-ratio close to 1 indicates that the variation between age groups is not particularly strong. The p-value, on the other hand, is reported as 0.79. The p-value reflects the probability that the observed differences in economic condition assessments are due to random chance. A p-value that exceeds the level of significance of 0.05 implies that the observed differences are more likely to be attributed to random variation rather than systematic effects related to age. Hence, the data does not provide substantial statistical evidence for the existence of significant differences in the assessments of economic condition among participants of different age groups. Considering the analysis of data, the study fails to reject that null hypothesis stating that there is no significant difference in economic condition when grouped according to demographic profile in terms of age.

Table 16 Significant Difference in Economic Condition in Terms of Gender

Source of Variation	SS	Df	MS	F	P-value	F crit	Remarks
Between Groups	0.42	1.00	0.42	0.91	0.34	3.87	Not Significant
Within Groups	168.08	366.00	0.46				
Total	168.50	367.00	Total				

As shown in Table 16, data reveals that there is no significant differences in the assessment of the respondents' economic condition with respect to gender. Similar to the age profiles, a low F-ratio of 0.91 is reported, connoting that there are no substantial differences in the assessments made by participants of different genders regarding their economic condition. The p-value, on the other hand, is reported as 0.34. Exceeding the 0.05 level of significance, the p-value implies that the observed differences are more likely to be attributed to random variation rather than systematic effects related to gender. Therefore, based on the statistical analysis, it cannot be concluded that gender significantly influences how participants assess their economic condition. Based on the statistical analysis, the study fails to reject that null hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference in economic condition when grouped according to demographic profile in relation to gender.

Table 17 Significant Difference in Economic Condition in Terms of Income

Source of Variation	SS	Df	MS	F	P-value	F crit	Remarks
Between Groups	1.54	3.00	0.51	1.24	0.29	2.63	Not Significant
Within Groups	150.82	364.00	0.41				
Total	152.36	367.00	Total	152.36			

In Table 17, data reveal the results regarding the significant difference in economic condition when income is considered. As can be gleaned from the table, The F-ratio is recorded as 1.24. The data suggests that no substantial differences exist in the assessments made by participants of varying income levels regarding their economic condition. An F-ratio close to 1 indicates that the variation between income groups is not particularly evident. In relation to that, the computed p-value of 0.29 is greater than the level of significance set at 0.05. The data implies that the observed differences are more likely to be attributed to random variation rather than systematic effects related to income. Therefore, based on the statistical analysis, it cannot be concluded that income significantly influences how participants assess the economic condition of solo parents. The results lead to the conclusion that the study fail to reject that null hypothesis stating that there is no significant difference in economic condition when grouped according to demographic profile in terms of income.

Table 18 Significant Difference in Economic Condition in Terms of Educational Attainment

Source of Variation	SS	Df	MS	F	P-value	F crit	Remarks
Between Groups	10.55	7.00	1.51	4.01	0.00	2.04	Significant
Within Groups	135.26	360.00	0.37				
Total	145.81	367.00					

Table 18 shows the significant difference in economic conditions when the educational attainments of solo parents are considered. Results show that the F-ratio of 4.00 connotes significant variations in the assessments made by respondents with varying levels of educational attainment concerning their economic condition. An F-ratio exceeding the value of 1 means that the variation between educational groups is very evident. Furthermore, a p-value of 0.00 is significantly lower than the significance level of 0.05. This means that the observed differences in assessments of economic condition based on educational attainment are highly statistically significant. A p-value of 0.00 indicates that it is extremely unlikely that the observed differences are due to random variation. Therefore, it can be confidently concluded that educational attainment plays a significant role in shaping how participants perceive and evaluate their economic condition. Considering the results, the study rejects that null hypothesis stating that there is no significant difference in economic condition when grouped according to demographic profile with regard to academic attainment.

The significant difference in economic conditions based on the educational attainments of solo parents highlights the crucial role of education in influencing how participants perceive their economic well-being. The notable F-ratio suggests substantial variability between different educational groups, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions that consider the diverse economic challenges faced by solo parents with varying levels of academic attainment. This finding underscores the importance of educational support programs and initiatives suitable to the specific needs of solo parents at different educational levels. Policymakers and program developers should acknowledge the impact of educational attainment on economic conditions and design strategies that empower solo parents through education which contributes to a more inclusive and effective approach to improving their economic well-being.

Table 19 Significant Difference in Economic Condition in Terms of Number of Children

Source of Variation	SS	Df	MS	F	P-value	F crit	Remarks
Between Groups	5.80	4.00	1.45	3.31	0.01	2.40	Significant
Within Groups	158.77	363.00	0.44				
Total	164.57	367.00					

Table 19 provides the answer to whether there exist significant differences in the economic conditions of solo parents when the number of children is considered as a factor. As can be seen in the table, the data reveal an F-ratio of 3.31. The recorded high F-ratio suggests that there are substantial differences in the assessments made by the solo parents with varying number of children concerning their economic condition. The variation is evidently pronounced as the F-value exceeds the value of 1. Relatively, the p-value is reported as 0.01, which is less than the level of significance of 0.05. The p-value indicates that it is extremely unlikely that the observed differences are due to random variation. Thus, the data means that the observed differences in assessments of economic conditions based on number of children are highly statistically significant. It can be confidently concluded that this profile characteristic plays a significant role in shaping how participants perceive and evaluate their economic condition. Hence, in terms of the number of children, the study rejects the null hypothesis stating that there is no significant difference in economic condition when grouped according to demographic profile.

The significant differences in the economic conditions of solo parents based on the number of children underscore the need to recognize and address the unique challenges faced by solo parents with varying family sizes. The LGU should consider family size as a key demographic factor when designing interventions aimed at improving the economic conditions of solo parents. By acknowledging and addressing the diverse economic challenges associated with family size, initiatives can be more effective to provide specific and meaningful support to solo parents navigating the complexities of varying family structures.

➤ *What is the Impact of Programs and Services of LGU, QC for Solo Parents to the Economic Condition of the Beneficiaries?*

Table 20 Impact of Programs and Services of LGU, QC for Solo Parents to their Economic Condition

Variables	Mean	Multiple r	F computed	P value	Remarks
Programs and Services for Solo Parents	3.30	0.33	45.38	0.00	Significant
Economic Condition	2.28				
Level of Significance is 0 05			R squared = 11%		

Table 20 reveals the impact of programs and services for solo parents of LGU of Quezon City to the economic condition of beneficiaries. As can be observed, the F-value is reported as 45.38, and the associated p-value is 0.00, with an R-squared value of 11%.

The F-value, also known as F-statistic, was used to determine whether there is a statistically significant relationship between the programs and services offered by the LGU and the economic condition of the beneficiaries. The high F-value of 45.38 suggests that the programs and services have a significant impact on the economic condition of the beneficiaries. On the other hand, the p-value of 0.00 which is exceedingly lower than the level of significance level of 0.5 indicates that the observed relationship is highly unlikely to be due to random chance, providing strong evidence of statistical significance. The R-squared value which represents the proportion of the variation in the economic condition of the beneficiaries that can be explained by the programs and services provided by the LGU is set at 11%. This value signifies that the programs and services explain 11% of the variability in the economic condition of the beneficiaries. While this percentage might seem relatively low, it is important to note that numerous factors can influence economic condition, and an 11% contribution from the programs and services is still a meaningful impact.

The economic well-being of solo parents, as observed in Table 7, is positively influenced by the several components of the programs and services offered by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Quezon City. Notably, livelihood and skills training initiatives, such as "Tindahan ni Joy" and Livelihood and Skills Training Sessions, play an important role by equipping solo parents with practical skills needed for entrepreneurial endeavors, developing economic independence. The Education Assistance Program (EAP) contributes significantly to improving their educational attainment, potentially enhancing employability and opening doors to better economic opportunities. Furthermore, support services like family counseling and parenting effectiveness sessions indirectly impact economic well-being by promoting mental health and stable family relationships. Health and medical assistance, coupled with structured feedback systems, ensures that solo parents have access to necessary healthcare, maintaining their well-being and reducing potential economic burdens. The inclusive planning of economic empowerment programs, suitable to the diverse needs of solo parents based on factors like age, number of children, educational background, and income, underscores a personalized and effective approach. The observed impact in Table 7 signifies that these programs collectively contribute to the economic upliftment of solo parents in Quezon City.

Considering the results of the statistical analysis, the data provides strong evidence that the programs and services offered by the LGU of Quezon City have a significant impact on the economic condition of the beneficiaries. Hence, the study rejects the null hypothesis that states that there is no significant impact between the programs and services for solo parents to the economic condition of the beneficiaries. In other words, the evidence suggests that these programs and services do indeed make a meaningful difference in improving the economic well-being of solo parents in Quezon City. The results study is consistent with the findings and discussions of Melad, et al (2020), Barrientor (2019), Addelyan Rasi, et al, (2020), and Ayoo (2021). Melad, et al. (2020) pointed out that poverty alleviation programs yield positive outcomes, particularly in terms of improved access to education and healthcare services, although challenges related to program targeting and compliance still exist. Social assistance plays a vital role in reducing poverty and inequality and promoting inclusive growth in Asia and the Pacific. However, the need for equitable distribution of social assistance and the importance of balancing its protective and investment roles must be given enough attention. Additionally, the importance of resource mobilization and sustainable financing for strengthening social assistance programs should also be emphasized. (Barrientos, 2019).

According to Ayoo (2021), to address poverty, several strategies can be pursued. These include promoting economic growth to increase incomes and employment opportunities, implementing economic and institutional reforms to enhance resource utilization, prioritizing the basic needs of the poor in national policies, facilitating microfinance programs to encourage innovation and small-scale businesses, improving marketing systems to enhance production, providing incentives to the private sector, and implementing targeted cash transfers and affirmative actions to ensure inclusivity and reach marginalized demographics with poverty reduction initiatives.

Addelyan Rasi, et al, (2020) revealed that all the women in a project focused on empowering Iranian single mothers by teaching the problem-solving model effectively utilized the framework, leading to more deliberate decisions in improving their lives. Positive outcomes included increased employment opportunities and enhanced family relationships. The study suggests that empowerment-oriented social work has the potential to support clients in achieving their goals, and the psychosocial intervention project could serve as a valuable model not only in Iran but also in other societies.

➤ *Based on the findings of the study, what plan can be proposed to improve the program and services for solo parents?*

- There is a need to enhance the quality and accessibility of these programs. A detailed review of the existing services can help identify areas where improvements are required, whether it's expanding the scope or making services more readily available to a wider range of solo parents. The results of the study may aid local legislation to further improve these programs and services aiming to support a vulnerable sector in the community.
- Stakeholder engagement is crucial in this process. Establishing a structured feedback system that enables beneficiaries to provide input and suggestions for program improvement can be invaluable. By actively involving solo parents and community representatives, LGU can gain wisdom on their diverse needs and preferences, and use this valuable information to further develop the services.
- The development and implementation of targeted economic empowerment programs are essential to equip solo parents with the necessary skills and knowledge required to enhance their economic condition. These programs should be specifically designed to address the unique challenges faced by solo parents and provide them with practical tools for financial improvement. Key areas of focus within these programs should encompass financial literacy, enabling them to make informed decisions about their finances; budgeting, to help them manage their resources effectively; and savings strategies, to encourage the development of sustainable financial habits that contribute to their overall economic well-being.
- Crafting support programs to address the diverse challenges encountered by various segments within the solo parent community is essential. Factors such as age, number of children, educational background, and income can significantly influence the specific needs of solo parents. To make a substantial impact, these programs should be finely tuned to cater to the unique circumstances of each group. In doing so, the LGU can offer workshops, training sessions, and resource provisions that are precisely aligned with the distinct challenges faced by solo parents in different life situations. This personalized approach ensures that all solo parents, regardless of their circumstances, receive targeted and effective support, ultimately enhancing their economic well-being and overall quality of life.
- The proven positive results of the program on the economic conditions of solo parents suggest a compelling opportunity for scalability and replication. The LGU of Quezon City can explore the potential for expanding its reach to a larger cohort of solo parents within the city, consequently extending the program's benefits to more beneficiaries. Moreover, the success of the program positions it as a potential model for other regions and municipalities, offering a blueprint for effective support systems that can be adopted and adapted to meet the needs of solo parents in various locales. By considering the replication and scaling of this successful initiative, the LGU of Quezon City has the potential to create a broader positive impact and contribute to the economic well-being of solo parents on a larger scale.
- The findings of this study have significant policy implications for the local government that highlights areas where improvements in services for solo parents are crucial. One notable aspect is the need for suitable economic empowerment programs by considering the observed significant differences in economic conditions based on factors such as income, educational attainment, and family size. The local government can enhance existing programs or introduce new initiatives that specifically address the economic challenges faced by solo parents with varying income levels and educational backgrounds. Additionally, creating support services based on the unique needs of solo parents with different family sizes is essential, as evidenced by the variations in economic conditions. Strengthening family counseling services and parenting effectiveness sessions, especially considering the significance of family-related factors, can contribute to holistic support for solo parents. Moreover, the policy implications extend to the importance of stakeholder engagement, ensuring that the feedback and experiences of solo parents are actively considered in the design and improvement of programs. The local government can enhance its services by incorporating these observations into policy decisions, thereby adopting a more supportive environment for solo parents in Quezon City.
- Several promising areas for future research emerge from this study. Firstly, conducting longitudinal research to explore the long-term impact of the programs on the economic conditions of solo parents would provide valuable understanding. Tracking changes over an extended period would offer a more comprehensive understanding of the sustained effects of interventions on economic well-being. Moreover, investigating the specific needs and experiences of solo parents during different life stages, such as those with young children versus those with adolescents, could offer specific insights for program development. Understanding how the needs of solo parents evolve over time can inform the adaptation of services to address changing circumstances. Also, exploring the role of community support and social networks in buffering the economic challenges faced by solo parents could be a valuable avenue. Understanding the impact of informal support systems on economic outcomes could guide the development of community-based interventions.

CHAPTER FOUR
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section discusses the summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations.

➤ *Summary of Findings*

From the discussion made in the previous chapter, the following is the summary of its findings:

- The demographic profile of 368 solo parents is described in the study. The majority of respondents are in the 31 to 50-year age group, with a significant representation in the 41 to 50-year category. Additionally, a substantial majority of respondents are female, comprising over 80% of the sample. Regarding monthly income, most respondents earn below Php 11,313, reflecting a significant proportion with modest incomes. The educational attainment of respondents varies, ranging from no formal education to college degree holders, with some possessing vocational training. Family sizes also differ, with the majority having 1 to 2 children, but there is a notable presence of those with 3 to 4 children, indicating diversity in family sizes within the surveyed population.
- The study provides an overview of the Local Government Unit of Quezon City's programs and services for solo parents. Respondents, on average, rate these programs and services as "fair" as evidenced by the average weighted mean score of 3.30. In Support Services, family counseling services receive a "Good" remark with the mean score of 3.50, while Parenting Effectiveness Sessions are considered "fair" with the mean score of 3.26. In Livelihood, support for starting small businesses is rated "fair" with the mean score of 3.45, as are the planning and effectiveness of livelihood and training sessions with the mean score of 3.27. Educational Assistance's implementation is perceived as "fair" as evidenced by the mean score 3.28, with "fair" responsiveness as indicated by the mean score of 3.24. Health and Medical Assistance, including medicine provision and Philhealth inclusion, are seen as "fair" with the respective mean scores of 3.20 and 3.21. Table 8 presents the summary of results.

Table 21 Summary of Results on the Implementation of Programs and Services for Solo Parents in Quezon City

	Indicators	Mean	Interpretation
Support Services	1. Family counseling services	3.50	Good
	2. Parenting Effectiveness Sessions (PES)	3.26	Fair
Livelihood	1. "Tindahan ni Joy"	3.45	Fair
	2. Livelihood and training sessions	3.27	Fair
Educational Assistant	1. Education Assistance Program (EAP) Implementation	3.28	Fair
	2. Education Assistance Program (EAP) Responsiveness	3.24	Fair
Health and Medical Assistance	1. The Provision of Medicine	3.20	Fair
	2. Government-sponsored Philhealth programs	3.21	Fair
Average Weighted Mean		3.30	Fair

- As can be observed from the results, the economic condition of the respondent solo parents is poor as evidenced by a low average weighted mean score of 2.28.
- Data reveals that there are significant differences in the assessments of programs and services for solo parents in terms of age (F-ratio 3.9; p-value 0.00), income (F-ratio 3.25; p-value 0.02), and number of children (F-ratio 3.41; p-value 0.00). On the other hand, the same is not observed with respect to gender (F-ratio 1.81; p-value 0.27) and educational attainment (F-ratio 1.40; p-value 0.21).
- Results of the study showed that there are significant variations in the economic conditions of solo parents with regard to educational attainment (F-ratio 4.00; p-value 0.00) and number of children (F-ratio 3.31; p-value 0.02). However, no variations exist when age (F-ratio 4.00; p-value 0.00), gender, (F-ratio 4.00; p-value 0.00), and income (F-ratio 4.00; p-value 0.00) are considered.
- The high F-value of 45.38 suggests that the programs and services have a significant impact on the economic condition of the beneficiaries. While the p-value of 0.00 which is exceedingly lower than the level of significance level of 0.5 indicates that the observed relationship is highly unlikely to be due to random chance, providing strong evidence of statistical significance. The R-squared value at 11% signifies that the programs and services explain 11% of the variability in the economic condition of the beneficiaries.
- To improve services for solo parents provided by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Quezon City, it is crucial to enhance quality and accessibility while expanding the reach to a wider range of solo parents. Stakeholder engagement and feedback mechanisms should be established to gather valuable input for program enhancements. Planned economic empowerment programs focusing on financial literacy, budgeting, and savings strategies should be designed to address the unique challenges solo parents face. These programs should also be customized for different solo parent groups based on factors like age, number of children, educational background, and income. Furthermore, the success of the program offers an opportunity for scaling its impact within Quezon City and potentially serving as a model for other regions and municipalities.

➤ *Conclusion*

From the findings of the study, the following can be concluded:

The study provided essential understanding the demographic profile and assessment of programs and services for solo parents provided by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Quezon City. It also evaluated the programs and services offered by the LGU of Quezon City for solo parents. Notably, the assessment highlights the need for improvements in the quality and accessibility of these programs. On the other hand, the economic condition of the surveyed solo parents is a matter of concern. This underscores the challenges faced by this demographic group.

Furthermore, the study investigates the impact of demographic factors on program assessments. It reveals that significant differences exist in program assessments based on age, income, and the number of children. However, the study does not find similar differences concerning gender and educational attainment. The economic conditions of solo parents significantly vary based on educational attainment and the number of children, highlighting the complex challenges they face. Yet, there are no variations observed when considering age, gender, or income.

Even if there are still a lot to improve in terms of the economic status of the solo parents, the study found out that the programs and services offered by the LGU of Quezon City had a substantial impact on the economic condition of the beneficiaries. To improve services for solo parents provided by the LGU of Quezon City, it is crucial to enhance quality and accessibility while expanding the reach to a wider range of solo parents. Stakeholder engagement, including structured feedback systems, should be established to gather valuable input for program enhancements. Planned economic empowerment programs focusing on financial literacy, budgeting, and savings strategies should be designed to address the unique challenges faced by solo parents. These programs should also be customized for different solo parent groups based on factors like age, number of children, educational background, and income. Furthermore, the success of the program offers an opportunity for scaling its impact within Quezon City and potentially serving as a model for other regions and municipalities, thus contributing to the economic well-being of solo parents on a broader scale.

➤ *Recommendations*

The following are recommendations presented to improve the programs and services of the LGU of Quezon City for solo parents that can be implemented during the executory stage of each or for the next round of implementation:

➤ *Support Service*

Given the positive perception of Parent Counseling services, it's crucial to maintain the quality that has been acknowledged by respondents. The LGU should continue to provide effective and accessible counseling services to support solo parents in their parenting roles. Firstly, the LGU should conduct regular evaluations of the parent counseling program, seeking feedback from both counselors and solo parents. This feedback loop can identify areas of improvement and maintain the quality of counseling services. Additionally, the LGU should invest in continuous professional development for counselors to keep them updated on the latest research and counseling techniques. Accessibility can be enhanced by providing multiple channels for counseling, such as in-person sessions, hotlines, and online platforms to meet the diverse needs and preferences of solo parents. Establishing a flexible and confidential system for feedback from solo parents about their counseling experiences will further contribute to maintaining the acknowledged quality of the service. This plan can be implemented right away while in its executory stage during the current fiscal year.

To better support solo parents in their parenting roles, it's advisable to review and potentially revamp these sessions to make them more informative and impactful. This could include incorporating more practical guidance and addressing specific parenting challenges faced by solo parents. This initiative should involve collaborating with experienced parenting experts and soliciting input from solo parents themselves through focus group discussions or surveys. The revamp could focus on incorporating more practical guidance to offer real-life scenarios and providing actionable strategies to address common challenges faced by solo parents. The sessions should be according to the unique circumstances and needs of solo parents, addressing topics such as time management, effective communication with children, and strategies for handling stress. Additionally, incorporating interactive elements into the sessions, such as role-playing or Q&A segments, can make the sessions more engaging and impactful. Regular assessments and feedback mechanisms should be implemented to ensure that the revised sessions continually meet the evolving needs of solo parents in their parenting journey.

➤ *Livelihood*

To improve the perception of the "Tindahan ni Joy" program, the LGU should consider enhancing its effectiveness. This can be achieved through better training and support for participants in areas such as business management, marketing, and financial planning. Also, it is also important to recognize that participants in the program may have varying levels of business experience and skills. Furthermore, the program should explore other opportunities for providing access to capital or microloans to participants, especially those who face financial barriers in starting their businesses. Access to capital can significantly enhance the success of small enterprises. Providing comprehensive training and support for participants in crucial areas such as business management, marketing, and financial planning is essential. This involves developing training modules that cater to varying levels of business

experience and skills among program participants. Additionally, recognizing the diverse needs of participants is important; hence, the program should be flexible in addressing specific challenges faced by individual entrepreneurs. Furthermore, the LGU should explore additional avenues for providing access to capital or microloans, especially targeting participants who encounter financial barriers in initiating their businesses. Establishing partnerships with financial institutions or creating a microfinance component within the program can offer financial support, developing sustainability and success for small enterprises under the "Tindahan ni Joy" initiative.

To empower solo parents economically, livelihood and training sessions could be improved by making them more comprehensive and suitable to the specific needs and aspirations of the beneficiaries with consideration of what sustainable and feasible business opportunities are available. This might involve offering a wider range of training options and ensuring that they are effective in helping participants start small businesses. A crucial first step involves conducting a comprehensive skills assessment to identify the specific needs and aspirations of solo parents. Collaborating with business experts and industry professionals will provide valuable input into sustainable and feasible business opportunities aligned with market trends. Customized training modules should then be developed, covering essential areas such as business management, financial planning, and marketing strategies. Diversifying training options, offering flexible schedules, and providing access to resources will meet the diverse skills and availability patterns of solo parents. Integrating financial literacy workshops is essential for effective money management. Networking opportunities with established entrepreneurs and local business networks can develop collaboration and support. Establishing an effective monitoring and evaluation framework will ensure continuous improvement, while promoting sustainable business practices contributes to responsible entrepreneurship. By implementing these initiatives, the LGU can create effective programs to empower solo parents economically and develop long-term success in their entrepreneurial endeavors.

➤ *Educational Assistance*

For the Educational Assistance Program (EAP), the LGU must ensure transparency in the application and selection process for educational assistance, make information about eligibility criteria, application procedures, and deadlines readily accessible to solo parents. This can enhance the perceived fairness of the program. Communication with applicants and beneficiaries must also be improved to provide timely updates on the status of applications and disbursement of assistance. Firstly, the application and selection process should be clearly outlined, with eligibility criteria, application procedures, and deadlines readily available to solo parents. Establishing a user-friendly online platform or informational sessions can facilitate easy access to this information. Additionally, the LGU should prioritize timely and transparent communication with applicants and beneficiaries. Regular updates on the status of applications and the disbursement of assistance should be provided through various channels, such as emails, SMS notifications, or dedicated online portals. Creating a dedicated helpline or contact point for inquiries can further enhance communication. By implementing these measures, the LGU can develop trust and confidence among solo parents, improving the perceived fairness and effectiveness of the Educational Assistance Program.

The LGU must conduct periodic needs assessments to understand the educational requirements and aspirations of solo parents and their children. They must upgrade the assistance to match these needs effectively. This may involve conducting surveys, focus group discussions, or interviews to gather ideas about the specific challenges and goals faced by the target demographic. The data collected from these assessments should then inform strategic upgrades to the assistance program, ensuring that it aligns with the identified needs effectively. Also, this may involve expanding the range of eligible educational expenses, adjusting grant amounts based on educational levels, or introducing context-based support mechanisms for certain educational challenges. By incorporating direct input from the solo parent community through regular needs assessments, the LGU can improve the Educational Assistance Program to address evolving educational needs and maximize its impact on the beneficiaries.

➤ *Health and Medical Assistance*

The LGU must ensure a consistent and well-managed inventory of medicines at healthcare facilities to prevent shortages and improve accessibility. Also, they may consider extending the pharmacy hours at healthcare facilities, especially in areas with a high concentration of solo parents. This can enhance the convenience of obtaining necessary medications. They may also implement mobile healthcare clinics that can visit areas with limited access to healthcare facilities due to lack of time, making medications more accessible to solo parents. Firstly, there should be a concerted effort to maintain a consistent and well-managed inventory of medicines at all healthcare facilities to minimize the likelihood of shortages. Additionally, the LGU could consider extending pharmacy hours, particularly in areas with a high concentration of solo parents, to accommodate varied schedules and enhance the convenience of obtaining necessary medications. To address access challenges in areas with limited healthcare facility availability, the LGU may explore the implementation of mobile healthcare clinics. These mobile clinics could be deployed to visit communities with restricted access to healthcare facilities due to time constraints, providing a more accessible avenue for solo parents to receive necessary medical assistance. This approach aims to ensure that solo parents have reliable access to essential medications and healthcare services that contributes to their overall well-being.

The LGU must increase awareness about the Philhealth program among solo parents, including its benefits, coverage, and application procedures. This can be achieved through informational campaigns and community outreach. Also they can collaborate with healthcare providers to ensure that they accept Philhealth coverage. This can involve negotiating agreements with clinics and hospitals to expand the network of Philhealth-accredited facilities. First and foremost, the LGU can conduct comprehensive

informational campaigns and community outreach programs to educate solo parents about the benefits, coverage, and application procedures of the PhilHealth program. This could involve the distribution of informational materials, organizing community seminars, and using digital platforms for wider reach. Additionally, collaboration with healthcare providers is crucial. The LGU should actively engage with clinics and hospitals to encourage acceptance of PhilHealth coverage. This collaboration may involve negotiating agreements with healthcare facilities to expand the network of PhilHealth-accredited providers. By establishing strong partnerships with healthcare institutions and ensuring solo parents are well-informed, the LGU can significantly increase the utilization of the PhilHealth program, improving healthcare access and financial protection for solo parents and their families.

➤ *Monitoring and Evaluation*

The monitoring and evaluation of the proposed plan are critical components to ensure its effectiveness and impact on the economic well-being of solo parents in Quezon City. The plan may employ a systematic approach with defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to assess the success of each recommendation.

• *Support Service:*

- ✓ KPI 1: Counseling Service Utilization Rate. Measure the percentage increase in the utilization of parent counseling services over a specified period.
- ✓ KPI 2: Participant Feedback and Satisfaction. Gather regular feedback from solo parents who attend counseling sessions, assessing their satisfaction levels and perceived impact.
- ✓ Livelihood:
- ✓ KPI 3: "Tindahan ni Joy" Effectiveness Score. Establish an effectiveness score based on business growth, profitability, and sustained operations among program participants.
- ✓ KPI 4: Access to Capital. Monitor the percentage increase in the number of participants accessing capital or microloans for their businesses.
- ✓ Educational Assistance:
- ✓ KPI 5: Transparency and Communication. Assess the transparency and communication effectiveness through the percentage of solo parents who report understanding eligibility criteria, application procedures, and deadlines.
- ✓ KPI 6: Needs Alignment. Evaluate the alignment of educational assistance with the identified needs of solo parents and their children through periodic needs assessments.
- ✓ Health and Medical Assistance:
- ✓ KPI 7: Medicine Availability. Measure the percentage of time when healthcare facilities have a consistent and well-managed inventory of medicines to prevent shortages.
- ✓ KPI 8: Philhealth Awareness. Assess the increase in awareness about the Philhealth program among solo parents through surveys and outreach programs.
- ✓ Tindahan ni Joy Program Enhancement:
- ✓ KPI 9: Business Training Impact. Evaluate the impact of enhanced business training on participants' skills and knowledge through pre- and post-training assessments.
- ✓ KPI 10: Access to Capital Impact. Assess the impact of improved access to capital on the success and sustainability of small enterprises, measuring business growth and profitability.
- ✓ Overall Economic Impact:
- ✓ KPI 11: Economic Well-being Index. Develop an economic well-being index considering income levels, employment rates, and overall financial stability of solo parents.

Regular surveys, feedback mechanisms, and periodic reviews will be implemented to collect data for each KPI. The LGU will establish an evaluation team responsible for analyzing the gathered data and adjusting strategies as needed to ensure continuous improvement and the achievement of the intended impact.

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APPENDIX A

➤ *Informed Consent*

- *Informed Consent Form for Solo Parent Beneficiaries of Quezon City*

This Informed Consent Form is for men and women who are registered solo parent in Quezon City, and who we are inviting to participate in research on the impact of the LGU's programs and services for solo parents on their economic condition. The title of our research project is "solo parents programs and services of local government unit of Quezon City: its impact on economic condition among beneficiaries."

I: Information Sheet

I am Lovely Ramilo, a graduate student from the La Consolacion University Philippines (LCUP). We are doing research on the impact of solo parents programs and services on the economic condition of the beneficiaries, which is essential in evaluation. I am going to give you information and invite you to be part of this research. You do not have to decide today whether or not you will participate in the research. Before you decide, you can talk to anyone you feel comfortable with about the research. There may be some words that you do not understand. Please ask me to stop as we go through the information and I will take time to explain. If you have questions later, you can ask them of me.

Solo parents and their children are among vulnerable sectors of society. They are more disadvantaged in terms of health, education, and work than other groups. Based on recent data, there are 15 million solo parents in the Philippines, 95% of whom are mothers. They are among people who bear the most brunt of the pandemic crisis in the Philippines. Hence, programs and services meant for them are augmented and continuously evaluated to make sure that they meet the needs of beneficiaries.

This research will require time from you in responding to survey questions. We are inviting all registered solo parents who are beneficiaries of the programs and services by the local government of Quezon City. Your participation in this research is entirely voluntary. It is your choice whether to participate or not. If you choose not to participate in this research project, your status as a beneficiary will not be affected. You may change your mind later and stop participating even if you agreed earlier. If you participate in this research, the investigation may provide baseline data and evaluation for the improvement of the programs and services for solo parents.

We will provide you with all the materials for this research free of charge. You will not be given any money or gifts to take part in this study. With this research, something out of the ordinary is being done in your community. It is possible that if others in the community are aware that you are participating, they may ask you questions. We will not be sharing the identity of those participating in the research.

The information that we collect from this research project will be kept confidential. Information about you that will be collected during the research will be put away and no one but the researcher will be able to see it. Any information about you will have a number on it instead of your name. Only the researcher will know what your number is and I will lock that information up with a lock and key. It will not be shared with or given to anyone except the LCUP.

The knowledge that we get from doing this research may be shared with you through community meetings before it is made widely available to the public. Confidential information will not be shared. There may be small meetings in the community and these will be announced. After these meetings, we will publish the results in order that other interested people may learn from our research.

You do not have to take part in this research if you do not wish to do so. You may also stop participating in the research at any time you choose. It is your choice and all of your rights will still be respected. If you have any questions you may ask them now or later, even after the study has started. If you wish to ask questions later, you may contact any of the following: Lovely S. Ramilo, Raxabago Street, Tondo, Manila.

II: Certificate of Consent

I have read the foregoing information, or it has been read to me. I have had the opportunity to ask questions about it and any questions that I have asked have been answered to my satisfaction. I consent voluntarily to participate as a participant in this research.

Printed Name of Participant _____

Signature of Participant _____

Date _____

Day/month/year

(If illiterate)

I have witnessed the accurate reading of the consent form to the potential participant, and the individual has had the opportunity to ask questions. I confirm that the individual has given consent freely.

Printed name of witness _____

AND

Thumb print of participant

Signature of witness _____

Date _____

Day/month/year

Statement by the researcher/person taking consent

I have accurately read out the information sheet to the potential participant, and to the best of my ability made sure that the participant understands that participation in this research is entirely voluntary and that information gathered from this research project will be kept confidential.

I confirm that the participant was given an opportunity to ask questions about the study, and all the questions asked by the participant have been answered correctly and to the best of my ability. I confirm that the individual has not been coerced into giving consent, and the consent has been given freely and voluntarily.

A copy of this ICF has been provided to the participant.

Printed Name of Researcher/person taking the consent _____

Signature of Researcher /person taking the consent _____

Date _____

Day/month/year

APPENDIX B

➤ *Instrument of the Study*

• *Survey Questionnaire*

“Solo parents programs and services of local government unit of quezon city: it’s impact on economic condition among beneficiaries”

➤ *Dear Participants;*

I am inviting you to participate in this research by completing the following questionnaire. The aim of this study is to determine the impact of Solo Parents Program and Services on economic condition among beneficiaries. The following questionnaire will take for about 5 minutes to complete. Thank you for taking your time in assisting me with this research. It will help me greatly in completing my research and enhancing the understanding of this research focus. The data collected will remain confidential and used solely for academic purposes only.

Name (optional): _____

Date (required): _____

Age (please specify): _____

Number of Children (required) _____

Table 22 Solo Parent Membership: (required)

	New	Old
--	------------	------------

Table 23 Sex (please check):

	Male	Other
	Female	Prefer not to say

Table 24 Monthly Income (required)

Below Php 11,313
Php 11,313 to Php 21, 914
Php 21, 915 to Php 43, 828
Php 43, 829 to Php 76, 669
Php 76, 670 to Php 131, 484
Php 131, 484 to Php 219, 140
Above Php 219, 140
Others, please specify _____

Table 24 Educational Status:

Prefer not to say	High School Graduate
No Formal Education	College Level
Elementary Level	College Graduate
Elementary Graduate	Vocational
High School Level	Postgraduate

Please read carefully and check the box that is appropriate to your answer for the following questions about your assessment on the programs and services of the Local Government Unit of Quezon City for Solo Parents:

➤ *Refer to this for the description of the scale*

1- Very Poor, 2- Poor, 3- Fair, 4-Good, 5-Very Good

Table 25 Program and Service

Program And Service	1	2	3	4	5
Support Services					
Family counseling services by social workers of Social Services Development Department-Special Program Division have been accessible and timely.					
Parenting Effectiveness Sessions (PES) have been well-organized and beneficial for participants conducted by social workers of Social Services Development Department- Family Welfare Program.					
Livelihood	1	2	3	4	5
Inclusion in "Tindahan ni Joy" under Office of the City Mayor has provided sufficient support and resources for solo parents to start their own small businesses.					
Livelihood and training sessions have been well-planned and effectively delivered by Vocational Development Division (VDD) of Social Services Development Department.					

Educational Assistance	1	2	3	4	5
Inclusion in the Education Assistance Program (EAP) has been implemented smoothly and effectively.					
Inclusion in the Education Assistance Program (EAP) has been responsive to the needs of solo parents.					
Health and Medical Assistance	1	2	3	4	5
The provision of medicine has been reliable and accessible for solo parents.					
Inclusion in the government-sponsored Philhealth program has been seamless and has provided necessary health coverage for solo parents.					

Please read carefully and check the box that is appropriate to your answer for the following questions to evaluate the impact of the program and services to you:

➤ Refer to this for the description of the scale

1- Strongly disagree, 2- disagree, 3- agree, 4-strongly agree

Table 26 Indicators

Indicators	1	2	3	4
I have a stable source of income.				
I am able to meet my basic needs, such as food, shelter, and clothing.				
I am satisfied with my current level of savings and financial security.				
I am able utilize or maximize my earnings				
I have access to affordable and reliable financial services, such as banking and credit, or become a member of GSIS/SSS among others.				
I have experienced an improvement in my personal financial situation recently.				
I feel financially secure and have enough savings for emergencies.				
I have opportunities for career growth and advancement.				
I possessed professional, technical, occupational skills				
I am able to afford education and training opportunities to enhance my skills and knowledge.				
I am able to invest in and start my own business if desired.				
I feel optimistic about the future economic prospects of the Philippines.				

The researcher for this study wants to thank you for participating and taking your time answering the questionnaires. Have a good day and keep safe!

➤ *Talatanungan*

“Solo parents programs and services of local government unit of quezon city: it’s impact on economic condition among beneficiaries”

• *Minamahal na mga Kalahok;*

Inaanyayahan kita na lumahok sa pananaliksik na ito sa pamamagitan ng pagsagot sa sumusunod na talatanungan. Ang layunin ng pag-aaral na ito ay matukoy ang epekto ng Solo Parents Program and Services sa kalagayang pang-ekonomiya ng mga benepisyaryo. Ang sumusunod na talatanungan ay tatagal ng humigit-kumulang 5 minuto upang makumpleto. Salamat sa paglalaan ng iyong oras sa pagtulong sa akin sa pananaliksik na ito. Malaki ang maitutulong nito sa akin sa pagkumpleto ng aking pananaliksik at pagpapahusay ng pag-unawa sa pokus ng pananaliksik na ito. Ang data na nakolekta ay mananatiling kumpidensyal at ginagamit lamang para sa mga layuning pang-akademiko lamang.

Pangalan (*posyonal*): _____

Petsa (*Kailangan*): _____

Edad (*pakitukoy*): _____

Bilang ng anak (*Kailangan*) _____

Table 27 Solo Parent Membership: (Kailangan)

New	Old
-----	-----

Table 28 Kasarian (paki check):

Lalaki	Iba pa
Babae	Piniling hindi sabihin

Table 29 Buwanang kita (*Kailangan*)

Mababa sa Php 11,313
Php 11,313 hanggang Php 21, 914
Php 21, 915 hanggang Php 43, 828
Php 43, 829 hanggang Php 76, 669
Php 76, 670 hanggang Php 131, 484

Php 131, 484 hanggang Php 219, 140
Mas mataas sa Php 219, 140
Iba pa, mangyaring tukuyin

Table 30 Katayuan Pang-edukasyon:

Prefer not to say	High School Graduate
No Formal Education	College Level
Elementary Level	College Graduate
Elementary Graduate	Vocational
High School Level	Postgraduate

• *Panuto:*

Mangyaring basahin nang mabuti at lagyan ng tsek (/) ang kahon na angkop sa iyong sagot para sa mga sumusunod na tanong tungkol sa iyong pagtatasa sa mga programa at serbisyo ng Local Government Unit ng Quezon City para sa Solo Parents:

• *Gamiting Gabay ang Sumusunod na Katumbas na Marka:*

- ✓ Lubhang Kaunti ang Bisa
- ✓ Kaunti ang Bisa
- ✓ Katamtaman ang Bisa,
- ✓ Napakabisa
- ✓ Lubhang Napakabisa

Table 30 Programa at Serbisyo

Programa at Serbisyo	1	2	3	4	5
Serbisyo					
Ang mga serbisyo sa pagpapayo sa pamilya ng mga social worker ng Social Services Development Department-Special Program Division ay naa-access at napapanahon.					
Parenting Effectiveness Sessions (PES) ay maayos at kapaki-pakinabang para sa mga kalahok na isinagawa ng mga social worker ng Social Services Development Department- Family Welfare Program.					
Tulong Pangkabuhayan	1	2	3	4	5
Ang pagkabilang sa "Tindahan ni Joy" sa ilalim ng Office of the Mayor ay nagbigay ng sapat na suporta at mapagkukunan para sa mga solong magulang upang magsimula ng kanilang sariling maliliit na negosyo.					
Ang mga sesyon ng kabuhayan at pagsasanay ay mahusay na binalak at epektibong naihatid ng Vocational Development Division (VDD) ng Social Services Development Department.					
Tulong Pang-edukasyon	1	2	3	4	5
Ang pagkabilang sa Education Assistance Program (EAP) ay maayos at mabisang naisakatuparan.					
Ang pagkabilang sa Education Assistance Program (EAP) ay maayos at tumutugon sa mga pangangailangan ng mga solong magulang.					
Kalusugan at Nutrisyon	1	2	3	4	5
Ang pagkakaloob ng gamot ay maaasahan at naa-access para sa mga solong magulang.					
Ang pagkabilang sa programang Philhealth na itinataguyod ng pamahalaan ay walang putol at nakapagbigay ng kinakailangang saklaw sa kalusugan para sa mga solong magulang.					

• *Panuto:*

Mangyaring basahin nang mabuti at lagyan ng tsek (/) ang kahon na naaangkop sa iyong sagot para sa mga sumusunod na tanong upang suriin ang epekto ng programa at mga serbisyo sa iyo:

• *Gamiting Gabay ang Sumusunod na Katumbas na Marka:*

- ✓ Lubos na hindi sumasang-ayon
- ✓ Hindi sumasang-ayon,
- ✓ Sumasang-ayon
- ✓ Lubos na sumasang-ayon

Table 31 Mga Tagapagpahiwatig

MGA TAGAPAGPAHIWATIG	1	2	3	4
Mayroon akong matatag na pinagkukunan ng kita.				
Natutugunan ko ang aking mga pangunahing pangangailangan, tulad ng pagkain, tirahan, at pananamit				
Nasiyahan ako sa aking kasalukuyang antas ng pag-iimpok at seguridad sa pananalapi.				
Nagagamit ko o na-maximize ang aking mga kita				
Mayroong abot-kaya at maaasahang mga serbisyong pinansyal, tulad ng pagbabangko at kredito, o maging miyembro ng GSIS/SSS bukod sa iba pa.				
Kamakailan ako ay nakaranas ng pagpapabuti sa aking personal na sitwasyon sa pananalapi				
Pakiramdam ko ay ligtas ako sa pananalapi at may sapat na ipon para sa mga biglaang pangangailangan.				
Mayroon akong mga pagkakataon para sa paglago at pagsulong ng aking kakayahan.				
Nagtaglay ako ng mga kasanayang propesyonal, teknikal, o trabaho				
Nagagawa kong bayaran ang mga pagkakataon sa edukasyon at pagsasanay upang mapahusay ang aking mga kasanayan at kaalaman.				
Nagagawa kong mag-invest at magsimula ng sarili kong negosyo kung gusto ko.				
Nakakaramdam ako ng pag-asa sa hinaharap na pang-ekonomiya.				

Nais magpasalamat ng mananaliksik para sa pag-aaral na ito sa iyong pakikilahok at paglalaan ng iyong oras sa pagsagot sa mga talatanungan. Magkaroon ng isang magandang araw at panatilihing ligtas!

Appendix C

➤ *Certificates*

This is to certify that the instrument, originally developed in English and attached herewith, has undergone a meticulous translation process by the undersigned reviewer, who is proficient in both English and Filipino languages. The Filipino version of the instrument has been assessed and approved for use in the research paper entitled " solo parents programs and services of local government unit of quezon city: it's impact on economic condition among beneficiaries."

The undersigned has carefully reviewed the original instrument and ensured that the translation accurately conveys the meaning and intent of the original questions or items. The reviewer confirmed that the translation is accurate and appropriate for use in research studies involving Filipino-speaking participants. Therefore, this certification affirms the accuracy and reliability of the Filipino version of the instrument to be used in the research project.

Reviewer
License: 134868

Appendix D

➤ *Validation of Research Instruments*

June 6, 2023

MR. CEPRIAN OLIVER M. AGBON, RN, RSW, MSSW
Project Development Officer V
Office of the National Program Manager
Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program

Dear Mr. Agbon:


Greetings!

The undersigned is a graduate student at the La Consolacion University Philippines who is currently pursuing the degree Master of Science in Social Work and completing the thesis/dissertation entitled: **“Solo Parents Programs and Services of Local Government Unit of Quezon City: It’s Impact on Economic Condition Among Beneficiaries”**

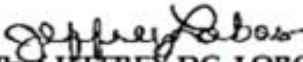
With the recognized expertise in the field of this study, may I respectfully request your good self to, please, spare a few of your precious time in the content validation of the self-made 4-point Likert-scale instrument with three components. Your relevant input will greatly contribute in the gathering of the necessary data to complete this study. Rest assured that all the gathered information/data will be handled with utmost care and confidentiality.

Your positive response is highly appreciated. Thank you.

Yours truly,


LOVELY S. RAMILO, RSW
Student

Noted:


Prof. JEFFREY DC. LOBOS, LPT, RSW, MSSW
Adviser


ENRICO F. ROSALES, Ph.D
Vice-President, Graduate Studies

Approved

Disapproved

Comments and/or Recommendations

The tool is relevant to the current need & situation of the program. This is useful for aspiring students, researchers, regulators, field implementers who wishes to improve the solo parent programs & services. KUOOS!

Approved by:



MR. CEPRIAN OLIVER M. AGBON, RN, RSW, MSSW
Validator

June 12, 2023

MS. ROZELDA A. LUCIANO, RPh, LPT, RSW, MSSW
Teacher II
Assemblywoman Felicita G. Bernardino Memorial Trade School
MARILAO, BULACAN

Dear **MS. Luciano**:

Greetings!

The undersigned is a graduate student at the La Consolacion University Philippines who is currently pursuing the degree Master of Science in Social Work and completing the thesis/dissertation entitled: **“Solo Parents Programs and Services of Local Government Unit of Quezon City: It’s Impact on Economic Condition Among Beneficiaries”**

With the recognized expertise in the field of this study, may I respectfully request your good self to, please, spare a few of your precious time in the content validation of the self-made 4-point Likert-scale instrument with three components. Your relevant input will greatly contribute to the gathering of the necessary data to complete this study. Rest assured that all the gathered information/data will be handled with utmost care and confidentiality.

Your positive response is highly appreciated. Thank you.

Yours truly,



LOVELY S. RAMILO, RSW
Student

Noted:



Prof. JEFFREY D.C. LOBOS, LPT, RSW, MSSW
Adviser



ENRICO E. ROSALES, Ph.D
Vice-President, Graduate Studies

Approved

Disapproved

Comments and/or Recommendations

The questionnaires are reliable and comply with the needs of the research study. Kindly add the number of children in your demographic profile because it is input in your SOP.

Goodluck on your defense and Advance Congratulations!

Approved by:



MS. ROZELDA LUCIANO, Rpm, LPT, RSW, MSSW
Validator