

Enabling Urban Poor Livelihood Policymaking:
Understanding the Role of Energy Services
Philippines

Dissemination Strategy Report

The dissemination of the results of the study started last April when the members of the research team were invited individually and as a group to meetings and gatherings related to energy and enterprise. Reports were shared orally and through flyers.

A communication plan has been drafted which served as the operational framework of the information dissemination of the results of the study.

Purposes of dissemination

- Provide information and share the results of the study to the direct beneficiaries who were involved in the gathering of data and FGD
- Raise awareness of the direct and indirect beneficiaries about the role of energy services in the livelihood of urban poor
- Influence policy-makers in the provision of energy among urban poor entrepreneurs such as the Department of Energy and the TWG of RE Bill
- Elicit feedback from audience and readers about the study and the usefulness of the results of the study
- Stimulate the graduate students to conduct similar study or in-depth investigation of specific cases of successful entrepreneurs or energy service providers and how they contribute to the well-being of the family
- Involve the Department of Trade and Industry to replicate the study in other cities in Metropolitan Manila to gather enough information and provide input to the energy policy of Department of Energy for poverty reduction
- Involving the other sectors to understand and take appropriate action on the importance of energy and the provision of it to the urban poor engaged in micro-enterprise activities

Channels of dissemination

- ☛ NGOs involved in MSMEs – providing abstracts of the study for possible publication in their newsletter
- ☛ radio program of the Department of Agriculture, Extension Division (the research will develop the concept and format of the radio program)
- ☛ state colleges and universities research and extension publication
- ☛ government agencies newsletter
- ☛ meetings –sharing results of the research through a one-page flyer in relevant occasions such as the National Anti-Poverty Commission Energy Division meeting
- ☛ Asia Regional Cookstove Program (ARECOP) newsletter and publication
- ☛ regular publications of the micro-finance institutions
- ☛ Municipal Planning and Development Office of the Cities through their monthly information campaigns

- ☛ monthly meetings of women’s organizations involved in micro-finance and micro-enterprise activities
- TV program in cooperation with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) [national and regional offices]
- Publication of researches (case studies) in cooperation with the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ)

For Whom?

Direct beneficiaries

2. The researchers who conducted the study
3. The respondents
4. The Local Government Units – Office of the Barangay (Village) Captain and the City Mayor
5. The Associations of the MSMEs and the Shoemakers

Indirect beneficiaries

6. The Government Agencies concerned such as the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Energy, National Economic and Development Authority, National Anti-Poverty Commission, Department of Health
7. Non-Government Organizations: Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya, PATAMABA, Philippine Business for Social Progress, Manila Community Services, Inc., NORFIL Foundation, Alalay Sa Kaunlaran sa Hilagang Luzon and other micro-finance institutions, ENCORE (Concerned Citizens for Renewable Energy)
8. Academe: Philippine Normal University, Miriam College, University of the Philippines Center for Women Studies
9. Policy-makers: Department of Energy and the Technical Working Group on the Renewable Energy Bill
10. Graduate students writing their thesis or dissertation

How will the information be used?

During the national workshop, the usefulness of the results of the study have been discussed.

The researchers expressed their appreciation of the experience they underwent and their learning in doing the interview and the home visitation. They did not only learn the techniques in gathering data but they also learned to understand the difficulties and the hardships of the poor families, the micro-entrepreneurs during the financial and energy crisis. The researchers expressed how they understood the importance of energy in the households and the enterprise and the effects on the quality of life of the family members.

The workshop participants’ feedback included the following:

1. there should be energy associations that will gather and disseminate relevant information like other sources of energy, pricing and saving tips
2. energy associations should be encouraged so that
 - 2.1 the community leaders will guard their electrical lines against illegal

connections since the illegal tapping results to higher distribution charges paid by those with legal connections

- 2.2 there should be a body who will monitor pricing and the weight of the LPG tank sold by retailers in the community
3. the research should include respondents from the small and medium enterprises with capital of more than 1.5M pesos and more than 50 paid workers

Next steps

1. form an advocacy and support group like a news bureau to strengthen policy formulation or reforms on energy especially at the municipal level, i.e. municipal or city ordinance in support of the micro and small entrepreneurs and the national economy
2. continuous sharing and dissemination of research results are scheduled in the cities of Manila and Marikina through the City Planning and Development Office during their monthly regional meeting
3. print and broadcast media is still to be tapped
4. local newspapers and tabloids have been furnished a copy of the flyer but no publication has yet been made
5. the agenda for the meeting set for the incoming Secretary-General of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) includes the results of this study (NAPC is the lead convener of all government agencies and 14 sectoral groups in the country)
6. follow-up is still to be made with masteral students enrolled in thesis writing in the graduate schools that offer courses related to energy, poverty, livelihood and policy advocacy for possible in-depth study on this subject
7. link-up with a congressman who may sponsor a bill to improve the plight of the micro-entrepreneurs by providing reliable energy services and modern clean energy for food processors and producers
8. advocate and support a group of consultants who promotes the use of special meter that automatically computes the consumption and cost of electricity during peak hours and during low utilization as used in UK and US