AUTHOR: CUADRO, LABRADOR D.
TITLE: Land Ownership and Social Change in an Agrarian Reform Community in Ilocos Norte.
Year: 1995
Acc. No.: 660773
Abstract: Objective of the Study:

A. General
   To find out if the agrarian reform community has developed as envisioned by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

B. Specific
   To determine the farmer-beneficiaries’ perception of their role as landowners.

   To identify the various support services extended to the Agrarian Reform Community (ARC).

   To determine the involvement of the ARC in decision making.

   To establish the changes that transpired in the community in terms of level of income, productivity and standard of living.

   To identify problems and issues encountered in the process of program implementation.

Scope and Coverage

A total of 70 household heads drawn from the 135 Operation Land Transfer (OLT) beneficiaries of Lydia, Marcos, Ilocos Norte, and agrarian reform community (ARC).

Methodology

Random sampling was used in identifying the respondents. Data and information were gathered primarily through interview schedule, participant observation and key informant method. Data were analyzed using means and percentages. Likert scale
was used to analyze the data on attitude. Information on organizational and institutional process were organized and presented descriptively.

**Major Findings**

The condition of Lydia was no different from other reform areas. The DAR realized that it was not enough for the farmers to own a piece of land. They needed assistance from the government such as farm machineries, agricultural technologies, post harvest facilities and livelihood projects. The total mean score of 1.59 showed that the respondents have favorable perception of the land distribution program.

Physical and material changes were evident both at the family and the community levels. Upon building a solid foundation among agrarian reform beneficiaries, they organized themselves, pooled their resources together, defined their vision and formulated their systems and procedures toward carrying out their common objective.

People’s participation in decision making and in other community activities which is an ingredient in development was also evident in the area. With collective effort and a stronger voice, through the organizations catering to various interests and needs, few problems were encountered in program implementation.

**Conclusions**

Based on the findings and observations, the gains of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform are both physical and socio-economic in nature.

Physical, land ownership on the part of the farmers is in itself a landmark of the land distribution program. The enhancement of livelihood activities, cooperation and self-reliance among rural populace through a comprehensive development approach, first share/distribute the land, then develop and increase the wealth later by delivery of support services gave meaning to the agrarian reform agenda of the government.

On the economic side, the change is an improved quality of life of the beneficiaries, the index of which are improved productivity, increased annual income, generation of employment opportunities, more life amenities and comfort, and inculcation of self-reliance and entrepreneurship through cooperativism in the beneficiaries.
The study implies that the ownership of land is not enough for the new landowners to take off. But with the dignity and self-respect brought about by their new role, the farmers can be guided and assisted to improve their living conditions including that of their community.

The program started the engine of growth in the rural areas through the giving of lands to the landless consequently giving the support services in order for the community to be fully developed.

The government is still the machinery to effect the changes on the people. Government here implies that many government agencies have to work together for an integrated and total development approach. Among them, there should be a lead agency to coordinate the efforts just like what the DAR did in Lydia. However, the development workers should know when to stop giving the assistance so as not to soften the farmers.

Moreover, a community has its resources, innate talents and strengths that should be tapped and further developed. The physical resources are not enough. What is more important are the attitude and values that guide the behavior of individuals.

**Implication/Recommendation**

Based on the findings and conclusion, the implication with reference to the overall objective of the study is that:

Through the revolutionary changes in the thinking and attitudes of the government and the people, everybody has done its part in uplifting the living condition of the beneficiaries of the land distribution program of the CARP. However, the ARC strategy as a way of attaining the objective of the CARP needs full support from government through training and developing the people to manage their own affairs and to assume all the responsibilities as new landowners and as a newly developed community.

With regard to Lydia as a test agrarian reform community, the support services extended by the different agencies should continue to pour in so as not to slacken the development process. However, when the development workers feel the community is ready to be on its own, the assistance shall be gradually withdrawn for it to be now self-reliant.