



PROJECT E-BALITA: AN INNOVATION TO PROMOTE CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AWARENESS AMONG GRADE 10 STUDENTS

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I. Context and Rationale

Contemporary issues are those event, idea, opinion or topics that is relevant to the present day. These issues can be connected to Social Studies education which is meant to be dynamic with contemporary events in the society. These contemporary events may be knowledge and information explosion, social problems, crimes, value education, issues in technology, political violence, gender issues, and others. Students must be aware of the important issues, news, and events happening nowadays. It is important because these issues are relevant and occurring now that becoming aware of contemporary and world issues, learners can build language, vocabulary, reading comprehension, critical thinking, problem-solving, oral expression, and listening skills.

According to Ashley Blackwelder (2020) having a news program increases student engagement and sets a positive tone. Another positive aspect of this project is that a school news program doesn't have to cost much in terms of your budget or instructional time. Top-of-the-line video and sound equipment are nice, but not necessary for success.

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Contemporary issues subject is essential in developing the learners' awareness of the various global social conditions as potential problem solvers. Also, this makes them aware of their duties as community members and citizens of the country (Andrews, 2021; Bovaird et al., 2015). Additionally, it is designed to help them recognize the current political, social, economic, and ideological developments that influence their positive behavior towards society. Meanwhile, learning this subject's competencies establishes an in-depth understanding of the societal challenges and critically envisions ways of reshaping society toward peaceful social living (Maksum et al., 2021; Ossai, 2016).

In response, the Philippine Department of Education K to 12 curriculum offers contemporary issues on Grade 10 students as a discipline that makes the learners responsive to social demands. It also develops their capacity to become critical, reflective, and prudent in their decision-making, social responsibility, and participation as national citizens. Hence, news sharing in the classroom during Araling Panlipunan subject is needed. This is to ensure that Grade 10 learners strengthen their awareness on the event occurring nowadays. News sharing is necessary among students to make them responsible citizens and active social problem solvers.

In view of the situation, the researcher created the Project E – BALITA (**Enhance Balitaan sa Asignaturang AP, Filipino at EsP upang Linangin ang Isipan, Talasalitaan at mga Aral ng Buhay**).

Project E – BALITA objectives are to integrate news across curriculum areas, promote and strengthen awareness of current issues and events and build learner's self-confidence.

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This also emerged to collaborate with other learning areas specifically EsP and Filipino subject. These two-learning areas will use the Balitaan which enhances students' vocabulary words in Filipino and lessons in life in connection with the EsP subject. It also trained the students to be more fluent in oral reading and showcase the broadcasting ability of students.

II. Proposed Innovation, Intervention, and Strategy

Project E – BALITA (Enhance Balitaan sa Asignaturang AP, Filipino at EsP upang Linangin ang Isipan, Talasalitaan at mga Aral ng Buhay) is a kind of innovation to strengthen the contemporary issue awareness among Grade students at Fermin La Rosa National High School.

The purpose of this project is to strengthen awareness of current issues and events among Grade 10 students. The target participants for this project are all Grade 10 students. Its main objective is to strengthen awareness of contemporary issues among them. Grade 10 students will have a news sharing with the use of video presentation during AP class. It aims to attain 100% Grade 10 learners who share news in front of the class.

Project E – BALITA (Enhance Balitaan sa Asignaturang AP, Filipino at EsP upang Linangin ang Isipan, Talasalitaan at mga Aral ng Buhay) is conducted by the AP department spearheaded by the researcher. A Project Proposal is submitted to the Department Head with the approval of the School Head. A Focused Group Discussion (FGD) is conducted to meet the Filipino, EsP and AP teachers for the collaboration.

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The output deliverables of Project E – BALITA (Enhance **B**alitaan sa **A**signaturang AP, Filipino at EsP upang **L**inangin ang **I**sipan, **T**alasalitaan at mga **A**ral ng Buhay) was the following:

- **Project Proposal:** The Project Proposal made by the proponent is submitted for the approval of the Department Head and School Head.
- **News – Video:** The proponent/ researcher checks the news – video made by the learners prior to its presentation in the class.
- **3 MT (3 Mahahalagang Tanong):** These are the questions asks to learners right after the news – video presentation. These includes:
 1. Ano ang naging reaksiyon mo tungkol sa iyong ibinalita?
 2. Ano anong matatalinghagang salita ang nagamit o nakita mo sa iyong balita?
 3. Anong aral ang nais ipahiwatig ng iyong balita ngayong araw na ito?
- **Monitoring and Evaluation Tool:** The proponent makes an M& E Tool to check the progress of the innovation.

III. Action Research Questions

The purpose of this study is to determine the perception of Grade 10 students on Project E-BALITA. Specifically, it sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the level of awareness of students in current social issues?
2. What is the perception of the students regarding Project E- BALITA in terms of:

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- A. Gathering and;
- B. Delivering news?
- 3. What plan of action can be proposed based on the result of the study?

IV. Action Research Methods

Action research is a dynamic and initiative process that seeks to address specific issues within a given context while actively involving participants in the inquiry. The development of effective action research is linked to several key elements, including the selection of participants, the relevance of the research context, and the methods of data collection. Additionally, reflective analysis, collaborative efforts, and a well-defined action plan are essential for ensuring that findings lead to meaningful improvements. The key elements that contribute significantly to the development of this research are as follows:

a. Participants

All the Grade 10 learners at Fermin La Rosa National High School are the participants of the study.

b. News – Video

The news – video presented/ used by the students and checked by the proponent

c. 3 MT (Mahahalagang Tanong)

The processing of the news presented through the use of the three questions as a manifestation of their critical and creative thinking skills.

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d. Teachers

The Filipino and EsP teachers who used the Balitaan in their class as a means of additional resources and clear indicator of applying and teaching across curriculum areas.

To ensure the results of Project E - BALITA, the researcher asks Grade 10 learners about their perception on the said project.

V. Discussion of Results and Reflection

Table 1: Students Perception on Project E- BALITA

Perception	Mean	Verbal Interpretation
Updated on the current issues and events in the country	3.73	Strongly Agree
Gives additional knowledge and information	3.83	Strongly Agree
Analyze legit from fake news	3.53	Strongly Agree
Enhancement on reading and speaking skills and editing skills	3.87	Strongly Agree
Readiness and resiliency	3.77	Strongly Agree
Enhancement on vocabulary words	3.77	Strongly Agree
Continuous implementation of the project	3.80	Strongly Agree
Weighted Mean	3.76	Strongly Agree

The overall weighted mean of **3.76** indicates that respondents strongly agree with the positive impact of the project. This suggests that the initiative is effectively meeting its objectives and resonating well with the participants. The perception on **Awareness of Current Issues (Mean: 3.73)** means that respondents feel well-informed about current events in the country, highlighting the project's role in promoting awareness and engagement with relevant topics. On the other hand, **Knowledge and Information (Mean: 3.83)** shows that project is seen as a valuable source of additional knowledge, indicating that it provides

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content that enriches participants' understanding. Moreover, **Media Literacy (Mean: 3.53)** means that there is a strong belief that the project aids in distinguishing legitimate news from fake news, which is increasingly important in today's information landscape. In addition, **Skills Enhancement (Mean: 3.87)** is perceived that project is significantly improve participants' reading, speaking, and editing skills, suggesting it effectively enhances communication abilities. Furthermore, **Readiness and Resiliency (Mean: 3.77)** appears that respondents feel that the project fosters greater readiness and resilience, implying that it equips them with skills to handle challenges. In the same way, perception on **Vocabulary Development (Mean: 3.77)** shows that project is successful in expanding participants' vocabulary, which is essential for effective communication and comprehension. Finally, perception on **Project Continuity (Mean: 3.80)** interprets the strong support for the ongoing implementation of the project, indicating that participants value its continued presence and impact.

On top of this results, strong consensus across all indicators indicates that people view the initiative as having a very positive impact on media literacy, skill development, and knowledge acquisition. The project's significance can be reaffirmed and continued support can be obtained with the help of this favorable feedback. The program might be improved even more by addressing the participant's marginally lower score in identifying fake news, giving them all the tools they need to successfully navigate the media platform today.

VI. Action Plan

Activities	Timeline	Responsible Person
Submit Project Proposal to	September 4-5,	Researcher

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Department Head and for the Approval of the School Head	2023	
Conduct Focused Group Discussion	September 6, 2023	Researcher, AP, Filipino ang EsP Teachers
Implementation of Project E - BALITA	September 7- May 17, 2024	Proponent Grade 10 learners

VII. Financial Report

This research consumed the following during the conduct of the action research:

- a. 1 rims of bond paper with estimated cost of Php 250.00
- b. ink for printing of materials Php 500.00
- Total Php 750.00

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