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**“ARKINEERING” EXTENSION PROGRAM: PROGRAM MANDATE,  
IMPLEMENTATION, AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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**ABSTRACT**

This descriptive-evaluative research aimed to assess and describe the “Arkineering” Extension Program of ISAT U College of Engineering and Architecture. Forty program beneficiaries were purposively selected and a researcher-made questionnaire was administered. Data were analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively. Findings revealed that the Program Mandate was clearly aligned with the vision, mission, and goals of the university. The projects, activities and other initiatives of the Program were equitably shared by the beneficiaries who demonstrated active participation and involvement. Generation of income and enhancement of environmental resources were classified by ninety-five percent of the beneficiaries who further described their level of satisfaction from “much satisfied” to “very much satisfied”. Among the issues and challenges encountered by the beneficiaries in the implementation of the Program were limited training materials, conflict of training with the work schedule, and lack of transport expenses. Pertinent recommendations were offered.

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**Keywords:** "Arkinering" Extension Program, beneficiaries' involvement, community development

## INTRODUCTION

The development of the community is a dynamic process involving all segments of the locality, including the often-overlooked population. The key component to the development process is found in the creation and maintenance of channels of interaction and communication among diverse local groups that are directed toward individual interests. Hence, the act of conducting Community Extension Programs is needed to solely address multi-faceted community issues effectively involving the local government officials, knowledge-based sector, the academe, and the partnered communities (Ascan, et al., 2016).

The State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in the Philippines offer a wide variety of extension programs and services to serve and improve community life. Extension Programs are designed primarily to: 1) increase the security of livelihood; 2) alleviate poverty; 3) reduce illiteracy; 4) improve health and nutrition; 5) sustain human development; 6) create a system of governance that promotes support; and 7) protect and preserve the environment. The people in the community must be empowered in mind, body and resources to augment and make government responsive to their needs and aspiration. Hence, good governance increases the

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opportunity of the people to participate in decision making, institution building and social life (Bidad & Campiseño, 2010).

The Iloilo Science and Technology University, also known as ISAT U, is one of the leading state or government-owned universities in the Philippines mandated to perform the three core functions of higher learning consisting of instruction, research, and extension. One of its primary institutional goals is to provide, facilitate, and conduct quality extension programs, projects, and activities for the improvement of the quality life in the community (ISAT U ESD Revised Manual of Operation, 2018).

The ISAT U College of Engineering and Architecture (CEA) as one of its constituents is committed to implement mandates on extension specifically in planning, implementation, and evaluation of extension programs and projects in the community that will increase awareness, and maximize expertise, optimistic involvement, and commitment of the faculty, staff, and beneficiaries in the community service. These shall be realized through the implementation of the ISAT U CEA Extension Programs.

The ISAT U CEA Extension Program in Brgy. Tagbac, Oton, is known as the "Arkiengineering" Extension program, a six-year Techno-Knowledge Transfer Program or socio-economic program which started in the year 2018. The name "Arkiengineering" is derived from the word Architecture for "Arki" and Engineering for "neering". The program is composed of capacity building and livelihood projects that conduct series of activities and trainings to include Organic Crop Production,

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Dressmaking, Solar PV Powered Water Pumping System Training, Basic Building Wiring and Solar PV System Training, Solar PV Powered Drip Irrigation System Training, Basic Metal Arc Welding Training, Landscaping, and Basic Bookkeeping and Accounting intended for the beneficiaries in Brgy. Tagbac, Oton, Iloilo.

The “Arkinengineering” extension program helps the targeted beneficiaries and the local community to enhance their practices and capabilities through skills trainings, improve household consumption, help gain career opportunities and additional income, and promote and conserve the environment.

The researcher, who had the opportunity to be a part of the “Arkinengineering” Extension Program since its inception, has recognized the need to conduct an assessment of the program to validate the relevance of the program’s existence, hence the conduct of the present study.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Research Methodology

This chapter presents the research design, the respondents of the study, the sampling design, research instrument, data gathering procedure, data analysis, and statistical tools.

### Research Method

The researcher used the descriptive survey method by means of a researcher-made questionnaire. Descriptive Research Method is considered as social scientific research that largely

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focuses on people, the vital facts of individuals, its beliefs, opinions, attitudes, motivations and behavior. In addition, Descriptive Research Method is used for collecting primary data including sociological and psychological facts based on verbal or written communication with a representative sample of individuals or respondents from the target population (Mathiyazhagan and Nandan, 2010). This method was appropriate for the study as it aimed to assess and describe the implementation and contributions to community development of the "Arkinengineering" Extension program in Brgy. Tagbac, Oton, Iloilo.

Before the conduct of the study, the researcher had attended and helped facilitate the implementation of the "Arkinengineering" Extension program in Brgy. Tagbac, Oton, Iloilo. The researcher had personally helped the preparation of the venue, training materials, selection of resource persons, assisted the needs and joined the beneficiaries during the conduct of lectures and various hands-on skills trainings and activities. This method was made by the researcher to engage and assess the implementation of the "Arkinengineering" Extension program and to identify the issues and challenges confronting the learning and participation of the beneficiaries to the said program.

## Research Design

This study employed the descriptive evaluative research design. This research design aims to evaluate the worthiness of a program, project or activity (Calmorin, 2010).

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The descriptive evaluative research design was appropriate for this study which aimed to assess and describe the program mandate, implementation and contributions of the “Arkineering” Extension Program to community development in Brgy. Tagbac, Oton, Iloilo.

### **Respondents of the Study**

The respondents of the study were the forty (40) chosen beneficiaries of the “Arkineering” Extension Program in Brgy. Tagbac, Oton, Iloilo. The respondents were categorized according to age, sex, educational attainment, and socio-economic status.

Based on the data gathered, it showed that the majority of the respondents were aged 40 years old and above, comprising of 14 or 35.00% out of 40, 12 or 30.00% of the respondents aged 30-39 years old, 11 or 27.50% were aged 20-29 years old, and only 3 or 7.50% were aged 19 years old and below.

The data also revealed that most of the respondents were female consisting of 24 or 60.00%, while only 16 or 40.00% were male.

When classified according to educational attainment, it exhibited that only 11 respondents or 27.50% were able to obtain college degree, 28 or 70.00% were high school graduates, and only 1 or 2.50% has finished elementary level.

In relation with respondents’ socio-economic status, data presented that majority of the respondents involving 28 or 70.00% have low socio-economic status with monthly income of below Php 10,000; 10 or 25.00% have an average socio-economic status with regular income of

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Php 10,000; and only 2 or 5.00% got high socio-economic status with above Php 10,000 monthly income. These findings showed that most of the respondents gained lower monthly income than the reported poverty threshold in the province of Iloilo that was Php 10,000 (PSA, 2020).

## Sampling Design

The sampling design used for this study was purposive sampling, a form of non-probability sampling in which the individuals who included in the sample was decided by the researcher, based upon a variety of criteria which may include specialized knowledge of the research issue or capacity and willingness to participate in the research. The respondents of the study were the beneficiaries of the “Arkineering” extension program specifically parents, and out-of-school youth in Brgy. Tagbac, Oton, Iloilo.

## Research Instrument

The researcher developed and distributed a questionnaire to be accomplished by the respondents. The questionnaire was the instrument used to gather the data needed specifically on the implementation and contributions to community development of the “Arkineering” Extension program in Brgy. Tagbac, Oton, Iloilo.

The researcher-made questionnaire was composed of five (5) parts. Part I includes the demographic profile of the respondents such as name (optional), age, sex, educational attainment, and socio-economic status. Part II focuses on how the program was implemented in terms of projects, activities, and other initiatives. Part III contains the contributions of the

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extension program to community development in terms of client satisfaction, income generation, and enhancement of environmental resources. Part IV enumerates the issues and challenges encountered by the beneficiaries in the implementation of the said program. Lastly, Part V includes the recommendations of the respondents in relation to the program implementation.

### Validity of the Research Instrument

The researcher submitted the questionnaire for content validation. This was to ensure valid results for the study. The researcher prepared a draft of the questionnaire and was submitted to the research adviser for checking, revisions and suggestions. Then, it was presented to three jurors who have expertise in the field of research. The revisions, suggestions, and recommendations by the jurors in the questionnaire were integrated in the final printing of the questionnaire which was used for reliability testing.

### Reliability of the Questionnaire

To measure the reliability of the questionnaire, the researcher conducted a test-retest pilot test of questionnaire to thirty (30) facilitators/implementers who have been a part of the "Arkineering" Extension program. The said respondents and their answers were not part of the actual study process and were used only for pilot testing purposes. Spearman Rho was utilized to determine the consistency of responses which should not be lower than 0.70. The actual results of the reliability test were Part II Test and Retest Correlation was 0.850 which was considered as

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highly reliable, and Part III with 0.998 coefficient score which indicated that the questionnaire was highly reliable.

## Data Gathering Procedure

Prior to the conduct of the study, the researcher made a questionnaire and was validated by the panel using the Eight Point Criteria for Content Validation. Then, the researcher prepared and secured a letter for approval to conduct the study from the Office of the President of ISAT University. After the approval, the researcher personally administered the researcher-made questionnaire to the target respondents which were the beneficiaries of the "Arkineering" Extension program. The researcher briefly orient the respondents about the purpose of the study and directions of answering the data gathering instrument. The researcher assisted the respondents and gave them sufficient time in answering the questions. As soon as the questionnaires were accomplished, they were all retrieved immediately by the researcher. Then, the data collected were tabulated, analyzed and interpreted using the appropriate statistical tools.

## Data Analysis

Descriptive data analysis was utilized in this study. Descriptive statistics was used for the analysis of the data collected. Using descriptive statistical tool, the data gathered were summarized, classified, and presented into appropriate tables, specifying frequency counts and percentage distribution with corresponding narrative explanations.

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## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This descriptive study aimed to assess and describe the “Arkineering” Extension Program of ISAT U CEA in Brgy. Tagbac, Oton, Iloilo. This study attempted to know the program mandate of the “Arkineering” Extension program in terms of its vision, mission and goal; assess the implementation of the extension program in terms of its projects, activities, and other initiatives; assess the contributions of the extension program to community development in terms of its client satisfaction, income generation, and enhancement of environmental resources; assess the issues and challenges encountered in the implementation of the “Arkineering” Extension program; and know the suggestions or recommendations to improve the implementation of the extension program.

Forty respondents residing in Brgy. Tagbac, Oton, Iloilo were chosen by using the purposive sampling technique.

The researcher developed a questionnaire which was validated by panel of experts and pilot tested for reliability.

The program mandate in terms of its mission, vision and goals was determined by the researcher using the secondary data.

The findings revealed that in the implementation of the “Arkineering” Extension program, the livelihood and capacity building projects were fully and well implemented.

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Moreover, the livelihood projects were undertaken completely by the respondents, and that most of them joined the organic crop production while minority participated in dressmaking.

Meanwhile, majority of the respondents were involved in capacity building trainings of the "Arkineering" Extension program. Most of them participated in Landscaping, and least had joined the training on Basic Building Wiring and Solar PV system.

In terms of planning, the data showed that the livelihood and capacity building projects were strategically planned and the objectives were clearly understood by all of the respondents.

In terms of organizing the activities of livelihood and capacity building projects, majority of the respondents had disclosed that these projects were organized well and the conduct of activities were followed easily.

Likewise, almost all of the respondents were motivated to attend in the projects and activities of the "Arkineering" Extension program.

Also, they were all led and directed to engage actively in the livelihood and capacity building projects to address their needs and gain desirable results in the end of these projects.

In terms of the training needs, the data showed that all of the respondents were involved and had addressed their training needs in the duration of the extension program.

With regard to the contributions of the "Arkineering" Extension program, all of the respondents were satisfied of the overall outcome of the program. As to the extent of fulfillment, most of the respondents had claimed that they were "very much satisfied".

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In terms of employment, the data revealed that almost all of the respondents recognized that their enhanced competencies from participating in the “Arkineering” Extension program had helped them to be equipped and gained employment.

Similarly, in terms of income, most of the respondents had signified that what they gained from livelihood and capacity building projects had helped to be able to get jobs and generate sufficient income for their daily needs and consumption.

On the other hand, in terms of preservation of environmental resources, all of the respondents claimed that the extension program had helped preserve and nurture the environment of Brgy. Tagbac, Oton, Iloilo.

Most of the issues and challenges encountered by the respondents were limited training materials during hands-on activities. Moreover, conflict with work schedule, difficulty of transport and limited resources for travel expenses also hindered them to fully participate in the “Arkineering” Extension program.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the aforementioned findings, the researcher had drawn the following conclusions:

ISAT University’s institutional goals to provide, facilitate, and conduct quality extension programs were properly directed and complied through the “Arkineering” Extension program.

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The livelihood and capacity building projects of this extension program were participated by majority of the beneficiaries which are both intended to intensify their level of understanding, skills and competencies to be able to raise their standard of living, maximize livelihood opportunities and preserve the abundance of their local environment.

The beneficiaries clearly understood the objectives, were highly involved, and motivated to participate in the implementation of the “Arkineering” Extension program.

Similarly, the beneficiaries were extremely satisfied of the contributions of projects and activities of this extension program which enabled them to gain jobs, and profit to improve their quality of living and, enhance and preserve the environmental resources.

The lack of limited training materials is a common issue that confronted the active participation of the beneficiaries and effective implementation of extension programs.

Based on the findings and conclusions drawn from the study, the following recommendations are suggested:

The Philippine government should give attention, strengthen and improve the mandate of State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), and other government agencies to conduct quality and sustainable extension programs to serve and empower the local communities.

Furthermore, the government should also allocate sufficient budget for SUCs and other agencies to support the demands in the implementation of extension programs.

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The SUCs may establish linkages and collaboration with other government agencies such as Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources to implement more wide variety and viable educational and environmental preservation programs and projects for the people and rural community.

Public-private partnerships with civil society organizations, and international organizations such as Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) should also be considered to support the implementation and sustainability of the extension programs by financing, providing technology for production and operation facilities, conduct entrepreneurial trainings, and enhancement of microenterprises to create employment opportunities for the beneficiaries.

The SUCs should also collaborate with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to provide livelihood support and help the beneficiaries of this program to find and gain suitable jobs based on their experiences and acquired skills.

The SUCs should encourage the involvement of students and graduates to the conduct of extension programs to capacitate their understanding, initiatives and interest to help the underprivileged or people in need, and the local community.

The ISAT U CEA should conduct extension programs to other barangays or municipality in Iloilo to expand and deliver quality extension services to rural communities.

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Future researchers are encouraged to make further studies on extension programs to further assess the significance of this to the people's quality of living and development of the community.



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