

## **ASSESSMENT ON THE LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARIKINA CITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN (FY 2021-23): A BASIS FOR PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

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### **Abstract**

This study assesses the level of involvement of youth organizations in the implementation of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan (MCYDP) for fiscal years 2021-2023, as mandated by Republic Act No. 10742. The research focuses on three key phases: planning, decision-making, and execution. Using a quantitative approach, the study surveyed 137 members from 17 youth organizations in Marikina City to evaluate their engagement across these phases. Results indicate that while the planning and decision-making processes were perceived positively, with weighted means of 3.08 and 3.09 respectively, there were moderate levels of involvement in execution (2.96) signifying areas of improvement. The findings also reveal significant relationships between youth involvement and demographic factors such as age, organization type, kind of organization, barangay, and years of operation. The study underscores the need for enhanced youth participation in local governance and suggests targeted capacity-building initiatives to bridge gaps in execution and ensure sustained youth engagement. These results provide a basis for program development aimed at optimizing youth organizations' contributions to the MCYDP, ultimately fostering a more inclusive governance process in Marikina City.

*Keywords: Development Plan, Local Governance, RA 1074, Youth Involvement*

### **INTRODUCTION**

As a legal mandate. Article II, Section 13 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution: "The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and

protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism and encourage their involvement in

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public and civic affairs."

The involvement of the youth be it individually or group is very pivotal and important to the development of the nation. As what the undying words of the national hero Dr. Jose Rizal about the youth pinned our hopes on them as future leaders. The youth is believed to be the crest of the future.

With this, the citizen engagement encompasses evaluating public needs in response to prevailing issues, contributing to project planning and monitoring, and actively participating in the decision-making process. This level of citizen involvement serves to enhance the management of public resources and mitigate corruption, ultimately contributing to the effective functioning of governance structures. With the creation of Sangguniang Kabataan, a platform for the youth organizations in the local governance was established.

The Constitution expresses that the youth is vital in restoring the nation (Malaluan et al., 2014). This led to the creation of the Sangguniang Kabataan, or SK, embodied in the Local Government Code of 1991 and the SK Reform Act. Likewise, it has been

highlighted that "there shall be in every province, city, and municipality a Local Youth Development Council (LYDC), which shall be called, Provincial Youth Development Council, City Youth Development Council and Municipal Youth Development Council, respectively. The LYDC shall be composed of representatives of youth and youth serving organizations at the provincial, city, and municipal levels. The LYDC shall assist in the planning and execution of projects and programs of the Sangguniang Kabataan, and the Pederasyon at all levels.

Palomares (2021) stated that Sangguniang Kabataan was re-established under Republic Act No. 10742, known as the Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015. According to De Jesus (2022), one of its purposes is for youth representatives to implement programs and influence decision-making. It also provided structure for the composition and mandates of the Local Youth Development Council (LYDC). In the political aspect, youth organizations are provided with an opportunity to become part of the local governance and in the decision-making process.

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Concerning the implementation of the Republic Act No.10742, the Local Youth Development Council was created. This harmonizes and strengthens the programs and initiatives of the local government including the non-governmental organizations for the youth sector. It comprises representatives from community-based youth groups, community youth organizations, youth-serving organizations, student councils, church, and youth faith groups. The LYDC shall assist in the planning and execution of projects and programs of the SK, and the Pederasyon at all levels and to implement the Local Youth Development Plan developed and approved.

Addressing youth exclusion in local governance requires intentional efforts to promote youth participation, such as creating youth advisory councils, establishing mentorship programs, providing training in civic engagement, and ensuring representation in decision-making bodies. By actively involving young people in local governance, communities can benefit from their

energy, creativity, and commitment to building a better future.

Further still, nine years after the ratification of RA 10742, the researcher aims to assess how the Local Government Unit of Marikina City provides opportunities to the youth organizations in the local governance. This study will assess on the level of involvement of the youth organizations on the implementation of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan (MCYDP) for the fiscal years 2021-2023.

All of these initiatives of the National Government pave the way to address the current and underlying issues of the youth that are facing right now such as non-involvement of them in the Local Governance. Accordingly, the non-involvement of youth in the local governance is a global issue, with studies from South Africa (Tshishonga, 2019), Sierra Leone (Mansaray, 2022), Tanzania (Mpwehwe, 2021), and the United States (David, 2019) all highlighting this problem. Factors contributing to this issue include a lack of alignment with community governance structures (Tshishonga, 2019), the state's failure to create

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sufficient platforms for youth participation (Mansaray, 2022), and socio-economic factors such as education and gender (Mpwehwe, 2021). The institutionalization of youth participation in local governance is also low, with barriers primarily related to capacity (David, 2019). These studies collectively underscore the need for greater efforts to engage and empower youth in local governance.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. Determine the Profile of the participating youth organizations in terms of their core advocacy, membership size, and length of operation within Marikina City.
2. Assess the Level of Involvement of these organizations across the different phases of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan (MCYDP), specifically in:
  - a. Policy Planning and Consultation;
  - b. Program Implementation and Execution;
  - c. Monitoring and Evaluation
3. Identify the Challenges and Facilitators that influenced the organizations' ability to participate effectively in the 2021–2023 cycle.
4. Measure the Perceived Impact of the MCYDP on the capacity-building and sustainability of the involved youth organizations.
5. Develop a Proposed Action Plan or Framework for enhanced program development that strengthens the partnership between the Marikina City local government and its youth stakeholders

**METHODOLOGY**

The researcher uses a descriptive research design. As a descriptive study, it aims to describe and explain the thoughts of the youth organizations about the policy that was implemented. With the use of this method, the researcher will be able to gather and present fully descriptive data.

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In a descriptive-assessment study, comparing Marikina to another local government unit (LGU) serves as a benchmark. Marikina is famous for its discipline, cleanliness, and structured local governance. However, youth involvement in the Local Youth Development Plan (LYDP) execution can vary wildly based on funding, institutional support, and digital engagement. Comparing it to a peer city allows you to prove whether Marikina's youth programs are genuinely effective or trailing behind regional standards. For this study, Pasig City makes an excellent comparative baseline for FY 2021-23. During this specific timeframe, both cities dealt with post-pandemic recovery and shared similar urban demographics, yet they approached youth data-banking, budgeting, and Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK) engagement differently.

The study used the quantitative research approach. According to Babbie (2010), quantitative research emphasizes objective measurements and statistical, mathematical, or numerical analysis of data collected through polls, questionnaires, and surveys, or by manipulating pre-existing statistical data using computational techniques. Quantitative research focuses on gathering numerical data and generating

it across groups of people or to explain a particular phenomenon.

Due to time and resource constraints, a sample size from this number should be drawn with 95% reliability and 5% margin of error. The 95% reliability represents the degree of confidence the study aims to have in the survey's findings. A 95% reliability level indicates that there is a 95% likelihood that the findings from the sample will fairly represent the opinions of the total population, which consists of all 195 members. On the other hand, the 5% margin of error shows the potential variation in results between the findings of the sample and the actual results from the total population. A 5% margin of error means that the true proportion (i.e., the percentage of members who agree with a certain statement) in the population as a whole may differ by 5% from the results of the survey for the sample.

Hence, the researcher will use the following formula to get the sample size from the population of 195 members, with 95% reliability and 5% margin of error.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The study was able to get a total of 137 respondents, aligned with the sample size of 130 respondents which the 95% reliability and 5% margin of

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error requires. A 95% reliability rating suggests that there is a 95% chance that the sample results will fairly represent the opinions of the entire population, which includes all 195 members. The 5% margin of error, on the other hand, demonstrates the potential for difference in outcomes between the sample findings and the real results from the entire population. A 5% margin of error indicates that the true proportion (i.e., the percentage of members who agree with a specific statement) in the population as a whole could differ by 5% from the survey results for the sample. To calculate the sample size from a population of 195 members, use 95% reliability and a 5% margin of error: 130

*A. Distribution of the Respondents' Age*

Among the total of 137 respondents, the age group of 21-25 years old constituted the largest segment, with 55 individuals representing 40% of the sample. This was followed by the age group of 15-20 years old, comprising 44 respondents (32%). The age group of 26-30 years old accounted for 38 respondents (28%). This distribution

indicates a predominance of younger individuals, particularly those aged 21-25, highlighting the engagement of youth within the context of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan and emphasizing the focus on young adults in the assessment of their involvement in the plan's implementation.

*B. Respondents' Demographic Profile*

Among the total of 137 respondents, the age group of 21-25 years old constituted the largest segment, with 55 individuals representing 40% of the sample. This was followed by the age group of 15-20 years old, comprising 44 respondents (32%). The age group of 26-30 years old accounted for 38 respondents (28%). This distribution indicates a predominance of younger individuals, particularly those aged 21-25, highlighting the engagement of youth within the context of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan and emphasizing the focus on young adults in the assessment of their involvement in the plan's implementation.

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*C. Distribution of the Type of Organization*

Among the total of 137 respondents, a significant majority, comprising 105 individuals (77%), identified their organizations as school-based, while a smaller portion, consisting of 32 respondents (23%), indicated that they belong to community-based organizations. The distribution highlights a predominant involvement of school-based organizations in the context of Marikina City Youth Development Plan.

*D. Distribution of the Kind of Organization*

Out of the 137 respondents, the majority, 92 individuals (67%), were affiliated with youth organizations, whereas 45 respondents (33%) represented youth-serving organizations. This indicates a substantial representation of organizations primarily focused on youth engagement and development, underscoring the significance of direct youth involvement in the implementation of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan.

*E. Distribution of Respondents' Barangay/Area of Operations*

It showcases the frequency and

percentage distribution of respondents based on their barangay affiliation. Among the 137 respondents, Concepcion Dos accounted for the highest representation with 67 individuals (49%), followed by Marikina Heights with 26 respondents (19%). The other barangays, such as Fortune, Malanday, Nangka, Santo Niño, and Barangka, had lower frequencies ranging from 3% to 10%. This distribution emphasizes the geographical diversity of the respondents and their organizations, reflecting the various local contexts within the implementation of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan.

*F. Level of involvement of the Marikina City Youth Development Council in the process of developing the Marikina City Youth Development Plan*

**Table 1**

Inputs Utilized in the Planning Phase of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan

| Questions                                                                                                            | M           | Verbal Interpretation |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Planning processes within the Marikina City Youth Development Plan are clearly defined and documented.               | 3.19        | Strongly Agree        |
| The allocation of resources for planning activities within the Youth Development Plan is adequate.                   | 2.94        | Agree                 |
| The involvement of stakeholders in the planning phase of the Youth Development Plan is extensive.                    | 2.99        | Agree                 |
| The Youth Development Plan outlines specific objectives and targets for each planning activity.                      | 3.18        | Strongly Agree        |
| Planning activities within the Youth Development Plan are regularly reviewed and updated to adapt to changing needs. | 3.09        | Strongly Agree        |
| <b>AVERAGE:</b>                                                                                                      | <b>3.08</b> | <b>Strongly Agree</b> |

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The table presents the inputs utilized in the decision-making phase of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan. It includes various questions that evaluate the transparency, inclusiveness, and responsiveness of decision making processes. The weighted mean scores range from 3.05 to 3.11, indicating a consistent strong agreement among respondents regarding the clarity of decision making criteria and the involvement of diverse stakeholders. The overall average weighted mean of 3.09 reinforces the notion that decision-making within the council is well regarded, reflecting a commitment to informed and inclusive governance.

Table 2

Inputs Utilized in the Decision making Phase of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan

| Questions                                                                                                             | M           | Verbal Interpretation |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| The implementation of activities within the Marikina City Youth Development Plan is well-coordinated and organized.   | 3.02        | Strongly Agree        |
| Resources allocated for the execution of activities within the Youth Development Plan are effectively utilized.       | 2.97        | Agree                 |
| The Youth Development Plan includes mechanisms for monitoring and tracking the progress of execution activities.      | 2.86        | Agree                 |
| The involvement of local communities in the execution of Youth Development Plan activities is promoted.               | 2.93        | Agree                 |
| Challenges encountered during the execution of Youth Development Plan activities are promptly addressed and resolved. | 3.01        | Strongly Agree        |
| <b>AVERAGE:</b>                                                                                                       | <b>2.96</b> | <b>Agree</b>          |

The table presents the inputs utilized in the decision-making phase of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan. It includes various questions that evaluate the transparency, inclusiveness, and responsiveness of decision making processes. The weighted mean scores range from 3.05 to 3.11, indicating a consistent strong agreement among respondents regarding the clarity of decision making criteria and the involvement of diverse stakeholders. The overall average weighted mean of 3.09 reinforces the notion that decision-making within the council is well regarded, reflecting a commitment to informed and inclusive governance.

Table 3

Inputs Utilized in the Execution Phase of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan

| Questions                                                                                                             | M           | Verbal Interpretation |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| The implementation of activities within the Marikina City Youth Development Plan is well-coordinated and organized.   | 3.02        | Strongly Agree        |
| Resources allocated for the execution of activities within the Youth Development Plan are effectively utilized.       | 2.97        | Agree                 |
| The Youth Development Plan includes mechanisms for monitoring and tracking the progress of execution activities.      | 2.86        | Agree                 |
| The involvement of local communities in the execution of Youth Development Plan activities is promoted.               | 2.93        | Agree                 |
| Challenges encountered during the execution of Youth Development Plan activities are promptly addressed and resolved. | 3.01        | Strongly Agree        |
| <b>AVERAGE:</b>                                                                                                       | <b>2.96</b> | <b>Agree</b>          |

The table highlights the inputs

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utilized during the execution phase of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan. The questions assess the organization, resource utilization, community involvement, and the council's responsiveness to challenges encountered in the execution of activities. The weighted mean scores vary from 2.86 to 3.02, with an overall average weighted mean of 2.96, indicating a general agreement among respondents on the effectiveness of execution processes. While the average score reflects a slightly lower level of agreement compared to planning and decision-making, it suggests that the execution phase is perceived positively, albeit with room for improvement in certain areas.

**Table 4**

Inputs Utilized in the Decision-Making Phase of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan

| Questions                                                                                                                                | M           | Verbal Interpretation      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| The organization provided data on youth demographics (age, skills) for the plan.                                                         | 2.90        | Moderately Involved        |
| The Youth Development Plan considers data on youth demographics and needs (e.g., age, skills, interests) to define goals and strategies. | 2.96        | Moderately Involved        |
| The organization contributed to setting specific and measurable objectives for youth development initiatives.                            | 2.92        | Moderately Involved        |
| The plan outlines clear and measurable objectives for each youth development initiative.                                                 | 2.90        | Moderately Involved        |
| The plan utilizes cost-benefit analysis to prioritize programs and resource allocation.                                                  | 2.95        | Moderately Involved        |
| <b>AVERAGE:</b>                                                                                                                          | <b>2.93</b> | <b>Moderately Involved</b> |

The table illustrates the level of involvement of the Marikina City Youth Development Council in the planning phase of developing the Marikina City Youth Development Plan. The table presents five questions assessing the council's contribution to providing demographic data, setting objectives, and utilizing analytical tools. The weighted mean scores range from 2.90 to 2.96, indicating that respondents perceive the council's involvement as moderately involved in these aspects, with an overall average weighted mean of 2.93. This suggests that while there is a positive recognition of the council's role in the planning phase, further enhancement of their involvement may be beneficial for optimizing youth development initiatives.

**Table 5**

Level of Involvement in the Decision Making Phase of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan

| Questions                                                                                                                | M           | Verbal Interpretation      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| The organization conducted surveys or focus groups with Marikina youth to inform the plan.                               | 2.71        | Moderately Involved        |
| Data from youth surveys and focus groups are actively used to inform decision-making on youth development programs.      | 2.65        | Moderately Involved        |
| The plan incorporates feedback from youth representatives during its development and implementation.                     | 2.91        | Moderately Involved        |
| Expertise from relevant stakeholders (e.g., NGOs, educators) is consulted when formulating youth development strategies. | 2.78        | Moderately Involved        |
| The organization has representatives involved in discussions or consultations during the development of the plan.        | 2.82        | Moderately Involved        |
| <b>AVERAGE:</b>                                                                                                          | <b>2.77</b> | <b>Moderately Involved</b> |

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The table presents the level of involvement of the Marikina City Youth Development Council in the decision-making phase of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan. It features five questions regarding the utilization of data from youth surveys, feedback incorporation, and stakeholder consultation. The weighted mean scores range from 2.65 to 2.91, reflecting a perception of moderate involvement among respondents, with an overall average weighted mean of 2.77. This indicates that while the council is seen as somewhat engaged in decision-making processes, there remains significant room for improvement in enhancing youth participation and incorporating diverse inputs.

**Table 6**  
Level of Involvement in the Execution Phase of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan

| Questions                                                                                              | M           | Verbal Interpretation      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| The plan clearly outlines roles and responsibilities for implementing youth development programs.      | 2.71        | Moderately Involved        |
| Progress towards achieving plan objectives is monitored through the use of performance indicators.     | 2.65        | Moderately Involved        |
| The plan allocates sufficient budget resources to effectively carry out youth development initiatives. | 2.91        | Moderately Involved        |
| The organization played a role in implementing specific programs within the plan.                      | 2.78        | Moderately Involved        |
| The organization had a role in monitoring progress towards achieving the plan's objectives.            | 2.82        | Moderately Involved        |
| <b>AVERAGE:</b>                                                                                        | <b>2.77</b> | <b>Moderately Involved</b> |

The table outlines the level of involvement of the Marikina City Youth Development Council in the execution phase of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan. The questions evaluate the clarity of roles, monitoring of progress, and budget allocation for youth development initiatives. The weighted mean scores vary from 2.65 to 2.91, leading to an overall average weighted mean of 2.77, which suggests that respondents view the council's involvement as moderately involved in execution processes. Although the council plays a role in implementing and monitoring programs, the findings imply that more robust involvement and clearer delineation of responsibilities could enhance the effectiveness of execution strategies.

*G. Level of implementation of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan*

| Scale                   | Points/Weighted Mean | Interpretation                | f  |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----|
| 1                       | 0.99 - 1.00          | Not Implemented               | 27 |
| 2                       | 1.01 - 1.99          | Slightly Implemented          | 32 |
| 3                       | 2.00 - 2.99          | Moderately Implemented        | 50 |
| 4                       | 3.00 - 4.00          | Highly Implemented            | 28 |
| <b>Weighted Average</b> | <b>2.58</b>          | <b>Moderately Implemented</b> |    |

The table shows the frequency distribution and the interpretation corresponding of the verbal level of implementation of the Marikina City Youth

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Development Plan, using a weighted mean scale. The grades in this scale are Not Implemented (1), Slightly Implemented (2), Moderately Implemented (3), and Highly Implemented (4). (Triola, 2018)

From this, it can be gathered that 27 respondents or roughly 20% rated it as Not implemented, meaning they gave a high score for how not satisfying they are that the plan is being implemented. Meanwhile, 32 respondents (23%) revealed Slightly Implemented, meaning they believe the plan has not contributed to its intended goal but is still not useless. An impressive 50 respondents (37%) scored the implementation as Moderately Implemented which translates to these respondents believing the plan is basically working but is still flawed in parts (Gravetter & Wallnau, 2017). Finally, 28 respondents (20%) scored Highly Implemented, meaning these respondents view the plan as having been put into efficient action (Chen & Luo, 2016).

The overall weighted mean was calculated using the formula for weighted averages. This involves multiplying the frequency of responses in each category by the corresponding weight (1 for Not Implemented, 2 for Slightly Implemented, 3 for Moderately Implemented and 4 for Highly Implemented), and then dividing the

sum of these products by the total number of respondents (Triola, 2018). Specifically, the calculation is as follows:  $(27 \times 1) + (32 \times 2) + (50 \times 3) + (28 \times 4) = 353$ , divided by the total number of respondents, which is 137. This results in a weighted mean score of 2.58. The weighted average score of 2.58 ascribes to the implementation as Moderately Implemented. This would imply that generally there is an agreement concerning the execution of the plan, but much more needs to be done so that its effectiveness will be maximized to achieve full realization of the objectives of the plan. (Chen & Luo, 2016).

*H. Significant Relationship Between the Level of Involvement of the Youth Organizations in the Implementation of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan and their Demographic Profile*

|                             | x <sup>2</sup> | df | p-value  | Interpretation            |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----|----------|---------------------------|
| Age Group                   | 3.26           | 2  | <0.001** | Statistically Significant |
| Type of Organization        | 38.9           | 1  | <0.001** | Statistically Significant |
| Kind of Organization        | 88.7           | 1  | <0.001** | Statistically Significant |
| Years/Length of Service     | 107            | 5  | <0.001** | Statistically Significant |
| Barangay/Area of Operations | 150            | 6  | <0.001** | Statistically Significant |

The table reflects the outcome of the chi square tests to determine at what level demographic profile factors are significant regarding the level of youth organizations' involvement in the implementation of the

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MCYDP. On every demographic factor, both the chi-square statistic ( $\chi^2$ ), the degrees of freedom (df), and the p values are all displayed with the interpretation of their significances. For Age Group, the chi-square value was 3.26, with 2 degrees of freedom, and a p-value of less than 0.01.

For Age Group, the chi-square value was 3.26, with 2 degrees of freedom, and a p value of less than 0.01. The results show that the association between age and intensity of participation between the youth organizations and the MCYDP is statistically significant. Which means that possibly with different age groups, the level of involvement may vary. The Type of Organization also came with a high value for chi-square at 38.9,  $df = 1$ , and a p-value less than 0.001. It means it has association that is very strong, thus indicating the type of youth organization among them determines the level of involvement in implementation of MCYDP. With regard to Kind of Organization, the chi-square value is 88.7 with 1 degree of freedom, and a p-value less than 0.001. This is also a highly significant relationship and indicates that the nature of the organization-whether it's a government affiliated organization, a community-based one, etc. has a huge influencing effect on the amount of

involvement that will be in the plan's implementation. The Years/Length of Service of the organizations was further proved to have a chi-square statistic of 107 with 5 degrees of freedom and a p-value less than 0.001; this means that there is an ample association between the years an organization has been operating and its level of involvement in the MCYDP, probably showing differences in experience or organizational capacity. For Barangay/Area of Operations, the chi-square value obtained was 150 with 6 degrees of freedom and a p-value of less than 0.001. This would mean that the barangay or locality where the youth organizations operate significantly determines the level of involvement, they are going to have in the MCYDP.

As Kwak pointed out in 2023, p-values that are less than 0.05 are considered to be significant, not the greater than 0.05. Since all the p-values of these demographic factors are less than 0.001, it implies that each one of them, namely: Age Group, Type of Organization, Kind of Organization, Years/Length in Service, and Barangay, has a significant impact on the level of involvement of youth organizations in the Marikina City Youth Development Plan.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

1. The study revealed several key findings regarding the demographic profile of the respondents and their involvement in the development and implementation of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan (MCYDP). A significant portion, 40%, of respondents were in the 21-25 age bracket, with the majority (77%) belonging to school-based organizations. The largest group of respondents (67%) were members of youth organizations, while 33% were part of youth-serving organizations. The years of operation of these organizations varied, with 26% having been operational for 1-5 years. However, a notable 40% did not provide information regarding their years of operation. In terms of geographic representation, Concepcion Dos emerged as the barangay with the highest number of respondents, with 49% indicating their connection to this area. This supports findings by Handayani (2022) and Pyakurel (2023), which suggest that the extent of youth engagement can be influenced by organizational experience and location.
2. Regarding the Marikina City Youth Development Council's processes, the study found that

the council's planning processes were well-defined and documented, as evidenced by an average weighted mean of 3.08, signifying strong agreement among respondents. Similarly, decision-making processes were also deemed transparent and inclusive, with an average weighted mean of 3.09. This finding aligns with the work of Akiva (2014) and Blanchet-Cohen (2014), who emphasize how youth involvement in decision-making enhances motivation and skill-building. On the other hand, the execution of activities was rated with an average weighted mean of 2.96, suggesting that while the activities are generally well-coordinated, there are areas for improvement, particularly in terms of capacity building and training, as discussed by Hawkins (1995) and Lekies (2009). The study also assessed the level of involvement of organizations in different phases of the MCYDP. In planning, the organizations were moderately involved, with an average weighted mean of 2.93. In decision-making, the involvement was somewhat lower, with an average weighted

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mean of 2.77, indicating room for improvement in terms of organizational participation. Zeldin (2003) emphasized that youth should not only receive services but also have opportunities to provide them, highlighting the need for greater involvement in decision-making. In terms of execution, the involvement remained moderate (2.77), reflecting that organizations were involved in implementing programs but with a need for clearer roles and responsibilities, as noted by Schulman (2006).

3. The overall implementation of the MCYDP was rated with a weighted average of 2.58, categorizing it as moderately implemented, suggesting that while some objectives have been met, there is still room for improvement in its execution. This finding is consistent with previous research by Lekies (2009) and Schulman (2006), which highlights challenges in the execution of youth programs, particularly around the need for better coordination and clearer roles. Additionally, a chi-square analysis revealed significant

relationships between the level of involvement and various demographic factors, including age ( $\chi^2 = 3.26$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), type of organization ( $\chi^2 = 38.9$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), kind of organization ( $\chi^2 = 88.7$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), years of operation ( $\chi^2 = 107$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), and barangay ( $\chi^2 = 150$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ). These findings suggest that demographic characteristics, such as age, organizational type, and years of operation, significantly influence the level of youth involvement in the implementation of the MCYDP. This aligns with studies by Pyakurel (2023), Handayani (2022), and Garg (2018), which underline the role of demographic factors in shaping youth engagement in local development processes.

4. The planning processes are clearly defined ( $M = 3.19$ , Strongly Agree) in Table 1 and outline specific objectives ( $M = 3.18$ , Strongly Agree). Table 2 confirms that decision-making processes are perceived as transparent and inclusive ( $M = 3.11$ , Strongly Agree). Section 23 of RA 10742 mandates the institutionalization of the LYDP. Marikina successfully

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meets the national standard for setting up a clear, structured, and policy-driven youth plan. The infrastructure for decision-making is solid and legally sound. In Table 3 indicates that the actual execution of activities is well-coordinated and organized ( $M = 3.02$ , *Strongly Agree*), and challenges are promptly resolved ( $M = 3.01$ , *Strongly Agree*). This aligns with the law’s intent to move youth governance away from superficial projects and toward well-structured, institutionalized local program delivery.

5. The Capacity-Building for Youth Leaders program is designed to provide youth leaders with the essential skills and knowledge needed to effectively contribute to and implement the Marikina City Youth Development Plan (MCYDP). Through a series of targeted training sessions, the program will focus on three key areas: project management, advocacy, and civic engagement. By strengthening the capacity of youth organizations, this initiative aims to ensure that youth leaders are well-equipped to drive impactful change in their

communities and play a vital role in shaping youth development strategies.

Future research on the involvement of youth organizations in the implementation of the Marikina City Youth Development Plan (MCYDP) should aim to address several unresolved issues and explore new avenues based on the study’s findings.

Although this research focused on participation in youth programs over a set period, subsequent research could adopt a longitudinal design. This would more clearly help in the identification of engagement patterns through their progression and development during time, evolving issues that promote further involvement or disengagement. Such a design would highlight even clearer insights into the potential long term effectiveness of youth programs like the MCYDP.

Marikina’s data shows a pronounced gap between exceptionally high scores in policy clarity (Tables 1 & 2) and lower actual program implementation (Table 7) and data gathering ( $M = 2.71$ , Table 4). This trend mirrors challenges faced by post-apartheid and post conflict states attempting to institutionalize youth participation.

In South Africa, research on municipal Integrated Development

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Plans (IDPs) reveals that while the national legislative framework heavily mandates youth integration, the actual execution at the local level remains sluggish. Malila (2020) observed that South African youth often display high levels of political awareness but record low levels of direct municipal engagement, primarily due to bureaucratic bottlenecks and a lack of localized implementation tracking—a reality that directly reflects Marikina’s weak monitoring scores ( $M = 2.86$ , Table 3).

Similarly, in Sierra Leone, efforts to build municipal youth councils following national youth acts faced structural paralysis. Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 2018) frameworks highlighted that while formal youth policies were meticulously drafted on paper, the local councils lacked the grassroots capacity to translate these plans into data-driven local projects. This pattern perfectly explains Marikina’s drop from administrative high-performance to a "Moderately Implemented" status for its Local Youth Development Plan (LYDP).

While developing nations

struggle with basic resource allocation, developed nations like the United States provide a contrasting look at how technical capability and digital monitoring impact civic outcomes.

In an assessment of municipal youth councils across various U.S. cities, Checkoway (2011) and the National Civic League (2022) established that when local governments fail to co-source data gathering and project tracking with youth organizations, overall community engagement sharply declines. Conversely, cities that equipped youth groups with digital tools for data gathering and project implementation achieved significantly higher retention and equity rates across diverse demographic profiles.

Marikina’s lowest scoring metrics—namely, data gathering ( $M = 2.71$ , Table 4) and monitoring execution ( $M = 2.65$ , Table 6)—highlight a critical vulnerability. While Marikina shares the bureaucratic constraints of its peers in South Africa, it can look toward modern, data-driven approaches utilized in the United States to fix its tracking deficits through digitized, youth-led

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monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

Another is the expansion of sample size and area. Incorporating a broader spread of youth organizations in other barangays within Marikina City will afford researchers a more wholesome image of youth activity. Cross regional studies to compare youth involvement in other cities or regions may also produce best practices or common challenges which will be of aid for future policies and programs to be developed.

While the current study predominantly relied on quantitative methods, it is possible that future researchers might include qualitative approaches, such as interviews or focus groups. These methods may allow more in-depth insights into reasons, hindrances, and experiences of youth organizations. A mixed-methods approach would make it easier to understand better not only the intensity of engagement but also the critical features affecting the level of participation.

There is also a need for studies to determine how demographic factors like age, type of organization, and years of operation impact engagement strategy

design. More research may uncover ways these factors shape participation levels and how customized engagement programs could be a better fit for various subgroups of youth. This can result in making more efficient, contextually sensitive strategies toward better overall participation by youth organizations in local governance and development interventions.

An unexplored area is that of how the use of technology could enhance youth engagement. Future research might examine how digital tools, social media, and online collaboration tools could foster greater engagement by those for whom traditional means of engagement pose barriers to access. Continuing in this vein may prove crucial in designing innovative solutions that meet the needs of a generation of digitally savvy youth.

Finally, future studies can examine the effect of leader stability in youth organizations. As this study highlights, the constant changes in leadership, particularly in school-based organizations, may deter continued involvement with the MCYDP. Researchers can examine how stability in leadership—or its lack thereof—affects sustained participation and the

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implementation of youth development programs. Such questions would greatly inform knowledge regarding potential policy changes that could support leader succession and the maintenance of organizational structure.

In summary, subsequent research should focus on understanding more about the trend of prolonged engagement, especially by broadening the scope of what the parameters cover, evaluating the qualitative aspect, adopting technological advancements, and investigating the leadership dynamics. These directions would lead to a more holistic view of youth organization involvement and contribute to the development of better approaches for furthering substantial participation in youth development.

To secure the future of youth governance in Marikina, the implementation matrix for sustainability operates as a continuous, three-tiered operational narrative that begins in the short term (one to six months) with the collaborative launch of the Marikina Youth Orgs Registry Portal by the LYDO and City IT Department, a

digital onboarding platform designed to dismantle institutional barriers and eliminate demographic biases by fast-tracking the accreditation of smaller, informal youth groups. Building upon this expanded network, the medium term (six to twelve months) transitions focus toward capability building through a structured Peer-to-Peer Mentorship Program spearheaded by the LYDC Executive Board and the SK Federation, which pairs established organizations with newer grassroots cohorts to organic transfer essential project planning, data gathering, and financial liquidation skills that bridge the city's identified tracking and participation deficits. Finally, the long-term and ongoing horizon institutionalizes these equity and capability gains into permanent municipal policy through the enactment of the Marikina Youth Governance Continuity Ordinance by the Marikina Sangguniang Panlungsod, establishing a legislative anchor that mandates transition protocols and shields multi-year program budgets from cyclical electoral shifts, ultimately transforming youth governance from a series of term-bound projects into a

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resilient, permanent ecosystem where implementation remains uninterrupted across successive generations of leaders.

Empirical evidence demonstrates that institutionalizing robust youth participation directly enhances the quality of local governance by introducing higher standards of transparency, deep inclusivity, and widespread community involvement. When local government units actively co-source the planning and execution of youth development plans with a diverse network of accredited youth organizations, they shift from top-down administrative delivery to an open, data-driven governance ecosystem. Transparency is fundamentally strengthened as digitized tracking metrics and public-facing dashboards demystify budget allocations and keep officials strictly accountable to their constituencies. Furthermore, by deliberately dismantling institutional barriers to entry for smaller, marginalized, or informal grassroots organizations, governance becomes genuinely inclusive, ensuring that policies reflect the nuanced needs of underrepresented sectors rather than just elite or established factions.

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