

# The reasons of inactive youth engagement in the community: a case study in Barangay District III, Babatngon, Leyte

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## Abstract

Youth engagement is essential for the development of a resilient community. However, on the basis of their level of engagement, young people can be categorized from the most to the least involved. In Barangay District III of Babatngon, Leyte, there are 548 youths residing. Despite this, the majority of youth-focused volunteer organizations have fewer than 30 members, while others are inactive throughout the year. With this, the researcher seeks to identify the reasons of youth disengagement in the aforementioned barangay. Five individuals who had never taken part in youth-related activities were chosen through purposive sampling. Furthermore, the qualitative investigation employed an explanatory case study methodology, employed semi-structured interview. Data were analysed thematically. The findings revealed that the reasons of inactive youth engagement are lack of interest, no invitation, lack of self-confidence, lack of time and financial constraint. Thus, the researcher recommended the youth to join youth organizations and getting involved with community activities. Youth groups should motivate other youth individuals to join them in participating in the community. Parents should encourage their children to participate and the local government unit of should devise projects that support both various youth activities in order to motivate youth members to have community involvement.

Keywords: reasons; inactive; youth; engagement; community

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Youth is defined as people between the ages of 15 and 30 for the purposes of the Youth in National Construction Act of 1994, which created the National Youth Commission. This act is a method to implement community engagement, responsibility, and communication in a unified strategy among youth in the Philippines. With 30 million young people or 28% of the total population in the Philippines, the youth population has never been larger (UNFPA, n.d.).

Youth engagement, on the other hand, is essential for the development of a resilient community. In actuality, adolescents are frequently the ones who experience the impacts of these problems the most keenly. Every society benefits greatly from its offspring. They contribute distinct skills and knowledge that may aid in the resolution of community issues. Therefore, their participation and commitment are essential for enhancing community resilience. The youths are the vitality and destiny of every civilization. Teenagers, young adults, adults, and the elderly depend on the youth of today and have high expectations of them. Therefore, adolescent participation in a variety of community activities is essential. Youth members who are actively

involved in their communities increase in self-assurance and leadership skills. Meaningful youth participation in decision-making gives them a voice in matters that directly affect them.

Hope (2022) argues that today's youth are searching for involvement opportunities outside of traditional political and community organizations. On the basis of their level of engagement, young people can be categorized from the most to the least involved (Sebastian, 2013). "Ethical consumerism" (such as donating to charity, avoiding specific items, and supporting nonprofit organizations) and "voter participation" are additional methods for young people to express their values and become involved in their communities such as registering to vote and voting in local or national election. As a consequence of technological and societal changes, young people's participation in community development is declining. The research conducted by Lopez (n.d) confirms that youth in the Philippines have fewer opportunities and fewer resources to effect change. The study conducted by Tyson et al. (2021) argued that without the required personal, educational, scientific, or growth guidance from adult supporters (such as political education, skill-building activities, confidence-building, or assistance in understanding and navigating adult power systems), young people cannot reach their full potential.

In Babatngon, Leyte, more precisely in Barangay District III, there are a total of 548 young people. But young volunteer organizations only have around 30 members, and a few of them aren't even consistently engaged throughout the year. Most of these organizations only meet seldom. There has to be an explanation for why there are so many young people in the community but so few of them really become involved.

In addition, there are 28% of Filipinos who are considered "youth." Nonetheless, there are areas in the community where youth engagement is low and inactive, despite the enormous number of persons categorized as young members. There are few studies on youth involvement in the Philippines, and none have explored why young people in the country don't take part in community development initiatives. Therefore, this study's researcher highlighted the reasons of inactive youth engagement in the community in District III of Babatngon, Leyte, despite the district's large youth population

## 1.2. Statement of the Problem

This study aims to determine the reasons of inactive youth engagement in Barangay District III, Babatngon, Leyte

Specifically, it seeks to answers the following questions:

1. Why there is an inactive youth engagement in Barangay District III Babatngon, Leyte?
2. How do theory of margin affects the youth engagement in the community?

## 1.3. Theoretical Framework

These theoretical models served as a foundation and guide for this investigation into the influencing variables that prevent young people in Barangay District III, Babatngon, Leyte from being involved in their communities. The conceptual underpinnings of the literature on the reasons of youth inactive engagement in community relied primarily on these theoretical frameworks. The subsequent literatures would be better comprehended with a thorough examination of these concepts.

### Olson's Theory

In 1971, Mancur Olson established Olson's Theory. This theory proposes that communities of individuals who have common interests are more likely to cooperate in order to achieve their objectives. Olson argues that rational, motivated people will not act to advance their common or group interest unless there is force or some other specific instrument to compel them to engage in their common interest (Olson, 1971, p.2). Because in some small groups each member, or at least some of them, will find that their own benefit from having a common good exceeds the total cost of providing the collective good, Olson showed that likely small communities can provide themselves with shared resources without depending on pressure or any positive inducement apart from the collectively good itself. This concept was used for this research because it suggests that if young people have shared interests, this would lead to their increased participation in community events. People will be reluctant to become involved in the community if they aren't interested in it.

#### Maslow's Theory of Hierarchy of Needs

Olson's Theory was developed by Mancur Olson in 1971. According to this notion, people living in communities with shared values are more inclined to work together to accomplish their goals. According to Olson, "rational, driven individuals will not act to protect their shared or group interests" until they are threatened or given an incentive to do so (Olson, 1971, p.2). Olson demonstrated that "likely small communities may sustain themselves with shared resources without depending on pressure or any positive inducement apart from the collectively good itself." This is because in some small groups, each member, or at least some of them, will find that their own benefit from having a shared good exceeds the total cost of providing the collective good. This theory informed the study since it hypothesizes that young people are more likely to take part in local activities if they have similar interests with their peers. If people don't care about the community, they won't volunteer much time or energy to it.

#### Theory of Margin

The theory of margin has been proposed by McClusky as a theory of participatory behavior (1970, p.25-32). He characterizes margin as "the function of connecting load to power." One's weight consists of "self and the needs of society by a person to maintain an adequate degree of autonomy," whereas one's power consists of "resources such as skills, resources, position, allies, etc., which a person can command in order to deal with the burden." Lupanga (1988, p.22) employs this definition of burden and power to construct a hypothesis regarding why Third World citizens do not participate in development initiatives. It is hypothesized that the majority of rural populations in the Third World are too preoccupied with survival to participate meaningfully in development initiatives, given their high burden and limited capacity to manage it. In other words, when there is a greater degree of safety between demand and electricity, individuals are less likely to participate in development efforts. This hypothesis was selected because it emphasizes burden and authority, both of which are essential to the study of why people do not participate in their communities. An individual's "burden" consists of their "obligations," whereas their "power" comprises of their "resources." The study wanted to figure out if these two factors play a significant role in explaining why youths do not participate in community activities.

#### 1.4. Scope and Delimitation

This study, entitled "The reasons of inactive youth engagement in the community: a case study in Barangay District III, Babatngon, Leyte," was conducted in the academic year 2022-2023 with the objective of identifying the reasons of inactive youth engagement in the community. This study has been restricted to the youth members of Barangay District III because it has a large number of youth members with low levels of youth engagement (Brgy. District III BHU, 2023).

### 1.5. Significance of the Study

This investigation into the reasons of inactive youth engagement in the community in Babatngon, Leyte will be of great assistance to those who have participated in the variables of this research.

The following groups will benefit from the study's findings:

**Youth Members.** This research will encourage and enlighten youth members to fulfil their community responsibilities and participate in a variety of activities for human and community development.

**Youth Groups.** This research will help them develop better methods for inviting and inspiring other young people to become community volunteers.

**Parents.** This study will inform parents about the advantages that their children will receive if they permit and encourage them to participate in various community-based juvenile activities.

**Local Government Unit of Barangay District III in Babatngon, Leyte.** This study will serve as a guide for the local government to develop programs and initiatives to support juvenile activities throughout the entire year.

**Future researchers.** This study may serve as a resource for future researchers who intend to construct a study related to youth involvement and community development.

### 1.6. Definition of Terms

The following terms have been conceptually and operationally defined to provide readers with clarification and a better understanding.

**Community.** The inhabitants of a particular region or people who are regarded as a unit due to their shared interests, social group, or nationality (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d). In this study, community refers to an area or municipality that contains individuals.

**Engagement.** Engagement is something that engaged (Merriam Webster, n.d). In this study, it refers to the fact that all initiatives to improve the accountability, inclusiveness, and empowerment of humanitarian aid must incorporate community engagement and commitment in order to boost the general efficacy of interventions. This also refers to the community's visible physical engagement and participation.

**Inactive.** Inactive is defined as not active or working (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d). This word refers to youths who are not physically involved in their community, as measured by this research.

**Reasons.** A reason is the underlying factor that serves as an explanation for a given set of circumstances. In the context of this research, this term refers to the factors that prevent young people from being involved in their local communities.

**Youth.** Youth is the state of being young (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d). In this study, youth is defined as those between the ages of 15 and 30.

## 2. Review of Related Literature

### Youth Engagement in the Community

Participation in community activities has been linked to reduced health problems, higher levels of satisfaction, and changes in social variables that influence health (World Health Organization, 2022). Communities must be actively involved in promoting accountability, inclusion, and empowerment for humanitarian aid to have the greatest possible impact. Promoting focused on individuals comments, adhering to beneficial values, responding to post-disaster adversity, and combating gender vulnerability in the family are all crucial in order to better comprehend, bolster resilience and adaptability, and transform this into an opportunity to encourage and emphasize participation redress for the affected parties (OCHA, 2019).

The 16 % of the world's population, or approximately 1.2 billion people, are between the ages of 15 and 24.

Children may make significant contributions to the development of society if they are given the opportunities and encouragement they need to flourish (UN, n.d). Politicians, educators, and citizens of the West are concerned about the disinterest of young people in civic life. In-depth research has been conducted on volunteer opportunities for adults across socioeconomic lines, but the incentive structure has changed little over the years (Bonnesen, 2018). Being an engaged community member is a creative and scientific endeavour. Sociology, politics, administration, cultural anthropology, organizational psychology, and social psychology all contribute to the growth of human knowledge. Membership education has roots in social psychology, organizational theory, and organizational theory (ATSDR, 2011). Lower levels of internalizing and externalizing behaviours were associated with the student's increased secondary school engagement and positive interactions with peers and an adoptive parent. Extraversion and introversion, as well as academic engagement, are influenced by the character of adolescents' interactions with their parents and classmates (Cooley et al., 2021). Additionally, Peterson et al. (2022) observed that pupils, teachers, young employees, and young people themselves face unique challenges.

#### Worldwide Reasons of Inactive Youth Engagement in the community

Cooper (2023) outlines five barriers to participation in public life. These include skepticism, access barriers to technology, an inability to recognize the value of public participation, and an insufficient level of participation at present. According to Bessant (2004), there are three reasons why the government's renewed interest in youth participation is counterproductive. First, it does not sufficiently eliminate the greatest obstacles young people encounter when attempting to participate in the political, economic, and social fabric of society. Second, democratic process requirements have not been adequately considered. Lastly, official youth engagement initiatives essentially contradict the rhetoric of democratic participation. This raises the question of whose perspective is being considered and why. Further, Gadsden et al. (2019) identified inequality in education, social media, institutions, racism, and mass incarceration as significant factors influencing young people's political engagement. Mio and Padilla (2022) assert that researchers' interactions with youth differ by age, and that researchers have ample opportunity to examine young people's autonomy and independence, but rarely do so. If given the opportunity to flourish, children are capable of making substantial contributions to society (UN, n.d). Numerous adults in the West are concerned that today's young lack an interest in politics. Even though the organizational structure of incentives has not changed, researchers have a greater comprehension of the opportunities available to adult volunteers across socioeconomic lines. Participation Rate (Bonnesen, 2018). Contributing to one's community is an innovative and empirical activity. Sociology, governance, politics, cultural anthropology, organizational growth psychology, and social psychology all contribute to the advancement of science. This program is based on social science, management theory, and community participation training (ATSDR, 2011). There was a correlation between the student's high school involvement, friendships, and relationship with the adoptive parent and a decrease in the student's internalizing and externalizing behaviours. The character of adolescents' relationships with their peers and their parents has a substantial effect on their extraversion and introversion levels, as well as their commitment to school (Cooley et al., 2021). Peterson et al. (2022) emphasized that young people, college students, and faculty members confront specific challenges that must be addressed.

Contemporary perspectives on adolescent involvement frequently classify behaviours as "perceived," "unperceived," "participation," and "non-participation." (Pitti et al., 2021). The manner in which each pupil utilizes this method is contingent on their particular circumstances. For people to become involved, they must be taught how to do so in a clear and systematic manner, and any obstacles in their path must be eliminated (Kucharczyk et al., 2022). People choose not to partake in their communities for a variety of reasons, according to Usman et al. (2018) examples include insufficient quantities of everything (money, resources, time, interest, etc.). Also prevalent are feelings of uncertainty and perplexity. Long-term collaborative initiatives may encounter obstacles due to cultural differences between the organization and the community, power dynamics, a lack of motivations for people to collaborate, and practical concerns such as a shortage of

time and money (Fryer, 2013).

#### Youth Engagement in the Philippines

Traditional forms of community participation centered on maintaining communication with and taking responsibility before impacted persons (OCHA, 2012). Local and provincial respondents in the Philippines were found to be in support of the development by Baybay and Hindmarsh (2019) promoting community cohesiveness via tactics including capacity building, knowledge growth, and conversation despite the fact that there are both effective and ineffective methods of engaging the public. The Filipino expatriate community places a premium on open communication and cooperation amongst different groups and industries. The findings demonstrate that social obstacles (created from within the community) are just as important as structural ones in restricting participation (those erected by individuals outside the group). Twenty-one hurdles were found, two of which were considered internal (sociocultural and competency) and four were external which are the behaviour, regulation, communication, and legitimacy on duty (Shafique, 2022).

#### Benefits of Youth Engagement in the Community

The involvement of young people in fostering community is on the increase, although it has not traditionally been a focus of emphasis. Youth participation is beneficial for volunteer programs, non-governmental organizations, and charitable community groups. Plan and evaluate with the aid of today's youth. Community projects that require long-term commitment might also benefit from the participation of younger people. In addition, having young people involved may help organizations learn more about the challenges faced by the youth of today (Barnett and Kumaran, 2012). It is often believed that today's youth hold the key to the nation's future success. It is essential that Filipino youth have the skills and motivation to think creatively and freely exchange ideas with their peers. Furthermore, it is crucial that youth have the chances they need to develop to their fullest potential. They'll have the tools at their disposal to believe in themselves and know that they can achieve any goal they set for themselves. Non-government organizations (NGOs) primarily help young Filipinos by providing more educational opportunities. Young Filipinos may now obtain well-paying employment thanks to this. They may be able to find job or launch a company using the skills they have developed (Child Hope Philippines, 2023) argues that these initiatives "instil the values of being an excellent Filipino and foster the growth of self-esteem, the ability, and the will to face any obstacle without fear." Youth IDUs were present in a wide variety of places and contexts, including fairs, classrooms, and extracurricular activities. In these situations, real-time information dissemination through social media and other communication methods and channels is possible (Kimmel et al., 2021).

### 3. Methodology

#### 3.1 Research Design

This study employed a case study analysis to investigate and explain why fewer young people get involved in their local communities. Explanatory case studies typically address the "how" and "why" queries regarding a phenomenon. This emphasizes explication over mere definition, such as the methods by which a program's anticipated outcomes have been accomplished or not (Yin, 1990, p. 21). The researcher was similarly committed to identifying these root causes. This methodology would therefore provide answers and explanations to the researcher.

#### 3.2 Research Locale

The location of this investigation was Barangay District III in Babatngon, Leyte. This area was chosen by the researcher to conduct his study and collect data because it has the highest youth population density and the lowest youth participation rate among the 25 barangays at Babatngon, Leyte (Brgy. District III BHU, 2023). Since the purpose of the study is to identify the reasons of inactive youth engagement in community, this setting was selected.

### 3.3 Participants of the Study

The researcher selected study participants through purposive sampling. Purposeful sampling is a research technique in which participants are selected based on their potential to shed light on a particular question (Robinson, 2014). In addition, five members of the youths from Barangay District III, Babatngon, Leyte, who had never taken part in youth activities before, contributed to this study. These young adults are over the age of 18, do not belong to any other student organization, and do not have any form of mental disability. A secondary participant verified and examined the responses of the primary participant. Indirect participants include members of the same household, close acquaintances, and other relatives.

### 3.4 Data Collection Method

To obtain permission to undertake data collection in the aforementioned barangay, the researcher sent a letter to the Barangay SK Chairperson and participants. The researcher penned a letter to the Barangay District III BHW for the population count, which was approved by the SK chairman. Using semi-structured interviews, the researcher collected the data. Ms. Salvacion Marchadesch, Teacher II at Juan S. Tismo National High School in Babatngon, Leyte, evaluated and approved the researcher's list of interview questions and topics. Following the completion of validation, a formal interview was carried out between the interviewer and the interviewees. A permission letter was presented to the individual prior to the interview. The interviewer adhered to the norms and followed any on-topic detours in the conversation. The researcher came to the conclusion it was unnecessary to continue accumulating data because no fresh data had emerged during the examination. In other words, once a substantial quantity of data had been collected, the researcher ceased conducting interviews. In the event of technological difficulties, the collected notes served as a fallback for the participants' electronic responses.

### 3.5 Ethical Consideration

All research participants were safely shielded from harm due to ethical considerations. During the span of the investigation, we found few potential threats. The researcher decided not to include participants under the age of 18 in the study so as not to interfere with their regular life. Any questions or concerns the researcher had were promptly addressed. Before the interview, a release letter had been prepared to ensure everyone's safety and for their consent. The obtained information remained concealed from public. The participants were also receptive to the use of electronic recordings and note taking. If a participant does not choose to take a part in the study, they are able to decline participation. All participants signed a consent form indicating that they wanted to participate voluntarily.

### 3.6 Research Reflexivity

The research was carried out with diversity and inclusion in mind. By undertaking this study, the researcher intended to serve as a forum for participants to discuss their perspectives. The researcher took additional precautions to eradicate any potential of bias by verifying data twice, seeking for additional explanations, consulting with peers, and conducting internal checks. In addition, interview transcripts were



recorded verbatim and given to participants for accuracy and cross-checking prior to drawing conclusions from the data.

### 3.7 Data Analysis

By employing thematic analysis, the researcher translated the qualitative data they gathered into an explanation or understanding of the investigated subject. Thematic analysis is a statistical method for examining enormous data collections. Usually, it refers to a collection of written material, such as an interview transcript (Caulfield, 2022). In order to identify recurring concepts or patterns of analysis, the researcher meticulously analyzed the data. Below are the six phases of Braun and Clarke's theme analysis. The initial phase is to acquire informational knowledge. Here, the researcher listened to and transcribed the audio recordings verbatim. The second phase involves applying preliminary classifications to the data to characterize the substance. Each significant comment or audio segment, such as "comparing products," was assigned a descriptor code by researcher. The third phase consisted of analyzing the codes from each interview for commonalities or recurring themes. In this instance, the researcher rearranged the codes multiple times to generate various patterns. Then, incorporate feedback into the final draft. In the fourth phase, the researcher analyzed all interview excerpts within a specific topic to determine whether or not there was obvious consistency within that theme and a distinct separation between themes. The researcher merged concepts she believes to be too similar and separated concepts she believes to be incompatible. The final phase is to identify fundamental ideas. The researcher provided in-depth analyses and explanations of the significance of each topic. Appropriate designations have been ascribed to the various topics. Sixthly, produce a report. In this article, the results of their investigations are presented and discussed.

## 4. Results and Discussion

The findings of the conducted semi-structured interviews were presented in the following sections. It tested the theoretical frameworks and answered the statement of the problem. The analysis produced seven themes.

Table 1. Theme Clusters Divided into Two Groups

<b>Group A: Reasons Behind Inactive Youth Engagement In Barangay District III Babatngon, Leyte</b>	
Theme 1: Lack of Interest	
-	Not their preference.
-	No excitement
-	Not their forte
Theme 2: No Invitation	
-	Uninvited by community groups
Theme 3: Lack of Confidence	
-	Shy
-	Introvert
-	Interaction difficulties
-	Troubles communicating
Theme 4: Lack of Time	
-	Focus on studying.
-	Important duties



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- Cannot organize duties
- Theme 5: Financial Constraint
- Inability to pay contributions
  - Unavailable Resources
  - No family assistance
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#### **Group B: Effects of Theory of Margin on the Youth Engagement**

- Theme 6: Lose Motivation to Engage
- Reluctant to participate
  - Discourage
  - Afraid to fulfil social function
- Theme 2: Lose Opportunities
- Inability to step outside one's comfort zone
  - Failing to risk
- 

#### **4.1 Why there is an inactive youth engagement in Brgy. Dist III Babatngon, Leyte?**

##### **Theme 1: Lack of interest**

An individual's passion in an area of interest might serve as a powerful motivator for their involvement in community service. However, this research revealed that not all young people are interested in joining and participating in youth organizations (not their preference, no excitement and not their forte).

Youth 1 stated:

"There is one definite reason that would explain my decision of not engaging actively in the various youth activities in our community, it is not part of my likes in life."

Youth 3 stated:

"Usa na reason kay ano nagpipigil ak pag api hit na mga activities kay siring ko paman dire ako kumbaga waray ba haak interest hit pag join hito." (The first reason that hinders me to join to these activities is that as what I've said I have no interest on it.)

People desire to be meaningfully involved in their communities. Individual interest, as described by Harackiewicz et al. (2016), elucidates people's consistent preferences for different types of media. In this instance, the direct experience of interest should reflect the personally preferred wish to appreciate and relish a topic or activity in a variety of contexts. Consequently, curiosity is a constant, fundamental characteristic that is activated by specific situations. For instance, a student with an interest in geophysics is more likely to attend a tsunami lecture. This is because his passions are more focused and less susceptible to chance. The majority of respondents said they avoided community events because they lacked interest in them. Two of his subjects expressed disinterest in participating because the topic was unimportant to them. According to Renninger and Hidi (2016), when individuals attain a certain level of maturity, they make deliberate decisions and act independently. It is anticipated that interest rates will continue to fluctuate under particular conditions. Therefore, when someone expresses an interest, they pursue it with all their might. Compared to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, a prominent theory of motivation, it is evident that a person's desire is the propelling force behind their success-oriented efforts. Youth's lack of motivation to participate in their communities originates from their lack of interest in doing so.

##### **Theme 2: No invitation**

One strategy to get young people interested in joining and participating in community events is to invite them to do so. However, the study showed that some of the participants responded that they aren't

receiving any invitation from other youth groups which led him to not engage in these different activities in the community (uninvited by community groups).

Youth 2 stated:

Actually waray paman may nag invite haak na magin youth volunteer.” (Actually, no one has invited me to become a youth volunteer.)

Youth 3 stated:

“The reason for this is simply because there were no invites directed at me.”

Invitations are expressions of encouragement. It accentuates the shape and indicates that it belongs to a particular category. According to Abell (2017), invitations have become the new currency for young people navigating the treacherous world of real life and social media. If an adolescent is not invited to a party or if their closest friends are hanging out without them, they find out promptly via Snapchat, Instagram, or Twitter. Or, after being spurned, individuals may feel alone, neglected, unworthy, and detested. One respondent stated that he had never been asked to participate in any community activities by other youth or youth groups. Waters (2018) argues that everyone benefits when young people and community members have consistent access to civic engagement initiatives. If they accept the invitation, they will have the opportunity to receive information about impending local activities designed to engage young people. According to Oslen's theory, having common interests encourages individuals to collaborate. This motif suggests that not all local youths are regarded equally by youth organizations, lending credence to the argument. Because they are unaware of these events, they do not participate in the community and do not invite other young people. If these adolescents share similar interests, they may be able to establish a social group that contributes back to the community.

### **Theme 3: Lack of self-confidence**

Participating in community events, due to its civic character, requires the participant to have strong communication skills and the capacity to interact and communicate with people. However, the findings indicated that the youth were discouraged from participating in community activities owing to a lack of confidence (shy, introvert, interaction difficulties, and troubles communicating).

Youth 1 stated:

“Naawod ak tapos feeling ko damo na it mga youth nga aadto nga nag volunteer mag join amo dire nala ak nakadto.” (I am shy and I feel like there are many youth members there, so I became discouragement to join.)

Youth 2 stated:

I feel like there's no need for me to step in anymore.

Youth 4 stated:

“I'm a bit timid kasi tas super introvert so, bagat nakukurian ako makipag socialize.” (I am a bit timid and super introvert. I am having a hard time to socialize.)

Youth who are self-confident and proficient communicators are more likely to participate in community activities and form relationships. As a result, individuals can readily interact with one another. Effective communication is a crucial skill for every individual to possess. Communication is the process of exchanging information for mutual understanding (CFI Team, 2023). Johnson (n.d.) contends that achieving one's maximum potential requires self-assurance. It has the ability to serve as inspiration, guidance, and dedication. All of them are essential for a joyful and prosperous career. Important is the capacity to believe in one's own abilities. People who contend with low self-esteem frequently doubt their own capabilities, which can hinder their success. It may cause people to doubt themselves and fear failure. In essence, they are consistently thwarted by their lack of self-confidence (Bowell, 2022). People's lack of community involvement was attributed to issues with communication and participation, according to the responses. Due to these issues, young people lose

confidence in their ability to contribute to society and interact with other youth. This topic may be linked to the scoping theory of margin, which emphasizes the existence of more demand and less power, given that confidence is frequently viewed as power in community engagement, but participants rarely experience it themselves

#### **Theme 4: Lack of time**

Managing one's time effectively is crucial while juggling several commitments. When youth have ample time, they may devote themselves to their academics, their families, and their communities. Data, however, showed that some people don't have time for community (focus on studying, important duties and cannot organize duties).

Youth 4 stated:

"I'm a bit timid kasi tas super introvert so, bagat nakukurian ako makipag socialize. I'm also busy ha acads and other stuffs, asya dire ko mamanage tak time ha iba na bagay." (I am a bit timid and super introvert. I am having a hard time to socialize.)

Youth 5 stated:

"The reasons that engage me actively to the various activities in the community are; sometimes there's also an activity needs to be done or like mayda ak commitment na dapat buhaton." (The reasons that engage me actively to the various activities in the community are sometimes there's also an activity needs to be done or like I have other commitment to do.)

The span of time passes quickly. This is an indispensable aid for anyone juggling multiple roles and obligations. Therefore, it is crucial to effectively manage your time. Setting a time limit for each activity increases productivity and efficiency. According to Scientific World, time is crucial to all facets of human existence. (2020). Time assists people in establishing a routine for planning and managing their daily activities. Arora (2019) concurs that being a student is difficult and stresses the importance of maintaining a healthy balance. Spending time studying assiduously is commendable, whereas wasting time is not. Each day, it is essential for students to organize their time efficiently. Ospina et al. (2020) contend that disparities in job and time use can be traced back to demographic, educational, and economic performance differences. Nonetheless, it is evident from the data that differences in time utilization cannot be entirely explained by socioeconomic or demographic differences. For example, the British work longer hours than the French, despite claiming to have roughly the same quantity of leisure time. We also spend a great deal of time with our families and companions when we are young, especially during adolescence. We tend to disengage from our social circles, including our parents, siblings, and acquaintances, when we reach our twenties. The vast majority of respondents self-identified as students. They cannot partake due to their responsibilities as students, daughters, and siblings. Due to their numerous responsibilities, they are unable to manage their time effectively. Although Kojic (2020) defines time management as "the effective use of one's time that enables one to plan one's days so that one completes one's work with less effort and makes the most of one's limited time," the responses of the participants indicate that they are unable to effectively manage their time. This prevents them from participating in local activities. This theme may be related to the theory of margin, which highlights how less power and demand affect a person's community engagement. This prevents them from interacting with other youths in the area.

#### **Theme 5: Financial Constraint**

Planning and implementing community activities necessitate the use of resources. Youth organizations require funds and resources. As a result, they requested contributions and solicited funds since contributions and other costs are required. According to the findings, one of the participants stated that they do not participate in any community youth activities due to a lack of financial support (can't afford expenses, unavailable resources, no financial support from family and high contribution).

Youth 5 stated:

Just like in the reasons number two, if i want to join that kind of activity but I don't have a enough money then, dre nala ak nala ak na join kay waray ak madadaupan pag arun support para maka amot it na activity, then for instance na maaro ka hin support kan im parent masiring lugod "ayaw pag inapi ito kay waray kwarta". Then waray any other choice you need to reject the invitation. (Just like in the reasons number two, if I want to join that kind of activity but I don't have enough money then, I don't join since no one will support me, like for instance a support from my parent. They'll just say, "Don't join that, we don't have money." So, I have no choice but to decline the invitation.)

People require funds for a variety of purposes, which include but are not limited to: attending education, working an employment, beginning a business, and engaging in extracurricular activities. According to Rakoczy (2021), individuals require funds to pay for necessities such as accommodation, sustenance, healthcare, and education. Learning how to handle one's own financial affairs is essential because money is required to purchase life's necessities. According to Anderson (n.d), money is a prerequisite for autonomy. It is a time-honored custom to exchange goods, and it is impossible to acquire anything without currency. Money has value because individuals are making an effort to save for the future. The majority of daily activities require a financial or material investment. Nevertheless, according to the responses, one person asserts he is unable to contribute to the cost of any youth activities. This also demonstrated that participation in events is not always free for young people. Additionally, resources and funds are required. In this light, participation in youth and community events is discouraged. The responses of the participants revealed that a lack of resources prevented them from connecting with the community; therefore, this issue is related to the theory of margin, which emphasizes the significance of having resources.

#### 4.2 How do theory of margin affects the youth engagement in the community?

##### **Theme 6: Lose motivation to Engage**

To take part in community events on a regular basis and with enthusiasm, one has to have a genuine interest in them. People give their all when they're engaged in what they're doing. However, data show that the margin ideology is making young people disengage from their communities (reluctant to participate, discourage and afraid to fulfil social function).

Youth 1 stated:

"It is at all times making me more than 50 percent sure to not participate in any kind of youth activities in our community."

Youth 5 stated:

"Then it pushes me to don't participate to that kind of activity, because sometimes I have important matters to do"

To become engaged with their community, a young person requires motivation from the outside environment. Due to this, they might not be motivated to participate in youth-oriented activities. Jenkins (2022) argues that motivation is a biological process; it is an intrinsic drive and motivating force that directs behavior towards goals. It motivates people to take action, achieve success, and reach for the skies. This propelling force and essential aspect of our life's journey derives from the innate human desire to develop and progress as an individual. According to Junei (n.d.), motivation is the "internal, psychological energy that causes one to act in a particular manner" The desire to succeed is at the core of every successful individual. Additionally, an individual's degree of job satisfaction is determined by his motivation. Inspiration can facilitate self-improvement, and everyone can benefit from collaborating with a high-energy team. All respondents concurred that absence of motivation prevents them from becoming involved in their communities. A few of them stated that they did not participate because they saw no utility or advantage in

doing so. Souders (2019) argues that individuals can succeed if they are driven, but fail if they are not. Ability and willingness to learn novel ideas are essential for success in all fields. (Winterbotham et al., 2017). It is possible to draw parallels between this concept and Maslow's hierarchy of needs, as a lack of desire could lead to falling short of one's goals. Nothing will change or develop as a consequence, because young people are not interested in or motivated by these activities.

### **Theme 7: Lose Opportunities**

Participating in community events opens doors and offers advantages. It helps people become better leaders, decision-makers, and citizens while also expanding their professional networks. However, research shows that young people are losing out on chances because they are not actively engaged in their communities (inability to step outside of one's comfort zone and failing to risk).

Youth 2 stated:

"You lose the opportunity to participate to the different youth activities."

Youth 4 stated:

"I can't get out to my comfort zone, I am still inside the box and can't try new things."

Participating in a variety of extracurricular activities as a young person is a fantastic way to meet new people, form positive relationships, and open doors to new opportunities. There are new opportunities to seize every day. The decision to utilize them resides solely with the recipient. (Mathew, 2022). According to participant testimony, those who do not leave their comfort zones to attend such events are missing out. In connection, Komar (2016) stated that people cannot attract new opportunities if their door is always closed. Therefore, they must promote themselves to raise awareness of their existence, and networking is the most effective method to do so. Simply put, expanding one's network through membership in numerous student groups and participation in a wide variety of community activities may be beneficial. According to Eisler (2017), opportunities are rarely discovered within a person's typical regimen. If a person is in a location where opportunities are likely to arise, that person has the upper hand. Therefore, it is essential that individuals use their self-assurance to interact with people and situations that will help them achieve their objectives. For instance, one could learn more about the app development market by attending a local IT-focused networking event. As a consequence of engaging in a variety of activities, opportunities may manifest themselves. Participants reported missing out on opportunities because they did not leave their comfort zones to meet new individuals, as a direct result of their lack of community engagement. In addition, as discussed in the theory of margin, the participants missed out on opportunities that could have contributed to their development and future success because they lacked the confidence to form a social network with other youthful members.

## **5. Summary, Conclusions, and Recommendations**

This section summarizes the study's findings, derives conclusions from the data analysis, and makes recommendations. The location of this investigation was Barangay District III in Babatngon, Leyte. Five (5) of the community's youth who were not particularly active participated. They were selected with a great deal of intent.

In addition, a descriptive case study approach was utilized for the qualitative research. The data was collected through semi-structured interviews and then evaluated according to a thematic framework

### **5.1 Summary**

The findings of the study were summarized according to the statement of the problems stated in Chapter 1.

1. The reasons of low youth engagement in Barangay District III, Babatngon, Leyte includes:

- Lack of interest (e.g. not their preference, no excitement and not their forte).
- No invitation (e.g. uninvited by community groups).
- Lack of self-confidence (e.g. shy, introvert, interaction difficulties, and troubles communicating).
- Lack of time (e.g. focus on studying, important duties and cannot organize duties).
- Financial Constraint (e.g. inability to pay contribution, unavailable resources, and no family assistance)

2. The effects of theory of margin to the youth engagement in Barangay District III, Babatngon, Leyte includes:

- No motivation to engage (e.g. reluctant to participate, discourage and afraid to fulfill social function).
- Lose opportunities (e.g. inability to step outside of one's comfort zone and failing to risk).

## 5.2 Conclusions

Based on the indicated findings, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. The majority of youths do not partake in community activities due to their introversion, interaction difficulties, and communication difficulties.
2. The most significant effect of marital conflict on the couple's relationship was a lack of motivation to participate in community youth activities. The youth are unwilling to participate, discouraged, and fearful of fulfilling their social function.
3. Low youth engagement in the Philippines has been attributed to a lack of interest, lack of self-confidence, no invitation from other youths, lack of time, and financial constraint.
4. Youth participation in community activities is not always no cost. There is sometimes a contribution that the youth cannot afford, causing them to lose interest in community involvement.
5. The study concurred and acknowledged its theoretical frameworks, including Oslon's theory, Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory, and theory of margin.

## 5.3 Recommendations

This study revealed the reasons of low youth engagement in Barangay District III, Babatngon, Leyte. Therefore, the following recommendations are hereby presented:

1. This study should be read by youth members in order to comprehend the significance of joining youth organizations and getting involved with community activities. This will increase their understanding of the advantages of communicating with and forming relationships with other youths.
2. Youth groups should examine this study to learn how to motivate other youth individuals to join them in participating in multiple civic projects throughout the community. This additionally teaches them to be friendlier and more approachable, which will make other youth members connected from their place in the group.
3. Parents of youth members should evaluate this study to discover the advantages which their children will obtain from engaging youth organizations and engaging in community activities. This will also educate them to at least morally encourage their children to participate in community activities.
4. This study should be read by the Local Government Unit of Barangay District III,



Babatngon, Leyte, so that they can devise projects that support both morally and financially the various youth activities in order to motivate youth members to participate, as financial hardship inhibits their community involvement.

5. Future research may use this study to determine what exists and what is unknown about adolescent community engagement.

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