

Gawad Laguna (GFTSL): Implication in Developing Social Awareness and Linguistic and Cultural Competencies of the Outstanding Youth of Laguna

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Abstract

This extensive study's major goal is to ascertain the effect that the Gawad Laguna program—previously known as GFTSL or Gawad Felicisimo T. San Luis—has had on the outstanding youth of Laguna's development of social awareness and linguistic and cultural competence.

The following statements listed below will be answered through this study.

1. What is the level of perception and agreement of the participants regarding Immersion as part of the Whole Process of Gawad Laguna (GFTSL) specifically in:
 - 1.1. Moral Recovery Program;
 - 1.2. Leadership Training and Seminars;
 - 1.3. Living with Others; and
 - 1.4. International Lunch?
2. What is the level of perception and agreement of the participants regarding Edification as part of the Whole Process of Gawad Laguna (GFTSL) specifically in:
 - 2.1. Field Trip;
 - 2.2. Essay Writing;
 - 2.3. Magandang Laguna Day; and
 - 2.4. Nature Day?
3. What is the level of perception and agreement of the participants regarding the Benefits of the Program such as Social Awareness specifically in:
 - 3.1. Involvement in the Student Council; and
 - 3.2. Leadership in Local Government Units?
4. What is the level of perception and agreement of the participants regarding the Benefits of the Program such as Linguistic and Cultural Competencies specifically in:
 - 4.1. Literacy Program Formulation; and
 - 4.2. Launching a Tourism Project?
5. Does Immersion have substantial implication as part of the Whole Process of Gawad Laguna (GFTSL) in the level of Social Awareness and Linguistic and Cultural Competencies of the Outstanding Youth of Laguna?
6. Does Edification have substantial implications as part of the Whole Process of Gawad Laguna (GFTSL) in the level of Social Awareness and Linguistic and Cultural Competencies of the Outstanding Youth of Laguna?

The research used a descriptive method. The respondents involved in this study came from twenty-four (24) towns and six (6) cities in the province of Laguna. They were drawn from four (4) categories such as Out-of-School Youth, High School Youth, College Youth, and Professional Youth with a total number of one hundred and twenty (120). Purposive Sampling was used in this study.

The responses were tallied as a foundation for statistical calculation following the recording, organization, and analysis of the acquired data. The researcher first employed Mean and Standard Deviation to determine the participants' level of perception and agreement regarding Immersion and Edification as components of the Whole Process of Gawad Laguna (GFTSL).

Second, the researcher also employed Mean and Standard Deviation to gauge participants' levels of agreement with Program Benefits including Social Awareness and Linguistic and Cultural Competencies.

The Pearson Correlation Coefficient was lastly used by the researcher to determine the significant effects of Immersion and Edification as components of the Whole Process of Gawad Laguna (GFTSL) on the level of Social Awareness and Linguistic and Cultural Competencies of the Outstanding Youth of Laguna.

Key Words: Gawad Laguna (formerly Gawad Felicisimo T. San Luis for Outstanding Youth of Laguna), Immersion, Edification, Process, Social Awareness, and Linguistic and Cultural Competencies.

Introduction

"Our origins are different, our dreams and aspirations are different, but we were brought together by chance. With the help of Legend, we are all united. What has been started will be continued and taken to heart. I am Outstanding. I am a sharer, my dream and my goal I can reach." Those are just a few of the lines of the song "Ako ay Namumukod-tangi" that reflect the overall purpose of the program.

What is Gawad Laguna? Gawad Laguna Incorporated, formerly Gawad Felicisimo T. San Luis Incorporated, is a private organization that recognizes, cultivates, and unites the Outstanding Youth of Laguna. The organization was established in 1993. Its purpose is to instill in the minds of young people the importance of serving the community, promoting organizational stability, and developing language, local tourism, art, and culture.

For more than twenty-six (26) years, it has continued to cultivate outstanding youth leaders. They undergo a sacred process of learning, preparation, and self-discovery to better cultivate the "Natatanging Ako" as a leader and promoter of Filipino culture and language. These young people are being prepared for the challenge of serving God, people, neighbors, and themselves. In this way, what was started by the great pillar of Laguna, Governor Felicisimo Tobias San Luis who ruled the province for thirty-three (33) years from 1959 to 1992 can be continued.

Cultivating social awareness surrounding the concept of leadership and public service. According to the teaching of Pacle (2016), the heart that knows how to give thanks knows how to serve. Ramirez (2017) agreed with this, the Award teaches to be more open to respond to every challenge that comes and try to overcome it.

Santos (2017) mentioned that with the help of the program, an individual learns more about the importance of trusting oneself, the people, and God. He sees more that everyone has goodness in their hearts and the ability to help.

Consignado (2018) believes that Gawad should be substance over form. The content should weigh more than the outward appearance. The meaning is more dominant than the literal appearance. This is key so that we can better identify and predict the problems of society that require an immediate response.

Also, young people are trained to be proficient in the use of the Filipino language, both orally and in writing. They go through processes that will cultivate their unique linguistic and cultural abilities. In this way we can preserve and protect the language that is the symbol of our race. The organization believes in the statement of Governor San Luis that "There is no developed country that does not use its own language". This has been proven by the lessons of history, especially of countries in East Asia such as China, Japan, and Korea.

The participants wholeheartedly agreed that the young people who went through the procedure had a new degree of comprehension. They each have a distinct perspective on how it affects their own growth. In order to demonstrate the positive outcomes and benefits of the program in developing social awareness and linguistic and cultural competence in the outstanding youth of Laguna, this study's primary goal is to provide evidence of such outcomes.

Related Literature and Study

This study intends to assess the effectiveness of the Gawad Laguna (GFTSL) program in the development of social awareness and language competencies of youth in Laguna Province. The researcher believes that the current research will be meaningful if the presented variables are extended and anchored at the beginning of the study.

Immersion, according to Cambridge University Press (2022), is the state of becoming totally engrossed in something.

The long-term advantages of immersion are discussed on the Bdot Learning Center page (2022). A person's comprehension of his neighbor, culture, and community is said to deepen as a result. Additionally, students do better in class because they feel more accomplished and are more motivated to learn.

Manuel (2020) claims that *Lakbay-Aral* is a Filipino phrase that translates to "study-travel". It is also the name of a program that the Commission on Filipinos Overseas has been running since 1983 to help young Filipinos living abroad go on a journey to rediscover their roots and traditions. The program, which takes place every year, is a two-week cultural immersion experience that includes taking part in actual traditional celebrations, attending on-site lectures about Filipino heritage, going on guided tours of historical locations, and interacting with Filipino students, members of the indigenous community, as well as government and community leaders.

Law Insider (2012) defines a literacy program as volunteer work done in a primary, secondary, or post-secondary setting to assist students in improving their reading and writing abilities in accordance with recognized academic standards.

Students have the chance to experience cultural variety through cultural immersion as a learning activity, according to Buchanan, et al. (2021) in their paper titled *Learning Objectives of Cultural Immersion Programs: A Scoping Review*. They track into the causes of any odd conduct or behavior that belongs to a different race or group.

The *Impact of Cultural Immersion Experience on Identity Transformation Process* by Onosu (2021) reports that the immersion experience has a direct impact on participants' perceptions of others and themselves upon re-entry or return to their home community. Particularly, the extent to which participation in cultural immersion programs alters students' perceptions of self and others was investigated using the perspective transformation theoretical framework. Participants in purposeful immersion and guided meditations may have become aware of the need to reevaluate their perceptions, expectations, and presumptions about themselves and others, according to the analysis of semi-structured interviews. The study also discovered that different immersion experiences had different effects on participants' self-identity and cultural awareness.

Cullen's (2020) study titled *Moral Recovery and Ethical Leadership* discusses the concept of "Moral Recovery" as an ethical leadership process that begins with moral failure, but allows for personal, organizational, and social change. It is built on the concept of "Moral Injury" from the work of psychiatrist Johnathan Shay. Moral recovery calls for reparative collective measures that tackle the societal factors that contribute to immoral behavior. This type of research concentrates on the idea of "Moral Recovery" as a means of effective ethical leadership and change.

Aycardo's (2020) study titled *Leadership Effectiveness of Senior High School Officer in Laguna State Polytechnic University Santa Cruz Main Campus* reveals that G.U.I.L.D.S officers are truly an influence to their fellow students in all aspects and that the majority of the senior high school is abiding by them. The officers can handle their fellow students or followers well. They are respected as the superiors or as the leaders of the senior high school community. As the leaders, officers are concerning or engaging themselves with the students in results of having their fellow students influenced by them in all aspects; be it in academic, absenteeism, rules of the university and in socio-cultural activities. The officers are revealed to be an influencing individual to their fellow students though, some are not influenced by them maybe because of lack of communication between the leaders and the followers (officers and the students). The students are following the rules of the university because it is a strictly-to-be-followed rule and that the officers had been a good role model when it comes to the rules that needed to abide by the students. The students somehow revealed to be a true follower on their leaders. They are influenced by the officers' leadership styles in all aspects. Participation and communication are revealed between the officers and the students. The leaders are encouraging the students to participate in all activities that concerns them, the followers, and they are encouraged and managed well by the leaders. All throughout the research, the majority of the grade 11 senior high school students are influenced by them and it is seen in the survey-questionnaires conducted but some are not, some students answered negatively about the said questions in the questionnaires but it is to help the leaders as well.

Methodology

Descriptive design, in the researcher's opinion, is absolutely necessary for the type of investigation he has chosen to conduct.

Bernales (2019) claims that the research examines the current tasks, norms, and circumstances. It answers the who, what, when, and how questions concerning the research topic. It entails observation, surveying, and taking formal exams.

According to the needs and parameters of the study, the respondents were carefully chosen. The respondents in this study came from twenty-four (24) towns and six (6) cities in the province of Laguna. Such responders were drawn from six (6) batches such as Gawad 2014, Gawad 2015, Gawad 2016, Gawad 2017, Gawad 2018, and Gawad 2019, which was the last cohort to go through the process prior to the pandemic. Each edition or year is classified into four (4) categories such as Out-of-School Youth, High School Youth, College Youth, and Professional Youth with a total number of one hundred and twenty (120). In this study, a sufficient sample of the population was drawn using a method called purposeful sampling. They have been formally included in the data collecting and collection procedure as actual respondents based on their consent and desire to participate in this study.

The Purposive Sampling Technique, according to Gravetter and Forzano (2016), is a technique for gathering information from a group of people who have the traits necessary to meet the study's eligibility requirements.

The researcher initially requested permission from the Chairman and Board of Directors of Gawad Laguna Incorporated to discuss, analyze, and study the whole process or program of such an organization before beginning the conception. The researcher started performing the listed procedures as soon as they gave their consent. Prior to developing this study, the researcher read up on earlier research on the subject he intended to focus on. For a greater understanding of the research's direction, the researcher sought for potential sources of study. The researcher assigned questions that would be clarified in the context of the study and defined the variables that may be employed in it.

Based on the predetermined variables, the researcher created a questionnaire. To verify its validity, the said questionnaire received validation and modification from professionals and research advisers. The respondents received a link to a Google Form from the researcher in order to finish the survey. A series of checklists consisting of four (4) parts were issued to actual study respondents. The items in said questionnaire are based on the problems identified at the beginning of this study. The first section contains statements about Immersion as a component of the Gawad Laguna Whole Process (GFTSL), while the second section highlights Edification as a component of the same program. The third section offers arguments in favor of Social Awareness as a Program Benefit, and the fourth, or final, section discusses Linguistic and Cultural Competence as a Program Benefit to the youth participants.

The following scale and its relevant equivalent or interpretation were used by the researcher in the questionnaire:

Scale	Interpretation
5	Very Much Agree (VMA)
4	I concur (IC)
3	Slightly Adhere (SA)
2	Contradict (C)
1	Very Strong Disagree (VSD)

With the assistance of the researcher's advisor, a subject-matter expert, a statistician, and a few chosen Filipino experts, the questionnaire underwent validation.

To understand, analyze, and apply the interpretation of the data collected from the respondents, the statistical approach in the data was utilized. After the respondents submitted all of the information, it was examined, put through a methodical procedure, and given a meaningful interpretation. First, to find out the level of perception and agreement of the participants regarding Immersion and Edification as parts of the Whole Process of Gawad Laguna (GFTSL), the researcher used Mean and Standard Deviation. Second, to find out the level of participants' views and agreement

regarding the Benefits of the Program such as Social Awareness and Linguistic and Cultural Competencies, the researcher also used Mean and Standard Deviation.

Finally, in order to find out the significant implications of Immersion and Edification as parts of the Whole Process of Gawad Laguna (GFTSL) on the level of Social Awareness and Linguistic and Cultural Competencies of the Outstanding Youth of Laguna, the researcher used the Pearson Correlation Coefficient.

The statistician was immediately provided access to the data after it had been collected in order to analyze and interpret it in order to address the aligned research problems. The researcher provided a conclusion and recommendation based on the findings after they had undergone analysis and interpretation.

Result and Discussion

The results of the investigation are shown in the tables. Each table has a description and a summary at the bottom.

Participants' Level of Perception and Agreement regarding Immersion as a part of the Whole Process of Gawad Laguna (GFTSL)

Table 1. Participants' Level of Perception and Agreement with regards to the Moral Recovery Program (MRP)

	Statements	Mean	Std. Deviation
MRP1	Each participant considers his role in the society in which he lives as a result of this process.	4.9167	.27754
MRP2	Understands his own personality, particularly the moral side.	4.8917	.31210
MRP3	An individual realizes the limits of his abilities and strengthens the inherent weakness.	4.8500	.35857
MRP4	The level of his readiness to respond to the problems and needs of the society he belongs to can be measured.	4.8417	.36658
MRP5	As "Natatanging Ako" takes shape, he becomes a role model for young people.	4.8250	.38156
MRP MEAN	Very Much Agree (VMA) Very High (VH)	4.8650	.21872

With the Very High level of perception and agreement of the participants regarding the first process, it can be seen that they strongly believe that the Moral Recovery Program helps a lot in discovering and developing their personality. Proof of this is the first statement that got the highest Mean that reached 4.9167 and Standard Deviation of .27754, which means they strongly agree that through this process each participant reflected his role in the society he lives in. The second statement obtained a Mean of 4.8917 with a Standard Deviation of .31210. This means that they strongly agree to recognize their own personality, particularly the moral aspect, with the help of this process. The third statement has a Mean that reaches 4.8500 with a Standard Deviation of .35857, which means that they strongly agree that an individual knows the limits of his ability and strengthens the inherent weakness through it. The fourth statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.8417 with a Standard Deviation of .36658, meaning that they strongly agree that this process measured the level of readiness of an individual to respond to the problems and needs of society. And finally, the fifth statement that got the lowest Mean that reached only 4.8250 with a Standard Deviation of .38156, means that they Strongly Agree that "Natatanging Ako" was formed and served as an example to their fellow youth. Even the total Mean which reached 4.8650 with a total Standard Deviation of .21872 indicates a strong agreement. Based on this, it can be concluded that the participants fully agree with the meaning and importance of the Moral Recovery Program (MRP) in shaping their moral aspects such as correct thinking and decision-making, service, and socializing and dealing with others.

Table 2. Participants' Level of Perception and Agreement with regards to the Leadership Training and Seminar (LTS)

	Statements	Mean	Std. Deviation
LTS1	The formation factors of groups are discovered with the aid of this process.	4.8500	.35857
LTS2	Understands how to lead a team member toward promoting and attaining goals.	4.7333	.44407
LTS3	The knowledge about leadership and the proper treatment of his subordinates is expanding.	4.7250	.44839
LTS4	The roles of each member of the group are mutually agreed upon to ensure the participation and contribution of each.	4.6750	.47034
LTS5	The skills forged during the seven-month program can be translated into serving and leading fellow youth leaders towards the development and improvement of social conditions.	4.5917	.49359
LTS MEAN	Very Much Agree (VMA) Very High (VH)	4.7150	.31400

It can be seen in Table 2, the first statement has the highest Mean that reaches 4.8500 with a Standard Deviation of .35857, which means that they strongly agree that with the help of this process they have identified the factors in the formation of a group. The second statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.7333 with a standard deviation of .44407, meaning that they Strongly Agree that they know how to move the group involved towards promoting the goal and achieving them. The third statement has a Mean that reaches 4.7250 with a Standard Deviation of .44839, which means that they strongly agree that it has expanded their knowledge about leadership and the proper treatment of their subordinates. The fourth obtained a Mean that reached 4.6750 with a Standard Deviation of .47034, which means that they Strongly Agree that through the Leadership Training and Seminar they were able to improve the roles of each member of the group to ensure everyone's participation and contribution. The fifth obtained the lowest Mean which reached 4.5917 with a Standard Deviation of .49359. This means they strongly agree that in the light of this process they have translated the skills forged during the seven-month program towards serving and leading fellow youth leaders towards the development and improvement of social conditions. Even the overall Mean which reached 4.7150 with a total Standard Deviation of .31400 also has the equivalent of Strongly Agree. It can be seen from the data that the level of agreement of the youth is Very High that the Leadership Training and Seminar (LTS) definitely helped shape their ability to lead and serve as youth leaders.

Table 3. Participants' Level of Perception and Agreement with regards to the Living with Others

	Statements	Mean	Std. Deviation
LO1	Each person has a better understanding of the various social groups' lifestyles as a result of this process.	4.8667	.34136
LO2	The proper way to interact with and treat other people is being taught and learned.	4.8333	.37424
LO3	Family problems can be solved and wise decisions can be made.	4.8583	.37340
LO4	The environmental factors that influence people's personalities are being recognized.	4.8500	.35857
LO5	They are being conscious of their demands and enthusiastic to create connections or partnerships with various businesses and government agencies in order to have those needs satisfied.	4.8417	.36658
LO MEAN	Very Much Agree (VMA) Very High (VH)	4.8500	.29018

It can be seen in Table 3, the first statement has the highest Mean that reached 4.8667 with a Standard deviation of .34136, meaning that they Strongly Agree that in the light of this stage each individual understood the different lifestyle of people in society. The second statement obtained the lowest Mean of 4.8333 with a Standard Deviation of .37424, which means that they Strongly Agree that they have learned from it the appropriate treatment and fellowship with others. The third statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.8583 with a Standard Deviation of .37340, meaning that they Strongly Agree that they were able to analyze family problems and that they formed an informed decision through this process.

The fourth statement has a Mean that reaches 4.8500 with a Standard Deviation of .35857, which means that they Strongly Agree that the environment that shapes people has been determined here and they have understood their personality. And finally, the fifth statement has a Mean that reaches 4.8417 with a Standard Deviation of .36658 which means that they Strongly Agree that through this stage they are aware of their needs and they have developed a relationship or linkage with various organizations and branches of government so as to meet the needs. Even the total Mean which reached 4.8500 with a total Standard Deviation of .29018 indicates a strong agreement. In addition to those recorded in the table, it can be said that this process helps a lot because each participant had the opportunity to experience the problems and burdens of his neighbor. It is evident from their response that their level of agreement is Very High that through living together, their hearts and minds have opened to share experiences that will serve as lessons to others and to embrace the new lessons that come from each individual and family they met.

Table 4. Participants' Level of Perception and Agreement with regards to the International Lunch

	Statements	Mean	Std. Deviation
IL1	Young people learn about the diversity of nearby nations based on their cultures and traditions through this stage.	4.8000	.40168
IL2	Every ethnicity or tribe takes pride in serving a variety of culinary delicacies.	4.6000	.52501
IL3	Borders are crossed and external ties are strengthened, which builds a bridge between local and global knowledge.	4.5583	.59119
IL4	The removal of dividing obstacles and the expansion of trade are accelerating globalization.	4.5833	.49507
IL5	The structure and grammatical rules of the languages spoken by various races are valued and can establish a lingua franca.	4.5917	.52654
IL MEAN	Very Much Agree (VMA) Very High (VH)	4.6267	.34876

In the Extremely High level of perception and agreement of the participants regarding the fourth process, it is reflected in Table 4 that they rely on the belief that the International Lunch has helped a lot in maintaining the native culture and understanding the civilization of others. Proof of this is the first statement that obtained the highest Mean that reached 4.8000 and Standard Deviation of .40168, meaning that they Strongly Agree that through this process the young people are aware of the differences between neighboring countries based on in their cultures and traditions. The second statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.6000 with a Standard Deviation of .52501. This means that they Strongly Agree that with the help of this stage they got to know the different flavors of cuisine that each race or tribe is proud to serve. The third statement has the lowest Mean which reached only 4.5583 with a Standard Deviation of .59119, which means that they Strongly Agree that the International Lunch process has stabilized the foreign relations and connected the borders which becomes a bridge to understanding of the local and international sectors.

The fourth statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.5833 with a Standard Deviation of .49507, meaning that they Strongly Agree that with the help of such a process the barriers that cause division have been removed and given space the entry of goods into the intensification of globalization. The fifth statement that obtained a Mean that reached 4.5917 with a Standard Deviation of .52654 means that they Strongly Agree that in the light of this process they have appreciated the languages used by different races based on the structure and grammatical rules and defining a lingua franca. Even the total Mean which reached 4.6267 with a total Standard Deviation of .34876 indicates a strong agreement. Amendment to the data presented in Table 4, the conclusion can be confirmed that the International Lunch program is very useful in strengthening and maintaining our relationship with other countries.

Participants' Level of Perception and Agreement regarding Edification as a part of the Whole Process of Gawad Laguna (GFTSL)

Table 5. Participants' Level of Perception and Agreement with regards to the Field Trip

	Statements	Mean	Std. Deviation
FT1	Because of this, historical sites and occasions are recognized and valued across the province.	4.7500	.55383
FT 2	The past is intertwined with the present and is recognized as a significant component of each Lagunense's identity.	4.8000	.44154
FT 3	In light of printed documents typically found in historical libraries and museums, the changes that have occurred and are occurring in the language are examined.	4.7417	.47626
FT 4	The promotion and development of the language is addressed through policies and initiatives adopted by public and commercial organizations.	4.7500	.48938
FT 5	The maintenance and expansion of the symbolic language of the race to which one belongs emphasizes patriotism and nationalism.	4.7500	.47190
FT MEAN	Very Much Agree (VMA) Very High (VH)	4.7583	.35161

It can be observed in Table 5, the first statement has a Mean that reaches 4.7500 with a Standard Deviation of .55383, which means that they Strongly Agree that in the light of the Field Trip process they have recognized and appreciated the historical places and event in the entire province. The second statement obtained the highest Mean that reached 4.8000 with a Standard Deviation of .44154, meaning that they Strongly Agree that through this they linked the past to the present and saw it as a large part that makes up the identity of every Lagunense. The third statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.7417 with a Standard Deviation of .47626, meaning that they Strongly Agree with the help of which they have analyzed the changes that have occurred and are occurring in the language in the light of the printed materials that commonly found in old libraries and museums. The fourth statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.7500 with a Standard Deviation of .48938, meaning that they Strongly Agree that at this stage they identified the measures and programs carried out by the government and private institutions that related to the promotion and development of the language. The fifth obtained a Mean that reached 4.7500 with a Standard Deviation of .47190, meaning that they Strongly Agree that through this their patriotism and nationalism have been intensified through the preservation and extension of the symbolic language of the race they belong to.

Even the total Mean which reached 4.7583 with a total Standard Deviation of .35161 indicates a strong agreement. Based on the data presented above, we can see that it is important to conduct a Field Trip as part of the process of shaping young people because it serves as a bridge to connect the past with the present. Also, through this we can trace the things that served as the cornerstone of the development of our language, civilization, and society.

Table 6. Participants' Level of Perception and Agreement with regards to the Essay Writing

	Statements	Mean	Std. Deviation
EW1	With this, the guidelines for composing the essay are implemented, including the criteria for paragraph construction and appropriate punctuation.	4.7833	.45251
EW2	The ability to craft powerful statements and sentences by combining allegory and figure of speech is developed.	4.6583	.47626
EW3	Methods and procedures for maintaining coherence, or unity and harmony of thoughts in the creative work, are mastered.	4.7250	.44839
EW4	The skills to create a story with a beginning, middle, and end that is appealing and effective is being developed.	4.7167	.45251
EW5	Sentence building correctly utilizes the parts of speech, and emphasis is placed on grammar-related laws and regulations.	4.7500	.45374
EW MEAN	Very Much Agree (VMA) Very High (VH)	4.7267	.33299

With the Very High level of perception and agreement of the participants regarding the sixth process, it can be concluded that they tend to believe that the Essay Writing process helps a lot in refreshing grammatical rules and developing macro writing skills. This is evidenced by the first statement that obtained the highest Mean that reached 4.7833 with a Standard Deviation of .45251, meaning that they Strongly Agree that through this they have applied the instructions that must be remembered and considered in writing of the essay such as paragraph construction rules and proper punctuation. The second statement obtained the lowest Mean which reached only 4.6583 with a Standard Deviation of .47626, meaning that they Strongly Agree that in this stage they have honed their skills in using the pillar and connecting the pillar to form an effective statement or sentence. The third statement has a Mean that reaches 4.7250 with a Standard Deviation of .44839, meaning that they Strongly Agree that with its help they have learned the methods and techniques regarding the proper organization of ideas to maintain coherence or unity and harmony of thoughts in the creative composition.

The fourth statement has a Mean that reaches 4.7167 with a Standard Deviation of .45251, meaning that they Strongly Agree that with this they have developed an attractive and efficient framework that includes a beginning, middle and end. The fifth statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.7500 with a Standard Deviation of .45374, which means that they Strongly Agree that through this they were able to correctly use the parts of speech in the construction of the sentence and emphasized the laws and rules related to grammar or grammar. Even the total Mean which reached 4.7267 with a total Standard Deviation of .33299 indicates strong agreement. Amendment to the data presented above, it can be seen that the respondents fully agree with the meaning or effectiveness of this activity in the development of linguistic and grammatical skills, particularly figurative expression and creative writing.

Table 7. Participants' Level of Perception and Agreement with regards to the Magandang Laguna Day

	Statements	Mean	Std. Deviation
MLD1	Through this process, the lively and colorful culture and tradition of the communities in the province of Laguna can be seen and recognized.	4.7833	.41370
MLD2	The inherent talents in dancing, singing, public speaking is being showcased.	4.8833	.32237
MLD3	Participants were able to interact with other young people from different towns and analyze the level of language they use in dialogue.	4.8667	.34136
MLD4	The variants of the language used in the towns belonging to the province are being differentiated.	4.8917	.31210
MLD5	Each participant's proficiency in employing figurative speech or rhetoric in presenting and describing places and festivals in the province is measured.	4.6417	.48152
MLD MEAN	Very Much Agree (VMA) Very High (VH)	4.8133	.24007

It can be seen in Table 7 that the first statement has a Mean that reaches 4.7833 with a Standard Deviation of .41370, meaning that they Strongly Agree that through this process they have seen and recognized the colorful and colorful culture and tradition of towns in the province of Laguna. The second statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.8833 with a Standard Deviation of .32237, meaning that they Strongly Agree that at this stage they were able to show their talent in dancing, singing, and public speaking such as public speaking. The third statement has a Mean that reaches 4.8667 with a Standard Deviation of .34136, meaning that they Strongly Agree that through this they met other young people from different towns and evaluated their language level used in communication. The fourth statement obtained the highest Mean that reached 4.8917 with a Standard Deviation of .31210, meaning that they Strongly Agree that through such activity they have differentiated the varieties of language used in towns belonging to the province. The fifth statement obtained the lowest Mean that reached only 4.6417 with a Standard Deviation of .48152, meaning that they Strongly Agree that at this stage each participant's skill in using figurative expression or rhetoric in introduction and description of places and festivals in the province.

Even the overall Mean which reached 4.8133 with a total Standard Deviation of .24007 means Very High. This is proof that in this process the participants got to know the different cultures and traditions of each town in the province of Laguna. Also, some differences in the point of speaking, the way of expression, and the level and variety of the language used in neighboring towns in the province can be compared.

Table 8. Participants' Level of Perception and Agreement with regards to the Nature Day

	Statements	Mean	Std. Deviation
ND1	With the aid of this process, the requirement outlined by the amended law in Section 8 of Republic Act No. 10176, also known as the Arbor Day Act of 2012, was obeyed. This section states that "All Filipino citizens who are unaffiliated shall mandatorily plant one (1) tree per year upon turning twelve (12) years of age."	4.8167	.38856
ND2	Participating in programs designed to teach disciplined waste segregation helps people learn how to take care of the environment properly.	4.7917	.40782
ND3	Mother Nature's cries are heard, and destructive behaviors are changed in order to preserve nature's unity and the role of man as its protector.	4.8500	.35857
ND4	In order to replenish the natural habitat that protects us from the elements and serves as a temporary home, young people are urged to take part in a variety of environmental and sanitary activities.	4.7833	.41370
ND5	Able to start initiatives like clean-up campaigns and community green houses to lessen water and air pollution and lessen the effects of escalating climate change.	4.7750	.41933
ND MEAN	Very Much Agree (VMA) Very High (VH)	4.8033	.31004

With the Very High level of perception and agreement of the participants regarding the eighth process, it can be concluded that they rely on the thought that the Nature Day stage helps a lot in encouraging young people to appreciate and take care of the world that serves as our temporary home. Proof of this is the third statement that got the highest Mean that reached 4.8500 and Standard Deviation of .35857, meaning they Strongly Agree that through this process everyone has heard the cry of Mother Nature and corrected the destructive habits towards being one with nature and man as its guardian. The fifth statement got the lowest Mean which only reached 4.7750 and Standard Deviation of .41933, which means they Strongly Agree that through the aforementioned process they were able to launch projects such as community green house and clean-up drive to reduce water and air pollution and mitigate the impact of burgeoning climate change. The first statement has a Mean that reached 4.8167 with a Standard Deviation of .38856, which means that they Strongly Agree that with the help of the Nature Day process, the demand set forth by the amended law in Section 8 of Republic Act No. 10176, better known as the Arbor Day Act of 2012, which states that "All citizens of the Philippines who are unaffiliated, upon turning twelve (12) years of age shall mandatorily plant one (1) tree per year". The second statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.7917 with a Standard Deviation of .40782, meaning that they Strongly Agree that with the help of this process the participants learned the proper care of the environment by attending the foundation that aims to teach disciplined waste segregation. The fourth statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.7833 with a Standard Deviation of .41370. This means that they strongly agree that through this work the young people have been encouraged to participate in various environmental and sanitation programs with the aim of renewing the life that comes from nature that serves as a temporary home that shelters us.

Even the total Mean which reached 4.8033 with a total Standard Deviation of .31004 indicates a strong agreement. Amendment to the data presented in Table 8, it can be believed that the Nature Day period is of great benefit in suppressing young people to turn the wrong habits to the right and re-sow the seed of change in the heart and mind as the remaining guardians of our Mother Nature.

Participants' Level of Perception and Agreement regarding Social Awareness as a Perceived Benefit of the Program

Table 9. Participants' Level of Perception and Agreement with regards to the Involvement in the Student Council (SC)

	Statements	Mean	Std. Deviation
SC1	Through the processes contained in such a program, a young person can determine the sector and activities he should be involved in to hone his ability to serve others.	4.7250	.44839
SC2	They are able to draw on their personal experience with adaptation and social interaction, which has altered their perspective on life.	4.7167	.47071
SC3	Despite negative forces, one can stand still and rise above the pervasive influences as an Outstanding Youth of Laguna.	4.9000	.30126
SC4	Able to launch school initiatives and activities with the assistance of teachers and administrators to promote students' intellectual, moral, physical, social, and spiritual development and to safeguard their well-being.	4.8333	.37424
SC5	The importance of extracurricular activities and academic achievements is balanced so as not to have an impact on factors like regular attendance in class, scoring well on exams, and other related academic activities.	4.8583	.35017
SC MEAN	Very Much Agree (VMA) Very High (VH)	4.8067	.26049

It can be seen in Table 9 that the third statement obtained the highest Mean that reached 4.9000 with an associated Standard Deviation of .30126, meaning that they Strongly Agree that with the help of the program they have established themselves and strengthened their foundation despite negative forces and worldly influences. The second statement got the lowest Mean which only reached 4.7167 and Standard Deviation of .47071, which means that they Strongly Agree that through the aforementioned process they were able to use their own experience in adapting and interacting with others he changed their outlook on life. The first statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.7250 with an associated Standard Deviation of .44839, meaning that they Strongly Agree that through the processes contained in such a program, a young person can identify the sector and activities that should his involvement to hone his skills in serving others. The fourth statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.8333 with an associated Standard Deviation of .37424, meaning that the participants Strongly Agree that with its help they were able to launch school projects and activities with the help of teachers and managers towards the protection of the students' welfare and the development of their intellectual, moral, physical, social, and spiritual condition. The fifth statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.8583 with an associated Standard Deviation of .35017, meaning that they Strongly Agree that the overall program helped a lot to weigh the weight of extracurricular activities and academic performances when thus aspects such as regular class attendance, obtaining high grades in tests, and other related academic activities are not affected. Even the overall Mean of 4.8067 with a total Standard Deviation of .26049 means Very High.

In addition to the data presented above, the participants believe that the Whole Program of Gawad Laguna (GFTSL) becomes a way to support them to get involved in school organizations with the purpose of practicing and applying the skills forged during the six months process.

Table 10. Participants' Level of Perception and Agreement with regards to the Leadership in Local Government Units (LGUs)

	Statements	Mean	Std. Deviation
LGU1	The Gawad Laguna (GFTSL) program's processes teach participants the qualities of proper, equal leadership and enhance their ability to execute the law and mentor their subordinates.	4.7750	.41933
LGU2	Able to schematize programs that can provide more jobs, opportunities, and businesses to the people they serve.	4.6833	.46713
LGU3	They are able to take part in the government's stepped-up anti-drug campaign by starting skill and vocational training for youth who are not in school and people who are taken from rehab facilities.	4.7000	.52820
LGU4	In order to respond quickly to calamities and properly divide the advantages intended for every citizen of the nation, the network or link between local government and commercial entities is being expanded.	4.6667	.47338
LGU5	The desire to contribute to society and assert oneself as a youth leader is being intensified.	4.7167	.45251
LGU MEAN	Very Much Agree (VMA) Very High (VH)	4.7083	.31955

With the Very High level of perception and agreement of the participants regarding the Benefits of the Program, they believe that it directly motivates them to serve and lead in Local Government Units such as Sangguniang Kabataan, Barangay, Town, and Province. Proof of this is the first statement that obtained the highest Mean that reached 4.7750 and Standard Deviation of .41933, meaning that they Strongly Agree that through the processes contained in the Gawad Laguna program (GFTSL) they learned the nature of proper and equitable leadership and improved law enforcement skills and guidance of subordinates.

The fourth statement got the lowest Mean which only reached 4.6667 and Standard Deviation of .47338, which means that they Strongly Agree that with its help the network or linkage between the local government and private organizations in with the aim of responding to immediate disasters and equitably distributing the benefits intended for every citizen of the country. The second statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.6833 and a Standard Deviation of .46713, which means that they Strongly Agree that through this they have been able to promote village, town, and provincial programs that have provided more jobs, opportunity, and business to the citizens served. The third statement got a Mean that reached 4.7000 and a Standard Deviation of .52820. This means that the entire Gawad Laguna organization with its members and founders is joining and participating in the government's intensified anti-drug campaign by launching skills and vocational training for out-of-school youth and individuals drawn from rehabilitation centers. The fifth statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.7167 and a Standard Deviation of .45251, which means that they Strongly Agree that through such a program their desire to play a role in society and claim a role as a youth leader has been intensified. Even the total Mean of 4.7083 with a total Standard Deviation of .31955 indicates a strong agreement. The data presented in Table 10 prove that the overall program of Gawad Laguna Incorporated has been very beneficial in shaping and honing the next leaders of our society.

Participants’ Level of Perception and Agreement regarding Linguistic and Cultural Competencies as a Perceived Benefit of the Program

Table 11. Participants' Level of Perception and Agreement with regards to the Literacy Program Formulation

	Statements	Mean	Std. Deviation
LP1	With the assistance of school administrators and instructors, programs that aim to strengthen the macro reading and writing skills of elementary and secondary students are established through the Gawad Laguna (GFTSL) program's processes.	4.6417	.57680
LP2	The community can benefit from the acquired information and skills from the process by launching initiatives that can improve young people's English and Filipino language proficiency, enabling them to find better employment.	4.7583	.42989
LP3	In light of historical landmarks and conserved racial resources, such as printed items kept in museums, libraries, and archives, the beginnings and development of the language are being tracked.	4.7500	.53844
LP4	The learned abilities can be put to use in school newspaper management or journalism engagement.	4.7750	.49302
LP5	Grammar knowledge and language proficiency are improved in the young people, especially in the areas of essay writing and public speaking.	4.6917	.56205
LP MEAN	Very Much Agree (VMA) Very High (VH)	4.7233	.37230

With the Very High level of perception and agreement of the participants regarding the Benefits of the Program, they stand for Gawad Laguna Incorporated as an organization that pushes them to turn other young people from illiteracy through literacy programs. Proof of this is the first statement that obtained a Mean that reached 4.6417 and a Standard Deviation of .57680, meaning that they Strongly Agree that through the processes contained in the Gawad Laguna (GFTSL) program, its members have developed program that aims to develop the reading and writing macro skills of elementary and secondary students with the help of the initiative of school administrators and teachers. The second statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.7583 and a Standard Deviation of .42989, which means that they Strongly Agree that they have transferred the acquired knowledge and skills from the participated process to the community and have been able to launch programs that will help the youth to increase their ability to speak and understand English and Filipino so that they can get better jobs.

The third statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.7500 and a Standard Deviation of .53844, meaning that they Strongly Agree that through this they traced the principles and development of the language in the light of historical places and preserved racial resources such as printed materials housed in museums, libraries, and archives. The fourth statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.7750 and a Standard Deviation of .49302, meaning that they Strongly Agree that they have used the forged skills in the participation and management of school newspapers or journalism. The fifth statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.6917 and a Standard Deviation of .56205, which means that they Strongly Agree that through the overall program their grammatical knowledge and language skills, particularly essay writing and public speaking, have been developed. Even the total Mean of 4.7233 with a total Standard Deviation of .37230 indicates a strong agreement. In the light of the data presented, it can be concluded that the selected processes or stages of the GFTSL (Gawad Laguna) program have greatly helped in increasing the level of language skills of the Outstanding Youth of Laguna and shaping them as advocates of our national language.

Table 12. Participants' Level of Perception and Agreement with regards to the Launching a Tourism Project

	Statements	Mean	Std. Deviation
TP1	Following the completion of the processes, GLI TV (Gawad Laguna Incorporated TV), a channel or network, may be created. GLI TV's mission is to broadcast each town's proud culture, tradition, way of life, goods, and untapped wealth.	4.8083	.49017
TP2	They participate in groups that oversee the upkeep of the province of Laguna's tourist destinations' cleanliness and beauty.	4.6833	.53426
TP3	They are able to compile an anthology of folktales about the origins of items, superstitions, and beliefs that have been passed down through the province's generations.	4.6917	.57680
TP4	Able to carry out skill-training programs in every barangay with the goal of educating, marketing, and exhibiting the goods and services that are the only source of income for Lagunenses.	4.6667	.47338
TP5	With the use of poetry and verses brought to life, "Gawad Way" showcases the natural beauty of Laguna.	4.7417	.43955
TP MEAN	Very Much Agree (VMA) Very High (VH)	4.7183	.34738

It can be seen in Table 12, the first statement obtained the highest Mean that reached 4.8083 with an associated Standard Deviation of .49017, meaning that they Strongly Agree that through the processes contained in such a program they were able to feature a channel or network to be called GLI TV (Gawad Laguna Incorporated TV) that aims to air the proud culture, tradition, livelihood, products, and hidden wealth of each town.

The second statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.6833 and a Standard Deviation of .53426, meaning that they Strongly Agree that with the help of the program they had the initiative to participate in organizations that lead in the care and maintenance of cleanliness and beauty of tourist spots in the province of Laguna. The third statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.6917 and a Standard Deviation of .57680, meaning that they Strongly Agree that with the help of the program they have developed an anthology that contains folktales about the origin of things -things, superstitions, and beliefs that are translated to each generation of such a province. The fourth statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.6667 and a Standard Deviation of .47338, which means that they Strongly Agree that through the overall program they were able to conduct skills training in each barangay with the aim of teaching, promoting, and present the products and services that are the sole source of Lagunense people's livelihood. The fifth statement obtained a Mean that reached 4.7417 and a Standard Deviation of .43955, meaning that they Strongly Agree that through the program the natural beauty of Laguna was presented using stanzas and verses brought to life in "Gawad Way".

Implications of the Whole Process of Gawad Laguna (GFTSL) on Benefits of the Program

Table 13. Implications of Immersion on Level of Social Awareness and Linguistic and Cultural Competencies of the Outstanding Youth of Laguna

		SC MEAN	LGU MEAN	LP MEAN	TP MEAN
MRP MEAN	Pearson Correlation	.158	.249**	.124	.141
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.086	.006	.179	.124
	N	120	120	120	120
LTS MEAN	Pearson Correlation	.118	.086	.090	.050
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.200	.351	.326	.589
	N	120	120	120	120
LO MEAN	Pearson Correlation	.125	.075	.114	.081
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.175	.414	.217	.380
	N	120	120	120	120
IL MEAN	Pearson Correlation	.109	.149	.187*	.154
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.236	.105	.041	.093
	N	120	120	120	120

Table 13 shows the intensity and level of implication of the first four processes that make up the Immersion component on the four aspects considered to be the benefits of the overall program. It is evident that the number of processes that are correlated and not by their correlated variables on the other side are fairly divided. Based on the data presented, the Moral Recovery Program (MRP) shows a strong correlation with Leadership in Local Government Units (LGUs) because the p-value of .006 is lower than .05. The same observation can be seen between the International Lunch and the Literacy Program Formulation. Therefore, the first two variables mentioned consecutively indicate significant implications on their counterparts while the other two processes that are not mentioned do not have significant implications.

However, the fifth problem deserves a positive response. Based on the results of the calculation, it appeared that the effect caused by the Gawad Laguna program (GFTSL) in promoting Social Awareness and Linguistic and Cultural Skills of the youth leaders, is a reason to judge the aforementioned problem as Significant. Therefore, the first negative inference set at the outset of this study is unacceptable and is emphatically rejected.

Table 14. Implications of Edification on Level of Social Awareness and Linguistic and Cultural Competencies of the Outstanding Youth of Laguna

		SC MEAN	LGU MEAN	LP MEAN	TP MEAN
FT MEAN	Pearson Correlation	.062	.061	.199*	.203*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.503	.505	.030	.026
	N	120	120	120	120
EW MEAN	Pearson Correlation	.064	.154	.220*	.166
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.489	.093	.016	.070
	N	120	120	120	120
MLD MEAN	Pearson Correlation	.052	.055	.053	.045
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.570	.547	.566	.622
	N	120	120	120	120
ND MEAN	Pearson Correlation	.104	.146	.159	.124
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.259	.113	.082	.176
	N	120	120	120	120

Table 14 indicates the intensity of the correlation between the variables that belong to the second part of the program and the four aspects that are considered to be the benefits of the overall program. As in the preceding table, the number of processes that are correlated and not by their correlated variables on the other side are fairly divided. Amendment to the data presented above, Field Trip shows a moderate correlation with Literacy Program Formulation because the p-value of .030 is lower than .05. The observation itself can be seen between the Field Trip and the Launching a Tourism Project. In addition, the variable Essay Writing shows a strong correlation with Literacy Program Formulation because the p-value of .016 is lower than .05. Therefore, the first two variables mentioned consecutively indicate significant implications on their counterparts while the other two processes that are not mentioned do not have significant implications. However, the sixth problem also deserves a positive response. Based on the results of the calculation, it appears that the effect caused by the Gawad Laguna (GFTSL) program in promoting the Linguistic and Cultural Competencies of the Outstanding Youth of Laguna is a reason to judge the aforementioned problem as Significant. Therefore, the second negative inference set forth in Chapter 1 is unacceptable and is emphatically rejected.

CONCLUSION

In light of the findings, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. The hypothesis that says “Immersion has no significant implications as part of the Whole Process of Gawad Laguna (GFTSL) on the level of Social Awareness and Linguistic and Cultural Competencies of the Outstanding Youth of Laguna” is unacceptable; and
2. The hypothesis that says “Edification has no significant implications as part of the Whole Process of Gawad Laguna (GFTSL) on the level of Social Awareness and Linguistic and Cultural Competencies of the Outstanding Youth of Laguna” is unacceptable.

RECOMMENDATION

The relevant recommendations or suggestions are the ones listed below based on the findings:

1. Continue to look for and develop young leaders not only in Laguna but also in the region's surrounding provinces;

2. Extend the program and create new, special phases or procedures for in-service instruction and language promotion;
3. Continue conducting relevant research to bolster the organization's support and foundation;
4. Expand the network's reach and get in touch with other provinces' managers to establish a national branch of the program for selecting and molding the best youth to be acknowledged across the country; and
5. Obtain funding from a variety of organizations and industries for the organization's upcoming programs.

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