

Effect of Kilangin Falls on the Socioeconomic Well-Being of Selected Residents of Liliw, Laguna: Basis for a Development Plan

Burbos, Camille G.; Cortez, Dan Gabriel J.; Monfero, Bea Alexa A.; Muega, Micaela M.; Paglinawan, Vener A.

Co-author: Dr. Norayda M. Dimaculangan

burboscamille@gmail.com; cortezdangabriel@gmail.com; monferobeaaalexa@gmail.com; venerpaglinawan96@gmail.com; micalamagallanes122202@gmail.com; noriedimaculangan1955@gmail.com

Laguna University, College of Business Administration and Accountancy, Santa Cruz, Laguna, Philippines

Abstract

This study aimed to assess the effect of Kilangin Falls on the socioeconomic well-being of selected residents in Liliw, Laguna. The research focused on various dimensions, including access to quality education, property ownership, community resources, and employment opportunities. Employing a quantitative descriptive research design, the study utilized a survey-based approach with a sample of forty residents. Data collection involved distributing structured questionnaires to gather insights on the residents' perceptions of Kilangin Falls' effects, utilizing checklist and Likert scales for comprehensive insights. The collected data were analyzed using appropriate statistical treatments.

The findings revealed that Kilangin Falls significantly enhances the socioeconomic well-being of the respondents, particularly in terms of access to quality education, community resources, and employment opportunities. However, its contribution to property ownership remains limited, indicating a need for action to support residents in achieving long-term economic stability. Additionally, the study identified significant difference between the demographic profile and the socioeconomic well-being, indicating that factors such as age, sex, marital status, educational attainment, occupation, and monthly income influenced how residents perceived the effect of Kilangin Falls on their lives.

In conclusion, the research provided significant insights into the socioeconomic benefits associated with Kilangin Falls, emphasizing the importance of developing targeted programs to further enhance its tourism appeal and support local community development.

Keywords: Kilangin Falls; Socioeconomic well-being; Liliw, Laguna; Tourism Impact; Community Development

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Liliw is a fourth-class municipality in the southeastern region of Laguna. It was originally spelled as "Lilio" until the municipal council passed Resolution No. 38-S-65 on June 11, 1965, establishing "Liliw" as the official name and spelling of the town Maps of the South (2024). It was also known as the "Footwear Capital of Laguna" and "Tsinelas Capital of the Philippines.

Aside from their slippers, several farms and a cold springs, Kilangin Falls is a well-known attraction that contributes to the town's tourism by providing visitors with a natural attraction to enjoy. According to Mang Pepe (local tour guide), the falls have long been a source of contention between the towns of Majayjay

and Liliw, but in 2017, it was legally declared to be part the municipality of Liliw. Locals in Liliw refer to the falls as Kilangin Falls, while Majayjay residents call it Bukal Falls or Bucal Falls. Tourists can engage in activities such as swimming and trekking, which can attract both local and foreign visitors, and boost economic activity in the area. However, the specific effect of the Kilangin Falls on the socioeconomic well-being of Liliw residents remains largely unexplored.

In the context of literature, tourism has been well-established as a key driver of economic advancement and a significant contributor to the preservation of cultural traditions, while also influencing local communities in diverse ways. For instance, Inocencio (2023) highlights the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of community-based tourism (CBT) in Biliran, noting that CBT initiatives can lead to improved economic conditions for residents by creating income opportunities and jobs. The study further emphasizes the importance of understanding local socioeconomic characteristics as these factors shape how residents perceive and benefit from tourism. These insights underscore the need for sustainable, community-centered tourism development that considers both economic and cultural sensitivities.

Moreover, the study of Brillo (2021) about the initiation and establishment of ecotourism development in Pandin Lake in San Pablo City and Tayak Hill in Rizal Municipality adds to the understanding of how socioeconomic factors, environmental awareness, and governmental support influence the success of tourism projects in rural areas. These cases illustrate the diverse pathways through which local communities can harness the potential of natural attractions to drive socioeconomic progress, whether through grassroots initiatives or top-down government interventions.

Understanding the effect of tourism sites on the socioeconomic well-being of residents is important, specifically in terms of understanding the intangible benefits, perceptions, and drawbacks perceived by the residents. Furthermore, the development of the tourism industry can have both positive and negative effects on residents' happiness and overall well-being, with the potential to narrow income gaps and improve infrastructure but also leading to environmental damage and forced consumption Zhou et al. (2022).

Based on a deeper understanding, Kilangin Falls plays a role in socio-economic research because of its significant impact on the local community's economy and well-being. Assessing its effectiveness in terms of improving the socioeconomic well-being of residents of Liliw, Laguna, is both timely and important.

This research aimed to assess the effect of Kilangin Falls on the socioeconomic well-being of selected residents in Liliw, Laguna, by analyzing their demographic profiles and evaluate how Kilangin Falls affects various aspects of socioeconomic well-being. Additionally, it sought to determine if there is significant difference in perceptions of these impacts based on demographic characteristics. Finally, the study intended to propose programs to increase Kilangin Falls' tourism appeal to promote development and inclusive benefits for Liliw, Laguna residents.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

The general objective of the study is to assess the effect of Kilangin Falls on the socioeconomic well-being of selected residents of Liliw, Laguna.

It attempted to answer the following research problems.

1. What is the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of:

- age
- sex
- marital status
- educational attainment
- occupation
- monthly income?

2. How does the Kilangin Falls affect the socioeconomic well-being of the respondents in terms of:

- quality education
- property ownership
- community resources
- employment opportunities?

3. Is there a significant difference between the demographic profile and the socioeconomic well-being of selected residents of Liliw, Laguna?

4. What program can be proposed to enhance the tourism appeal of Kilangin Falls?

1.3 Hypothesis of the Study

HO₁: There is no significant difference between the demographic profile and the socioeconomic well-being of selected residents of Liliw, Laguna.

1.4 Theoretical Framework

This research is grounded on the theories of Pierre Bourdieu and Max Weber to analyze the impact of Kilangin Falls on the socioeconomic well-being of selected residents in Liliw, Laguna.

Pierre Bourdieu's theory focuses on the concepts of habitus, capital, and field. Habitus refers to the ingrained habits and dispositions that individuals develop through their life experiences X. Huang, (2019). This helps explain how residents interact with Kilangin Falls and how these interactions shape their socioeconomic behaviors. Capital includes economic, social, cultural, and symbolic forms. Economic capital from tourism may improve financial stability, while social capital from tourist-related networks can increase community support. Cultural capital, like local customs, may stimulate the local economy and attract tourists. The term "field" refers to social contexts, such as the local tourist industry, in which individuals compete for status and resources. For example, the economic benefits created by tourists can promote the development of new business opportunities and help locals attain financial security. Networks and connections related to tourism can enhance social cohesion and boost social capital. Regional knowledge and waterfall traditions are instances of cultural assets that can be leveraged to enhance tourism and support the local economy. This concept acknowledges the many forms of capital at play and their impact on the general well-being of the population.

Max Weber's theory complements Bourdieu's by focusing on social action and authority. Social action emphasizes that individuals' behaviors are influenced by their social context and the meanings they attach to their actions Alexander, (2022). For instance, residents' decisions to engage in tourism-related activities are influenced by their perceptions of economic opportunities. Authority highlights the influence of local governance and leadership on community development (Fatah, 2024). Decisions made by local government officials and community leaders concerning the management of Kilangin Falls could influence how resources and opportunities are allocated among residents. The allocation of resources and opportunities for residents could be affected by the establishment of Kilangin Falls as a tourist destination, shaped by local government and community leaders. Weber's focus on authority frameworks allows for the examination of how local policies and leadership choices impact the community's social and economic dynamics.

METHODOLOGY

2.1 Research Design

This study employed a quantitative descriptive research design to systematically gather and analyze numerical data. This design was chosen to measure and describe the impact of Kilangin Falls on the socioeconomic well-being of residents.

2.2 Research Locale

The research was conducted in Barangay Novaliches, Liliw, Laguna. Barangay Novaliches is the gateway to Kilangin Falls, also known as “Bukal Falls,” and serves as the primary site of tourism-related activities. The barangay is characterized by its rural landscape, where tourism plays a vital role in the local economy. Residents of Barangay Novaliches often engage in tourism-linked activities, such as guiding visitors to Kilangin Falls, vending food and souvenirs, and providing transportation services to and from the site. These factors made Barangay Novaliches the ideal location for studying the socioeconomic effects of Kilangin Falls.

2.3 Population and Sampling

The study focused on residents of Barangay Novaliches who are affected by tourism activities related to Kilangin Falls. Using a purposive sampling technique, the researchers selected 40 respondents. The inclusion criteria required respondents to be at least 18 years old and actively engaged in or influenced by tourism-related activities within the barangay. This sampling method ensured that the study captured the perspectives of individuals with firsthand experience of the socioeconomic impact of Kilangin Falls.

2.4 Data Collection Procedures

Data were collected on two separate days, July 1 and July 10, 2024, to ensure adequate representation and accessibility of respondents. The researchers used a structured survey questionnaire and conducted in-person interviews. Before administering the survey, the respondents were informed about the purpose of the study, assured of confidentiality, and asked to provide their consent.

2.5 Research Instruments

A structured survey questionnaire was developed and validated to ensure reliability and accuracy. The questionnaire consisted of two main parts:

- **Demographic Profile:** Gathered information on respondents' age, gender, marital status, education, occupation, and income.
- **Socioeconomic Impact:** Evaluated the perceived effects of Kilangin Falls on access to education, property ownership, community resources, and employment opportunities. Responses were measured using a 4-point Likert scale (1 = Not Effective, 4 = Effective).

2.6 Data Analysis

The collected data were analyzed using the following methods:

1. Demographic Profile:
 - Frequency and Percentage Distribution: Computed to summarize respondents' age, gender, education, marital status, occupation, and income levels.
2. Socioeconomic Impact:
 - Weighted Means and Standard Deviations: Used to measure the perceived impact of Kilangin Falls on the four socioeconomic variables.
3. Significant Differences:
 - Analysis of Variance (ANOVA): Applied to determine if there were statistically significant differences in the socioeconomic impact of Kilangin Falls based on respondents' demographic profiles.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1. Demographic Profile of the Respondents

The table presents the demographic profile of respondents in terms of age, sex, education attainment, marital status, occupations, and monthly income. Frequency and Percentage were used as statistical treatments.

Respondent's Profile		Frequency	Percentage
Age	18-24 years old	2	5%
	25-34 years old	6	15%
	35-44 years old	8	20%
	45-54 years old	11	27%
	55-65 years old	13	33%
Sex	Male	32	80%
	Female	8	20%
Education Attainment	Primary	14	35%
	Secondary	11	27%
	Vocational	5	13%
	Tertiary	10	25%
Marital Status	Single	5	12%
	Married	35	88%
Occupation	Administrative Staff	5	12.5%
	Tour Guide	12	30%
	Maintenance Staff	5	12.5%
	Local Farmer	9	22.5%
	Concession Stand Operator	4	10%
	Transportation Provider	5	12.5%
Monthly Income	Below Php 3,500	7	18%
	Php 3,500-4,999	11	28%
	Php 5,000-9,999	4	10%
	Php 10,000-14,999	9	22%
	Php 15,000-19,999	4	10%
	Php 20,000 and above	5	12%

Age

The data revealed that the largest proportion of respondents (33%) belonged to the 55-65 age group, while the smallest segment (5%) was from the 18-24 age group. This suggests that older individuals were more engaged in the survey, possibly due to their active involvement in or longer exposure to the tourism impacts in their community. Younger respondents may have been less represented due to limited relevance or accessibility of the survey to their demographic.

Overall, this distribution reflects a higher level of participation from older groups, emphasizing the need for future surveys to adopt strategies that capture the perspectives of younger individuals. The insights align with Sarker et al. (2019), who found that older individuals often have greater socioeconomic stability, which could influence their engagement and perceptions. This supports the conclusion that the respondents' age distribution played a role in shaping the results, particularly in areas like socioeconomic impact and community involvement.

Sex

The results revealed a significant gender disparity, with 80% of respondents being male and only 20% female. This imbalance indicates that the survey predominantly reached a male audience, which may have influenced the findings to reflect a male-centric perspective. Addressing this disparity in future surveys is essential to ensure a more balanced and inclusive representation, allowing for more comprehensive insights into the community's socioeconomic well-being.

The findings align with UNWTO (2019), which highlights persistent gender-specific challenges, such as wage disparities and safety concerns that limit women's participation in tourism. Similarly, Vithayaporn (2023) underscores the influence of cultural dynamics on gender roles, particularly in collectivist societies where women face societal expectations that restrict their involvement in male-dominated sectors.

By addressing these barriers, Kilangin Falls can foster more inclusive and equitable growth. Gender-focused initiatives, such as targeted skills training and safety improvements, can empower women and enhance their participation in tourism, ultimately benefiting the entire community.

Educational Attainment

The results indicate that the largest segment of respondents (35%) has completed primary education, while the smallest group (13%) attained vocational education. Secondary education accounts for 27%, and tertiary education follows at 25%. Overall, the majority of respondents have at least primary education, highlighting a community with a moderate level of educational attainment. This distribution suggests that the population is equipped with foundational skills to engage in community development and tourism-related opportunities.

The results align with Haider et al. (2022), who emphasize the role of education in securing stable employment and enhancing socioeconomic well-being, particularly in dynamic industries like tourism. Furthermore, Ferrater et al. (2019) found that individuals with some level of education are more inclined to view ecotourism initiatives positively and leverage the opportunities they provide. This supports the conclusion that education—regardless of its level—plays a critical role in improving economic adaptability, health outcomes, and community participation, all of which are essential for sustainable tourism development.

Marital Status

The findings reveals that 88% of respondents are married, while only 12% are single, highlighting a significant disparity. This indicates that the community is predominantly composed of married individuals, which may reflect stability and a focus on family-oriented activities. Overall, the data underscores how marital status shapes household dynamics and community participation.

This observation coincide with Mridha (2020), who highlights the role of marital status in shaping household dynamics, such as migration patterns and residential stability. These factors are crucial for fostering long-term engagement in community-based tourism, suggesting that the predominance of married individuals could contribute positively to Kilangin Falls' sustainable development efforts.

Occupation

The findings indicate that the largest portion of respondents (30%) work as tour guides, highlighting the community's strong involvement in the tourism sector. Local farmers form the second-largest group at 22.5%, reflecting the continued importance of agriculture. Meanwhile, Administrative Staff, Maintenance Staff, and Transportation Providers each account for 12.5%, with Concession Stand operators representing the smallest group at 10%. Overall, this distribution emphasizes the dual reliance on tourism and agriculture as key economic drivers, supported by essential roles in food services, transportation, and maintenance.

The study by Mehraj et al. (2022) aligns with these findings, suggesting that sustainable tourism fosters economic development for both tourists and host communities. It highlights how community empowerment and local support can drive tourism-related growth, aligning well with the surveyed community's economic structure.

Income

The data reveal that the largest segment of respondents (28%) earns between Php 3,500–4,999, highlighting a concentration in the middle-income bracket. In contrast, the smallest groups, each representing 10%, fall within the Php 5,000–9,999 and Php 15,000–19,999 income ranges. Meanwhile, 12% earn Php 20,000 and above, indicating a minority of high-income earners. Overall, the income distribution suggests a predominantly middle-to-low economic profile, with relatively fewer respondents in higher-income brackets.

This can be attributed with Kamalulil and Panatik (2020), who emphasize that tourism's economic benefits often result in modest income improvements for local communities. They also highlight how socioeconomic challenges, such as unequal income distribution, remain overlooked in traditional economic impact assessments. Similarly, Mahadevan and Suardi (2019) note that while tourism fosters economic growth, its impact on reducing income inequality and poverty gaps is minimal. These findings suggest that while Kilangin Falls generates income for the community, addressing broader socioeconomic disparities requires targeted interventions and alternative approaches to fully realize tourism's potential benefits.

Effect of Kilangin Falls on Socioeconomic Well-being of Respondents

The tables presents the average responses of the residents on the effect of Kilangin Falls in terms of access to quality education, property ownership, community resources, and employment opportunities. The indicators were evaluated based on their means, standard deviations, and verbal interpretations.

Table 2. Effect of Kilangin Falls to the Respondents' Socioeconomic Well-being in terms of Access to Quality Education

Indicator	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Economic opportunities have increased household investment in education.	3.15	1.00	Moderately Effective
The success of Kilangin Falls has enabled children to access quality education.	3.28	0.93	Effective
The financial stability brought by Kilangin Falls has allowed to address school-related needs and better support children in overcoming academic challenges.	3.38	0.77	Effective
The benefits of Kilangin Falls have supported children's academic and extracurricular activities, inspiring greater involvement in learning and development.	3.28	0.88	Effective
Average	3.27	0.83	Effective

The lowest-rated indicator, with a mean of 3.15 (SD = 1.00), suggests that economic opportunities moderately enhance households' ability to invest in children's education. The highest-rated indicator, at 3.38 (SD = 0.77), reflects that financial stability from Kilangin Falls enables families to address school-related needs effectively. Overall, the average score of 3.27 (SD = 0.83) indicates that Kilangin Falls has an effective impact on improving access to quality education.

These findings can be supported with the study of Hanushek and Woessmann (2020), who emphasize education's critical role in fostering economic growth and sustainable development. The ripple effects of enhanced economic opportunities from Kilangin Falls demonstrate how local attractions can positively influence educational access, underscoring the broader social benefits of community-based tourism initiatives.

Table 3. Effect of Kilangin Falls to the Respondents' Socioeconomic Well-being in terms of Access to Property Ownership

Indicator	Mean	SD	Interpretation
The employment opportunities provided by Kilangin Falls have enabled residents to save money and purchase homes in Liliw, Laguna.	2.10	1.03	Slightly Effective
Owning a store near Kilangin Falls has helped residents earn a stable income and improve their lives.	2.20	1.18	Slightly Effective
Since Kilangin Falls became a tourist destination, it has inspired them to plan for the future and explore property options in Liliw, Laguna.	2.88	0.99	Moderately Effective
The opportunities provided by Kilangin Falls have allowed residents to invest in a home or infrastructure in Liliw, Laguna, enhancing their sense of accomplishment.	2.78	1.00	Moderately Effective
Average	2.49	0.82	Slightly Effective

The lowest-rated indicator, with a mean of 2.10 (SD = 1.03), shows that employment opportunities from Kilangin Falls are slightly effective in helping residents save for homeownership. Similarly, owning a business store around Kilangin Falls is rated slightly effective (mean = 2.20, SD = 1.18). The highest-rated indicator, at 2.88 (SD = 0.99), reflects that Kilangin Falls moderately inspires residents to plan for future property investments. Overall, the average rating of 2.49 (SD = 0.82) indicates a slightly effective impact, suggesting limited current economic benefits for property ownership, though it encourages aspirations for

future investments.

The results conform to the study conducted by Luo et al. (2024), stating that housing significantly impacts social and economic status, as well as mobility. Homeownership allows households to build wealth, expand networks, and enhance political capital, which contribute to improved income and status. While Kilangin Falls has a modest impact on property ownership, its true potential lies in promoting future planning and community development for enhanced socio-economic well-being.

Table 4. Effect of Kilangin Falls to the Respondents' Socioeconomic Well-being in terms of Access to Community Resources

Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
The tourism office near Kilangin Falls helps to plan a visits efficiently by providing information on hours, fees, and amenities for a smooth experience.	3.78	0.48	Effective
The Barangay Security Office near Kilangin Falls ensures a sense of security and quick emergency response, contributing to a safe and enjoyable environment.	3.85	0.36	Effective
Ample parking near Kilangin Falls is a great convenience, allowing spontaneous visits without the worry of finding a spot and making it easier to bring the whole family.	3.80	0.41	Effective
Reliable tricycle transportation near Kilangin Falls makes visiting easy, affordable, and accessible for all.	3.85	0.36	Effective
Average	3.82	0.34	Effective

The highest-rated indicators, both at 3.85 (SD = 0.36), highlight the importance of a Barangay Security Office and reliable tricycle transportation in ensuring safety, quick emergency response, and accessibility for all visitors. The availability of ample parking spaces follows closely with a mean of 3.80 (SD = 0.41), facilitating convenient and family-friendly visits. Lastly, the presence of a tourism office, rated at 3.78 (SD = 0.48), supports efficient trip planning by providing essential information. The overall average of 3.82 (SD = 0.34) underscores that Kilangin Falls effectively enhances residents' and tourists' access to vital community resources, fostering a safe, accessible, and enjoyable environment.

These results conform with Kapur's (2023) findings, which emphasize the pivotal role of community resources in improving social cohesion, well-being, and quality of life. By providing safety, convenience, and accessibility, these resources contribute significantly to the overall satisfaction and development of the community surrounding Kilangin Falls.

Table 5. Effect of Kilangin Falls to the Respondents' Socioeconomic Well-being in terms of Access to Employment Opportunities

Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
The development around Kilangin Falls has created more job opportunities for local residents.	3.80	0.46	Effective
Employment opportunities from developments around Kilangin Falls have improved household income levels in the community.	3.63	0.70	Effective
Finding a stable job has benefited residents' family and enabled them to contribute more to the community.	3.88	0.40	Effective
Participating in training programs and seminars improves individuals' skills and job readiness.	3.75	0.59	Effective
Average	3.76	0.42	Effective

The overall average rating is 3.76 (SD = 0.42), indicating that the respondents perceive the effect as effective. The highest-rated indicator is stable employment benefiting family and community contributions (mean = 3.88, SD = 0.40). This reflects the respondents' recognition of stable jobs as key to improving their quality of life and their community engagement. Conversely, the lowest-rated indicator is household income improvement due to tourism jobs (mean = 3.63, SD = 0.70). While still effective, this lower score might indicate that the income generated through employment is perceived as helpful but not transformative for most households. The consistently high ratings across all indicators suggest that Kilangin Falls positively impacts job creation and skill enhancement, emphasizing its importance in the community's socioeconomic landscape. However, the slight variations in the scores highlight potential areas for improvement, such as ensuring equitable income distribution or addressing the sustainability of employment opportunities.

The study of Tutor et al. (2021) harmonizes with the overall results. It emphasizes the critical role of employment in economic stability and how favorable perceptions of economic benefits lead to greater community support for tourism initiatives. However, the study also highlights that job sustainability and access to higher-quality opportunities are equally vital. While Kilangin Falls has been effective in creating employment, the responses suggest room for growth in offering stable, high-income opportunities that further uplift household living standards.

Significance Difference between the Demographic Profile and the Socioeconomic Well-being of Respondents

Table 6. Significant Difference between the Demographic Profile and the Socioeconomic Well-being of Respondents in terms of Access to Quality Education

Profile	Mean	SD	F-value	F-crit	P-value	Decision
Age						
18-24 yrs. old (n=2)	2.75	0.71	3.37	2.66	0.02	Significant
25-34 yrs. old (n=6)	2.54	0.84				
35-44 yrs. old (n=8)	3.59	0.73				
45-54 yrs. old (n=11)	3.02	0.85				
55-65 yrs. old (n=13)	3.69	0.62				
Sex						
Male (n=32)	3.10	0.85	7.49	4.09	0.01	Significant
Female (n=8)	3.94	0.12				
Educational Attainment						
Primary Education (n=14)	3.55	0.71	10.93	2.88	0.00	Significant
Secondary Education (n=11)	3.86	0.30				
Vocational Education (n=5)	2.30	0.41				
Tertiary Education (n=10)	2.70	0.82				
Marital Status						
Single (n=5)	2.35	0.58	8.20	4.09	0.01	Significant
Married (n=35)	3.40	0.79				
Occupation						
Administrative Staff (n=5)	3.95	0.11	7.26	2.51	0.00	Significant
Concession Stand Operator (n=4)	3.63	0.75				
Local Farmer (n=9)	3.92	0.18				
Maintenance Staff (n=5)	2.70	0.84				
Tour Guide (n=12)	3.04	0.83				
Transportation Provider (n=5)	2.25	0.43				
Income						
20, 000 above (n=5)	3.95	0.11	1.57	2.51	0.19	Not Significant
15, 000 - 19, 999 (n=4)	3.50	1.00				
10, 000 - 14, 999 (n=9)	3.17	0.94				
5, 000 - 9, 999 (n=4)	3.06	0.31				
3, 500 - 4, 999 (n=11)	3.39	0.89				
Below 3, 500 (n=7)	2.71	0.78				

alpha = 0.05

Results indicated that age, sex, educational attainment, and marital status significantly influence access to quality education, as their P-values are below 0.05 (0.02 for age, 0.01 for sex, and 0.00 for educational attainment). This means that differences among these groups are statistically significant. In contrast, the income variable has a P-value of 0.19, indicating that differences based on income are not significant. Overall, the findings suggest that demographic factors like age, sex, education, and marital status play a crucial role in shaping individuals access to quality education, while income does not have a significant impact.

The findings indicate that demographic factors such as age, sex, educational attainment, marital status, occupation, and income significantly influence respondents' access to quality education. This aligns with the insights from El-Baraka (2023), who highlights how socioeconomic factors at the family and neighborhood levels affect educational access and children's well-being. Hanushek and Woessmann (2020) further underscore the link between educational quality and economic performance, emphasizing how background characteristics, including family socioeconomic status, impact educational outcomes. Together, these studies validate the observed variations among different demographic groups, reinforcing the conclusion that tailored policies are essential to address specific needs and enhance educational accessibility.

Table 7. Significant Difference between the Demographic Profile and the Socioeconomic Well-being of Respondents in terms of Access to Property Ownership

Profile	Mean	SD	F-value	F-crit	P-value	Decision
Age						
18-24 yrs. old (n=2)	2.88	0.18	1.41	2.66	0.25	Not Significant
25-34 yrs. old (n=6)	2.13	0.89				
35-44 yrs. Old (n=8)	2.63	0.50				
45-54 yrs. old (n=11)	2.16	0.70				
55-65 yrs. old (n=13)	2.79	0.99				
Sex						
Male (n=32)	2.84	0.64	1.95	4.09	0.17	Not Significant
Female (n=8)	2.40	0.84				
Educational Attainment						
Primary Education (n=14)	2.71	0.74	5.15	2.88	0.00	Significant
Secondary Education (n=11)	2.80	0.68				
Vocational Education (n=5)	1.40	0.42				
Tertiary Education (n=10)	2.38	0.80				
Marital Status						
Single (n=5)	2.55	0.87	0.03	4.09	0.86	Not Significant
Married (n=35)	2.48	0.82				
Occupation						
Administrative Staff (n=5)	2.90	0.22	7.24	2.51	0.00	Significant
Concession Stand Operator (n=4)	3.19	0.38				
Local Farmer (n=9)	3.03	0.61				
Maintenance Staff (n=5)	1.55	0.72				
Tour Guide (n=12)	2.42	0.71				
Transportation Provider (n=5)	1.65	0.60				
Income						
20, 000 above (n=5)	3.40	0.42	3.66	2.51	0.01	Significant
15, 000 - 19, 999 (n=4)	2.00	0.68				
10, 000 - 14, 999 (n=9)	2.56	0.81				
5, 000 - 9, 999 (n=4)	2.13	0.92				
3, 500 - 4, 999 (n=11)	2.73	0.66				
Below 3, 500 (n=7)	1.86	0.67				

alpha = 0.05

Data implied that educational attainment, occupation, and income significantly influence access to property ownership, as their P-values are below 0.05 (0.00 for educational attainment, 0.00 for occupation, and 0.01 for income). This means that differences among these groups are statistically significant. In contrast, the age, sex, and marital status variables have P-values of 0.25, 0.17, and 0.86, respectively, indicating that differences based on these factors are not significant. Overall, the findings suggest that educational attainment and occupation play a crucial role in shaping how individuals access property ownership, while age, sex, and marital status do not have a significant impact.

This aligns with Lockwood et al. (2018), who emphasize the role of land markets in linking property ownership to well-being, fairness, and quality of life. Similarly, Luo et al. (2024) highlight homeownership as a critical driver of socioeconomic mobility, contributing to wealth accumulation, expanded social networks, and enhanced political influence. These studies reinforce the observed disparities in perceptions, demonstrating the broader socioeconomic implications of property ownership and its impact on well-being and mobility.

Table 8. Significant Difference between the Demographic Profile and the Socioeconomic Well-being of Respondents in terms of Access to Community Resources

Profile	Mean	SD	F-value	F-crit	P-value	Decision
Age			0.58	2.66	0.68	Not Significant
18-24 yrs. old (n=2)	3.63	0.18				
25-34 yrs. old (n=6)	3.92	0.20				
35-44 yrs. old (n=8)	3.91	0.19				
45-54 yrs. old (n=11)	3.73	0.47				
55-65 yrs. old (n=13)	3.83	0.37				
Sex			2.91	4.09	0.10	Not Significant
Male (n=32)	3.77	0.37				
Female (n=8)	4.00	0				
Educational Attainment			3.22	2.88	0.03	Significant
Primary Education (n=14)	3.86	0.29				
Secondary Education (n=11)	4.00	0.00				
Vocational Education (n=5)	3.80	0.45				
Tertiary Education (n=10)	3.58	0.44				
Marital Status			0.22	4.09	0.64	Not Significant
Single (n=5)	3.75	0.25				
Married (n=35)	3.83	0.36				
Occupation			2.53	2.51	0.047	Significant
Administrative Staff (n=5)	4.00	0.00				
Concession Stand Operator (n=4)	3.88	0.25				
Local Farmer (n=9)	3.75	0.43				
Maintenance Staff (n=5)	3.95	0.11				
Tour Guide (n=12)	3.90	0.20				
Transportation Provider (n=5)	3.40	0.55				
Income			1.22	2.51	0.32	Not Significant
20, 000 above (n=5)	3.55	0.51				
15, 000 - 19, 999 (n=4)	3.75	0.50				
10, 000 - 14, 999 (n=9)	3.78	0.36				
5, 000 - 9, 999 (n=4)	3.75	0.50				
3, 500 - 4, 999 (n=11)	3.93	0.16				
Below 3, 500 (n=7)	3.96	0.09				

alpha = 0.05

Data revealed that educational attainment and occupation significantly influence access to community resources, as their P-values are below 0.05 (0.03 for educational attainment and 0.047 for occupation). This means that differences among these groups are statistically significant. In contrast, the age, sex, marital status, and income variables have P-values of 0.68, 0.10, 0.64, and 0.32, respectively, indicating that differences based on these factors are not significant.

Overall, the findings suggest that demographic factors such as educational attainment and occupation play a crucial role in shaping how individuals access community resources, while age, sex, marital status, and income do not have a significant impact.

Relating this data to Zanbar's 2024 study, the highlighted significant differences among certain educational levels and income brackets underscore the importance of targeted investments in community resources for these groups. Zanbar emphasized that addressing financial instability, limited access to education, and inadequate healthcare is crucial for enhancing well-being among low-SES populations. The significant differences observed in the table suggest that these issues are indeed prevalent and need to be addressed to build resilience and enhance well-being in these populations.

Table 9. Significant Difference between the Demographic Profile and the Socioeconomic Well-being of Respondents in terms of Access to Employment Opportunities

Profile	Mean	SD	F-value	F-crit	P-value	Decision
Age			1.63	2.66	0.19	Not Significant
18-24 yrs. old (n=2)	4.00	0.00				
25-34 yrs. old (n=6)	4.00	0.00				
35-44 yrs. Old (n=8)	3.91	0.19				
45-54 yrs. old (n=11)	3.57	0.53				
55-65 yrs. old (n=13)	3.69	0.49				
Sex			0.14	4.09	0.71	Not Significant
Male (n=32)	3.75	0.46				
Female (n=8)	3.81	0.26				
Educational Attainment			2.06	2.88	0.12	Not Significant
Primary Education (n=14)	3.86	0.21				
Secondary Education (n=11)	3.86	0.23				
Vocational Education (n=5)	3.40	0.76				
Tertiary Education (n=10)	3.68	0.532				
Marital Status			1.84	4.09	0.18	Not Significant
Single (n=5)	4.00	0.00				
Married (n=35)	3.73	0.44				
Occupation			25.59	2.51	0.00	Significant
Administrative Staff (n=5)	4.00	0.00				
Concession Stand Operator (n=4)	3.75	0.29				
Local Farmer (n=9)	3.89	0.22				
Maintenance Staff (n=5)	3.80	0.21				
Tour Guide (n=12)	3.96	0.14				
Transportation Provider (n=5)	2.80	0.33				
Income			0.42	2.51	0.83	Not Significant
20, 000 above (n=5)	3.80	0.27				
15, 000 - 19, 999 (n=4)	3.56	0.88				
10, 000 - 14, 999 (n=9)	3.69	0.50				
5, 000 - 9, 999 (n=4)	3.69	0.47				
3, 500 - 4, 999 (n=11)	3.89	0.21				
Below 3, 500 (n=7)	3.79	0.39				

alpha = 0.05

The findings indicate that occupation significantly influences access to employment opportunities, as its P-value is below 0.05 (0.00 for occupation). This means that differences among various occupational groups are statistically significant. In contrast, the age, sex, educational attainment, marital status, and income variables have P-values of 0.19, 0.71, 0.12, 0.18, and 0.19, respectively, indicating that differences based on these factors are not significant. Overall, the findings suggest that demographic factors such as occupation play a crucial role in shaping how individuals access employment opportunities, while age, sex, educational attainment, and income do not have a significant impact.

These results align with Aynalem et al. (2019), who emphasized that tourism and hospitality are labor-intensive sectors that create diverse employment opportunities. Tourism destinations attracting large visitor numbers often experience increased consumer spending, leading to higher income levels and expanded job markets. Additionally, the sector's dynamic nature encourages diversification, skill development, and the establishment of quality standards to meet the growing expectations of tourists.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of the study regarding the effect of Kilangin Falls on the socioeconomic well-being of selected residents of Liliw, Laguna, the researchers have concluded the following:

- The demographic profile of the respondents indicated a predominance of older individuals (55-65 years old), with the majority being male, married, and primarily employed as tour guides. Most respondents have completed only primary education, and the majority have low income levels, with the largest portion earning between Php 3,500 – Php 4,999.
- The study revealed that the Kilangin Falls significantly enhances the socioeconomic well-being of the respondents, particularly in terms of access to quality education, community resources, and employment opportunities. However, its contribution to property ownership remains limited, indicating a need for action to support residents in achieving long-term economic stability.
- The study found significant differences between the demographic profile and the socioeconomic well-being of respondents. This indicates that factors such as age, sex, marital status, educational attainment, occupation, and monthly income influence how residents perceive the effect of Kilangin Falls on their lives.
- While Kilangin Falls has positively impacted the community, the study highlights areas for further enhancement. To address these, specific programs have been proposed to amplify the tourism appeal and socioeconomic benefits of Kilangin Falls.
- Thus, there is a significant difference between the demographic profile and the socioeconomic well-being of selected residents of Liliw, Laguna.

RECOMMENDATIONS

After arriving with the conclusions of the study, these are some recommendations that the researchers offer:

- Findings reveal that property ownership is the least impacted by tourism, as many residents struggle to invest in housing. To improve this, researchers highly recommended that local government units (LGUs) and barangay leaders collaborate to develop targeted programs that enhance employment opportunities around Kilangin Falls. These programs should aim to increase residents' income levels, enabling them to allocate resources toward property investments. Examples include promoting tourism-related small businesses and providing financial literacy training to help residents manage their income effectively for long-term goals like homeownership.
- While employment opportunities from Kilangin Falls have improved household income but show disparities in job types and income levels. To address this, it is recommended to offer free skills training programs focused on entrepreneurship, tourism, and technical skills. These programs should

target both younger residents and underrepresented groups, such as women and older workers, ensuring inclusivity. Barangay leaders should aim to train at least 50 residents annually and actively encourage local businesses to create diverse and inclusive job opportunities. Policies ensuring fair wages and equitable benefits for all workers should also be implemented to foster long-term financial stability and satisfaction among residents.

- Additionally, the researchers recommend implementing their proposed program to enhance the tourism appeal of Kilangin Falls. This program focuses on improving visitor experiences, promoting sustainable practices, and fostering community engagement, thereby benefiting the socioeconomic well-being of residents.
- Lastly, It is suggested that future research should explore other factors that could further explain the effect of Kilangin Falls on the community's socioeconomic well-being, such as how tourism affects health services, or environmental sustainability.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The researchers would like to express their utmost gratitude to all those who have played a role in the completion of this study:

Firstly, to the **Almighty God**, whose blessings and guidance have been our constant source of strength and inspiration throughout this journey. His divine grace has continuously guided us through the challenges and uncertainties that accompanied this thesis.

Next, we thank our **families**. Their constant support, love, and belief in us have been crucial to our journey and growth.

We would also like to express our profound gratitude to our thesis instructor and advisor, **Dr. Norayda M. Dimaculangan**. Her patient guidance, encouragement, and advice have been invaluable throughout our time as her students. We have been extremely fortunate to have an advisor who cared so much about our work and responded to our questions and queries with such promptness.

Our thanks also extend to the **Tourism Management Professors**, for their support and encouragement of every student researcher.

We are grateful to **Dr. Elymar A. Pascual** for his invaluable role as our statistician. His expertise in statistical analysis has been instrumental in the completion of this thesis.

To our **friends**, who have provided a stimulating and fun environment in which to learn and grow, we express our gratitude for the camaraderie and peer support.

As researchers, we wish to express our deepest appreciation for **each other**. This journey would not have been possible without the insights, dedication, and unwavering support each one brought to the table.

Lastly, but certainly not least, we thank **Laguna University** for helping every student pursue their dreams and shaping us into responsible individuals for the future.

REFERENCES

- Alexander, N., Petray, T., & McDowall, A. (2022). Conscientisation and radical Habitus: Expanding Bourdieu's Theory of practice in youth activism studies. *Youth*, 2(3), 295–308. <https://doi.org/10.3390/youth203002>
- Aynalem, S., Birhanu, K., & Tesefay, S. (2016). Employment opportunities and challenges in tourism and hospitality sectors. *Journal of tourism & Hospitality*, 5(6), 1-5.
- Brillo, B. B. C. (2021). Initiation and establishment of ecotourism development: Pandin lake of San Pablo City and Tayak hill of Rizal, Laguna, Philippines. *GeoJournal*, 86(6), 2573-adam2586..
- El-Baraka, E. (2023). Socioeconomic status and access to quality Education. *International Journal of Creativity and Innovation in Humanities and Education*, 6(2), 59-67.
- Fatah, R. A. (2024). Recognize Max Weber's social action Theory in individual Social transformation.

- International Journal of Multidisciplinary Approach Research and Science*, 2(02), 659–666.
<https://doi.org/10.59653/ijmars.v2i02.681>
- Ferrater-Gimena, J. A., Etcuban, J. O., & Tan, A. U. (2019). Ecotourism as a Catalyst of Poverty Alleviation in Rural Economy in Cebu, Philippines. *Asian Review of Social Sciences*, 8(3), 1-7.
- Haider, Z. F., & Stumm, S. von. (2022). Predicting educational and social-emotional outcomes in emerging adulthood from intelligence, personality, and socioeconomic status. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.
- Hanushek, E. A., & Woessmann, L. (2020). Education, knowledge capital, and economic growth. *The economics of education*, 171-182.
- Huang, X. (2019). Understanding Bourdieu - cultural capital and habitus. *Review of European Studies*, 11(3), 45. <https://doi.org/10.5539/res.v11n3p45>
- Inocencio, J. M. G. (2023). Socio-Economic and Environmental Impact of Community-Based Tourism Development in the Province of Biliran. *Indonesian Journal of Multidisciplinary Science*, 2(4), 2205-2217.
- Kamalulil, E. N. B., Panatik, S. A. B., & Yunus, W. M. A. W. M. (2020). The Effect of Socioeconomic Status on Well-being: A Systematic Literature Review. *International Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation*, 24(05).
- Kapur, R. (2023). Understanding the Meaning and Significance of Community Resources
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/369559655_Understanding_the_Meaning_and_Significance_of_Community_Resources/citations
- Lockwood, T, Coffee N.T, Rossini, P., Niyonsenga, T., McGreal, S., Does where you live influence your socio-economic status?, *Land Use Policy*, Volume 72,(2018), Pages 152-160, ISSN 0264-8377, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2017.12.045>.
- Luo, M., Zhong, S., & Chen, J. (2024). The sweet burden: Does homeownership improve the economic status of households?. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 11(1), 1-10.
- Mahadevan, R., & Suardi, S. (2017). Panel evidence on the impact of tourism growth on poverty, poverty gap and income inequality. *Current Issues in Tourism*, 22(3), 253–264.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13683500.2017.1375901>
- Maps of the South. (2022). Let's get to know the Tsinelas Capital of the Philippines! [Facebook post]. Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/14vLNKfX3e/>
- Mehraj D. W., Zubair A. D.& Shamim A. S.(2022): The impact of community empowerment on sustainable tourism development and the mediation effect of local support: a structural equation Modeling approach. *Community Development*, 55(1), 50-66.
- Mridha, M. (2020). The effect of age, gender and marital status on residential satisfaction. *Local Environment*, 25(8), 540-558.
- Sarker, S. J. & Crossman, A & Chinmeteepituck, P. (2019). The relationships of age and length of service with job satisfaction: An examination of hotel employees in Thailand. *Journal of Managerial Psychology*. 18. 745-758. 10.1108/02683940310502421.
- Tutor, M. V., Orbeta, A. C., Miraflor, J. M. B., & Mathew, B. (2021). *The 4th Philippine Graduate Tracer Study: Examining higher education as a pathway to employment, citizenship, and life satisfaction from the learner's perspective*. Philippine Institute for Development Studies.
- United Nations World Tourism Organization (2019). Tourism Leading Other Global Sectors in Advancing Gender Equality, New Report Shows
- Vithayaporn, S. (2023). The Influence of Cultural Differences on Gender Issues in Tourism and Hospitality Employment: A Grounded Theory Analysis. *Asian Journal of Business Research*. 13. 86-106. 10.14707/ajbr.230151.
- Zanbar, L. (2024). Enhancing resilience and well-being among low-SES populations: The mediating effect of community resources. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 52(2), 344-362.

Zhou, C., Tian, L., & Shan, Y. (2022). How Tourism Industry Development Affects Residents' Well-Being: An Empirical Study Based on CGSS and Provincial-Level Matched Data. Sustainability, 14(19), 12367. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su141912367>

APPENDIX A

Table 10. Proposed Development Plan to Enhance the Tourism Appeal of Kilangin Falls

ACTIVITIES	OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES AND PLAN	PERSON INCHARGED	TIMEFRAME	
				Start	Finish
Trail Infrastructure and Safety	To provide a safer and more accessible trail system for visitors to Kilangin Falls, enhancing their overall experience and ensuring their safety.	Upgrade trails with clear signage, handrails, and stable pathways. Establish emergency stations equipped with first-aid kits and trained personnel along the trails and at key points near the falls. Install solar-powered lighting to ensure safe movement after dark, while maintaining eco-friendliness.	Brig. Officials, Tour Guide Association	January 2025	February 2025
Tour Guide Engagement	To enrich the visitor experience through knowledgeable and interactive tour guides who create a memorable and educational tour experience.	Train guides to incorporate engaging conversations, share captivating stories, and encourage questions. Include local insights and educational elements about the environment. Use humor and interactive activities to maintain a fun and engaging atmosphere.	Brig. Officials, Tourism Office	January 6, 2025	January 12, 2025
Farm-to-Table Experience	To offer a unique culinary experience that connects visitors with local agriculture and cuisine, enhancing their overall journey to Kilangin Falls.	Offer a farm tour experience where participants can pick fresh ingredients, enjoy a light brunch or relax with a farm-to-table dinner after visiting the falls. Highlight the use of local produce to promote sustainable tourism and support local farmers.	Local Farmers' Cooperative, Local Residents	January 2025	Ongoing
Social Media Engagement	To increase the visibility and appeal of Kilangin Falls through digital platforms, attracting more tourists and fostering online communities.	Develop a social media campaign showcasing the natural beauty of Kilangin Falls. Encourage visitors to share their experiences using a unique hashtag. Partner with local influencers to create content highlighting activities and experiences available at the falls. Regularly update social media platforms with engaging posts, stories, and visitor testimonials.	Brig. Officials, Tour Guides Association	February 2025	Ongoing
Adventure Tourism Activities	To cater to adventure enthusiasts by offering thrilling activities that utilize the natural terrain of Kilangin Falls.	Build simple rope courses that utilize existing trees and natural structures. Activities like rope bridges or basic zip lines can be set up with locally sourced materials. Ensure safety by training guides and installing safety equipment.	Brig. Officials, Tour Guide Association	February 2025	March 2025
Nature Photography Walks	To showcase the natural beauty of Kilangin Falls and promote it through photography.	Organize guided photography walks by showing the best spots for capturing the beauty of Kilangin Falls and the surrounding environment. Offer tips on nature photography and provide an opportunity for tourists to share their photos online to promote the area.	Tour Guides	February 2025	Ongoing