

Support System of LGUs in Burdang Lumban Industry

Rainy Rose B. Yasoña

rainyyasona@gmail.com

Laguna State Polytechnic University Santa Cruz, Laguna, 4009, Philippines

Abstract

This study aimed to examine the extent to which Local Government Units (LGUs) in Lumban, Laguna support the Burdang Lumban industry through policy and regulatory frameworks, financial assistance, and training and capacity-building programs. Conducted during the academic year 2024–2025, the research aimed to determine how LGU support affects the sustainability, effectiveness, and growth of the Burdang Lumban industry. To analyze this, the study used basic statistics and correlation analysis to measure the strength of the connections between LGU support and industry outcomes.

The study employed a descriptive-correlational quantitative research design. Respondents included 40 selected participants: active Burdang Lumban business owners and LGU representatives involved in industry programs. Data were gathered through structured surveys and interviews, focusing on how effective LGUs are in policy enforcement, grant access, skills training, and working with stakeholders.

Findings revealed that while LGU support systems exist, their impact remains moderate, with weak to moderate correlations across most variables. Cultural promotion and national support emerged as significant drivers of industry growth. The study recommends stronger coordination, improved funding mechanisms, and expanded training to ensure a more sustainable future for the Burdang Lumban industry.

Keywords: Burdang Lumban; Cultural Heritage; Local Government Support; Industry Growth; Sustainability

1. Introduction

Traditional textile craftsmanship remains a vital part of Philippine cultural identity and rural economic livelihood. In Lumban, Laguna, the Burdang Lumban industry is especially known for producing finely hand-embroidered garments, most notably the Barong Tagalog, a national symbol of formal Filipino attire. The town is officially recognized as the Embroidery Capital of the Philippines for its generations-old embroidery practices and strong cultural ties to the craft [1]. To support traditional industries like Burdang Lumban, Local Government Units (LGUs) in the Philippines are mandated to implement local development programs through training, financial assistance, and infrastructure support. These efforts are aligned with national goals to promote cultural industries, increase local productivity, and preserve heritage [2].

Despite this framework, the Burdang Lumban industry faces major difficulties. These include competition from mass-produced clothing, lack of access to broader markets, and limited modernization tools [3]. As global demand shifts to cheaper alternatives, traditional artisans are struggling to maintain both their income and their craft. The high cost of upgrading production and the lack of entrepreneurial training make it harder for small producers to keep pace [4].

Understanding the relationship between LGU support and the performance of the Burdang Lumban industry is crucial. Factors such as financial aid, policy implementation, and training accessibility directly affect the industry's sustainability and its ability to innovate. Scholars also stress the importance of capacity building in traditional industries to compete in evolving markets [5]-[6].

Given these issues, this study aims to evaluate the support provided by LGUs to the Burdang Lumban industry in Lumban, Laguna. It will assess the impact of such support in improving productivity, encouraging creativity and innovation, and preserving cultural identity. By identifying gaps and strengths in LGU interventions, the study seeks to provide practical insights for developing a more sustainable and resilient embroidery sector.

2. Objectives of the study

This study aims to assess the support system of LGUs in Burdang Lumban industry. Specifically, it seeks to:

- Evaluate the level of extent of LGU support system in Burdang Lumban industry.
- Identify the challenges and opportunities faced by the Burdang Lumban industry, as well as the key factors influencing LGU support systems.
- Determine the correlation between the challenges and opportunities faced by the Burdang Lumban industry and their impact on the industry's long-term business aspects, particularly in terms of sustainability, effectiveness, and growth.
- Provide recommendations to support the systems of LGUS in Burdang Lumban Industry based on the findings in a form of Action Plan.

3. Materials and Methods

3.1. Research Design

This study employed a descriptive-correlational quantitative research design. This method was selected to determine the extent and impact of Local Government Unit (LGU) support on the Burdang Lumban industry. It involved the collection of numerical data to identify patterns and relationships between variables such as policy support, financial assistance, capacity-building efforts, and their influence on sustainability, effectiveness, and growth. Data were gathered simultaneously from multiple sources, allowing for the statistical analysis of correlations between the level of LGU support and industry performance indicators.

3.2. Sampling Technique

Purposive sampling was used to ensure that the respondents had relevant knowledge and direct involvement with the subject matter. This non-probability sampling technique allowed the researcher to deliberately select individuals who could provide accurate and insightful responses about LGU interventions in the Burdang Lumban industry and to minimize sampling bias by ensuring diversity in the selection of business sizes, years of operation, and participation in support programs.

3.3. Research Instruments

The study utilized two primary instruments: a structured survey questionnaire and semi-structured interview guides. The questionnaire was developed by the researcher and validated through expert review. It included both closed- and open-ended questions targeting key variables such as types of LGU support received, challenges encountered, and the effect of such support on digital marketing, market access, and business performance. The interview guide for LGU representatives explored the planning, implementation, and outcomes of support initiatives.

3.4. Data Analysis

Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics such as frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation were used to summarize respondent profiles and LGU support trends. Correlation analysis using Pearson's r was applied to test the relationship between LGU support and business outcomes, such as sustainability, effectiveness, and growth.

3.5. Ethical Considerations

All participants were informed of the purpose and scope of the study. Consent forms were distributed, and participation was voluntary. Data confidentiality and anonymity were maintained throughout the research process. No personally identifiable information was disclosed in the final report. Ethical standards set by the Laguna State Polytechnic University were strictly followed.

4. Results and Discussion

The study found that LGU support for the Burdang Lumban industry was generally moderately effective, particularly in training and policy development. However, challenges such as limited funding access, poor policy enforcement, and weak coordination continue to hinder overall impact. Training programs were the most well-received, while financial assistance and policy implementation showed clear gaps.

Funding allocation had a strong negative correlation with stakeholder coordination issues ($r = -0.574^{***}$), indicating that better financial management improves collaboration. Policy support and training were also strongly correlated with cultural tourism success ($r = 0.569^{***}$ and $r = 0.522^{**}$), confirming their role in increasing industry visibility and demand.

Additionally, training was significantly linked to industry growth ($r = 0.533^{**}$), and policy support to effectiveness ($r = 0.462^{**}$), highlighting that targeted LGU interventions directly influence business performance. These correlations affirm that LGUs play a critical role in improving the sustainability and development of the Burdang Lumban industry.

5. Conclusion

The Burdang Lumban industry stands at a crossroads between preservation and innovation. LGUs play a critical role in guiding its future through inclusive governance, targeted investment, and skill development. Strengthening coordination mechanisms, increasing budget allocation, and linking artisans with global markets are crucial. It is recommended that LGUs develop strategic plans aligning heritage preservation with economic sustainability, including the creation of artisan hubs and digital platforms.

Considering the conclusions, the following recommendations are suggested:

6. Recommendation

- **Enhancing Policy Enforcement and Alignment for Artisan Support** - Strengthen the enforcement and alignment of local government policies to better support artisans and business owners. Implement periodic policy reviews to ensure that regulations remain relevant to the evolving needs of the Burdang Lumban Industry.
- **Expanding Financial Support and Improving Aid Accessibility** - Increase funding allocation and explore alternative financial support mechanisms, such as microfinance programs and industry-specific grants, and enhance transparency and accessibility of government financial aid to ensure equitable distribution among Burdang Lumban business owners or resellers.
- **Advancing Training and Capacity Building for Artisans** - Develop comprehensive training programs focused on traditional embroidery techniques and modern business strategies, and strengthen public-private collaborations to provide mentorship, workshops, and hands-on training sessions for artisans.
- **Establishing Effective Communication and Coordination Frameworks** - Establish a formal communication framework to improve coordination between LGUs, business owners, and embroidery artisans. Strengthen the industry council, which includes representatives from LGUs, Lumban Embroidery Association (LEA-MPC) cooperatives, and private sector entities, to oversee the implementation of support programs.
- **Promoting Cultural and Tourism-Based Market Expansion** - Strengthen cultural and tourism-based promotions to increase local and international recognition of Burdang Lumban products. Secure national and regional partnerships to expand market access and establish industry-wide sustainability initiatives. Invest in digital marketing and e-commerce platforms to help artisans reach broader markets.
- **Implementing Sustainable Practices and Program Impact Assessment** - Develop long-term sustainability programs that integrate environmentally friendly production practices, provide incentives for innovative business models that enhance product competitiveness and industry resilience, and conduct annual assessments of LGU programs to measure their impact and make data-driven improvements.

References

- Salvador-Amores, A. (2018). Hand-Embroidered Identity: Cultural Threads of the Barong Tagalog.
- Tacio, H. D. (2019). Handwoven and Embroidered Crafts in a Changing Economy.
- Villanueva, R. & Galvez, P. (2020). Local Governance and Heritage Preservation.
- Zimmerman, M. (2000). Empowerment Theory: Psychological, Organizational and Community Levels of Analysis.
- De Visser, J. (2005). Local Government in Developing Countries.
- Leal Filho, W., et al. (2018). Sustainable Development Practices in Southeast Asia.
- Kaushika, R. & Ghosh, S. (2020). Human Capital and Craft Industries in Asia.
- Edquist, C. (2018). Systems of Innovation: Technologies, Institutions and Organizations.