

ISAT U-BNC STUDENT LABORERS: THEIR HOPE AND ASPIRATIONS

Cynthia Dilag

Ed.D., Iloilo City, Philippines

Abstract: In industrializing countries like Philippines, students must be prepared with the educational skills and knowledge and must be sustained through educational programs offered by institutions to uplift the social conditions of students from low income families. This study explored the lived experiences of Iloilo Science and Technology University- Barotac Nuevo Student Laborers relative to their struggle for education with the end view of attaining hope and aspirations in life. An informants of seven (7) were considered in the study to validate the information, and this informants coming from the different courses of the university. The research design employed was descriptive phenomenology. An open ended question was used to describe the lived experiences of the student laborers to finish their education. Colaizzi process was utilized to analyze the data. Three (3) themes were formulated from the experience encountered by the informants. Conclusions and recommendations were drawn based from the results of the study. Students are lifeblood of the university; providing them services and programs help overcome educational endeavors.

Keywords: Student Laborers, Phenomenology, Colaizzi, Philippines.

1. INTRODUCTION

The life of student labourers who facilitate for their educational needs and other expenses in ISAT U-Barotac Campus is a hard endeavour. It takes a lot of struggles, commitment, strength, and positivity before they can finish their courses. They need to cope and balance their schedule for them to meet the assigned tasks by the office while studying and have a degree so that they can have a productive and meaningful life in the future.

According to Vincent Tinto, the first principle of effective programs and, therefore, assuring student success is “institutional commitment to students,” He stressed out, “It is a commitment that springs from the very character of an institution’s educational mission”. In line with this, the vision, mission and goals, Iloilo Science and Technology University- Barotac Nuevo Campus, as a leading science and technology university in Southeast Asia by 2030, committed to provide quality and relevant advanced education, provide a nurturing environment where academic freedom is guaranteed and respected for the optimum development of human potential. This was supported by Article 1 Section 4 of the office of Students affairs and Services states that, the Office of the students Affairs and Services is responsible for the development and implementation of various student-centered programs, services and activities support of academic pursuits intended to facilitate holistic and well-rounded student development for active involvement as future responsible citizens and leaders (ISAT U Student Handbook, 2018). The University sees the worlds from the point of view of the students who are poor where the delivery of educational programs and services starts and revolves around them. Considering their gifts, needs, and circumstances, and devise ways in which the institution facilitates their growth and development in order to attain success in life.

Article XIV Section 3 of the Philippine Constitution on the other hand states that, the institution shall establish and maintain scholarship grants, study loan programs, subsidies and other incentives which are available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to underprivileged (Daquilla, 2013). In ISAT U-Barotac Campus, a lot of students who work while studying availed programs of the institution, they were catered through scholarship grants, programs on working students in order to pay their tuition fees. This was supported by Republic Act (RA) 10931 also known as the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act (UAQTEA) is now fully felt by millions of students

enrolled in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs), the cash assistance is given to poor but deserving students who are enrolled in the 112 state universities and colleges (SUCs) and 78 local universities and colleges (LUCs). In industrializing countries like Philippines, students must be prepared with the educational skills and knowledge to improve the socio-economic living condition. As cited in the “Ten Point Agenda” of President Benigno Simeon Aquino III, educational programs extended to poor but deserving students must be sustained in order to uplift the social conditions of students from low income families.

Moreover, Iloilo Science and Technology University- Barotac Nuevo Campus stakeholders committed to support student laborers goals, hope and aspirations in life. The social conditions of the students are no excuse for not striving for excellence. According to Pobar (2012), prevailing situation proved that there are unfavorable circumstances that hinder students from finishing college degrees. Students experienced several adverse conditions that deprived them from attaining their goals and aspirations in life. Some of them despite of various problems at home and at school are able to study in college but experienced several difficulties while studying. These students are considered as disadvantaged students who are eager to achieve their hope and aspirations relative to their struggle for education. For this reason, the parents tried their best to send their children to school despite economic instability of the family. On the part of the university, commitment for the services and programs are truly evident in sustaining students’ needs. The university believes that these student laborers are partners for the development and growth of the nation. Furthermore, aspiring leaders of the future.

Indeed, ISAT U-BNC is an instrument in achieving student laborers hope and aspirations in life. The assistance from the administration and stakeholders provides benefit that will greatly contribute in their brighter future.

Thus, the research study was conducted to describe the lived experiences of student laborers relative to their struggle in education, these students are the molders and models of the next generation of professionals. It would be interesting to know that their sacrifices in life while they are studying have given impact to lives of other students in the institution. Themes were generated as the results of the study.

ATHEORETICAL STANCE

My study followed a theoretical stance. A. priori were suspended prior to the actual data collection. (Polit & Beck, 2008 cited by Vasques, 2013).

Vasquez (2011), transcribed interviews conducted by the researcher was the basis to substantiate the data that each conveyed one main idea of the study. With this, since I am utilizing descriptive phenomenological as a research method, I did not identify a theory that will support the study and neither did I interpret the results. In this process, researcher drew from the point of view of the informants based in their own understanding and interpretation as student laborers.

Philosophical Stance

In order to understand the social world of the informants, different approaches adopted by the researcher, some of these relates to *ontology*, the nature of the student laborers in social world, *epistemology*, addresses the question about the nature and origin of knowledge of the informants, *axiology*, student laborers of ISAT U-BNC aware of the nature of values and value judgment at home and in the institution they belong, *methodology*, addresses the general principles of formation of knowledge, *rhetoric*, how the informants exhibit different structures and styles in communicating.

From the point of view of **ontology**, the nature of student laborers is that, they were sacrificed most in their time, in studies and duty assigned by them; they were working during vacant time to comply the 2 hours assigned by the offices in the university. Despite of hindrances of cleaning the assigned area every day, they become determined to finish their education. Thus, the duties and responsibilities handled by them were accomplished at the end of the semesters.

Epistemology view says that knowledge develops through experience being the student laborers. Reality is constantly changing. From this point of view, the student laborers have developed further knowledge about their struggle relative for education, working with their superior in school and in relating themselves to their fellow classmates and schoolmates. The knowledge they have gained from experiences equipped them with good values and skills that ultimately help them succeed in life and become productive members of society. As they go along performing their tasks, these student laborers become a trustworthy and reliable individual of ISAT U- BNC.

From the point of view of **axiology**, the values of the student laborers were developed as they dealt with their fellow students, professors, and parents. In their observations of the daily activity in the campus, they have known how to give worth to a certain behavior or action that will encourage other students to focus their attention to their studies and to inspire them to finish their education. The innate values of this student laborer first acquired at home through their parents. As they were given the task in school, their perception towards their struggle for education is modified, and this catches the attention of the teachers, school administrator and even stakeholders present in school.

From the point of view of **methodology**, (deals with the principles of formation of knowledge), some knowledge of student laborer who aspire to achieve their goal were acquired through observations of their surrounding/school environment and their friends whom frequently associate with. They may have realized that not all knowledge they have gained in the four walls of the classroom are applicable to the kind of community where they live in, and to have a college diploma is not a guarantee that one will become successful. They may have realized too that success is not measured as to what kind of degree a person has attained. But ones character is also important in the attainment of one's goal in life.

From the **rhetoric** point of view, student laborer have to choose appropriate style in communicating with their subordinate and fellow classmates, so that there will be a smooth flow of exchange of ideas that will enable them to comprehend and performed better of the given task. It is not only student laborer that can benefit from rhetoric but also parents and stakeholders because these students have also deal with them from time to time and every vacant period for the good of the school itself.

Just as children in the early stages of their learning ask many questions in order to make sense of new situations and experiences, so too the student laborer who will also have many questions as they embark on the exciting hope and aspirations to becoming a successful citizenry. It is probable that they will have concerns about their ability to manage a class, how they will cope with the assigned task the whole activity of the university or how they can possibly learn everything that they need to know in the relatively over a period of the semester in their student labor career. Concerns such as these are quite natural. What should be remembered is that as student laborer they are at the beginning of a their journey that will be a career-long process and to attain their aspirations in life..

Education has been an important aspect in the life of students which could not be ignored. As open communication line between the parents, subordinates and professor, it is important to help students succeed in university and monitor their performance as they double their task being a student. Likewise the campus administrator should create a strong linkage among its stakeholders which is mostly done through proper communication.

Education is not only the business of one person. The role of community members is crucial in transforming our schools into safe and conducive learning environment for students especially those students who cannot afford to pay their scholastic needs.

Knowing and understanding the lived experiences of student laborer from the first entry in university up to the present, will provide a strong foundation for education in breaking the cycle of poverty. Subsequently, quality education cannot be achieved without proper inputs in terms of finances, time and energy. Strategic planning, information dissimulation and collaboration among stakeholders are necessary to improve educational outcomes to eradicate the problem of student laborer in school in terms of finances.

However, the sacrifices of student laborer at the start of their education cannot be underestimated. They do not mind wherever they are assigned in janitorial because they know the nature of being a working student, that is, they do not refuse their place of assignment. It was inculcated to them that education is deemed necessary in promoting and enabling an individual to acquire intellectual work skills for productive activities. It is also an effective measure in correcting the social, economic, political, and cultural inequities that cause mass discontentment.

Domains of Inquiry

The purpose of this descriptive phenomenological study was to describe the lived experiences and their meaning to student laborers relative to their struggle for education. The study was conducted in Iloilo Science and Technology University- Barotac Nuevo Campus, School Year 2015

Specifically, this paper sought to answer the following questions:

1. What are the lived experiences of the student laborers since Elementary to present?

2. What is the meaning of these lived experiences of the student laborers relative to their struggle for education?
3. What are the student's laborers hope and aspirations for themselves and their families?
4. How do stakeholders provide support for the education of student laborers?
5. What themes can be formulated out of the results of the study?

Significance of the Study

The results of this study are beneficial to ISAT U- BN Campus, stakeholders, parents and other persons involved in this study.

Student Laborers are the students who are working in the university and receiving a compensation of the services rendered.

Iloilo Science and technology University-BN Campus as the learning institutions and facilitator will cater students from other places. Whereby as an educational institution, ISAT U- Barotac Nuevo Campus can extend and provides services to students who lack educational assistance to pay tuition and miscellaneous for their education. Moreover, the institution can initiate more programs and scholarship grants that lead greater development not only to the constituents but of the community as whole.

Parents will be able to obtain help from other sources for their students especially those who have potentials or assets to pursue a college education and be employed afterwards.

Student Affairs Director will design programs relevant to student laborers educational needs that would strengthen stakeholders and Local Government Unit partnership to achieve hopes and aspirations in life. It would also be less of their worries when problems on education are addressed.

Non-Government Organizations (NGO) will be topped of the needs of student laborers in university; thus, become employed on the future able to improve their own selves, family and community as well. Moreover, National Government will be able to provide support to poor families which are sustainable and able to design programs that would create a positive impact in education.

Researcher who seeks related studies and literatures on student laborers can also be benefited out of the results of the study. They are able to use the results of the study in their discussion or as support of their findings. They can likewise find a more relevant topic to study on after reading the results of the study.

2. METHODOLOGY

In this study, the researcher gathered views from the numbers of ISAT U- BNC student laborers about significant factors relating to their lived experience. Student laborers sacrifices relative for their education, set as an example to many of the students studying in the institution. This research took the position that the answers for success (and perhaps failure) may be within the ISAT U- BNC student laborers strong determination and perseverance because they are the recipients of the education, understand their schooling situation and have an important perspective to present. It was decided that for this research a phenomenological study was required to gather information from student's laborers, hope and aspirations in life.

This section presents the research methods, environment or the research locale, study participant and sampling technique, research instruments, data gathering procedure and data analysis on the lived experience of student's laborers in Iloilo Science and technology University- Barotac Nuevo, Campus for the school year 2015.

Methods

The research study employed descriptive phenomenological research as its research design in presenting and discussing the challenges encountered by student's laborers relative for their struggles in education since elementary to present. According to Bueno (2016), the aim of this is to determine what an experience means for the persons who have had the experience and are able to provide a comprehensive description on it. From this individual description, general meanings are derived. It involves interpreting the originally given descriptions of a phenomenon using reflexive analysis and the interpretation of the participants accounts.

In this study, the researcher utilized this research design because as their professor, I am interested to know their sacrifices and determination to finish their education in the university.

Environment

The study was conducted at Iloilo Science and Technology University- Barotac Nuevo Campus located at Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo City a subsidized institution of higher learning which aims to cater students in the entire province and neighboring provinces of Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras as far as Negros Occidental.

The University has grown into a leading technological and professional manpower development institution as it serves the region and the whole country. The local area Network(LAN) is established that links the different colleges and internet for is located at La Paz, Iloilo City and external campuses at Barotac Nuevo, Dumangas, Miagao and Leon. Iloilo.

Iloilo Science and Technology University- Barotac Nuevo Campus is formerly the Don Jose Sustiguer Monfort Memorial National College, established to provide a free tuition for all courses/classes enrolled in during a particular semester/term, which are part of the curriculum and are essential for obtaining a degree under the free higher education provision of RA 10931.

Informants

The informants of the study were the seven (7) student's laborers of Iloilo Science and Technology University- Barotac Nuevo Campus. Out of seven (7) informants, two (2) of them were 4P's recipients and five (5) who assigned in the different offices, four (4) females and four (3) males. The distribution of the number of informants were the following; BSED (3), BIT (1), BSHRT (2) & BSIT (1).

Purposive sampling technique was employed in this study, considering the fact that they were few and it is very challenging for the researcher to convince the informants to participate in the study.

Instruments

The instruments used in this study to gather relevant data needed were interview schedules, which were all researcher-made. The interview schedules were used to gather factual information from the informants. It contained sets of questions, which guided the interviewer during the conduct of the study. The interview schedules were validated by a panel of experts composed of the Head of Student Affairs, Guidance Counselor and the Campus Administrator. The corrections and recommendations of the validators were considered before the final drafting of the instruments. The content of interview schedules is discussed below.

The questionnaire utilized by the researcher to gather the challenges encountered by the student laborers is composed of three parts. Part I gathers the important data through interview of each informants such as name, gender, number of siblings, order in the family, and parents views towards their sources of income. Part II is the question proper part which asks about the hope and aspirations in life. There are 3 questions that elicit relevant data on the challenges of the informants. Follow up questions, though, may be asked to clarify the responses of the informants. Part III of the interview guide is composed of questions on the challenges of student's laborers. There are 3 questions for this part. At the bottom of the interview-guide questionnaire, the researcher provides a journal for the interviewer's statements with regards on hope and aspirations in life.

Data Gathering Procedure

The time frame of the study is SY 2014-2015. It is believed that the time frame was gave update facts and information vital in making the study.

In the gathering of data from the unstructured interview, the researcher itself as faculty member of Iloilo Science and Technology University-Barotac Campus can directly asked the approval of the informants for interview and conduct of the study.

Before the conduct of the interview, consent were asked and confirmed by the informants. The researcher then personally conducts an unstructured interview with the use of recorder. The interview that was conducted was tape recorded and verbal communications are noted. After the data was taken from the responses of the informants, the records were destroyed after to ensure confidentiality and privacy in the process. Then, the responses of the informants were transcribed and coded. Significant statements were extracted and themes were clustered and given analysis and interpretation of data followed.

The researcher resorted to interview processed which involves researchers talking to one or more informants on the challenges of buyers and salespersons in real estate property transactions, where the categories of response were focused but not necessarily predetermined.

To facilitate the conduct of the study and to make it more official, The researcher asked the approval from the Campus Administrator and Head of Students Affairs. Furthermore, it took more than three weeks for the researcher to interview the informants. One interview with the informants actually took at least 30 - 60 minutes or sometimes longer as the case maybe. During the interview, consent from the interviewee to record the conversation is required. The researcher likewise explained to the interviewee the importance of recording the conversation. Even though the conversation was recorded, the researcher still jotted down the important details that the interviewee gave. Furthermore, right after the unstructured interview the researcher interpreted the results.

Data Analysis Procedure

Prior to the analysis of the results, the researcher transcribed the interview noting only relevant information. Other details of the interview that are not related to the study were not transcribed.

The analysis of the relevant data gathered mainly employed thematic analysis procedure. The informant's answers were encoded. After which, individual answers of the informants were analyzed and reflected in specific sections of this paper. Part of the analysis was the establishment of themes for the answers of the informants. The themes then were used as bases for drawing of conclusions and recommendations.

To substantiate this analysis treatment, the researcher was determined on how their hope and aspirations on the different aspects based on the challenges of the student laborers encountered utilizing Colaizzi process. It was subjected to analysis through the following steps.

1. The experiences of the student's laborers will transcribe by the researcher in verbatim.
2. The researcher had read and reread the transcribed-word-for-word interviews to obtain a general sense about the whole content.
3. The researcher extracted significant statement, which pertain directly to the experiences of student's laborers proposed phenomenon, from the descriptions.
4. The researcher formulated meanings after analyzing each significant statement on the experiences of the student's laborers.
5. The researcher organized the formulate meanings into clusters, which allow themes to emerge.
6. The researcher integrated themes into an exhaustive description. The researcher also referred the same clusters back to the original protocol to validate them.
7. The researcher made a concise statement of the exhaustive description and will provide a fundamental statement of identification.
8. The researcher presented a concise statement of the exhaustive description to the original informants of the study on order to verify the statement.

Finally, validation sought from the research informants and compared the researcher's descriptive results with their experiences.

Each statement of the student's laborers was transcribed by the researcher and read several times to gain a sense of the whole content. During this stage, any thoughts with regards to their experiences, feelings, and ideas that arise was collated by the researcher with the phenomenon in struggles of the student's laborers relative for their education. It explored the phenomena experienced by the informants themselves. The next stage wherein significant statements and phrases pertaining to the phenomenon were explored on the experiences on the part of the student's laborers this AY 2015. These significant statements was written in separate sheets and coded based on their experiences on working as students. After extracting the significant statements from the thoughts of the student's laborers, meanings were formulated from the significant statements. Each underlying meaning was coded in one category as they reflected an exhaustive description.

Trustworthiness and Ethical Considerations

Trust is important in every research that concerns interviewing participants or informants. Prior to the administration of the interview schedule or interview proper, the researcher genuinely talked to each informant and disclose the true nature of the study to get the participant's trust. This would likewise establish rapport with the informants so that the veracity of the information given by the informants is established.

On the other hand, in the conduct of the study, the researcher will take in to consideration the ethical issues. To protect the participants of the study, the researcher will develop the trust and confidence with them in order to promote the integrity of the research, guard against misconduct and any impropriety that can be reflected in their institutions, and cope with new challenging problems (Creswell 2009)

The researcher will respect the informants' rights, needs, values and desires. Furthermore, the researcher will be very careful in asking questions that might solicit sensitive answers about personal issues.

Establishing Objectivity

The fact that the study's results are dependent upon the participants' answers, which are in turn, in a way, dependent upon the researcher's interpretation, biases may set in. In order to avoid personal biases in the interpretation results, the researcher avoid personal interpretations of the participants' answer. She will try to clarify the participants' answers by asking follow up questions. Triangulation of the data and information is likewise do through others informants who could validate the results of the study.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Lived Experiences of Student Laborers

This section includes the presentation of the lived experience of student's labourers in ISAT U-Barotac Campus.

Lived experience of the students are inspiring, every now and then they encountered different challenges and in these challenges they were able to stimulate new ideas, knowledge and information to cope with the shortcomings they have encountered in their studies while working in the campus and at the same time they become more stronger in facing the demands of time.

The first *informant* who happens to be a farmer;

20 years old. His mother is a laborer in Manila for 4 years, the only one who earns a living for the family because his father has no work. He was assigned in the Audio Visual Hall cleaning every morning and in the afternoon. His challenges in life brought inspirations to study his lessons well in order to get a high score during examinations. He learned how to harvest rice during harvest season for his allowances. Like any other institution, he was paid six hundred pesos (Php 600.00/mos.) in return to the services rendered during vacant time. He said, *"I work in the farm planting and harvesting rice every Saturdays and Sundays, helping my parents to support the physiological needs of our family and my allowances every school day. Life of disadvantaged student is very hard, I have to wake up early in the morning to cook our breakfast and ba-on of my brothers and sister. We are six (6) in the family and I'm the eldest. The hardship that I had encountered serves as an inspiration on my studies. With regards to the activities of the university, I used to join because I am capable; I managed my time working as a student and involving school activities, in the sense that, this is the only way to develop my self-esteem and to be strong to face life sacrifices as being a student laborer. My struggle relative for my education is not a hope and aspirations but I have commitment to finish in order to have a decent job after graduation. I wanted to help my brothers and sisters finish their studies. As Dr. Jose Rizal said, the only weapon to combat poverty is education. This is the only means to attain my dreams; I am hoping and aspiring to have a better future. I felt sad when Ma'am Dilag interviewed me, because these very personal and they are secrets of our family. According to Ma'am, I have to be strong to handle these matters in order to attain my goal, to finish my college education. I am very thankful to the administration, and the in-charge of student laborer, for giving me a slot to be one of the student labourers in the university. Someday if I become successful on my journey I would come back to ISAT U-BN Campus and say, I'm very proud that I came from this University.*

The **second informant** shared his thought's that;

“Education is a challenge to continue my journey in life,” as to the second informants introduction statement during the conduct of interview. Her words, *In life we experienced many challenges and difficulties in order for us to achieve success someday. During my elementary years, I experience going to school with empty pocket at the same time with empty stomach. I remember those times that my teacher would ask to get some of her white hair during my vacant time and in return, she will give me a penny as a reward. There are many of us in the family. My parents have no permanent work to sustain our daily needs, our house is far from school. I walked 3 kilometers everyday in going to school. I felt sad during rainy days because the road was not good for the people to pass by. That routine continued until I graduated in elementary. During my high school days, I helped my parents working in the farm, planting and sometimes harvesting, I made 3 absences in a week that causes my low grades and performance, riding in a tricycle was impossible during that time because my pocket was empty. I didn't asked my parents most of the time because I already expected that they will not gave me even small amount. Luckily, with those challenges, I was able to finish my secondary education and moved to tertiary level. My story when I entered my education in college was "lakas ng loob nalang", I applied as a student laborer in ISAT U-BNC whom they had given me a slot to work in one of the offices. I am very thankful to our Almighty God; despite of our situations in the family. He had given me a chance to enroll in the university. My poor economic status is my inspiration in overcoming the difficulties and challenges in achieving my aspirations to become successful teacher someday.*

The **third informant** discussed his experiences that;

with high hopes and aspirations, the university gives privileges for the students who are hard up in their finances. This was the statement of the third interviewee; *Opportunity in life comes only once, as early we need to grab it before we regret. I am so thankful and proud to say that I was one of the beneficiaries of scholarship granted by the government facilitated by the university, though it cannot compensate fully to my educational needs, but it was a great help to me and to my parents. I have encountered many challenges in life before when I was in my elementary and high school. My family belongs in a working class; my father is a laborer, while my mother is a Brgy. Health worker, I have five siblings and I am the third child.*

When I was in 4th year high school, I took several examinations for scholarship like DOST and CHED but unluckily I did not pass all the examinations that I had taken. And those are counted as one of the trials in my life but I didn't lose hope. I took an entrance examination for BSED major in Mathematics at ISAT U- Lapaz Campus formerly WVCST main campus and same also at WVSUs. Luckily I passed all the given examination. I preferred to choose WVSU main campus at first, because it is one of my dreams to enroll in that institution. One day, my aunt called me that she is going to support me financially in college, but an accident came, my grandfather need a surgical operation in his kidney, due to his kidney stone. My aunt spent thousands of money in my grandfather operation due to his kidney stone, so she can't help me anymore. My mother is one of the grantees of Pantawid, Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4P's) and we are so glad that the Department of Social Welfare give a scholarship for the new freshmen graduate for the batch 2014-2015. This scholarship can be availed by the student if his/her family is one of the grantees/beneficiaries. DSWD conducted several surveys regarding this scholarship program. And I'm so thankful because I was one of the scholars of this program. DSWD is the one to choose a school for us, and my name was included in the list of ISAT U instead of WVSU, and by that, I ignored the opportunity to enroll in WVSU. I didn't expect that we, 4P's scholar, were transferred at the different branches of ISAT U. My name was included at ISAT U-BNC. My mother cried at first because she does not favored the rules of the University that we were transferred far from our town, but I told my mother that I need to grab it because this was only a way to pursue my college education, and it is a big help for us especially my finances, and also, I want to experience things on my own and independent. In the beginning, I can't easily adapt the environment of the place, but with the help of my classmates, friends and especially my professors, I became uncomfortable with the place.

As a scholar and at the same time a working student, I worked every Saturday helping my father harvesting and planting rice so that our physiological needs will be sustained, Every during vacant time on weekends I utilized it by extending my services to our relatives, cleaning their house in return of a penny they gave to me. That little amount helps me to buy some of my needs. I have to double my time to cope with my educational activities because I'm one of the honor students in the university.

I didn't regret and proud to say that I was enrolled in ISAT U- BNC, Now I am a BSED II major in Mathematics student. Because of the help of this institution, I developed my self-confidence, skills and talents and my determination in life. I am

blessed and thankful of this hardship and challenge to attain and reach my hope and aspirations in life. I believed, students like me who suffered much sacrifices towards their education have wide possibilities to attain their goal, paving the way to a much brighter future in terms of economic stability.

Indeed, the university through its campus administrator played their important role anchoring programs from the government for student's welfare. Providing educational assistance can equipped them to become trustworthy, successful professionals and reliable future leader of the country.

The **fourth informant** shared her experiences that;

Hope and aspirations are guides in order to finish college education. Informant (4) said, "Poverty is not a hindrance in attaining goals; According to him, "Life is a gift, no one can get it except God, life is full of problems and those problems that we encountered are challenges in our lives. I've been asking myself, why there lots of sacrifices that test my determination to succeed? And that, ISAT U- BNC answered,

I am a working student and at the same time a scholar, I work every weekends in the farm, helping my parents cultivating in the rice field, we plant root crops, such as "camote and balinghoy" and sell it in the market for my allowances and needs in my family. My mother is a siomai vendor, her income everyday cannot sustain to buy our needs, I have five(5) siblings, indirectly we belong to the lower strata of society.

Since we are 8 in the family, My It was hard for them to provide the physiological needs of the family. We went to school walking three (3) kilometers for six (6) years during my elementary grade together with my sisters. Because of my parents aspirations equipped with their determination, they decided to send my older siblings in the secondary level. We were exposed to farm work activities, and these were all the challenges and sacrifices. I have encountered as a student. We used to eat camote and balinghoy sometimes, because we don't have money to buy fish and rice, as we knew harvesting rice is seasonal and by the time that we were deficit in our rice consumption, these root crops are substitute to survive even until now. These lived experiences of mine brought some thoughts to continue my journey in pursuing my education. Despite of this, I've developed a lot, mentally, emotionally, physically and economically matured. During my 3rd year in high school I was involved in scholastic activities. A president of supreme council organization in Agdayao Integrated School, and a Vice President of Division of Passi City young leaders. These opportunities were part of my success being a working student and a scholar despite of my situations.

Because of poverty, my parents told me they couldn't send me in college; I decided to look for scholarship in any tertiary institution to pursue my dream. On that time there was an avenue to open a big door for me, I took the exam of the scholarship program extended by the government to poor student but deserving, luckily I passed the said examination. I was happy at that time, proud and grateful. This privilege is passport to reach my goal.

The **fifth informant** made his statements that;

nothing is impossible if I have to sacrifice , working as a student and at the same time studying my lessons, is a matter of dividing my time on my subjects and my assignments in cleaning and fixing things in the office where I rendered my services. My parents motivate and inspire me to graduate in my college education. Planting and working in the sugarcane plantation is susceptible to the older age, but they have no choice because they did not have education in descent jobs. These things made me crazy sometimes, seeing them working eight hours under the heat of the sun I cried, and made sleepless nights in that situations, but I have to be strong, courageous and determined. I can do better to meet my dreams in life. Realities towards disadvantaged life indirectly seen in the marginalized people of society, my mother and father wishes us to finish our education in order to break the cycle of poverty, aspiring to have a better future so that we can live like other people who are comfortable in their lives. I'm now in my second year in this institution, after four years I'll become a government employee and live in accordance to my hope and aspirations in life, my struggle relative to education is only a challenge that normal to a student having a big dream to attain comforts in life.

The **sixth informant** said that

I wanted to join school activities but my parents have no money to support me, the statement of case 8; *Like other students in the university aspires to succeed, I have simple wish, to become a seaman because my course is BIT, major Electrical, but this only a dream, my parents don't have permanent job, they are farmers and at the same time fisherman, I'm blessed that ISAT U-BNC helped my tuition fees , I worked every morning in front of the facades, holding 'walis*

tingting'', to clean the area, this assignments gives a threat to finish my electrical course, I'm hoping with the support of my parents and the institution I could do to my future. I'm very inspired experiencing my mother wrapped my ba-on in the banana leaves every morning. Walking four kilometers going to school is challenging, I believed that strong determination and perseverance to my studies I have better future. It's very hard to live without a decent job, our existence relied on farming and fishing which cannot suffice our needs. There were times I went to school with empty pocket, I haven't argue if my mother didn't give money for my allowance, I revealed this sometimes to one of my professors in school, and I didn't refused when he extended a little amount to buy my lunch. It is through education that I believes I could get out from poverty.

How I wish that I could give comfort to my family so that she will not wake up early morning to work in the farm, doesn't want that my parents especially my mother will work hard when they are already old. My hope and aspirations to become a seaman will come true because I'm striving to graduate relative to the hardship and sacrifices I've encountered in life.

The *seventh informants* made his statements that;

With high hopes and aspiration, informants 9 said; *Challenges in life is part of my journey, success will take place if we are strong to face our tough assignments coupled with determination and enthusiasm to accomplish. Through my experiences, I learned many things and gained a lot of knowledge and skills. I have a dream in life but because of financial problem I stopped my schooling after I graduated my secondary level. My father is a cook in one of the restaurant in Boracay and my mother is a housewife, the salary of my parents was good only for our priority needs. With that, I looked for a job so that I can helped them in sustaining the needs of my family. We have four in the family; I'm the second child, my two sisters were elementary during that time. I worked as a waiter in Sarabia Manor Hotel for almost 10 months. I have a little salary, but it helped for the allowances of my two sisters.*

I made some sleepless nights to think of my future, I asked my parents to go back schooling, ISAT U- BNC is near to our house three kilometers, but I brought bicycle from the earnings that I have so that I cannot pay anymore the fare in a tricycle if ever I can pursue my studies. I enrolled in the university BIT major in Automotive, I knew this course can gives direction to my hopes that I can go abroad after I could finish. When I'm already on my first year, first semester, the in-charge of the student laborers announced to recruit 15 students to assign in any offices provided they have to pass the requirements needed by the institution, I applied and luckily I accepted, I rendered four hours every day in returned of my tuition fees. In this kind of tasked, I need time management, patience and responsibilities in order for me to reach my ambition in life.

I'd learned many lessons, never be lazy because there is no room for laziness in the industry. As a working student, is not an easy task, but because of my hope and aspiration to go abroad I forced to do so. I have my assignments cleaning in front of the university every morning, and in the audio visual hall every afternoon, I didn't refused to accept these tasked, I knew this is my passport to success. I was thankful for my instructor and professors who are behind of my journey; because of them I became more responsible as a student laborer. I believe that the toughest job can be easily overcome if we are determined in doing it with joy and enthusiasm.

THEMES GENERATED ON THE LIVED EXPERIENCED OF STUDENT'S LABORERS HOPE AND ASPIRATIONS

This sections presents the themes that the researcher generated based on the concept of descriptive phenomenological research. The themes emerged from the data gathered from the lived experiences of the student's laborers in Iloilo Science and Technology University- Barotac Campus. The gathered data were coded and categorized until themes where formulated.

Theme 1. Fortunate Student Laborers

Education can be used by an individual to reach his specific target or goal in life. Nonetheless, the importance of education to students especially the student laborers is indispensable. Those who have earned enough education direct the path of development and progress of their own self. The university continuously provides support to motivate not only student laborers but the whole students in the institution for learning effective and helpful to studentry. Continuing endeavor toward students welfare, education today have challenged and inspired the institution to continue their advocacies for better future of the students. Thus, students are the most important instruments in the institution.

As what some of the informants shared;

Opportunity in life comes only once, as early we need to grab it before we regret. I am so thankful and proud to say that I was one of the beneficiaries of scholarship granted by the government facilitated by the university, though it cannot compensate fully to my educational needs, but it was a great help to me and to my parents. (Informant 1 & 3)

(The students are greatly affected by the insufficient budget in the family and this is one reason why they are applying educational assistance offered by the university to cater their tuition fees and other academic needs. The government extended help to the poorest but deserving students through scholarship grants and other programs and services in many institutions). In industrializing countries like Philippines, students must be prepared with the educational skills and knowledge to improve the socio-economic living condition. As cited in the “Ten Point Agenda” of President Benigno Simeon Aquino III, educational programs extended to poor but deserving students must be sustained in order to uplift the social conditions of students from low income families.

Because of poverty, my parents told me they couldn't send me in college; I decided to look for scholarship in any tertiary institution to pursue my dream. On that time there was an avenue to open a big door for me, I took the exam of the scholarship program extended by the government to poor student but deserving, luckily I passed the said examination. I was happy at that time, proud and grateful. This privilege is passport to reach my goal. (Informant 4 & 5)

(The respondent disclosed that by the scholarship grant, discounted tuition fees, other privileges offered by institution, he can finish his education. This undertaking will be materialized because of the help of the internal and external stakeholders, who support for the success of the students especially the student laborers.) Article XIV Section 3 of the Philippine constitution on the other hand states that, the institution shall establish and maintain scholarship grants, study loan programs, subsidies and other incentives which are available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to underprivileged. In ISAT U-Barotac Campus, a lot of students who work while studying availed programs of the institution, they were catered through scholarship grants, programs on working students in order to pay their tuition fees. This was supported by Republic Act (RA) 10931 also known as the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act (UAQTEA) is now fully felt by millions of students enrolled in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs), the cash assistance is given to poor but deserving students who are enrolled in the 112 state universities and colleges (SUCs) and 78 local universities and colleges (LUCs).

The informant shared her thoughts;

My story when I entered my education in college was ‘lakas ng loob nalang’, I applied as a student laborer in ISAT U-BNC whom they had given me a slot to work in one of the offices. I am very thankful to our Almighty God; despite of our situations in the family. He had given me a chance to enroll in the university. My poor economic status is my inspiration in overcoming the difficulties and challenges in achieving my aspirations to become successful teacher someday. (Informant 2)

(The story of student labourers who catered by ISAT U-Barotac Campus is a hard endeavour. Though they had given slot to accommodate, but a lot of struggles he encountered. They need to cope and balance their schedule for them to meet the assigned tasks by the office while studying. The poor economic status served as an inspiration in order to finish his education). In ISAT U-Barotac Campus, a lot of students who work while studying availed programs of the institution, they were catered through scholarship grants, programs on working students in order to pay their tuition fees. This was supported by Republic Act (RA) 10931 also known as the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act (UAQTEA) is now fully felt by millions of students enrolled in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs), the cash assistance is given to poor but deserving students who are enrolled in the 112 state universities and colleges (SUCs) and 78 local universities and colleges (LUCs).

Insights

A gauge to institutional success greatly depends on students' completion of their educational goals, provides them services/programs assuring them to attain educational advancement and to finish their education, and thus, ISAT U-BNC role is crucial in transforming student laborers decent life, aspiring to uplift their social conditions in order to help their families in the future.

Theme 2. The Unwavering Student Laborers

Students' laborers challenges and hardship gives an impact to their learning activities. They were not tired aspiring to finish their education despite of the struggles they encountered, their hopes to overcome their sacrifices were drawn from their virtue of perseverance that had much bearing for their success in life. Thus, the university committed to student success, responsible to all activities and offered programs suitable for professional development.

As the informants experiences;

I made some sleepless nights to think of my future, I asked my parents to go back schooling, ISAT U- BNC is near to our house three kilometers, but I brought bicycle from the earnings that I have so that I cannot pay anymore the fare in a tricycle if ever I can pursue my studies. I enrolled in the university BIT major in Automotive, I knew this course can gives direction to my hopes that I can go abroad after I could finish. When I'm already on my first year, first semester, the in-charge of the student laborers announced to recruit 15 students to assign in any offices provided they have to pass the requirements needed by the institution, I applied and luckily I accepted, I rendered four hours every day in returned of my tuition fees. In this kind of tasked, I need time management, patience and responsibilities in order for me to reach my ambition in life. (Informant 7)

(The students' laborers made some sleepless nights to think for her future, she has high hopes to build a house for his parents and support his sibling's needs. He wanted to give his family all the comforts in life since all her sacrifices were the product of struggles and hardships). Sacrifices have to be made in order to attain success in life, if parents invest their money in education despite of hardship they encountered, it is expected that hundred folds will return, but these my be done a closer supervision, guidance and motivation to their children.

As one of the informants shared his experiences;

I worked every morning in front of the facades, holding 'walis tingting', to clean the area, this assignments gives a threat to finish my electrical course, I'm hoping with the support of my parents and the institution I could do to my future. I'm very inspired experiencing my mother wrapped my ba-on in the banana leaves every morning. Walking four kilometers going to school is challenging, I believed that strong determination and perseverance to my studies I have better future. It's very hard to live without a decent job, our existence relied on farming and fishing which cannot suffice our needs. There were times I went to school with empty pocket, I haven't argue if my mother didn't give money for my allowance, I revealed this sometimes to one of my professors in school, and I didn't refused when he extended a little amount to buy my lunch. It is through education that I believes I could get out from poverty. (Informant 6)

(Life is so hard if you have no financial resources, but for the sake of the students future, determination and perseverance are in need to cope up the needs of the students in the university). Pobar (2012), Education is deemed necessary in promoting equality of opportunity and enabling an individual to acquire intellectual work skills for productive activities. It is also an effective measure in correcting the social, economic, political, and cultural inequities that cause mass discontent.

Experiences shared by one of the informants;

In life we experienced many challenges and difficulties in order for us to achieve success someday. During my elementary years, I experience going to school with empty pocket at the same time with empty stomach. I remember those times that my teacher would ask to get some of her white hair during my vacant time and in return, she will give me a penny as a reward. There are many of us in the family. My parents have no permanent work to sustain our daily needs, our house is far from school. I walked 3 kilometers everyday in going to school. I felt sad during rainy days because the road was not good for the people to pass by. That routine continued until I graduated in elementary. (Informant 2)

(Success in life has been coupled with challenges and difficulties in order to survive, with this, to prepare the student laborers to be successful and productive citizen of the country, education is necessary, and to equip this, the university has vital role in catering their needs through programs to bridge their education. Wide possibilities to student laborers if the implementer create programs paving the way to a much higher brighter future in terms of economic stability. Life is comfortable if resources are available). Ormrod (2003) cited by Pobar (2012), said resilient students who develop positive characteristics and coping skills can overcome adverse circumstances in life and still succeed. It can be gleaned that student laborers are aware of the unfavorable circumstances that might hinder them from finishing their studies, in this case, family support and encouragement is very much needed for the students to overcome problems and hardship.

Insights

The University sees the worlds from the point of view of the students who are poor where the delivery of educational programs and services starts and revolves around them. Considering their gifts, needs, and circumstances, and devise ways in which the institution facilitates their growth and development in order to attain success in life, hoping and aspiring to cope the demands in society.

Theme 3. Inspiring and Motivated Student Laborers

The university has a lot to do with the students' motivational level. Giving them a privilege to cater in school greatly affects their morale to study and work hard to finish their education. Students can have increased motivation when they feel some sense of pride despite of the sacrifices encountered in life. Students who feel they 'belong' have a higher degree of intrinsic motivation and academic confidence. According to students, if they were part of the group shared their experiences, demonstrates warmth and openness, and encourages working hard for the attainment of his/her educational endeavors.

As one of the interviewees thoughts;

nothing is impossible if I have to sacrifice , working as a student and at the same time studying my lessons, is a matter of dividing my time on my subjects and my assignments in cleaning and fixing things in the office where I rendered my services. My parents motivate and inspire me to graduate in my college education. (Informant 5)

(Dividing time when studying is not easy for the students. But because of the motivation of the parents to finish their education, they forced to do so. Parents involvement in education of their children is very important, the most effective institution among social institutions is the family. Mothers and Fathers have bigger responsibilities to their children, provides better education in preparation for their children future, with hopes, the family is positive that there will be more opportunities despite of economic disadvantages. They initiated to find means to send their children in school, wide possibilities awaits them to gain access to college education, poverty is not a hindrance to success, motivation of the parents most of the time towards their studies is being needed, they will be able to give time for the guidance in order to attain their goals and get out from poverty).

Another experiences shared by one of the informants;

I didn't regret and proud to say that I was enrolled in ISAT U- BNC, Now I am a BSED II major in Mathematics student. Because of the help of this institution, I developed my self-confidence, skills and talents and my determination in life. I am blessed and thankful of this hardship and challenge to attain and reach my hope and aspirations in life. I believed, students like me who suffered much sacrifices towards their education have wide possibilities to attain their goal, paving the way to a much brighter future in terms of economic stability. (Informant 3)

(Success in life cannot be measured by hardships and struggles. The students laborers believed that, he who suffered much sacrifices towards their education have wide possibilities to attain their goal, paving the way to a much brighter future in terms of economic stability). As cited in the "Ten Point Agenda" of President Benigno Simeon Aquino III, educational programs extended to poor but deserving students must be sustained in order to uplift the social conditions of students from low income families.

One of the informants said;

The hardship that I had encountered serves as an inspiration on my studies. With regards to the activities of the university, I used to join because I am capable; I managed my time working as a student and involving school activities, in the sense that, this is the only way to develop my self-esteem and to be strong to face life sacrifices as being a student laborer. My struggle relative for my education is not a hope and aspirations but I have commitment to finish in order to have a decent job after graduation. (Informant 1)

(The sacrifices encountered by them serve as an inspiration on their studies. They managed their time despite of their schedule in their classes. According to them, their struggle relative for my education is not a hope and aspirations but commitment to finish in order having a decent job after graduation). According to the human rights of the youth, cited by Pobar (2012), Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be accessible to all on the basis of merit.

Insights

Student laborers experience challenges in life, which is validated by their disadvantages situations at home and in school. Hoping and aspiring to finish their college education, they were linked dual tasked, student and at the same time laborers in the university. The socio-economic status of the family brought them to compensate the privileges given by the institution, working four (4) hrs. a day in the different offices were challenges to them to study hard and comply scholastic activities. Furthermore, student laborers realized the importance of education to attain success, and thus ISAT U- BNC provides and catered them in a little way. Because of this reasons, student laborers are motivated and aware to participate in any activities of the university despite of the heavy loaded assignments.

4. CONCLUSION

Conclusions are drawn based on the findings of the study.

Student laborers experience challenges in life, which is validated by their disadvantages situations at home and in school. Hoping and aspiring to finish their college education, they were linked dual tasked, student and at the same time laborers in the university. The socio-economic status of the family brought them to compensate the privileges given by the institution, working four (4) hrs. a day in the different offices were challenges to them to study hard and comply scholastic activities. Furthermore, student laborers realized the importance of education to attain success, and thus ISAT U- BNC provides and catered them in a little way. Because of this reasons, student laborers are motivated and aware to participate in any activities of the university despite of the heavy loaded assignments.

Iloilo Science and Technology University- Barotac Nuevo Campus, catered students who cannot afford to pay their tuition fees and other monetary obligations. They were economically, politically, socially and physically disadvantaged. They experienced a lot of challenges hoping and aspiring to finish their education. With this, the institution find means to extend some programs and project to attain their goals in life. Through the helped of the administrations, this endeavor become realized, they were graduated from their courses, become top in their classes and awarded during graduation. The success stories of student laborers would be the bases for others to strive hard in their studies.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations are based on the results of the study.

Student laborers hope and aspirations are attained if stakeholders continue helping the university.

The University will establish strong linkages to gain access to other agency to give financial support to student laborers.

The local government units will tap oftentimes to support the educational needs of student laborers.

Strong encouragement to their parents to provides necessary encouragement and guidance towards their studies of their children.

The administration will continue to support students laborers educational needs, and also advocate tri-lateral support from CHED, DOLE.

The researcher will conduct another study to other university on student laborers to compare the results in order to make some interventions to improve student laborer economic wellbeing.

REFERENCES

- [1] Bueno, D. C., (2016). Practical Qualitative Research Writing. Published by Great Books Trading. ISBN 978-971-9645-31-3
- [2] Daquilla, S., (2013). *Politics and government with Philippine Constitution*. ISBN 971-91363. Published & Distributed By: Brainbow Essentials, Bacolod city
- [3] Iloilo Science and Technology University Revised Student Handbook (2018)
- [4] Pobar, R. A. (2012). Disadvantaged Filipino Students of a State University: A Case for an Intervention Program. *Journalism and Mass Communication*, 597.

- [5] Polit, D. F., & Beck, C. T. (2008). *Nursing research: generating and assessing evidence for nursing practice* (8th ed.). Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer/Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
- [6] Iloilo Science and Technology University Revised Student Handbook (2018)
- [7] Vasquez, B., (2013). Politico-economic influence and social outcome of English language among Filipinos: An autoethnography. University of the Visayas Journal Research. Vol. 6
- [8] <https://ched.gov.ph/blog/2018/12/21/php4-8-b-tertiary-education-subsidy-tes-released-to-students-in-public-universities/>. Retrieved June 6, 2019
- [9] <https://www.stetson.edu/law/conferences/highered/archive/media/Student%20Success,%20Retention,%20and%20Graduation> Retrieved June 15, 2019
- [10] <https://gdaviesedd.wordpress.com/2015/09/07/edl751-module-1-2-writing-strategies-and-ethical-considerations-creswell-2009-chapter-4/>. Retrieved June 23, 2019