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Factors Affecting the Non-Birth Registration among Indigenous People in Bukidnon

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the factors influencing non-birth registration among the indigenous people of Bukidnon, focusing specifically on the Bukidnon and Talaandig tribes in the Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park buffer zone. It analyzes demographic variables like age, gender, marital status, education, household size, and income in relation to non-birth registration, surveying 135 respondents from these communities. Utilizing basic statistical methods and a test of significant difference, the research unveils several key findings.

Notably, the majority of respondents fall within the middle adulthood age range (40-49 years), with a relatively equal gender balance and diverse marital statuses. Household sizes vary, but there is a prevalence of lower incomes among the surveyed population. Logistical challenges and lack of awareness emerge as significant factors contributing to the absence of birth certificates.

Statistical analysis reveals noteworthy differences in perceptions based on age and educational attainment, underscoring the importance of tailored interventions. The study emphasizes the critical role of birth registration in accessing rights and benefits, advocating for targeted interventions, awareness campaigns, and enhanced accessibility to registration facilities. Policymakers are urged to consider demographic variables when devising strategies to promote birth registration and uphold the rights of indigenous communities.

This research provides valuable insights into Indigenous rights and public policy, advocating for inclusive measures that safeguard the rights and dignity of all individuals, irrespective of background or ethnicity. It calls for concerted efforts to address the barriers to birth registration and promote inclusive policies that protect the rights of indigenous communities in Bukidnon and beyond.

Keywords: *non-birth registration, indigenous people, Bukidnon, Talaandig tribe, Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park, demographic variables, awareness campaigns, accessibility, rights, public policy*

Introduction

In many countries, registering births is a customary procedure following deliveries. A birth certificate serves as evidence of a child's place of birth and parentage, crucial for determining their eligibility for citizenship based on ancestry (*jus sanguinis*) or place of birth (*jus soli*). However, the legal establishment of a child's identity is often neglected. Additionally, birth registration plays a vital role in preventing child labor, which often goes unnoticed by governments and exposes children to the risk of missing out on essential services like healthcare and education, or having their rights upheld and protected.

The primary objective of civil registration is to create the legally required documents. Through civil registration, documentation supporting an individual's right to be recognized as a person before the law and acknowledging their official relationship with the state is generated. This process grants individuals legal recognition for their existence, identity, and significant life events. Moreover, it enables them to obtain legitimate certifications attesting to their legal and civil status.

The study aims to explore the factors contributing to the lack of birth registrations among indigenous people of the Talaandig and Bukidnon tribes in Bukidnon, Philippines. It builds upon the research conducted by Tanya Mariano, which sheds light on the challenges faced by indigenous communities in obtaining birth certificates. Mariano's findings reveal that many individuals are deprived of essential rights and services due to the absence of official identification, such as access to education and healthcare.

In the Philippines, a birth certificate is an essential requirement for various legal and administrative procedures, including obtaining passports and government-issued identification cards. Civil registration establishes a person's legal identity and their relationship with the state.

Based on data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, Cai U. Ordinario's article indicates a significant number of Filipinos lack birth certificates, with millions nationwide missing this essential document. The study underscores the importance of birth registration in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in ensuring legal identity for all individuals.

Census data from Bukidnon reveals a lack of birth registrations in hilly areas, especially among older age groups and indigenous tribes such as the Talaandig, Higa-onon, Bukidnon, Umayamnon, Matigsalug, Manobo, and Tigwahanon. The study specifically focuses on the Talaandig Tribe in Barangay Songco, Lantapan, and Barangay Dalwangan, Malaybalay City, aged over 30, to comprehend the factors contributing to non-registration within this demographic.

Conceptual Framework

The purpose of the study is to find out the factors affected by non-birth registrations among the indigenous people of the Talaandig and Bukidnon Tribe. In her study on birth registration among indigenous communities, Mariano (2019) examines the factors influencing non-birth registrations among the Talaandig and Bukidnon tribes in Bukidnon, Philippines. Her research, conducted on June 20, 2019, builds upon her previous work titled "Forgotten Crisis in Mindanao: For Indigenous Peoples Who Officially Do Not Exist, Birth Certificates Offer Protection and Opportunities." Mariano's investigation sheds light on the challenges faced by indigenous populations residing in unregistered areas of Bukidnon, where the lack of official identification poses legal barriers to accessing government services. Particularly, Mariano highlights the adverse impacts on intellectual property holders, who are deprived of rights and protections, including access to financial aid, healthcare, and education, due to the absence of birth certificates. For instance, children are unable to enroll in school without this essential document.

In the Philippines, obtaining a birth certificate is a basic prerequisite for many legal and administrative procedures. It is necessary to get passports, government-issued identification cards, and other significant documents. It also acts as a primary proof of existence, identity, and legally recognized occurrences. Documentation supporting a person's right to be recognized as a person before the law and recognizing their official relationship with the state is produced through civil registration.

In his article published on October 17, 2022, Ordinario (2022) reported that, according to the most recent birth registration data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) as of 2021, over 9.26 million Filipinos lack birth certificates nationwide. This significant number underscores the importance of granting everyone a legal identity, as outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Development Programme. Additionally, the article reveals that 3.53 million participants in the poll do not possess birth certificates. Furthermore, there are 11,027 Filipinos whose birth registration status remains unidentified in the PSA data, while an additional 91,000 individuals are unaware of their registration status. The majority of those with birth registrations are between the ages of 0 and 64, with 1.87 million aged 15 to 64 and 1.33 million aged 0 to 14. Notably, three-quarters of a million Filipinos aged 65 or above are not registered with the PSA.

Regarding the census, the Province of Bukidnon likewise received no birth registrations from hilly areas with older age groups. Talaandig, Higa-onon, Bukidnon, Umayamnon, Matigsalug, Manobo, and Tigwahanon are the seven tribes that call it home. Numerous ancestral residences belonging to these indigenous tribes, comprising individuals aged 30 and above, lack birth documents. The study only focuses on the indigenous tribes of Bukidnon, namely the Talaandig Tribe of Barangay Songco, Lantapan, Bukidnon, and Barangay Dalwangan, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon, with the age group of over 50 years old, comprising males and females.

Statement of the Problem

The purpose of this study is to see if there is a significant relationship between the circumstances and factors that affects the Non-birth registrations of the Indigenous People community particularly the Talaandig and Bukidnon Tribes in Bukidnon.

1. What are the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of age, sex, marital status, and educational attainment, number of members of family living in a household and their monthly income?
2. What are the reasons of numerous portions of population of the IP community do not have birth certificate?
3. What are the factors affected by the inability to register one's birth to get government benefits as a Filipino?
4. Is there a significant difference on the factors affected by the inability to register one's birth when the respondents are grouped according to age, sex, marital status, and educational attainment, number of members of family living in a household, their monthly income?

Significance of the Study

For the Indigenous People of Bukidnon: Birth registration plays a vital role in helping many Indigenous groups to acknowledge and validate their distinct cultural identities. It enables them to remain connected to their community, culture, and customs while claiming their native ancestry. It also gives the protection of their indigenous rights, such as the rights to self-determination, land, resources, and cultural preservation, must be protected, and this requires birth registration. Through it, Indigenous communities can claim the protections granted to them by international and national laws and treaties, as well as their legal rights.

Birth registration is frequently required in order to receive services and programs that are specifically designed to meet the needs of Indigenous people. Examples of these services and programs include social services, healthcare, education, and language revitalization activities. Furthermore, the Information for Indigenous Development and Governance that is crucial for planning development initiatives inside Indigenous lands and for Indigenous governance frameworks. It offers useful demographic data that can guide resource allocation and decision-making in Indigenous communities, enabling them to successfully handle their priorities and problems.

As to the protection of indigenous children, their rights and welfare such as their right to a name, nationality, and service access, are contingent upon birth registration. By granting Indigenous children legal recognition and access to fundamental rights and safeguards, it helps avert their marginalization, discrimination, and exploitation. As to cultural preservation and revitalization is by recording Indigenous identities and ancestry, birth registration can help preserve and revitalize Indigenous cultures and languages. By guaranteeing that Indigenous children are accepted in their communities and are able to fully participate in traditional activities and ceremonies, it helps to ensure the intergenerational transmission of Indigenous knowledge, customs, and languages.

In conclusion, birth registration is crucial for Indigenous peoples since it helps with identity recognition, rights protection, culturally relevant service access, Indigenous governance empowerment, and cultural heritage preservation. It is a tool for improving Indigenous communities' sustainable development, self-determination, and rights.

For the teachers: Birth registration ensures that all students attending school are properly identified and documented. This is essential for teachers to maintain accurate records of their students, including their age, grade level, and any special needs or considerations they may have. Knowing the age of students is particularly important for teachers to provide appropriate instruction and support tailored to their developmental stage. Birth registration is often a prerequisite for enrollment in schools. By ensuring that all children are registered at birth, teachers can be confident that their classrooms are inclusive and that all students have equal access to education. This contributes to creating a diverse and equitable learning environment where every child has the opportunity to thrive.

In many jurisdictions, schools are required by law to maintain records of their students, including proof of age and identity. Birth registration provides the legal documentation necessary to comply with these regulations. Teachers rely on birth registration records to verify the identity and age of their students, ensuring that they are meeting legal requirements for enrollment and attendance.

Birth registration records may include information about any special needs or disabilities that students may have. This information is invaluable for teachers in planning and delivering instruction that meets the individual needs of each student. By understanding the unique challenges and strengths of their students, teachers can provide appropriate accommodations and support to help them succeed academically and socially.

Birth registration data provides valuable demographic information that can inform educational planning and resource allocation at the school and district levels. By understanding the population they serve, teachers and school administrators can better anticipate and address the needs of their students, allocate resources effectively, and tailor educational programs to meet the diverse needs of their community.

Birth registration helps ensure the protection and well-being of children both inside and outside the classroom. Registered children are more likely to have access to essential services and protections, including healthcare, social services, and legal rights. Teachers play a critical role in advocating for the rights and welfare of their students, and having accurate birth registration records supports their efforts in this regard.

In summary, birth registration is significant for teachers as it supports the identification and enrollment of students, ensures legal compliance, provides data for educational planning, supports students with special needs, and contributes to child protection efforts both within and beyond the classroom.

For Healthcare Providers: Birth certificates do play a role in healthcare by providing essential demographic information, such as the newborn's name, date of birth, and parentage. This information helps healthcare providers accurately identify newborns and track their healthcare needs, including vaccinations and follow-up treatments. Additionally, birth certificates may be used to ensure that newborns receive appropriate care and screenings based on their age and medical history. Also, ensuring that newborns receive the necessary healthcare services and for maintaining accurate demographic records within the healthcare system.

Employers and Employment Agencies: Birth certificates may be required by employers or employment agencies for various purposes, such as verifying eligibility for employment, determining age-related restrictions, and conducting background checks.

Legal and Financial Institutions: Birth certificates are used in legal proceedings, such as establishing parental rights, inheritance claims, and immigration cases. They may also be required by financial institutions for opening bank accounts, obtaining loans, or applying for government benefits.

Overall, birth certificates play a crucial role in society by providing a foundational document that establishes a person's identity, citizenship, and legal status from birth throughout their life.

Review of Related Studies and Literature

This chapter presents the review of relevant literature and studies that has relatedness to the present study. It is arranged thematically as it relates to the study.

The birth registration, a UN-recognized human right, remains inaccessible in many poorer nations. In England, a national identity registration system established in 1538 facilitated property inheritance rights confirmation and social security claims validation, contributing to economic development. Birth registration, constituting a child's legal existence, is essential, ensuring access to nationality, protection from military conscription, and access to services like education and healthcare. Moreover, it's crucial for legal rights assertion, employment, and obtaining official documents like passports. In the Philippines, the constitution emphasizes family sanctity and parental duties, requiring birth certificates for various legal procedures. Mariano's study highlights the plight of unregistered indigenous peoples in Bukidnon, hindering their access to rights and services. Incomplete birth registration hampers national development and denies citizens their rights. Factors like lack of infrastructure, government obligations, and parental background influence birth registration rates. Legal identity, deemed a fundamental human right, enables individuals to seek justice, enforce rights, and access legal protections. Official documents provide proof but don't constitute legal identity; without them, citizens risk losing rights and state protections.

United Nations Development Programme's Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, outlines a common path towards global peace and prosperity. Central to this agenda are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which call for urgent action from all nations, developed and developing, in a collaborative effort. Among these goals is the promotion of birth registration, highlighted in Target 16.9 of SDG 16, which aims to foster peaceful and inclusive societies by ensuring everyone has a legal identity.

Birth registration plays a crucial role in society by formally acknowledging the existence and identity of a child. It serves as the foundation for safeguarding a child's rights throughout their life, including establishing nationality, preventing statelessness, and protecting against various forms of exploitation and violence. For example, proof of age provided by a birth certificate helps prevent child marriage, labor exploitation, and recruitment into armed forces. Additionally, birth registration facilitates access to essential social services such as justice, healthcare, and education.

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 firmly placed birth registration on the international development agenda. Goal 16.9 commits to providing legal identification to everyone by 2030, including ensuring the registration of births. Goal 17.9 further emphasizes the need for support in developing robust national civil registration systems, which generate vital data essential for long-term human development and economic growth.

UNICEF is actively working towards achieving these goals, aiming to ensure that every child has a legal identity and universal birth registration by 2030. However, challenges persist, with approximately one in four children under the age of five globally not being registered, and many lacking documentation even if registered. These challenges stem from resource constraints, insufficient financial commitment to civil registration mechanisms, and various institutional and governmental barriers hindering access to birth registration services and adherence to guidelines.

Birth certificate

In order to get health care, education, and other social services, birth certificates are frequently needed. For example, birth certificates are needed in order to enroll children in preschool and primary school. Legal identity is also essential for shielding kids from abuse and exploitation. Proof of age can be used to stop child labor (by enforcing legislation pertaining to the minimum age of work), child marriage, adult criminal prosecution, and enlistment in the military. A person's place of birth and familial relationships are also legally verified by a birth certificate. For this reason, it is essential to establishing nationality and lowering the possibility of statelessness. Birth certificates may eventually be needed in order to vote, purchase or inherit property, receive social assistance, or work in the formal economy (Szreter, S., 2006).

Barriers and disparities

Families often face significant obstacles when trying to register a child's birth, including long distances to registration facilities, lack of awareness about the registration process, and high costs associated with registration and obtaining a birth certificate. Traditional norms and practices may also discourage formal registration procedures, and institutional policies sometimes discriminate against certain ethnic or religious groups or impose restrictions on mothers registering their children without the father's involvement.

Education levels of mothers also influence birth registration rates, with children of mothers with higher education levels being more likely to have their births documented. Children from disadvantaged communities, rural areas, or migrant families may encounter additional barriers to registration, increasing their risk of statelessness.

While there are generally no regional variations in birth registration between males and females, certain factors like marital status or cultural practices may affect registration rates. Additionally, fees for birth registration vary by country, with many sub-Saharan African nations charging fees, while South Asian countries generally offer free registration.

Children from the poorest households are less likely to have their births registered compared to their wealthier counterparts, with travel-related costs often being a barrier even in countries where registration is legally free. Urban children generally have higher registration rates than rural children, but disparities exist within urban areas based on household affluence.

Addressing these challenges requires targeted campaigns to increase registration rates, especially in rural areas, and innovative solutions such as bringing registration services closer to communities and utilizing mobile technology to reduce costs and travel time. This is particularly important in countries where registration offices are centralized and located far from settlements.

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

Selim (2019) emphasizes the importance of universal birth registration for all children, regardless of their sex, race, religion, or status. UNICEF asserts that every child should receive a birth certificate upon registration to establish their legal status. Governments are urged to ensure the confidentiality and accessibility of registration services, covering associated costs to eliminate financial barriers for parents.

Equal rights for both parents, regardless of gender, are advocated to register children at birth. Mothers should have the same rights as fathers to pass nationality to their children, reducing discrimination in nationality laws and preventing marginalization of disadvantaged individuals. Dual parental registration is recommended to safeguard children's nationality, reduce statelessness, and ensure access to lifelong social services like healthcare and education.

Integrating civil registration with other systems such as identity, health, and education can increase the likelihood of locating unregistered children and provide access to social benefits later in life. This integrated approach also enables governments to better plan and implement development programs across various sectors.

UNICEF calls for investment in secure technology to streamline birth registration processes, making records easily accessible and reducing barriers like travel distance and costs, particularly in rural areas. Privacy and data security are paramount, requiring innovative solutions to enhance the quality and accessibility of registration services while involving communities in advocating for universal birth registration. Community engagement is essential for fostering societal norms that prioritize birth registration and driving government action towards establishing and expanding registration systems.

The Talaandig Tribe

The Talaandig Peoples of Bukidnon, Philippines, have a rich cultural heritage and a deep connection to their ancestral lands. Despite facing challenges such as colonization and land grabs, they are committed to preserving their traditions and beliefs for future generations. One way they do this is through the establishment of the School for Living Tradition, where they educate their youth about their cultural history and impart traditional knowledge, customs, and skills. The school emphasizes community involvement, environmental care, and sustainability, ensuring that Talaandig values are passed down through interactive seminars and hands-on activities.

However, the Talaandig Peoples still struggle to defend their native lands and resources against exploitation and expansion. Rapid urbanization and industrialization pose significant threats to their ancestral territory, as various enterprises seek to exploit its natural resources. Despite efforts to protect their lands, insufficient legal acknowledgment and safeguarding of native rights leave them vulnerable to further exploitation and invasion. This lack of protection hampers their ability to preserve their customs, conserve their cultural legacy, and transmit their knowledge to future generations.

The Bukidnon Tribe

The Bukidnon tribe, indigenous to the Philippines and primarily residing in the province of Bukidnon on the island of Mindanao, boasts a vibrant cultural heritage encompassing traditional dances, rituals, music, and crafts. Renowned for their distinctive language and profound connection to the land, they engage primarily in agriculture, cultivating rice, corn, and vegetables. Historically organized around barangays led by chieftains or datu, the Bukidnon people have maintained their traditional lifestyle, while some have assimilated into mainstream Filipino society.

The Daraghuyan Bukidnon Community, one of the seven tribes within the Bukidnon Tribe, derives its name from the Kitanglad Range, where it is located. Weaving holds significant cultural value within the community, with intricate ikat patterns and color schemes often inspired by dreams. Thanksgiving rituals are performed before and after the weaving process, and artisans exclusively use natural fibers and indigenous plant-based dyes.

Research conducted by a community worker highlights the challenges faced by indigenous people without birth certificates, such as limited access to benefits like insurance due to lack of legal documentation. This underscores the practical implications of inadequate birth registration, restricting individuals' access to rights, services, and resources.

Birth registration is recognized as a fundamental human right by international agreements, enabling access to various services and opportunities. Global initiatives like the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to provide legal identity for all individuals, including through birth registration. Efforts by organizations like the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to advocate for universal birth registration and overcome barriers are crucial in ensuring inclusive development.

Disparities in birth registration rates based on socioeconomic status, urban-rural divide, and gender further exacerbate inequalities and limit access to services. Community engagement, technological advancements, and policy interventions are essential in addressing these challenges and ensuring universal birth registration, integrated with other systems such as healthcare and education, to promote inclusive development.

The Methodology

The study used the descriptive-correlation research design to describe the circumstances and factors Affected by Non-Birth registration amongst Indigenous People in Bukidnon particularly the Talaandig and Bukidnon Tribes. Likewise, this study the correlation method to determine the significant relationship between the factors affecting the non- birth registration among the tribal community.

The research will focus on the Indigenous communities of the Province of Bukidnon specifically targeting the tribes of Bukidnon and Talaandig living around the Bufferzone of Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park. The study will concentrate on individuals aged 30 years and above within these tribes residing in Barangays of Songco, Lantapan, Bukidnon and Barangay Dalwanga, Malaybalay City which are along the foot of the Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park.

The subject-respondents of the study are the aged group from 30 and up for the tribal community of Bukidnon located at Barangay Dalwangan, Malaybalay City and of Barangay Songco, Lantapan, Bukidnon.

This study used complete enumeration among the tribal members of the community at Barangay Songco, Lantapan particularly the Talaandig Tribe and the Daraghuyan Community of Barangay Dalwangan, Malaybalay City which are living along the bufferzone of Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park. According to the records of the Tribal Bae ,this study employed a full enumeration among the Talaandig and Bukidnon Tribes' aged group of 30 years and above. The Talaandig and the Bukidnon tribe has a total of 135 as identified household heads. The Kitanglad Integrated NGOs (KIN), a non-governmental organization that collaborates closely with the respondents and the researcher's ally for volunteer work pertaining to IP communities residing at the base of Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park, was also sought for assistance by the researcher.

Summary

The research investigated the factors affecting non-birth registration among the indigenous people of Bukidnon focusing on understanding of the reasons behind the lack of birth registration among the Bukidnon and Talaandig tribes residing along the buffer zone of Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park. The study aimed to identify the factors contributing to the absence of birth certificates within the indigenous community. This also includes the demographic variables such as age, sex, marital status, education, household size, and income were examined to gain insights into their relationship with non-birth registration.

The study involved 135 respondents which are Indigenous People from the Talaandig and Bukidnon tribes. Questionnaires were distributed and analyzed using basic statistical methods such as demographic profiling, mean, standard deviation, frequency, correlation coefficient, and p-values. Additionally, the T-Test for Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient was employed to assess significant differences in factors affected by the inability to register one's birth across various demographic variables, including age, sex, marital status, educational attainment, household size, and monthly income.

Findings

Based on the analyzed data in this study, several key findings, statistical significances, and implications regarding factors affecting birth registration among the Indigenous Peoples (IP) of Bukidnon can be summarized:

In the age distribution, there is a significant focus on middle adulthood, particularly among individuals aged 40 to 49 years, indicating that this age group constitutes a substantial portion of the surveyed population. While in the sex representation, the survey reveals nearly equal representation of males and females within the surveyed population, suggesting sex balance in the sample. A significant proportion of individuals are currently married, with additional marital statuses including cohabiting, separated, widowed, and never married, reflecting diverse marital situations within the community. Variations in household sizes among the surveyed population are observed, indicating a range of family structures and living arrangements within the community. Respondent's exhibit diverse educational backgrounds, ranging from primary education to diploma and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programs, highlighting the importance of considering educational attainment in understanding birth registration patterns. The majority of respondents earn below 10,000 currency units per month, indicating a predominance of lower-income households within the community.

The reasons for non-birth registration within the Indigenous Peoples (IP) community shows that while awareness about birth registration is high among respondents, there is still a notable proportion without birth certificates. Many cited lack of awareness about the importance of birth registration, along with logistical obstacles, as reasons for not registering their children. Media and social gatherings were identified as primary sources of information on birth registration. Improving awareness, accessibility to registration facilities, and education on the significance of birth certificates are crucial for addressing these challenges within the IP community.

The study identifies several factors contributing to the lack of birth certificates among a significant portion of the IP community, emphasizing the importance of birth registration for obtaining citizenship, accessing government benefits, and establishing legal relationships between parents and children. There are also various factors influenced by the inability to register one's birth to access government benefits are highlighted, emphasizing the critical role of birth registration in securing legal rights, accessing essential services, and ensuring individual identity and protection.

The results of a test of significant difference indicate statistically significant differences based on age and educational attainment, suggesting variations in perceptions of birth registration factors among different age groups and educational backgrounds. Overall, these findings provide comprehensive insights into the demographic characteristics of respondents, factors influencing birth registration, and the importance of considering demographic variables when designing policies and programs related to birth registration among the Indigenous Peoples of Bukidnon. These insights can inform targeted interventions and strategies aimed at improving birth registration rates and ensuring the rights and well-being of Indigenous communities.

Conclusions

In conclusion, the analysis of demographic characteristics and factors influencing birth registration among the Indigenous Peoples (IP) of Bukidnon reveals several noteworthy findings. Firstly, there is a significant concentration of individuals in middle adulthood, particularly among those aged 40 to 49 years, indicating the importance of considering this age group in birth registration initiatives. Additionally, the survey demonstrates a balanced representation of males and females within the community, suggesting equitable participation in the sample. Marital status among respondents varies widely, reflecting the diverse familial situations within the IP community. Moreover, variations in household sizes and educational backgrounds underscore the heterogeneity within the population, emphasizing the need for tailored approaches to birth registration efforts. Statistical analysis reveals significant differences based on age and educational attainment, indicating varying perceptions of birth registration factors among different demographic groups. These findings underscore the importance of considering demographic variables in designing policies and interventions aimed at improving birth registration rates among the Indigenous Peoples of Bukidnon.

The study also highlights significant barriers to birth registration within the IP community, with lack of awareness and logistical obstacles cited as primary reasons for non-registration. Improving awareness and accessibility to registration facilities emerges as key strategies for addressing these challenges.

Furthermore, the study emphasizes the critical importance of birth registration for obtaining citizenship, accessing government benefits, and establishing legal relationships, underscoring the broader implications of non-registration. Overall, the insights gained from this study can inform targeted interventions and strategies to enhance birth registration rates and ensure the rights and well-being of Indigenous communities. By addressing barriers to registration and promoting awareness of its importance, policymakers and stakeholders can work towards achieving greater inclusivity and equity in birth registration practices within the IP community.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study on factors affecting non-birth registration among the Indigenous People of Bukidnon, several recommendations can be proposed to address the identified challenges and improve birth registration rates within the community:

To improve birth registration rates among Indigenous communities like the Bukidnon and Talaandig tribes, targeted awareness campaigns are recommended. These campaigns should prioritize educating these communities about the significance and advantages of birth registration. Utilizing culturally appropriate messaging and channels such as community gatherings, local media, and indigenous leaders will be crucial for effectively reaching and engaging the target audience. Additionally, simplifying bureaucratic procedures, reducing administrative barriers, and minimizing processing delays can help streamline the registration process. Waiving registration fees for low-income families would further facilitate registration and encourage greater compliance within Indigenous communities.

To reinforce birth registration rates, the establishment of community outreach programs to aid in the registration process would be a help. Collaboration with local organizations, community leaders, and healthcare providers to conduct registration drives, mobile units, and informational sessions in underserved areas. Additionally, provide trainings for government personnel, healthcare workers, and volunteers involved in registration, focusing on service improvement and cultural sensitivity. Enhancement of accessibility of such service by establishing more registration centers, especially in remote areas, and consider utilizing existing community infrastructure for registration purposes.

Fostering good partnerships and collaboration between government agencies, civil society organizations, Indigenous leaders, and other stakeholders to coordinate efforts and leverage resources for effective implementation of birth registration initiatives. By working together, stakeholders can pool expertise, share best practices, and maximize impact in addressing the complex issue of non-birth registration among Indigenous Peoples.

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