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Rebuilding Lives: A Community Needs Assessment of Resettlement Areas in Naic, Cavite

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ABSTRACT

This study assessed the community needs of residents living in the resettlement area of Bronzeville Homes, Naic, Cavite, with the aim of identifying essential programs that can strengthen community well-being, safety, and resilience. A community needs assessment serves as a vital tool and local conditions that influence the quality of life of families and households. It also provides community leaders and policymakers with evidence-based insights necessary for developing responsive interventions and sustainable support systems. Specifically, the study sought to: (1) describe the demographic profile of residents in terms of age, sex, years of residency, civil status, employment status, monthly income, and household size; (2) determine the perceived program needs of the community across six key domains Disaster Risk Management, Leaders' Initiative Community-Based Prevention, Support Programs for Higher-Risk Youth and Families, Crime Prevention, Education, and Livelihood; and (3) examine whether a significant relationship exists between residents' demographic profile and their assessed program needs. A quantitative-descriptive research design was employed, utilizing a structured survey questionnaire administered to 369 relocatees in Bronzeville Homes who met the inclusion criteria. Data collection was conducted from February 2024 to January 2025. Participants were assured of confidentiality and anonymity throughout the process. Findings from this study are intended to guide local authorities, planners, and partner agencies in designing targeted community-based programs that promote safety, empowerment, and socio-economic development within resettlement communities.

INTRODUCTION

Adequate Housing is a fundamental human right recognized under International Human Rights Law, essential to ensuring dignity, security, and an acceptable standard of living. Beyond serving as physical shelter, adequate housing supports health, well-being, and socio-economic stability, forming a core component of human development (UN-Habitat, 2021). However, rapid urbanization, environmental hazards, and socio-economic inequalities continue to undermine this right for millions worldwide.

Globally displacement remains a pressing concern. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (2023) reported that over 7 million people were newly displaced by conflict, disasters, and climate-related events, demonstrating the increasing vulnerability of communities forced into resettlement. In the Philippines, one of the world's most disaster-prone countries, housing insecurity persists, particularly among low-income families living as informal settlers in high-risk environments such as waterways, coastlines, and railway easement (World Bank, 2022). these conditions compel many to relocate to government-managed resettlement sites.

A community needs assessment is a vital tool for understanding the strengths, gaps, and priorities within resettlement communities. As Tabiolo (2025) emphasized,

such assessments help organizations and local governments design responsive programs that address the actual needs of specific groups or communities. Barangay Halang in Naic, Cavite is the municipality's most populous barangay, with 24,195 residents (PSA, 2020). Bronzeville Homes 1 and 2 account for the largest concentration of relocatees, housing approximately 1,772 families. Contextually, Naic has also been identified as the municipality with the highest crime incidence in Cavite's 8th District (Cavite Ecological Profile, 2020), further underscoring the importance of strengthening community systems and support services in resettlement areas.

These realities motivated the researchers to examine the current conditions, needs, and program gaps in Bronzeville Homes, aiming to generate data that can inform more responsive community development initiatives. This study, therefore, seeks to assess the community needs of the relocatees in Bronzeville Homes, Barangay Halang, Naic, Cavite, focusing on key program areas such as disaster risk management, crime prevention, education, livelihood, and youth and family support. By analyzing these needs, the study hopes to contribute to the formulation of targeted interventions that promote safety, well-being, and sustainable community development in resettlement areas.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study used a correlational research design to examine the relationship between the demographic characteristics of residents in Bronzeville Homes, Barangay Halang, Naic, Cavite, and their perceived community program needs. Correlational research was appropriate because it allowed the researchers to identify statistical associations between variables without manipulating any conditions. A total of 369 participants were selected through simple random sampling, based on Cochran's formula applied to the resettlement area's population of 8,860. This sampling method ensured that each resident had an equal chance of inclusion, strengthening the representativeness of the findings. Data were gathered using a validated survey questionnaire consisting of two parts: demographic profile and program needs assessment. The second part measured six program areas—Disaster Risk Management, Community-Based Prevention, Support for High-Risk Youth and Families, Crime Prevention, Education, and Livelihood—through a four-point Likert scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. Higher scores reflected a stronger perceived need for specific community programs. Permission to administer the survey was secured from the Barangay Chairman of Barangay Halang. The researchers personally distributed and collected the questionnaires to ensure clarity and accuracy of responses. The gathered data were encoded and analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, mean, and median) to summarize participant characteristics and program needs. Cronbach's alpha was computed to assess the reliability of the instrument, while Pearson's r correlation was used to determine the relationship between demographic factors and community program needs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic Profile of Respondents

A total of 369 relocatees from Bronzeville Homes, Naic, Cavite participated in the study. Their demographic profile provide important context for understanding the community's needs.

A. Age

Most respondents were 31 years old and above (40%), followed by those aged 26-30 (29%). Only 14% belonged to the 15-20 age group. This distribution indicates that the community is largely composed of mature adults who may have more defined perspectives on household and community concerns. Similar patterns were noted by Siebel and Haan (2022), who found that older individuals tend to participate more actively in community and survey initiatives.

B. Sex

A slightly larger proportion were male (56%) than female (44%). This relatively balanced distribution suggests broad representation of household viewpoints. Prior findings show that men are often more likely to serve

as respondents in community and household surveys, especially in developing areas (UN DESA, 2022)

C. Years of Residency

Respondents had varied lengths of stay: 35% lived in the community for 4-6 years, 27% for 7-9 years, and 20% for 1-3 years, while 18% had resided there for more than 9 years. Residents with longer residency often have deeper awareness of community issues, consistent with Zhao *et al.* (2024), who noted that length of residence strengthens social integration and community engagement.

D. Civil Status

More than half of the respondents were single (58%), followed by married individuals (33%). The predominance of single adults aligns with national trends showing delayed marriages and increased cohabitation due to economic and social factors (Abalos, 2023). Only small portions were widowed (4%) or separated (5%).

E. Employment Status

Approximately 42% of the respondents were employed, 24% were self-employed, and 34% were unemployed. The presence of self-employed individuals suggests active participation in informal or small-scale entrepreneurial work within the community. Meanwhile, the high unemployment rate reflects economic vulnerability, an issue also emphasized in the International Labour Organization's World Employment and Social Outlook 2022, which reported persistent labor market instability and slow recovery in employment following the COVID-19 pandemic (ILO, 2022).

F. Monthly Income

Income levels were generally low, with 39% earning below ₱5,000 and another 44% earning between ₱5,001 and ₱15,000. These figures place most households within low-income brackets identified by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS, 2021), indicating limited financial capacity and a higher likelihood of dependence on community-based programs. Only 8% of households earning ₱20,001 and above.

G. Number of Household Members

A majority of households consisted of 3-5 members (56%), reflecting the national trend toward smaller family sizes as reported by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA, 2020). Larger households, particularly those with 9 or more members (9%) were uncommon. This aligns with findings suggesting that economic constraints, rising living costs, and evolving socio-cultural preferences have contributed to the gradual shift toward smaller family structures (Encyclopedia of World Problems, 2024).

Programs Needed by the Community in the Resettlement Areas

This section presents the assessed needs of residents across six program areas: Disaster Risk Management,

Leaders' Initiative Community-Based Prevention, Support Programs for Higher-Risk Youth and Families, Crime Prevention, Education, and Livelihood. All indicators obtained strong agreement, indicating that these program areas are broadly viewed as necessary for community development and safety (Overall Mean = 3.62, SD = 0.51).

A. Disaster Risk Management Program

Residents rated disaster-related initiatives as the most needed area (M = 3.66, SD = 0.49). The strongest need identified was hazard mapping and flood forecasting (M = 3.76), showing high concern for natural hazards. This supports research emphasizing community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) as critical for improving preparedness and reducing vulnerabilities (Cvetković, 2024). The need for better-equipped emergency response teams also ranked high (M = 3.74). Although coordination with NDRRMC ranked lowest (M = 3.57), it still reflects strong agreement, suggesting improvement—not absence—of support is needed. These results align with UNDRR (2023) recommendations highlighting the importance of localized preparedness and risk communication.

B. Leaders' Initiative Community-Based Prevention Program

Respondents strongly agreed on the need for leadership-driven preventive programs (M = 3.63, SD = 0.50). The most needed intervention was training community leaders on climate change adaptation and resilience building (M = 3.77). This echoes evidence that local leaders play a strategic role in enhancing adaptive capacity and risk governance (Rupp *et al.*, 2020). First aid and emergency response training scored the lowest (M = 3.59), though still strongly agreed upon—indicating relative, not absolute, prioritization. Engagement-based models continue to show that empowered leaders strengthen disaster and safety outcomes (Nubani *et al.*, 2023).

C. Support Program for High-Risk Youth and Families

Residents rated support programs for vulnerable families as highly necessary (M = 3.64, SD = 0.50). The strongest priority was mental health services for high-risk youth and families (M = 3.73), reflecting growing concerns about emotional well-being. Studies confirm that untreated trauma increases risks of mental illness and substance abuse later in life (Toews, 2024). Mentorship programs, while still needed, received the lowest mean (M = 3.58), possibly reflecting limited awareness or perceived feasibility. Evidence shows mentoring significantly improves academic performance and reduces behavioral risks among at-risk youth (National Mentoring Resource Center, 2021).

D. Crime Prevention Program

Crime-related initiatives also received strong support (M = 3.65, SD = 0.50). The highest-rated need was

youth engagement programs to prevent crime (M = 3.73), demonstrating recognition of youth-focused prevention strategies. Programs supporting victims of crime followed closely (M = 3.68), reflecting a need for protection and reporting mechanisms. Stricter gun control (M = 3.62) and rehabilitation for minor offenders (M = 3.62) ranked lowest but remained strongly agreed upon. Evidence indicates that structured rehabilitation and aftercare programs significantly reduce recidivism among offenders, particularly when tailored to individual needs and implemented with supportive services (James *et al.*, 2023).

E. Education Program

Residents identified education-related initiatives as essential (M = 3.65, SD = 0.50). The highest-rated need was expanded early childhood education (M = 3.70), indicating recognition of the long-term benefits of early learning. This aligns with international findings that early education improves cognitive development and long-term life outcomes (OECD, 2020). Support for SPED programs ranked lowest (M = 3.59), though the strong agreement reiterates the need for inclusive education and tailored learning support for children with special needs.

F. Livelihood Program

Livelihood development received the lowest overall mean among the six program areas but still met strong agreement (M = 3.49, SD = 0.58). The highest-rated needs were fishery/aquaculture support and post-disaster livelihood recovery (both M = 3.65), reflecting the community's dependence on local industries and vulnerability to disruptions. The demand for sustainable aquaculture aligns with national data showing fisheries as critical to livelihoods and food security (Tahilludin *et al.*, 2021). Local cooperatives rated lowest (M = 3.26), suggesting concerns about feasibility or past cooperative models. However, strengthening cooperatives remains essential for long-term economic resilience (DSWD-CAR, 2025).

Summary

Among the six program areas, Disaster Risk Management ranked first (M = 3.66), followed by Crime Prevention and Education (both M = 3.65). Livelihood programs ranked lowest but remained strongly needed (M = 3.49). These findings demonstrate that residents prioritize safety, preparedness, youth support, and education—while also recognizing the importance of sustainable livelihood development.

Significant Relationship Between Demographic Profile and Program Needs

Kendall's tau-b correlation was used following normality testing, which indicated that the data did not meet the assumption for parametric analysis.

Only years of residency showed a statistically significant relationship with the program needs of the community ($\tau = 0.74$, $p = 0.004$), indicating that residents who have

lived longer in the area tend to have clearer or more established views regarding the programs needed in the resettlement community. This aligns with prior studies showing that length of stay influences familiarity with local issues, community integration, and awareness of environmental and social conditions (Zhao *et al.*, 2024). Meanwhile, age, sex, civil status, employment status, monthly income, and household size all yielded non-significant relationships with program needs ($p > 0.05$). These findings suggest that the perceived needs of the community are largely shared across demographic groups, highlighting that support for essential programs cuts across age categories, gender identities, economic backgrounds, and household structures. Similar conclusions were noted in community development research, where demographic differences did not significantly shape perceptions of priority programs in communities with shared socioeconomic challenges (Rupp *et al.*, 2020).

Overall, the results indicate that program planning in resettlement areas may not need to be heavily stratified by demographic profiles, except in relation to residents' length to stay. Longer-term residents may offer deeper insights into localized issues, but program needs in general appear to be broadly consistent across the population. This suggests that community-wide interventions—rather than demographic specific approaches—may be more efficient and responsive to the collective needs of residents.

CONCLUSION

This study examined the community needs of residents in the resettlement areas of Naic, Cavite, focusing on demographic characteristics and perceived priorities for local programs. Using a correlational research design, data were collected from 369 relocatees of Bronzeville Homes. Results showed that most respondents were aged 31 and above, predominantly male, single, and earning below PHP 5,000 per month. Most had lived in the community for four to six years, with households typically composed of three to five members.

Across six assessed areas—Disaster Risk Management, Leader's Initiative Community-Based Prevention, Support for High-Risk Youth and Families, Crime Prevention, Education, and Livelihood—respondents strongly agreed on the importance of all programs. Disaster Risk Management ranked as the top priority, followed by Crime Prevention and Education, while Livelihood programs, though ranked lowest, remained vital to community development.

Correlation analysis revealed that demographic variables such as age, sex, civil status, income, employment status, and household size did not significantly influence perceived community needs. Only length of residency showed a significant relationship, indicating that long-term residents possess a deeper understanding of local priorities.

The findings highlight the need for inclusive, community-

wide programs focused on preparedness, safety, education, and economic stability, supported by continuous assessment and strong stakeholder collaboration.

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