

# Progressing Research On Basic Education (PROBE): Revitalizing Research Culture in the New Normal



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## ABSTRACT

Relative to CALABARZON's Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan, this study explored the context of research on the new normal in the Division of Biñan City, which is anchored on the dimension of **Focus on Learning** as it provided standards on the learning and development programs for teachers. It investigated the impact of **PROBE** (Progressing Research On Basic Education) in revitalizing the research culture to uphold synergy and collaboration in the division, despite the pandemic.

A mixed-method research design employing descriptive approach was utilized in the study. Triangulation of data were utilized through a focus group discussion and unstructured interview to participants, which were selected purposively. Document analysis was conducted to validate the data gathered through the FGD.

Initially, data revealed that majority of the participants (24 or 67%) belong to "Developing" proficiency level ( $M=2.17$ ,  $SD=0.426$ ) in terms of crafting research. Data analysis, utilization of results, and data gathering procedures, were the major challenges experienced by participants. Post survey results showed that there is an increase in their skill (30 or 80%). "Approaching Proficiency" level ( $M=3.07$ ,  $SD=0.413$ ) was evident to most participants. Likewise, more research proposals were crafted by participants.

There were limitations in the conduct of research initiatives. Nonetheless, participants realized that PROBE is a holistic approach which enhanced their cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains relative to the conduct research.

This implied that PROBE is an effective intervention to enhance collaboration, uphold synergy, and promote the culture of research amidst pandemic.

**Keywords:** Research Culture, Synergy, Collaboration, Research in New Normal

## INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Republic Act 9155 otherwise known as the Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001, this mandates that the Department of Education enact policies and mechanisms through which the delivery of quality basic education may be continuously improved. With this, SDO-Biñan City upholds the environment of evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation activities supported by research studies (DO No. 13, s. 2015). Further, within five (5) years of operation, SDO-Biñan City is continuously gearing towards the promotion of culture of research. The division participated in different research initiatives of the Regional Office since 2017. However, based on the division's Annual Accomplishment Report (AAR) of fiscal year 2020, there were 45 submitted research proposals, but only 17 were aligned with the new normal, four (4) of which were approved by Basic Education Research Fund (BERF) which is 23.5% of the total submission. Despite the volume of trainings and research initiatives in the division, the turn-out of crafted research is significantly lower than target. Based on survey, focus group discussion and results of needs assessment, many teaching and non-teaching personnel in the division were interested to craft action research but they lack significant information, idea, and pre-requisite skills on how to start and accomplish one.

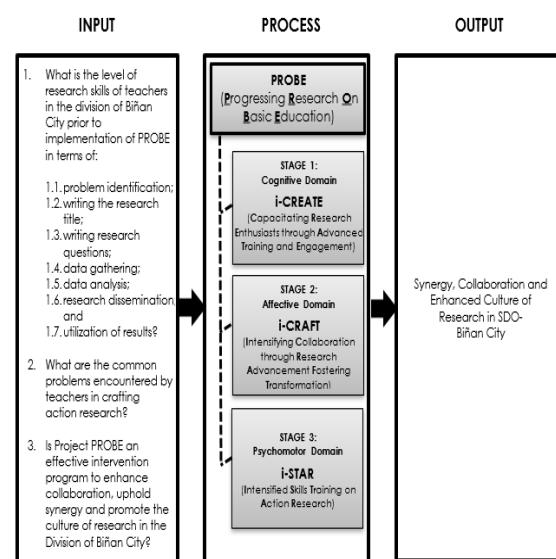
This is an emerging concern as we geared towards the promotion of the culture of research in the division as basis of evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation. Hence, this study leaned towards one of the principles where the Basic Education-Learning Continuity Plan stands on. Under section 3 (e) of D.O. No. 12, s. 2020, to link and bridge BE-LCP to DepEd's pivot to quality and into the future of education, under the framework of Sulong Edukalidad and Futures Thinking in Education. Moreover, this is anchored on the Region IV-A CALABARZON's enhanced BE-LCP dimension relative to Focus on Learning-Ensuring Quality of Teaching and

Learning Process, which provides standard learning and development programs for teachers.

This is where the idea of PROBE (Progressing Research On Basic Education) Revitalizing the Research Culture in the New Normal stands on. It is a program launched in the division, catering to teacher-researchers and all research enthusiasts, that provided technical inputs, strategies, and mechanics on the conduct of research. Furthermore, it enhanced synergy, collaboration, and revitalized the culture of research in the Division of Biñan City.science.

## METHODOLOGY

A mixed-method research design was utilized in the study. A survey questionnaire was crafted by the researcher, which was validated by experts, to assess level of research skills of the target participants. The interview guide was utilized during the data gathering procedure of the qualitative data. This included several essential and probe questions which investigated the in-depth perspective and notion of the respondents.



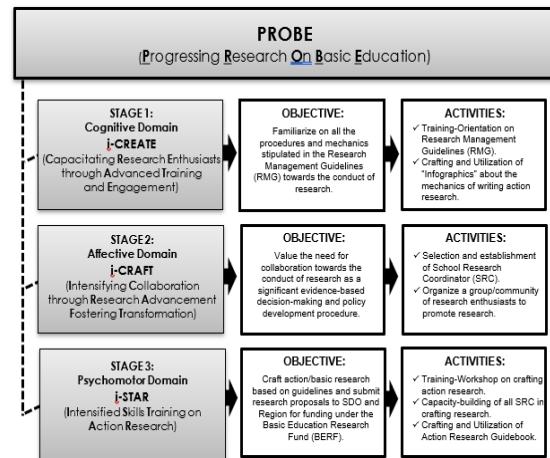
The diagram above shows the Input-Process-Output model of the study. The Input shows the problems answered in the

study. The Process included the intervention made by the researcher to answer the problems posted, the PROBE (Progressing Research On Basic Education). This program aimed to enhance collaboration, uphold synergy and promote the culture of research in the division of Biñan City through a series of activities and programs. These included three (3) stages which developed the different domains of the participants, namely: Stage 1: i-CREATE (Capacitating Research Enthusiasts through Advanced Training and Engagement) which advanced the cognitive domain; Stage 2: i-CRAFT (Intensifying Collaboration through Research Advancement Fostering Transformation) which developed the affective domain; and Stage 3: i-STAR (Intensified Skills Training on Action Research) which enhanced the psychomotor domain and writing skills of the participants. Moreover, the output showed the outcome of the study which is synergy, collaboration, and enhanced culture of research in SDO-Biñan City.

The study focused on developing a program that aims to enhance collaboration, uphold synergy, and promote the culture of research in the Division of Biñan City.

Specifically, it answered the following questions:

1. What is the level of research skills of teachers in the division of Biñan City prior to implementation of PROBE in terms of:
  - 1.1. problem identification;
  - 1.2. writing the research title;
  - 1.3. writing research questions;
  - 1.4. data gathering;
  - 1.5. data analysis;
  - 1.6. research dissemination; and
  - 1.7. utilization of results?
2. What are the common problems encountered by teachers in crafting action research?
3. Is Project PROBE an effective intervention program to uphold synergy and promote the culture of research in the Division of Biñan City?



PROBE aims to enhance collaboration, uphold synergy and promote the culture of research in the Division of Biñan City. This project is composed of a series of activities and programs that includes three (3) stages to develop the different domains of the participants. The diagram below shows the procedure, specific objective, and significant activities of the project.

To gather pertinent data and to attain the objectives of the study, the researcher utilized diverse participants in the Division of Biñan City. The participants of the study were selected purposively. Since, the SDO have pre-identified the School Research Coordinators (SRC) in each school.

Participants of the study are shown in the table below:

Participants	Quantity
Elementary	26
Junior High School	4
Senior High School	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>

## DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE

Phase I. Preparation Stage. Crafting of all different tools and instruments utilized in the study. Checking and validation of the instruments.

Phase II. Data Gathering Stage. Identification of respondents of the study.

The researchers used the validated instruments for the data gathering procedure which include but not limited to semi-structured interview, FGD, documentary analysis, anecdotal records, peer interview, observation records as well as triangulation procedure.

**Phase III. Data Analysis Stage.** Retrieval of all gathered data from the respondents. For the quantitative data, the researcher performed statistical and descriptive analysis. For the qualitative data, the researcher conducted initial reading and familiarization of the transcript of responses, categorizing all similar codes from the responses and forming of themes.

**Phase IV. Summary and Interpretation Stage.** Crafting of research summary and interpretations through major domains of the study.

**Phase V. Reporting.** Crafting the final paper including the results and recommendations of the study. Presentation of the result of the study through conference, FGD, planning and/or meeting sessions.

## DATA ANALYSIS

RESEARCH QUESTIONS	INSTRUMENTS/ DATA COLLECTION TOOLS	DATA GATHERED	DATA ANALYSIS
1. What is the level of research skills of teachers in the division of Biñan City prior to implementation of PROBE in terms of: 1.1. problem identification; 1.2. writing the research title; 1.3. writing research questions; 1.4. data gathering; 1.5. data analysis; 1.6. research dissemination; and 1.7. utilization of results?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Background Information Checklist</li> <li>Survey Questionnaire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level of research skills of select teachers in the Division of Biñan City.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantitative</li> <li>Descriptive</li> </ul>
2. What are the common problems encountered by teachers in crafting action research?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interview Guide</li> <li>Anecdotal Records</li> <li>Peer Interview</li> <li>Survey Questionnaire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Common problems encountered by teachers in crafting action research.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantitative</li> <li>Descriptive</li> <li>Interpretative</li> </ul>
3. Is Project PROBE an effective intervention program to enhance collaboration, uphold synergy and promote the culture of research in the Division of Biñan City?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interview Guide</li> <li>Anecdotal Records</li> <li>Observation Records</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perception and Assessment of the effectiveness of Project PROBE as an intervention program to enhance collaboration, uphold synergy and promote the culture of research in the Division of Biñan City.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualitative</li> <li>Descriptive</li> <li>Interpretative</li> </ul>

## ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

To adhere with ethical considerations and standards, all participants were informed of the study. Matters about the Data Privacy were elaborated and clarified, with proper adherence to RA 10173, or the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

## **RESULTS**

The study ascertained that PROBE enhanced collaboration, uphold synergy, and promoted the culture of research in the Division of Biñan City. Specifically, the following results were gathered:

Research Question #1: What is the level of research skills of teachers in the division of Biñan City prior to implementation of PROBE in terms of:

- 1.1. problem identification;
- 1.2. writing the research title;
- 1.3. writing research questions;
- 1.4. data gathering;
- 1.5. data analysis;
- 1.6. research dissemination; and
- 1.7. utilization of results?

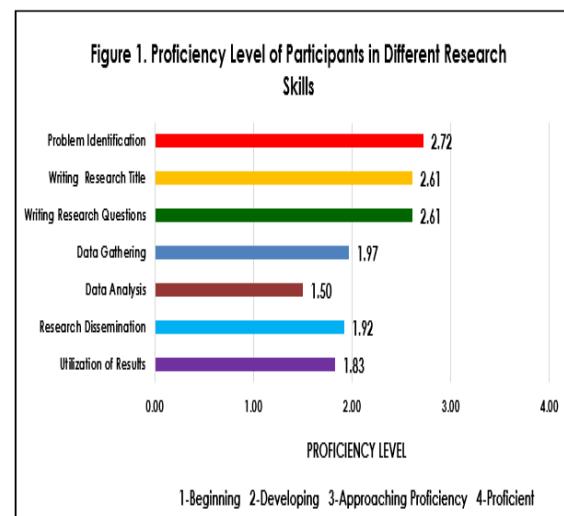


Figure 1 shows the proficiency level of participants in different research skills. With a mean percentage of 2.72 which is interpreted as “Approaching Proficiency” problem identification was identified as the mastered skill of the participants. Followed by writing the research title and research

questions which both obtained a mean percentage of 2.61. Data gathering on the 3rd rank with mean of 1.97 which is verbally interpreted as "Developing". A mean percentage of 1.92 or "Developing", was obtained relative to research dissemination. This includes presentation of results in different research fora. Utilization of results obtained a mean percentage of 1.83 or "Developing" was obtained by the participants. Lastly, data analysis ranked lowest with a mean percentage of 1.50 which is verbally interpreted as "Developing" was considered as the least mastered skill of the participants.

This implied that the participants of the study possess several research skills prior to the conduct of the study. Particularly, identifying problem, writing the research title and research questions were considered as the mastered skills of most of the participants. However, research dissemination, utilization and data analysis were considered as the least mastered skills respectively.

**Research Question #2:** What are the common problems encountered by teachers in crafting action research?

Based on the results of the survey and unstructured interview, the participants noted three specific research skills which they considered as a problem in crafting research. Among these challenges includes "Research Dissemination" ( $M=1.92$   $SD=0.649$ ) which refers to presentation of research to different platforms and research fora. They find it challenging where and when they are supposed to present their research studies. Second on the rank is "Utilization of Research Results" ( $M=1.83$   $SD=0.609$ ). According to the participants, they find it difficult to integrate the research in their school or even in the same grade level, they are in. Motivating other teachers to adopt their research is quite a challenge to them. In goes along with the idea that they were not able to present their research which makes other teachers in their school hesitant to accept and adopt the study. Lastly, the most prominent challenge among the participants was "Data Analysis" ( $M=1.50$   $SD=0.609$ ). Most of the

participants are having a hard time which statistical treatment are they supposed to utilize based on their research questions. Furthermore, the treatment, analysis and interpretation were noted as major challenges as well.

**Research Question #3:** Is Project PROBE an effective intervention program to uphold synergy and promote the culture of research in the Division of Biñan City?

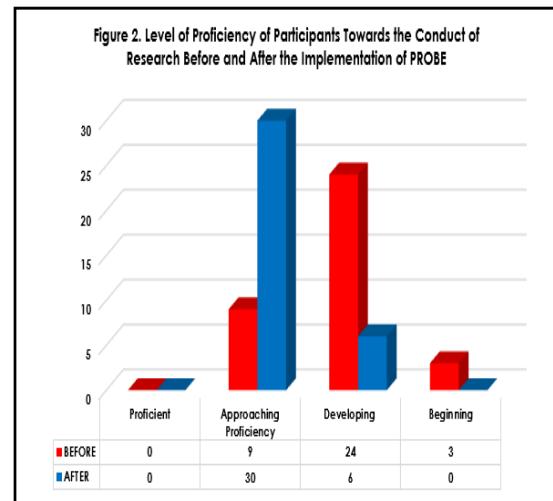


Figure 2 shows the level of proficiency of participants towards the conduct of research before and after the implementation of PROBE. It revealed that prior to implementation of the program, 9 participants of 25% are categorized "Approaching Proficiency". Majority of the were categorized as "Developing" with 24 or 67% of the total population. While 3 participants or 8% were categorized in the "Beginning" stage. On the other hand, after the implementation of PROBE, it was evident that majority of participants, 30 or 83% were under "Approaching Proficiency" and 6 or 17% was categorized as 'Developing'.

This indicated that majority of the participants were categorized in "Developing" stage prior to the implementation of PROBE. Consequently, majority of the participants were categorized "Approaching Proficiency" after the implementation of the program. This implied that PROBE significantly improved the proficiency of participants after being exposed to the program.

Furthermore, based on the unstructured interview, several participants affirmed that PROBE significantly improved their perception and skills towards crafting research. It substantially contributed to the performance of teachers in crafting research despite the challenges brought by the pandemic.

Table 1. Comparison of the Mean Scores of Participants Before and After Implementation of PROBE

Implementation	n	Mean	Standard Deviation	Verbal Interpretation
Before	36	2.17	0.426	Developing
After	36	3.07	0.413	Approaching Proficiency

The comparison of mean scores of participants before and after the implementation of PROBE is shown in table 1. Before its implementation, the participants obtained a mean of 2.17 with a standard deviation of 0.426 and verbal interpretation of developing. On the other hand, after the implementation of PROBE revealed that participants obtained a mean of 3.07 and a standard deviation of 0.413 with a verbal interpretation of approaching proficiency.

These findings implied that PROBE is an effective intervention program in improving the significant skills of participants in crafting research. It is evident that participants improved their proficiency level after being exposed to PROBE.

## DISCUSSION

This study was undertaken to investigate the impact of PROBE (Progressing Research On Basic Education) in revitalizing the research culture to uphold synergy and collaboration in the division, despite the pandemic.

A mixed-method research design employing descriptive approach was utilized in the study. Triangulation of data were utilized through a focus group discussion and unstructured interview to participants, which were selected purposively. Document analysis was

conducted to validate the data gathered through the FGD.

The salient findings of the study are as follows:

Participants of the study, possess several research skills prior to the conduct of the study. Particularly, identifying problem, writing the research title and research questions were considered as the mastered skills of most of the participants as they are Categorized as "Approaching Proficiency". However, research dissemination, utilization and data analysis were considered as the least mastered skills respectively as they are categorized as "Developing" on these skills.

The participants noted three specific research skills which they considered as a problem in crafting research. Among these challenges includes "Research Dissemination" ( $M=1.92$   $SD=0.649$ ) which refers to presentation of research to different platforms and research fora. They find it challenging where and when they are supposed to present their research studies. Second on the rank is "Utilization of Research Results" ( $M=1.83$   $SD=0.609$ ). According to the participants, they find it difficult to integrate the research in their school or even in the same grade level, they are in. Motivating other teachers to adopt their research is quite a challenge to them. In goes along with the idea that they were not able to present their research which makes other teachers in their school hesitant to accept and adopt the study. Lastly, the most prominent challenge among the participants was "Data Analysis" ( $M=1.50$   $SD=0.609$ ). Most of the participants are having a hard time which statistical treatment are they supposed to utilize based on their research questions. Furthermore, the treatment, analysis and interpretation were noted as major challenges as well.

The proficiency level of majority of participants before the implementation of PROBE was 2.17 or "Developing". While

after its implementation was 3.07 or "Approaching Proficiency".

PROBE is an effective intervention program in improving the significant skills of participants in crafting research. It is evident that participants improved their proficiency level after being exposed to PROBE.

## **REFLECTIONS**

PROBE (Progressing Research On Basic Education) is an effective intervention program in revitalizing the research culture to uphold synergy and collaboration in the division, despite the challenges brought by pandemic.

There were limitations in the conduct of research initiatives. Nonetheless, participants realized that PROBE is a holistic approach which enhanced their cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains relative to the conduct research.

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