

Progressing Research On Basic Education (PROBE) 2.0: Development and Utilization of Contextualized Action Research Guidebook



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ABSTRACT

With the continuous quest for research and innovation of the City Schools Division of Biñan City, the Division Research Program PROBE (Progressing Research On Basic Education) remained steadfast and constantly promoting the culture of research in the Division. This study explored the implementation of PROBE on its second year and investigated the development and utilization of contextualized action research guidebook.

A quantitative research method employing descriptive approach was utilized in the study. Participants were research leaders in the division which were selected purposively. Results showed that in terms of development ($M=3.700$, $SD=0.470$) and utilization ($M=3.750$, $SD=0.444$) of contextualized action research guidebook, majority of participants agreed that it was “highly desirable”. Moreover, Participants perceived that the material is “highly acceptable” in terms of content ($M=3.800$, $SD=0.410$), usability ($M=3.850$, $SD=0.366$), and quality ($M=3.900$, $SD=0.308$). Lastly, in its effectiveness ($M=3.950$, $SD=0.224$), participants agreed that the contextualized action research guidebook is “highly effective”.

There were limitations in the conduct of the study. Nonetheless, participants realized that PROBE is a holistic approach which enhanced their cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains relative to the conduct research. Furthermore, it implied that utilization of contextualized action research guidebook is an effective intervention to enhance collaboration, uphold synergy, and promote innovation and maintain the culture of research, specifically to craft timely and meaningful research.

Keywords: *Contextualized Action Research Guidebook, Research Culture, Synergy, Innovation, and Collaboration*

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 gear towards the promotion of the culture of research in the division as basis of evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation. Hence, this study leans 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 3-year research 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.

During the Implementation of PROBE in the year 2020-2021, there is a significant increase in the accomplished and completed research in the division. There were 58 completed studies covering diverse types of categories such as teaching and learning, governance, and child protection comprising to 73.42% accomplishment rate with 1 research being granted under the Basic Education Research Fund (BERF). This proved that PROBE is an effective research program launched in the division. This year is the second year of its implementation to continue all its projects and activities. Consequently, another project was launched this year. A Contextualized Research Guidebook was developed and utilized to further help researchers in crafting their own research despite the current scenario brought by the pandemic. The results of the study served as basis on the use of Contextualized Research Guidebook in crafting research in the division. This further improved the research skills of researchers and sustain the research culture in the division.

METHODOLOGY

This study utilized descriptive quantitative research method. Descriptive statistics to analyze the quantitative data were gathered from the 4-point Likert scale questionnaire crafted by the researcher and validated by experts to reveal the effectiveness of the project in terms of the set parameters.

The collected data was analyzed and reported using tables. Quantitative data was reported and analyzed using the results of the survey questionnaire to determine the acceptability of participants on the contextualized action research guidebook.

The procedure for data collection were summarized below:

Phase I. Preparation Stage. Crafting of all different tools and instruments to be 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 included 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.

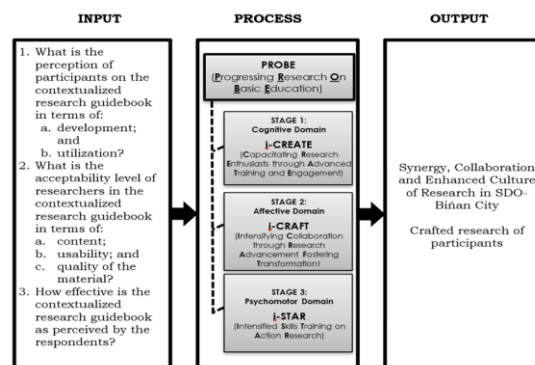
Phase IV. Summary and Interpretation Stage. Crafting of research summary and interpretations.

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.

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) and Research Leaders in each school who were not able to craft their own research paper and identified schools who are having difficulty in the implementation of their school research

initiatives were the target participants of this study.

The idea of the study is shown in the framework below:



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

Ethical Issues

To adhere with ethical considerations and standards, all

participants were informed of the study. Matters about the Data Privacy was elaborated and clarified, with proper adherence to RA 10173, or the Data Privacy Act of 2012. An informed consent was given to the participants prior to the conduct of the study. They were informed that they may withdraw their participation in the study if they wish to do so. Anonymity and confidentiality of the respondents were considered accordingly.

RESULTS

This study focused on the implementation of PROBE on its second year. Furthermore, it investigated the development and utilization of Contextualized Action Research Guidebook.

Specifically, it answered the following questions:

Research Question No. 1. What is the perception of participants on the contextualized action research guidebook in terms of:

- development; and**
- utilization?**

Scale Range	Description
3.01-4.00	Highly Desirable
2.01-3.00	Desirable
1.01-2.00	Undesirable
0.01-1.00	Highly Undesirable

Criterion	n	Mean	Standard Deviation	Verbal Interpretation
Development	20	3.700	0.470	Highly Desirable
Utilization	20	3.750	0.444	Highly Desirable

Table 1. Mean Scores of Perceptions of Participants on the Contextualized Action Research Guidebook

The mean scores of perceptions of participants on the contextualized action research guidebook are shown in table 1. Most of the participants agreed that the contextualized action research guidebook is “highly desirable” in terms of development with a mean score of 3.700 and standards deviation of 0.470, and utilization with a mean score of 3.750 and standard deviation of 0.444. This revealed that the participants see the necessity of a contextualized action research guidebook and it aids as they craft their own research.

Research Question No. 2. What is the acceptability level of researchers in the

contextualized research guidebook in terms of:

- content;**
- usability; and**
- quality of the material?**

Scale Range	Description
3.01-4.00	Highly Acceptable
2.01-3.00	Acceptable
1.01-2.00	Unacceptable
0.01-1.00	Highly Unacceptable

Criterion	n	Mean	Standard Deviation	Verbal Interpretation
Content	20	3.800	0.410	Highly Acceptable
Usability	20	3.850	0.366	Highly Acceptable
Quality	20	3.900	0.308	Highly Acceptable

Table 2. Mean Scores Acceptability Level of Contextualized Action Research Guidebook

The mean scores of acceptability level of contextualized action research guidebook are shown in table 2. It revealed that all the participants ascertain the said material is “highly acceptable” in terms of content (M=3.800, SD=0.410), usability (M=3.850, SD=0.366), and quality (M=3.900, SD=0.308). This means that the contextualized action research guidebook matches the needs of the participants.

Research Question No. 3. How effective is the contextualized action research guidebook as perceived by the respondents?

Scale Range	Description
3.01-4.00	Highly Effective
2.01-3.00	Effective
1.01-2.00	Ineffective
0.01-1.00	Highly Ineffective

Criterion	n	Mean	Standard Deviation	Verbal Interpretation
Effectiveness	20	3.950	0.224	Highly Effective

Table 3. Mean Scores Perception of Participants on the Effectiveness of Contextualized Action Research Guidebook

The mean scores of perceptions of participants on the effectiveness of contextualized action research guidebook are shown in table 3. It obtained a mean score of 3.950 and standard deviation of 0.224 which means that the participants agreed that the contextualized action research guidebook is “highly effective”. This means that the participants were guided and were able to craft their action research using the material. Moreover, it yielded positive results in the creation of research initiatives. There was a notable increase on the completed research in the Division.

DISCUSSION

Most of the participants agreed that the contextualized action research guidebook is “highly desirable” in terms of development with a mean score of 3.700 and standard deviation of 0.470, and utilization with a mean score of 3.750 and standard deviation of 0.444. This revealed that the participants see the necessity of a contextualized action research guidebook and it aids as they craft their own research.

The participants ascertain the said material is “highly acceptable” in terms of content ($M=3.800$, $SD=0.410$), usability ($M=3.850$, $SD=0.366$), and quality ($M=3.900$, $SD=0.308$). This means that the contextualized action research guidebook matches the needs of the participants.

A mean score of 3.950 and standard deviation of 0.224 was obtained in terms of effectiveness, which means that the participants agreed that the contextualized action research guidebook is “highly effective”. This implied that the participants were guided and were able to craft their action research using the material. Moreover, it yielded positive results in the creation of research initiatives. There was a notable increase on the completed research in the Division.

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 experienced. Furthermore, the use of contextualized action research guidebook is deemed helpful and was able to assist all participants to successfully accomplish their own research. Hence, the following conclusions were drawn:

Based on the results of the survey, the researcher-made contextualized action research guidebook was highly desirable in terms of development and utilization.

In terms of content, usability, and quality, the material is said to be highly acceptable.

In terms of effectiveness the material is highly effective. It proved that the contextualized action research guidebook assisted the participants as they craft their own research. All the participants were able to craft their research. Moreover, there was a significant increase in the number of completed research in the Division.

Based on the salient findings of the study, the following are recommended:

The Division Research Program **PROBE (Progressing Research On Basic Education)** may be sustained, particularly in promoting different innovation in helping researchers in crafting their own research.

The use of contextualized action research guidebook is deemed to be highly acceptable and highly effective; it may further be improved and may be used to bigger population to widen its impact.

The contextualized action research guidebook may be submitted to experts for further quality control measures and future publication.

Initially there were fifteen (15) target participants to the study. However, due to some restrictions, challenges, and unforeseen incidents, there were changes that the researcher faced. Instead of 15 school research coordinators, the study was participated by twenty (20) different research leaders in the division. 20 out of 20 or 100% of the participants were able to accomplish and submit their completed action research through the help of the contextualized action research guidebook. Because of these results, it was proven that the material is “acceptable and effective”, therefore, it may be utilized for bigger population to widen its impact. Henceforth, the implementation of research program PROBE shall be sustained.

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