

**Capabilities of Sangguniang Kabataan officials in the performance
of local governance in the First District of Capiz**

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ABSTRACT

This study assessed the capabilities of Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials in relation to their implementation of good governance in the municipalities of the First District of Capiz. Specifically, it examined the demographic profile of SK officials, their level of competency in terms of core, technical, and leadership competencies, the extent of implementation of good governance principles, the significant differences in capability and governance practices when respondents were grouped according to profile variables, the relationship between capability and good governance, and the major challenges encountered by SK officials. The study utilized a descriptive-comparative-correlational research design. A researcher-made questionnaire was administered to 420 SK officials selected through proportionate stratified random sampling from 140 barangays in the First District of Capiz. Statistical tools such as frequency count, percentage, mean, and non-parametric tests were used in analyzing the data. Findings revealed that the respondents were predominantly female, single, college graduates, and mostly aged 22 to 24 years old. The majority demonstrated high to very high levels of core, technical, and leadership competencies. Likewise, the implementation of good governance principles in terms of transparency, responsiveness, effectiveness, and participation was generally moderately to highly implement. Significant differences in capability and governance implementation were found when grouped according to educational attainment, years in service, and training exposure. Moreover, a very strong and significant relationship existed between the capabilities of SK officials and their implementation of good governance principles. Major challenges encountered by SK officials included insufficient funds, difficulties in financial reporting, and low youth participation in governance activities. Therefore, the study revealed that higher competency among SK officials leads to better governance performance. Continuous training, leadership development, and strengthened youth participation programs are therefore essential in enhancing the effectiveness of SK officials in local governance.

Keywords: Sangguniang Kabataan officials, local governance, good governance, core competencies, technical competencies, leadership competencies, youth participation, governance capabilities, transparency and accountability, responsiveness and effectiveness.

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INTRODUCTION

This study is anchored on the recognition that the youth sector plays a vital role in nation building and serves as an important partner in governance and community development. In the Philippine context, this role is institutionalized through the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), which is mandated by the 1987 Philippine Constitution and reinforced by the Philippine Youth Development Plan (2023–2028). The SK functions as a formal mechanism that promotes youth participation in local governance by providing young people with opportunities to articulate their concerns, contribute to decision making processes, and participate actively in community development initiatives (Flores et al., 2021; Erlina et al., 2023). As a youth representative body, the SK is expected to cultivate civic engagement, strengthen democratic participation, and foster leadership among young citizens while contributing to the realization of good governance at the grassroots level.

Despite the legislative reforms and policy advancements that have strengthened the legal foundation of the SK, numerous challenges continue to hinder its effective performance. Existing literature indicates that weaknesses in financial management, project implementation, and policy formulation remain prevalent among SK officials. These challenges are further compounded by political influences, limited administrative experience, resource constraints, competence deficiencies, restricted youth participation, and various structural barriers that affect the execution of their mandates (Reguindin & Caelian, 2025; Damit, 2025). Such limitations undermine the ability of SK officials to uphold the principles of transparency, accountability, responsibility, and participatory governance that are central to effective local administration (Damit, 2025). Moreover, studies have shown that although SK officials often perceive themselves as having adequate financial autonomy, they continue to encounter operational difficulties related to compliance with fidelity bonding requirements, inadequate training opportunities, and complex liquidation procedures, all of which negatively affect organizational performance and governance outcomes (Reguindin & Caelian, 2025).

The persistence of these challenges underscores the importance of strengthening the competencies of SK officials as a prerequisite for effective governance. Contemporary studies emphasize that capacity development initiatives are essential in enhancing the legal, financial, administrative, and leadership capabilities of youth leaders, enabling them to perform their responsibilities more effectively and respond to the demands of local governance (Damit, 2025). Competence in areas such as financial management, project implementation, community engagement, and policy development has been identified as a critical determinant of governance effectiveness, as these functions directly influence the ability of SK officials to plan, execute, and evaluate programs that address community needs (Castillo et al., 2024; Palma et al., 2026). The literature further reveals that many SK officials continue to experience difficulties in procedural and technical aspects of governance, particularly in parliamentary procedures, resolution drafting, and other administrative processes that are fundamental to local leadership and decision making. These findings suggest the existence of persistent gaps in both technical and applied competencies that require targeted intervention and professional development (Escuyos et al., 2025).

Collectively, the reviewed literature highlights a convergence of findings regarding the crucial role of competency development in improving governance performance among youth leaders. While previous studies have extensively documented the operational and administrative challenges encountered by SK officials, there remains a continuing need to examine how specific competencies influence governance practices at the local level. Existing

research points to deficiencies in knowledge, skills, and procedural expertise, yet there is limited evidence regarding the overall capability profile of SK officials and how these competencies translate into effective governance outcomes within specific local contexts. This gap in the literature underscores the importance of conducting localized assessments that can generate empirical evidence to inform capacity building programs and policy interventions.

Guided by these considerations, the present study focuses on the competencies of elected Sangguniang Kabataan officials in the First District of Capiz, where youth participation continues to be recognized as an essential component of community development and local governance (Suárez & Tuble, 2025). Specifically, the study seeks to examine the core, technical, and leadership competencies of SK officials and determine how these competencies influence governance practices within their respective barangays. By assessing competencies related to financial management, project implementation, community engagement, and other governance functions, the study aims to identify both strengths and areas requiring improvement among SK officials. Ultimately, the findings are expected to contribute to the development of evidence-based capacity building initiatives, strengthen youth leadership, and support the sustained effectiveness of the Sangguniang Kabataan as a mechanism for promoting good governance and meaningful youth participation at the grassroots level.

Statement of the problem

The core purpose of this study is to assess the capabilities of Sangguniang Kabataan Officials in the performance of local governance in the First District of Capiz.

Specifically, this study sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the demographic profile of the Sangguniang Kabataan Officials in terms of age, sex, highest educational attainment, number of relevant trainings and seminars attended, civil status, and years in service as SK Officials?
2. What is the level of capability of the Sangguniang Kabataan Officials in the key domains of core competencies, technical competencies, and leadership competencies?
3. What is the level of implementation of good governance principles in terms of transparency and accountability, responsiveness and effectiveness, and participation?
4. Is there a significant difference in the level of capability in terms of core competencies, technical competencies, and leadership competencies among Sangguniang Kabataan Officials when grouped according to their profile variables?
5. Is there a significant difference in the level of implementation of good governance principles among Sangguniang Kabataan Officials when grouped according to their profile variables?
6. Is there a significant relationship between the capabilities of the Sangguniang Kabataan Officials and their implementation of good governance principles?
7. What are the major challenges encountered by the SK Officials that hinder their capacity for good governance?

METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the methodology employed in this study, encompassing the research design, locale and population of the study, sampling technique, research instrument, data gathering procedure, and statistical treatment of the data.

The study utilized a descriptive-comparative-correlational research design to deliver a comprehensive analysis of the variables involved. The descriptive approach was applied to

present the profile of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials, assess their level of capabilities specifically in terms of core, technical, and leadership competencies, and determine the extent to which they practice the principles of good governance, including transparency, accountability, responsiveness, effectiveness, and participation.

The study was conducted in the First District of Capiz over the period of October to December 2025. The First District comprises six municipalities, namely Pilar, President Roxas, Pontevedra, Maayon, Panitan, and Panay, and one component city, Roxas City.

This study employed a proportionate stratified random sampling technique to ensure adequate representation of all localities, with each municipality and the component city serving as a stratum. The total number of barangays in the district is 219, which served as the population for determining the sample size. To determine the required number of sample barangays, William G. Cochran's formula (1977) was applied using the following parameters: n_0 as the initial sample size, $Z = 1.96$ for the 95% confidence level, $p = 0.5$ for maximum variability, $q = 0.5$, and $e = 0.05$ as the margin of error. Since the population of $N = 219$ barangays is less than 10,000, the finite population correction formula was subsequently applied, yielding a total sample of 140 barangays. The sample barangays were proportionally distributed among the municipalities, and specific barangays were chosen using the draw-lots technique for random selection. Three SK officials, both elected and appointed, were selected per barangay, resulting in a total of 420 respondents, computed as 140 barangays multiplied by 3 respondents per barangay.

The distribution of sample barangays across the municipalities was as follows. Roxas City, with 47 barangays in the First District, was assigned a computed sample of 30 barangays corresponding to 90 respondents. Panitan, with 26 barangays, was assigned 17 sample barangays corresponding to 39 respondents. Pontevedra, also with 26 barangays, was assigned 17 sample barangays corresponding to 39 respondents. Maayon, with 32 barangays, was assigned 20 sample barangays corresponding to 48 respondents. President Roxas, with 22 barangays, was assigned 14 sample barangays corresponding to 33 respondents. Pilar, with 24 barangays, was assigned 15 sample barangays corresponding to 36 respondents. Panay, with 42 barangays, was assigned 27 sample barangays corresponding to 62 respondents. The total across all localities amounts to 219 barangays in the district, 140 computed sample barangays, and 420 respondents in total. This sampling procedure ensured proportional representation, minimized bias through random selection, and captured diverse perspectives from SK officials across the First District of Capiz.

The participants of the study were Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials from the First District of Capiz, with a total of 420 respondents.

A researcher-made questionnaire served as the primary data-gathering instrument. It consisted of four parts. Part I collected information on the respondents' profile. Part II evaluated SK officials' abilities via core, technical, and leadership competencies according to the SK Competency Framework. Part III examined the extent to which SK officials implement good governance principles, drawing from Republic Act No. 10742, also known as the Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015. Part IV gathered insights on the challenges encountered by the respondents in implementing good governance.

To ensure the accuracy and trustworthiness of the data-gathering tool, the research instruments underwent both validity and reliability testing. For validity, the questionnaires were subjected to content validation by experts knowledgeable in the fields of public administration, youth development, and local governance, including faculty members in Public Administration, officials from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and practitioners with direct experience in Sangguniang Kabataan programs. Their role was to examine whether the items in the instrument were appropriate, clear, and aligned with the objectives of the study, and through their evaluation, the instrument was refined and improved

to ensure that it measures what it is intended to measure. For reliability, pilot testing was conducted with a small group of SK officials outside the research locale, particularly in barangays not part of the First District of Capiz, to ensure that the pilot group closely resembled the actual respondents while avoiding overlap with the target population. The results of the pilot test were analyzed by computing the Cronbach's alpha coefficient, where a value of 0.70 or higher was considered acceptable. The results revealed Cronbach's alpha coefficients of 0.964 for Core Competency, 0.971 for Technical Competency, 0.976 for Leadership Competency, and 0.966 for the Extent of Implementation of Good Governance. These coefficients exceeded the minimum acceptable value of 0.70, indicating excellent internal consistency and reliability of the instrument. By conducting content validation with experts and pilot testing with actual SK officials, the study ensured that the research instrument is both valid and reliable, thereby strengthening the credibility of the findings.

Data collection followed a structured and organized method. The researcher first contacted the Municipal Mayor and the respective Punong Barangay to obtain official approval to conduct the study in their jurisdiction. Before the administration of the questionnaire, the respondents were informed of the objective of the study, the confidentiality of their answers, and their right to refuse participation or withdraw from the study at any time without any penalty. Written informed consent was likewise obtained for the purpose of ethical compliance. The questionnaires were disseminated by the researcher or by designated research assistants to maintain the reliability of responses, address questions from respondents, ensure the most accurate responses possible, and achieve a high retrieval rate. The completed questionnaires were subsequently collected, checked for completeness and consistency, and then collated and arranged for statistical analysis and treatment.

The responses were tabulated, organized, and classified according to the objectives of the study. The profile variables of the respondents were categorized as follows. For sex, the categories were Male, Female, and Prefer not to say. For age, the categories were 21 and below, 22 to 24 years old, and 25 years old and above. For civil status, the categories were Single and Married. For highest educational attainment, the categories were At most High School or Vocational, College Undergraduate or Student, and College Graduate. For position, the categories were SK Chairperson, SK Kagawad, SK Secretary, and SK Treasurer. For number of trainings attended, the categories were 2 and below, 3 to 5, and 6 and above. For years in service, the categories were 1 to 2 years, 3 to 4 years, and 5 years and above.

To determine the level of capabilities of the respondents, a five-point Likert scale was utilized. The responses were quantified using weighted mean scores and interpreted based on corresponding verbal descriptions and levels of capabilities. Specifically, a scale of 5 with a range of mean of 4.21 to 5.00 corresponded to a response of Strongly Agree and a verbal interpretation of Very High. A scale of 4 with a range of mean of 3.41 to 4.20 corresponded to a response of Agree and a verbal interpretation of High. A scale of 3 with a range of mean of 2.61 to 3.40 corresponded to a response of Neutral and a verbal interpretation of Moderate. A scale of 2 with a range of mean of 1.81 to 2.60 corresponded to a response of Disagree and a verbal interpretation of Low. A scale of 1 with a range of mean of 1.00 to 1.80 corresponded to a response of Strongly Disagree and a verbal interpretation of Very Low.

To determine the level of implementation of good governance, a separate five-point Likert scale was utilized. The responses were quantified using weighted mean scores and interpreted based on corresponding verbal descriptions and levels of implementation. A scale of 5 with a range of mean of 4.21 to 5.00 corresponded to a response of Always Practiced and a verbal interpretation of Highly Implemented. A scale of 4 with a range of mean of 3.41 to 4.20 corresponded to a response of Often Practiced and a verbal interpretation of Moderately

Implemented. A scale of 3 with a range of mean of 2.61 to 3.40 corresponded to a response of Sometimes Practiced and a verbal interpretation of Seldom Implemented. A scale of 2 with a range of mean of 1.81 to 2.60 corresponded to a response of Rarely Practiced and a verbal interpretation of Rarely Implemented. A scale of 1 with a range of mean of 1.00 to 1.80 corresponded to a response of Never Practiced and a verbal interpretation of Lowly Implemented.

The collected and categorized data were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, percentages, median, and interquartile range (IQR) were utilized to describe the socio-demographic profile of the respondents, the level of capability of SK officials, the extent of implementation of good governance principles, and the challenges encountered in the performance of their functions. Prior to conducting inferential statistical analyses, the normality of the data distribution was examined using appropriate tests of normality. The results indicated that the data did not meet the assumption of normality. Moreover, the variables were measured using Likert-scale responses, which are ordinal in nature. Consequently, non-parametric statistical techniques were employed, and because of the non-normal distribution of the data, the median and interquartile range (IQR) were used instead of the mean and standard deviation as measures of central tendency and variability.

To determine significant differences in the capability of SK officials and the extent of implementation of good governance when grouped according to profile variables, the Mann-Whitney U Test and Kruskal-Wallis Test were utilized. The Mann-Whitney U Test was applied when comparing two independent groups, while the Kruskal-Wallis Test was used for variables consisting of three or more groups. To determine the relationship between the level of capability and the extent of implementation of good governance principles, Spearman's Rank-Order Correlation, also referred to as Spearman's rho, was employed. This statistical tool is appropriate for determining the strength and direction of the relationship between ordinal variables derived from non-normally distributed data. All statistical analyses were processed using IBM Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 20. A significance level of 0.05 was used as the basis for accepting or rejecting the null hypotheses.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents, analyzes, and interprets the data gathered from 420 Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials in the First District of Capiz. The study employed a descriptive-correlational research design using a structured survey questionnaire administered through purposive sampling to capture a comprehensive representation of SK officials across various barangays in the district. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts and percentage distributions, as well as inferential statistics such as the Kruskal-Wallis test, the Mann-Whitney U test, and Spearman's rho correlation coefficient. The discussion that follows is grounded entirely in the data gathered from the 420 respondents and is interpreted in direct relation to the objectives of the study, which sought to examine the capabilities of SK officials in terms of core, technical, and leadership competencies; assess their level of implementation of good governance principles; determine whether capability and governance implementation differ significantly across selected profile variables; and establish the relationship between capability and the extent of good governance implementation.

Socio-demographic profile of the Sangguniang Kabataan officials

The socio-demographic profile of the 420 SK official respondents reveals a youth leadership body that is predominantly female, young, single, and relatively new to public

service. In terms of sex, 53.1% of the respondents were female, while 46.7% were male, and 0.2% preferred not to say. The higher proportion of female SK officials suggests increasing female participation and representation in youth leadership and local governance, thereby promoting gender inclusivity in public service. Regarding age, the majority of respondents (60.7%) were between 22 and 24 years old, while 19.8% were aged 25 and above, and 19.5% were 21 years old and below. This concentration within the young adult age bracket implies that most SK officials are assumed to be imbued with the energy, creativity, and enthusiasm necessary for youth governance and community leadership.

In terms of civil status, nearly all respondents were single (97.6%), with only 2.4% reported as married. This distribution is expected given the statutory age requirement for SK officials and suggests that most SK officers face fewer family obligations, enabling them to devote greater attention to their responsibilities in a youth leadership capacity. This finding aligns with Anyayahan (2019), who noted that the demographic profile of SK officials, being predominantly young and unmarried, affords them greater flexibility and time to engage in community-based projects compared to older and married barangay officials. With respect to educational attainment, 56.4% of the respondents were college graduates, 39.3% were college undergraduate students, and 4.3% had attained at most a high school or vocational level of education. The strong representation of college graduates and college-level students indicates that most SK officials possess a degree of higher educational exposure that can be beneficial for decision-making, leadership, and governance functions.

In terms of position held within the SK council, the majority were SK Kagawads (44.0%), followed by SK Chairpersons (26.9%), SK Treasurers (22.9%), and SK Secretaries (6.2%). The prevalence of legislative and support function positions in the sample broadens the understanding of youth governance and community involvement represented in the study. Regarding training exposure, exactly half of the respondents (50%) had attended two trainings or below, while 39.8% attended between three and five trainings, and only 10.2% had attended six or more trainings. This distribution implies the need for more capability-building programs and governance-related seminars to enhance the competencies and effectiveness of SK officials across the district. In terms of years of service, the majority of respondents (74.5%) had served as SK officials for one to two years, while 22.6% had served for three to four years, and only 2.9% had served for five years or more. This profile indicates that the respondents were predominantly at an early stage of their public service tenure and may still be in the process of developing their leadership skills, governance experience, and administrative capabilities. This observation is supported by Sombrio et al. (2024), who found that youth leaders within their first two years of service face a steep learning curve, particularly in complex technical competencies such as financial management, policy development, and navigating bureaucratic local government systems.

Distribution of respondents based on the level of capability of the Sangguniang Kabataan officials

The distribution of respondents according to their level of capability across the three competency domains, namely core, technical, and leadership, reveals that the majority of SK officials demonstrated high to very high levels of competency in all three areas. Regarding core competency, 54.0% of the respondents attained a very high level, while 34.5% were rated high, 11.0% moderate, 0.5% low, and 0.5% very low. This indicates that most SK officials possess strong foundational competencies, including communication, professionalism, teamwork, and accountability, which are essential to effective public service. This finding is consistent with

Belarmino and Cabardo (2023), who established that public officials with strong core competencies also demonstrated better coordination, communication, and governance performance. Ong and Reyes (2021) similarly noted that strong foundational competency enhances the response capacity of bureaucrats and public officials.

For technical competency, 45.7% of respondents were rated high and 38.1% very high, while 15.7% were moderate, 0.2% low, and 0.2% very low. This distribution suggests that SK officials are generally capable of performing technical and administrative aspects of governance, including planning, budgeting, documentation, and program and project implementation. This is consistent with Rivera and Lopez (2022), who found that local officials with stronger technical skills implemented programs more efficiently and within operational limits. Santiago (2020) also emphasized that deficiencies in technical and financial management skills frequently result in delays and compliance problems in governance operations. In terms of leadership competency, 47.4% of respondents were rated high and 35.0% very high, while 16.9% were moderate, 0.2% low, and 0.5% very low. This suggests that most SK officials possess effective leadership skills in decision-making, coordination, and governance. Aquino and Fernandez (2021) found that leadership competencies significantly influence program implementation and community participation, while Garcia and Velasco (2022) further explained that leadership capability contributes to organizational effectiveness and stronger service delivery in public institutions.

Distribution of respondents based on the level of implementation of good governance principles by the Sangguniang Kabataan officials

The distribution of respondents according to the level of implementation of good governance principles reveals generally favorable governance practices among SK officials in the three areas assessed, namely transparency, responsiveness and effectiveness, and participation. In terms of transparency, 51.7% of the respondents highly implemented transparency practices, while 31.2% moderately implemented them, 15.7% seldom implemented them, 0.5% rarely implemented them, and 1.0% lowly implemented them. This indicates that a majority of SK officials practice openness, accountability, and proper communication in handling programs, projects, and financial matters, which fosters trust and confidence in local governance. This finding complements the position of the United Nations Development Programme (2018), which highlighted that transparency bolsters public trust and reduces opportunities for corruption in governance institutions. Bautista and Morales (2022) similarly established that transparent financial reporting enhances citizen confidence and institutional legitimacy. It is worth acknowledging, however, that a proportion of respondents showed low implementation, indicating the presence of some transparency gaps. Reyes (2022) notes that inadequate transparency in SK governance weakens public trust and raises questions of accountability.

Regarding responsiveness and effectiveness, 47.1% of respondents highly implemented these principles, 36.4% moderately implemented them, 15.5% seldom implemented them, 0.5% rarely implemented them, and 0.5% lowly implemented them. This indicates that the majority of SK officials are capable of responding to the needs of the youth and executing programs and services effectively, reflecting a general commitment to timely and efficient service delivery. Navarro and Lim (2022) found that responsive public officials are associated with increased public satisfaction and confidence in local governance, while Castillo (2021) indicated that good governance depends heavily on effective administrative capacity and competency among public officials. For participation, 40.7% of respondents highly implemented participation, 39.3% moderately implemented it, 19.3% seldom implemented it, 0.5% rarely implemented it, and 0.2% lowly implemented it. This indicates that SK officials

generally promote the involvement of youth in planning, decision-making, and community activities, reflecting an understanding of the value of youth engagement in governance. Hernandez and Yap (2021) demonstrated a positive correlation between citizen participation, program implementation, and community cooperation. As Villanueva (2020) noted, participatory governance enhances transparency and accountability because citizens become more aware of government activities. However, the notable proportion of respondents who seldom or rarely implemented participation suggests that community engagement gaps persist in certain areas. Flores (2021) similarly found that youth involvement in most SK councils remains limited beyond recreational activities, underscoring the need for more deliberate engagement strategies.

Capability among Sangguniang Kabataan officials when grouped according to their profile variables

When the capability levels of SK officials were examined according to their profile variables, the results revealed that there were no statistically significant differences in capability according to sex (Kruskal-Wallis test, computed value = 0.503, $p = 0.778$), civil status (Mann-Whitney U test, computed value = -0.786, $p = 0.432$), and position (Kruskal-Wallis test, computed value = 5.249, $p = 0.154$). These non-significant results indicate that SK officials demonstrate similar levels of capability on average, irrespective of their gender, marital status, or specific position within the council.

However, statistically significant differences in capability were identified according to age, highest educational attainment, years in service, and number of trainings attended. In terms of age, the Kruskal-Wallis test yielded a computed value of 6.731 at $p = 0.035$, indicating a significant difference at the 0.05 level. Post-hoc analysis revealed that respondents aged 25 and above obtained the highest median capability score (median = 4.20, IQR = 0.57), which was significantly higher than those aged 21 and below (median = 4.00, IQR = 0.89), while those aged 22 to 24 (median = 4.13, IQR = 0.68) did not differ significantly from either group. This suggests that older SK officials tend to demonstrate higher capability levels, possibly due to greater maturity and accumulated experience in governance.

For highest educational attainment, the Kruskal-Wallis test produced a computed value of 21.045 at $p = 0.000$, indicating a highly significant difference. College graduates recorded the highest median capability score (median = 4.22, IQR = 0.62) and performed significantly better than both college undergraduate students (median = 4.05, IQR = 0.79) and those with at most a high school or vocational education (median = 3.96, IQR = 0.71), the latter two groups not differing significantly from each other. This finding suggests that higher educational attainment contributes meaningfully to governance knowledge, analytical abilities, and leadership competence. Palangdao et al. (2023) explained that the intersection of formal education and years of active service creates a compounding effect on competence, as officials with higher education adapt more quickly to the complexities of public office while their tenure provides the practical application needed to consolidate these skills.

Regarding years in service, the Mann-Whitney U test yielded a computed value of -3.316 at $p = 0.001$, indicating a highly significant difference. Respondents with three years and above in service demonstrated higher capability (median = 4.22, IQR = 0.38) compared to those with one to two years (median = 4.05, IQR = 0.43). This implies that longer service experience contributes positively to the development and functioning of SK officials in governance roles. With respect to the number of trainings attended, the Kruskal-Wallis test yielded a computed value of 47.481 at $p = 0.000$, reflecting a highly significant difference. Respondents who

attended three to five trainings (median = 4.26, IQR = 0.52) and six or more trainings (median = 4.32, IQR = 0.39) both demonstrated significantly higher capability compared to those who attended two trainings or below (median = 3.92, IQR = 0.84), while the two higher training groups did not differ significantly from each other. This finding underscores the critical role of training and seminars in building the knowledge, leadership, and governance capacities of SK officials, which is consistent with Mahinay (2019), who found that higher education levels and greater training attendance had a positive impact on governance quality and knowledge of official mandates. These findings also align with Tuble (2024), who cited training exposure as a crucial mechanism for developing technical and governance competencies among SK officials, and further reinforce that investment in education, leadership development, and governance training is essential for enhancing SK official capacity and overall governance performance.

Extent of implementation of good governance among Sangguniang Kabataan officials when grouped according to their profile variables

The analysis of the extent of good governance implementation across profile variables revealed patterns broadly parallel to those found in capability. No statistically significant differences in governance implementation were identified according to sex (Kruskal-Wallis test, computed value = 0.296, $p = 0.863$), age (Kruskal-Wallis test, computed value = 3.639, $p = 0.162$), civil status (Mann-Whitney U test, computed value = -0.786, $p = 0.432$), and position (Kruskal-Wallis test, computed value = 5.922, $p = 0.115$). These results indicate that SK officials generally demonstrate similar governance practices regardless of their gender, age, marital status, or specific council position.

However, statistically significant differences in governance implementation were found according to highest educational attainment, years in service, and number of trainings attended. For highest educational attainment, the Kruskal-Wallis test yielded a computed value of 16.793 at $p = 0.000$, indicating a highly significant difference. College graduates recorded significantly higher governance implementation (median = 4.33, IQR = 0.76) compared to college undergraduate students (median = 4.00, IQR = 1.11), while those with at most a high school or vocational education (median = 4.00, IQR = 0.88) did not differ significantly from either college-level group. This finding implies that higher educational attainment enhances governance practices, decision-making, and accountability among SK officials, as supported by Palangdao et al. (2023), who noted that academic training enhances an official's capacity to comprehend and execute statutory requirements, thereby leading to improved governance outcomes.

For years in service, the Mann-Whitney U test produced a computed value of -3.316 at $p = 0.001$, signifying a highly significant difference. Respondents who had served three years and above demonstrated higher governance implementation (median = 4.47, IQR = 0.63) compared to those with one to two years of service (median = 4.00, IQR = 1.06). This indicates that prolonged exposure to civic leadership provides a cumulative learning effect, wherein experience enables officials to better navigate local government systems and respond more effectively to community needs, consistent with Distor and Khaltar (2022). In terms of number of trainings attended, the Kruskal-Wallis test yielded a computed value of 47.288 at $p = 0.000$, indicating a highly significant difference. Respondents who attended three to five trainings (median = 4.39, IQR = 0.76) and those who attended six or more trainings (median = 4.50, IQR = 0.65) both showed significantly higher governance implementation than those who attended two trainings or below (median = 4.00, IQR = 1.1), while the two more highly trained groups did not significantly differ from each other. These findings highlight the critical importance of continuous training and seminars in strengthening the governance competencies and

performance of SK officials, an observation that supports the competency framework of the Civil Service Commission (2017) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (2019), which emphasized that governance performance improves when competency standards and leadership development programs are strengthened.

Relationship between capability and the extent of good governance implementation

The analysis of the relationship between the capability level of SK officials and their extent of good governance implementation yielded a statistically significant and strongly positive correlation. Using Spearman's rho, a computed value of 0.841 was obtained at $p = 0.000$, leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis at the 0.01 level of significance. This highly significant result indicates that the association between capability and good governance implementation is not random but rather reflects a robust and meaningful nexus between the two variables. As the capability of SK officials increases, encompassing core, technical, and leadership competencies, the extent to which they implement good governance practices, namely transparency, responsiveness and effectiveness, and participation, correspondingly increases. This positive direction of the relationship implies that SK officials with stronger competency profiles are better positioned to embed and sustain good governance practices across their respective communities. This finding resonates with Ramos (2020), who established that higher leadership skills enhance responsiveness and governance innovation, and with Ong and Reyes (2021), who similarly noted that higher competency is associated with better responsiveness and stronger public trust. Furthermore, this result aligns with the governance principles recognized by the United Nations Development Programme (2018), which underscored that accountability, participation, responsiveness, and transparency in governance are dependent on institutional capability and leadership competence.

Challenges encountered by the SK officials that hinder their capacity for good governance

The data on challenges encountered by SK officials revealed systemic constraints across three primary areas: program and project implementation, financial reporting and fund management, and youth participation and internal governance. In terms of program and project implementation, the most frequently cited challenge was insufficient funds or budgetary limitations, reported by 67% of the respondents. This finding underscores the persistent financial constraints that impede the implementation and sustainability of youth programs and activities. Difficulty in aligning projects with the actual needs or interests of the youth was cited by 50% of the respondents, while delays in project implementation due to external factors such as permits and weather conditions were reported by 37%. Additional challenges included lack of support or cooperation from the Sangguniang Barangay or barangay officials (31%), difficulty in measuring the actual impact or effectiveness of completed programs (30%), and insufficient technical skills for planning and budgeting, particularly with respect to the Comprehensive Barangay Youth Development Plan and Annual Barangay Youth Investment Program, which was reported by 22% of the respondents.

Regarding financial reporting and fund management, the most common challenge was difficulty in complying with mandatory financial reporting requirements and deadlines, reported by 47% of the respondents. This was followed by a lack of knowledge or training in basic bookkeeping or financial management (40%), pressure from external parties such as the local government unit regarding the use of SK funds (37%), delays or complexity in accessing or disbursing SK funds from the treasury (34%), and difficulty in securing necessary supporting

documents such as receipts and liquidation papers (30%). These findings suggest that administrative compliance and financial management remain highly challenging for many SK officials, which is consistent with Austria (2024) and Damit (2024), who described how rigid fiscal bureaucracy and a lack of financial training force young leaders to expend limited time managing complex compliance deadlines rather than executing community-centered projects.

In terms of youth participation and internal governance, the most frequently reported challenge was low attendance or lack of interest from the youth during Katipunan ng Kabataan assemblies, cited by 65% of the respondents. This was followed by demands on SK officials' time due to personal studies, work, or other personal commitments (45%), difficulty in mobilizing youth volunteers for community service and activities (42%), and conflicts, disagreements, or poor communication among SK officials and members (31%). Under the category of other challenges, lack of necessary resources such as office space, equipment, and internet access was cited by 33% of the respondents, while insufficient mentorship or guidance from previous SK officials or the local government unit was reported by 27%. Taken together, these challenges reveal a systemic gap wherein local youth councils are constrained by fiscal bureaucracy, limited financial training, student-age officials stretched thin by competing personal obligations, and a persistent gap in community engagement. As Sombrio et al. (2024) and Austria (2024) observed, this heavy administrative burden leaves overextended officials with minimal capacity to address deep-seated community apathy and mobilize youth volunteers effectively.

Synthesis and implications of findings

Taken together, the findings of this study present a coherent and empirically grounded account of how the capabilities of SK officials relate to the extent of their implementation of good governance principles in the First District of Capiz. The 420 respondents, predominantly young, female, single, college-educated, and relatively new to service, demonstrated generally high to very high levels of core, technical, and leadership competency, and correspondingly high levels of transparency, responsiveness and effectiveness, and participatory governance implementation. The strongly positive and highly significant Spearman's rho correlation of 0.841 at $p = 0.000$ establishes that enhanced capability is meaningfully associated with improved governance performance, reinforcing the theoretical position that institutional effectiveness is grounded in the individual and collective competencies of public officials. Significant differences in both capability and governance implementation according to educational attainment, years in service, and number of trainings attended further affirm that education, experience, and structured capacity-building interventions are indispensable drivers of governance quality among youth officials. These results directly address the objectives of the study and contribute to the body of literature on youth governance, local government effectiveness, and competency-based public administration in the Philippine context. Identified challenges, particularly budgetary limitations, financial reporting difficulties, and low youth participation, contextualize the limits within which these capabilities are exercised, providing a more complete and nuanced understanding of the governance environment confronting SK officials. The revised conceptual framework, which positions SK official capability as a significant antecedent of good governance implementation, is substantiated by the data and offers practical and theoretical guidance for policymakers, the Civil Service Commission, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and local government units seeking to strengthen youth governance in the country. The subsequent chapter will present the summary, conclusions, and recommendations drawn from these findings, with particular attention to evidence-based interventions for improving capability development and governance performance among Sangguniang Kabataan officials.

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study provide a comprehensive understanding of the capabilities of Sangguniang Kabataan officials and their implementation of good governance principles in the municipalities of the First District of Capiz. The results revealed that the respondents were predominantly female, generally within the age range of 22 to 24 years old, single, and mostly college graduates, although a considerable number were still pursuing their college education. Most respondents served as SK Kagawads, had attended two or fewer relevant trainings and seminars, and possessed only one to two years of service as SK officials. These characteristics suggest that while many youth leaders possess formal educational qualifications, their governance experience and exposure to professional development opportunities remain relatively limited.

Despite these demographic characteristics, the study demonstrated that SK officials possessed high to very high levels of capability across all competency domains. Core competencies emerged as the strongest area, followed by technical and leadership competencies, indicating that the respondents generally possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to perform their responsibilities as youth leaders and local governance practitioners. Correspondingly, the implementation of good governance principles was found to range from moderate to high levels. Transparency, accountability, responsiveness, and effectiveness were generally highly implemented, reflecting the commitment of SK officials to carrying out their mandates responsibly and efficiently. Participation, however, was implemented at a comparatively moderate to high level, suggesting that while efforts toward inclusive governance are evident, opportunities remain to further strengthen youth engagement and stakeholder involvement in governance processes.

The study further established that certain demographic variables significantly influence both competency and governance outcomes. No significant differences in capability were observed when respondents were grouped according to sex, civil status, and position. However, significant variations emerged based on age, educational attainment, years of service, and number of trainings attended, indicating that these factors contribute meaningfully to the development of competencies among SK officials. Similarly, while the implementation of good governance principles did not significantly vary according to sex, age, civil status, and position, significant differences were observed based on educational attainment, years of service, and training exposure. These findings emphasize the important role of education, experience, and continuous learning opportunities in enhancing governance performance and leadership effectiveness.

A particularly important finding of the study is the existence of a very strong and statistically significant relationship between the capabilities of SK officials and their implementation of good governance principles. This result demonstrates that higher levels of competency are associated with stronger adherence to transparency, accountability, responsiveness, effectiveness, and participatory governance practices. The findings therefore affirm that the successful implementation of local governance is substantially influenced by the skills, knowledge, leadership capacities, and continuous professional development of SK officials. As competencies improve, governance practices likewise become more effective, reinforcing the critical importance of sustained capability development in strengthening local youth governance.

At the same time, the study identified several challenges that continue to hinder the effective practice of good governance among SK officials. Among the most significant concerns were insufficient funds and budget limitations, difficulties in aligning programs and projects with the actual needs of the youth, and delays arising from external factors such as permit processing requirements and unfavorable weather conditions. Financial management challenges were also evident, particularly in complying with mandatory financial reporting requirements and addressing limited knowledge in bookkeeping and financial management. Furthermore, youth participation and internal governance concerns emerged as persistent issues, including low attendance during Katipunan ng Kabataan assemblies, lack of interest among young people in governance activities, competing responsibilities among SK officials, and difficulties in mobilizing youth volunteers. These challenges highlight the complex operational environment within which SK officials perform their duties and underscore the need for institutional interventions that support effective governance and youth engagement.

Taken together, the findings lead to the conclusion that while SK officials in the First District of Capiz generally demonstrate strong competencies and satisfactory implementation of good governance principles, their effectiveness is significantly shaped by educational attainment, experience, and training opportunities. The strong relationship between competency and governance performance further confirms that investments in capability development are essential for sustaining effective local governance. Nevertheless, the persistence of operational, financial, and participatory challenges indicates that competency alone is insufficient without adequate institutional support, resources, and mechanisms that encourage meaningful youth involvement.

In light of these findings, it is imperative that Local Government Units establish institutionalized and continuous capacity development programs for newly elected SK officials to strengthen their practical knowledge and governance skills at the onset of their service. The Department of the Interior and Local Government and the National Youth Commission should further enhance competency-based training initiatives with greater emphasis on advanced leadership and technical development. Efforts to strengthen participatory governance should likewise be intensified through regular youth consultations, community assemblies, and collaborative development initiatives that actively involve stakeholders in planning and decision-making processes. Continuous professional development opportunities, including advanced training programs, leadership enhancement activities, scholarships, and other incentives, should also be made accessible to encourage lifelong learning among SK officials. Prioritizing investments in capability building is essential not only for addressing competency gaps but also for sustaining effective governance practices over the long term.

Finally, the study highlights several directions for future inquiry that may further enrich the understanding of youth governance. Subsequent research may examine the effectiveness of the Sangguniang Kabataan Mandatory Training in developing competencies, leadership capabilities, and governance performance among youth leaders. Further studies may also investigate the determinants of youth participation in governance activities, particularly within the Katipunan ng Kabataan, to identify strategies that can strengthen civic engagement among young people. Additionally, future research may explore financial management practices, accountability mechanisms, transparency measures, budgeting processes, financial reporting systems, and compliance with auditing standards among SK officials. Such investigations can contribute to the development of evidence-based policies and interventions that enhance transparency, accountability, efficiency, and overall governance performance within the Sangguniang Kabataan system.

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