



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region V- Bicol
Division Office of Catanduanes
PAJO BAGUIO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Virac, Catanduanes

PROJECT HOPES
(Helping Our-Learners Plant Vegetables for Sustainability):
Innovation and Impact

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Project HOPES (Helping Our-learners Plant Vegetables for Sustainability) is an innovation aligned to the Gulayan sa Paaralan Program of the Department of Education highlighted in DepEd Memorandum No. 293, s. 2007 which encourages both public and elementary and secondary schools to establish school garden to ensure continuous supply of vegetables for school feeding. This article discusses the impact of this program to the learners of Pajo Baguio Elementary School.

This program can help in honing the learners' skills in home gardening. This is very timely especially this pandemic. Since the learners cannot go to school due to the implementation of distance learning, this is one way for the Edukasyon Pantahanan at Pangkabuhayan (EPP) teacher to give hands-on intervention and improve the teaching-learning process in EPP IV-VI that measure the acquired skills and competencies of the pupils. The EPP teachers together with the head teacher conduct conference with the parents of their pupils to explain the mechanics of this program. Following the health protocol, the EPP teachers then visited the pupil's home to explain the process to the learners and parents

In addition, this program also teaches our children basic skills in planting to sustain food stability within their families. It develops among our children the virtue of patience, perseverance, and hard work by way of strengthening the camaraderie among the members of the family since they work together in their home garden.

Furthermore, the project addresses the problem of the school and community regarding the nutritional status of young children. This also can be a good solution to solve the major problem in school malnutrition. It serves as school supplementary feeding program to improve the nutritional status of the school children. Teaching the

pupils the values of eating healthy food and planting vegetables through sustaining the *Gulayan sa Tahanan and Gulayan sa Paaralan* Program.

Lastly, the program promotes the idea of teamwork and solidarity among its stakeholders. It is because we believe that helping together is a success and make dream works. The project HOPES aims to touch one's heart, encourage one's mind, inspire one's soul and make a difference among the community.