



COMMUNITY PANTRY: REVITALIZING THE “BAYANIHAN SPIRIT” OF THE FILIPINOS AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

MAZEDAN INT. J. OF SOCIAL
SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

e-ISSN: 2582-9564

Article id-MIJSSH0201002

Vol-2, Issue-1

Received: 5 Jan 2021

Revised: 25 Feb 2021

Accepted: 6 Mar 2021

MARK LESTER C. CUAYZON

Citation: Cuayzon, M. L. C. (2021). Community Pantry: Revitalizing the “Bayanihan Spirit” of the Filipinos Amidst the Covid-19 Pandemic. *Mazedan International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, 2(1), 6-12.

Abstract

In the Philippines, the "Bayanihan Spirit" is one of the communal unities, helping others without expecting rewards, to achieve a specific goal. Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic, rebuilding the "Bayanihan Spirit" has come to represent so much more that help made the community pantries in the Philippines. This research aimed as a source of information for the students, teachers, future researchers on knowing how the Community Pantry Movement means, how these affect the Filipino Values, and to enlighten us in understanding how the Community Pantry rebuilds the Filipino Values System.

This study focused on revitalizing the "Bayanihan Spirit" among the Filipinos amidst the Covid-19 Pandemic and how this movement embodies the Filipino Values System. The study respondents were composed of five randomly selected individuals who initiated Community Pantries in the residences of Bicos, Rizal, Nueva Ecija. The researchers used the phenomenological approach method of qualitative research. An in-depth interview research design specifically the semi-structured interview was conducted with five people from Youth of Iglesia Filipina Independiente in Bicos, Rizal Nueva Ecija. The respondents were purposively selected as participants using the non-probability sampling approach. The interviews were administered through email or web page.

The findings of the study revealed that Community Pantry Movements have a big impact on the life of everyone and on the values of being a Filipino. Also, Community Pantry Movement was synonymous to teamwork or cooperation. Lastly, it revealed that the movement embodies Filipino Values System such as Bayanihan, sharing, and generosity.

Keywords: Covid-19, kinesiology, Filipino values, Bayanihan, Community Pantry

1. INTRODUCTION

Filipinos have a unique set of values that have been passed down from generation to generation, as values are an important aspect of a country's culture and identity. This set of values influences a person's perception of a common or unusual circumstance, as well as their decisions and behaviors in response to it. The Filipino value system refers to the values or value system that most Filipinos have used throughout history. The Philippine value system encompasses the country's distinct, consistent ideology, ethical principles, ethical behaviors, etiquette, as well as cultural and personal values.

The Bayanihan culture is one of the Filipino values that they are most proud of. During natural or human-caused tragedies, Filipinos spontaneously demonstrate "bayanihan" or "damayan." Bayanihan is a Filipino custom in which individuals go out of their way to aid those who are in need. It comes from the word "bayan," which means "nation." As a result, it creates feelings of belonging and service. Bayanihan is related to "damayan," or the ability to care for others. Bayanihan is done without expecting anything in return, however most persons who have been helped feel obligated to repay the favor at some point in their lives. The favor does not have to be returned

to the person who offered it; instead, it might be returned to others in need (Ealdama, n.d).

The Bayanihan spirit" did not fade away, even in the midst of a more-disaster situation in the country. In this regard, the COVID-19 pandemic has been present in the Philippines for over a year, causing a huge number of cases and fatalities, as well as the loss of employment and enterprises. Despite the government's Social Amelioration Program (SAP), which was designed to give the poorest members of society the ability to meet basic necessities during the epidemic, it is still insufficient to keep Filipinos alive. Prior to the urgency of the situation, it is widely assumed that the Philippines' sudden and rapid spread of community pantries began on April 14, 2021, when local entrepreneur Anna Patricia Non collaborated with farmers and local vegetable vendors to open a small food bank for her community on Maginhawa Street in Quezon City. It's a powerful concept that has emerged in the midst of a widespread pandemic, when many Filipinos are unable to feed themselves and their families (Valenzuela, 2021). This movement aroused the interest of many Filipinos, and it quickly expanded throughout the country. The

concept is straightforward. People contribute whatever food they can — fresh veggies, sweet potatoes, canned goods, and so on — to a central area in the neighborhood, and those who cannot afford to buy their own must wait in line to collect what they need for free. The community effort operates on the simple premise that everyone is free to donate as much as they like, but no one should receive more than they require (Valenzuela, 2021).

A communal pantry is a common citizen's response to a disaster. Community pantries can be understood as acts of resistance to three things: a government that fails to appropriately meet residents' needs; a biased and prejudiced perception of the poor as selfish and greedy; and third, relief initiatives from institutions that are difficult to trust (Presto, 2021). It's worth noting that many of the community pantry's supporters aren't from wealthy families. It goes beyond the common and arrogant belief that only the wealthy donate to the destitute.

Based on the data acquired, this study aims to look at the revitalization of the Filipinos' "Bayanihan Spirit" during the COVID-19 epidemic, as well as evaluate the perspectives and experiences of the volunteers involved in the establishment of community pantry.

Research Assumptions

Specifically, this study sought to answer the following questions:

1. How do community pantry movements affect the Filipino Values at the height of the pandemic?
2. What does Community Pantry Movement mean for Filipinos?
3. How does the community pantry movement embody the Filipino Values System?

2. LITERATURE REVIEW AND STUDIES

Community Pantry: Local Context

Several mutual aid efforts around the Philippines have been inspired by a community-based food bank that was established to help the destitute during the pandemic and its economic aftermath. Known as the community pantry in the area, this project allows people to donate and share according to their skills, as well as take what they need. It provided food and commodities to Filipinos in need, despite the fact that it was run by Filipinos in need themselves. This movement reflects the Filipino's bayanihan spirit, in which people help others and those who are helped return the favor. In times of crisis, Filipinos may be relied upon to help their neighbors.

“Philippine community pantries as a strategy of supporting the underprivileged during the COVID-19 pandemic,” according to *Journal of Public Health*. Because of COVID-19 pandemic, governments were forced to impose lockdowns in order to prevent the virus from spreading, according to Gozum et al. (2021). As a result, a number of human operations have been interrupted, forcing people to remain at home. This required stay-at-home safety regulation resulted in some workers being placed on a no-work, no-pay plan, and many small firms were struggling to stay afloat. As a result, the author of a prior email attempted to demonstrate the vital relationship between the country's public health

and government economic policies and actions. However, due to the way the epidemic is being managed in the Philippines, the government has received a number of public concerns, including unsatisfied, and some individuals believe the government isn't doing its job. As a result, in this essay, we look at the Philippine government's economic response as well as the origins of community pantries.

The economic imbalance stems from the Philippine government's response to the epidemic. During the early months of the shutdown, the government developed a Social Amelioration Program (SAP), which involves providing "ayuda" (cash assistance) to the country's poor. An earlier memorandum in connection with this concept recommended that assistance be weighted to favor the poor. During the distribution of financial assistance, however, several citizens made claims that some unscrupulous officials were to blame for an unequal distribution. Unfortunately, due to corporate closures and staff layoff, most Filipinos have had to rely on this program up till now.

The government instituted lockdowns in early April 2021 in response to a second surge of COVID-19 infections. The SAP, however, was not a viable option this time due to a shortage of cash. Furthermore, there was no indication of government effort to relieve the most vulnerable's financial burdens. As a result of these problems, community pantries arose. The basic concept behind these pantries is to encourage people to donate whatever they can and just take what they require from the pantry. Community pantries have helped people with their material needs. The concept of a community pantry exemplifies how the virtue of solidarity might aid us in surviving the pandemic. On the other hand, community solidarity and the success of community pantries can only be achieved if individuals become more careful of the items they take from the pantry. Mindfulness should be practiced not only to reduce vaccine apprehension, but also in people's efforts to withstand the pandemic's effects.

According to Castillo and Maravilla (2021), a tiny percentage of employees in many developing countries lose their jobs and struggle to maintain themselves and their families. In order to serve the community, high-quality standards must be established. It must provide high-quality service and keep track of progress in providing high-quality care to individuals. Because government support is limited, many people seek help from other sources, such as social services and caring individuals. In the Philippines, community pantries grew in prominence as a result of the government's lack of long-term support and systematic planning. Food pantries in other countries serve low-income people with high rates of chronic disease, making them a good place to start community-based health promotion activities. In the Philippines, a communal pantry refers to a facility that is open to the public, whereas a pantry refers to a private or residential room where food is kept. It is a location where basic necessities such as food, sanitary items, and prescriptions are made available to the poor, allowing them to obtain resources for free. The goal is to obtain basic essentials from donated goods in the community pantry. Simultaneously, people who acquire food from the

pantry can donate something they don't need in order to help others acquire food and medicine.

The effort promotes the mental health and well-being of the community. The community pantry project is crucial to public health during the Covid-19 outbreak. It aids persons, particularly the poor, who are unable to obtain adequate food and medication. It encourages people to work together by allowing them to contribute goods, produce, and other resources. It encourages residents, as well as local and private groups, to work together for the common good. As a result, it creates, promotes, and mobilizes partnerships to fill in the gaps in addressing community public health issues. To ensure the project's success, policies and methods must be put in place.

Filipinos are letting the Duterte administration know that its efforts to help during the pandemic are falling short, according to a statement by Wong (2021). "Give as much as you can, and take as little as you need" scrawled on cardboard signs at sellers all around the Philippines. These are impromptu community pantries, unplanned projects that provide millions of Filipinos with free rice, vegetables, canned goods, and even facemasks. While food banks can be found in many countries throughout the world, the Philippines' communal pantry has become much more. It is both a political statement against the government and a symbol of national unity in a country fighting to survive the pandemic. Not only do community pantries demonstrate generosity, but they also demonstrate respect and concern for others. The vast majority of those who queue for hours only take what they need for themselves and their families, bearing in mind that those in line behind them are in need as well. There is little trace of the hoarding seen in stores throughout the world when the epidemic initially broke out. Instead, as Filipino sociologist Randy David puts it, the system is predicated on "faceless giving and discrete receiving." "There is no room for self-promotion and forced acknowledgements," David argues.

But this is more than a helpful tool for others. The community pantry also serves as a political statement about the public's frustration with the government's inability to meet the country's needs. The Philippine government plans to give each of the country's 18 million low-income families. In 2020, the minimum wage will be PHP 8,000 (A\$215), with a maximum wage of PHP 4,000 (\$107) current year which is insufficient to cover their basic needs. Ana Patricia Non, a 26-year-old woman who started a pantry in her neighborhood that has spawned imitators all around the world, explains why she did it: "I'm tired of whining. "I'm bored of inaction," she said. "As evidenced that it has gone viral, this is a gut issue." The rise of community pantries should act as a wake-up call for the government to do more for its residents since it unwittingly reveals institutional deficiencies. In the Philippines, community pantries can also be perceived as a political statement. Only a few days after it became generally known, the national police openly linked Non's community pantry to the communist movement and accused it of being a tool to recruit members. Those who are "red-tagged" as communists by the police frequently die, in keeping with President Rodrigo Duterte's resolve to put an end to the country's long-running communist insurgency. After police authorities arrived and began

interviewing Non, she was compelled to close her community pantry. She was concerned for her and the other volunteers' safety. After receiving assurances from the local mayor and the director of the country's Department of Interior and Local Government, she reopened her business. The public outcry over Non's pantry's temporary closure resulted in an unexpected rush of food and monetary donations, which she used to support other local pantries. Its growing popularity reflects the public's reaction to the Duterte administration's unjustified intimidation.

Filipinos are famed for their resiliency in bad times, according to an article in *The Philippine Star*. As the epidemic unfolded, it revealed present society's inequalities; staying safe from the virus resulted in another issue: a scarcity of resources for basic needs. To help with this challenge, several people started forming community pantries. According to Franco (2021), this movement combined the Filipino values of bayanihan, reciprocity, and the communal ambiance of the sari-sari store. It preserves the spirit of bayanihan. The bayanihan spirit is one of communal cooperation, when people support one another without expecting anything in return in order to attain a common objective. The community pantry movement also demonstrates the integrity of many Filipinos, who, despite their own hardships, have the self-control to take only what they require so that others can benefit from the pantry as well. Not only have many organizations started the movement, but so have individuals who want to help others.

A swarm of community pantries have cropped up in Metro Manila and the neighboring areas as a result of the rapid growth of this underlying national habit. In just a few days, over 75 community pantries were formed across the Philippines. Since the first community pantry was publicized on social media, Filipinos have shown their willingness to help those in need despite the ongoing lockdown, which has hampered access to livelihood and basic commodities.

After a year of dealing with the realities of COVID-19, people's lives are still being influenced by the main issues of 2020. As unemployment cripples the workforce, this policy will unavoidably run into some opposition. The first is that human greed would eventually overwhelm the system. Despite the hoarders, the basic kindergarten idea of sharing has won in this situation.

Community Pantry: Global Context

Food insecurity, defined as a lack of consistent access to a sufficient quantity of inexpensive, nutritious food, affects one-eighth of all-American households, with the highest rates among those earning less than the federal poverty threshold, according to a study by Ruopeng An, et al. (2018). Food insecurity is associated with poor nutritional quality and a higher risk of sickness. Food banks in the United States generally serve as warehouses for a wide range of food supplies that are then distributed by smaller front-line agencies known as food pantries, which provide free services to end clients. In the United States, food banks and pantries supply free foodstuffs to over 465 million people in need each year. Food insecurity is estimated to be between 50 and 84 percent of pantry users in the United States. Food banks typically boost

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) payments. Some clients, however, rely on food pantries as their primary or exclusive source of food due to SNAP ineligibility. Food pantries are critical in satisfying Americans' needs. Food pantries can serve as a natural venue and focal point for various programs targeted at improving the nutrition and health of the most vulnerable client group, in addition to providing emergency food.

T. Schoenfeldt (2020) CARES of Farmington Hills is a food pantry that serves nine Michigan towns. CARES is a nonprofit organization. Before the COVID-19 outbreak, the CARES office included a large meeting room, a clothing room, and a food pantry. Before the pandemic, it was a client-choice, self-serve food pantry set up like a grocery store that was available to anyone in need in the service territory. Customers might visit the pantry five days a week by appointment. Every visitor is allowed one visit to the pantry each month, and no one is ever turned away. If a guest is not in the service area, they are provided an emergency kit with enough food to last two days as well as a list of local food banks. At the beginning of the epidemic, we were serving 400 to 500 families.

2. METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The research strategy for this study was a qualitative approach. The research method includes empirical work based on observation and measurement of occurrences. Empirical work based on observation and measurement of phenomena is part of the research process. Qualitative research employs a deductive approach, in which data relating to broad statements is gathered and examined to arrive at a specific and logical conclusion. In order to conduct this research, a qualitative technique was deemed more appropriate because it enables for additional depth and meaning to be gained based on individual's experiences of reviving Bayanihan spirit through community pantry in the midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The researcher chose an in-depth interview research strategy since it was the most effective in answering the study's questions and objectives. Interview research is a qualitative research method that entails asking open-ended questions to respondents in order to interact with them and collect data on a subject. It is limited to a small group of individuals and aims to comprehend respondent attitudes through a well prepared and executed series of questions and replies. The researcher conducted a semi-structured interview because the questions had been prepared ahead of time. Researchers provided more freedom, variety, and hence the ability to obtain more information from participants by allowing them to elaborate. The researchers used email or web-based interviews in addition to traditional interview methods, which are more convenient for both the researchers and the respondents in the current situation.

Research Instrument

A semi-structured interview was used to gather the essential data for this investigation. The following data was gathered as a result of this survey: Respondents' names, ages, and jobs in the organizations in which they work. Respondents' personal information was acquired through their responses to our interview questions. Due to

the Covid-19 pandemic, the researchers were unable to directly interview the respondents who joined the community pantry movement in Bicos, Rizal, Nueva Ecija. The survey questionnaires were obtained as soon as members of the Youth of Iglesia Filipina Independente, an organization that participates in the community pantry movement, emailed the researchers their responses.

Sampling Method

In this study, the researcher utilized a non-probability sampling method. Purposive sampling method was used in the study. It is the most appropriate method for the convenience of the researcher.

Researchers chose five persons from the Youth of Iglesia Filipina Independente, a group that joined the community pantry movement in Bicos, Rizal, Nueva Ecija, for this study.

3. DISCUSSIONS

Contextualized Meaning of Community Pantry

During the pandemic, the community pantry began with a modest bamboo cart loaded with canned food, fresh veggies, vitamins, facemasks, and other supplies along Maginhawa Street in Quezon City on April 14, 2021. A homemade sign on cardboard at the top of the cart said, "Maginhawa Community Pantry." Take only what you require. Give as much as you can." This initiative grew in popularity, and it was used to persuade others to participate in similar programs. When asked what the community pantry meant to them, the respondents said:

"For me the community pantry is a teamwork for those in need. This is a tremendous help and blessing to the needy especially in this time of pandemic. To most Filipinos, especially those who are economically challenged, community pantries serve as a blessing. What's good about this community pantry movement is that, you will see the willingness of the people to give. It means Bayanihan. Helping each other even though they are also struggling."

When the researchers questioned them, they gave diverse answers, but they all agreed on the importance of the communal pantry. Respondents were also asked what community pantries, in their opinion, reveal about the state we live in. When the researchers asked them, they had different answers but had the same perspective when it comes to the community pantry. Respondents were also asked that in their opinion, what do community pantries talk about the kind of state we have, one of them stated:

"Community pantry reflects the injustice and failed government for me. Not to blame the government but it seems like that, because they are the reason why the Filipinos made community pantry because they don't have a plan, the people of the town themselves have made a way to help each other."

The government's abrupt announcement to strengthen community quarantine has resulted in many people losing their jobs, a lockdown in Metro Manila, and a lack of cash. When the ECQ subsided, almost everyone in the Philippines went back to zero, and the community pantry was born. So, when researchers questioned respondents why community pantries are a suitable alternative for

Filipinos who are currently suffering a pandemic, they stated:

“Because the community pantry helps everyone, it helps those in need and provides their daily needs and for those who help, it practices humanity for those in need.”

Through community pantries, we see mutual aid by neighbors and barangay residents. Due to the community pantry that was held in Maginhawa st. Quezon city, it has further influenced other communities which has helped more people. Based on the findings, it can be inferred that the Community pantry is a teamwork and Pagbabayanihan for its performers. Their comments reveal that they are behaving with good intentions. Even if you are having financial difficulties, you should give to others. It is assisting people without expecting anything in return, with the purpose of assisting only those who require assistance. Community pantries are a method for people to share what they have with those who are less fortunate. In times of need, it is a symbol of caring, sharing, and bayanihan.

People have taken up the Community pantry program as a result of the government's disappointing response, and as a result, you can tell who truly have decent hearts and are prepared to help. The community pantry isn't simply a location where people can share food; it's also a place where they may reconsider their principles. Filipinos are naturally generous, even though our current social framework encourages selfishness. It is the beginning of our reconnecting with our actual nature, despite the greedy economic system.

Community Pantry as Part of the Filipino Value System

When there are natural disasters in the country, the Filipino attribute of working together and supporting one another is evident. The COVID-19 pandemic, on the other hand, highlighted the Filipinos' "bayanihan" attitude, and the community pantry model is now making it easier for people to help those in need. When the researcher asked the respondents about how the community pantry embodies the Filipino values system, they had the same answer.

“Bayanihan, Pakikisama, Mabuting Pakikitungo are some of the Filipino Values System that

embodies the program. No entitlement, no religious group, no denomination involved as long as we are helping the community.”

Apart from Bayanihan, pakikisama at mabuting pakikitungo, in community pantry we also practice camaraderie, one of the culture values of Filipinos, as one of respondents stated that:

“This act of generosity helps everyone to realize the importance of giving and establishing a good relationship with others.”

Volunteerism and cooperation inspired communities all around the country to create their own versions of the pantry. Some people who are unable to leave their homes for various reasons send money. Others run errands and make in-kind contributions. Activists, churches, and religious organizations have also established their own

food pantries. The masa — the poor – have been giving to the poor as well.

“Everyone is welcome or able to go to the community pantry regardless of what denomination they belong. Because camaraderie is important, and we must have unity in our community.”

Because of the limited government aid, community pantries represent national togetherness formed of necessity - tired people seeking peace in assisting others. There were 358 community pantries across the Philippines by the end of April, up from just one in Metro Manila.

“This helped to strengthen our good relationship. Because we have a goal to help people.”

As one of the respondents stated when was asked how does community pantries helps them to practice camaraderie.

“Yes, ofcourse. It really helps me a lot It is really my heart desire to help those people that is in need. And through joining the community pantry, I unlocked another goal, and regardless of our age, we can serve our fellow Filipino people. We can make something different.”

It is a sincere deed to be able to assist someone, especially at a moment of distress. Caring for others (Malasakit) is one of the reasons why Filipinos conduct a community pantry program, Filipino values culture is the reason that until now most of us still carry those beliefs, no matter the situation but still the same goal.

It can be stated that Filipino values can be seen in the midst of the pandemic, where a community pantry has been established as a modern counterpart of the bayanihan. Bayanihan is alive and well, as seen by the rise of communal pantry. A good friendship will develop from excellent fellowship with other people who have the same purpose. When you treat others with compassion, they will be influenced in the same way you are. Ana Patricia, for example, started the community pantry; after she established it, it impacted others, and now practically every community has this type of program. It is entrenched in our society that many Filipinos are naturally charitable. It is in our nature to band together in the face of a calamity and assist our neighbors. This system of community pantries can be viable for humanitarian endeavors by fostering the sense of a community among its people, as long as it remains true to its cause. One of the most Filipino things to do is bayanihan, a term used to describe instances in which a person disregards their social rank in order to extend a helping hand to a stranger or a group of people in need.

It can be concluded that the community pantry program is having such a huge impact on Filipinos, that when others see what is wrong with the government, they immediately act not only for their own benefit but for everyone's sake, we are the only ones who will work together so that there is no fall for others. It is important to emphasize that Filipinos preserve their values culture and that we will continue to work together in the face of big obstacles, tragedies, and, particularly, in the face of a pandemic in which the rest of the Filipinos are without food.

Community Pantry as Ingrained in Filipino Culture

It's been a year since Covid-19 reigned supreme. We endured a long and tough year that consumed our daily life, but we learnt to cope as Filipinos. We are conscious of what we can do and what we can control, and we have rekindled this so-called spirit. Bayanihan is a Filipino word that means "to unite." The recent emergence of community pantries around the Philippines is the most recent grassroots-based and grassroots-focused response to the pandemic's widespread ruin of our lives.

The researcher asked the respondents on what do they think is the effect of community pantry on Filipino values culture especially in helping with each other, one of the stated that:

"That we still believe in what our ancestors taught us. That we have to give importance of "Pakikipag-kapwa" and "Family oriented Filipino." Those traits are the good one that we inherit and still doing, believing and living in the country."

As previously stated, this study enlightened the Filipinos' "Bayanihan Spirit" in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic, therefore the researcher asked the respondents if they felt that community pantry helps us to reinvigorate our unity and Bayanihan Spirit, and they responded:

"Yes. The Community Pantry is an example of the Filipino concept of Bayanihan, in which members of a town, particularly men, are asked to assist a family that is moving without expecting anything in return."

The Community Pantry is an example of the Filipino concept of Bayanihan, in which citizens of a town, particularly men, are asked to assist a family moving without expecting anything in return. It is certainly a modern bayanihan because the commodities are from and for the community, with the primary goal of assisting those in need. We've known one other for a long time. We are always willing to assist individuals in need, particularly during natural catastrophes such as typhoons and earthquakes.

The study didn't restore the Bayanihan spirit since it had never died; instead, it just reignited the fading flame. The Filipino value system, which is the sense of unity, kindness, compassion, and solidarity shared by all Filipinos, is promoted through this community pantry. We recognize the relevance and value of giving because we have experienced the joy of receiving when we are in need. This Covid-19 pandemic has given us more than just sorrow; it has also given us hope and contentment, bringing out the best in us.

Emergence of Community Pantries in the Present

When researcher asked the respondents, what encourages them to establish or participate in forming the community pantries amidst the unfavorable situations caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic why they gave they gave almost same reason, as our respondents said:

"I saw many people struggling in their daily lives because of this pandemic. Their situation encourages me to participate in forming community pantry here in our community. An act of kindness initiated by the PYEC and the current situation itself. We are embodied to extend our helping hands to anyone who are in need."

and as the researcher asked the respondents that in their opinion, what do community pantries talk about the kind of state we have, one of the gave her answer saying that:

"In the absence of the government, Filipinos can help each other in times of challenges. This is what the spirit of Bayanihan really means."

We observe individuals working hard to fulfill their daily lives, and we understand how difficult it is to deal with the concept of where we can find our source of money to meet our daily needs of continuing each student's lesson and providing food to our table. It's also the greatest time to share our blessings, even if they're tiny sums of money or products that, when pooled together, can have a significant influence on everyone in the community. We feel compelled to help because this pandemic has contributed to and impacted a substantial amount of the issues that have caused the poverty rate to climb. We are in need as well, but in comparison to the people around us, this is an incredible opportunity to help those who are in severe need as much as possible.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the indicated findings, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. The findings revealed that the Community pantry movement has a significant effect not only to those who give but also to those who receive. In this time of pandemic, the pantry becomes the evidence of the Filipino's Bayanihan Spirit.
2. The study confirmed that Filipinos give importance to their Values System. It shows that in times of crisis Filipinos won't hesitate to give a hand to others who are in need and that helping others is deeply engraved in Filipino's heart.
3. The study discovered that the Community pantry movement embodies the Filipinos Bayanihan Spirit and being generous to others. The pantry becomes the means of some Filipinos to help others by donating what they can.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

This study revealed that the creation of Community pantry movement revitalized the Filipino's "Bayanihan Spirit" amidst the pandemic. Thus, the following recommendations are hereby presented:

1. Since the Community pantry is very popular right now the government should provide support through making guidelines and strategies for it to be successful.
2. Volunteers Filipinos should know and understand their responsibility to the safety of others in conducting the community pantry.
3. Information regarding the Community pantry movement should be given to those who want to be a volunteer to encourage others.
4. Volunteers can encourage others to set-up community pantries through his/her effort.
5. Community pantry movement should be regarded as charity work instead of being seen as an attack to the government.

6. Continuation of the community pantry for its good system of donating what people could give and getting what people only need.

REFERENCES

- [1] Aldama, P. (22, April 2021). What do community pantries talk about the kind of state we have? Rappler.
https://www.rappler.com/voices/imho/opinion-what-community-pantries-tell-kind-state?fbclid=IwAR2LuHVS6_qancaPFq71a7q9T2-6H8VJMSBXwqRfHzPtCh4Pg2eQYsbMxMU
- [2] Castillo, F. A., & Maravilla, M. I. (2021). Community pantries: Their role in public health during the Covid-19 pandemic. *Journal of Public Health*. doi:10.1093/pubmed/fdab154
- [3] Ealdama, Y. (n.d.). BAYANIHAN: The Indigenous Filipino Strengths Perspective. Academia. Retrieved May 22, 2021, from https://www.academia.edu/23211400/BAYANIHAN_the_indigenous_Filipino_strengths_perspective
- [4] Franco, K. (2021). Filipino version of community pantry is bayanihan, sari-sari store and pasalubong rolled into one. *The Philippine Star*.
- [5] For poor Filipinos during pandemic, Bayan Bayanihan brings food and hope. (2020, May 4). Asian Development Bank.
<https://www.adb.org/news/features/hungry-filipinos-during-pandemic-bayan-bayanihan-brings-food-and-hope?fbclid=IwAR1fR8MMpw6TG82o1-vULu-KbU7kDCipBQAcLOZtaGKA7CYLNYrZbHFG4bk>
- [6] Gozum, I. E., Capulong, H. G., Gopez, J. M., & Galang, J. R. (2021). Philippine community pantries as a way of helping the marginalized during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of Public Health*. doi:10.1093/pubmed/fdab151
- [7] Valenzuela, N. (18, April 2021). Community Pantry: 'Not charity, but mutual aid'. *Inquirer.Net*.
<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1420463/community-pantry-not-charity-but-mutual-aid>
- [8] Wong, A. C. (2021, May 12). Philippines community pantries give help – and send a message. *The Interpreter*.
<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/philippines-community-pantries-give-help-send-message>