



CSU Drives Research Collaboration: Workshop Focuses on Participatory Action Research for Rural Caraga Teachers

Caraga State University (CSU) successfully conducted a two-week **Workshop on the Development of Participatory Action Research (PAR) for Basic Education**, spanning from August 17 to August 31, 2024. The training was primarily designed to refresh, enhance, and upskill secondary school teachers in the rural areas of the Caraga Region. The central focus was the development of **Participatory Action Research (PAR)** proposals, emphasizing a culture of practice and **collaboration with external community stakeholders** to address contextualized, localized, and indigenized problems stemming from the "new normal" curricular paradigm. Targeting school principals, graduate students, and secondary school teachers, the workshop provided a critical platform for participants to brainstorm, discuss relevant research perspectives, and identify potential solutions to classroom-based challenges in teaching, with a view toward upgrading instruction, advancing social innovation, and extending university impact into the community. Furthermore, the workshop reinforced the integration of non-sexist language as a mechanism for Gender and Development (GAD) information

dissemination, directly contributing to a more gender-responsive teaching and learning process.

A key highlight of the workshop was the extensive open forum, which clarified crucial aspects of conducting community-involved research. When questioned about the challenges of involving the community in PAR, the speaker stressed the essential role of **open communication** and the need to craft a **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)** for long-term investigations. Addressing the sensitive issue of researching within tribal communities, Dr. Grace Flores and Project Leader Dr. Maris Lasco provided specific guidance: securing **Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC)** from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) is mandatory **before** data collection. Finally, on the matter of publication, Dr. Alvic Arnado offered practical advice, providing a list of suitable **Scopus-indexed journals (Q1 and Q2)** and encouraging participants to familiarize themselves with journal-specific formats and themes. He also advocated for collaborating with potential funding agencies to cover associated publication costs. The workshop effectively served as an academic discourse, equipping Caraga educators with the research tools and ethical understanding necessary to drive meaningful, participatory change in their schools and communities.