

Conformance of Divine Word College of San Jose feasibility studies with CHED CMO No. 52 series of 2016

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Abstract

Business is a fundamental driver of national progress, catalyzing growth and development. The preparation of a Feasibility Study is crucial for assessing the critical dimensions of proposed projects and determining their success. This study evaluates the alignment of MBA FS with the “Pathways to Relevance” framework. This directive emphasizes contextual, evidence-based research that addresses societal challenges while advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The input-process-output (IPO) model was used, along with frequency and percentage measures, to assess the variables. An in-depth analysis of the 12 MBA FS revealed that six, or 50%, addressed topics that conformed to the provisions of the cited CMO. Among these, food production and security emerged as the most common topics. Also, findings show a natural alignment between the business interests of the students and the country’s development priorities as outlined by the CHED based on the UN SDGs. Incidentally, projects in other key areas, such as Smart Analytics and Engineering Innovations and Environmental Management, are slowly gaining presence in potential endeavors to be further developed in the future. A notable finding is the difficulty in classifying the Mangyan Handicraft, a culturally focused study, under the current CHED RDE platforms. Thus, it is recommended that the faculty members actively encourage students to explore research in underrepresented but important areas. This can include proposing specific topics related to the distinctive needs of the province of Occidental Mindoro, such as sustainable tourism (RDE 3), renewable energy solutions (RDE 2), and public health systems (RDE 5).

Keywords: content analysis, input process output, graduate theses, UN Sustainable Goals, feasibility study

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1. Introduction

Business is a cornerstone of any nation's progress, driving its growth and development (Prelicean & Ungureanu, 2023). For any entrepreneurial endeavor to thrive and prosper, preparing a feasibility study (FS) is both necessary and critical. The feasibility study is indispensable for evaluating the key aspects of a proposed project and determining its likelihood of success. It also serves as an assessment of the practicality of a proposed plan or project. A feasibility study analyzes the viability of a project to determine whether it is likely to succeed. The study is designed to identify potential issues that could arise during the project (McLeod, 2021). The DWC-SJ faithfully upholds the practice of preparing the feasibility study as a prerequisite for starting new business ventures. As the premier higher education institution (HEI) in the province of Occidental Mindoro, DWC-SJ has consistently demonstrated its commitment to mold the young minds of its students with a firm focus on the spiritual, moral, and intellectual transformation for them to be globally employable individuals, as envisioned in the school's Vision-Mission-Goal of dedicating itself to the holistic development of the person.

In response to evolving challenges in academe, primarily driven by technological innovations, DWC-SJ has proactively adapted to these new requirements. Under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Felino B. Javines, Jr., SVD, DM, the school has embraced innovative initiatives, including the introduction of three (3) essential topics for graduate research: salt, Tamaraw, and Indigenous People (Mangyans). These three (3) focal points highlight the unique resources of Occidental Mindoro and their potential to drive regional progress when given the attention they deserve. To ensure the relevance of graduate research, particularly for MBA students, Fr. President initiated a program to evaluate the alignment of the FS and determine its fitness and relevance to the ever-changing needs of the time. This initiative uses the CHED CMO No. 52, series of 2016 (CHED CMO), as a guiding framework. The directive aims to assess how well these studies align with the CHED CMO's "Pathways to Relevance," a provision that emphasizes the contextual and purposeful role of research in Philippine HEIs.

This "Pathways for Relevance" highlights that research, innovation, and extension in Philippine higher education must Work contextually and purposively. Under the CHED CMO, knowledge generation in HEIs should enable us to a) Deepen our understanding of ourselves as a people and as a nation and b) Discover practical, evidence- and science-based answers that can address real-world social, economic, and environmental challenges of families and communities. The SDGs map out a global vision for a better world. They set out ambitious goals and targets for people, prosperity, planet, and peace. Getting there will require us to Work together—no matter where we live or Work, this is a universal call to action. Leaders in government, business, and civil society—all of us—must develop new ways of operating and cooperating if we are to leverage the necessary financial, technical, and managerial resources to achieve these goals (Nelson & Torres-Rahman, 2015).

Moreover, Fallon (2015) noted that, from a business perspective, this Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) milestone also provides an opportunity to reflect on how far attitudes and thinking about the role of the private sector in development have shifted. Another key shift is the acknowledgement that business can have its most significant impact through its core business and value chain, thereby ensuring that solutions can be both financially sustainable and scalable. Community and social investment by companies remains important, but it is through their core businesses that truly transformative impact will happen. Nelson and Torres-Rahman (2015) contend that three common imperatives resonate through almost every preparatory meeting and publication on the SDGs. First, country leadership will be needed to prioritize and take ownership of outcomes. Second, a multi-stakeholder partnership will be needed to align agendas, mobilize resources, and ensure shared accountability. Moreover, third, private-sector investment will be needed to develop and scale financially self-sustaining solutions. By aligning the research efforts with the UN SDG and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, DWC-SJ continues to

position itself as a beacon of academic excellence and societal impact in the province of Occidental Mindoro and the MIMAROPA Region.

As used in the CHED CMO, the UN SDGs have been clustered into six (6) Research, Development, and Extension (RDE) platforms, namely Food Production and Security; Environment, Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change, and Energy; Terrestrial and Marine Economy: Biodiversity and Conservation; Smart Analytic and Engineering Innovations; Health Systems; and Education for Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture-Fisheries, and Mathematics (STEAM). The CHED CMO categorizes research programs into platforms that provide space to discover practical, evidence-based, and science-based answers to address real-world social, economic, and environmental challenges faced by partner-citizens and communities. Nelson and Torres-Rahman (2015) argue that to drive sustainable development, companies and individuals must have market insight that explains why challenges exist and suggests ways to overcome them. This includes insight into the environmental, institutional, and cultural contexts in which companies operate and insight into the options and incentives of the existing, and whose decisions companies need to influence—whether these be consumers, suppliers, distributors, retailers, employees, or stakeholders in the broader business, government, civil society, or donor community. We must also understand the different business models that can be employed.

Undoubtedly, the directive of Fr. President to scrutinize the feasibility study of our graduate students reflects a noble intent to ensure faithful adherence to the CHED CMO. The MBA Professors can also play a pivotal role by diligently assisting the school in realigning the focus of future FS toward critical areas that demand attention and action. By verifying the alignment of MBA FS with the noble intent of the CHED CMO, DWC-SJ, in its modest capacity, contributes to the broader goal of helping our country and the world meet the UN SDGs for 2030. Amid the immense challenges and rapid developments unfolding globally, our commitment to conformance represents a meaningful step towards creating a better, more sustainable future for all.

Research Objectives - This content analysis of the MBA non-thesis (feasibility study) program aimed to (1) determine the profile of the MBA non-thesis in terms of business category, instrument, respondents, types of ownership, socio-economic impact, and market share and ROI; and (2) analyze and evaluate the findings to determine if they conform to the CHED CMO No. 52 series of 2016.

Significance, Scope, and Delimitation of the Study - This content analysis of graduate theses is significant because it aims to ensure that the FS conducted by DWC-SJ MBA students is relevant, purposeful, and aligned with the government's directives and the United Nations SDGs. More importantly, the study aims to verify if these FS conform to the CHED CMO No. 52, series of 2016, which highlights the role of research in addressing real-world social, economic, and environmental challenges in the country. This study is limited to the feasibility studies (FS) submitted as non-thesis requirements by MBA students of the DWC-SJ within the specified period of Academic Year 2020-2024.

2. Methodology

This paper provides an in-depth analysis of the MBA feasibility study's compliance with the CHED CMO. The methodology used to conduct the analysis and achieve the desired results is comprehensively presented in the tables below. Guided by the verbal instruction of Fr. President, this work was promptly initiated and undertaken. The scope and limitations of the study were agreed upon, covering the MBA FS completed during the period 2020-2024. The research problem was identified, and the specific study components to be included were clearly defined. Relevant documents were requested from the library and meticulously reviewed and analyzed to gain a thorough understanding of their contents. All necessary information was systematically collated and encoded for proper handling.

Qualitative research was the most suitable approach for this study. Data and information were categorized by attributes and properties, enabling a more detailed analysis. Sutton and Austin (2015) emphasized that qualitative data is instrumental for in-depth analysis. Similarly, Teodorescu (2024) highlighted that data records, as an

exploratory collection method, primarily aim to generate insights by using existing, reliable documents as data sources. These records were used as a foundation for this new research. A review of the related literature was conducted to support the findings presented in the study's discussion section.

Additionally, descriptive statistics, such as frequencies and percentages, were used to enhance the presentation of the study's results. Given the qualitative nature of this study, the Input-Process-Output (IPO) model was identified as the most appropriate research design to achieve the desired result. IPO, as a systems model, is not linear; all parts affect each other (Dunates, 2024). The model offers a simple, practical, and efficient way to analyze and document. (Feldman, 2025). Hereunder is the Conceptual Framework for easy reference.

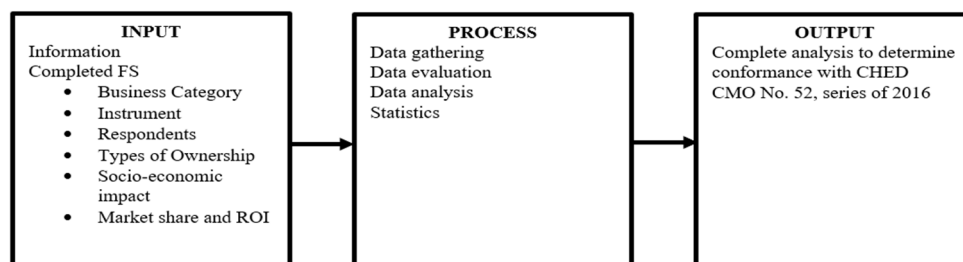


Figure 1. Input-Process-Output Model

Figure 1 shows the IPO model of the study. Under INPUT, the available information includes the completed feasibility study provided by the college library and the MBA FS submitted for the period 2020-2024. For the data gathering and collection, the twelve (12) submitted FS of MBA students were used to come up with six (6) tables involving the subject descriptors as follows: (a) Business Category; (b) Instrument; (c) Respondents; (d) Types of Ownership; (e) Socio-economic impact; and (f) Market share and Return on Investment (ROI). For the PROCESS, this involves data gathering and analysis to produce Statistics in tabular form, using frequency and percentage. For the OUTPUT, the goal is to evaluate conformance with the CHED CMO.

3. Results and Discussions

The results represent the culmination of extensive efforts to study and analyze the topics presented in the MBA feasibility study for the period 2020-2024. While the issues analyzed and their presentations varied significantly, all were united by a genuine desire to contribute something meaningful and beneficial to their Alma Mater and the broader community.

Table 1
Frequency and Percentage of Business Category and Subject Descriptor

Business Category	Subject Descriptor	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Hog Farm	Food and Beverage	6	50%
Green Grouper			
Tiger Grouper			
Smoothie Bar			
Squash Delicacy			
Organic Egg			
Hollow Blocks	Innovation	2	17%
Solar Panel			
Pet Grooming	Health and Safety	1	8%
Bookkeeping	Innovation	1	8%
River Resort	Environmental Management	1	8%
Mangyan Handicraft	No classification	1	8%
Total (12)		12	100%

Presented in Table 1 are the results of the analysis, starting with the business category and subject descriptor. The Table shows the different business categories and their subject descriptors for easy earmarking, in line with CHED CMO. There were twelve (12) MBA FS, which were the subject of an in-depth analysis. The initial analysis was made by classifying them by business category and subject descriptor. Six (6) under food & beverages with

50% share, three (3) under Innovation with 25% share, one (1) under health and safety with 8% share, one (1) under environmental management with 8% share, and only one (1) with no precise classification with 8% share. Its relative importance was measured by frequency and percentage. The majority of the MBA feasibility studies were classified under Food and Beverages, accounting for 50%. For Pet Grooming, this can fall under CHED RDE 2 and CHED RDE 5, both under SDG 3, as injection of pets as part of grooming can be classified as promoting healthy lives and well-being (particularly for anti-rabies shots).

Food and beverage (F&B) is the most common type of FS prepared by DWC-SJ MBA students, as these are the business initiatives most likely to be viable in the province. Based on the ecological profile of Occidental Mindoro, the primary sources of livelihood are farming, livestock, and poultry raising. At the macroeconomic level, the Philippines' rapidly growing F&B industry is one of the most significant contributors to the nation's economy, accounting for about half of its manufacturing sector and about 23-24 percent of the country's GDP. The Philippines is one of Asia's largest producers of food, with the value of its food processing sector exceeding EUR 24 billion (US\$28.75 billion) (Fowler, 2021). Given the government's commitment, further intensifying public investment and infrastructure is expected to support this economic growth forecast and bolster job creation, poverty reduction, and higher consumption (Prakash et al., 2023).

Table 2
Instruments Utilized in the Completion of the Study

Category	Questionnaire		Interview Guide		Ocular Inspection	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Hog Farm	1	8%	1	8%		
Green Grouper	1	8%				
Tiger Grouper	1	8%	1	8%	1	8%
Smoothie Bar	1	8%			1	8%
Squash Delicacy	1	8%	1	8%		
Organic Egg	1	8%	1	8%		
Hollow Blocks	1	8%	1	8%		
Solar Panel	1	8%	1	8%	1	8%
Pet Grooming	1	8%	1	8%		
Bookkeeping	1	8%	1	8%		
River Resort	1	8%				
Mangyan Handicraft	1	8%	1	8%		
Total (12)	12	100%	9	75%	3	25%

Table 2 shows the instruments used to complete the study. The questionnaire was the most common instrument amongst the MBA FS. A questionnaire is a list of questions or items used to gather data from respondents about their attitudes, experiences, or opinions. Questionnaires can be used to collect quantitative and/or qualitative information, and self-administered questionnaires are cost-effective and easy to administer for small or large groups (Roopa & Rani, 2012). It was followed by an interview schedule with 75%, and the least utilized instrument is ocular inspection, which was only opted for in three (3) FS at 25%. It was a common observation that the majority of research works utilized the written questionnaires. All the researchers of the MBA FS used written questionnaires, while nine (9) implemented the written questionnaires with interview guides. The remaining three (3) conducted ocular inspection in addition to the written questionnaires. This suggests that all MBA students opted to use the questionnaire method to complete the study. Ranganathan and Caduff (2023) find the questionnaire method to be a versatile and potent tool for data collection across diverse research domains. Its structured format facilitates standardized data collection, organization, and analysis, particularly advantageous for quantitative research endeavors. This method offers researchers cost-effectiveness, accessibility, and the ability to reach a broad, diverse population, enabling the efficient collection of comprehensive insights.

Table 3 presents the classification of respondents by business category of interest. These people were chosen as respondents because they were expected to have a direct role in the business's success. The most common respondents were owners at 75%, followed by employees at 42% and students at 17%. It can be noted that there are three (3) MBA FS (Squash Delicacy, Smoothie Bar, and Mangyan Handicraft) with multiple respondents. Owners were classified into hog farmers, hotel and restaurant operators, contractors, businessmen, pet owners,

stallholders, exporters, grouper growers, and producers. Based on the table above, the business owners comprise 75% (9), followed by employees at 42% (5) and students at 17% (2). As shown in the table, one FS (Smoothie Bar) used three (3) types of respondents, while two (2) FS (Squash Delicacy and Mangyan Handicraft) used two (2) types of respondents. This table clearly shows who participated in the study to ensure its completion. Omachinski (2024) noted that selecting respondents is a critical aspect of research design, as it affects the reliability and validity of the study's findings. The finding indicates that the majority of the respondents in the study are owners of the establishment, as their direct insights into business operations, resources, goals, and even plans provide practical information that some external analyses might miss. In this regard, Xaba and Rankhumise (2014) stated that owners have the most significant impact, as they make decisions about the day-to-day operations of the business and provide the capital needed to start operations.

Table 3
Classification of the Respondents

Category	Owner	F (%)	Employees	F (%)	Students	F (%)
Hog Farm	1					
Green Grouper	1					
Tiger Grouper	1					
Smoothie Bar	1		1		1	
Squash Delicacy	1		1			
Organic Egg			1			
Hollow Blocks	1					
Solar Panel	1					
Pet Grooming	1					
Bookkeeping	1					
River Resort			1			
Mangyan Handicraft			1		1	
Total (12)	9	75%	5	42%	2	17%

Table 4
Types of Ownership by Business Category

Category	Types of Business			
	Sole Proprietorship	F (%)	Partnership	F (%)
Hog Farm			1	
Green Grouper	1			
Tiger Grouper			1	
Smoothie Bar	1			
Squash Delicacy	1			
Organic Egg	1			
Hollow Blocks	1			
Solar Panel	1			
Pet Grooming	1			
Bookkeeping	1			
River Resort	1			
Mangyan Handicraft	1			
Total (12)	10	83%	2	17%

Table 4 presents the types of ownership by business category. The common forms of business ownership in the Philippines are sole proprietorship, partnership, and corporation. Each one has its distinct advantages and disadvantages. In the study conducted, ten (10) preferred the sole proprietorship. This is not surprising, as it is easy to organize and capitalization is tailored to small businesses (Wolters Kluwer, 2022).). The remaining two (2) opted for partnership. This is good for those who require additional capital and more heads to operate the business. A corporation has the best legal structure, but it is more complicated to operate and to capitalize. It is not surprising that sole proprietorships had the most owners, as they are easy to start and require little capital. Sole proprietorship is the simplest form of business in the Philippines. The registration process is straightforward and cost-effective (Davao Accountants, 2024). No one opted for a corporation because of the difficulty in setting up compared to a sole proprietorship. The finding implies that ten (10) out of twelve (12) MBA FS opted for sole proprietorship instead of a corporation due to low cost, simple registration, complete owner control, and easy tax preparation. In fact, the Department of Trade and Industry confirms that a sole proprietorship is the most basic type of business organization in the Philippines. It can be established by just one person, referred to as a sole proprietor. In a sole

proprietorship, the owner's personal assets are used to satisfy claims against the business, since the business is an extension of the owner (Proto Chat, n.d.).

Table 5
Socio-economic Impacts by Business Category

Business Category	Livelihood (Community)	F (%)	Employment	F (%)	Income of the Government (Taxes)	F (%)	Environmental Benefits	F (%)
Hog Farm			1					
Green Grouper			1					
Tiger Grouper			1					
Smoothie Bar			1					
Squash Delicacy			1					
Organic Egg	1		1					
Hollow Blocks			1		1		1	
Solar Panel			1				1	
Pet Grooming			1					
Bookkeeping			1		1			
River Resort			1					
Mangyan Handicraft			1					
Total (12)	1	8%	12	100%	2	17%	2	17%

Table 5 discloses the socio-economic impacts by business category. Businesses are becoming more conscious of their operations and how they affect various stakeholders. Business leaders are increasingly realizing the power of sustainable business strategies not only for addressing the world's most pressing challenges but also for driving their firms' success (Yousef Farhan, 2024).). In the MBA FS analysis, it was found that all (100%) considered their primary impact to be in the community. Two (2) at 17% noted the taxes paid to the government, while another two (1) at 17% considered that the livelihood and environmental benefits were created for their communities. Based on the 2023 Philippine MSME Statistics as reported by the Department of Trade and Industry (<https://dti.gov.ph/resources/msme-statistics/>), 99.63% of all business establishments (1,241,733 out of 1,246,373) in the Philippines are micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). In line with the table, the immediate effect of establishing a new business venture is the generation of jobs, measured at 100% of the MBA FS. Although most businesses are created for ROI, we cannot deny that each has a socio-economic impact on the community. Popa and Salanță (2015) noted that businesses play a role in addressing environmental and social challenges.

Table 6
Business Desirability as Measured in Market Share and Return on Investment

Business Category	Market Share	Return on Investment
Hog Farm	20%	65%
Green Grouper	36%	22%
Tiger Grouper	33%	51%
Smoothie Bar	12%	17%
Squash Delicacy	10%	102%
Organic Egg	6%	41%
Hollow Blocks	15%	63%
Solar Panel	33%	60%
Pet Grooming	95%	96%
Bookkeeping	10%	24%
River Resort	24%	17%
Mangyan Handicraft	49%	50%

Table 6 shows the business desirability as measured in market share and return on investment. This table shows how a business can survive in a competitive world. To measure business success, it often uses market share and ROI. In the twelve (12) FS analyzed, Pet Grooming (Fur Babies) registered a whopping 95% market share with a handsome return of 96% in the first year of operation. A good explanation for this is the absence of competition in the said business. On the other hand, organic eggs, which are highly desirable, have only a 6% market share due to close competition and the availability of substitutes. A business worth observing and monitoring is the solar panel installation. With a good 33% market share in the first year, it is expected to decline

to 14% in the fifth year. The rationale is saturation of the consumer market and low barriers to entry for new market players.

In any business, a good market share is often driven by a strong Return on Investment (ROI). Market share is the percentage of total sales in an industry generated by a particular company. This metric provides a general sense of a company's size relative to its market and competitors. The market leader in an industry is the company with the largest market share (Maduranga, 2024). Amongst the twelve (12) MBA FS, Pet Grooming has the highest market share at 95%, while Organic Egg has the lowest market share at 6%. On the other hand, ROI is a ratio that measures the profitability of an investment by comparing the gain or loss to its cost. It helps assess the potential returns on investments in stocks or business ventures (White, 2025). As seen in the table, Squash Delicacy has a 102% ROI, as it is a new food product with a low capital requirement and is easily sold in the market. The two lowest ROIs are Smoothie Bar and Mangyan Handicraft, both at 17%.

While the finding implies a direct correlation between market share and business profits, there are a few outliers in the FS, including Squash Delicacy, Organic Eggs, and Hog Farm, where the respective market share is small but the ROI is huge. Almurshidee (2024) argued that market share was, in many respects, the most important strategic indicator of competitive strength. However, the link between market share and profitability is not clear, according to many other marketing and strategic planning researchers. He further explained that there are researchers who found both that market share and return on investment tended to be jointly determined by other factors, including product and management quality, marketing expenditures, luck, and unanticipated changes in the environment, such as the entry or exit of a major competitor, a change in government regulations, or the introduction of new technology.

Table 7
Conformance of MBA FS with CHED CMO No. 52, series of 2016

Business Category	CHED RDE 1	UN SDG 2	CHED RDE 2	UN SDG 3	CHED RDE 3	UN SDG 14	CHED RDE 4	UN SDG 9	CHED RDE 5	UN SDG 3	CHED RDE 6
Hog Farm	1	☐									
Green Grouper	1	☐									
Tiger Grouper	1	☐									
Smoothie Bar	1	☐									
Squash Delicacy	1	☐									
Organic Egg	1	☐									
Hollow Blocks							1	☐			
Solar Panel							1	☐			
Pet Grooming			1	☐					1	☐	
Bookkeeping							1	☐			
River Resort					1	☐					
Mangyan Handicraft											
Total (12)	6	50%	1	8%	1	8%	3	25%	1	8%	

Table 7 presents the Conformance of MBA FS with CHED CMO No. 52, series of 2016. Positive outcomes often result from adherence to established rules and practices. Many institutions are empowered to prescribe remedies to address potential issues before they escalate into serious problems. In response to the challenges and issues confronting the world, the UN introduced the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), urging individuals to contribute, even in small ways, to addressing the world's most pressing concerns. Similarly, the CHED, through CMO No. 52, series of 2016, encourages HEIs, their students, and researchers to generate innovative ideas to support the implementation of the UN's 2030 SDG agenda. One practical way to contribute is to conduct research or studies that align with and advance the vision of the SDGs. An in-depth analysis of the twelve (12) MBA FS revealed that six (6), or 50%, addressed topics that, albeit unknowingly, conformed to the provisions of the cited CHED CMO. Among these, food production and security emerged as the most common topics. Food security, as Fahy (2022) emphasized, is a fundamental human right and serves as a measure of people's ability to access

nutritious food. Limited access to food can lead to malnutrition, stunted growth, and, in severe cases, mental health issues (Principato et al., 2024). Recognizing the importance of this issue, the government has launched a flagship nutrition-sensitive program, "*Walang Gutom 2027*" (translated as "No Hunger 2027"), to combat hunger and promote food security nationwide.

Table 8
CHED Research, Development, and Evaluation (RDE) Platforms

CHED RDE Platforms	17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
Food Production and Security	SDG 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17
Environment, Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change, and Energy	SDG 3, 5, 6, 7, 11, 13, 16, 17
Terrestrial and Marine Economy: Biodiversity and Conservation	SDG 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
Smart Analytics and Engineering Innovations	SDG 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17
Health Systems	SDG 3, 5, 10, 11, 16, 17
Education for STEAM	SDG 4, 5, 8, 16, 17

Table 8 discloses the CHED Research, Development, and Evaluation (RDE) Platforms. Under Republic Act No. 7722, or "An Act Creating the Commission on Higher Education," it is imperative to enable Philippine HEIs to serve as platforms for research and development, innovation, and extension in pursuit of inclusive social and economic development (CHED CMO No. 52, series of 2016). Despite not being a metric for the preparation of twelve (12) MBA FS, it clearly shows that eleven (11) out of twelve (12) MBA FS comply with the CHED CMO, which has clustered the 17 UN SDGs into six (6) CHED RDE platforms. Six (6) or 50% of the MBA FS were considered to be under Food Production and Security (CHED RDE 1). Three (3) can be classified under Smart Analytics and Engineering Innovations (CHED RDE 4). Pet Grooming can be classified under Environment, Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change, and Energy (CHED RDE 2) and Health Systems (CHED RDE 5), while River Resort can be classified under Terrestrial and Marine Economy: Biodiversity and Conservation (CHED RDE 3). Only Mangyan Handicraft is not classified under the CHED RDE Platforms.

The finding indicates that despite not being explicitly guided by the CHED CMO No. 52, series of 2016, almost all (11 out of 12) of the MBA FS from 2020-2024 conform to the CHED CMO's provisions. This highlights a natural alignment between the students' business interests and the CHED's national development priorities. These CHED regulations are being cascaded to Philippine HEIs, where universities are being urged to extend their roles beyond typical academic tasks and directly contribute to sustainable development (Baniaga, 2024).

4. Conclusions

The research concludes that despite not being explicitly directed by the provisions of CHED CMO No. 52, series of 2016, almost all (11 out of 12) of the DWC-SJ MBA FS from the Academic Year 2020-2024 coincidentally conform to the CHED's regulations. This shows a natural alignment between the students' business interests and the country's development priorities, as outlined by the CHED in line with the UN SDGs. The research also shows that fifty percent (50%) of the DWC-SJ MBA FS are heavily concentrated on Food Production and Security, which can be attributed to the ecological profile of the province of Occidental Mindoro, with farming, fishing, aqua-farming, and salt and food processing as its major industries. Incidentally, projects in other key areas, such as Smart Analytics, Engineering Innovations, and Environmental Management, are slowly gaining presence in potential endeavors to be further developed in the future. A notable finding is the difficulty in classifying the Mangyan Handicraft, a culturally focused study, under the current CHED RDE platforms. This highlights a potential gap in the framework's ability to categorize projects related to cultural heritage, indigenous people's handicrafts, and livelihoods.

Recommendations - The following recommendations are hereby forwarded: Integrate CHED CMO No. 52 into the DWC-SJ MBA Curriculum. The DWC-SJ MBA program may incorporate the CHED RDE platforms and the UN SDGs into its curriculum, research framework, and guidelines. This intentional inclusion will result in a careful consideration of the UN SDGs and the CHED RDE platforms in the student's feasibility study, thereby

addressing critical local and national issues and challenges. Encourage Topic Diversification. The members of the DWC-SJ faculty may actively encourage students to explore research in underrepresented but important areas. This can include proposing specific topics related to the distinctive needs of the province of Occidental Mindoro, such as sustainable tourism (RDE 3), renewable energy solutions (RDE 2), and public health systems (RDE 5). The school can also show successful projects such as River Resort, Solar Panel, or Pet Grooming FS to inspire and advocate for a broader range of entrepreneurial ideas. Review of Research Framework: The DWC-SJ faculty and research team may review its research framework and, in the process, implement guidelines to classify projects that do not fit within existing CHED RDE platforms. This is particularly important for projects focused on cultural heritage or indigenous communities, such as the Mangyan Handicraft. By reviewing its research framework and guidelines, DWC-SJ ensures that its FS and other research papers are given proper context and classification.

5. References

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