



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Informal Economy Eatery Owner's Resilience: A Recovery Strategy Model

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: Jul 19, 2024	Economic challenges due to external shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic is a serious threat to developing communities; this cause adverse effect to the informal sector. These unforeseen events disrupt business operations in the mainstream and formal economy causing grave adverse impact to the informal sector; most especially street food vendors. Many people depend on street foods such as eateries, for sustenance. The informal sector such as street food play has socio-economic significance. This paper explores the strategies employed by informal eatery owners in Cebu City to endure the recent COVID-19 pandemic. It is essential to understand the situation of the informal economy during challenging times as this may contribute to for the establishment of Ad-hoc crisis management applicable for the informal sector. To achieve this, I conducted a qualitative study using thematic analysis, disclosing several core themes. These are: (1) Adaptive Strategies for Strengthening Resilience and Financial Survival; (2) Governmental and Community Support; (3) Faith and Family forged resilience; and (3) Learnings from the COVID-19. From the results, a recovery strategy model was developed to aid in strengthening the sector's recovery and resilience-building efforts.
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INTRODUCTION

External shocks are unexpected events or changes originating beyond the control of the sector that can significantly affect the business operations and stability such as the COVID-19 pandemic its adverse effects has expanded rapidly on a worldwide scale (Gayatri & Irawaty, 2021; Thanh & Duong, 2022). One of the hardest hit during the pandemic is the informal sector; this sector consist of a vast array of economic activities that are not governed by the state. The informal sector involves a substantial number of street vendors and small- medium scale eatery operators. It has been exceptionally difficult for the informal economy workers to operate in risky and scarce resources; this is a common environment for developing nations like the Philippines. Eateries are a form of street food establishment it applies to food in informal settings found along streets or in small kiosks. These are locally known as "carinderia" or "turo-turo". Eateries provide low-cost, many times artisanal food to the masses. The pandemic led to massive economic disruptions, exacerbating the challenges faced by these businesses. External shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic has led to massive economic disruptions, exacerbating the challenges faced by these businesses. of the informal sector relies on effective crisis management to reduce unexpected hindrances that influence both economic and social dimensions (Zafri et al., 2023).

A long time before pandemic, the informal sector workers in the Philippines were already vulnerable as a result of their precarious work conditions and absence of social safety nets. The informal sector workers encountered severe mobility restraints that hindered their capability to make ends meet, resulting to a significant reduction in their income and increasing levels of debt this was because of imposed lockdowns. Informal sector workers set up a large portion of the workforce in the Philippines, making financial resilience a vital issue. It has been estimated that the informal workers in the country contribute substantially to the national economy, yet they remain principally excluded from formal financial support systems (Winarno & Allain, 1991).

The pandemic directed to immense layoffs, suspended economic activities, and left numerous informal and formal sector without government provision basically modifying traditional business models (Zeb et al., 2021). Approximately 2 billion laborers are formerly active in the informal sector, and estimates from the World Bank and International Labour Organization (ILO) indicate that the COVID-19 pandemic has place an additional 500 million to 1.5 billion at chance of insecure employment (European Commission, 2022). Informal employment not just stresses individual and society frailties nevertheless decreases capability to carry out effective long-term policies. Street food vendors are traders who sell food and drinks on at the edges of roadways, in little booths, or in a mobile setup usually these vendors lack the expertise and means to resist economic turmoil (Winarno & Allain, 1991). They frequently operate with the least provided legal assistance and are subject to persecution making it difficult for them to sustain their business operations in a rapidly evolving environment (Gaffar et al., 2022).

In Thailand, street food is immensely valued by locals and tourists, but still vendors are among the least fortunate due to the shock that was caused by the COVID-19 pandemic (Suvittawat, 2023). One of the first region to that has been affected by the blow of the pandemic is the Asia-Pacific region succeeded by North America, Europe, and Africa, leading to a collapse in economic activities resulting to the loss of financial strength (Sardar et al., 2022; Younis et al., 2024).

The informal food sector is important to urban communities; the sector has a significant contribution to local economies; it comprises small and micro units operating involved in food production and services, frequently operating with least structure and funds. Informal work is marked by exorbitant diversity and an exceedingly gendered task allocation. Street food vendors perform a vital function in the economies of emerging markets, even though the informal sector such as street food vendors has huge economic contribution to the local economy; they are frequently viewed as squatters or criminals rather than recognized for their significant roles in society. The contributions of the street food vendors are often undervalued and overlooked. A substantial portion of the population in a wide spectrum of many developing economy countries, depends heavily on informal sector drawing attention to its prominence (Winarno & Allain, 1991; Yasmeen, 2001; Muyot, 2022; Fatima, 2023).

The pandemic has created unparalleled damage to food and beverage establishments, in particular indoor dining, due to the dread of coronavirus exposure (Shi & Xu, 2024). The informal sale of raw and prepared foods is common in numerous cities of emerging economies, usually operating in a legally ambiguous space that leads to discrepant policies (Yasmeen, 2001). The study of Kopel (2017) highlighted that many informal sector business operators are not in business for the purpose of maximizing profits or to formalize their business but for survival alone. Kopel (2017) further discussed that several women chose the informal sector because of its flexibility, when it comes to the livelihood strategies informal economic activities deal poverty and challenges the situation of being in the informal sector is a strategy for survival. The usual set up are of the informal sector are families often employ in multiple income generating activities, either informal or both formal and informal that establish and increase the income level and contribute to the progress to the family's well-being.

Informal sector offers food at affordable prices because of reduced overheads. Though, concerns with respect to cleanliness and disease spread remain. Street food vendors often lack government recognition and support (Winarno & Allain, 1991; Kadim et al., 2024). It is important that informal economy is recognized for its economic and socio-cultural function in society. The pivotal government support can be through legal recognition, microfinancing, and social protection (Yasmeen, 2001; Al-Otaibi et al., 2024).

The resilience of the Philippine informal economy eatery owners' during the COVID-19 pandemic emphasizes multiple substantial gaps in current comprehension and support mechanisms. Existing studies has mainly focused on the mainstream economy, overlooking the adaptive strategies of the informal eatery owners in the Philippines. The adaptive strategies of the Philippine informal sector including eateries have been frequently overlooked as the sector continues to operate in the absence of formal resources, regulatory protection and access to social welfare provision. Therefore, this underrepresentation are a form of boundary to our understanding into the unique responses and survival strategies that have been used by people in the informal sector to navigate serious economic challenges. Community solidarity, informal support networks, and limited government aid are forms of external components that are tied and play crucial roles these have not been sufficiently explored.

Understanding how the mentioned components have a collective contribution to the resilience of informal eateries operators is important. In addition, there is a lack of research on sustainable recovery strategies specifically tailored to the challenges that the informal eatery owners in the Philippines are facing especially in the literature that focuses on Ad-hoc crisis management rather than strategic crisis management emphasizing on long-term stability and growth. It is essential to address the gaps for developing an comprehensive, context-specific policies that can strengthen resilience and foster sustainable recovery in the informal economy.

Objectives

This paper explores the resilience of small-scale eatery operators in the informal economy in Cebu City, Philippines throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and it investigates both the internal strategies and external support mechanisms that have allowed them to endure. The important insights are captured in this study that can enlighten and promote sustainable mechanisms that may be utilized for informal sector in the future. Specifically the following are the objectives of the study:

Explore the strategies utilized by the eatery owners during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Investigate the external factors that have contributed to their resilience of the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Establish recovery strategy model that can be utilized by the informal sector based on the study's findings.

Conceptual Framework

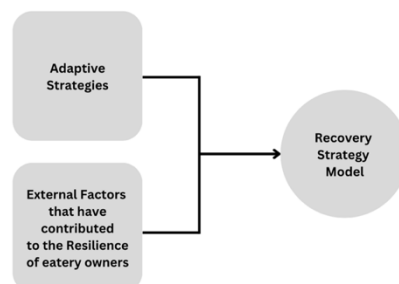


Figure 1 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework shows the flow of the study as it explores the resilience of informal economy eatery owners in Cebu City during the COVID-19 pandemic. The adaptive strategies of the eatery owners of the informal sector and the identified external factors that supported them during the pandemic are explored. Adaptive strategies refer to the mechanisms approaches and practices utilized by the informal sector to adjust and thrive in response to the challenges and opportunities changing environment. The adaptive strategies are one's flexibilities and responses to effectively management uncertainty and complexity of the situations. It is also one of study's objectives to establish sustainable recovery strategies based on its findings for ensure long-term resilience and success for the informal sector.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The respondents of the study are operators of informal economy eateries Cebu City Philippines, populated with both residents, students, the employed and unemployed. The respondents operating their eatery businesses for a minimum of ten years. The rationale behind this is that respondents are more likely to hold an extensive amount of experience and expertise. It allows them to gain an improved comprehension of the challenges encountered during the COVID-19 pandemic. Respondents who have been in business for a decade are more likely to have successfully sustained their business over a significant length of time, indicating their resilience and flexibility. In addition, they possess expertise in local dynamics. Their familiarity with the local environment can enhance their awareness of the local constraints and economic conditions that may have influenced their experience. The study focuses on diverse demographic respondents from varying age ranges, genders, and educational backgrounds. The various representatives attempt to provide a full understanding of the problems that informal eatery owners encounter; This study applied a thematic analysis in which the evaluation and investigation of the respondents' narratives, perceptions, and interpretations of their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic was conducted; these were collected through a survey questionnaire containing two open-ended questions:

- 1) *What are the strategies you have done to survive during COVID-19 pandemic?*
- 2) *What are the different factors that allowed you to recover and thrive during the COVID-19 pandemic?*

There was a total of eleven respondents who were interviewed, and it has reached saturation on the sixth respondent. In this context, saturation refers to the point at which there is no new emergent theme or material from subsequent interviews, assuring a thorough investigation of the topic. To discern the recurring patterns and themes within qualitative data, A thematic analysis methodology was used in this study following the steps:

- 1) *familiarization of data,*
- 2) *generation of initial codes,*
- 3) *search for themes,*
- 4) *review of themes,*
- 5) *defining and naming of the themes and,*
- 6) *report of findings.*

This research technique maintained its integrity by emphasizing the diverse experiences of operators of informal economy eateries. The process provided to guarantee data transparency, ensured the anonymity of responders, and eliminated any potential negative consequences. The participants have the freedom to withdraw from the study at any point without facing any repercussions. Once the data has been completed, then comes the crafting of Recovery Strategy Model; this was based on data from respondents' experiences, ensuring a grounded and context-specific approach to addressing the issues encountered by informal eateries; This research intends to provide a comprehensive knowledge of the experiences and strategies of informal economy eateries in Cebu City, which can be applied to other types of informal businesses throughout any crisis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The respondents' narration shows a broader insight into the informal economy sector. The key themes underline the challenges and adaptive strategies employed by informal eatery owners during COVID-19 pandemic.

Verbatim: **A life built around the eatery**

"We have established our life around our little eatery, operating in a rented space...Our home is our business place, where we sleep at night and run our business in the morning. We looked for ways to earn income. We sold our small pick- up truck (A Japanese Surplus Pickup Vehicle) to get by the firsts few months of the lockdown... We depend so much on our little business's daily consumption and medication for my parents. I do not know any other way of making income but I am a good cook... My husband and I started a family at 18. We never had the chance to go to college. We try our best to work hard for our kids. My two kids are in a Private College, one in a Government University. They had to stop for a while since we could not afford their tuition. We were so worried about being unable to provide food for our large family... Our eldest son helped us out he was able to get a job at a call center near home... Both My Parents, My Husband, and I work in the eatery... When the lockdown was imposed, I had to contact our loyal customers. Deliver food to their homes. We delivered food for our healthcare workers at a nearby hospital and started learning videos on YouTube how to bake, make snacks, and even make homemade ice cream... I created a GCASH account (a Philippine mobile payment service), I tried out GCASH loan too... We leave their orders with the security guard and message them that the food is outside the hospital or their house. My husband does not have to see them personally. He delivers if there are any orders and also works as a delivery driver for the food delivery app..."

Verbatim: **Adapting to the changing tide**

"Our eatery sells simple foods during lunch, and we sell assorted BBQ (skewed meat) and grilled fish in the evening. Our BBQ is the go-to place for students and workers. The first lockdown was the hardest, When students started leaving and going back home we lost half our customers... We ended up selling all our gadgets to the point we share one cellphone that has prepaid internet. Our wedding rings are gone. We were not able to remit it from the pawnshop, We have sent our savings to our parents who also needed help. We contemplated of going back to Leyte (Visayas island in the Philippines) and ask help from my other brother. But, He is struggling too. We started selling the BBQ for take-out but it was not popular, so we started selling lunch package meals (rice and viand), an option of BBQ or fried chicken with different sauces, or crispy pork chop... I borrowed money from a lending company near my home to purchase a motorcycle, the interest rates are high... I decided to deliver orders and become a GRAB driver when there were no orders... My wife started reselling skin care products and thrifted clothes through Facebook... We transferred our seven-year-old daughter and ten-year-old- daughter to a public school. We never considered the public school because it was far from our home, and the school is also our religious community... Although their tuition was not that much compared to other private schools, we allotted her tuition to our other essential expenses..."

Table 1 Theme 1 Adaptive Strategies for Strengthening Resilience and Financial Survival

Core Theme	Sub themes	Discussion
Theme 1 Adaptive Strategies for Strengthening Resilience and Financial Survival	<i>Diversification of Income Streams</i>	Given the lock downs imposed eatery owners were having a difficult time due to the lockdowns, Respondents opted to offer door to door delivery for their clients. In order to diversify their revenue streams, respondents also looked into selling different types of products and services not limited to their usual business offering. Given that the use of social media was

		rampant it was necessary to diversify income sources through digital channels, accepting online orders creating Facebook postings of their products.
	<i>Utilization of Technology</i>	Social Media such as YOUTUBE provided information how to create new products to sell and post it on Facebook. This allowed them to be visible online and accept contactless payments, It provided respondents operational agility and technological relevance. Eatery owners explored new ways to earn money some even resorted to sharing economy platforms like GRAB for additional source of income.
	<i>Utilization of Savings, Loans</i>	Respondents used their personal resources, liquidated their assets, and even took out loans to keep the business afloat during the COVID-19 pandemic.
	<i>Financial and Educational Sacrifices</i>	Significant sacrifices such as parting with the symbolic commitment of love and marriage explains how far one goes for survival. The difficult reality of financial hardship is that basic needs must be met before any other priority, including the children's education.

The strategies the eatery owners utilized included diversifying income streams through door-to-door deliveries and introducing new products like lunch packages. The approach narrated by the respondents resonates with findings by Kunde et al. (2022) the switch towards online ordering and digital marketing in response restaurant due to significantly decreased number of dine in consumers. As noted by Endo (2020) using social media for product promotion parallels the shift towards the increased utilization of digital payments and e-commerce in the Philippines. There are different ways how eatery owners leveraged technology these are through learning new skills via YouTube, working with ride sharing services like Grab. These examples parallels with Wong (2020) in which he stress the digitalization of Singapore post-pandemic. However, this also contrasts with Sardar et al. (2022), who stressed the efficacy of irregular government interference. The financial sacrifices that the eatery owners faced such as selling assets and taking out loans, underline the resilience of these owners this reflects on the study of Chipongian's (2023) findings on the importance of digital transactions and financial inclusion in the Philippines. One's economic survival is crucial during crisis putting emphasis on the need for community support and collaboration. One must place high level of importance social capital such as assistance from customer through their initiatives and the help of the local government in the Barangay level. These adaptive strategies display the resilience and novelty of eatery owners in continuing their business and supporting their communities during the pandemic (Kunde et al.,2022).

Verbatim: Gratitude and Struggles

"We are thankful for the help of our customers, government support even its not that much. The what aid we received, it was really helpful. There was even a time we struggled with our medical expenses

when my father contracted the COVID-19. Customers started giving us tips and also started helped us find customer base. Personally grateful to those people who helped us. "

Verbatim: Community Support in Times of Need

"I know there is a need for our food products. Even if it's just simply prepared. There were people who don't have access to homemade meals. They will get sick eating only fast food... There was this one company manager in Mandaue City (one of the cities of Metro Cebu) who contacted us to provide food for their staff. So we supplied lunch meals to their staff from Mondays to Fridays. I am grateful that it was the my regular customer reached out to me.

Verbatim: Community Collaborations for Support

"Our Barangay Captain and Councilors helped us from time to time ask us to prepare meals for the Barangay Officials and personnel. Neighbors also did helped us. Several loyal customers contacted and ask if we still sell food and do door to door deliveries."

Verbatim: Collaborative Outreach for Social Impact

"There were some groups I think it was a college alumni in a school here, although I cannot remember who reached out to me.. They were asking if I could provide lunch packs at affordable rates to give out to the homeless and the orphanage. It was in several occasion. I was able to profit from that although it's not much but really helped during that time.

Table 2 Theme 2 Governmental, and Community Support

Core Theme	Sub themes	Discussion
Theme 2 Governmental, and Community Support	<i>Local Government and, local customer, and neighborhood network</i>	The aid provided by the local government, loyal customer network, and neighborhood have integral role in offering support; This network becomes a pillar of resilience for the respondents. Also external support and the difficult decisions made for survival were highlighted.
	<i>Local Government and, local customer, and neighborhood network</i>	The engagement with groups, organization initiative in supporting local businesses in philanthropic activities such as providing food to the homeless and orphanages and tagging local eateries to provide meals, this altruistic initiative certain groups provided source of help not only to the beneficiaries of the group's projects but to the eatery owners.

The usual support systems and interaction between the informal economy and consumers have been disrupted because of the pandemic. There is a need for support to the informal economy sector especially to street food and eatery owners as consumers need access to affordable food. The establishment systemic approach to sustain local food systems that allows both the livelihoods of those in the informal economy and consumers to continue its operations even during crisis is essential (Majing & Regina, 2021). During the pandemic, it was a challenge on both sides since there were restrictions imposed by the government and it has caused the disruption of the support system and interactions at play. It was a challenge for some in the informal economy sector it get government relief the barriers they faced where due to the complex eligibility requirements and necessary documentation; This situation leads them to rely on informal support, such as borrowing from moneylenders at high interest rates or selling assets this would often lead to deeper financial

hardship (Thanh& Duong, 2022); The situation highlight the vitality of including vulnerable groups in policy-making to effectively address economic downturns from pandemics (Aditya & Amri, 2023).

Verbatim: Finding Strength in Faith

"I had encountered challenges but the pandemic was one of the worst. The worst one for me and my kids when we were forced out our original spot of where we were selling. No matter what God is with me and my Family. I don't know how I would survive without God. I have learnings from this challenge. I thank the Lord for the chance in life. I remember I question why this has to happen to us. My medical condition make me weak, COVID-19 and typhoon Odette only God knows."

Verbatim: Bonds Formed Amidst Struggles

"That old woman who hated that I sell food across her house, she keeps expressing her anger because motorcycle vehicles are blocking her gate. Most delivery drivers are my customers, They come in packs especially lunch time, we were at each other's throats. I remember that time clearly, we were shouting at each other people were looking. During COVID-19, She was quite concerned that we no longer have any means of living. I am a single mother my husband left me with 5 children. My cousins are my helpers in life and helpers of my daily operations here. Since we did not opened during the restrictions, the old woman sent us one sack of rice. She said she received from her organization and since she lives alone, she shared the sack to us... I was moved and grateful that she was kind enough to think about us. Ever since then, we became really good friends. During typhoon Odette we helped her out with her water & food supply. I made new friends. I guess COVID really changes the person. It changed me."

Verbatim: Through Faith and Family Bonds

"My belief in God kept me going and also my family. There are times I want to end it all. But looking at the faces of my children, parents and siblings dependent on me, I have to keep going. I could say I have been through everything in my life. We experienced homelessness even before the pandemic and also had fire burn everything we own. I have experienced the not worst during the Pandemic but it was longer so the pain and suffering. I would have been better if my earnings are enough for savings but somehow the income in this business is dependent on the people's movement if there are restrictions for a longer period, we would not have survived. It's up to God."

Verbatim: Proactive Steps for Future Resilience

"I will be prepared next time. I God willing we can buy a small lot for our own poultry farming , just in case this will happen again we have resources, something to eat. I think I cannot just depend on others help because everyone experienced the hardship of the pandemic. Through some people they helped me. If another pandemic comes at least we have some preparation."

Table 3 Theme 2 Faith & Family forged Resilience

Core Theme	Sub themes	Discussion
Theme 3 Faith & Family forged Resilience	<i>Faith and Family as a source of Strength and Coping Mechanism</i>	When faced with adversity, the responders' steadfast faith in God provides them with the fortitude and solace they need to continue supporting and providing for their families. Respondents spiritual foundation as a guide during uncertainties.
	<i>Surviving Previous Hardships</i>	Respondents faced several multifaceted challenges prior to the pandemic, the experiences prepared them to be equipped with the resilience, adaptability, and insights to conquer future challenges.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has resulted to unique challenges that certainly threatens the well-being of individuals causing mental health issues. It is important that one's coping mechanisms are in placed these can be daily gratitude practices, constant health communication with peers and loved ones and engaging in positive activities to foster togetherness and happiness. A strong social foundation can be rooted on relationship with family, friends, neighbor and it is essential to utilize technology to maintain connection especially during imposed restriction and social distancing (Gayatri & Irawaty, 2021). The pandemic has also resulted to psychosocial impacts. One's resilience is influenced by factors such as age, education, and economic status. It is important to note during the pandemic that there was this dread among consumers about getting COVID-19 so they emphasize on hygiene and social distancing prompting restaurants to prioritize quality and sanitation (Sardar et al., 2022); This also resulted to the decreasing number of dine in consumers.

Table 4 Theme 4 Learnings from the COVID-19

Core Theme	Sub themes	Discussion
Theme 4 Learnings from the COVID-19	<i>Solidarity & Unexpected Connections and Friendship</i>	Lessons learned emphasized the importance of community togetherness in the face of significant challenges. The support made them more resilient, but it also strengthened their bonds with one another.
	<i>Prepared for the Future</i>	Recognizing that anything can happen, shows the lesson of preparation reflects a shift from dependency to self-sufficiency and a determination to be better prepared for unforeseen circumstances.

The informal sector has shown resilience even with the experience of societal neglect and economic challenges has been intensified because of the COVID-19 pandemic (Fatima, 2023). Similar situations can be found Nigeria and India where the nature of the informal sector work exposes them to risks like persecution and lack of social security, It is common to hear constant cry demanding policies for the support of the informal economy (Fatima, 2023; Nungsari, 2023; Majing & Regina, 2021). There is a need to prioritize the effective and inclusive urban policies that recognize their important role in local economies and this has to aligning with extensive findings on informal sector vulnerabilities.

The narratives uncover specific means of how they have diversified their income streams, utilized technology, availed opportunities for loans and selling personal resources to manage their finances during the pandemic. It is critically important that during crisis the support of the community and especially the local government as it sustain the eatery business through challenging times. It is also essential to recognize faith and family as sources of strength and comping mechanisms as this can be providing fortitude during the experienced adversities. Preparation for crisis is also the best way to counter any addressed circumstanced with the key learnings allows eatery business owners to be stronger and created proactive measures such as savings and investment and look into ways to diversify income sources to enhance their preparedness in the future.

Based on the results a model emerged based from the results lifted from the findings the Recovery Strategy PROFIT model developed as shown below are crucial during crisis for eatery owners that can be adapted by informal economy businesses:



Figure 2 Sustainable Recovery Model (PROFIT)

The PROFIT model highlights the importance when it comes to strengthening resilience of the informal eatery owners, particularly in challenging times or external shocks. The model integrates the following concepts based on the result of the study.

Personal Resilience and Faith- One of the drivers for innovation and adaptation is the Individual resilience and faith. Faith in oneself is essential for motivating proactive adaptation.

Community Support and External Aid- Community support is significantly important in building one's resilience. The support from local communities and external sources enables a person to be strengthened and withstand economic shocks.

Adaptation and Innovation- One's ability to innovate and adapt is strengthened by resilience and community support.

There are specific aspects within each construct vigorously interact to support holistic resilience. The PROFIT model further shows how informal eatery owner leverage creative thinking, local support, and determination to voyage difficult times and emerge even stronger. The informal sector especially the all forms of street food play a significant role in the developing nations. Despite its significant socio-economic contribution, they are highly susceptible to external shocks this is due to the limited access of formal support. The recent COVID-19 pandemic underscored these vulnerabilities. Through the strengthening of the informal sector through different support and integration into the mainstream system can relieve the adverse impact of external shocks, ensuring a sustained socio-economic development. The PROFIT model promotes a comprehensive in terms of one's financial growth and stability. It showcase the roles of the different key players in its capacity to initiate activities under the model. The PROFIT model captures and summarizes the aimed initiatives that supports the informal sector's financial sustainability. The created Sustainable Recovery Strategies are tailored specifically for the informal economy, in which it requires a multidimensional approach that addresses the challenges that are uniquely faced by the informal workers; this not only strengthen the livelihoods of informal workers but also provide a holistic economic resilience and inclusivity in the community. The established strategies can be made possible only through active collaboration, prioritization and support for the local government, the academe with the help of other government agencies and private companies through programs and initiatives that centers on social welfare and crisis management.

The responsibility of the Local Government is in the implementation and initiation of the strategies with the help of the academe this can be through different activities such as providing trainings and workshop on product development and financial management training; these activities will allow the individuals in the informal economy to be equip with the necessary skills and knowledge to establish strategies for crisis management.

CONCLUSION

The strategies eatery owners utilized have been uncovered and it showcased and emphasize the prominence of ingenuity, resourcefulness, and the value of social capital in supporting livelihood of the informal sector; their valuable insights led to the creation of recovery strategy model tailored to the informal sector that policymakers and stakeholders can make use of in building a more inclusive and resilient economy. The remarkable adaptability and resilience of people in the informal economy does not only preserve the local economy. Nevertheless, it is in their strength that contributes to extensive sustainable recovery labors. It is vital for the Local Government and all stakeholders to acknowledge and support the valuable role of the informal sector ushering towards a more resilient and equitable prospective for all.

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