DE LA SALLE-
COLLEGE
OF SAINT
BENILDE

Sustainable Development Goal #4

QUALITY EDUCATION



BENILDE
LIKE NO OTHER

SDG 4 Quality Education

4.3 Public Executive Education and Vocational Training Programs

DLS-CSB contributes to accessible and inclusive learning through community-oriented educational activities such as Peek-a-Book!. The activity supports children's literacy and creativity through interactive and participatory learning. However, it is primarily a community educational outreach activity rather than an executive education programme or vocational training course for external learners. To demonstrate this indicator more directly, the university's continuing education programmes, short courses, and certificate offerings for non-enrolled learners would provide stronger evidence.
Benilde-CEAD conducted an FSL documentation workshop to strengthen Deaf-led research and support the documentation and preservation of Filipino Sign Language

Benilde-CEAD Conducts FSL Documentation Workshop to Strengthen Deaf-Led Research

Date: November 28, 2025
Link:
https://cead.benilde.edu.ph/benilde-cead-conducts-fsl-documentation-workshop-to-strengthen-deaf-led-research/



Benilde–Center for Education Advancement of the Deaf (Benilde-CEAD) has launched the Filipino Sign Language (FSL) Documentation Workshop to expand access to linguistic training and empower FSL researchers to take an active role in documenting and preserving the language of Deaf Filipinos. This initiative is part of the center’s efforts to address the lack of FSL linguistic evidence needed to support essential resources such as FSL learning materials. In addition, only a very few trained Deaf

professionals work in this field. By strengthening participants' research skills to conduct systematic linguistic documentation, these gaps will be reduced and contribute to the development of accurate, evidence-based materials that reflect authentic Deaf culture, made by Deaf people for Deaf children.

The workshop has been led by Dx. Raphael Domingo, Head of Deaf Heritage and FSL Studies. Dx. Raphael holds two advanced degrees, a PhD in Linguistics from Gallaudet University and a Master's degree in International Affairs from American University, where she focused on Comparative and International Disability Policy. Through the FSL Documentation Workshop, participants are introduced to foundational and advanced concepts in phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, linguistic typology, and sociolinguistics. A key part of the training involves the use of ELAN software, enabling FSL Researchers to analyze FSL video datasets with structured linguistic frameworks. This process aids ongoing preservation efforts, including future contributions to the FSL Signbank, and supports Benilde-CEAD's advocacy for sustainable, Deaf-led documentation systems.

The workshop is divided into six sessions: Language and Linguistics, Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Field Methods, and a Mini-Research Project at the end. These sessions take learners from foundational theory to applied research, culminating in the design of elicitation sessions, responsible data management, and the production of a focused mini-research output exploring FSL's intricate linguistic structures.

Dx. Raphael Domingo stressed the cultural importance of this initiative. "The preservation and evolution of our language are important for the next generation, as language serves not only as a means of communication but also as a vital component of our cultural identity and heritage," she said. "We create a rich repository of FSL resources that can be adapted and evolved, allowing the next generation to embrace and enrich their heritage."

This reflects Benilde-CEAD's long-standing belief that the Deaf community members are not just participants but also caretakers of their language, history, and identity. The workshop supports this role by providing a structured space for learners to develop research skills and contribute to the future of FSL documentation.

By advancing research capacity development, Benilde-CEAD strengthens its mission to expand access to Deaf-centered education, support community learning and discovery, and help preserve the cultural and linguistic heritage of Filipino Sign Language.

In the long run, the government will see this as a crucial step towards producing quality FSL materials, where quality is a product of Deaf people trained in the field to take the lead in developing FSL materials.