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Socio-Economic Profile of Coastal Barangays in Ilog, Negros Occidental

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ABSTRACT

The Municipality of Ilog is considered as one of the coastal municipalities of the Province of Negros Occidental, Philippines. It has a total land area of 28,170 hectares and covers four coastal barangays with a total coastal area of 4,419.38 hectares and were recipient of mangrove rehabilitation project in 2008. These barangays barangays have a population of 15,433 with the majority depending on coastal resources. The ever-changing socio-economic profile had contributed to the past and present conditions of the coastal resources and government projects and will continue to affect their conditions in the future. Thus, the study examined the socio-economic profile of coastal barangays in the municipality of Ilog, Negros Occidental using descriptive research design by employing stratified random sampling technique in three categories of respondents such as purok officials, people's organizations, and barangay health workers. The findings revealed that the dominant ages of the population were 31-40 and 41-50. Most of the respondents were married, male, and with an average of 3 children. Majority of their occupation were fishing and fish vending. Generally, annual family income is very. However, as to category of respondents, people's organization respondents had the highest income. These overall results of the study may be used as basis for integral program planning of the Local Government Units of municipality of Ilog on Coastal Resource Management.

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INTRODUCTION

Socio-economic interacts between social and economic situation of respondents of the study in coastal barangays of the Municipality of Ilog, Negros Occidental. To assist the national and local government to understand the interacting socio-economic components, its profile was purposely examined. The Municipality of Ilog is considered as one of the coastal municipalities of the Province of Negros Occidental, Philippines. It has a land area of 28,170 hectares with a total population of 54,423 based on National Statistics Office (NSO) census on May 1, 2010. It covers 15 barangays wherein four barangays are geographically located in coastal areas. The study focused on these four coastal barangays with corresponding areas of: Barangays Andulauan (1,321.87 ha), Bocana (563.76 ha), I (1, 633.76 ha), and II (899.99 ha) equivalent to a total coastal area of 4,419.38 hectares, comprising 15.69% of the total land area of the municipality. Barangays Andulauan, Bocana, I, and II had the corresponding population of 3,908, 3,587, 5,121, and 3,313, respectively, with a total population of 15,927. There were government mangrove rehabilitation projects implemented from 2008 up to the year where this study conducted (2012) such as Sulu-Celebes Seas Integrated Coastal Zone Development Project, National Greening Program, GIZ project, and regular mangrove project of the municipal and provincial government. While projects were implemented, different sectors were involved such as people's organizations, purok officials, and barangay health workers. It was believed that socio-economic status of coastal communities contributes to the conditions of coastal resources and government projects in any tenses. It was also believed that the socio-economic profile of these sectors kept on changing over time, hence, this study was conducted. Socio-economic profile is a great determinant in assessing development in coastal areas. This concept supports the report of Larson and Alexandridis (2009) that socio-economic profiling was developed for the purpose of study, comparison, and presentation. They added that the socio-economic aspect of different sectors of the community would play a large role in determining both the opportunities for development in fisheries, agriculture, and forestry as well as capacities of the communities in the areas to identify opportunities and take the advantage of the opportunities as they present themselves. Further, it was stressed out in their report that the profiles included

age, sex, number of children, civil status, family income, employment and occupation related to fishing, agriculture, and forestry, including the physical area (hectare) of the projects. Other importance of socio-economic profiling included improvement of understanding on the socio-economic condition of the community such as project development, identify key issues affecting the population, comparing and contrasting to identify areas which are socio-economically similar or dissimilar. A valid data on population can be used by coastal managers during formulation of plans and programs. This theory was supported by Vostrikova (1970) and Creel (2003) that the study of the age and sex structure occupies an important place in demographic statistics. He added that the profile of the population's age and sex structure played an important part in the system of indices of the plan for the development of the economic and cultural life of socialist society. Further, the socio-economic profile can be used during the planning, monitoring, evaluation, and assessment of implemented government projects. The objective of this investigation was to assess the socio-economic profile of coastal barangays in Ilog, Negros Occidental. This included finding out the social profile of respondents such as age, civil status, sex, and the number of children per household. An economic profile of respondents included the occupation of respondents, occupation of spouses, number of functional boats per household, and family income per year.

METHODOLOGY

Locale of the Study

The study was conducted in four (4) coastal barangays of the Municipality of Ilog, Province of Negros Occidental, namely, Barangay Bocana (563.76 hectares), Barangay I (1, 633.76 hectares), Barangay II (899.99 hectares) and Barangay Andulauan (1,321.87 hectares) with an equivalent total of 4,419.38 hectares. These barangays were purposively selected as study sites because the mangrove rehabilitation projects of the government were implemented in these barangays.

Respondents of the study

The respondents of the study were the people's organizations, purok officials, and barangay health workers of the identified coastal barangays in the Municipality of Ilog who were beneficiaries of mangrove rehabilitation project of the government implemented in 2008.

Sampling technique

Stratified random sampling technique was employed in this study, which included three (3) categories of respondents: People's Organizations, purok officials, and barangay health workers. Population record in the barangay were used as the basis for stratification. The sample size was determined using the Slovin's formula at a 5% margin of error. The total population (N) of the respondents was 264 with a total sample size (n) of 160 respondents. The distribution of sample size per people organizations, purok officials and barangay health workers is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Stratified Sample Size Per Category of Respondents

Respondents Category	Population (N)	Sample (n)
1. Peoples' Organizations (POs) Per Barangay		
CLPSFFMA	32	20
BMLA	52	32
MRSF MPC	45	27
AMASFIMPCO	35	21
Sub-Total	164	100
2. Purok Officials (Prk. Os) Per Barangay		
Brgy. Andulauan	20	12
Brgy. I	20	12
Brgy. II	20	12
Bocana	20	12
Sub-Total	80	48
3. Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) Per Barangay		
Brgy. Andulauan	5	3
Brgy. I	5	3
Brgy. II	5	3
Bocana	5	3
Sub-Total	20	12

Survey Instrument

A self-made interview schedule was made to gather the data. It contained two parts. The social profile of respondents such as age, civil status, sex, and

the number of children per household and economic profile composed of occupation of respondents, occupation of spouses, number of functional boats per household, and family income per year. The tool introduced by Good and Scates (1972) was used to test the validity of the instruments. It was rated by 5 jurors who were expert in social researches. The corresponding numerical equivalent of the grand mean rating of the experts was 3.72 which means very good.

Gathering of Data and Analysis

The researcher sent communications to the different punong barangays asking permission to conduct the study in their respective localities. After the approval, the researcher immediately initiated the survey activities among four coastal barangays with the assistance of local leaders, identified local informants and PO officials through personal interview. The data were analyze using descriptive statistics such frequency counts and percentage distribution to determine the social and economic profile of the respondents across the specified barangays.

RESULTS

Socio-Demographic Profile

The socio-demographic profile such as sex, civil status, and the number of children per household was studied in the sectors of People's Organizations (POs), Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) and Purok Officials in four (4) coastal Barangays of the Municipality of Ilog.

Age

The age bracket of Purok Officials ranging from 41 to 50 years old had the highest frequency distribution with 33.33%, followed by 61 to 70 years old with 31.25%, 51 to 60 years old with 22.92% and 31 to 40 years old with 12.50%, respectively. The age brackets among POs from 41 to 50 years old has the highest frequency distribution with 34.00%, followed by 31 to 40 years old with 21.00%, 51 to 60 years old with 19.00%, 21 to 30 years old with 12.00%, 61 to 70 years old with 11.00%, and 71 to 80 years old with 3.00%, respectively. Meanwhile the age brackets of BHWs ranging from 31to 40 and 41 to 50 years old had an equal frequency distribution of 50%.

Civil Status

Out of 100, there were 89 married PO members comprising 89 %, eight (8) singles (8%), and three (3) widows (3%). In the case of Barangay Health workers, all (100%) of them were married. There were 44 married purok officials which comprised 93.48 %, two (2) singles (4.17%), and two (2) widows (4.17%).

Sex

Out of 48 purok officials, there were 29 males which comprised 60.42% and 19 females which comprised 39.58%. Out of 100 PO respondents, the frequency of males was 61 and 39 for females which comprised 61 and 39 %, respectively. All BHWs were females composed of 12 respondents (100%).

Children per household

Out of 48 purok official respondents, sixteen households had three (3) children, twelve households had four (4) children, ten households with two (2) children, five households had five (5) children and five households had one (1) child, comprised 33.33%, 25.00%, 20.83%, 10.42% and 10.42%, respectively. In the case of BHWs, there were eight households had 4 - above children and four households with 1 - 3 children that comprised 66.67% and 33.33%, respectively. Out of 100 respondents surveyed among PO members those with five (5) and above children per family had the highest frequency comprising 33.00%. Followed by those with three (3) children per household, two (2) children per household, one children per household, four (4) children per household and zero child per household which comprised 24.00%, 12.00%, 11.00%, 10.00%, and 10.00%,of the respondents, respectively.

Economic Profile

The economic profile of coastal barangays in the Municipality of Ilog, Negros Occidental was based on occupation, occupation of spouses of respondents, owned current functional boats, family income of different sectors like POs, BHWs and purok officials. Descriptive statistics such as frequency counts and percentage distribution were used to obtain the results on economic profile of the respondents across the specified barangays.

Occupation of Respondents

Fishing occupation was the most dominant among the POs and purok officials with a percent age frequency distribution ranging from 6.25 to 13% per barangay. It was followed by Fish Vending, housekeeping, and other

occupation ranging from 1 to 12.50%. The sector of BHWs showed 25% frequency distribution to all coastal barangays.

Occupation of Spouses of the Respondents

Housekeeping was the dominant the occupation of the spouses of the respondents in POs and purok officials with a percentage distribution ranging from 4.17 to 21%. This was followed by fishing and fish vending ranging from 1 to 8.33%.

Number of Owned Current Functional Boat

Purok officials owned 1 and 2 functional boats with percentage ranging from 4.17 to 12.50% and 0 to 2.08%, respectively. POs owned also 1 and 2 boats with percent frequency distribution ranging from 11 to 13% and 0 to 3%, respectively. BHWs owned 1 boat with frequency distribution from 0 to 8.33%.

Annual Family Income

In 2007, the majority of the POs and purok officials had an income ranging from P48,001 to P72,000 and only BHW respondents did not reach an annual income of P72,001 – P96,000 and P96,001 pesos and above. In 2008 and 2009, majority of the POs and purok officials had an income ranging from P48,001 to P72,000 in most of the coastal barangays and only BHWs respondents did not reach an annual income of P96,001 and above. In 2010, the yearly income of the majority of the respondents in coastal barangays had reached P48,001 – P72, 000 and P72,001 – P96,000 and only BHWs respondents did not reach an annual income of P96,001 pesos and above. In 2011, the PO respondents had the highest frequency distribution with income ranging from P96, and above in coastal barangays.

DISCUSSION

Socio-Demographic Profile

Among the different sectors of respondents, Peoples' Organizations dominated the age range of 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, and 51-60 years old. This was followed by Purok Officials and BHWs with an age range of 21 - 30 and 31 - 40 years old. These ages mean that most of the respondents were mature and capable of accepting and working in mangrove rehabilitation projects. It was supported in the report of National Statistics Office data that the working-age range was 15-64 years old (Authority, P. S. (2012). The age brackets among

Purok Officials from 41 to 50 years old had the highest frequency distribution with 33.33%, followed by 61 to 70 years old with 31.25%, 51 to 60 years old with 22.92% and 31 to 40 years old with 12.50%, respectively. Atterton (2006) cited the percent population working age in Coastal resorts: 28.5% (aged up to 24), 26.4% (aged 25 to 44), & 23.9% (aged 45 to 64).

Most of the respondents of the study were married. Several research studies proved that the majority of the members of cooperatives, peoples' organizations, and political leaders were married. It emphasized that organizations had no limit in membership in terms of civil status as long as the members can do their obligations such as planting mangrove trees and protecting coastal resources. The general implication of this result is that, married persons were willing to accept responsibility in terms of work, leadership, and organization.

All Barangay Health Workers were females while purok officials and POs were dominated by males. Evidence from different research paradigms substantiated that these consequences occurred, especially in situations with heighten perceptions of incongruity between the female gender role and leadership roles. According to Eagly and Karau (2002), about the congruity theory of prejudice toward female leaders, a role congruity theory of prejudice toward female leaders proposed that perceived incongruity between the female gender role and leadership roles led to two forms of prejudice: (a) perceiving women less favorably than men as potential occupants of leadership roles and (b) evaluating behavior that fulfilled the prescriptions of a leader role less favorably when a woman enacted it. Eagly and Karau (2002) emphasized that one consequence was that attitudes were less favorable toward female than male leaders and potential leaders. They also pointed out that other consequences were that it is more difficult for women to become leaders or to achieve success in leadership roles. This further implied that the POs had the high capacity to work during mangrove plantation establishment and protection since the nature of work needed is physical fitness. Fishing activities were laborious and risky, including volunteerism on environmental law enforcement which most of the time women could not do.

The category of 5 children per household and above dominated all sectors in coastal barangays of Ilog. This was lower than 2 compared to the report of other studies in the average birth (7 children) of fisherfolk woman Tietze, U., Groenewold, G., & Marcoux, A. (2000). Specifically, the average children per household of purok officials, BHWs and POs were 3.04, 3.17, and 3.12, respectively. This confirmed the information from the NSO (2012) that

the number of children per Filipino family was more than 3 (3.6 children per woman for those in rural areas). According to Mapa, D. S., Balisacan, A. M., & Corpuz, J. R. T. (2010). Rapid population growth in poor and developing countries hindered economic development and pushed the next generation into the poverty trap. As supported by the Population Reference Bureau (2011) that the Philippine population growth was around 1.0% compared to Indonesia (1.3%). According to Asian Development Bank (2009), rapid population growth in poor and developing countries hindered economic development. This was supported by the NSO (2012) data that the Philippine population growth was around 1.9% annually from 2000 to 2010, bringing additional two persons per year for every 100 persons in the population. An implication of the result that there would be sufficient labor force in mangrove project but poverty level rises. Over-population in certain coastal areas would trigger also the rampant illegal fishing and over-utilization of coastal resources.

Economic Profile

Fishing and fish vending were dominating occupation in most of the respondents, most especially for purok officials and POs. This result supported the other studies that there were population lives in the coastal zone and most of them depended their living on coastal resources (DENR. et al., 2001, Series No. 1). On the other hand, it is important to know the role of wives or husbands as housekeepers or house maker. According to Choudhary, Tripathy, and George (2009) that there was considerable variation in the stay-at-home mother's attitude towards domestic work not related to caring for children. Further, this implied also that housekeeper spouses have given more chance to engage mangrove planting and had added to their family income. In the case of Barangay Health Workers, this title was related to community health workers because it was one of the integral part of many healthcare systems. According to Herman (2011), their roles vary and include both the socially oriented tasks of natural helpers and specific constrained tasks of health extenders.

Housekeeping dominated the occupation of spouses of the respondents in Peoples' Organizations and purok officials with a percent frequency distribution ranging from 4.17 to 21%. This result was supported by Bell (1975) that in the past, the general women's roles of wife, mother and housekeeper were seen as logically consistent. Spouses of female respondents dominated the fishing and fish vending occupation ranging from 1 to 8.33%. It related to the opinion of Davis et al (1992) that fishing is commonly thought of as a man's business.

Fishing is a providing-food industry in the Philippines but it is very risky, therefore using fishing boats were preferred not only for efficiency of catching fishes but also for safety. Purok officials and POs owned 1 up to 2 functional boats. The result of the study implied that one of the owned physical assets of fishermen, like the fishing boats, were crucial to support livelihood strategies (Kleih et al 2003). One functional boat ranged from fifty thousand to one hundred fifty thousand pesos. Using fishing boats during fishing increase the volume of fish catch compared to other traditional fishing methods.

The result of the study emphasized that purok officials, peoples' organizations and barangay health workers have lower yearly family income ranging from P48,001 to P95,001. The researcher had observed that family expenditures went to tuition fees for students, allowance for students, food, and other basic needs. This yearly income ranges was lower compared to the national yearly average income of P206, 000 in 2009 having a poverty incidence among Filipino families of 20.5%, Ericta et al (2009) and Philippine Statistics Authority (2009). It implied that there was a need for the government (both local and national) to provide income generation programs and projects to address the less privileged members of society and increase income per year higher than income ranges from P48,001 to P95,001 and above.

CONCLUSION

The result of this study clearly shows that the socio-economic wellbeing of the four coastal barangays in the municipality of Ilog, Negros Occidental was not satisfactory. This information is very vital to guide decision makers to make policy direction, strategy and development program to address potential issues and basic problems that occur on coastal communities like very low annual family income.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings of this study it recommended to introduce subsides programs for various activities especially fisheries, social services and credit. Small and medium scale enterprise such as agro-based industries should be encouraged and lastly, coastal women shall be involved in family planning program.

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