

EXPLORING THE GENDER DIVISION OF LABOR IN THE WOOD CARVING INDUSTRY OF PAETE, LAGUNA

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to explore the wood carving process in Paete, Laguna in terms of its division of labor and gender dimension. It also seeks to identify the reasons that lead to the level of participation of women in the said industry. Qualitative methodology was utilized to address the objectives of this research through interviews with key-informants, wood carvers, and business owners. Results revealed that the wood carving industry in Paete is dominated by men. The core processes of carving are performed mainly by men while the finishing processes are performed by women. Women's institutionalized secondary role in wood carving, their physical limitations, the existence of Pagtataka in which women engage instead, and finally, their reproductive roles at home are the unearthed reasons for the low participation of women in the wood carving. Recommendations are presented towards the end of the study.

Keywords: wood carving, gender division of labor, Paete