8th NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GENDER AND FISHERIES

“Promoting Inclusive Development for Women and Men in Fisheries and Aquaculture”

September 28-30, 2016
Smallville 21 Hotel, Smallville Commercial Complex,
T. Pison Avenue, Mandurriao, Iloilo City
Foreword........................................................................................................................................... 5

Messages............................................................................................................................................... 6 - 9
  Dr. Rommel A. Espinosa, University of the Philippines-Visayas
  Dr. Marieta B. Sumagaysay, WINFISH

Highlights of the Keynote Message.................................................................................................. 10 - 11
  Dr. Crispino Saclauso, University of the Philippines-Visayas

Plenary Lecture....................................................................................................................................... 12 - 13
  Status of Gender Mainstreaming in BFAR: An Update
  Ms. Mildred Mercene Buazon, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

Closing Remarks...................................................................................................................................... 13
  Dr. Rosario H. Asong, WINFISH

Full Conference Papers Presented

Equality of Women and Men in Fisheries Management Projects at SEAFDEC
  Jariya Sornkliang................................................................................................................................. 14 - 19

Participation of People’s Organization in a Water Project: An Initial Assessment of the
Salintubig Project in Lambunao, Iloilo
  Arvin A. Losaria, Jeanne P. Concepcion, Celia G. Gasangan, Marian G. Gogil, Marilou S.
  Jover, and Rhodella A. Ibabao......................................................................................................... 20 - 31

Women Empowerment for Economic Productivity in Coastal Communities
  Jaime I. Manuel Jr., Rogelio M. Estacio, Ida C. Junio, Valentino V. Prado, Arnulfo B. Junio,
  Enone V. Tepait, Gerry N. Galvez, Richard N. Rivera......................................................................... 32 - 39

Food-Related Practices in Urban Coastal Areas: The Experience of 4Ps Women in
Coastal Villages In Iloilo City, Philippines
  Feljean C. Cagape, Maria Theresa B. Vargas, Nicanor L. Escalera, Mark Rey Neil C. Soliva,
  Lawrence A. Lorenzo, and Rhodella A. Ibabao................................................................................. 40 - 50

Understanding the Factors Influencing the Utilization of Maternal Health Services by
Female Household Heads
  Cristabel Rose Parcon, Maria Elisa Ballao, and Vicente Balinas.................................................... 51 - 61

Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence Among Wives of Fishers
  Cristabel Rose Parcon.......................................................................................................................... 62 - 74
Economic Situation of Female-Headed Households: Comparing Fishing and Farming Household in Carles, Iloilo

Vicente Balinas, Cristabel Rose Parcon, and Maria Elisa Baliao........................................... 75 - 82

Filipino Older Women in the Coasts: How Various Forms of Inequalities Intersect in their Lives

Bernice Vania N. Landoy-Mamanlag and Alice Prieto-Carolinol............................................. 83 - 96

Other Conference Papers Presented as Abstracts and PowerPoint Presentations

Gender Analysis Through Modified Best Aquaculture Practices (M-Bap) For In Micro And Small Scale Operators in Fish-Cage Aquaculture

Zakiah Adun and Zumiah Zainalaludin...................................................................................... 97 – 105

Integrating Gender in the Development of a Catch Documentation and Traceability System

Arlene Nietes Satapornvanit........................................................................................................ 106 - 114

Fish Processing Skills Training for the Housewives of Fisherfolks in Bataan: An Analysis

Dr. Felicisima E. Tungol............................................................................................................ 115

Impact Assessment of the Genetic Selection for Salinity Tolerant Tilapia through Hybridization (Molobicus)

Luzviminda M. Galang, Maria Excelsis M. Orden, Danilo S. Vargas, Janet O. Saturno,
Ronaldo D. Malaca, and Bismark E. Francisco......................................................................... 116

Involvement of Women in Coastal Resource Management in Binalbagan, Negros Island

Ruby Esparazoga....................................................................................................................... 117

Spatio-Temporal Analysis in Seaweed Gathering and Marketing in Selected Coastal Areas in Ilocos Norte, Philippines

Susan G. Aquino....................................................................................................................... 118

Socio-Economic Analysis of Women’s Participation in Farming in Sibunag, Guimaras

Elba Joy Abad, Irish Krisselle Moscoso, and Gay Defiesta......................................................... 119

Ang Babayi Kag Ang Sinsuro: Understanding the Role of Women in Sinsuro as Unsustainable Method of Fishing in Small-Scale Fishing Community at Pandan, Antique

Sergio Tolentino........................................................................................................................ 120

That’s my Spot! Local Fishing and Its Implications on Sandfish (Holuthuria Scabra) Sea Ranching in Pandaraonan, Guimaras

Jee Grace B. Suyo and Jon P. Altamirano................................................................................. 121
In the Face of Climate Variability: The Women Squid Driers of Limasawa Island, Southern Leyte

Marieta B Sumagaysay........................................................................................................................................... 122

Does Income Matter in Empowering Women? Evidence from Small Scale Fisheries and Agriculture in Sebaste, Antique

Ritchie Ann Dionela, Jorilyn Tabuena and Gay Defiesta................................................................. 123

The Empowered Mothers of the Flock of the Divine Mercy in Fish Kroepek and Polvoron Making as Alternative Livelihood Projects

Jessy H. Maquirang, Romeo D. Catura , Lady Gem H. Maquirang, and Jean Rose H. Maquirang................................................................. 124

Poster Presentations

Fisheries Industry of Charru Mussel, Mytella charruana (D'Orbigny 1846) (Bivalvia: Mytilidae) in Dagupan City, Northern Philippines

Lemark Bautista and Francis Albert T. Argente.................................................................................. 125

Assessment of Siganid Production in Selected Coastal Towns in Pangasinan

Ricardo A. De Guzman..................................................................................................................................... 126

Appendices

Conference Winners...........................................................................................................................................127
Board of Judges...........................................................................................................................................127
Open Forum for Speakers........................................................................127 - 137
Open Forum for the Plenary Speaker.......................................................................................... 138
Profile of Participants........................................................................................................................................ 139
Conference Program..............................................................................................................................140 – 143
Conference Steering Committee..............................................................................................................144
WINFISH Conference Steering Committee...........................................................................145
WINFISH Declaration.......................................................................................................................... 146
Launching of the WINFISH Website.................................................................................................147
Conference and Field Trip Pictures.................................................................................................148 – 150
The eighth national research conference organized by the National Network on Women in Fisheries in the Philippines, Inc. (WINFISH) at the Smallville 21 Hotel, Iloilo City on September 28-30, 2016 had a total of 22 paper and two poster presentations. The conference had six strands that capture the essence of the theme, “Promoting Inclusive Development for Women and Men in Fisheries and Aquaculture”. The strands are as follows: 1) Innovations and New Technologies, 2) Fisheries Law, Policies and Water Governance, 3) Inclusive Business Models for Fisheries-Related MSMES, 4) Indigenous Knowledge and Practices, 5) Vulnerabilities, Hazards, and Disaster Relief Rehabilitation, and 6) Life and Livelihoods in Fishing Communities.

This publication of the conference proceedings includes the studies that have already been reviewed by the editorial board and revised by the corresponding authors. A few paper presenters requested that only their abstracts be included because their full papers have already since been published. WINFISH may later add the full papers of presenters who are still working on their revisions.

Rosario H. Asong & Ida M.L. Siason
Co-Editors
To our keynote speaker, Dr. Crispino Saclauso, Board of Trustees and members of the National Network on Women in Fisheries in the Philippines, Inc, guests and participants from the different government offices, academe, gender and fisheries advocates from the local government units, non-government organizations and private sectors, Good morning and welcome to the 8th National Conference on Gender and Fisheries.

It’s been a pleasure to see the growth of the National Network on Women in Fisheries in the Philippines, Inc. (WINFISH) for the past 16 years through the efforts of our partners, the DOST-PCAARD, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and SEAFDEC. We are looking forward to your continued support in the coming years.

UP Visayas is committed to promote the welfare of the coastal communities, particularly the marginalized women. As the flagship college of UP VISAYAS, the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences continuously seeks to improve our programs and projects for the fisheries sector. We hold this biennial conference to generate and share knowledge on how to better serve and promote inclusive development for women and men in fisheries and aquaculture. This event will also serve as a venue for us to raise the awareness of our networks and general public on research-based gender concerns in fisheries at the regional and national level.

It is high time to recognize and appreciate the role of women in nation building, especially those from the fisheries sector. Through these initiatives, we are working towards improving the quality of life of women as a whole. Let us continue our activities, programs and projects to empower women and to fully mainstream gender in the coastal communities.

I would like to congratulate the organizers, especially WINFISH for an expected successful event.

I would like to thank everyone again who are present here today. I look forward to your continued commitment to our GAD efforts. Thank you and have a good day.
Message
Dr. Marieta B. Sumagaysay
WINFISH President

UPV Vice Chancellor for Administration, Prof Nestor Yunque, Dean of the UPV College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (our guest speaker) Dr. Crispino Saclauso, BFAR Director of Region 6, Dir Remia Aparri, Our BFAR officials from the Central Office led by Ms Mildred Buazon, WINFISH Founding President Dr. Ida Siason, WINFISH Colleagues, Fellow gender advocates, a pleasant morning to all. MAUPA NGA AGA!

When I was at the airport yesterday waiting for my Iloilo flight, I got a call from a colleague. It was a distress call because he was right before a panel of evaluators where he was presenting his project proposal for a fish port complete with a drainage and sewerage system. He was being asked where the gender component was. He didn’t know the answer; and he was frantic as he could not imagine where gender will be mainstreamed. After all, he did not think about it in the first place.

I was both sad and happy. Sad because if there are millions of women in fisheries, that means this number will not be included in the development process. Happy because this was an opportunity for advocacy and for infecting a colleague with the gender lens. I believe that we are here today and the next two days for a similar reason.

From your presence, I draw strength in putting forward WINFISH, its dreams and vision. I hope everyone is on a parallel platform.

Congratulations everyone for braving the rains and the floods, and for deciding to choose WINFISH today until Friday. It is my sincere pleasure to welcome all of you who have come to this biennial event of the National Network on Women in Fisheries in the Philippines. The network is an organization which we popularly refer to as WINFISH. It is a pool of scholars, practitioners, and gender advocates who would want to see more gender-responsive fish ports, drainage and sewerage systems, street lamps, and less of the gender-blind project planners, program developers, and policy makers.

Earlier, I was scanning the list of conference participants and I am happy to note that we have participants who come from up north – as far as Ilocos Norte, and as far south as the ARMM. Our paper presenters mirror the same expanse, and even more since we have presenters from Malaysia, Japan and Thailand. If by coming today we are able to learn from each other, then the multiplier and domino effects of our advocacy for promoting inclusive development in aquaculture and fisheries will truly come easy.

I believe that we are here for a cause that is not necessarily personal, but for a cause which celebrates and recognizes the importance of women’s participation in the daily grind of holding half of the sky and of caring for half of the seas. I believe that we all have come with the hope of sharing our various experiences in the field and classroom, which may lend us lessons on how to make things happen for the upliftment of lives and living of this vulnerable sector in society, the women in fisheries and aquaculture. We cast our votes in the knowledge market and say, Yes to Inclusive Development.
Why does inclusive development matter?

On a global scale, the UNDP notes that the richest 10% of the population own 85% of all assets while the poorest 50% own only 1%. From any perspective, this is pure and glaring inequality. The worst scenario happens when the deepening and staggering inequality adversely affects the women because they are women, despite these women having the capability and knowledge that are just as good as men’s. The UNDP observes that many people are excluded from the processes and the fruits of growth and development because of their gender. This is one of the challenges for WINFISH.

Inclusive development efforts are crucial in pursuing pro-poor goals which means, among others: (a) breaking free from the cycle of hunger – there has to be fish and rice on the table at all times; (b) opening new avenues for dialogues and collaboration between resource owners and resource users; (c) increasing community-based participation in planning, implementing and monitoring projects; (d) knowledge acquisition and skills development towards small-scale fisheries entrepreneurship for women; (e) creation of productive employment opportunities that are coupled with effective social safety nets to protect those who cannot work or those who earn too little, to name a few.

How do we come into the challenge? How do we keep the discourse going?

Twenty years after Beijing, we are still struggling with many of the same issues. In our country, poverty incidence is 26.3% as of 1st semester of 2015, and a subsistence incidence of 13.4%, reflecting the proportion of Filipinos is extreme poverty. This means that a family of five needs at least P6,365 on the average per month to meet the family’s basic food needs and P9,140 per month to meet both basic food and non-food needs. This results to an income gap of 29% which further means that incomes of poor families are short by 29% or by P2,649 per month in order to get out of poverty. The fishing sector is comparatively the sector with the highest poverty incidence at 41.4%.

Fishers are still the poorest... and the statistics for women fishers are worse than their male counterparts. The lesser access that women have to productive resources, the greater is the feminization of poverty.

As scholars in academe and research institutions, we will be more aggressive in translating basic research results into policies and programs that will address the practical and strategic gender needs of the fisher woman. There is a need for evidence-based and science-informed decision making at all levels of governance.

For the practitioners, field technicians, and community organizers we can do more of the strategizing on how women can maximize the benefits from fisheries, hence, reducing poverty and the vulnerability of women fishers and their households.

On this 8th National WINFISH Conference, we will gain insights from twenty five (25) papers on how women fishers’ empowerment can be enhanced and how women fishers can participate and be counted at all stages of the development process.
WINFISH is responding to the call of the times. As an organization, we have started embarking on activities more than the holding of biennial conferences. I will tell you three (3) of these:

1. We are on the road from Luzon to Visayas and Mindanao, matching the small scale women entrepreneurs in seaweed, processed fish, and shrimp products with the exporters in the value chain. This is with the assistance of PCAARRD is leading the activity.

2. We have launched the WINFISH website. For the members, you may use it for information, get updated, link, connect, and market your expertise.

3. We are bidding for bigger research projects with international funding. We will build up the name of WINFISH as a group of experts and practitioners. This we will do, on top of our individual works.

All these are not without the assistance and support of partners.

In behalf of WINFISH, I would like to thank BFAR (the central office and its regional units). #partnerForever. BFAR has been a significant partner since the birth of WINFISH.

Special thanks goes to BFAR 6 headed by Dir Remia Aparri for this 2016 conference – for the technical, manpower, and financial assistance.

UP Visayas, of course, thank you for both the human and other resources which have been made available to WINFISH since its inception. #alwaysTherePaMore.

PCAARRD, thank you for collaborating with WINFISH projects and endeavours. #bffwithbenefits.

On this note, may I also thank the members of the local organizing committee, led by no less than WINFISH Founding President, Dr Ida Siason, and with the assistance of our dear Dr. Rose Asong. They ae the # WINFISH Moms.

To all the committee members and the Secretariat, I believe it is #NSTP. That is, hashtag NoSleepTodayPa.

Let us all enjoy each other’s company, be filled with the knowledge sharing and the field exposure. Let us bear in mind that each one of us has a woman fisher waiting for our assistance and for opportunities to be counted and be included in the development and attainment of SDGs. For all of us, it is #mayPananagutan.

Thank you and I wish you well.
Global Demand for Fish

- Fish continues to be an important source of animal protein for the expanding world population (FAO, 2016).
  - Accounts for about 17% of the global population’s intake of animal protein.
  - Accounts for 6.7% of all protein consumed.
  - Provides more than 3.1 billion people with almost 20% of their average per capita intake of animal protein.
- World per capita apparent fish consumption increased from an average of 9.9 kg in the 1960s to an estimated 20 kg in 2015.

Fishers and Fish Farmers (FAO, 2016)

- An estimated 56.6 million people were engaged in the primary sector of capture fisheries and aquaculture in 2014.
- Women accounted for 19% of all people directly engaged in the primary sector in 2014, but when the secondary sector is included women make up about half of the workforce.
- Women are traditionally marginalized in both the capture and culture fisheries.
- Women’s needs are not sufficiently addressed because of prevalent gender related inequality and inequity in society.
- Women’s participation is constrained or affected by strong cultural rules, robust societal conventions and in some cases, even by discriminatory laws (GLOBEFISH, 2015).
- Fisheries and aquaculture in the Philippines is still generally dominated by men except in the postharvest sector, trade and marketing where women play dominant roles.

Global Prospects for Fish Production

- Total world fishery production is projected to expand over the period, reaching 196 million tonnes in 2025.
- For the Philippines: Comprehensive National Fisheries Industry Development Plan (CNFIDP) Medium.
  - Blueprint for fisheries industry development of the country.
  - Recognizes the problems of the industry perceived by the different stakeholders expressed during various sectoral consultations.
  - Contains sectoral targets agreed upon during consultations and workshops.
  - Vision: Sustainable and competitive fisheries industry that has:
    1.) Sufficient contribution to national food security.
    2.) Inclusive growth within the industry.
3.) Sustainable, science-based fisheries and aquatic resource management practices.

4.) Compliance to international laws, policies, and standards.

5.) Human resource and information sharing.

6.) Resilience to environmental hazards.

Fisheries and aquaculture is run by women and men that FAO’s Blue Growth Initiative emphasizes not only the ecosystem approach to capture fisheries and aquaculture, but embraces also the promotion of sustainable livelihoods for coastal fishing communities, recognition and support to small-scale fisheries and aquaculture development, and fair access to trade, markets, social protection and decent work conditions along the fish value chain.
Plenary Lecture
Status of Gender Mainstreaming in BFAR: An Update
Ms. Mildred Mercene Buazon
Officer-in-Charge, Administrative Division
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Central Office

What is the aim of BFAR?
- Improve fisheries and empower stakeholders
- Help the sectors, particularly the women

Major Contributions to Gender Development
- Fisheries Checklist: Ensure Bureaus and Programs are aware of issues and concerns

Coverage of Fisheries Checklist:
- ✓ Livelihood: Aquaculture, Production, Marketing Support, Infrastructure
- ✓ Conservation
- ✓ Research and Training
- ✓ Plans, Programs, Advocacy monitoring
- ✓ Gender Mainstreaming

ACTION PLAN
- Submit GAD Action Plan for 2017
- Submit GOB and ARs online to the Central Office for Review
- Remind the Regional Offices to use at least 5% of the total budget for appropriations
- Ensure that GAD Accomplishment Reports are fully substantiated by relevant supporting documents for easier validation by COA
- Institutional Development/capacity-building for gender mainstreaming

a.) Understanding and Commitment
b.) Analytical and Planning Skill
c.) Structures and Mechanisms
d.) Participatory Mechanism
e.) Information Data and Research

The 2016 GAD PLAN:
Concerns which were observed and how they will be addressed.
- Conduct trainer’s training on leadership and GAD
Women have limited awareness on their rights as part of the marginal sector:
Conduct informative presentations
Women are not aware of their role in fisheries: conduct GST
Promotion of women in fisheries campaign for other sectors to be aware
Women have limited knowledge of fisheries tech: Need to modify or redesign fishing tools
Fishery interventions are only designed for men: New technology and GST
Women are exposed to unsafe working locations: Seminar on Survival at Sea and First Aid
Conduct Fisher folk Registration
Women contributions are invisible: Conduct search for outstanding women in fisheries
Target: by October present nominees for outstanding women in fisheries
Conduct training on postharvest handling and packaging by women fisher folk

Women are not aware of their role in fisheries sector: Create a women fisher folk organization.

Closing Remarks
Dr. Rosario H. Asong
WINFISH Vice President

We bring to a close this morning’s session which serves as an introduction to the heavy sessions we will all experience in this 3-day conference of 25 papers and 2 posters tackling the current buzz word “inclusive development”, this time focused on women and men in fisheries and aquaculture.

In behalf of the National Network on Women in Fisheries in the Philippines, again we reiterate our deeply-felt appreciation especially to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquaculture Region 6, BFAR Central Office and other Regional Offices, PCAARD and UP Visayas for being the moving spirit as well as providing human and financial support in making this 8th National Conference possible. You have been instrumental in sustaining this network for 16 productive years. We now believe in the saying there is a forever.

If this serves as a commercial break, let me also thank Smallville Hotel 21 for this beautiful venue, Mr. and Mrs. Pijuan our website developer, Dr. Victor Navarra, president of the University of Antique and president of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges Region 6 for endorsing our activity to other academic institutions in Region 6. To all who have been and will be a part of this conference, our sincere gratitude. And to all who came from different parts of the country who had been with us in building a strong gender research-focused organization...Thank you. Let’s move on.
Equality of Women and Men in Fisheries Management Projects at SEAFDEC

Jariya Sornkliang*

Abstract

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) is an autonomous inter-governmental body that has a mandate “to develop and manage the fisheries potential of the region.” Currently SEAFDEC is also interested in integrating gender in fisheries to enhance capability for fisheries management to achieve sustainable development goals. SEAFDEC has implemented projects on Integrated Coastal Resources Management in Cambodia. The projects engaged women and men on enhancing fisheries resources and alleviation of poverty through local business establishment in coastal fishery communities. This paper reviews the efforts of SEAFDEC to integrate women and men into its activities and how SEAFDEC projects allocate resources and programs to men and women. Working with women’s and men’s groups in these areas showed that women and men worked separately because they had their own interests and specialization. For instance, women’s participation was based on their business interests which were more land-based because of their housekeeping duties; they wanted to stay within or near their houses. Men would always go out to sea to fish thus they were more interested in job opportunities related to the sea such as aquaculture and resource enhancement. The SEAFDEC program showed improving institutional capacity and motivating stakeholders through implementing gender mainstreaming approaches in order that the achievement of objectives is equally beneficial to men and women stakeholders.

I. Introduction

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) is an autonomous inter-governmental body that is mandated “to develop and manage the fisheries potential of the region by rational utilization of the resources for providing food security and safety to the people and alleviating poverty through transfer of new technologies, research and information dissemination activities with the national fisheries lines agencies (LAs) of 11 SEAFDEC Member Countries (MCs) and its relevant partners. SEAFDEC is currently interested in gender mainstreaming and gender integration in fisheries to enhance sustainability of fisheries management. We try to start gender mainstreaming by reviewing our past projects and determine our level of awareness on gender in fisheries.

When we talk about fisheries, we usually see that men are the ones going out to fish in the sea and women wait on the shore to help men harvest and sell fish. This shows that women and man have they own roles in fisheries.

*Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center/Training Department (SEAFDEC/TD)
Therefore, gender mainstreaming is needed in fisheries management planning. SEAFDEC has gone into some fisheries management projects in coastal areas and we engage men and women in these projects. This paper will show how women and men participate in SEAFDEC projects, the roles of women and men in fisheries management and whether SEAFDEC gives them equal opportunity or not through a review of project documents.

**SEAFDEC Project on Integrated Resources Management in Sihanoukville, Cambodia**

There are three projects on Integrated Coastal Resources Management introduced by SEAFDEC in Cambodia. These projects aimed to develop capacity building of local human resources to empower them to manage and sustain coastal resources and community development and to encourage people’s participation on a voluntary basis in alleviation of poverty in coastal fishery communities. These projects had women and men participants, but the gender perspective was not considered, therefore this review would like to show the role of women and men in these projects as an example that SEAFDEC have been working for the attainment of gender equity and equality. Hence the activities of these projects focused on resources enhancement and local business establishment through participation of women and men fishers in the project areas. Therefore, showing the roles of women and men is a manifestation of expressing equality of women and men in SEAFDEC projects.

### 1.1 Resources enhancement activities

**Fish refugia for blood cockle**

Responding to the request by the UNEP-GEF project, FiA Cambodia initiated the activities towards the end of 2006, by identifying the locations along the coast of Sihanoukville where fish refugia could be established. The first task of FiA was to form a research group comprising of representatives from the Community Fisheries (CF) and village administrations. This group carried out an extensive study in identifying the proper areas to establish the fish refugia through research on spawning area and mature size by studying the gonad development of blood cockles. Twenty-five (25) members of the fish refugia group were women and they also helped the project staff to conduct data collection as shown in the following photos.
Crab bank

The crab bank activity was introduced to fishers in Cambodia to increase swimming crab resources by enhancing hatching, encouraging fishers on CBRM, fostering the groups’ working spirit with the community and increasing fishermen’s income. Eleven (11) fishermen are participated in this activity.

Figures 3-4: Meeting for the establishment of the new crab bank group
1.2 Local business establishment

Mud crab culture

As provided in the project activity, mud crab culture is one of the features in the development of a local business venture to create job opportunities, increase income, and alleviate heavy fishing pressures. The Mud-Crab Culturing Group (MCCG) was established with 12 members (all men and one woman who does bookkeeping). This activity failed because of the environmental condition. Gender analysis showed that this activity allowed women and men to participate based on their ability and interest.

Sea bass culture

Parallel to the abovementioned mud-crab fattening venture, fish culture experiment of sea bass commenced for new local business with six men to do culturing and one woman for bookkeeping. The sea bass culture also faced environment problem, thus it had to be given up.
Mushroom culture

Considering that promotion of local business is one of the activities of the project, the first step conducted was to identify the job opportunities to be introduced. This was followed by organizing work groups for the introduction of job opportunities and the third which was the introduction of new local business. The last step was to evaluate the sustainability of the business venture. The approach was first initiated as part of the women’s group activities among others, as it was considered most vital and the women were easily accessible. This approach also conformed to the outcome of the baseline socio-economic survey which indicated the imminent need of providing job opportunities to the women’s groups to increase income levels of the community, to reduce fishing pressure and to create and stimulate a harmonized group working spirit. Therefore, Women’s groups on Mushroom culture group were established.

Figures 11-13: Training on mushroom production

II. Conclusion and discussion

As what previous SEAFDEC projects have done, it was realized that men and women play important roles and contribute significantly to the impact and sustainability of the fisheries development sector.

It was revealed that both women and men are visibly involved in project activities such as resources enhancement and local business establishment. Voluntary participation could empower them to manage coastal resources and community development. Women assisted in the process of setting up fish refugia for blood cockle while the men were involved in the crab bank and installation of artificial reef activities. Another activity was creation of job opportunities and promotion of local business for women as in mushroom production, and among men, mud crab and sea bass culture. Women and men in Sihanoukville project worked separately because they had their own interests and specialization. For instance, women collected blood cockle by hand thus they were involved in fish refugia for blood cockle. In addition, as they were the ones taking care of food in the household, they wanted to produce mushrooms for household consumption. Men would always go out to the sea to fish thus they were interested more in job opportunities related to the sea such as mud crab and sea bass culture. In addition, by going out to the sea they could collect gravid crab to stock into the crab bank.

SEAFDEC has recently recognized the need for increasing gender awareness for its stakeholders at all levels and at the same time building capacity on gender relevant tools to its relevant staff and key stakeholders to ensure that the gender dimension is properly
mainstreamed into the fisheries’ regular or routine work. In addition, gender aspects need to be integrated into the monitoring and evaluation system to ensure that gender-responsive action plans are implemented in the proper ways and adjustments were made on time when needed and finally the regular fisheries report is updated on gender relevant and gender-sensitive indicators. This is the key to help attain gender equality and equity in fisheries development projects and policies.

Review showed that SEAFDEC have been working on gender equity to attain equality of men and women in SEAFDEC projects therefore, these efforts provided SEAFDEC with a few opportunities to integrate gender approaches into its activities and learn from the experience. Thereby SEAFDEC and its partners must allocate resources to improve institutional capacity and motivate stakeholders to implement gender mainstreaming approaches in order that the achievement of objectives are equally beneficial to men and women stakeholders.

References


Participation of People’s Organization in a Water Project: An Initial Assessment of the Salintubig Project in Lambunao, Iloilo

Arvin A. Losaria, Jeanne P. Concepcion, Celia G. Gasangan, Marian G. Gogil, Marilou S. Jover, and Rhodella A. Ibabao*

Abstract

People’s Organizations (POs) play key roles in the delivery of water projects. Yet, research has shown that while they experienced success, they also underwent challenges in the planning and implementation of water-related projects. An important factor influencing the success and failure is knowledge and skills in the project cycle. The SALINTUBIG is one of the Philippine government’s programs which aim to deliver basic services to many underprivileged Filipinos. This research was conducted to describe and understand the participation of POs’ in a potable water project using the co-production framework and the nature of participation in the project cycle. The study also discussed the challenges in performing their functions in the water project and their strategies in response to such issues. The POs that participated in the focus-group discussions (FGDs) were from the villages of the town of Lambunao, Iloilo Province, Philippines. A key finding showed no observed difference on the way men and women perceived the water project. In practice, both male and female participants reported to have performed roles in doing advocacy, facilitating communication, and in handling daily operation activities of the project. Overall, the water project co-managed by the POs with the LGU was not able to meet their targets. On the part of the POs, they attributed their inability to meet targets to financial constraints of the recipients to pay for water connections, limited manpower of the POs, perceived expensive monthly water billing, and conflict among landowners in water distribution. A few members also raised concerns regarding expectation gaps between them and the project implementers. The enabling mechanisms for the continuation of the project are the funding and recognition of the POs on the importance to co-manage the project with agencies. Enhancement of project skills is the main recommendation to make the POs more efficient in meeting the targets set and in handling challenges of the project and harnessing factors that work best for them.

1. Background of the Study

The SALINTUBIG (SAGANA AT LIGTAS NA TUBIG SA LAHAT) program is one the programs of the Duterte Administration that started during Pres. Benigno Aquino III’s administration. It aims to increase and improve access to safe and sufficient supply of water particularly for the poor and waterless communities and reduce incidence of waterborne and sanitation related diseases (DILG MC 2015-074). The Dept. of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) is the main implementing agency which provides grant facility for infrastructure development to water-related projects. The program is supposed to contribute to the attainment of the goal of providing potable water to the entire country and the targets defined in the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016, Millennium Development Goals (MDG), the Philippine Water Supply Sector Roadmap, and the Philippine Sustainable Sanitation Roadmap (DILG MC 2015-074; Program Briefer LWUA).

*University of the Philippines Visayas
An important feature of the program is that grassroots communities themselves identify water-related projects they want to be implemented in their locality. These projects are under the local government’s Bottom-Up Budgeting (BuB) initiative (DILG MC 2015-074). For projects amounting to at least Php 1 million, civil society organizations (CSOs) can partner with the DILG (DILG MC 2015-074, Sec.E.2.i). Research provides evidence of success stories of CSOs, particularly People’s Organizations (POs), that extend basic services to their members (Mitlin, 2008). POs can facilitate communication upward from people to the government and downward from the government to the people (Mitlin, 2008). Co-production is one of the more popular strategies that have been utilized in the delivery of basic services by CSOs together with the government especially when scaling-up of projects is necessary (Mitlin, 2008). In the current literature on co-production, the strategy is widely used in accessing and delivering basic services.

Moreover, collaboration with the government entails project management on the part of the CSOs. Project management is a tool to optimize the rate of success throughout the life cycle of the project from initiation, planning, execution, monitoring and controlling, and closure (Ofori, 2013). Project management is a discipline of planning, organizing and managing resources to bring about the successful completion of specific project goals and objectives (Chatfield, 2007). There is a set of activities in every sequence of the project cycle that contributes to the success or failure of a project.

The objective of this paper is two-fold. First is to examine the nature of participation of the people’s organizations in a town in Iloilo that has a water project under the SALINTUBIG program. This nature includes their roles and their motivations in engaging in the program. Second is to describe the activities of the POs in the project cycle, the challenges they have experienced, and their strategies in response to such challenges. What this paper does not do is evaluate the success or failure of the SALINTUBIG program as implemented by the POs together with the LGU.

2. Conceptual Framework and Literature Review

Some practices to access water in rural areas

In rural communities where it is too costly to build water infrastructure with private involvement, water access can be improved at the community level through several ways (Increasing Water Access..., n.d.):

- installation of decentralized water distribution systems
- rain collection, water recycling, well construction, and pump construction
- local community form cooperatives with an elected board of officials to decide on the implementation and financing of water systems.
  ✓ when funding comes from the cooperative, community members would form the workforce to construct and maintain new water infrastructure; materials for the infrastructure would be purchased from local businesses
additional funding would come from community members, non-governmental organizations, and/or social action fund

Co-production and delivery of basic services

Definitions of the term co-production differ widely (Pestoff, 2009). In line with social development studies, co-production ‘usually involves the co-delivery of basic municipal services, with roles for both government and organized citizens’ (Mitlin, 2008, p. 340). A more detailed definition of co-production is “the mix of activities that both public service agents and citizens contribute to the provision of public services. The former is involved as professionals, or ‘regular producers’, while ‘citizen production’ is based on voluntary efforts by individuals and groups to enhance the quality and/or quantity of the services they use.” (Parks, et al., 1981 as cited in Brandsen & Honingh, 2016, p. 428). Governments all over the world have involved and cooperated with CSOs and communities in the production of public services due to financial crises, austerity in public finances, and growing doubts about the legitimacy of both the public sector and the market (Pestoff, 2009; Van Eijk & Steen, 2016).

Co-production has various types based on extent of participation in the design and implementation of the project and the proximity of the tasks that citizens perform to the core services of the organization (Brandsen & Honingh, 2016):

- **Complementary co-production in service design and implementation** occurs when citizens are engaged in co-production, but in tasks that are complementary to the core process rather than part of it. For example, when parents help plan and organize extra-curricular activities like school excursions or design and plant a school garden. These activities are part of the professional organizations’ mission, but they do not directly involve citizens in the core activities of teaching.

- **Complementary co-production in service implementation** occurs when citizens are actively engaged in the implementation, but not the design, of a complementary task. Examples are students assisting the university in organizing welcome days or parents helping to prepare school plays.

- **Co-production in the design and implementation of core services** is a situation where citizens are directly involved in producing core services of an organization and are directly involved in both the design and implementation of the individual service provided to them. An instance is participative building projects in which (future) tenants of a housing cooperative work with architects and builders in the design, construction and maintenance of their homes or patients working with dietitians to modify their lifestyle.

- **Co-production in the implementation of core services** occurs when citizens are actively engaged in the implementation, but not the design of an individual service that is at the core of the organization. For instance, active engagement by the client is essential to its successful implementation, but institutionally designed so that citizens do not have direct influence on how it is designed in their individual case. Examples are children’s education during which students follow strictly defined lessons, yet their
input is still crucial to effective learning; or enforced services, such as mandatory employment reintegration.

In co-production, citizens do not only use public services that are conceived of and provided by government (Mitlin, 2008). Rather, they are not only consulted, but are part of the conception, design, steering, and management of services (Mitlin, 2008).

**Challenges of Co-production**

Co-production, as a method, approach and mind-set, is very different from traditional models of service provision because it alters the relationship between service providers and users (Mitlin, 2008). It emphasizes people as active agents, not passive beneficiaries. However, because of its radically different nature, people that practice co-production face a number of significant challenges (Boyle & Harris, 2009; Mitlin, 2008).

- The current funding and commissioning of public money has strict quantitative targets and stipulate rigid, short-term outputs with a mind to economic efficiency. This serves as a barrier to co-produced service models. In order to ‘commission for change’ narrow outputs need to be broadened and complemented by outcomes-based commissioning.
- Many commissioning frameworks favor outputs over outcomes because the former are easy to evaluate success or failure. But some successes are not easily measurable nor are many of the preventative benefits of co-production easy to quantify. Making the case for co-production and capturing its complex and myriad benefits is a key challenge.
- Majority of examples where co-production is being successfully practiced take place at a local scale. To a great extent this has been instrumental to their success; they are rooted in local realities, have grown organically from the ground based on local assets and ideas and emphasize the importance of face-to-face relationships. There is a potential tension to overcome when ensuring that a service remains locally rooted, whilst simultaneously expanding the scope of coverage nationally. Where this has been achieved the tendency towards replication and blueprinting has been strongly resisted.
- Co-production suits smaller organizations that are more used to working in less structured and hierarchical ways. This is something that large public sector structures are much less used to doing. If co-production is to be a mainstream way of working across public sector services, a structural and cultural shift will also need to take place.
- Developing required professional skills: Years of working to narrowly defined roles and job descriptions has led to many public service professionals seeing their ‘clients’ through circumscribed lenses. It can also be difficult for any professional to relinquish control and ‘hand over the stick’; not only does this challenge occupational identities but it also confers a greater sense of risk. At the same time, the ‘clients’ also have to
learn certain skills in dealing with professionals and in working around the system of their partners.

As indicated in the above discussion, co-production will work when CSOs possess certain skills for the achievement of the goals of a project. One of these skill sets is in the management of a project in different stages.

*Phases of the Project Cycle*

The term project can be defined in many ways. A definition closer to service delivery is that a project is a unique investment of resources to achieve specific objectives, such as the production of goods or services, in order to make a profit or to provide a service for a community (Merna & Al-Thani, 2008 as cited in Ofori, 2013, p. 16).

A project has 4 general stages. In the initiation phase, it begins by defining the scope, purpose, objectives, resources, deliverables, and timeline of the project (Watt, n.d.). The planning phase lays down the detailed strategy of how the project has to be performed and how to make it a success. The implementation stage involves the building of the infrastructure; the manager supervises the project and prevents errors from taking place. This process is also termed as monitoring and controlling. This stage ends when the recipients and other actors accept satisfactorily the project. The closure phase involves releasing the final deliverables to the recipients, handing over project documents, terminating supplier contracts, releasing project resources and communicating project closure to all stakeholders. The final step is to undertake an evaluation to determine the extent to which the project was successful and note any lessons learned for future projects (Watt, n.d.).

3. Methodology

A qualitative case study is used to examine the roles of POs and describe their participation in the project life cycle. The study area is the first-class town of Lambunao, Iloilo which has total land area of 407.09 sq. km and is 570 feet above sea level. Lambunao’s household population is 15,040 and its total population in 2010 is 69,023 (Socio-Economic Profile of Lambunao, 2015; National Statistics Office, 2010). Lambunao has villages which have steep slopes and can be reached by several hours of walking.

A semi-structured interview guide was made for the focus group discussions (FGDs) with POs found in the upstream and downstream areas of Lambunao where the project is implemented. Questions asked were their perceived roles in the program, the challenges they have encountered and the strategies they have used in the implementation of the program, and their understanding about SALINTUBIG. They were also asked about their participation in project management. These POs were already in existence prior to the implementation of the project but has been formally organized for the project. Prior to the SALINTUBIG project, they have not handled water-specific projects. The table below provides a summary description of the participants.
Table 2. People’s Organizations in the SALINTUBIG program in Lambunao, Iloilo.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of PO’s</th>
<th>No. of Years in Existence</th>
<th>Main Area of operation</th>
<th>No. of FGD Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>⚫ Women’s Organization (KALIPI)</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Brgy. Magbato (upstream)</td>
<td>Male – 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⚫ Farmers Association</td>
<td></td>
<td>Brgy. Coto (downstream)</td>
<td>Female - 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⚫ Women’s Organization (KALIPI)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⚫ Youth (Katipunan ng Kabataan)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⚫ Senior Citizens Organization</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Results and Discussion

The findings of the study are discussed below in line with the research objectives.

*Expected Roles of the POs in the Water Project*

The POs were approached by the municipal LGU to partner with them for the water project under SALINTUBIG program. The LGU identified their villages (Coto, Sibacungan, Magbato, Gines, Manaulan, and Pasig) to have no or limited access to potable water because of their far location from the water source or because of absent or insufficient infrastructure for households to access from the water source. A Memorandum of Agreement (EO 53) was signed by concerned parties where the functions of POs were stipulated. The functions, as indicated in EO 53, are as follows: conduct community organizing, monitor project implementation, participate in planning & evaluation of the project, and attend meetings. The POs that participated in the program were organized already as community representative in the barangay agenda. The municipal LGU was expected to develop infrastructure for the provision of potable water supply in the target areas. The LGU was also supposed to provide technical assistance, such as trainings and seminars, to POs for the efficient conduct of their functions. The targeted number of beneficiaries among 6 villages were 90 to 100 households.

There was no observed difference between responses of the male and female PO participants when asked about the project goal and their expected roles. They had meetings with LGU officials about the project. The POs mentioned that the project was for them to have access to potable water into their houses. They also understood that they have responsibilities in the project. In general, The SALINTUBIG program does not have explicit gender dimension agenda but the impacts on women’s activities are inherent to the project. That is, by improving access to water sources, women do not have to spend more time than in fetching water from point-source. They also lessen their exposure to risks when they have to walk far from their homes to get water.
**Motivation in Partnering with LGU**

The POs mentioned that they were very eager to work with the LGU in the water project. They shared some of their views on reasons for partnering with the local government:

- An opportunity to provide drinkable & reliable water 24 hours a day to areas that have not received the same service in the past.
- Women will find it easier to get water without walking far from their houses.
- It will decrease the incidence of water-borne diseases in their areas.
- There will be another source water that is more convenient compared to getting water from the source.
- An opportunity to provide jobs, albeit short-term, to community members.

Their responses showed that their main motivation for the project is to address their access for potable water in their communities thereby increasing their safety and security from danger and diseases. These reported motivations confirmed what have been cited in earlier literature (Mitlin, 2008; Pestoff, 2009; Brandsen & Honingh, 2016; Van Eijk C. and Trui Steen, 2016) on the various reasons why people would engage in co-production with the government for the delivery of a social service project.

**Participation in the Project Cycle**

Based on local Executive Order 53 and the FGDs with the POs, the type of co-production or participation by the POs is *co-production in the design and implementation of core services* (Brandsen & Honingh, 2016). In the initiation phase, the POs understood the project goal which was for households to have access to potable water. While it was the municipal LGU that approached them about the SALINTUBIG program, the participants mentioned that they have brought to officials their concern even before the program was implemented. The program provided them the opportunity to finally have a water system to be put in place by forming active partnership with the municipal LGU and DILG. The political atmosphere was also good given the perceived enthusiasm of the LGU to work with the POs on the project.

In the planning stage, the POs mentioned that they were directly involved in the design of the water facility, the identification of water sources, and the identification of households that will benefit from the project. They discussed with the LGU officials the timeline and the resources needed to execute the project plans. In the implementation phase, the LGU and DILG provided technical assistance and the physical infrastructure which require capital outlay. The POs provided human resources such as people who were in-charge of the reporting, monitoring and collection of fees for the management of the water facility. These components, however, experienced a number of challenges. They also worked closely with the contractor in the water facility which eventually caused some challenges with the POs. The closing stage required that the POs turn over project documents to the LGU and DILG. The POs were also instrumental in ensuring satisfaction of the households by facilitating the people’s concerns to authorities.
Challenges and Strategies of POs in Response to Challenges in the Water Project

When participants were asked whether they were able to perform their functions based on the expected roles, they said yes but with a caveat that they were not able to meet their target of 90 to 100 households having access to potable water. They attributed this failure to a number of challenges in various stages of the project cycle.

Such problems included perceived patron-client relationship which favored some household over others and poor collection of fees for the management of the water facility. In general, their reported challenges can be attributed to the perceived high cost of water fees which may have been caused by high construction cost. In effect, people were not able to pay their monthly bills. They also had operational problems in terms of reporting, monitoring and evaluation as well as issues with the contractor.

While there are challenges, the POs stressed that they tried certain strategies to make better their conditions, albeit a majority are short-term and palliative at the moment. These strategies included gentle reminders to pay water bills, wider information dissemination about the importance of protecting their point source from pollution. At the time of study, the POs planned to review their water rates.

These challenges in co-production by POs have been documented in the studies of Mitlin (2008) and Pestoff (2009). The POs, however, have implicit knowledges and skills to manage these challenges because they have always thrived in an environment with less structure and limited resources (Boyle & Harris, 2009; Mitlin 2008).

Table 3. Challenges and Strategies in the Project Cycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Cycle</th>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initiation Phase</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Phase</td>
<td>While they were able to identify water sources and household that needed access to potable water, they did not foresee the cost of construction and inability to pay</td>
<td>A feasibility study should have been done prior to the Implementation stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation Phase</td>
<td>Perceived high rates of water connection and water tariff</td>
<td>The POs felt the same way regarding the rates. They intend to review the water rates and check what can be done.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Members cannot afford the monthly bills</td>
<td>The POs intends to review the rates and check other reasons for non-payment. The POs give reminders to members to pay their bills</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Limited information dissemination among household members about the importance of potable water. Information dissemination by members has been on-going. The POs intend to partner with schools and other groups for proper education on water sources.

Some HHs continue to use stream water as a source for cooking foods increasing their chances of experiencing water-borne diseases. Information dissemination by members has been ongoing to stop using such water source for cooking because of unregulated activities upstream.

Poor reporting and monitoring because members have limited skills and keep on changing. Trainings on record-keeping for better reporting and monitoring of activities through documentation; consistency of personnel involved in documentation

**Closing Stage**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Records are lacking.</th>
<th>Continuous training and practice is required since</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perceived patron-client relationships in the distribution of water. Some members felt that some received water while others were not included in the identified beneficiaries.</td>
<td>The POs provide information about the manner of water distribution.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Modifications Introduced by the POs**

The POs introduced modifications in the project to improve overall efficiency in performing their project roles and in accessing water. In general, these modifications were in the forms of technology used to access and distribute water (connection to water district and water truck provision), data management and operations of daily activities that improved their current practices prior to the project. Such changes in their practices have been identified by Ofori (2013) as enabling mechanisms for the success, of a project, albeit on a short period of time.
### Table 4. Customary Acts and Modifications Introduced by POs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspects</th>
<th>Customary</th>
<th>Modifications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>To access water for shallow wells, the communities would pump water by</td>
<td>Water pipelines have been installed by LWUA for level II water supply in communities. Level II is a water supply facility composed of a source, a reservoir, a piped distribution network with adequate treatment facility, and communal faucets (PSA, 2019). Truck delivers water at affordable price.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>digging pipes into the ground (or ‘tasok’, Sliver or peg in English);</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fetch water from wells, streams; or they will wait for rainy season.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>They also get water from refill stations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational structure</td>
<td>While organizations already existed prior to the program, the structure</td>
<td>Positions were more defined, and officers functioned according to their stated positions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>was not clearly defined.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>Officers and members did not have clear and open communication lines</td>
<td>There is more regularity in holding of meetings; officers provide updated data especially on payment status.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capability enhancement</td>
<td>Members and officers had limited workshops to improve leadership skills</td>
<td>With the water projects, members and officers were given workshop on values formation, leadership development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and project management skills which made them less confident to handle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>projects.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Management</td>
<td>Limited management of records, including updating</td>
<td>Improved data management because the POs have to submit progress reports on project status.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 5. Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

Key findings on the nature of participation of the people’s organizations showed that their type of co-production is direct participation in the design and implementation of a core project. The POs were involved from the initiation, to the planning, implementation, and to the closing stages of the water project. They were able to perform their roles as indicated in the local Executive Order although they experienced some challenges along the way which made them fall below the project target. Their main motivation to work with the LGU is to address their access for potable in their communities.

There was no observed difference between male and female members with regards to the conceptualization and understanding of the SALINTIBUIG program. This may be because the program was not conceptualized to have a gender component. While gender...
dimension is not explicit in the project, the effects address gender issue in terms women not having to walk far to get potable water. People’s risk to water-borne diseases is also reduced by having potable water in their household.

In terms of challenges and strategies in response to issues related to the project, the main results showed that their reported challenges are both behavioral and organizational in nature. There were opinions that some households were favored over others in the selection process. The organizational issues included the perceived high cost of water fees which may have been caused by high construction cost that consequently led for people's inability to pay their monthly bills. They also had operational problems in terms of reporting, monitoring and evaluation of the project. Such challenges have been addressed by short-term and palliative solutions. The POs also highlighted some of the modifications they had to make in light of limited resources in terms of improving the daily operations of their organization.

Co-production between the POs and the LGU for the SALINTUBIG program is a valid approach for the realization of objectives though completion of specific tasks. It involved conceptualizing, planning and implementing, monitoring and feedbacking the water projects with active participation of the POs. As indicated in the literature, there are challenges using co-production approach, particularly the development of skills on project management. The main challenge of project management for SALINTUBIG lies in achieving the project goals and objectives while adhering to classic project constraints of cost. Attention must be given to the enhancement of project management skills as well as reviewing the monthly dues found to be exorbitant by members of POs. On the part of the LGU, they should provide augmentation in terms of funding and in reducing the dues so that less fortunate people can avail of the service.

References


Socio-Economic Profile of Lambunao, 2015.


Women Empowerment for Economic Productivity in Coastal Communities


Abstract

Fifty-five women from the three coastal municipalities of La Union, Philippines acquired financial freedom through sustainable livelihood on processing and marketing seaweed-based products. The women are officers and members of the Women’s Aquatic Processing Association (WAPA) with the business address at DMMMSU, Paraoir, Balaoan, La Union, Philippines. The association was institutionalized by the Department of Labor and Employment with Registration No. R0100-2012-12-RWA-468.

Series of skills training on seaweed processing were conducted to develop their capabilities. Project management and values orientation training cum-workshops were also conducted to enhance their competencies in running the project. Housewives were equipped with the necessary skills and attitudes making them ready to manage a livelihood project that raised their economic condition.

Effective networking/linkaging with government and private agencies like the Bureau of Fisheries and HOLCIM-Philippines, Inc. provided the association financial assistance to produce and market seaweed-based products in the local markets such as seaweed bath soap, seaweed candies, seaweed pickles, seaweed flakes, seaweed ice cream and seaweed ice candy. The livelihood project was found to be profitable with a return on expenses of 166% as of June 2014.

Based on the economic survey conducted, results showed a highly significant increase of income by the respondents of 120%. Indicators include annual household income, household asset index, household debt levels and household saving levels.

RATIONALE

The main objective of Republic Act 9710 known as the Magna Carta of Women (MCW) is to promote women’s equal participation in society. The MCW seeks to eliminate discrimination through the recognition, protection, fulfillment and promotion of the rights of Filipino women, especially those belonging to the economically-poor sector of the society. Moreover, MCW aims for women to be one of the players in generating and utilizing productive resources so as to reduce gender discrimination present in society. Through the MCW women have more opportunities to make a living and help their families, thus minimizing issues on poverty while empowering them.

Generally, women in households are unemployed women. This leads to lack of confidence, have very little participation in domestic decision-making and use of income which leads to inferiority. This status quo will change if women will be provided with the right training and resources for new livelihood to sustain their family needs.

*Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University
As stated in the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 (RA 8550), the Local Government Code of 1991 and the Women in Development and Nation Building Act (RA 7192), the state is mandated to uphold the rights and privileges of fisherfolks with special attention to women for priority development assistance.

The International Center for Research on Women states that “there is an increasing recognition that economically empowering women is essential both to realize women’s rights and to achieve broader development goals such as economic growth, poverty reduction, health, education and welfare. In the last five years, a broad range of organizations have committed themselves to the goal of women’s economic empowerment. These organizations realize that economically empowering women is a win-win that can benefit not only women, but society in general. It promotes women’s ability to achieve their rights and well-being while also reducing household poverty, increasing economic growth and productivity, and increasing efficiency.”

- Since women make up the majority of the world’s poor, meeting poverty-reduction goals requires addressing women and their economic empowerment.
- Discrimination against women is economically inefficient. National economies lose out when a substantial part of the population cannot compete equitably or realize its full potential.
- Working with women makes good business sense. When women have the right skills and opportunities, they can help businesses and markets grow.
- Women who are economically empowered contribute more to their families, societies and national economies. It has been shown that women invest extra income in their children, providing a route to sustainable development.

The Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU), La Union, Philippines visualizes the importance of the women sector in development effectiveness for their active participation in decision-making, leadership and economic advancement. Thus, the University prioritizes women empowerment in its Gender and Development (GAD) Program that aims to increase the level of awareness of the stakeholders on GAD laws, concerns and issues and to initiate GAD-related projects that empower women based on the Philippine Commission on Women-endorsed 2013 GAD Plan and Budget of the University.

**OBJECTIVES**

Generally, the project aimed to empower women to become active participants for economic productivity in coastal communities of La Union. Specifically, it aimed to achieve the following objectives:

1. Increase the level of awareness and understanding on gender and development laws, issues and concerns;
2. Enhance women capabilities on seaweed processing and entrepreneurial skills making them equipped for livelihood project management;
3. Promote sustainable livelihood projects that will address the need for increased family income; and
4. Improve interpersonal relationships to encourage them to participate actively in any community activities.

**SPECIFIC R&D MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCES/STRATEGIES**

The Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University aims to actively participate in the government efforts to stimulate economic productivity in the coastal areas by promoting research outputs as sustainable livelihood projects and improved capability building its stakeholders. One of its major programs include Gender and Development that is concerned with the empowering women to become catalysts for economic productivity in the family in particular and in the community in general. Thus, the program “Women Empowerment for Economic Productivity in Coastal Communities” was conceived.

**A. Community Mobilization**

Community mobilization is essentially a process for reaching out to the different sectors of the community and creating partnerships in order to focus on and ultimately address a pressing issue such as women empowerment (Huberman, B., et.al. 2014). For the effective implementation of the project, proper coordination with concerned officials is very important, thus they are invited to participate during the planning phase to signify their full support and interest on the project.

Identification of beneficiaries for the project was undertaken through participatory planning with LGU officials in the service coastal communities together with DMMMSU officials, researchers and extension workers that served as the technical working group of the project. Four coastal barangays were identified, namely: Brgys. Paraoir and Almeida of Balaoan, La Union; Brgy. Darigayos, Luna, La Union; and Brgy. Quirino, Bacnotan, La Union. The said barangays are adjacent to each other and the DMMMSU-North La Union Campus-Fisheries Research and Training Institute is located in between the four barangays. This made the series of activities during the pre-implementation phase activities such as meetings, distribution of communication, etc. easier.

The major occupation of the people in the four barangays is fishing. The fishing activity is categorized as near-shore and deep-sea fishing but due to high fishing pressure, fish became scarce particularly in shallow water leading to decline in income of the fisherfolks. Ten percent of the male population are contract laborers in the nearby cement plant, thus employment is not stable.

Women in the areas are mostly housekeepers taking care of their children, cooking, cleaning, gathering firewood, and fetching water. Only 6.3% are formally employed in fisheries and aquaculture (Gaerlan, 2012). Women in the identified coastal communities are engaged in collecting mollusks, seaweeds and in pre- and post-harvest tasks.
Sixty women beneficiaries were shortlisted as participants as per recommendation by the LGU officials for capability building to be conducted by the University:

- Brgy. Paraoir - 20
- Brgy. Almeida - 20
- Brgy. Darigayos - 10
- Brgy. Quirino - 10

B. Networking and Linkaging
A triangular powerhouse was established for strong networking and linkaging for the achievement of the goals and objectives of the project: DMMMSU + HOLCIM-PH, Inc. (HPI)+LGU provided a strong foundation for its successful implementation. A Memorandum of Agreement was created to identify the roles/functions of each agency. Among the identified roles of the agencies included technical assistance, financial support and administrative assistance.

C. Capability Building for Sustainable Livelihood
Research outputs on fisheries recommended for sustainable livelihood for women which are characterized as culturally appropriate, gender-responsive and environment-friendly and address the need for food and cash security of the stakeholders. Among these include seaweed-based products such as seaweed bath soap, seaweed candies and seaweed pickles. Series of skills trainings to enhance their capabilities, entrepreneurial skills, simple bookkeeping, values orientation workshop and seaweed processing were among the series of training conducted.

D. Organization and Institutionalization
The group was organized into an association and among the 60 participants, 55 were women registered as officers and members of the newly organization: Women Aquatic Processing Association based in DMMMSU Compound, Paraoir, Balaoan, La Union. A set of by-laws was created by the officers and members of the association as a requirement for registration with the Department of Labor and Employment.

To determine the socio-economic profile of the beneficiaries prior to the implementation of the livelihood project, a socio-economic profile questionnaire was distributed for them to accomplish. The same questionnaire was also floated to the group after two years of project implementation. Indicators included annual household income stream, household asset index, household saving levels and household debt levels to determine the economic security of the beneficiaries before the implementation of the livelihood project and after two years of project operation.

E. Operationalization of the Livelihood Project
Immediately after the series of skills trainings/capability building, started the operation of the livelihood project. An initial capital of PhP 80,000.00 was donated by the HPI, Inc. where they purchased equipment, utensils, supplies and raw materials for their products. The members were grouped in the processing of products. The working area was...
provided by DMMMSU-North La Union Campus-Fisheries Research and Training Institute, Paraoir, Balaoan, La Union.

F. Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring of the concerned agencies was done to measure the performance and accomplishment of the project. This determines the efficiency and effectiveness of the project and assess the progress and detects the problems that may hinder/delay implementation (DMMMSU Administrative Manual, 2002). Monthly meetings were also conducted by the association to discuss their sales, orders, needs and financial status of the project.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

I. Pre-Implementation Phase

A. Creation of the Technical Working Group (TWG)

For the planning stage, a TWG was created to plan the project for implementation. The group consisted of the DMMMSU officials and technical experts; the Corporate Social Responsibility Officer and Community Relations Officer from the HPI and representatives from the Local Government Units of Balaoan, Luna and Bacnotan from the province of La Union. The group discussed the framework of the project with the women as the target beneficiaries and the mechanisms/strategies for effective operation. This also included the resources that served as building blocks women can draw on to succeed. Among these are human capital (capability building, education), financial capital, (savings, loans), social capital (networks, mentors), and physical capital (equipment, land, machinery).

B. Networking and Advocacy

The main focus of networking and advocacy was the empowerment of women in the selected coastal communities of La Union, that is when they successfully contribute more to their families, reducing household poverty, increasing economic growth and productivity and increasing efficiency. Thus, to achieve such goal, the University shared a common purpose to the HPI and LGUs of Balaoan, Bacnotan and Luna and signified their commitment through a Memorandum of Agreement.

C. Identification of Beneficiaries

The representatives from the LGUs took the responsibility in the identification of the beneficiaries. There were 60 shortlisted women beneficiaries from the four coastal barangays of Luna, Bacnotan and Balaoan namely: 10 from Darigayos, 10 from Quirino, 20 from Paraoir and 20 from Almeida, respectively. These were validated by the technical experts from the University.

D. Capability Building

The 60 beneficiaries participated on the series of skills trainings/capability building conducted by the University to address the need to acquire new skills, knowledge and abilities. The following were the trainings conducted:
The National Network on Women in Fisheries in the Philippines, Inc.

- SWOT Analysis
- Value Orientation Workshop
- Entrepreneurial Skills Training
- Processing of Seaweed-based Products
- Enhancement Training on Post-harvest Handling of Seaweeds

Lecturers/subject matter specialists came from the University’s Accounting Office, Fisheries Research and Training Institute and Office of the Business Affairs, Bureau of Food and Drug, Civil Service Commission, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Trade and Industry, and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. Hands-on activities were also done to make learning and acquisition of skills more effective.

The HOLCIM-PH provided the budgetary requirement of the series of trainings while the University was responsible on the venue and other supplies and materials.

E. Organization and Institutionalization

The group of beneficiaries were organized into an association named Women’s Aquatic Processing Association (WAPA) with Paraoir, Balaoan, La Union as business address. Fifty-five joined the association by applying as members with a minimum membership fee of PhP100.00 only. A Constitution and by-Laws was created.

The WAPA was duly registered as a legitimate Rural Workers Association in the Philippines with the Department of Labor and Employment Regional Office No, I City of San Fernando, La Union on January 10, 2013 with Registration No. R0100-2012-12RWA-468.

Immediately after the skills trainings, the HPI gave a working capital for the Association with a total amount of PhP 80,000.00 and one marketing stall in the Social Development and Management Project (SDMP) Livelihood Center at Brgy. Qurino, Bacnotan, La Union where they can sell their products.

All the members are full time housewives with an average age bracket of 31-40 years old. Based on the gathered data before the operation of the livelihood project, majority or 91% finished secondary education and the rest are either college graduate or undergraduate college. Eighty two percent or 45 members did not earn income before the implementation of the livelihood project and only 10 members earned a living by operating a sari-sari store or fish vendors or receiving honoraria as Brgy. Kagawad or Brgy. Health Worker or as a beneficiary of 4Ps. Household members ranged from 5-6.

As to economic security, results showed a very low level of security as perceived by low income, minimal assets, no savings and high debt levels of majority of the members.

F. Operation of the Livelihood Project

With an initial capital of PhP 80,000.00 donated by HPI, the Association purchased equipment, utensils, supplies and raw materials to start processing seaweed-based products such as seaweed bath soap, seaweed candies and seaweed pickles through the assistance of the technical experts of the University. Production of products was done five times a week and even more when there were bulk orders. The products were sold in the SDMP Livelihood Center and to local market outlets in the nearby municipalities. Big volume of products were purchased by the HPI as give-aways during conferences, conventions and the like. More
products were sold during agri-trade fair when the Association was invited to exhibit. Among these are Agri-Pinoy held at Mega Trade Center; BFAR Anniversary at the World Trade Center, Manila; Mining Annual Convention at Camp John Hay; DMMMSU Foundation Anniversary, La Union Day, Consumers’ Week sponsored by DTI, and many more.

A member earned an average of Php 500.00/day by processing 5 sets of bath soap mixture (a set yields 24 pcs bath soap with a labor cost equivalent to only PhP 100.00). Based on the computed return on expenses (ROE), the Association was able to earn PhP1,200 or 50% ROE for every set of bath soap.

A total of 166% ROE was earned for an investment of PhP30,000.00 or PhP49,800.00 net profit for processing and marketing seaweed-based products.

The treasurer of the Association keeps records on the financial status of the project.

G. Impact of the Livelihood Project

As reflected on the collected survey questionnaires accomplished by the members after two years implementation of the livelihood project, there was a significant improvement of economic security based on the given indicators. Majority of or 96% of the members increased their annual household income by an average of 120%; there is the presence of key durable consumer goods in the household such as refrigerators, washing machines and livestock; debt levels is diminishing; and a little saving is evident.

Compared to their financial situation before the implementation of the livelihood project, it could be concluded that women empowerment for economic productivity significantly improved the economic security of the beneficiaries through the effective capability building and commitment in the management of a livelihood project.

CONCLUSION

Women empowerment provides a significant improvement in the economic security of the household and promotes productivity, efficiency and self-esteem. With effective efforts from the government and private agencies, capabilities of women beneficiaries were improved making them self-reliant and self-sufficient and contributed more to their families and communities.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

In compliance with the mandate of the Magna Carta of Women and the Gender and Development Program, government agencies should effectively implement projects for women empowerment to achieve broader development goals such as economic growth, poverty reduction, health, education and welfare.

RECOMMENDATION

Statistics showed that most coastal folks belong to the poorest sector of society. With the excessive fishing pressure, women empowerment must be undertaken in all coastal
areas in the country to possibly improve the economic condition of each family in collaboration with government and private agencies.

References

DMMMSU Administrative Manual.
WAPA. 2013. Constitution and By-Laws.
Food-Related Practices in Urban Coastal Areas: The Experience of 4Ps Women in Coastal Villages In Iloilo City, Philippines

Feljean C. Cagape, Maria Theresa B. Vargas, Nicanor L. Escalera, Mark Rey Neil C. Soliva, Lawrence A. Lorenzo, and Rhodella A. Ibabao *

Abstract

There has been increasing interest on documenting the experience of urban poor households on various aspects of food security for more informed construction and assessment of programs and projects. This paper contributes to growing research on strategies used by urban poor women residing in areas at-risk to storm surge and that have limited space for food production. A survey with thirty 4Ps women and a focus group discussion with five women were conducted in three coastal areas of Iloilo City, Philippines between March to April 2016. Interviews with local officials on food security concerns at the community and local government levels were also obtained. A 24-hour profile was also made to understand the activities of women. Key results showed that women prepared food. Most households tended to reduce the frequency of preparing home-cooked meals in a day and one viand is shared by members for meals at home. Respondents also lessen ingredients they use when they are the one preparing their meals. In most cases, they buy food in food stalls (carinderias), and prepare home-cooked meals at nighttime when every member has returned home from school or work. They also buy or prepare food sufficient only for one day. All participants in the survey and FGDs felt that food is 'sufficient'. Very few recognized the need to produce their own food given the proximity of community market (talipapa) in their areas. For local officials, this information is useful in developing programs and projects that will encourage women to become food producers through communal food garden and provision of climate-adaptable technology for a sustainable garden. Moreover, with households buying food in food stalls and preparing food on their own, setting up a food stall managed by women maybe a venue for marketing produce from the communal garden that are fresh and affordable at the same time.

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Literature has shown that households have developed coping strategies to deal with economic deterioration (United Nations, 1991). Some coping strategies were found to be adopted by households. Strategies include relying on less expensive foods like seasonal or locally available vegetables, limiting portion size of meals and reducing numbers of meals eaten in a day. To increase short-term availability of food, households borrow food or borrow money from friends or relatives, buy food on credit from private grocery shops, use reserves, and rely on food aid. Households eat at religious places in an attempt to increase access to food, withdraw children from school to save money on the school fees and also send children to work. In case of extreme insecurity, migration is observed (Gupta, et al., 2015; Karl, 2009).

*College of Management, University of the Philippines-Visayas
By definition, food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and their food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO, 2015, p. 15). From this definition, four food security dimensions are identified: food availability; economic and physical access to food; food utilization; and stability over time of food availability, access and utilization (FAO, 2015).

Urban coastal areas are extremely vulnerable to food insecurity (FAO, 2007). Household food insecurity (HFI) occurs when food is not available or cannot be accessed with certainty in terms of quality, quantity, safety and in culturally acceptable ways at the level of household (United Nations, 1991). In addition to the income-related challenges in accessing food of sufficient quality and quantity, non-income dimensions can also have considerable impacts on their food security. These include lack of space, limited or no access to welfare provisions and public services, lack of land reform, and difficulties in accessing credit institutions (FAO, 2007; International Institute for Environment and Development [IIED], 2013). Since food preparation is typically one of women’s responsibilities as primary caregivers, they are also heavily gendered (IIED, 2013).

The Philippines is not new in experiencing food insecurity. While the country has made “significant progress” in improving food production and security according to a FAO report (Gavilan, 2015), the country is still beset with challenges of malnutrition and hunger. The 2015 Regional Overview of Food Insecurity in Asia and the Pacific reported that approximately 17.5 million Filipinos are still undernourished and 33.6% of children are stunted (FAO, 2015). Meanwhile, 19% of the whole population live with a daily budget of less than PhP 50.00 (USD$1.25) (FAO, 2015). The same report also mentioned that the country failed to achieve the World Food Summit (WFS) target of halving the number of undernourished people by 2015. More than a quarter of Filipino adults (36%) claimed to be food insecure, while 23% of Filipino children said the same in the latest National Nutrition Survey (NNS) conducted in 2011 (FAO, 2015). The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) has the highest prevalence of food insecurity (FAO, 2015). The report attributed this to “slow progress” in meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

The main aim of this paper is to provide a description of the coping strategies of thirty (30) 4Ps households in three urban coastal villages in Arevalo in highly urbanized city of Iloilo, Philippines. Briefly, the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) is a human development measure of the national government that provides conditional cash grants to the poorest of the poor, to improve the health, nutrition, and the education of children aged 0-18 years of age. The paper also describes the role of women in the food security chain and their ownership of assets. A better understanding of the poor’s strategies can be useful to develop and formulate community-based contextually sensitive interventions to improve household food insecurity, primarily in developing micro-level indicators relating to the onset of food insecurity as well as developing interventions to assist the vulnerable households to meet their immediate food needs and to devise longer term sustainable livelihoods (Kabeer, 1990).
LITERATURE REVIEW

Food Security and Roles of Women

Women play important roles in food security. In the Asia Pacific and Sub-Saharan countries, they act as as food producers, keepers of traditional knowledge and preservers of biodiversity, food processors, and preparers (Karl, 2009). Because of their multiple roles, women are key players in overcoming food insecurity.

Women produce a large part of the world’s food (Karl, 2009). Despite availability of hard data, the FAO estimates that women are the main producers of the world’s staple foods: maize, wheat and rice. In rural fishing communities in Asia Pacific and Sub-Saharan nations, women play an important role in raising poultry and small livestock such as goats, rabbits, and pigs (Karl, 2009). They also feed and milk larger livestock. In most parts of the world, women in fishing communities catch fish with nets and traps, and by baiting and diving they raise fish and crustaceans. Women make and repair nets and traps; assist men with launching and beaching operations, sorting and gutting the haul; and process and market their catch. They grow traditional varieties of vegetables, herbs and spices in their home gardens. Women are universally responsible for food preparation for their families and engaged in various stages and steps of processing this food (Karl 2009).

In many Asia-Pacific and Sub-Saharan cultures, women have the main responsibility for the provision of food – if not by producing it, then by earning income to purchase it. This applies to urban and non-farming women as well as women farmers and is not limited to the large percentage of female-headed households in the world (Karl, 2009).

Urban Poor Household Coping Strategies

While coping strategies appear to vary in terms of timing, sequence and precise content, certain common guiding principles have been observed (Kabeer, 1990). One strategy observed particularly in India include dietary changes such as relying on less preferred and less expensive foods (Gupta et al., 2015). This included consumption of low grades (or cheaper quality) of wheat, broken rice, and cheap cuts of meat like feet, intestines or upper part of skin (which is usually discarded) (Gupta, et al., 2015); rationing strategies or limiting the portion size of one or more household member during mealtimes resulting in the decline in the nutritional status and well-being of the household members. Another strategy observed in India is increasing short term household availability of funds through borrowing food or borrowing money/resources from friends or relatives, use of reserves during acute food insecurity, use of food aid, and availing food credit (Gupta, et al., 2015).

Households in India also cope with the situation of extreme food insecurity by attempting to decrease the number of people present in the household (Gupta, et al., 2015). This meant sending some members or complete family to eat elsewhere and in worst situation, migration of one or more family members. Related to this practice is that
households eat at religious places in an attempt to increase access to food. The households living in one of the slum areas reported that they go and consume food at mosque when there was dearth of resources in the family. The practice of families sending their children to eat with neighbors was less common. Many households, though, reported sending one or more family members to other villages in case of food insecurity. Households send non-earning members to other villages and earning members stay at the small accommodation with more people (usually 4-6 men in one room) to save on rent. In severe cases of food insecurity, the entire family migrate to other villages or slums.

During the desperate times of food insecurity, households resort to the situations which are irreversible, and may cause permanent change (Gupta, et al., 2015). These strategies may be positive or negative, affecting person’s health physically and mentally. These irreversible strategies are as follows: using local saving mechanism, start part time work, non-earning members start part-time work, liquidation of assets, and borrow money from money lenders.

Kabeer (1990) has identified four major phases of coping strategies that were observed in countries in Asia-Pacific and Sub-Saharan Africa. A first response is increased austerity: cutting down on number of meals a day, postponing expenditures on health, gathering wild foods and roots rather than purchasing the usual dietary items. The next response is previously non-earning members (women, children and the old) are drawn into employment. At some stage in the process, households begin to sell off their assets, starting off with consumer inventories but inevitably productive assets as well. When crises persist, the family unit starts to break down. Able-bodies men are usually the first to go, migrating temporarily to areas with food or employment or else simply abandoning the unit. In extreme destitution, mothers may abandon their children or leave them in orphanages.

**METHODOLOGY**

The research was conducted in Iloilo City, a low-level plain traversed by numerous rivers and surrounded by coastal waters. Land uses of the city are mainly for residential, institutional and commercial uses. Light industries are allowed. Only four percent of land is utilized for agriculture.

Study sites were the 3 coastal barangays (villages) of Arevalo district, namely, Sto. Nino Sur, Sto. Nino Norte and Calaparan, which are considered as the largest coastal urban barangays in terms of population and land area. Since Arevalo is located in coastal area, the type of soil is sandy loam which is not ideal for growing crops. The three villages are vulnerable to typhoon, storm surge, water level rise, flood, salt intrusions, earthquake, and fire.

The 2015 village profiles of the 3 coastal areas indicate that the main sources of livelihood are selling fish and other marine products such as shells and shrimps. Other sources of livelihood of the residents are food vending, manual labor, sari-sari-store owner, jeepney driver, pedicab drivers, government and private employees and OFWs. The three villages abound with food stalls or ‘carinderias’ and water refilling stations. The local water
The National Network on Women in Fisheries in the Philippines, Inc.

district provides the source for drinking and other domestic uses. There are 928 families under the 4Ps program in the 3 coastal villages.

The main method of data collection was a survey of 30 households, or 3 percent of 4Ps families using a convenient sampling approach. Ten female respondents were selected for each village. Data collection was conducted between March-April 2016. The questionnaire included the respondents’ personal information, their access to physical, human, economic and social assets, and their perception of food security. Data were analysed using simple frequency counts and percentages.

Supplementary methods were the 24-hour profile with two respondents representing the lives of working and non-working 4Ps women. A focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted with five (5) representatives of the three research sites for validation of results. Key informant interviews were also conducted with a handful of village and local officials for their views about urban food security.

RESULTS

Profile of Survey Respondents

- The average age of respondents is 31 years old, with a majority (50%) having 3 children in the family. Thirty-three percent have at least 4 children. Most women respondents (33%) have reached high school level but failed to finish high school. Sixty-three have been married while a few (13%) are separated, widowed (7%), and are single (17%).

- All women respondents are informal settlers with limited access to human, social, physical, infrastructure and economic assets. As expected, they have below the household income poverty threshold. Most respondents are plain housewives while some are involved in part-time jobs with no permanent income. Some are involved in food selling as sari-sari store owners, food and fish vending. Others are manicurists, laundrywomen, and massage therapist.

- Adult men in respondents’ households were reported to drive jeeps or pedicabs and engage in carpentry jobs as sources of income. Their sons and daughters work as helpers and sales girls. None of the survey respondents engage in actual fishing in Iloilo Strait although women are into fish vending by getting their source from Iloilo Fishing Port.

- Beneficiaries of the 4Ps program cannot be regularly employed in an institution wherein they will be paying taxes. Otherwise, the beneficiaries will be disqualified and lose their privileges in the program. Moreover, 4Ps beneficiaries who run and win in barangay elections are also disqualified in the program. At present, 4Ps beneficiaries have an additional benefit. The government provides subsidy to their children’s college education in any private school of their choice. These benefits may probably be contributory to the reasons why some 4Ps members remain
unemployed and be contented with any sideline jobs in order to continue receiving these privileges.

- Respondents have resided in Iloilo City since birth.

**Respondents’ Ownership of Assets**

Majority of the women respondents and their household members do not own land yet most own their houses. Very few own a home garden given their limited space. Majority have access to credit or loan. At the time of study, almost everyone reported that they do not have contact with government officers of livelihood and health. There are still a few respondents that do not have PHILHEALTH coverage while an overwhelming number reported not having SSS/GSIS coverage. See table below for details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>86.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Garden</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit or Loan</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>36.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact with officers of livelihood and health</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philhealth</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>80.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSS/GSIS</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Food Security and Roles of Women**

- Respondents reported that they are mainly in-charge of buying food for their family, budgeting, and preparing the food for the family. For the few who have a home garden, women take care of the vegetables/crops that are grown.
- The men are mainly income providers in the family.

**Monthly Household Expenses**

As reported, a household of 5 members spend their money mostly on food and electricity bills. Education and clothing have lesser allocation compared to the other items such as food. The amount was based on the mode of responses or the most frequently cited amount spent per item.
Table 2. Estimated Expenses for One Month in a Family of 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Monthly Consumption (PhP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOOD</td>
<td>11,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDICATION and HOSPITALIZATION</td>
<td>6000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLOTHING</td>
<td>450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELECTRICITY BILL</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATER BILL</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>8,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Perceived Nutrition Security of Households

In reference to Table 3, none of the participants reported that there is insufficient and limited access to food supply. The food they eat at least three times a day are reported as follows: vegetables, fish, pork, beef and rice. However, the sources of these foods are not easily accessible within or near their place. In preparation for calamities, majority of the respondents store food such as salted fish, meat, eggs, canned food, noodles and bottled water.

They buy food in the morning and lunchtime from the many carinderias or food stalls in the neighborhood, which serves as the main source of everyday food. They only cook fresh food for dinner when all members of the family are already home.

Table 3. Access to Food in Households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access to Food</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type of food eaten daily</td>
<td>*vegetables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*pork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*beef</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*fruits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*eggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*canned goods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*noodles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*chicken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sources of everyday food</td>
<td>*nearest market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*from fishing at the sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*carinderia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store food in preparation for</td>
<td>*YES (mostly yes) See Table 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>calamities</td>
<td>*NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food items stored</td>
<td>*salted Fish (binuro)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*meat (pork and beef)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*eggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*canned goods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*noodles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*dried fish (uga)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*potable bottled water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Responses to Natural Hazards

Before typhoon comes, respondents mentioned that they take initiative in stocking foods. Most of them set aside budget preferably for food. Rice is the primary food that they store. Households that have backyard plant vegetables and others raise poultry for their own consumption. During typhoons, the women buy additional food. Usually they look for fast cash or loan to buy food. After a typhoon, the first thing they do is to ask assistance of food supply from the local government. Where accessibility is not an issue, some women look after their houses while they wait for other members to bring relief goods and food supplies. Relatives also play an important role in the provision of goods or cash.

Table 4. Food Management Strategies during Typhoons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activities/ Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before the event</td>
<td>*Stock food supply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Set aside budget for food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Stock more rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Plant vegetables in the backyard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Raise poultry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During</td>
<td>*Gradual buying of additional food supply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Purchase food supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Look for fast cash to buy foods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After</td>
<td>*Ask assistance of food supply from the government/barangay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Wait for relief goods and food supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Ask assistance from the relatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Find extra work for added income</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coping Strategies of the 4Ps to Ensure Access to Food and Food Supply

Respondents reported strategies that they use to ensure they have food supply and have access to food.

- Sharing meals and reducing meal size
- Income augmentation (part-time jobs, manicurists, laundrywomen, and massage therapist)
- Children engaging in fish vending
- Sending adult children to work as housemaid/houseboy, hence reducing the number of household members to feed

None of the survey respondents, key informants and participants of the focus group discussion reported that there are household members that have resorted to extreme cases of strategies due to acute food insecurity. None has reported any incidence of having their child adopted to reduce household size, or joining religious organizations in order to eat meals, or selling their body parts to have money. None moved to Iloilo City due to extreme hunger in the countryside. While such incidents have been shared through anecdotes, these were not recorded in this study.
• Communal and Vertical Gardens

The practice of backyard gardening may augment food supplies. However, it is not possible in the households in the coastal area because of non-availability of private land. They are all informal settlers who own only their houses. Given their non-ownership of land and limited space in urban areas, the following types are being practiced:

Table 5. Types of Gardening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Gardening</th>
<th>Vegetables/Crops Grown</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vertical gardening</td>
<td>Kamote, Onions, Tomato</td>
<td>• Average of 6 containers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Very limited produce for household consumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Water availability is not so much of a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Exclusive ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communal gardening</td>
<td>Kamote, Onions, Tomato, Eggplant, Okra</td>
<td>• Limited space for at most 10 garden plots provided by the LGU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Not enough produce for the entire barangay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Limited source of water to sustain the garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Management of the garden and distribution of its produce may be complex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Intended for direct consumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Not for commercial purposes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

24-Hour Profiles of Working and Non-Working Women

An interview was conducted with one working woman on her daily activities during weekdays.

Table 6. Activities of a Female respondent on a Weekday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activities of working woman</th>
<th>Activities of non-working woman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>• Does house cleaning at 4:00 AM                                                            Early Morning activities  • Cooks food at 5:30 AM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Buys food at the carinderia for breakfast                                                  • Prepare food for children and family</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Prepares food of children,                                                                 Late morning activities  • Washes clothes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Irons clothes and uniform of the children                                                   • Cleans house and surrounding area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Washes clothes                                                                            • Takes care of needs of very young children</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Takes a bath herself and the children                                                      • Goes to nearest carinderia/market to buy food</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Travels to work                                                                           • Prepares lunch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>• In the work place from 1:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon                                      • Collects/folds laundry clothes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Does grocery after work                                                                    • Collects firewood for cooking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Prepares food for dinner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>Early Evening                                                                              • Early Evening</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Prepares food for dinner                                                                   • Cleans the kitchen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Eats dinner with family members                                                             • Soaks laundry clothes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Washes dishes                                                                             • Takes care of young children</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Late Evening
- Attends to children’s needs for the next day
- Soaks selected clothes to be washed the next day
- Irons clothes
- Watches TV (Rest Time)
- Goes to sleep at 10:00 PM

Late evening activities
- Rest time / Watches TV
- Sleeps at 10:00PM

5. DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Most of coping strategies reported by the 4Ps women in the three coastal villages were consistent with previous studies done in other countries (Gupta et al., 2015, Kabeer, 1990). The women have reported similar strategies of relying on less preferred and less expensive foods. While not mentioned in the literature above, women in this study buy food in carinderias for the daily food needs of their members. In terms of roles, women play important tasks in terms of preparation/cooking, processing, marketing, selling, buying, budgeting, knowledge transmission (Karl, 2009). This research shows that women play very limited role in food security relegated mostly to food buying, budgeting, and cooking once a day.

Given the limited space for gardening, the preponderance of food stalls or carinderias, and the seemingly unequal time spent by men in securing food for their families compared to women, the following recommendations are made:

At the household level

- A simple practice like planning meals in advance helps to lessen reliance in expensive and unhealthy food.

- Listing of the required ingredients included in the menu ahead of time help in lowering food cost and ensures value of money.

- Families are encouraged to buy specific grocery items in bulk in order to save money because these are usually on sale and prices usually increase at a later time. Items that are good to buy in bulk are non-consummables such as school supplies, toilet paper, canned goods, and laundry detergent. Consumable goods are not economical to buy because of very short shelf-life and have to be consumed by family members in a matter of hours or days.

At the village level

- 4Ps women should establish cooperative movement purposely for livelihood programs to be funded by the government agencies and to have access in credit from government banks and institutions, and access to trainings of their livelihood programs from Cooperative Development Authority (CDA).
• Barangay Officials should provide the community an open space for communal garden. This is another way of acquiring fresh food in a cost effective and enjoyable way.

• Adopt the vertical garden in every backyard to address the issues of limited space.

• Each family should consider potted vegetable garden in their houses.

At the city level

• Open spaces should be included in the land use planning of Iloilo City for the communal garden.

• Both men and women should be given trainings, seminars and workshops particularly on food storing, preparation, production, budgeting and marketing.

• Provide list of local markets or lower cost retail options for food purchasing to enable the family to get better food value from their budget.

References


Understanding the Factors Influencing the Utilization of Maternal Health Services by Female Household Heads

Cristabel Rose Parcon, Maria Elisa Baliao, and Vicente Balinas*

Abstract

Using the Carles, Iloilo data on Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health and Nutrition (MNCHN) Data for 2014, this paper assesses the influence of individual, household and community-level characteristics on women household heads’ utilization of maternal health and family planning services. This paper focuses on the experiences of women in reproductive ages (15-49) who are heads of households, in the hope of improving the local and provincial governments’ maternal health programs and services. Specifically, the paper seeks to (1) describe the individual characteristics of women household heads and their households; (2) describe the maternal services utilization of women pregnant during their most recent pregnancy; and (3) describe the use of family planning and reproductive health services by women. Preliminary statistical analyses revealed that women-headed households were found to be mostly poor and fifty percent were into fishing. For maternal health services during their most recent pregnancy (in the last five years), all women had undergone prenatal care but the number of prenatal visits, prenatal care attendants and health facility visited vary by some of their individual (levels of education, health insurance status) and household (household income and income source) characteristics. Their place of delivery varied only by their household characteristics, particularly income; while their utilization of postnatal care services varied by their insurance status. Community-level characteristics did not lead to any significant differences in the maternal care services utilization of women.

One of the many challenges in achieving universal access to health in the country is the provision of health services to the most marginalized and vulnerable groups. Among these vulnerable groups are the pregnant and breastfeeding women. To address the needs of this vulnerable group, the Department of Health has a Safe Motherhood project promoting sustainable, cost-effective model of delivering health services access of disadvantaged women to acceptable and high quality reproductive health services and enables them to safely attain their desired number of children in selected sites in the country (DOH, n.d.).

While millions of Filipino women have improved maternal health because of the improved access to health services, a substantial number of women have remained in poor health due to lack of or restricted access to services (Lee, 2008). One of the obstacles in the access to health services in the country is geography (Huntington & Dy, 2012), where many communities are located at difficult-to-reach areas such as isolated mountain regions and coastal, island barangays.

*University of the Philippines-Visayas
As a measure to address this problem, the Province of Iloilo, in partnership with Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOIKA), gathered data on the Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health and Nutrition (MNCHN) Situation in 9 GIDA (Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas) municipalities. The intention of the project was to profile households in GIDA municipalities, as a baseline for their planned interventions in the health services.

One of municipalities included is Carles, the northernmost town of the province, and composed of several island barangays. The nature of the municipality as composed of several islands posed several challenges in accessing health services especially maternal health services. Hence, using the Carles' data on Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health and Nutrition (MNCHN) Data for 2014, this paper examined the factors which affect the women’s access and utilization of maternal health services. Particularly, this paper considered the experiences of women household heads, who are more vulnerable due to the absence of a spouse and/or the multiple burden of domestic and productive work during the course of pregnancy.

This paper has the following objectives: (1) to describe the individual characteristics of women household heads and their households; (2) to describe the maternal services utilization of women pregnant during their most recent pregnancy; and (3) to determine the factors associated with the use of maternal health services by women.

Method and Study Framework

The MNCHN data were collected through a census of households of the 9 selected GIDA municipalities in Iloilo Province. This study only utilized the MNCHN data for Carles, households with female household heads (aged 15-49 years old) who were recently pregnant were selected (N=197). These women were identified as household heads during the survey. Recently pregnant women referred to those who were pregnant in the last 5 years.

Several studies have recognized socio-economic factors and service delivery environment as important determinants for the use of maternal health services (Jat, Ng, & Sebastian, 2011). This study adopted the multilevel approach in examining the various factors in the individual, household and community level characteristics on the maternal health services utilization during their most recent childbirth (in the last 5 years) with special reference to prenatal care, delivery care, and postnatal care.

The explanatory variables were categorized into three levels (Figure 1). Level 1 included the women’s individual characteristics such as current age, marital status, education, individual income, health insurance, social protection, and previous birth experiences. Level 2 included household characteristics of the women such as household size, household monthly income, and house location (geo-hazard area or not). And lastly, Level 3 included community characteristics focusing on the availability of certain health facilities in the communities wherein the women lived.
The outcome variables, on the other hand, included the three indicators of the use of maternal health services: use of any prenatal care, place of delivery, and receiving postnatal care. Multilevel variables (individual, household and community levels) were analyzed to examine the differences in the utilization of Maternal Health services of their last pregnancy. The analyses included bivariate tables, chi square and multinomial logistic regression analyses using a Statistical Software (SPSS).

Results

Characteristics of Women

The characteristics of women household heads were examined to understand their social and economic situation (Table 1). These characteristics were categorized into three levels: the women’s individual characteristics, their household characteristics, and the presence of health facilities in their community (community characteristics).

Majority of the women were 34 years old and below, married or living-in, have reached high school level, no Philhealth coverage, and non-beneficiaries of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), and daily wage earners. The households of the women have an average of 4.5 members, with no fixed income source, with a monthly income of about 4,500 PHP. A fifth (16.8%) of these women have their houses built on a geo-hazard area, particularly along the seashore.

About half (47.2%) of the women said that their communities have a barangay health station (BHS). Fewer have a Rural Health Unit, District Hospital and Private Clinics in their communities.
### Table 1. Distribution of Women Household Heads by their Characteristics and Maternal Health Services Utilization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARACTERISTICS</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-34 years old</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>55.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-49 years old</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>44.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married or Live-in (Living together)</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>62.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single/Separated/Widowed/Solo Parent</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>37.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No education</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>15.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary graduate/high school level</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>35.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School graduate or better</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>49.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active PhilHealth Member</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>25.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No PhilHealth</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>74.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Protection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4Ps Beneficiary</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>18.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-beneficiary</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>81.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Occupation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing/Farming and related activities</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>17.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales/Business/remittance</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment (private and public)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily wage earner</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>44.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had a dead child</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>91.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 – 1</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>33.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or more</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>66.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Size</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3 members</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>43.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 or more</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>56.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Household size = 4.49 members</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary source of household income</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>15.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing or Farming &amp; related activities</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>18.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed, pension, remittance</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>21.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No fixed income source</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>43.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Monthly Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 PHP and below</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>37.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 2000 PHP</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>62.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mean Household Monthly Income = 4,598.42 PHP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House Location</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geo-Hazard Area</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Geo-Hazard Area</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presence of Health Facilities (multiple responses)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barangay Health Station</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Health Unit</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Hospital</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Clinic/Hospital</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MATERNAL HEALTH SERVICES

PRENATAL CARE SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency of Prenatal Check-ups</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One to 3 times</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 times or more</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Usual Place of Prenatal Check-ups</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BHS</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHU/Hospitals</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DELIVERY CARE SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of Delivery</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barangay Health Station</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Birthing Center</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Hospital</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Clinic/Hospital</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birth Attendant</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctor</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwife</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trained Hilot</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSTNATAL CARE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Had Postnatal Care</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| TOTAL                                             | 197   |

Maternal health utilization of women household heads in their recent pregnancy

The utilization of maternal health services of women was divided into three distinct periods: during pregnancy, during childbirth and after birth. Of the 197 women, all of them (100.0 %) has at least one prenatal check-up on their last pregnancy. More than half (58.9%) had themselves checked at the RHU or hospitals. For their birth delivery, majority
(77.7%) gave birth in birthing centers and hospitals, and all but one was attended by a medical practitioner or a trained *hilot*. Nine in ten women (92.9%) received postnatal care.

**Utilization of Prenatal Care Services**

Based on the three levels of variables, frequency of prenatal visits of women turned out to be associated with some of their individual characteristics and household monthly income (Table 2). The frequency of prenatal visits was categorized into two groups: 1) 1 to 3 prenatal visits, and 2) 4 or more. The basis for this is the standard 1-1-2 prenatal visits per trimester of pregnancy, with the assumption that these visits were distributed through the three trimesters.

For the women’s individual characteristics, their monthly income, Philhealth membership, 4Ps membership, and having a dead child were all significantly associated with the frequency of their prenatal visits.

Women who have a monthly income of less than 2,000 were 2x more likely to have 4 or more prenatal visits. Philhealth members were 3x more likely to have 4 or more prenatal visits than those who did not have Philhealth memberships. Further, 4Ps beneficiaries were twice more likely to have 4 or more prenatal visits than non 4Ps beneficiaries. Those who have experienced death of a child were five times more likely to have 4 or more prenatal visits.

The total monthly household income was also associated with the number of prenatal visits. Women from households with a total monthly income of less than 2,000 were more likely to have 4 prenatal visits. This is in resonance to the earlier finding on women’s income and their prenatal visits.

Aside from the frequency of prenatal visits, the place where women availed of prenatal care services was also examined. Only the women’s education and health insurance turned out to be significantly associated with place of prenatal. Women who were elementary-educated or lower were less likely to have their prenatal at the RHU and/or hospitals than their more educated counterparts; instead they avail of prenatal services in the Barangay Health Centers. On the other hand, Philhealth members were 3x more likely to have prenatal at RHUs compared to their non-insured counterparts.

Household characteristics did not have any substantial influence on the use of prenatal services by the women. There was no difference in their prenatal access because of their income or household income source.
The women were asked what kind of service their have availed. They have availed an average of 5 of the six services usually offered in the health facility (Table 3). Almost all of the women had weight and height monitoring, blood pressure monitoring, tetanus toxoid immunization, micronutrient supplement, and counselling on pregnancy complications. Only 22 percent of the women had availed of blood screening for diabetes and anemia.

**Utilization of Delivery and Postnatal Care Services**

One of the guiding principles of the Integrated MNCHN Service Package of the DOH is “Every delivery is facility-based and managed by skilled health professionals.” An important component of the effort to reduce health risks of both the mother and child during delivery is to increase the proportion of babies delivered in a safe and clean environment under the supervision of health professionals.

---

**Table 2. Variations and odds ratio (with 95% confidence interval) of indicators of utilization of prenatal care services of women household heads in Carles, Iloilo**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS</th>
<th>ALL RESPONDENTS</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>4 or more Prenatal Visits</th>
<th>Had Prenatal at RHU/Hospitals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 15-34</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>58.7</td>
<td>.99 (.56-1.74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 35-49</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>59.1</td>
<td>.83 (.46-1.51)</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>57.3</td>
<td>.77 (.42-1.42)</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single/Sep/Widowed</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>61.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary or lower</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>54.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS or better</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>60.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-2,000</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>2.00* (1.12-3.56)</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000 or higher</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philhealth Member</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>3.89** (1.81-8.33)</td>
<td>31.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4Ps Beneficiary</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>75.0</td>
<td>2.43* (1.07-5.49)</td>
<td>22.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have dead child</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>88.2</td>
<td>5.86* (1.30-26.41)</td>
<td>23.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of CEB</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>53.0</td>
<td>.70 (.38-1.27)</td>
<td>21.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or more</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>61.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household Size</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3 members</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>1.08 (0.61-1.92)</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>.85 (.41-1.80)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 or more</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>58.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Monthly Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 and below</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>68.9</td>
<td>1.98* (1.08-3.62)</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>.98 (.46-2.08)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 2000</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>52.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Source of HH Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Fishing</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>61.9</td>
<td>.52 (.26-1.07)</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>.35 (.10-1.12)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>45.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMUNITY HEALTH FACILITIES</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barangay Health Station</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>64.5</td>
<td>1.56 (.88-2.77)</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>1.63 (.78-3.40)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Health Station</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>47.8</td>
<td>.60 (.25-1.44)</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>.41 (.09-1.82)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Hospital</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>1.41 (.25-7.90)</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>.92 (.11-8.16)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Clinic/Hospital</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>77.8</td>
<td>2.54 (5.1-12.54)</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>1.34 (0.27-6.75)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**p<=0.001;  *p<=.05**
Of the women in the study, 29 percent of the births were delivered either at home or at the barangay health station, while the remaining majority (71.0%) were delivered at a municipal birthing station, district hospital or private hospitals. Barangay health stations (BHS) were not included in the categories of birth centers because not all BHS have birthing facilities (Table 3). Half of these births were delivered by a doctor, 30% by a nurse or midwife, and the remaining 20% were attended by a trained hilot. The place of delivery of a woman was independent of her individual, household and community characteristics. Those who have less than four prenatal checkups were more likely to give birth in hospitals than in barangay health centers.

“Every mother and newborn pair secures proper post-partum care” is another guiding principle of the Integrated MNCHN Service Package of DOH. It is important for a mother to have a postnatal check-up to protect her from any complication that may arise after birth.

For the postnatal care, women were asked if they received postnatal care within two days after their delivery, and 4 in 5 of them did receive postnatal care (Table 2). Postnatal care is recommended within two days after delivery to prevent maternal and neonatal deaths which mostly occur during this period. Women who have experienced death of a child was five times more likely to receive postnatal care than those who have not experienced death of a child.

Further, women who have multiple births may tend to take postnatal for granted. For instance, women who had one or no prior birth experience were 7 times more likely to seek postnatal care than those who had 2 or more previous birth experiences.

Women with smaller household sizes were also more likely to receive postnatal care than women with larger household sizes. Women who gave birth in their homes or health facilities are less likely to receive postnatal care.

DOH accredited facilities provide five common postnatal services. These services were availed by the women: breastfeeding information and counselling (97.4%), newborn screening and baby care (92.9%), immunization schedule (98.2%), Family Planning counselling (81.1%), and identification of danger signs for the mother and the baby (71.4%). The women availed an average of 4 services, and only half (53.0%) availed all 5 of the postnatal care services.
Table 3. Variations and odds ratio (with 95% confidence interval) of indicators of utilization of delivery and postnatal care services of women household heads in Carles, Iloilo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Delivered in birthing centers/hospitals</th>
<th>Had Post-Natal Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>OR [95% CI]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-34</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>75.1</td>
<td>1.74 [0.93-3.23]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-49</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>64.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>72.6</td>
<td>1.22 [0.65-2.30]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single/Sep/Widowed</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>68.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary or lower</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>65.6</td>
<td>0.68 [0.36-1.30]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS or better</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>73.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-2,000</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>65.7</td>
<td>0.57 [0.30-1.07]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000 or higher</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>77.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philhealth Member</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>1.35 [0.67-2.63]</td>
<td>88.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4Ps Beneficiary</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>58.3</td>
<td>2.02 [0.96-4.28]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have deadchild</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>58.8</td>
<td>1.82 [0.66-5.04]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of CEB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>77.3</td>
<td>1.60 [0.81-3.18]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or more</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>67.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Size</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3 members</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>72.9</td>
<td>1.18 [0.63-2.20]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 or more</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>69.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Monthly Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 and below</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>63.5</td>
<td>0.56* [0.30-1.05]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 2000</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>75.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Source of HH income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Fishing</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>70.6</td>
<td>1.12 [0.50-2.50]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>73.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY HEALTH FACILITIES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barangay Health Station</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>72.0</td>
<td>1.10 [0.59-2.03]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Health Station</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>73.9</td>
<td>1.18 [0.44-3.15]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Hospital</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>0.81 [0.14-4.54]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Clinic/Hospital</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>0.81 [0.19-3.34]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had 1-3 prenatal check-up</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td>16.19** [5.56-47.18]</td>
<td>96.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had 4 or more prenatal check-up</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>54.3</td>
<td>47.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gave birth at home or BHS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>84.2</td>
<td>0.198* [0.06-0.62]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gave birth at birthing center</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>96.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**p<=0.001; *p<=.05

Discussion and Conclusions

Using the 2014 MNCHN Data for Carles and the multi-level framework, this paper assessed the influence of different women’s characteristics on their use of the services provided for maternal health. The findings revealed that the women household heads had high use of maternal health services in their recent pregnancy. The multilevel analysis has shown that some of the individual, household-level variables are important factors associated with the women’s use of maternal health services. Community-level factors turned out to be insignificant since women availed of maternal care services regardless of the presence or absence of certain facilities in their barangays.
Among the Level 1 variables, education, income, health insurance, 4Ps membership, experience of death of a child and number of children were significantly associated with the utilization of maternal health services of women in their most recent pregnancy. Specifically, for the prenatal care, the influence of health insurance (i.e., Philhealth) was apparent in the women’s frequency and place of prenatal checkups. It was observed that the women have low average monthly income and the insurance benefits helped them augment the checkup expenses.

Low income women reported fewer prenatal visits. Inequality in utilization by income and asset quintiles was also evident in the analysis of maternal health services utilization using the 2003 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) (Lavado & Leizel, 2008). The implication on this is that women who are poor and do not have health insurance are the least likely to submit to prenatal checkups.

Women’s education influenced their decision where to have prenatal checkups, but not the frequency of these checkups. This observation is somewhat consistent in the literature (Sepehri, Sarma, Simpson, & Moshiri, 2008) wherein maternal education has a strong and positive influence on the use of obstetric care services.

Individual-level characteristics were also found to determine their use of postnatal care services. Access to postnatal care services were high among women who have experienced death of a child, and had one or no prior birth childbirth. The negative effect of birth order on the utilization of health services may reflect the accumulated experiences and confidence gained from previous births (Sepehri, et. al., 2008). Women who gave birth at a birthing center or hospital were also more likely to receive postnatal care, which is logical since the attendants in such facilities checked on the women before she was discharged.

Individual characteristics showed considerable influences on the use of prenatal care services; however, no noteworthy influence of these factors was found on the use of services during childbirth. Factors found to be significant to use of delivery care services were at the household level. Women who reported higher than 2000PHP monthly income were more likely to deliver at the RHU. Place of birth was also significantly inversely related to the frequency of their prenatal visits. A plausible explanation is that because the woman had few prenatal visits she could have been advised to give birth in a more comprehensive facility, which would ensure her of safer delivery.

At the household level, household income was associated with number of prenatal visits and place of delivery. Further, household size was associated with postnatal care utilization. Household size is closely related to the number of children the woman had.

The study concludes that although Carles is considered a GIDA area, with several island barangays, the availability and access of maternal health services were not a problem for women. Women in the island barangays find difficulty accessing the hospitals and RHUs for their maternal needs, although they were able to avail maternal services in their communities. The presence of health facilities in the communities, although not statistically significant, may have somehow encouraged women to seek maternal care.
Presence of health facilities in the communities (Barangay Health Services or BHS) does not necessarily mean state-of-the-art facilities but indicates the presence of health practitioners. These barangay health workers and midwives were the ones who may have encouraged the women to seek out these services. The presence of these practitioners, however, was not included in the study analysis.

The influences of income, health insurance and prior birth experiences of women should be taken into account when providing services to them. One important policy recommendation is to ensure the affordability and quality of care of these services to pregnant women.

References


Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence Among Wives of Fishers

Cristabel Rose Parcon *

Abstract

This paper is a further analysis of the 2013 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) carried out by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). The study focused on a sample of ever-married women ages 15-49 whose recent or current husbands were into fishing occupations. The paper primarily explored the factors that influence the experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV), with the hope of providing a basis for future gender mainstreaming programs in fishing communities. This paper has the following objectives: (1) to describe the types and onset of spousal violence experienced by women married to fishers; (2) to examine the differences of IPV experience by characteristics of women, characteristics of their husbands, and the nature of their marital relations; and, (3) to examine the determinants of IPV among wives of fishers. The paper is guided by the Power Theory (Straus, 1976 & 1977 in Bell and Naugle, 2008), which explained that power imbalances between husbands and wives, social acceptance of violence and family conflict may lead to risk of intimate partner aggression. Further, the paper adapted and modified the three-level model of perceived reasons for aggression (Flynn and Graham, 2010). The model looked into the (1) background characteristics of husbands and wives (ages, levels of education, wealth index, wives’ past experience of violence, place of residence, and beliefs about wife beating); (2) current life circumstances (household decision making participated by wives, husbands’ alcohol behavior, and wives’ fear of husband), and (3) immediate precipitating factors to violence (wife beating of husband and marital control behavior by husband). Results revealed that emotional and economic forms of violence were more commonly experienced by women than physical and sexual types of violence. Experiences of violence significantly differed by wealth index, alcohol behavior of the husband, past experience of violence, wives’ fear of the husband, marital control by husbands, and beating of husbands by wives.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) against women is the most pervasive yet underestimated social and health problem that occur in pandemic proportions (Abeya, Afework, & Yalew, 2011). In fact, IPV is the most prevalent form of violence against women worldwide, with major health consequences for women and substantial social and economic costs for governments, communities and individuals (Fulu, Jewkes, Roselli & Garcia-Moreno, 2013). Violence against women (VAW) is defined by the United Nations (as cited by WHO, 2013a) as the broad umbrella term used to describe “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.” While an intimate partner is described as a husband, cohabiting partner, boyfriend or lover, or ex-husband, ex-partner, ex-boyfriend or ex-lover (WHO, 2013a).

*University of the Philippines Visayas
The root causes of intimate partner violence against women are diverse and there is no single factor that explains further why some individuals are violent, or why violence is more prevalent in some communities than in others (Abeya, Afework, & Yalew, 2011). In fact, the WHO (2013) reported that despite the widespread prevalence of IPV, many still choose to view the violent experiences of women as disconnected events, taking place in the private sphere of relationship conflict and beyond the realm of policy-makers and health-care providers, which even lead others to blame the women themselves and not the perpetrators for being subjected to violence. In fact, one study cited that attitudes accepting violence appear common in the Philippines (Fehringer & Hindin, 2009).

In the WHO (2013) report, almost a third (30%) of the women who have been in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner worldwide. The same report also presented variations in the prevalence of violence within and between communities, countries and regions, and argued that violence is not inevitable and can be prevented. These variations needed to be understood in the socio-cultural and economic context of the women in order to scale up services and programs targeting them.

To address such concern, this paper explored the factors that influence the experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV), particularly among women partners of fishers. Households dependent on fishing are often among the poorest in the country, and poverty is often associated with IPV (Jewkes, 2002). This paper has the following objectives: (1) to describe the types and onset of spousal violence experienced by women married to fishers; (2) to examine the differences of IPV experience by characteristics of women, characteristics of their husbands, and the nature of their marital relations; and, (3) to examine the determinants of IPV among wives of fishers. The findings of the paper may serve as basis for future gender mainstreaming programs in fishing communities.

The Power Theory and Multi-Level Analysis of Violence

The paper is guided by the Power Theory (Straus, 1976 & 1977 in Bell and Naugle, 2008), which considers structures in culture and families as causes of violence. Violence is a manifestation of the unequal position of women in a particular relationship. Male ideologies of superiority legitimize disciplining of women by men, often for transgressions of conservative female gender roles, and the use of force in this process (Jewkes, 2002). Further, Jewkes elaborated that women are defined as appropriate vehicles for reconfirmation of male power, and violence against them is a demonstration of male power juxtaposed against their lesser power.

The roles and responsibilities that are commonly ascribed based on gender often give men control and power over women (Akyuz, Yavan, Sahiner & Kilic, 2012). They stated that some men may consider it fair to use violence on women who they considered behaving without respect or irresponsibly. Power imbalances between husbands and wives, social acceptance of violence and family conflict are hypothesized to interact and lead to the intervening in cases of partner abuse, which may then result in the continuation of family violence.
The power inequality between the women and her partner is manifested in her relationship and her status relative to his. Hence, this paper would examine the various characteristics of the women and their partners by adapting, with modifications, the three-level model of perceived reasons for aggression (Flynn and Graham, 2010). These levels are: the background characteristics of husbands and wives (Level 1); current life circumstances (Level 2); and, immediate precipitating factors to violence (Level 3).

The forms of interpersonal violence experienced by women were classified into three categories. The first category consisted of the non-physical forms (economic, emotional and psychological) of violence. Indicators of non-physical forms of violence are: humiliated, threatened, and insulted by the husband; husband had other intimate relationship; husband had refused for her to engage in work; controlled her money; and destroyed property. The second category is physical violence, which included both the less severe forms (been pushed, thrown objects at, punched, hit by something hard, arm twisted, and hair pulled), and the severe forms (been kicked and dragged, strangled or burnt, and threatened with knife or gun). And lastly, sexual violence, which is indicated by being forced into unwanted sex, other unwanted sexual acts, forced to perform sexual acts, and threatened to have intercourse.

Data and Methods

The data used in the study is the 2013 National Health Demographic Survey (NDHS) carried out by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). The sample of ever-married women ages 15-49 whose recent or current husbands were into fishing occupations (N=405) was selected for the analysis.

The profile of these women, their husbands and their experiences of violence were examined using descriptive statistics. Bivariate analyses and chi-square test for significance were done to examine the associations of the identified explanatory variables and IPV experiences. Variables with significant associations with IPV were examined using multinomial logistic regression to determine their influences on IPV experience.
Results

Characteristics of women

The characteristics of the wives of fishers were examined (Table 1). Majority (80.7%) of the women were located in rural areas. Most (40.0%) of them were aged 30-39 years old, and almost all are currently living with a partner (98.4%). About two of the three women who are married or living-in are younger than their husbands.

In terms of educational attainment, more than half of the women finished at least high school. More than half (57.3%) of them, however, belong to the poorest stratum in terms of wealth. A small proportion of women reported to have experienced intergenerational violence. About 8 percent reported to have been physically hurt by a parent when they were a child, and a number (16.0%) reported that their fathers used to beat their mothers.

For the current life circumstances of women, majority (63.9%) of them have at least 3 children, two-thirds were currently not working, and only a few (5.9%) of them reported that they have no participation in the household decision-making. Majority (63.0%) of the women reported that their husbands were drinking alcoholic beverages ‘often’ or ‘sometimes.’ One of three of the women shared that they were afraid of their husband ‘sometimes’ or ‘most of the ‘time.’ Women were also asked if there are circumstances wherein wife beating is justified in any of the following instances: (1) if the wife goes out without telling the husband, (2) if the wife neglects the children, (3) if the wife argues with the husband, (4) if the wife refuses to have sex with the husband, and (5) if the wife burns the food. One in five (19.0%) of the women agreed that wife beating is justified in at least one of the aforementioned circumstances.

A third of these women also reported that their husbands or partners have control issues. These issues may be any one of the following: (1) husband is jealous if the woman talks with other men, (2) husband accuses the woman of unfaithfulness, (3) husband does not permit her to meet her female friends, (4) husband limits her contact with her family, (5) husband insists on knowing where the respondent is, and (6) husband doesn’t trust the her with money. The women were also asked if ever they have been physically violent towards their husbands. About 15 percent said that they were.

Forms of interpersonal violence experienced by women

One in every four women in the study has ever experienced any form of interpersonal violence (Table 1). Table 2 shows that non-physical forms (economic, psychological and emotional) of violence were more commonly experienced by wives of fishers compared to physical and sexual forms. For the physical manifestations of violence, more women experienced the less severe physical violence than the severe ones. One in five of them have experienced any of the following: being pushed, thrown objects at, punched, hit by something hard, hair being pulled, or arm twisted.
Table 1. Distribution of Women by Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 1: Characteristics of women and their husbands</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-29</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>29.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>40.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>30.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital/Relationship Status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently in union/living with a man</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>94.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formerly in union</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of woman relative to her husband</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in union</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband is older</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>67.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same age as husband</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband is younger</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education of woman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No education</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>38.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>44.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of higher</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wealth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poorest</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>57.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>25.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle or better</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of residence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>80.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever hurt by mother and/or father</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>92.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman’s father ever beat mother</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>81.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 2: Current Life Circumstances</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2 children</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>32.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4 children</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>35.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 or more</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s current work status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not working</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>67.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently working</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>32.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household decision-making</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Characteristics</td>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No participation</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In some of the decisions</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>21.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In all decisions</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>72.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Husband alcohol use</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not drinking</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>37.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinking</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>63.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Woman is afraid of husband/partner</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>67.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes/Most of the time</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>32.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beliefs regarding wife beating</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wife beating is NOT justified</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>81.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wife beating is justified</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 3: Immediate Precursors</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband has control issues</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>61.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>38.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women ever beat husband</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>84.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, in the past</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, in the last 12 months</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>** Experienced IPV**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>73.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>26.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It can be observed that women’s experience of non-physical violence is accompanied by the physical and/or sexual forms of violence. Most common was the combination of non-physical and physical forms (Figure 2). Results of Spearman correlation revealed that the three forms of violence (non-physical, physical and sexual) are all significantly correlated with one another (Table 3).

**Timing of first event of physical abuse.** Violent acts tended to be in longer term relationships. About half of the women reported that the timing of the first IPV event happened in the 4th year (or later) after their marriage (Table 4). Fehringer and Hindin (2009) found in their study and supported by other literature that duration of relationships predicts and provided two explanations for such. They said that it could be partnership duration predicts long-term risk of violence or that respondents in newer relationships were less likely to report physical violence.
Table 2. Percent Distribution of Women by Experience of IPV (multiple response, N=405)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forms of violence</th>
<th>Never (%)</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Past</td>
<td>Recent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-physical violence (Emotional, psychological &amp; economic)</td>
<td>75.5</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less severe physical violence</td>
<td>89.9</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe physical violence</td>
<td>96.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual violence</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Past (not in the last 12 months), Recent (in the last 12 months)

Table 3. Correlations of different forms of violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forms of violence</th>
<th>Physical (Spearman’s rho)</th>
<th>Sexual (Spearman’s rho)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-physical</td>
<td>.473**</td>
<td>.347**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>.398**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**correlation is significant at the .05 level (2-tailed)
Table 4. Distribution of Women by Timing of Violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timing of violence</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before marriage</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First year of marriage</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3 years marriage</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>32.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 years after marriage or later</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>51.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Differences in the women’s experience of violence

The associations between the different forms of violence and three-level variables were examined through cross tabulations. A summary of the findings is presented in Table 5. Specific forms of violence have varying associations with the background variables of the couple.

Non-physical violence was associated with the women’s marital status, wealth, husband’s alcohol use, fear of husband, beliefs regarding wife beating, women-initiated violence and marital control issues. The number of women belonging to the middle wealth index or higher who experienced non-physical form of IPV in the past and in the last 12 months (16.9% and 15.5%, respectively) were higher relative to their counterparts from the lower income strata (see Annex Table 1). Also, more women whose husbands drink alcoholic beverages, who are afraid of their husbands, have been violent towards their husbands, and whose husbands have marital control issues experience emotional, economic and/or psychological abuses relative to their respective counterparts.

The physical form of violence was categorized into two (less severe and severe), depending on the severity of the abuse. Based on bivariate analyses, the women’s experience of violence during childhood (beaten by a parent) was significantly associated with their experience of both less severe and severe forms of physical abuse. The same can be said regarding their fear of the husband. Both the immediate precursors were significantly different for both severity of physical violence. More women whose husbands had control issues experienced physical abuses relative to their counterparts whose husbands did not have any marital control issues. Further, more of those who initiated violence towards their husbands were found to experience physical abuses compared to those who were not violent towards their husbands.

Alcohol use by the husband is only significantly associated with the women’s experience of less severe physical abuse and not with the severe forms. On the other hand, severe physical violence experience of the woman was significantly associated with her number of children. The proportion of women who experienced severe physical violence in the last 12 months (12.5%) is higher than her counterparts with children.
Table 5. Explanatory variables significantly associated with women's experience of IPV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Background variables</th>
<th>Current life circumstances</th>
<th>Immediate precursors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Non-physical violence| • Current marital status  
                         | • Wealth index         | • Husband alcohol use  
                         |                       | • Wife's fear of husband | • Wife-initiated violence  
                         |                       |                       | • Marital control issues |
| Less severe physical violence | • Wife experienced violence in childhood | • Husband alcohol use  
                                      |                       | • Wife fear of husband | • Wife-initiated violence  
                                      |                       |                       | • Marital control issues |
| Severe physical violence | • Number of children  
                            | • Wife experienced violence in childhood | • Number of living children  
                                      |                       | • Wife fear of husband | • Wife-initiated violence  
                                      |                       |                       | • Marital control issues |
| Sexual violence      | • Current marital status  
                         | • Wife experienced violence in childhood  
                         | • Parental violence | • Wife fear of husband | • Wife-initiated violence  
                         |                       |                       | • Marital control issues |

The proportions of women who were not in union who experienced sexual violence in the past and in the last 12 months (4.8% and 9.5%, respectively) were relatively higher than their married counterparts. One explanation could be the cause of separation of the woman from her partner was sexual abuse. More women with childhood and intergenerational experiences of violence also reported sexual violence.

Age, education, work status or husbands and wives did not turn out to be significantly associated with any experience of violence.

**Determinants of Interpersonal Violence**

The variables with significant associations with IPV were further tested for their effects on IPV using a multinomial regression analysis. The analyses were done separately for every category of IPV.

**Non-physical violence**

For non-physical violence, the following predictors turn out to be significant: wealth, husband’s use of alcohol, fear of husband, wife-initiated violence and marital control. Women from poor families were less likely to experience non-physical violence compared to their wealthier counterparts. The likelihood of being emotionally, economically and/or psychologically abused by a partner is higher among women from the middle class or higher. See Table 6.
The likelihood of non-physical abuse was also lower if the husband does not drink, do not fear their husbands, never hurt their husbands, and husbands not having marital issues.

Table 6. Determinants of Non-Physical IPV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Explanatory Variables</th>
<th>Emotional, psychological and economic violence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Past</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercept</td>
<td>1.290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Status (Currently in union)</td>
<td>.530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wealth (Poorest)</td>
<td>-1.209*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Poorer)</td>
<td>-.407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband’s Alcohol Use (Not drink)</td>
<td>-.957*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of husband (Not afraid)</td>
<td>-.753*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wife-initiated violence (Never hurt husband)</td>
<td>-1.377*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Hurt husband in the past)</td>
<td>.334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Control (No control issues)</td>
<td>1.813**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reference category: Never experienced non-physical violence

Physical violence

Of the explanatory variables examined, all but the number of children turned out to be significant indicators of physical violence (Table 7). Experience of violence in childhood is only significant for the recent experiences of violence but not in the past. Women who did not experience physical abuse by their parents in the past less likely to experienced physical abuse from their partners in the last 12 months. Similar to non-physical violence, husband’s drinking is a significant predictor of violence. Women whose partners drink were more likely to experience physical abuse from them.

Sexual Violence.

The experiences of sexual abuse by women in the hands of their intimate partners are related to their experiences of childhood violence, their violence towards their husbands and issues of marital control. Women who have no experience of childhood violence were less likely to be sexually abused relative to their counterparts who have been abused as children. Those who were never violent towards their husbands and whose
husbands do not have marital control issues were also less likely to be sexually-abused unlike their respective counterparts. See Table 8.

Table 7. Determinants of Physical IPV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Explanatory Variables</th>
<th>Physical Violence</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Past B</td>
<td>Exp (B)</td>
<td>Recent B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercept</td>
<td>1.882</td>
<td>.924</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence in childhood (No experience)</td>
<td>-0.572</td>
<td>.426</td>
<td>-1.346*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children (No child) (1-2 children)</td>
<td>-19.171</td>
<td>.000</td>
<td>1.414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband’s Alcohol Use (Not drink)</td>
<td>-0.565</td>
<td>.568</td>
<td>-0.829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of husband (Not afraid)</td>
<td>1.618**</td>
<td>.198**</td>
<td>1.914**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.429**</td>
<td>.239**</td>
<td>-.374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wife-initiated violence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Never hurt husband)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Hurt husband in the past)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Control (No control issues)</td>
<td>-0.893</td>
<td>.409</td>
<td>1.771**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reference category: Never experienced Physical Violence

Table 8. Determinants of Sexual IIPV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Explanatory Variables</th>
<th>Sexual Violence</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Exp (B)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercept</td>
<td>1.514</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence in childhood (No experience)</td>
<td>-1.202*</td>
<td>.301*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental Violence (None)</td>
<td>-.707</td>
<td>.493</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of husband (Not afraid)</td>
<td>-.988</td>
<td>.372</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wife-initiated violence (Never hurt husband)</td>
<td>-2.538**</td>
<td>.095**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Hurt husband in the past)</td>
<td>-1.030</td>
<td>.357</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Control (No control issues)</td>
<td>-1.195*</td>
<td>.303*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reference category: Never experienced sexual violence

Discussion

The relatively low prevalence of IPV among the wives of the fishers could be attributed to the unique marital dynamics in the Philippines (Fehringer & Hindin), wherein it typically involved greater female power relative to other developing countries. Further, Fehringer and Hindin (2009) expounded that women hold a fairly high status in the family
Despite the male headship, and this could be attributed to the expanded roles of women outside the home, increased women’s education and labor participation.

The results of the study illustrated that the experience of IPV by wives of fishers was predicted by the current life circumstances indicators and immediate precipitating factors. The relative ages of the couple, education of women did not have any association with IPV. Being older than the husband or better education did not protect the women from being victims of IPV. Being poor made the women vulnerable to non-physical violence (economic, emotional and psychological). However, wealth did not have a bearing on other forms of IPV. Hence, physical and sexual forms of IPV cut across economic status. Jewkes (2002) explained that the effects of poverty and economic inequality are mediated through their effect on levels of conflict over resources, women’s ability to leave relationships, and men’s ability to perceive themselves as successful men.

Alcohol use by the fisher husband predicted non-physical and physical IPV. Alcohol use could result to drunkenness and thought to reduce inhibitions, judgement, and impair ability to interpret social cues (Jewkes, 2002; Koss and Gaines, 1993 in Abeya et al., 2011).

The experience of violence of wives during childhood increased the risk of them experiencing IPV. Power theory argued that the use of violence to address family conflicts is believed to be learned in childhood by either witnessing or experiencing physical abuse (Straus, 1977). Jewkes (2002) further elaborated that IPV is a learned social behavior not just for the women but also for the men. She added that the daughters of women who are beaten are more likely to be beaten as adults, women who are beaten in childhood by parents are also more likely to be abused by intimate partners as adults. Childhood experiences of violence in the home reinforce for both men and women the normative nature of violence, thus increasing the likelihood of male perpetration and women’s acceptance of abuse (Jewkes, 2002; Jewkes, et. al., 2002).

The history of violence in the context of the family, particularly the experiences of the women, manifests later in her intimate relationships. Such could be an indication of acceptance of violence as part of relationships. Wives who reported to have hurt their husbands were more likely to be hurt by their husbands as well. Other studies cited by Bell and Naugle (2008) explained that wife-initiated violence increase family tension, which place the family at higher risk of engaging in IPV.

Fear of husbands made women prone to IPV. This fear is a manifestation of gender inequality in the marital relations. The power imbalance between the couple is manifested in control issues of the husband. If the woman fears the husband because of unequal power in their relationship, the woman is more prone to be victimized. In all forms of IPV, issues of marital control by the husband and wife-initiated violence were important predictors. Husband’s marital control is an indication of power imbalance (Bell & Naugle, 2008) between the couple, which increases the amount of tension within the family resulting to IPV.
Conclusion

The variables examined in the study were multi-level. It provided a framework of understanding violence from different contexts and in a more comprehensive manner. The power imbalance then does not lie on individual characteristics of the couple but on their current life circumstances and some immediate precursors. This power imbalance is reinforced by the cultural gender expectations, as the men being in control of the relationship or should not allow themselves to be hurt (especially by their wives).

Programs designed to prevent and/or eliminate IPV then should focus not just on empowering women but also on engaging men. Interventions should be comprehensive, which address gender expectations leading to inequality, practices that legitimize men’s control over women and promote heteronormativity.

Not all people experience violence the same way, and this study provided a picture of IPV in the context of a fishing household. The cultural aspects of violence, then, should be further understood to be able to make specific, effective and equitable programs addressing IPVs.

References


Economic Situation of Female-Headed Households: Comparing Fishing and Farming Household in Carles, Iloilo

Vicente Balinas, Cristabel Rose Parcon, and Maria Elisa Baliao*

Abstract

This paper is a further analysis of the data on Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health and Nutrition (MNCHN) in nine geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA) for 2014 in Iloilo. The focus of the paper is the economic and living conditions of women-headed, fishing and farming households in Carles (N=535). The households were stratified into two groups: fishing (n=401) and farming (n=134). The objective of the paper is to describe the economic conditions of female headed households, as well as to describe the individual characteristics of women household heads, with the intention of providing sound policies in addressing the economic needs of women in GIDA areas. Female-headed households are also known to have lower levels of income relative to male-headed households. Results reveal that female heads in fishing households differ significantly from female heads in farming households on the following variables: age, marital status, household size, house located in geo-hazard area, type of toilet facilities, ownership of radio and ownership of television. There were no differences between women’s education, income, health insurance status, house ownership, and type of house.

Headship of household is a widely and socially accepted position traditionally ascribed to men in most developing countries (Deji, Abas & Opoku-Asiama, 2010), including the Philippines. The men’s role as haligi ng tahanan is equivalent to being household heads even though women also contribute economically to the household. The urban-ward and emigration of men due to job opportunities often leave the women to head their households.

According to Deji, and colleagues (2010), there has been a recent increase in women headed households in both developed and developing countries. Such increase has socio-economic consequences, which promoted its emergence as a subject of social concern. Deji, et al (2010) cited the many factors responsible for the increase in women-headed households, such as: marriage dissolution; sex-specific migration; and, rising mortality or low average lifespan among men due to chronic sicknesses.

In developing countries, among the poor, rural women are the poorest. Empirical evidences (Prakash, 2003) suggest that women in rural areas are more adversely affected by poverty than men. Women-headed households are also known to have lower levels of income relative to male-headed households, as the former are more likely to have fewer income earners within the household. The low-income and the multiple burden of women are the key factors contributing to their vulnerability.

*University of the Philippines Visayas
FAO (2011) reported that rural women often manage complex households and pursue multiple livelihood strategies. The activities of women in farming and fishing vary considerably relative to their household tasks. In the same FAO report, it was stated that women’s activities in farming typically include producing agricultural crops, tending animals, and preparing food. On the other hand, women rarely engage in offshore and long-distance capture fisheries because of domestic work.

How women became heads of their households is also complex, and not all women-headed households are the same. Many features emerge concerning the position of women-headed households, and a distinction has been drawn between de jure and de facto women heads and the situation of each is very different (Horell & Krishnan, 2007). FAO (2011) acknowledged the distinction between the de jure and de facto women-heads. A de jure woman-head is usually a widow, older, and has more labor resources and owns other assets. On the other hand, a de facto woman-head tends to have a spouse working away and co-resides with other family members. Her household is less prone to income poverty, but it does lack assets.

The objective of the paper is to describe the characteristics and economic conditions of women-headed households, as well as to describe the individual characteristics of women heads, with the intention of providing sound policies in addressing the economic needs of women in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA).

Study Background and Data

This paper is an analysis of the data gathered by the Iloilo Provincial Population Office for their 2014 Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health and Nutrition (MNCHN) in 9 GIDA areas in Iloilo. The complete enumeration of households in these 9 municipalities was conducted. For this particular study, data from the municipality of Carles was used.

This paper focused on the economic and living conditions of households headed by women whose main household income source is fishing or farming in the municipality of Carles (N=535). The households were stratified into two groups: fishing (N1=401) and farming (N2=134). The profile of women heads, the economic and other characteristics of their households were examined using bivariate analyses.

Results

Profile of Women Household Heads

The characteristics of women heads from fishing and farming households were compared (Table 1). Women heads in fishing households are significantly younger than those in farming households. The former was twice more likely to be less than 50 years than the women in farming households (OR = 2.07). The mean age of women heads in fishing was 58.6 years, while in farming, 62.8 years old. The level of education of the women do not have a difference relative to their households’ main source of income. For every four women, three had elementary education.

The marital status of women heads, however, vary significantly relative to their income source. Women household heads in fishing households are approximately two and
a half times more likely to be married than those in farming households (OR = 2.43). The proportion of women head in farming households who were single, separated or widowed was higher than their farming counterparts (85.8% versus 71.2%).

The women’s occupations were also compared (Table 2), and the differences in their occupations were significant. A number of women in farming households were employed (6.7%) and engaged in farm work (76.1%) themselves. On the other hand, 70 percent of women in fishing households were also engaged in fishing and related activities were not doing any productive work. In terms of skills, the women-heads in fishing households were less likely to possess skills (Table 1) compared to women-heads in farming households. The type of skills most common among the women in two household types are dressmaking and cooking.

Table 1. Distribution of Fishing and Farming Households by Characteristics of Women-heads

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women’s Characteristics</th>
<th>Fishing % (N₁=401)</th>
<th>Farming % (N₂=134)</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49 years and younger</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>2.07*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 years and older</td>
<td>78.8</td>
<td>75.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mean Age</strong></td>
<td>58.6 y.o.</td>
<td>62.8 y.o.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With elementary education</td>
<td>78.8</td>
<td>75.4</td>
<td>1.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school or better</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married or Live-in</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>2.43*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single/Separated/Widowed</td>
<td>71.3</td>
<td>85.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With skills</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>0.58*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without skills</td>
<td>89.3</td>
<td>82.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chi-square=</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Work</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>415.94*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>70.8</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>76.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment/Daily wage earner</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p<0.05

Characteristics of women-headed households

Women-headed households, despite their smaller size in comparison with other types of households, often carry a higher dependency burden since they tend to contain a higher ratio of non-workers to workers than do other households (Buvinic & Gupta, 1997; Varley, 1996). The mean household sizes of the women-headed households were 4.12 for fishing, and 3.15 for farming. Fishing households are twice more likely to have sizes of 4 or more members than are farming households (OR = 1.89). Although fishing households
have more members than the farming, both types of households have an average of 1 working member.

Table 2. Distribution of Fishing and Farming Households by Household Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics of Women-headed households</th>
<th>Fishing % (N₁=401)</th>
<th>Farming % (N₂=134)</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household Size</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 or more members</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td>35.8</td>
<td>1.89*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-3 members</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>64.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>4.12</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of working HH members</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 2</td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>1.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>74.8</td>
<td>77.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly HH income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 2000 PHP</td>
<td>44.6</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>1.93*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 PHP or below</td>
<td>55.4</td>
<td>70.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>3,528.43</td>
<td>3,350.37</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owns Land¹</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>41.0</td>
<td>.16*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owns house</td>
<td>92.8</td>
<td>93.3</td>
<td>0.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House made of light materials</td>
<td>55.4</td>
<td>47.8</td>
<td>1.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No sanitary toilet facility</td>
<td>37.4</td>
<td>26.9</td>
<td>1.63*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-improved drinking water source</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With Electricity</td>
<td>45.6</td>
<td>39.6</td>
<td>1.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not own a radio</td>
<td>67.6</td>
<td>53.0</td>
<td>1.85*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not own a television</td>
<td>70.1</td>
<td>59.7</td>
<td>1.58*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p<0.05

¹ The major type of land owned was residential (fishing-84%; farming-68%); and less than 1 hectare.

Based on the monthly income of the households, farming households have lesser average monthly income than fishing households (PHP 3,350 versus PHP 3,528). When the two household categories were compared, fishing households were twice likely to earn more than PHP 2000 every month than the farming households.

Ownership of assets and other possessions. Other assets of women-headed households were also examined (Table 2). Women-headed farming households were more likely to own lands compared to their fishing counterparts. Among those who own land, there was no significant difference on the area of land owned by farming and fishing households, as majority of them own less than a hectare.

For housing ownership, nine of the ten households, both in farming and fishing, own their houses. However, about half of these houses in both fishing and farming households were made of light materials.
In terms of household sanitation and conveniences, the two household categories varied significantly in terms of their toilet facilities and access to media. Fishing households were one and half times more likely not to have sanitary toilets than farming households. There were 2 in every 5 fishing households that did not have sanitary toilets, while only 1 in 4 in the farming households did not have a sanitary toilet.

There was no significant difference between the two household categories in terms of their access to clean, potable drinking water. However, about a third of those households still obtain their water from non-improved drinking water sources, such as open-dug wells and unprotected spring.

Most of the households have electricity. In spite of this, the two household categories varied in terms of their access to media. Fishing households were less likely to possess a radio or a television compared to farming households. Majority of the fishing households did not own a radio (67.6%) and a television (70.1%).

**Access to credit, other income sources and other assets.** There was no difference between the household types when it comes to the having credits (borrowing money) (Table 3). However, women-headed farming households were more likely to lend money or give credit than women from fishing households.

As shown in Table 3, women-headed households did not limit their income source. There is small number (6%) of farming households with members engaging in fishing; about the same proportion (5%) of fishing households have members engaging in farming. Farming households are also more likely than fishing households to raise livestock and farm machinery. Among the women-headed fishing households, only about 1 in 5 were owners of fishing business, and the rest were workers.

**Table 3. Distribution of Fishing and Farming Households by access to credit and other assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access to credit and other assets</th>
<th>Fishing % (N1=401)</th>
<th>Farming % (N2=134)</th>
<th>Odds Ratio (OR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Borrow Money (Yes)</td>
<td>54.9</td>
<td>58.2</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lend Money (Yes)</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>0.38*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With household members engaged in fishing</td>
<td>65.3</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With household members engaged in farming</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>54.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock(Own livestock)</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>.131*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Machinery (own farm machinery)</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>0.04*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing Status (Owner)</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>14.2*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*p&lt;0.05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Health, social protection and other vulnerabilities.** Only a fourth of the women-headed fishing and farming households were members of Philhealth. Moreover, the
proportion of households in both categories which are beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program of the government is much lower.

Table 4. Distribution of Fishing and Farming Households by health, social protection and other vulnerabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fishing % (N₁=401)</th>
<th>Farming % (N₂=134)</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PhilHealth Membership</td>
<td>25.8</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4Ps Beneficiaries (4Ps member)</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>1.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing location (located at a hazard zone)</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>2.94*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Location (n₁=90)</td>
<td>(n₂=12)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Along seashore</td>
<td>76.7</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Along road slips</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Along riverbanks</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others (landslide and flood prone areas)</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* p<0.05

One of the threats examined to the households of these women was the location of their houses. Fishing households were three times more likely to be situated in a geo-hazard location relative to fishing households. Majority of these fishing households were located along the seashore.

Discussion and Recommendations

Fishing households tend to be headed by de facto women heads, while farming households have de jure women heads. The distinction between the two was made since the situation and needs of each type of household vary. De facto women heads tend to have a spouse and other family members working and contributing to the household income. The household is young, its activities were concentrated on fishing and other related activities, with the woman participating in them.

De facto households, according to Horrel and Krishman (2007) were not especially prone to income poverty and may avoid the poorest reaches. These households do lack assets as they do not own their fishing business, but instead work for others or rent fishing gears and equipment. Lacking these assets constrains the ability of these household to diversify their income sources. Women-heads were not likely engaged in non-fishing productive work and may have limited skills, which could hinder them to participate in other income generating activities.

Conversely, the de jure women head of household is usually a widow and older, which was common among the farming households. Unlike in Horrell and Krishnan’s
findings wherein *de jure* women-heads have more labor resources to draw on within the household and receive remittances from children, *de jure* women-heads in Carles have small household sizes and low income. One explanation could be the outmigration of adult children, who did not necessarily send regular remittances.

Comparing the women-heads from these two household categories, it can be said that although women-heads in fishing may have more income, women-heads in farming have more assets. Women-heads in fishing have an implied reliance on the income provided by the husband and other household members. Their households have larger household income compared with farming households but have more household dependents. These young dependents are more because their families are young, unlike in the households of the *de jure*/farming women-heads. The women-heads in fishing also face several disadvantages in terms of toilet facility, housing location, and assets.

The *de jure* women-heads in farming households were gainfully productive. If they were not engaged in farming, they were employed, and they also reported to possess some skills. These women-heads have lower household income, and lower number of household dependents compared to fishing households. However, they have more access to credit, media (radio and TV), and possess more assets in terms of land, livestock and farm machinery.

The economic situation and needs of households headed by women in Carles differed in a lot of aspects relative to their type of households (*de facto* versus *de jure*). Although income of fishing in *de facto* households are higher, they are disadvantaged in terms of possessions of assets and access to credit. Due to the lack of assets, fishing households have limited ability to diversify their sources of income compared to farming households. It can be said then that women-headed households in fishing communities faced multiple vulnerabilities (economic, social and disaster risks) compared to their farming counterparts.

One of the main differences between the two household types is the unemployment and lack of skills of women-heads in fishing households. Skills and capability training of these women should be given attention to provide them with alternative income sources. Once these skills are developed, women could be given access to credit that would allow them to diversify. Alternative income sources should also be close to the homes of these women. One explanation for their lack of work is their young family. Domestic and reproductive work of women were prioritized over their gainful activities, which led to their reliance on their husband’s income.

Further research could be conducted to examine the spending behavior of these households to provide clearer understanding of how they manage their household resources and income.
References


Filipino Older Women in the Coasts: How Various Forms of Inequalities Intersect in their Lives

Bernice Vania N. Landoy-Mamauag and Alice Prieto-Carolino*

Abstract

Intersectionality Theory as a theoretical framework asserts the necessity to account for individual’s multiple and intersecting social identities to unpack and understand experiences of inequality. Intersectionality also argues that these unique and individual experiences are manifestations of larger structural inequalities in society. We looked into the intersections of gender, age, and class in shaping elderly women experiences in the context of poor, coastal communities. We used nine transcripts from interviews with three elderly women from coastal communities. Emergent themes include: the consequences of being old and female, abject poverty and womanhood, and beliefs that reinforce poverty. We argue for the need to glean older women’s lives and experiences from the intersections of their varied social identities.

Both the number and proportion of older people over 60 years old are practically growing in all nations. In 2002, it was estimated that there were 605 million people in the world who are in their late adulthood and nearly 400 million of them come from low-income nations (Ondigi, A. N. & Ondigi, S. R., 2012). In the Philippines, the 2010 national census reveals that senior citizens comprise 6.8% of the 92.1 million households. Of these, 55.8% were female and 44.2% were male (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2015).

The Feminization of Old Age and its Consequences

Women all over the world tend to outlive men by 5 to 7 years (Carlos, 1999; Makiwane, Ndinda, & Botsis, 2015). The consequences of this long life are not necessarily desirable for all women. Whereas elderly women who occupy an advantaged position might benefit from a good quality of life, the same may not hold true for women who are poor (R. Angel & J. Angel, 2006). They are more likely to experience domestic violence and marginalization in terms of access to education, income, food, work, health care, and political power (WHO, 2003).

Exacerbating the negative consequences of this longer life expectancy is the fact that they are relegated to care-giving and child-rearing early on in life (Liwag, de la Cruz, & Macapagal, 1998). Mothers, as is the norm in other cultures, are the primary caretakers of children in the Philippines. They are given the moniker ilaw ng tahanan – literally, light of the home – to symbolize the mothers’ task of guiding and nurturing the family (Alampay, 2014). These tasks consequently take them away from the workplace.

*University of the Philippines Visayas
Because of the cumulative disadvantages that they experience early on in life, they tend to be poor and to suffer from a lack of pension and access to quality health care in old age. Even those women who are working outside the home have lower incomes. Hence, among the low socio-economic class, poverty tends to be more intense and inimical to women (Lewis & Butler, 1984; Women Coordination Division, 2012).

The Underpinnings of Inequalities in Old Age

As is apparent in the preceding discussions, it is not statics features that cause the gender differences that we see among the elderly. The term “static” here refers to characteristics that are deemed by some researchers to have only appeared or developed in old age or have long been present and unchanging within the individual. Examples of these features are personality, temperament, or the loss of a significant other in old age.

In direct contrast to these static features, one of the most striking differences that we see in old age is a function of dynamic constructs like gender. Gender refers to the “socially constructed attributions and expectations assigned to individuals on the basis of their biological sex” (Suzuki & Ahluwalia, 2003, p.120). Gender is not a freestanding category that is devoid of or separate from any influence. Rather, it is embedded in ethnicity, class, and age (Cruikshank, 2009). Gender intersects with social status and class to shape the experiences of older women. For instance, the female elderly in rural areas have been found to experience higher rates of poverty (Giang & Pfau, 2012).

Gender and aging are social constructions that are associated with each other (Backes, Lasch, & Reimann, 2006). Both impact on identities, social conditions, and interpersonal and intrapersonal relationships. It is for this reason that we conceptualize the overlap of gender, class, and age as intersectional and all-important in shaping women’s experiences and development outcomes. As shown in the literature (e.g., Cruikshank, 2009; Giang & Pfau, 2012) the lived experiences of difficulties and challenges in old age could not be separated from gender and class.

Intersectionality Theory: Theoretical Lens for Research on the Female Elderly

Intersectionality Theory is a lens that focuses on multiple marginalized persons (Choo & Ferree, 2010). Having had its genesis in Black feminist theory with the publication of the seminal paper of Crenshaw in 1989, Intersectionality Theory is concerned with identifying and dismantling social constructions (e.g. gender) by highlighting its interaction with another (e.g. class). Feminist researchers have largely used Intersectionality Theory to give voice to marginalized, oppressed women (Choo & Ferree, 2010).

To understand the experience of inequality of a poor elderly woman, for instance, would mean sifting through how her social identities of being a woman (gender), of being old (age), and poor (class) intersect to create qualitatively distinct meanings and experience (Warner, 2008). Intersectionality is both a theoretical lens and methodological approach to understanding inequality (Choo & Ferree, 2010; McCall, 2005). As a
Theoretical lens, intersectionality refers to the interactions among systems of inequality or power-based disparities that result from group membership (Calasanti & Kiecolt, 2012). Because these disparities vary with time and space, it is interesting to look at how these play out in the lives of the individuals who live in the coastal communities – considered to be one of the poorest sectors in Philippine society (Cervantes, 2012). In the last decade, many coastal households fall below the poverty threshold (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2017). Coastal families are generally poor and families with fishers as heads have a mean annual income of P70,244 which was only less than half of the P144,039 annual income of non-fisher households.

Women in coastal communities are socialized and expected to engage in reproductive tasks of childbearing, child rearing, and ensuring the well being and welfare of their spouse and other economic producers in the household (Illo & Polo, 1990; Mabunay, 1995). This reproduction work, although unpaid, is just as physically demanding as paid work. Men, on the other hand, are expected to engage in paid production work. This is valued more than women’s reproductive work (Lopez-Rodriguez, 1996). Fishing is dominated by men so much so that women’s role before and after fish capture has been given less importance (Siason, 2000).

To understand the experience of inequality of a poor elderly woman in coastal communities using Intersectionality Theory would mean sifting through how her social identities of being a woman (gender), of being old (age), and poor (class) intersect to create qualitatively distinct meanings and experience (Warner, 2008).

To our knowledge, there are no researches on older women in the Philippines that use Intersectionality Theory. Studies on aging in the Philippines usually consider categories and inherent personality factors separately. These studies look into demographic factors (e.g., Carlos, 1999), the concept and status of the elderly (e.g., Lockenhoff, et al., 2009) and successful aging and satisfaction (e.g., Mallari, 2011). Given this gap, we would like to look at the lived experiences of poverty-stricken older women. We believe that it is important to look at the dynamic interplay of class, gender, with aging since this is not yet well understood (Cruikshank, 2009). By using Intersectionality Theory, we hope to give voice to poor, old women (Choo & Ferree, 2010; Crenshaw, 1989).

**Statements of the Problem**

Given the literature and points on intersectionality that were presented in the previous section, our study on the older women living in the coasts in the Philippines seek to answer the following questions:

1. What are the experiences of women who are old and poor?
2. How does being female shape one’s experience of poverty early on in life?
3. How does the intersections of gender, age, and class shape the aging experience of these women?
These will be answered by looking at older women’s lived experiences in the context of poverty.

Methods

Participants

Three elderly women from the province of Iloilo served as respondents for this research. These elderly women were participants of a bigger project on aging that was funded by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension of the University of the Philippines Visayas. This project looked at the experiences of aging of older men and women in three coastal municipalities in the Province of Iloilo.

We used the following inclusion criteria in choosing the transcript that will be analyzed from the corpus of data in the bigger research: she had to be sixty years old and above, she identified herself as someone who was poor, and she had to be a resident of a coastal community with a high poverty incidence. The three women whose transcripts were used for this paper come from Iloilo: one from the town of Gigantes Island in Carles in northern Iloilo, one from San Joaquin in southern Iloilo, and one from an urban poor community in Iloilo City.

Sampling Method

We used purposive sampling to recruit elderly women and men who fit our inclusion criteria and could recall and articulate their experiences.

Data Collection Procedure

We conducted at least three in-depth interviews over 24 months with every elderly woman in our study. Each interview was around an hour and an hour and a half in length. We also utilized indigenous research methods such as pakikipagpalagayan-loob (act of mutual trust), pagmamasid (observation), and pakikipagkwentuhan (engage in conversation). We audio-recorded the interviews. Hiligaynon speakers also transcribed these audio recordings.

Data Analysis

We analyzed nine transcripts using the methods of Storey (2007). The specific steps include the following: a) Initial reading of the transcript, b) Identifying and labeling themes, c) Linking themes and identifying thematic clusters, and d) Producing a summary table of themes with illustrative quotations. We read all nine transcripts without initially choosing the most significant statements. During the subsequent reading of these transcripts, we identified the themes while simultaneously labeling them, after which we linked the themes to identify thematic clusters. We also took our field notes into account in this part of the data analysis. The field notes included our initial impressions of the elderly whom we interviewed, and our observations of their daily activities and interaction with family and community members. Finally, we did the clustering and re-clustering of themes thrice in an iterative manner.
Ethical Considerations

We sought the consents of our respondents for their participation and the audio recording of these interviews. The interviews were conducted in their houses where they felt comfortable, and at a time most convenient for them. We also ensured that the lengthy interviews did not stress them by taking breaks and by bringing snacks. In the data analysis, we ensured rigor, trustworthiness, and validity by following the steps recommended by Yardley (2008). Finally, in this paper, we used pseudonyms to protect the identities of these older women.

Results and Discussion

The Elderly Women and their Stories

Belinda is a 72-year old who lives with a friend in her makeshift house in a community of informal settlers in Iloilo City. She never married but has a lovechild who is now 43 years old and who lives nearby with his own family. Her son does not have a stable job since he had to stop construction work due to a surgery. Belinda’s son has seven children, and his wife was pregnant when we came for our last interview. Among her six school-aged grandchildren, only three are in school. She tries to support her grandchildren in whatever way she can. For instance, she prepares them breakfast of hot water sprinkled with a small amount of coffee granules and three pan de sal (salt bread).

Nida, on the other hand, is 62 years old who was widowed in 2014. Before her fisher-husband died due to a heart ailment, she took care of him for five years. Other than her domestic duties, Nida has been serving as a barangay health worker for 20 years. She likes her role because she adores children and it brings her closer to the community. Occasionally, however, she felt that it took her away from her husband. Nida has four siblings and five children. Of these five children, she depends on the support that is given to her by her eldest son who works as a public school teacher. She has 11 grandchildren.

Finally, Florinda is a 65-year old who lives alone in the town of San Joaquin in Iloilo. She has been a widow for 30 years after her husband was killed in a tragic incident. She has a daughter and a son. The daughter lives next door while the son lives with his family in Manila. Florinda had her daughter married off when she was 16 years old after she admitted that she had sexual intercourse with her boyfriend. This daughter now has two children and four grandchildren. Florinda’s grandchildren occasionally depend on her for financial support. On the other hand, her son supports her financially, thus she speaks of him with affection. When she speaks about her daughter, however, the general feel is that of regret and sadness for her predicament.
Themes and Theme Clusters

We analyzed nine verbatim double-spaced, 413-paged transcripts from our interviews. We present the theme clusters and specific themes that we derived from the narratives of the older women using Storey’s (2007) method. The presentation is organized into the following: the first theme cluster highlights the details of these older women’s current situation as evident in their lived experience. This will be followed by the second theme cluster which serves as the backdrop of the intersectionality between gender, age, class, and which, we posit, also gives grounds for why women's current statuses are such. Finally, the last theme cluster focuses on beliefs that may have reinforced the intersectionalities in their lives.

The organization of the cluster themes and their corresponding themes also answers the statements of the problem. The first theme cluster - The Consequences of Being Old and Female - answers the first statement of the problem concerning the experiences of women who are old and poor. The second theme cluster—Pervasiveness of Poverty—addresses the second statement of the problem on how being poor shaped the experiences of these female elderly then and now. Finally, the third theme cluster—Structural Influences—answers our last question on how the process change or remain the same as the old woman moves into adulthood.

First Theme Cluster: The Consequences of Being Old and Female

This first theme cluster that emanated from the final themes from our respondents’ stories highlight poor, old women’s experiences. These lived experiences range from their concern about their current physical status, the social aspect of their experience, to the more psychosocial.

Theme 1: Having health-related concerns. Being old entails feeling a difference between one’s physical capacities when one was young from their current physical state. The respondents complained about having knees that hurt, weak bones, arthritis, not being able to do physically demanding tasks anymore, and not being agile as before. Belinda articulates this well when she said:

“When you sit down for a very long time and you get used to it, you cannot just easily stand up. You won’t be able to walk right away too because your knees will really hurt.”

Belinda also shared that she used to fetch large amounts of water for herself from the community pump. Now that she is old, she had to half the pail of water that she carries because she feels weak. Nida and Florinda share this feeling of physical frailty as part of growing old too. Florinda feels that her physical exertions when she was young caught up with her; that is why she got sick of pneumonia. This resulted in her taking things in stride. She also complains of arthritis, high blood pressure, and poor eyesight.

Theme 2: Taking part in social activities. Despite the physical limitations that these women experience they still are, nevertheless, able to participate in social activities in the community. Belinda, who lives in an urban area, shared that their senior citizen
organization is very active. The members meet occasionally for meetings and excursions. They even had a Mr. Lolo (grandfather) and Ms. Lola (grandmother) pageant. These activities help her temporarily forget her worries. On the other hand, Nida is an active barangay health worker in their community. She likes being able to “weigh children, immunize them, and teach parents so that their children will not get sick.” Nida feels that her task in the community brings her closer to the people. Finally, Florinda’s social circle revolves around her afternoon activity of playing bingo with her neighbors. She also collects the tong and uses this to buy her coffee or soap.

**Theme 3: Coping with loss.** Other than maintaining social relationships, these women also admitted that part of growing old is coping with the loss of a significant other. While Belinda, who separated from her partner when their lovechild was still small, did not delve much into stories of loss and its emotional consequences, Florinda and Nida highlighted this in their stories. Florinda spoke lengthily about the death of her husband 30 years ago. After they lost their jobs in Negros Occidental, she and her husband decided to go home in her hometown in San Joaquin in the province of Iloilo where there were opportunities for them to raise their children better.

“The children and I went ahead here because we did not have money. We sold our house for such a small amount. After a while, I started to wonder because he was not replying to my letters. So I decided to go to Negros for him. When I got there, the sibling of my stepfather was waiting for me. He was the one who told me that my husband was killed.”

Florinda’s husband worked in a gold mine in Hinobaan, Negros Occidental. He got into a fight and was killed when he attended a disco in one barangay (village). She learned that he was tortured before he was killed. She was so shocked and now recalls that she did not even have enough money to bring his remains back to Iloilo until her relatives helped her. Her children were just in Grade 6 and Grade 2 when they lost their father. She recalls this incident with complete regret, for having lost a partner who could have helped raise her children. She attributes the sadness of her life to this loss and to the situation of her children and grandchildren.

Nida, on the other hand, was so devastated by her husband’s death that she said she could not even remember the details of the funeral. She likened this event to her reaction when she found out about her mother’s death. Even if she tried so hard to recall the funeral procession from their house to the church, and from the church to the cemetery, she could not remember any of it. Like Florinda, Nida looks back to the death of her husband with complete regret and sadness. She was not ready to lose him.

“That is why I said that it is against my will that I lost my husband. Why? He seemed fine. We would sit right here after we eat. He was not a grouch and he did not give me a difficult time. I would have wanted to take care of him for a longer time.”

**Theme 4: Costs of caring.** Another part of being old and female entails caring for others and subsequently experiencing the burden of caring. These older women have been spending their lives caring for their children. They now give this kind of caring to their...
grandchildren. Because they are old, they rely on meager pension and subsistence to support themselves. Caring for others eventually burdens them. Belinda, for instance, helps provide for her son’s eight children even if it means borrowing money from the Bumbay (a colloquial term for an Indian loan shark that imposes high loan interests). Nida watches over her daughter’s children. Florinda avails of loan for the needs of her grandchild. These loans remain unpaid, and continue to grow in interest. Belinda also exclaimed that caring consistently for her son and grandchildren seem unfair. This was captured in her statement:

“It’s true, I only have a son. But instead of him taking care of me, I still must take care of his children. No one takes care of me.”

Belinda also takes care of her nieces and nephews as she provides them with what they need even if it means the possible loss of the small property that she owns.

“I pawned this house for six thousand pesos. This house was still sturdy back then. I pawned this house to our neighbor just so my niece could go to Singapore. Our agreement was, if I could not pay for the house after four months I will lose it. After two months, my niece sent me the money.”

**Theme 5: Having regrets.** For Belinda and Florinda, being female and old includes feeling remorse about decisions that they made in the past. For Belinda, she regrets having helped everyone in her family when she was young. Now no one helps her when she is in dire need. Everyone is poor and does not have the capacity to help. Had she known that she would eventually suffer, she would have stayed in school, or stayed in her job as a receptionist at a tailoring company, or became a mistress.

“Had I known that life would be this miserable, I would have become a mistress. At least, I got something out of it! I could not accept it that I could not expect help from anyone when I readily gave it to others in the past.”

For Florinda, she regrets having forced her daughter to marry her boyfriend when she was just 16 years old.

“My daughter just finished high school and then got married. She got married to a drunkard. Oh my God! So I help her now. I don’t have a choice. I would tell her, ‘It is your fault that you were in a hurry. You would have finished high school. You would have become a working student and finished eventually, then marry a good man. You have the looks and body for it, anyway!’ Then she blamed me for forcing her into marriage.”

**Theme 6: Acceptance of one’s life.** Despite their regrets and having suffered the consequences of caring, they eventually learned to accept their life of poverty—“masubo nga kabuhi” (a sad life), as they call it. Belinda learned to accept her fate. She said that she just wanted people to pray for her, for peace of mind and for good health. For Florinda, she learned to accept the situation of her daughter. She knows that her son will help her financially, while it is her responsibility to help her daughter. Finally, Nida gradually accepted that her husband was not with her anymore. She seemed consoled with the
thought that he needed to go, that his suffering has stopped, and she has children who care about her. I told them,

“Don’t remove me from my house. I will stay here. You will stay in your own houses. I will go for a visit whenever I want, but I won’t stay for good.’ I don’t want them to fight over me later.”

Theme 7: Women’s agency and adaptation to daily challenges. Having accepted that they could not change their current situation, they understand that they can do something to adapt to it. Florinda does this by looking after her great grandchildren and avoiding her son-in-law especially when he is drunk. Nida, on the other, decided to spend more time with her children and grandchildren. Belinda tries to ensure that there is food for her and her grandchildren every day.

“If there were five of them, I would prepare five glasses. It would have been ideal to provide them Milo (a brand of a chocolate drink), but we have none. So I prepare glasses of hot water, then sprinkle it with little coffee granules, milk and sugar. Then I buy pan de sal (salt bread) worth fifteen pesos. They would have three pan de sal each. We could not afford to have a better breakfast. We have nothing. I would have wanted them to eat something better, but I don’t have anything. Then I would think again about where to get breakfast for the next day. So I sell coffee beside the walkway so that I could buy breakfast for them the next day.”

Second Theme Cluster: Abject Poverty and Womanhood

The lives of these older women, particularly the instances that they regret, or the circumstances that they find difficult, are for the most part, attributed to poverty. Being poor is a disadvantage in itself. Being poor and old and female is more disadvantageous for these women as is apparent in their lived experiences. Poverty has been an overarching theme in these elderly women’s stories. This poverty is evident in both their history and the stories they tell about their children and grandchildren.

Theme 8: Male Dominance and Dependence The older women told stories about their fathers as economic earners when they were younger. Nida’s father was a tuba (coconut wine) gatherer. Florinda’s father was a fisher. Belinda’s father died early, leaving behind ten children and a pregnant wife. All these three women have not reached high school because they had to take on adult responsibilities. When they married eventually, in the case of Florinda and Nida, their statuses remained the same as they married individuals whose socio-economic statuses were the same as theirs. These spouses, like their fathers, were the ones who engaged in productive and paid work. Nida eventually took care of her husband when he fell ill and became bedridden. Belinda who never married, on the other hand, raised a son who eventually depended on her. One very salient story of Belinda that brings to the fore this theme of male dependence and its consequent impact on her was when her son got hospitalized. They eventually had him undergo a surgery in his gut. She shared that they did not have any money and she worried so hard that she just wanted to die.
There were no Bumbays that time, so I loaned the money from RG. You know, RG, the lending shop. After my son’s operation, I had to renew the loan because I did not have money to spend for his medication. I did not have any money, not even a centavo. That day was a very tragic day for me. Whenever the doctor gives prescriptions and I got out of Don Benito Hospital to go to the pharmacy, how I wished a car would run over me! That’s true! I wanted to be ran over by cars so that I would die right there and then.”

These women felt a sense of hopelessness due to their poverty, especially during times of medical emergency or when they could not provide for their children’s needs.

**Theme 9: Intergenerational poverty.** This theme on poverty continues in the stories they tell about their children and grandchildren. Florinda’s daughter sometimes could not provide for her family. Nida’s daughter had to fully depend on her husband’s meager income as a fisher. It is worth noting that Florinda and Nida have depended on their husbands when they were young. In old age, they are supported by the male members of their family. Their daughters, on the other hand, continue to suffer from abject poverty. Finally, Belinda’s son could not provide for his family, and could not send all of them to school. When he is able to do so, he could not sufficiently provide for their needs. Belinda relates such financial difficulty:

“His daughter asks for ten pesos for allowance to study at City High. She just walks to school. Other students’ pocket money is twenty or fifty pesos. Hers is just ten pesos. There were times that it’s even a meager five pesos. And he still has to give allowance to the other children. Sometimes people here get teary-eyed and give my grandchildren ten pesos.”

**Third Theme Cluster: Beliefs that reinforce inequalities**

What could explain the continued structural marginalization that is apparent in women’s lives is the conglomeration of beliefs surrounding what or how being a woman should be.

**Theme 10: The ideal girl remains a virgin until she gets married.** This theme is unique in the narrative of Florinda. When Florinda found out that her 16-year old daughter had sexual intercourse with her boyfriend, she forced her into marriage. From her perspective, it is a disgrace for a woman to lose her virginity. Florinda now regrets the decision because her daughter’s husband turned out to be a drunkard. She still holds her point of view, however, and blames her daughter for having sexual intercourse at an early age.

**Theme 11: The ideal woman is self-sacrificing.** This theme is very much manifested in the narratives of all three older women. To be a wife and a mother, one should always be self-sacrificing. For instance, Belinda believes that part of being a good daughter is giving up schooling in order to provide for her family. She said that when her father died while she was in grade school, she stopped going to school in order to work as a laborer. She felt that it was her responsibility to take on the role because she had nine other siblings and her mother could not work due to her pregnancy. It is not surprising that Belinda expects
that her only daughter-in-law should be self-sacrificing too. She thinks that part of being a
mother is to take good care of children and maintain the household, never mind the reality
that her daughter-in-law had to do these and then wash their neighbor’s laundry to earn
an income. On the other hand, Florinda thinks of herself with high regard for having raised
her two children alone after her husband died. She believes that this is what an ideal
mother should do. Finally, Nida spent five years taking care of her sick husband. Had he
not died; she would have wanted to take care of him for a much longer time. There were
instances when she deprived herself of privileges to travel or attend seminars because of
her responsibilities to her husband. She believes that only she could give her husband the
best care possible, and this is what wives ought to do.

The eleven themes and the quotes of the three older women whom we interviewed
illustrate their lives at present and how these came to be. Poverty was an overarching
theme in many of their stories. There were also themes on caring for others, the essence
of an ideal woman, the regrets and coping of old women—all pointing to their lived
experiences. Finally, the last cluster of themes that were presented in this subsection
illustrates specific beliefs that strengthen the structured marginalization of these older
women and those who will probably come after them.

Conclusion

We think that the following quote by Belinda best illustrates the intersectionality of
class, age, and gender:

“The older women who are rich have a different story from us who are poor. Our
story revolves around our own poverty and what happens inside our household. One
woman would say ‘I am always angry at my son. When he drinks, he screams at people
and challenges them to fight him.’ Then another woman would say, ‘My child is different.
If there’s no rice, he throws away the pots and pans.’ That’s our story.”

Intersectionality theory highlights how the intersection of statuses put some
individuals in an advantaged position over another. The privileging of statuses contributes
to the marginalization of the older women whose lives we have come to know about in this
paper. Being an old woman in a poor, fishing community means less access to economic
activities that are necessary to support oneself and the family. Being a woman means
being assigned the role of caregiving for both the family and the community. The woman
does the caring work regardless of her age.

A sense of agency and the capacity to adapt are important themes that emerged
from their narratives; that although it may be too late for them to change their
circumstances, they know that they are doing something for them and their family to
survive. In so many ways, these older women are resilient by adapting amid risks and
difficulties. This is consistent with how Luthar and Cichetti (2002, p.2) defined resilience:
“resilience is a dynamic process wherein individuals display positive adaptation despite
the experiences of significant adversity”.

93
Moreover, the themes on the pervasiveness of poverty in the lives of these elderly women and their kin serve as contexts for these women’s current situation. Their difficulties have long been present in their lives. Their experiences are not caused by “static” features that suddenly arise or come during late adulthood but were caused by situations, contexts, and interactions that they have had even before they reached adolescence or adulthood. These contexts include class and gender.

Further, intersectionality scholars assert that the numerous and interdependent identities that are experienced at an individual level are a manifestation of inequalities at the structural level. For instance, a poor, elderly woman’s subjective experience of inequality is a representation of a system of inequality at the societal level. Disadvantage (and privilege) are embedded in social institutions, accrue, and impact on life chances later on in life (Calasanti & Kiecolt, 2012).

Certainly, the intersections among gender, class, and age come together to impact on the lives of these older women. Society accords more privileges to men who are of high socio-economic class and more privileges to older men than older women. Given these intersections, it is no wonder that these women - who are old and poor, have these “tragic” lived experiences.

Unknown to these older women, their beliefs strengthen the privileging of statuses, the consequences of which may have long term effects especially when these are imposed upon members of their family. When an older woman, for instance, wishes a daughter-in-law to remain a fulltime housewife and mother even when the children are hungry, this contributes to increased hunger among the children. When a mother, for instance, insists that her young daughter marries the man whom she had sexual intercourse with, this may subsequently result in the loss of opportunities for education and employment that could have helped her improve her status.

These stories are compelling, sad and dismal at times, and certainly worth taking into account when planning on policies that affect the older persons particularly the older women. Sadly, this is not the case in most policies and research in our country at present. When we report about the elderly situation, the tendency is for the elderly women’s stories to be contained in reports of the general elderly population. It is due time that we change that stance and look at older women’s experiences more closely.

Acknowledgement:

The authors wish to thank the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension (OVCRE) of the University of the Philippines Visayas for funding this study.
References


Gender Analysis Through Modified Best Aquaculture Practices (M-Bap) For In Micro And Small Scale Operators in Fish-Cage Aquaculture

Zakiah Adun and Zumilah Zainalaludin*

Abstract

The objective of this paper is to discuss the development process of Modified Best Aquaculture Practices BAP (M-BAP) for gender analysis on activities in Aquaculture and Fisheries Industry (AFI) which is popularly known as masculine industry due to majority male operators. The AFI concerned in this paper is Micro and Small-Scale Operators (MiSO) and they are operating without BAP in freshwater fish-cage aquaculture in Pahang River, Malaysia. This paper is processing inputs from first paper on M-BAP development presented in World Aquaculture Conference 2015 (WA2015) through elements from three major standards - BAP of Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA), Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) and Malaysia Good Aquaculture Practices (MyGAP). Five standards had been added to WA2015 and HACCP had been dropped - ASEAN GAP and GLOBAL GAP, Thailand-Q GAP or THAIGAP, Bangladesh Aquaculture Alliance (BAA) and INDGAP (India). All these seven standards were compared and integrated together. As a result, five elements of M-BAP were identified - 1) Food Security, 2) Biodiversity, 3) Human Resources and Social Welfare, 4) Quality Management System, and 5) Verification and Traceability. Gender analysis will trace “who does what” in AFI activities, and always females will not involve in the core activities of AFI, thus five domains in Sustainable Livelihood Theory (SLT) (Financial Capital, Physical Capital, Human Resource Capital, Social Capital and Natural Capital) as well as levels in System Theory (Input, Throughput, Output and All Level) are properly considered to capture holistic activities involving male and females. There were 226 activities identified, compared and coded, then become 53 activities listed in five elements M-BAP. Three sessions of Focus Group Discussion (FGD) among fish cage operators, officers from Department of Fisheries (DOF) Malaysia, and the community leaders of AFI were conducted to verify the 53 activities listed.

*Universiti Putra Malaysia
INTRODUCTION

- Aquaculture & Fisheries Industries (AFI) is **masculine**
- AFI is always associated with **poor community**
- **40% women** dominated in world AFI

---

**Women Role in AFI**

1. Helping husband after harvest
2. Female headed household (FHH)
3. Fish-based food entrepreneurs

- **No special programs and training** in AFI for women
- Thus, **gender analysis is essential** to develop gender sensitive program and policy
OBJECTIVE

• To discuss the development process of M-BAP
• To identify the elements that are suitable for M-BAP
• To analyze ‘who does what’ the activities listed in M-BAP

WHAT IS M-BAP?

FRAMEWORK

Poster presented in World Aquaculture (WA2015) Jeju, Korea

STANDARDS

Medium & Large Scale Operators (MeLO)

30% with BAP & masculine activity

Micro & Small Scale Operators (MiSO)

70% operate without BAP & family based

modify BAP for MiSO
WHAT IS M-BAP?

Modified Best Aquaculture Practices (M-BAP)

MEDIUM AND LARGE OPERATOR (MeLO)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MyGAP</th>
<th>ASEAN GAP</th>
<th>GLOBAL G.A.P.</th>
<th>BAP (GAA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Security</td>
<td>Food Safety</td>
<td>Food Safety and Traceability</td>
<td>Food Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish Health Requirement</td>
<td>Produce Quality</td>
<td>Integrated Crop Management (ICM), Integrated Pest Control (IPC)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Sustainability</td>
<td>Environmental Management and Integrity</td>
<td>Environment (Including Biodiversity) &amp; Ecological Care</td>
<td>Environmental Responsibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Quality Management System (QMS), Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP)</td>
<td>Traceability in a Voluntary Certification Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Legal Compliance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
101 The National Network on Women in Fisheries in the Philippines, Inc.
Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

- Three sessions of FGD
- Among fish cage operators, officers from Department of Fisheries (DOF) Malaysia, & community leaders of AFI
- **Aim:** to verify the 53 activities listed
M-BAP CODING

- There were 226 activities identified, compared and coded, then become 53 activities listed in five elements M-BAP.

**4122: Feed the fish cage with high quality of food and in a good way**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Best Aquaculture Practices (ELEMENTS)</th>
<th>Quality Management System</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sustainable Livelihood Theories (COMPONENTS)</td>
<td>Human Resource Capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>System Theory (LEVEL)</td>
<td>Input</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Focus Group Discussion result</td>
<td>Number of question</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Sample Questionnaires For Operators**

**PART D: FISH CAGE FARMING ACTIVITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1311</td>
<td>buy any type of food fish as long as it cheap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2545</td>
<td>remove all kinds of waste /garbage into the river</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2112</td>
<td>ensure workers / farmers attending courses, workshops and seminars on fish cage farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4112</td>
<td>create an organization chart, a list of jobs and wage rates or salaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5481</td>
<td>registered with the Department of Fisheries and allow monitoring of fish cage farming is made</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

The National Network on Women in Fisheries in the Philippines, Inc.
## Sample Questionnaires For Spouse

### PART C: FISH CAGE FARMING ACTIVITIES

Please circle the number below that is suitable / represent yourself in the listed activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3115</td>
<td>build and do maintenance for fish ponds / special tasks for the treatment of sick fish</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2141</td>
<td>tie the cages strongly to avoid cage float / drifting during floods season</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3141</td>
<td>control the fish cage in rotation with other farmers to avoid hacked by people or other fish</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4342</td>
<td>record all the workers activities</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5551</td>
<td>monitoring, repairing and cleaning cages, and equipment stores cage regularly</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Data Collection Process

The images depict various activities related to data collection and fieldwork, including interactions with people in different settings.
Integrating Gender in the Development of a Catch Documentation and Traceability System

Arlene Nietes Satapornvanit*

Abstract

Gender integration approaches cross-cut through the USAID-funded Oceans and Fisheries Partnership (USAID Oceans), a regional activity aimed to develop a Catch Documentation and Traceability system anchored within the Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management. It is being implemented in partnership with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), mainly and with other relevant organizations, such as the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF), other government agencies and the private sector. With its emphasis on technology efforts to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing and seafood fraud in the region, it is often asked how gender is relevant or related to this kind of initiative. USAID puts a strong emphasis on gender integration in its initiatives and programs, with its Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Policy guiding project implementers from inception through implementation until monitoring and evaluation. The concept of gender in fisheries despite its acceptance among a number of fisheries practitioners still needs more socialization and practical tools for use. In the Philippines, the main partner is the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, which leads its regional counterparts in gender mainstreaming into its organizational structure and actions, as well as into its activities with its constituencies. The CTI-CFF Women Leaders’ Forum and SEAFDEC's newly set-up gender team, are positive responses to gender awareness advocacies in the past. This presentation will highlight the gender integration strategies of the USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership, the challenges faced in a fisheries technological initiative, and the steps taken so far to overcome these challenges and to achieve the strategies.

*USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership
THE OCEANS AND FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP (USAID OCEANS)

- Combats illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and seafood fraud, promotes sustainable fisheries, and conserves marine biodiversity.
- Aims to improve marine biodiversity conservation and increase sustainability of Asia-Pacific’s international seafood trade through:
  - Catch Documentation and Traceability
  - Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management
  - Public Private Partnerships and Industry Engagement
  - Safe, Legal and Equitable Labor Practices
  - Regional Coordination and Governance

**Oceans Principles & Strategic Approaches**

- **Strengthen Capacity of Stakeholders to Operationalize the Regional EAFM**

- **Prioritize Vulnerable Populations through Targeted Gender Interventions**

- **Promoting Safe and Humane Labor Practices and Gender Equity**

- **Communication of messages through various media**

**Cross-cutting:**
- Communications
- Outreach
- Capacity Building
- Gender Integration
“What has gender got to do with a CDT project?”

“How do we include gender in CDT?”

Gender equality & women empowerment

- core development objectives
- fundamental for the realization of human rights
- key to effective and sustainable development outcomes

USAID’s Gender Policy

7 Guiding Principles

- Integrate gender equality and female empowerment into USAID’s work
- Pursue an inclusive approach to foster equality
- Build partnerships across a wide range of stakeholders
- Harness science, technology, and innovation to reduce gender gaps and empower women and girls
- Address the unique challenges in crisis and conflict-affected environments
- Serve as a thought-leader and a learning community
- Hold ourselves accountable
What is a Catch Documentation and Traceability System (CDT)?

- Traceability is defined as “the ability to systematically identify a unit of production, track its location, and describe any treatments or transformations at all stages of production, processing, and distribution” (Magera and Beaton, 2009)

- Traceability helps answer the questions of who, what, when, where and how fish are captured, landed, processed, transported and ultimately brought to market.

- A catch documentation and traceability system is a transparent, auditable trail of information/data that allows us to track fish through the entire seafood supply chain, from bait to plate.
**Catch Documentation and Traceability (CDT) development:**

- **Analyzed** proposed U.S. Regulations, EU Requirements, ACDS, and WWF data elements
- **Identified** “Ideal” Key Data Elements (KDEs) for inclusion in USAID Oceans’ CDTs
- **Proposed KDEs** include:
  - Catch data
  - Vessel/gear information
  - Human welfare data points including sex-disaggregated data

---

**Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)**

- Strengthening the human well-being component including gender tools and contextualized case studies through enhanced training modules and materials
CROSS-CUTTING COMMUNICATIONS

• IEC support to each work stream to:
  – Disseminate information about the Partnership and its activities
  – Provide regional partners with the tools and information needed to implement CDT and EAFM
  – Increase visibility of IUU and IUU-related impacts amongst regional and global community
• Example Key Outputs:
  – Site and Country Profiles
  – Labor Rights and Gender Equality advocacy materials
  – EAFM Roadmaps
Strategies in addressing relevant gender and human welfare aspects

- Mainstreamed in all aspects of program activities and interventions
- Gender & Labor Technical Working Group
  - Provides support and close collaboration with SEAFDEC, CTI-CFF, Government of Sweden, others
- Gender and Labor Studies
- Capacity building
- Activity Outcome (M & E Plan)

Specific Activities

- Scoping/gender capacity assessments
- Gender analysis
- Grants to women organizations: Interventions to promote gender equality and women empowerment / partnerships
- IEC initiatives / advocacies
- Leadership network development, recognizing individuals contributing to gender equality advancements
- Draft/propose laws, policies or procedures to promote gender equality at the regional, national or local level
Oceans aims to consider gender in laws, policies and strategies arising from the project, and efforts will be taken to consider and understand gender and women’s role and participation in the fisheries value chain in the development of technological procedures and tools.

**Action I:** Oceans Gender 101 Document: Conceptual overview on gender integration strategies in CDT Development and EAFM approaches (work in progress, Target for Year 2)

**Action II:** TWG Human Welfare drafting proposed gender mainstreaming approaches in their respective roles within their institutions, including practical applications (work in progress, Target for Year 5)
M&E Plan: targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Description/Data Source</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. Regional Capacity and Cooperation</td>
<td>IR. 3. Strengthened regional capacity to support CDT, PPP, and EAFM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 CDTS/EA FM/PPP processes and procedures incorporate gender considerations</td>
<td>12. Number of legal instruments drafted, proposed or adopted designed to promote gender equality or nondiscrimination against women and girls at national or subnational levels (disaggregated by stage/level) (Outcome/GNDR 1)</td>
<td>documented by copies of laws, policies, and strategies. Examples of policies/procedures include incorporation of gender considerations in EAFM implementation and establishment of the CDTS.</td>
<td>Gender equality is incorporated into all plans, strategies, and guidelines to improve worker/fisher protection &amp; human well being, and provide a venue for voices to be heard.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Gender analysis at learning sites (October 2016 – March 2017)
- Integrated Stakeholder Validation Workshop (February or March 2017)
- Regional Gender Workshop (2nd Quarter, 2017)
- Interventions through grants to women’s organizations (2016-2019)
- Women Leaders’ Forum agenda in SFM (with CTI-CFF, 2017)
- Integrating/strengthening HW component of training modules/capacity building (on-going)
- Communications plan, dissemination, process documentation
- Monitoring & Evaluation – indicators and outcomes
- 7th Global Symposium for Gender in Aquaculture & Fisheries (GAF7/12AFAF, 2019)
Fish Processing Skills Training for the Housewives of Fisherfolks in Bataan: An Analysis

Dr. Felicisima E. Tungol*

Abstract

One of the poorest groups of coastal inhabitants in Bataan are the fisher folks who are involved in fishing for their living. Unfortunately, most of the housewives of the fisher folks do not have additional income to share for their family's daily needs. Coupled with this socio-economic issue is the recognized problem on solid fish waste management in the areas mainly due to lack of knowledge in proper fisheries post-harvest and fish processing method. As a repercussion, the discarded products are just turned into additional volume of solid fish waste of the province.

A livelihood project for the housewives of fisherfolks beneficiaries had been approved and funded by the Bataan Peninsula State University Gender and Development (GAD) in the amount of P224,280.00. The objective of the study is to come up with interventions to raise the meager family income of the housewives of fisher folks included in the study. Types of training conducted for this project include production of boneless milkfish, smoked fish, fish fillet, gourmet, milkfish embutido, and fish shanghai. Fish processing training helped the mothers in providing supporting to their husbands who were mostly fishers.

This project also includes food safety as to proper handling, preparation, processing and presentation on the table. Some literatures show that fishes grow in mangrove areas and Bataan is one of the areas given attention by BFAR as to mangrove rehabilitation.

The instrument used to gather data was the questionnaire. The data collected included the family income of the respondents, the number of children, the main source of income to name a few.

Sixty (60) housewives were trained for a year's duration. Their level of income ranged from PhP 1,999 to P5,999. It has been recommended to have another set of fish processing skills training in the future.

*Bataan Peninsula State University
Impact Assessment of the Genetic Selection for Salinity Tolerant Tilapia through Hybridization (Molobicus)

Luzviminda M. Galang, Maria Excelsis M. Orden, Danilo S. Vargas, Janet O. Saturno, Ronaldo D. Malaca, and Bismark E. Francisco*

Abstract

The Philippine government formulated the R and D program for saline tolerant tilapia through hybridization in recognition of the vast brackishwater and the importance of tilapia in the fish industry. The project was implemented from 1998 to 2000 with a total R and D fund of Php10.4 million. After more than 10 years, an impact assessment was conducted to assess the economic, social and environmental impacts of the project “Genetic Selection for a Salinity Tolerant Tilapia through Hybridization (Molobicus)”. This assessment was done to determine the impacts of the project to the farmers and the tilapia industry in saline water. This assessment is very important for research managers and policy makers because it determines ex-post impacts of the project to serve as basis for future R&D efforts on Molobicus.

Molobicus, a saline tolerant and fast growing tilapia species, was developed from its parent materials, O. mossambicus and O. niloticus. In the development of this saline tolerant tilapia species it is interesting to note that a Filipina researcher was an active counterpart of French geneticists. Production and dispersal of Molobicus fingerlings started in 2001 while adoption of Molobicus started later. Two hatchery farms emerged in 2010 in Catanduanes and Iloilo, under gender-responsive forms of management, scale of operation and goals. They produced and disseminated Molobicus fingerlings to farmers regardless of sex. The hybrid was an additional species to the primary fish, i.e., milkfish, either under monoculture or polyculture system that could provide an option in brackish water aquatic resources. Besides hatchery, one production farm managed by a woman prospered in the province of Pangasinan. Molobicus can stand high salinity up to 35ppt, respond better to natural food which impose lesser health risk, and acceptable to consumers. The economic and social impacts were more pronounced to one of the hatchery operations. The project’s investment was Php10.4 million. The total incremental benefit of producing Molobicus as additional species was positive beyond 2000, but the value decreased from 2011 to 2013 attributed to decreasing real prices of Molobicus and increasing real cost of production. Until 2013, incremental net benefit is not enough to recover the cost of investment.

The project produced a saline tolerant Molobicus, however, as of 2013 adoption and area of production for grow-out are still low that affected its return to investment despite being gender sensitive.

*Central Luzon State University
Involvement of Women in Coastal Resource Management in Binalbagan, Negros Island

Ruby Esparazoga*

Abstract

This study aimed to determine the extent of the involvement of women in the coastal resource management of the three coastal areas in Binalbagan Negros Occidental which were stratified and randomly selected. The data needed for this study were gathered through the descriptive-inferential research design, which were obtained by the use of Likert-type survey questionnaire on the extent of the involvement of women in the coastal resource management of the three coastal areas in Binalbagan, Negros Occidental. The statistical tools used were the frequency and percentage distribution, the weighted mean, the t-test for independent means and the Analysis of Variance. The findings of this study indicated that the profile of the respondents in terms of age, older grouped outnumbered the younger group, in this group of respondents, majority of them are housewives, their monthly income were low, majority of the families have less number of children but some of the couples have more number of children, majority of the respondents were married, most of them were in high school level. Findings on the second statement of the problem which is the extent of the involvement of women in the coastal resource management: On the coastal rehabilitation and management, enforce laws on coastal resource management, alternative livelihood, and the last category on information, education and communication. As a whole, it was interpreted as high extent. Findings on the third statement of the problem which is the significant difference in terms of the following indicators as coastal resources rehabilitation and management, on enforcement of laws in Coastal Resource Management, alternative livelihood, on information, education, and communication, all these indicators interpreted as not significant and the status of the hypothesis was accepted.

*College of Education, Carlos Hilado Memorial State College
Spatio-Temporal Analysis in Seaweed Gathering and Marketing in Selected Coastal Areas in Ilocos Norte, Philippines

Susan G. Aquino*

Abstract

The core of this study is to try to use an accounting framework on gender roles in the seaweed fishery for a rational resource management and in promoting gender sensitive seaweed fishery systems for sustainable community transformation and development. Hence, this study will map out human activities to depict the differentiated roles that men and women significantly play over time and space, that is, the spatio-temporal model in seaweed gathering and marketing.

While both gender can gather seaweeds in the supra and intertidal zones, only the males travel the subtidal zone and with the travel time spent, the females are confined in the nearby supra and intertidal zone. This is so because of the risk involved in travelling to the subtidal zone and it proved once more in the attitude of the respondents towards gender roles that “men are more risk takers”. In the study, there is that big gap in seaweed gathering at the subtidal zone. Still a men’s domain because they go there by boat. Some women said, “Saan kami met a mabuteng nga agbalsa, ngem nasapa da unay a rummuar, adu met pelang atendaran mi nga aktibidades ditoy uneg tibalay” (“we are not afraid in riding the boat to reach the subtidal zone, only, these men have to leave early, whereas, we still have to attend to our children and other household chores”)

It is also observed that while men are the sole seaweed gatherers at the subtidal zone, women take the burden in sorting, classifying and cleaning the gathered seaweeds alone and ultimately drying the seaweeds.

Marketing is done solely by the female group. This can be attributed to social and cultural factors handed down from generation that women normally do the selling of goods, thereby, the “treasurer” of the family.

*Mariano Marcos State University
Socio-Economic Analysis of Women’s Participation in Farming in Sibunag, Guimaras

Elba Joy Abad, Irish Krisselle Moscoso, and Gay Defiesta*

Abstract

This study analyzed various aspects of women’s participation in seaweed farming in Sibunag, Guimaras. The main objective is to look into the impacts of such participation on their income and wellbeing. A total of seventy-six women from the municipality were randomly selected as participants of the study. The analytical tools used were cost and returns analysis, logistic regression and gender analysis to answer the objective. Results show that women participate in seaweed farming depending on their status in the family and the number of tasks they perform in the household. Moreover, it was found out that seaweed farming provided them with positive income and better consumption. Amidst these positive effects, women engaged in seaweed farming are suffering from multiple burdens. It is recommended that policies should not only focus on addressing women’s practical gender need but also their strategic needs.

*Division of Social Sciences, University of the Philippines Visayas
Ang Babayi Kag Ang Sinsuro: Understanding the Role of Women in Sinsuro as Unsustainable Method of Fishing in Small-Scale Fishing Community at Pandan, Antique

Sergio Tolentino*

Abstract

This study focused on understanding the role of women in “sinsuro” (trawl fishing) as sustainable fishing method in a small-scale fishing community in the province of Antique. This descriptive study assessed the participation of women in fishing, equal opportunities for women in the fishing industry and the challenges/problems encountered by women in fishing.

The participants involved in this study were women residing at Brgy. Dumrog, Pandan, Antique, consisting of wives of fishermen and unmarried women. Data were gathered through a researcher-made questionnaire and an interview guide.

Results revealed that women's participation in sinsuro in a small-scale fishing community at Brgy. Dumrog, Pandan, Antique, includes fish processing, fish handling, marketing/fish-selling. Most of the women kept the earnings from selling fish. Women like their men counterpart, were given equal opportunities in the fishing industry, but they were not encourage to go fishing. It was found out that the common problems encountered by women in fishing that resulted to declining production were attributed to several factors, such as bad weather conditions, habagat, presence of other trawlers, increased numbers of fishermen and bad luck.
That’s my Spot! Local Fishing and Its Implications on Sandfish (Holuthuria Scabra) Sea Ranching in Pandaraonan, Guimaras

Jee Grace B. Suyo* and Jon P. Altamirano

The full study may be accessed at: http://repository.seafdec.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12066/1381/SP16-2.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

Abstract

Sandfish (Holuthuria scabra) has been classified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) as endangered because of uncontrolled commercial harvest. The Australian Centre for Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center/Aquaculture Department (SEAFDEC/AQD) has started a sea ranching project as an intervention for the enhancement of local sandfish population. This study was conducted to analyse the fishing activities and involvement of men and women in sandfish collection and trade and to determine factors that affect their willingness to participate in the sea ranching project.

Results of the survey conducted among sixty (60) households showed that both men and women were highly involved in fishing (87%). Majority of the men (87%) were operators and boat owners while the women assisted their husbands (60%) by accompanying them in fishing or by selling their catch. The respondents mostly targeted commercially valuable inshore fish species (e.g. Siganus spp.) but the reported catch composition of the women included more molluscs (e.g. Strombus spp.) than that of the men ($p < 0.05$). Sandfish collection and trade were also women-dominated ($p < 0.05$). Awareness of the project and the perceived benefits in participating were correlated with the respondents” interest in participating in the project.

*Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center/Aquaculture Department
In the Face of Climate Variability: The Women Squid Driers of Limasawa Island, Southern Leyte

Marieta B. Sumagaysay*

Abstract

Every day, the women squid driers of the island-town of Limasawa in the province of Southern Leyte struggle and scuffle with the impact of climate variability. They know that there may be rains on a sunny day, or a sunny spiel on a rainy day. They that the seasons no longer find their own usual timing during the year. “Nagabu-ang na ang panahon.” (The weather/season has gone berserk.)

The husbands have the same experience. Years back, the fishers would have a good catch when the moon is full. Today, they have to use blinker and dancing lights in order to catch squid. Volumes of catch are low. “Nangaba-og na ba ang mga nakos?” (Have the squid become infertile and sterile?)

The fishers mostly attribute the low squid catch to the variability in the weather. In this scenario, the women squid driers exert best efforts in order to maximize dried squid production derived from whatever volume of squid that is caught. How do they cope and adapt to climate variability? How do they ensure food on the table for their families, and an increase in their contributions to the household coffers? These concerns are crucial and urgent since squid drying, an economic activity in the island-town, is highly dependent on nature particularly the sun.

This paper looked into five dimensions to assess the adaptive capacity of the squid driers (ACCRA, 2010). These are the: asset base (household and community levels), institutions and entitlements, knowledge and information, innovation, and the flexible forward-looking decision making and governance. Results showed a weak adaptive capacity of the women squid driers and their households to climate variability. Hence, intervention variables for the value chain enablers are recommended, such that the women squid driers’ capacity to adapt to the variations in the weather/climate is strengthened and sustained.

*National Research Council of the Philippines, Department of Science and Technology
Does Income Matter in Empowering Women? Evidence from Small Scale Fisheries and Agriculture in Sebaste, Antique

Ritchie Ann Dionela, Jorilyn Tabuena and Gay Defiesta*

Abstract

Efforts toward development are futile if women remain left out of it. The development literature has long recognized that promoting women empowerment is crucial in reducing poverty and enhancing overall social well-being. Data on levels of women empowerment is important in guiding policies for women empowerment.

This research utilized the Five Domains of Empowerment (5DE) Index to measure levels of economic empowerment of women in agriculture and small-scale fisheries. A total of 199 study participants from Sebaste, Antique were selected through stratified random sampling. The main objective of the research was to determine how women fared in the five areas of empowerment, namely production, resources, income, leadership, and time.

Results show that women fishers are more economically empowered than women farmers. Further, results show that although income of women in agriculture is higher than those in fisheries, the latter scored higher in economic empowerment. It is recommended that government projects focused on enhancing women empowerment should give importance to factors other than income (e.g. membership in organization and leisure) to effectively promote of women empowerment. Further studies on measuring women’s empowerment using other tools should be pursued.

*University of the Philippines Visayas
The Empowered Mothers of the Flock of the Divine Mercy in Fish Kroepeck and Polvoron Making as Alternative Livelihood Projects

Jessy H. Maquirang, Romeo D. Catura, Lady Gem H. Maquirang, and Jean Rose H. Maquirang*

Abstract

This study ascertained the empowerment level of mothers of the Flock of the Divine Mercy in fish kroepeck and polvoron making as alternative livelihood projects. Conducted in January 2013, this descriptive research involved 60 participants from the Flock of the Divine Mercy in three barangays of Tibiao, Antique namely: Barangay San Isidro, Malabor and Santa Ana. A devised and validated questionnaire-checklist was used as data-gathering instrument. Data were analyzed using mean, t-test, one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient. The significance level for inferential tests was set at 0.05 alpha.

Study results revealed that mothers of the Flock of the Divine Mercy in barangay San Isidro, Malabor and Santa Ana, Tibiao, Antique were all very much empowered in fish kroepeck and polvoron making. No significant differences existed in empowerment level of mothers of the Flock of the Divine Mercy as to work/occupation and family income. Finally, the empowerment level of the mothers of the Flock of the divine Mercy was not significantly correlated in fish kroepeck and polvoron making.

*University of Antique-Tario Lim Memorial Campus
Fisheries Industry of Charru Mussel, *Mytella charruana* (D'Orbigny 1846) (Bivalvia: Mytilidae) in Dagupan City, Northern Philippines

*Lemark Bautista and Francis Albert T. Argente*

Abstract

The study was conducted to describe the fisheries of Charru mussel (*Mytella charruana*), a new emerging mussel species in the aquaculture and fishing priority zones of Dagupan City riverine system. A total of 28 respondents composed of mussel vendors and collectors were interviewed. Highest number of respondents interviewed was vendors with 20 (71.4%) and 8 (28.6%) are mussel collectors. Out of the 28 respondents, female constitute the largest number of respondents with 18 (64.3%) and only 10 males (35.7%). Majority of the respondents were married and most of them were high school graduates. According to the collectors and vendors of charru mussel, their daily income in collecting and selling mussel was 100 pesos. Handpicking was the most method of harvesting mussel. Charru mussels are mostly found attached to bamboo poles and stakes of fish pens and cages. Estimated volume of mussel put up for sale in the market was 10 – 20 kg. These were sold for about of 20 – 25 pesos per kilo. Results showed that this Charru mussel is a potential marketable mussel species in Dagupan City.
Assessment of Siganid Production in Selected Coastal Towns in Pangasinan

Ricardo A. De Guzman*

Abstract

The study was conducted to determine the respondents aqua business profile, the management employed in siganid production, harvesting practices, marketing practices, farm expenses. Respondents operated and managed mostly fishponds for growing siganids. Siganid growers prepared their ponds by draining and drying just after harvest. Most of them used fish seeds for grow out culture that were gathered from wild and fed them with “lumot” and commercial feeds. Total harvest was implemented using seining method and draining method. The marketing practice was mostly delivering of the produce to consignees, and they run their aqua-business using their personal savings. Natural calamities were the major problems observed.

* Pangasinan State University- Binmaley Campus
CONFERENCE WINNERS

Best Paper
Spatio-Temporal Analysis in Seaweed Gathering and Marketing in Selected Coastal
Susan G. Aquino, Mariano Marcos State University

Best Presentation
That’s my Spot! Local Fishing and Its Implications on Sandfish (Holuthuria Scabra) Sea
Ranching in Pandaraonan, Guimaras
Jee Grace Suyo, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

Best Poster
Fisheries Industry of Charru Mussel, Mytella charruana (D'Orbigny 1846) (Bivalvia:
Mytilidae) in Dagupan City, Northern Philippines
Lemark Bautista and Francis Albert T. Argente, Pangasinan State University- Binmaley
Campus

BOARD OF JUDGES

Dr. Nancy Surmieda,
Gender and Development Coordinator, West Visayas State University

Dr. Claire Marte,
Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center/Aquaculture Department

Dr. Ebonia Seraspe
Former Dean of UPV College of Arts and Sciences and former Vice Chancellor for Research
and Extension

OPEN FORUM

Questions and comments on Equality of Women and Men in Fisheries Management
Projects at SEAFDEC

- On women’s participation in projects involving cultural practices
  - As far as the data collected by the researcher from both men and women,
    when they tried to gather more information on fishing both men and women
    contributed. Women and men participate in the project because the issue
    they are concerned with is about gender and fisheries.
  - On the equality of income between men and women in the three countries included
    in the study
    - In the presenter’s opinion, studying income between men and women
      should be done separately as there is a difference on how men and women find
      income
Questions and comments on *Participation of People’s Organization in Water Project: An Initial Assessment of the Salintubig Project in Lambunao, Iloilo*

- On which part of the current project involves gender and fisheries
  - It is in the participation of both men and women. Based on the narratives of our POS, the concept of women’s advocacy goes beyond gender as per implementation. Both men and women should be given skills and knowledge in order to give more effect to the implementation of project.
- A comment was made stating that perhaps the study does not give any light on the differences between men and women in the project. The study may be focused more on the water project itself.

A decision was made by the organizing committee that two additional papers for this strand will be presented in order to make use of the time.

Questions and comments on *Women Empowerment for Economic Productivity in Coastal Communities*

- On the indicators of women empowerment in relation to economic activity.
  - Through the livelihood project and from the trainings given, the women have acquired more knowledge and skills. They were trained specifically in the post-harvest handling of seaweeds such as how to make bath soap and candies. The women have begun implementing what they have learned from these trainings. According to the questionnaires answered by participants 2 years after the project, there is an increase in the household income.
- On attempts to commercialize products.
  - The commercialization of the products is still ongoing. In fairs and exhibits held previously, some participants showed interest in the technology and were asking for the conversion or value of technology. However, the university was not able to confirm the amount. Hence, commercialization is still at the basis of ordering the product by an association, and these associations would then sell the products in their stores.
- On whether these activities are still ongoing.
  - The presenter confirmed that these activities are still going on for the reason that they are looking at the complete impact of women empowerment. The researchers are still assessing them quarterly so as to ensure product quality.

Questions and comments on *Food-Related Practices in Urban Coastal Areas: The Experience of 4Ps women in Coastal Villages in Iloilo City, Philippines*

- On the advantages and disadvantages of living in the coastal area.
  - There was no push factor to motivate the participants to get out of Iloilo City. They felt that there is always enough food, probably because they received these privileges from DSWD. This is not because of their proximity to the sea—none of them engage in fishing.
Questions and comments on *Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence Among Wives of Fishers*

- Clarification of gender internality as a cause of gender gap.
  In a very small community someone has a very strong opinion. In this case, many of the fishermen have low internality so they don’t express their opinion. They cannot oppose someone with a very strong opinion.

- Clarification of internality and other variables.
  ➢ There is a relationship between internality and the willingness of women to assert or speak up. If they can express their mind, then there would be no problem.

Questions and comments on *Economic Situation of Female-Headed Households: Comparing Fishing and Farming Households in Carles, Iloilo*

- On the comparison of the data with other studies
  ➢ The presenter was not able to compare the data with other studies.

- On the implications about poverty based on the study
  ➢ For women in farming, since it is more seasonal they have more alternative sources of income. For women in fishing, they have income as long as they can fish every day but these women do not have much sources of income other than depending on their husbands. The presenter proposed that perhaps this can be looked into in another study, since the current one is dependent on the data from the government. Unfortunately, some questions were not addressed while data was gathered. Perhaps a qualitative study for social capital or other variables.
  ➢ The differences in access to resources plus the absence of storage facilities for fishing: For crops, you can store them easier; for fish, they end up selling it at a lower price instead of risking fish to be spoiled.

- On the clarification of the defining female-headed household, whether this means women without husbands
  ➢ Either their husbands are away or the women are the ones managing the family’s resources.

- On how the researchers differentiated between a male headed and female headed family
  ➢ The presenter clarified that this was done through a survey hence it was self-reported data.

- A suggestion has been made that it would be reasonable and interesting to look at women who refer to themselves as a household head while their husbands are still around.
  ➢ The presenter agreed and added that this would be possible through an additional analysis of the husbands’ profile so they can look into factors such as occupation, age, and location of work.
Questions and comments on *Filipino Older Women in the Coasts: How Various Forms of Inequalities Intersect in their Lives*

- On how the results of the study may help support the sentiments of the people that the 12% VAT exemption for senior citizens be retained.
  - The presenter confirmed that the results may help support such sentiments. It has been established, through the study, that several members of their family also depend on these indigent elderly individuals.
- On whether these aged participants may also have their own success stories.
  - The success stories may be exceptions to the rule. The poor are everywhere, but these successful people have to be found, in relation to the nature of the population.

Questions and comments on *Gender Analysis through Modified Best Aquaculture Practices (M-Bap) for In Micro and Small-Scale Operators in Fish-Cage Aquaculture*

- On the integration of the framework from the three different countries
  - Representatives came from each of the countries to merge the three frameworks together, by highlighting and grouping together certain elements.
- On whether this is an ongoing project
  - The presenter clarified that data collection is still ongoing and that they are trying to propose the MBAP that is suitable for other countries. Those who are interested in extending such framework are welcome to contact the researchers.
- On the MBAP being the project of the university and if this will be implemented by the government
  - After the data gathering, the researchers plan to propose such framework to the government but admittedly, it will be a long process.

Questions and comments on *Integrating Gender in the Development of a Catch Documentation and Traceability System*

- A comment on the documentation system: The whole system is developed mainly for countries to export their products and there is nothing showing how this traceability could work for the locals.
  - In response, the presenter explained that the time is limited and does not allow them to show all levels of the documentation for traceability. However, the project itself is a regional project and the sites right now are Indonesia and the Philippines. It is a very difficult aspect that cannot be covered by only one kind of intervention.
- On tuna being the focus of the study
  - Tuna is currently the test species because of key data elements like export potential. However the researchers plan to apply this to other species as well.
Questions and comments on *Fish Processing Skills Training for the Housewives of Fisherfolks in Bataan: An Analysis*

- On the anchoring of the study in an extension program
  - The presenter confirmed that the study was indeed anchored in an extension program

- On the generated outputs from such program
  - The program has already generated outputs.

- On measures of levels of skills acquisition for the assessment of the effectiveness of the program
  - To demonstrate the effectiveness of the program, the following examples were enumerated by the presenter:
    - In the town of Bagak, a group has been put up by the fishers’ wives using the 25,000 Php so that the fish catch of their husbands will be put together and processed.
    - The housewives earned 1,000 Php each for their project of having one improvised oven for “tinapa” making, in an effort to process unsold fish

- On the validation or triangulation measures for data gathered through survey to make sure how the responses are in actual settings:
  - The presenter responded that the next study to be completed will address this issue. The present study stemmed from a previous study about mangroves which brought curiosity about the housewives of the fishermen.

- On where their products are usually being marketed and how the women came up with the amount of 2500 Php.
  - The amount of 2500 Php is minimal and they were requesting for an amount of 5,000 Php. However, there were difficulties in handing loans to the housewives. SUC’s are currently not allowed to grant loans. They are now in the process of finding counterparts to help them with the releasing of such budget.
  - As added by the presenter, they remind the fisher wives to pay back the loans as it is the government’s money. They are able to pay the loans slowly, primarily because of their other financial obligations.

- On securing the budget and legal basis for the extension work
  - From the presenter’s own experience, this is the first GAD approved program of the university. She was encouraged to prepare a proposal with women in particular as the beneficiaries. She further admitted that in the process of submitting her proposal, it was not strict at all because she was the very first to submit one. The participants were 4P’s beneficiaries beforehand but the DSWD has no budget for such projects.
Questions and comments on Impact Assessment of the Genetic Selection for Salinity Tolerant Tilapia through Hybridization (Molobicus)

- On the differences between the male and female roles of the growers
  - The female field personnel learned the methodology from her son, but she already had knowledge of milkfish aquaculture. Accordingly, there was no difference between the male and female roles as the female was already the head of the farm.
- On how many operators became successful after the hybrid has been produced
  - Of the 135, only 2 operators became successful and one continued to produce it. This was primarily because of the problem in finding the fingerlings.
- On whether this program is valuable and should be adopted by the country
  - The presenter emphasized that the problem is currently with the extension, dissemination, and promotion system of the technology.

They further recommend that the BFAR must come up with their own hatchery farms in order to maximize the volume. They believe that they are still not equipped with enough arms needed to disseminate the technology. One of which that they currently have is the Asian Fisheries Economy.

Questions and comments on Involvement of Women in Coastal Resource Management in Binalbagan, Negros Island

- On the correlations made between the socioeconomic profile and coastal resource, whether membership in organizations was taken into account in the process of measuring the variables
  - The presenter responded that membership in organizations was not considered.
- A participant further commented that it would be a good thing if their participation was requested by their respective organizations, in order to see how the organization can provide assistance to these women so they can participate more
- On the study’s focus on the productive role of women out of the three major criteria of gender roles, and if the reproductive, social, political roles were also covered by the study
  - According to the presenter, such roles were not included in the scope of the study
- On the composition of respondents, wherein all respondents are housewives but 73% were declared as having no occupations but are in fact housekeepers. This means they also serve different roles as in the paper, some were involved in cleaning and assisting. This claim of being a housekeeper is already a productive and reproductive role by women.
Mostly women or housewives are staying at home. So, they only help their husbands because their husbands are tired.

- On the clarification for the statement that these women are involved in coastal rehabilitations
  - The women are involved in mangrove planting, and also constructing structures

- A comment has been made in line with the previous question raised that the researcher should be specific on “participation” as stated in the title itself. It may describe involvement, but there was no specific activity with regards to the actual involvement of the women.

- On whether the activity is ongoing
  - The activity has ended but the researcher is planning on extending it.

- One of the judges suggested a gender responsive research where aside from gender involvement, the role of men and women and their integration will also be studied.
  - The researcher agreed and further stated that this is where GAD comes in, but one can already see the current gap in the roles.

- On the earlier mentioned factors related to involvement, specifically what type of statistical analysis was used to identify those factors
  - It is indicated in the researcher’s plan of action.

Questions and comments on Spatio-Temporal Analysis in Seaweed Gathering and Marketing in Selected Coastal Areas in Ilocos Norte, Philippines

- Whether the seaweeds gathered are edible and if Kappaphycus alvarezii can be cultured in their area.
  - The presenter answered that the most significant seaweed gathered was Porphyra, a type of seaweed usually known as nori, which is used in sushi making.

- If the seaweeds had high market value, perhaps they can concentrate on processing it.
  - The presenter answered that they also produce embutido and sushi.

- On product development and women’s engagement in promotion strategies, distribution, etc.
  - The study is just temporal, and they also have another study on the product development of seaweeds.

- On criteria in choosing respondents for the study.
  - The campuses covered either the northern or the southern areas of Ilocos Norte, depending on location. Only those households with both husband and wife present were included in the study.
Questions and comments on *Socio-Economic Analysis of Women’s Participation in Farming in Sibunag, Guimaras*

- On the type of seaweed cultivated in Guimaras.
  - The seaweed they are cultivating are Dikiotam chotomi and alvarezii.
- The presenter discussed their Cost Return Analysis. In relation to this, the inquirer would like to know if there are seaweed farmers who reported significantly low income.
  - The presenter confirmed that there are seaweed farmers with low income, however, that was their average income or profit based on their income within the year. Part of the reason for this is because seaweed farming is a seasonal activity.
- A member of the audience suggested that, based on the study’s conclusions, the researchers can also focus on seaweed health benefits aside from the income derived from seaweed farming.
- In the study, the women are still suffering from multiple burden. The study’s recommendations also do not directly address the issue. What activities or interventions should be introduced to relieve women of burden?
  - The presenter suggested that they may be able to organize campaigns on gender sensitivity as well as seminars on division of labor.
- On the differences in experiences of women engaged in seaweed farming vis-a-vis women who are not seaweed farmers, as well as coping strategies of women seaweed farmers.
  - Women seaweed farmers are engaged in more laborious activities. In the results, women seaweed farmers have five more working hours than non-seaweed farmers. Aside from community work, these women also perform reproductive work.
  - In order not to be burdened so much, these women strategize through scheduling their activities e.g. one day for seaweed farming, the next day for household work.
- On the specific activities of women seaweed farmers and their husbands.
  - The women are planting, cleaning, drying, and selling seaweeds.
  - The husbands may also help in the seaweed farm. They can also be fishing or farming.
- A suggestion from the audience was that the researchers may also look into the impact of these activities on the women’s health. Perhaps this can be added into the dimensions of the study.

Questions and comments on *Ang Babayi kag ang Sinsuro: Understanding the Role of Women in Sinsuro as Unsustainable Method of Fishing in Small-Scale Fishing Community at Pandan, Antique*

- On the specific involvement of women in sinsuro.
  - One of the respondents mentioned that she used to participate in sinsuro when she was younger. However, women are generally not involved in that method.
Instead, they participate in mending gears, processing, and post-harvest activities.

- A member of the audience suggested that in the recommendations section of the study, the presenter may include training the women on entrepreneurial management—teaching women to invest would help them have more security.
- Since women participate only in post-harvest activities, the inquirer would like to know if the fish being processed or marketed were also taken from sinsuro; if not, if there are other methods of fishing where women are more involved.
  - The presenter clarified that the particular title reflected in the program is not the original title. The corrected title is what he presented that morning.
  - Concerning the question on fish processing, the presenter answered that his study focused only on sinsuro. This is because women’s involvement in sinsuro is not documented. It is therefore high time to conduct research to verify women’s roles in such an activity. The presenter also added that based on observations, the women are only involved in traditional fish processing.
- Additional comment from the audience: We must also be more sensitive with the use of the term “fishermen,” since we are talking about gender.

Questions and comments on That’s My Spot! Local Fishing and Its Implications on Sandfish (Holothurip a scabra) Sea Ranching in Pandaraonan, Guimaras

- On the profitability of sand fishing to the women in terms of income.
  - The presenter could not answer yet because the project is still in its infancy. They are still conducting an experiment on whether sea ranching can be done in that particular area—the biological component of the study. It is only later on that they realized that the biological component is not enough in analyzing the data, hence, the social science component. Since the biological team is still working on their study on sea ranching, the presenter and her team could not work on studying the economic impact of sea ranching.
- On the sustainability of sand fish population in the area and its impact on the ability of the women to earn.
  - The population of sandfish in the area has already declined. The purpose of the research project is to increase the population of the sandfish, and consequently, the income of the community.

Questions and comments on In the Face of Climate Variability: The Women Squid Driers of Limasawa Island, Southern Leyte

- On the government intervention for village-level technology of the squid dryers
  - As far as the LGU is concerned, there is no intervention in terms of a drying common facility. There was a plan but until now, it has never been approved but they hope to receive assistance in the near future. This is mostly true for most GIDA’s where electricity only comes 5-6 hours controlled by a capitalist in each barangay. It is really difficult. Even when they have the usual drying
facility, electricity is the problem. Ironically, while squid is its icon, that icon does not go into the development plan.

- On the effect of open and close season policies of the government in Limasawa island
  ➢ Yes, these policies do have an effect.

**Questions and comments on Does Income Matter in Empowering Women? Evidence from Small-scale Fisheries and Agriculture in Sebaste, Antique, Philippines**

- On the proper term to use in reference to people involved in fishing e.g. fishermen, fisher women, fisher folk, etc.
  ➢ Literature would also use “fisher” to refer to fishermen and fisherwomen.

- On how the class of municipality determined.
  ➢ The income and population determines the class of the municipality. Based on the information provided by the LGU of Sebaste, it is considered as 4th class.

- Additional comment: There are income brackets when determining the class or rank of a municipality. The income of the municipality should go up so its rank would go up as well.

- On the occurrence of violence among fisher’s wives.
  ➢ Based on the data, the occurrence of violence was quite low—20% experienced nonphysical violence. The percentage is much lower in other forms of violence.
  ➢ This data is in relation to, or based upon, the population who experienced violence.

- On the common cause of violent behaviors of husbands towards their wives.
  ➢ A common precursor may be that the husband has control issues—he does not want his wife to meet friends, family, etc. However, we could not really say what exactly it is. The causes may be better captured by qualitative research

- On why income is correlated inversely with presence of nonphysical violence.
  ➢ If the relationship expectations go up, then dissatisfaction levels may go up, in relation to income. It has been found that higher income households are more likely to commit IPV than poor households.

**Questions and comments on The Empowered Mothers of the Flock of the Divine Mercy in Fish Kroepkek and Polvoron Making as Alternative Livelihood Projects**

- On how fish polvoron and kropek production was chosen as the skill with which the participants will be trained on.
  ➢ Before conducting the training, a survey was first administered to the mothers at the Divine Mercy. In the survey, the participants were to choose the product that they wanted to learn how to make. The options were kropek making and one other product. The participants chose the former.

- On the shelf life of fish polvoron and its storage quality
  ➢ The shelf life is for 2 months and the storage quality depends on the way the product is handled.
• On how kropek and polvoron making empowered the mothers from the Divine Mercy.
  ➢ The mothers realized that they can indeed make money with little resources needed.
• On the construction and administration of the survey for empowerment on kropek and polvoron.
  ➢ The scale is a 15-item, Likert-type checklist with a scoring range of 1 to 4, 1 = not empowered and 4 = very much empowered. The scale was interpreted by looking at mean scores. A sample question from the scale is, “I am very enthusiastic to work in fish polvoron.”
  ➢ In order to ensure that the participants understood the scale, the questions were explained in Kinaray-a.

Suggestion to make the product more competitive: Improve the packaging and present a nutrient analysis, or nutritional value, on the label.
One of the participants shared that their institution is very inclined towards GAD. She asked as to what the core objective of GAD is. In their institution, employees are required to attend seminars. The 5% budget allotted for GAD is not fully consumed, especially in SUC’s. People want to initiate action but they don’t know what to do specifically. What will happen if the 5% budget is not fully spent?

- There is a DBM guideline, joint with NEDA and BFAR, and this may be noncompliance with such requirement, GAD is not a separate budget, so we are teaching how to mainstream this budget in our plans and programs. Sometimes, the problem is we do not know how to compute for the implementation of the project. If we know how to compute, then the utilization of 5% would not be a problem.

What is the new task of women in terms of fisheries?

- The direction is still on conservation and protection of fisheries resources; balancing, production and protection. There is really no change in policy between Duterte and Aquino administration with regard to fisheries. But the focus of BFAR is conservation, protection, law enforcement of fishery rules and regulations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institutions/Organizations</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aklan State University</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bataan Peninsula State University</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BFAR 1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BFAR 2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BFAR 3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BFAR 4 B</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BFAR 6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BFAR 9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BFAR 13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BFAR ARMM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BFAR Central Office</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capiz State University</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Luzon State University</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlos Hilado Memorial State College-Binalbagan</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University-North La Union</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Visayas State University</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iloilo Science and Technology University-Miagao</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariano Marcos State University-Batac</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Iloilo Polytechnic State College</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGU-Leyte, Provincial Agriculture Office</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGU-Roxas City, City Agriculture Office</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pangasinan State University</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCAARRD-DOST Central Office</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East Asian Fisheries Development Center</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Luzon State University</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Tokyo</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Antique</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universiti Putra Malaysia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Southern Mindanao</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID Oceans</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Philippines University</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of the Philippines Visayas</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker/Guests/Judges</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
<td><strong>61</strong></td>
<td><strong>76</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional attendees during the conference were the Board of Directors of WINFISH and Working Committees.
### CONFERENCE PROGRAM

#### DAY 1: SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker/Head</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00-9:15</td>
<td>Registration/Display of Posters/Exhibits/Products</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15-9:30</td>
<td>Untying of Ribbon and Opening of Exhibits/Products</td>
<td>Dr. Crispino A. Saclauso Dean, CFOS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Led by: Dr. Crispino A. Saclauso</td>
<td>University of the Philippines-Visayas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30-9:45</td>
<td>Prayer</td>
<td>Prof. Alice Prieto-Cardino Committee Head, WINFISH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Philippine National Anthem</td>
<td>WINFISH Secretariat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:35-9:45</td>
<td>Welcome Remarks</td>
<td>Dr. Remia A. Aparri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Regional Director, BFAR VI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45-10:05</td>
<td>Messages</td>
<td>Dr. Rommel A. Espinosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chancellor, UP Visayas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:05-10:10</td>
<td>Acknowledgment of Participants</td>
<td>Dr. Mary Barby Badayos-Jover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Secretary, WINFISH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:10-10:20</td>
<td>Intermission Number</td>
<td>UPV Hublag Dance Troupe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:20-10:35</td>
<td>Introduction of the Keynote Speaker</td>
<td>Dr. Ida Josephine ML Siason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Founding President, WINFISH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:35-10:50</td>
<td>Keynote Address</td>
<td>Dr. Crispino A. Saclauso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dean, CFOS, UP Visayas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:50-10:55</td>
<td>Presentation of Token and Certificate of Appreciation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:55-11:25</td>
<td>Launching of WINFISH Website</td>
<td>Dr. Rowena Paz L. Gelvezon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Treasurer, WINFISH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:25-11:35</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
<td>Dr. Rosario H. Asong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00-1:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Vice President, WINFISH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EMCEE:** Dr. Mary Barby P. Badayos-Jover (UP Visayas)

**PAPER PRESENTATION**
1:00-1:10 Reading of Criteria for Judging
1:10-1:20 Introduction of Judges

STRAND 1: Innovations and New Technologies
Session Chair:
1:20-1:35 Paper 1 Fish Processing Skills Training for the Housewives of Fishers in Bataan: An Analysis by Felicisima E. Tungol
1:35-1:50 Paper 2 Gender Analysis Through Modified Best Aquaculture Practices (M-Bap) For in Micro and Small-scale Operators in Fish-Cage Aquaculture by Zakiah Andun
1:50-2:05 Paper 3 Impact Assessment of the Genetic Selection for Salinity tolerant of Tilapia through Hybridization (Molobicus) by Maria Excelsis M. Orden, by Luzviminda M. Galang, Danilo S. Vargas, Janet O. Saturno, Ronaldo D. Malaca, Bismark E. Francisco

2:05-2:25 OPEN FORUM

STRAND 2: Fisheries Law, Policies and Water Governance
Session Chair: Dr. Liah Catedrilla
2:30-2:45 Paper 1 Equality of Women and Men in Fisheries Management Projects at SEAFDEC by Jariya Sornkliang
2:45-3:00 Paper 2 Integrating Gender in the Development of a Catch Documentation and Traceability System by Arlene Nietes Satapornavit
3:00-3:15 Paper 3 Involvement of Women in Coastal Resource Management in Binalbagan, Negros Island Philippines by Ruby Esparazoga
3:30-3:45 Paper 5 The Participation and Role of Men and Women in Mangrove Rehabilitation in the Province of Antique by Romeo D. Caturao, Jose N. Magbanua, Jr., Gani Sebastian, Michel Atilano
3:45-4:05 OPEN FORUM

6:30 Welcome Dinner / Fellowship sponsored by BFAR
DAY 2: SEPTEMBER 29, 2016
7:00-8:00 Registration
8:30-9:00 PLENARY LECTURE
Status of Gender Mainstreaming in BFAR: An Update
Ms. Mildred Mercene Buazon
OIC BFAR Administrative Division

**Strand 3: Inclusive Business Models for Fisheries-Related MSMES**
Session Chair: Ms. Erlinda Puy, BFAR 9


9:50-10:00 **OPEN FORUM**

**Strand 4: Indigenous Knowledge and Practices**
Session Chair: Prof. Moniq Muyargas

10:00-10:15 Paper 1 *Ang Babayi Kag ang Sinsuro: Understanding the Role of Women in Sinsuro as Unsustainable Method of Fishing in Small-scale Fishing Community at Pandan, Antique* by Sergio Tolentino

10:15-10:30 Paper 2 *Food-related Practices in Urban Coastal Areas: The Experiences of 4Ps women in the Coastal Villages in Iloilo City, Philippines* by Feljean C. Cagape, Maria Theresa B. Vargas, Nicanor L. Escalera, Mark Rey Neil C. Soliva, Lawrence A. Lorenzo, and Rhodella Ibabao

10:30-10:45 Paper 3 *That’s My Spot! Local Fishing and Its Implications on Sandfish (Holothuria scabra) Sea Ranching in Pandaraonan, Guimaras* by Jee Grace B. Suyo, Jon P. Altamirano

10:45-11:00 Paper 4 *Understanding the Factors Influencing the Utilization of Maternal Health Services by Female Household Heads in Carles* by Cristabel Rose Parcon, Maria Elisa Baliao, Vicente Balinas

11:00-11:20 **OPEN FORUM**

12:00-1:00 **LUNCH**

**Strand 5: Vulnerabilities, Hazards and DRR**
Session Chair: Dr. Ida Siason

1:05-1:20 Paper 1 *In the Face of Climate Variability: The Women Squid Driers of*
Limasawa Island, Southern Leyte by Marieta Sumagaysay


1:35-1:50 OPEN FORUM

"Strand 6: Life and Livelihoods in Fishing Communities
Session Chair: Prof. Rhodella Ibabao"

1:55-2:10 Paper 1 Community-Based Mangrove Rehabilitation and Aquasilviculture: A Fishery Livelihood and Resource Conservation Project in Davao del Norte by Rosie Lynn P. Tejada, Cyril Tom B. Ranara, Rosario B. Saligan

2:10-2:25 Paper 2 Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence Among Wives of Fishers by Cristabel Rose Parcon


2:55-3:10 Paper 5 Extent of Participation of Rural Women in Fishing Community: Approaches towards Sustainable Livelihood by Wilfredo J. Nicolas

3:10-3:25 Paper 6 Filipino Older Women in the Coasts: How Various Forms of Inequalities Intersect in their Lives by Bernice Vania Landoy and Alice Prieto-Carolina

3:25-3:40 Paper 7 The Empowered Mothers of the Flock of the Divine Mercy in Fish Kroepke and Polvoron Making as Alternative Livelihood Projects by Maquirang, Caturao, Baldonasa

3:40-4:15 OPEN FORUM

5:00-700 WINFISH Assembly Meeting
President’s Report
Treasurer’s Report
Elections of Officers for 2016-2018
Chaired by Dr. Marieta Sumagaysay, WINFISH President 2016-2018

DAY 3: SEPTEMBER 30, 2016
7:45 Assembly: College of Management Building, UPV City Campus
8:00 Field Trip to SEAFDEC, CFOS, Miagao
CONFERENCE STEERING COMMITTEE

Overall Chair: Dr. Mary Barby P. Badayos-Jover
Members: Prof. Cristabel Rose Parcon
         Prof. Alice Prieto-Carolino
         Arch. Luis Rabut
         Ms. Evelyn Tidon
         Dr. Liah Catedrilla
         Dr. Rowena Paz Gelvezon
         Prof. Moniq Muyargas
         Dr. Gay Defiesta

Program and Invitation Committee
Chair: Prof. Liah Catedrilla
Co-Chair: Prof. Alice Prieto-Carolino
Members: Prof. Caridad Jimenez
         Dr. Rhodella Ibabao
         Ms. Lenilyn Gallos
         Ms. Rose Mueda
         Prof. Leticia Ami

Tokens and Certificates Committee
Chair: Prof. Cristabel Rose Parcon
Co-Chair: Ms. Juvy Janeo
Members: Ms. Lea Papilota
         Ms. Lucy Granada

Registration Committee
Chair: Prof. Moniq Muyargas
Co-Chair: Prof. Oveta Villareal
Members: Ms. Elizabeth Salgado
         Ms. Helen Fernandez
         Ms. Aniceta Alingasa
         Ms. Augil Marie Robles

Technical & Physical Arrangement Committee
Chair: Ms. Evelyn Tidon
Co-Chair: Ms. Melanie Calcaben
Members: Ms. Leilanie Geduspan
         Ms. Helen Monteclaro
         Ms. Thyrza Cababasay

Conference Kits/Posters
Chair: Dr. Mary Barby P. Badayos-Jover
Co-Chair: Dr. Rowena Paz Gelvezon
Members: Ms. Annabel Escarza
         Ms. Raquel Ningas
         Ms. Dana Lee Durana
         Ms. Jasmine Faca
         Mr. Annee Lloyd Leysa
         Ms. Elvira Defensor
         Ms. Nenita Bearmeza

Reception and Publicity Committee
Chair: Prof. Alice Prieto-Carolino
Co-Chair: Ms. Mary Lynen Fernandez
Members: Ms. Anna Razel Ramirez
         Ms. Milyn Leghid
         Ms. Mary Lee Nulada
         Dr. Bella Grace Barrera

Conference Papers
Chair: Dr. Gay Defiesta
Co-Chair: Dr. Rhodella Ibabao
Members: Prof. Hanny John Mediodia
         Prof. Marshaley Baquiano
         Ms. Liberty Napilan
WINFISH CONFERENCE STEERING COMMITTEE

Overall Chair: Marieta B. Sumagaysay

Members:

Ida M.L. Siason  
Rosario H. Asong  
Mary Barby P. Badayos-Jover  
Rowena Paz L. Gelvezon  
Joselito Mendoza  
Dalisay Fernandez  
Alice Prieto-Carolino  
Esmeralda Paz Manalang  
Remia Aparri  
Janice Ragus

WINFISH Secretariat:

Beatriz Gequiñana  
Annabel Escarza  
Dana Lee Durana  
Jasmine Faca  
Anne Lloyd Leysa  
Denise Tumogdan  
Jane Bernadette Sansolis  
Raquel Ningas  
Maria Aimee Sobrevega  
Marian Jill Abeto  
Yedda Blanza  
Joel Abalayan  
Cleobelle Joy Buñag
Dr. Marieta Sumagaysay proceeded with the presentation of the draft of the WINFISH Declaration on “Promoting Inclusive Development for Women and Men in Aquaculture and Fisheries.” It was opened for comments from both the members and the participants. The general body agreed that it reflects the sentiments of WINFISH.

**WINFISH Declaration on Promoting Inclusive Development for Women and Men in Aquaculture and Fisheries**

We, the participants of the 8th National Research Conference on Gender and Fisheries in Iloilo City, Philippines, have come together to share knowledge and experiences on the theme, “Promoting Inclusive Development for Women and Men in Fisheries and Aquaculture,” in keeping with the declared vision, mission and objectives of the WINFISH. As academic scholars and researchers, community extension workers, gender advocates, and government planners/policy makers, we believe that inclusive development efforts are crucial in pursuing pro-poor goals, which means among others, the equitable creation between men and women of productive employment opportunities in fisheries and aquaculture, and the breaking-free from the cycle of hunger of fishing households. WINFISH is embarking on initiatives that will expand its membership, strengthen partnerships with various stakeholders, and enhance research capabilities in order to use science-based information to address gender concerns in the fisheries and aquaculture. WINFISH, together with the 16 male and 50 female participants of the 8th National Research Conference on Gender and Fisheries hereby declares to:

1. Improve data collection systems to reflect the various dimensions of gender in fisheries and aquaculture
2. Use social media as a platform to complement conventional modes of discourse towards deepening knowledge sharing and heightening awareness on inclusive development for women and men in fisheries and aquaculture.
3. Facilitate research collaboration along inclusive development frameworks and metrics that are region-focused, community-based, and interdisciplinary
4. Continuously nurture and mentor gender specialists and gender advocates with particular lens on inclusive development processes, roles, and relationships
5. Increase initiative for gender research translation for the use of government policymakers, for the small-scale fishers and other players of the fishery value chains, and for the fisheries universities and colleges in the country Done this 29th day of September 2016, Iloilo City.
Dr. Rowena Paz L. Gelvezon presented the official WINFISH website with domain name www.womeninfisheriesph.org to the participants during the opening program. The launching of website will help the members and those interested in gender and fisheries acquainted with the activities, updates and conferences of the organization.
CONFERENCE PICTURES
The third day was devoted to a visit to two major fisheries institutions – the UP Visayas College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (CFOS) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Center (SEAFDEC). Before reaching the municipality of Miag-ao where UPVCFOS is located, the participants were introduced to some significant places along the way like the Molo Church which is the only church in the Philippines where all the saints are women; Molo district being the birthplace of Pura Villanueva Kalaw a leading figure in the Philippine suffragist movement and the Avancena sisters who founded the first school for girls in the region; Villa district which is the flower village of Iloilo and the place of Sofia Reyes one of the leading Philippine suffragists and founder of the first school of nursing in the Philippines located in Bacolod; and Oton, one of the earliest seats of Christianity in the region but which also produced the earliest revolutionaries who revolted against the Spaniards. We dropped by Tigbauan church to admire its stone mosaic motif and its architecture patterned after European churches. Upon reaching Miagao, we dropped by a world heritage site, the church of Miagao which is famous for its belfry (the canons are gone) which served as lookout for Moslem invaders during the Spanish colonial rule and known for its Asian-inspired façade.

Upon reaching the UPV campus we went directly to the Museum of Natural Sciences which houses the university’s collection of fisheries-related artefacts and fish preserves. The participants were given an orientation of the thrusts of the Museum. We also went to classroom-cum-laboratories of the Institute of Fish Processing Technology located along the shoreline, and to the various hatcheries and vats for fingerlings of the Institute of Aquaculture. Some ongoing researches are being funded by the Department of Science and Technology. Lunch was served at the Conference room of the new administration building.

Then we went back to the city passing by SEAFDEC for a film-showing on SEAFDEC’s projects and achievements, enjoyed the sights of the Fish museum and had a long exposure to the 37 year old sabalos in the bangus breeding station while gaining information from a woman, Ms. Bernardita E. Eulberan, senior research technician and hatchery manager of the integrated Marine Fish Hatchery Complex. Before going back to the hotel, we passed by the unfinished Mega World commercial complex, Iloilo’s latest infrastructure landmark.
FIELDTRIP