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Analysis of Socioeconomic Profile of Rural Fishers in Northern Part of Surigao Del Sur, Philippines

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Abstract: The profilistics study on the socio-economic status of the rural fishers in Northern part of Suirgao del Sur, Philippines was studied during 2015. The 391 rural fishers was considered as respondent. Self-made questionnaire was given to the respondent accompanied by formal interview to validate answer. The result of the study revealed that fishing is not exclusively for male (94%) but also for female (6%) at age ranges from 41 yrs. old and above. It was also found out that their fishing income per month was only below 5,000 pesos but most of them have other income. On further analysis, it was found out that majority of the respondents used more than one gear however most of them used this common gear the gill nets (54.55%).It pointed out that high cost of fishing gears, high cost of craft, non-availability of baits, presence of typhoon, presence of commercial fishing, less market prices and less catch were found to be their problems. Furthermore, it is therefore recommended that to raise the income of local fishers the government should address those problems especially the presence of commercial fishers, the unstable market price and at the same time educate them with the new fishing activities.

Key words: Fishermen Profile · Fishing Gears · Fishers Income

INTRODUCTION

Archipelago that is made up of 7,107 islands, the Philippines enjoy the wideness of the oceans and seas that boarder its peripheral territories. Suffice to say that the country is truly blessed with its bounty of natural resources thriving in these water bodies. Since time, fishing has been an important source of livelihood for Filipinos, fish becomes country's second staple food next to rice [1]. During the past decades, fishers enjoyed the abundance of marine fishery resources [2]. In 2012, the Philippines ranked 7th among the top fish producing countries in the world with its total production of 4.87 million metric tons of fish, crustaceans, mollusks and aquatic plants [3]. Province of Surigao del Sur contributed 4,000 metric tons of tuna production. However, population in the province has grown significantly and with this, the demand for basic commodities has increased. Study of socio-economic status is important factor for sustainable management and enhancement fish production as well as uplifting the rural fisher economy [4]. This present study would like to investigate the current status of the local fishermen in the area and to identify the problems encountered. Decision makers can use the socio economic data to better understand the coastal environmental and the human interactions and uses that affect it [5].

Study of Basavakumar *et al*. [6] fishers were classified into full time, part time and occasional, depending on the number of fishing days they undertake in a year. According to FAO [7] assessment, out of 1.9 million people engaged in either full time, part time and seasonal fishing about 98% belongs to the small scale sector. Rural fishers sometimes imply the use of family labor and limited investments, although small scale fisheries are generally taken to mean any non-industrial fisheries, some are semi industrial. Small scale fisheries have been variously described in the literature. According to Mathew [8] cited by Olantunji and Olah [9] that small scale fisheries are used to characterize those fisheries that were mainly non-mechanized with low level of production. However, they are the predominant fishery in tropical developing countries [10].

Furthermore, this information helps to identify coastal areas that may be at risk of overexploitations and to design appropriate conservation strategies that will not threaten the livelihood of the fisherman [11].

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

A survey was conducted to assess the standing conditions of socioeconomic profile of the respondents. A self-made questionnaire was used accompanied with formal interview to validate the answer. The data were directly collected from the respondent. Simple percentage and weighted mean were calculated. The study was undertaken in Northern part of Surigao del Sur, Philippines in the year 2015 covering of total fishermen population of 391. The area is located facing the Pacific Ocean.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 reveals that out of 391 respondents 94% of them were male and 6% were female. This finding shows that fishing is not exclusively for male but also for females and as to age it tells that fishing carried out by majority at age of 41 yrs. old and above with a percentage of 55.37 %. It was noted too that most of the fishermen or fisherwomen has a 7 and above number of dependents at 48.28%. In terms of educational attainment majority were at the elementary level or elementary graduate (66.86%) and the 3.57% of the respondent has no education at all. Most of them had a fishing experience of 11 years and above (66.67%). The 71.69% of the fishermen or fisherwomen inherited their fishing knowledge from their ancestors.

Table 2 shows the household income per month, fishing income per month and their other sources of income. Forty three point eighty six percent of the respondent their income ranges at 5,001.00 to 10,000.00 pesos per month. In terms of fishing income per month most of the respondent have income below 5,000.00 pesos. Other source of income of the respondent 30.65% of them engages in agriculture and day labor. This implies that fishing alone cannot suffice the needs of the fisherman as shown in the table.

Table 3 presents the housing condition, drinking and electric facilities and sanitation of the respondents. Nature of house indicates the condition of the fishers and the study revealed that 79.63% of the respondents were living at gov't. owned or private areas and was made only of wood (82.14%). However, majority of them or 53.45% has a drinking facilities connected by the government (Water district) and 100 percent has electricity. As to sanitation the study found out that there were still fishers who have no toilets (3.71%). This indicates that majority of the respondent live in the squatter's area because they cannot afford to buy their own lots as shown in Table 2.

Table 1: Profile of the respondent in terms of Sex, Age, Number of Dependents, Educational Attainment, Fishing Experience and Sources of Fishing Experience

Particulars	Percentage(%)
Sex	
Male	94
Female	6
Age	
Up to 20 yrs old	8.92
21-40 yrs old	35.71
41 yrs old and above	55.37
Number of Dependents	
3 below	20.97
4-6	30.65
7 and above	48.38
Educational Attainment	
None	3.57
Elementary level/graduate	67.86
High school Level/graduate	21.43
College level /graduate	7.14
Fishing Experience	
5 yrs and below	12.28
6-10 yrs	21.05
11 yrs and above	66.67
Source of Fishing Knowledge	
Inheritance	71.69
Trainings	28.31

Table 2: Profile of the respondent in terms of Household Income, Fishing Income and Other Sources of Income

Particulars	Percentage (%)
Household Income/Month (Pesos)	
Above 15,000.00	5.27
10,001.00-15,000.00	12.28
5,001.00-10,000.00	43.86
Below 5,000.00	38.59
Fishing Income/Month (Pesos)	
Above 15,000.00	1.89
10,001.00-15,000.00	3.77
5,001.00-10,000.00	43.40
Below 5,000.00	50.44
Other Sources of Income	
None	28.65
Agriculture	30.65
Day Labor	30.65
Other: Driving, Buy and Sell	10.40

Table 3: Profile of the respondent in terms of housing condition, drinking and electric facilities and sanitation

Particulars	Percentage (%)
Housing Condition	
Gov't or private Owned	79.63
Owned	20.37
Made of;	
Wood	82.14
Cement	12.50
Bamboo	5.36
Drinking Facilities	
Own with pump	36.21
Government Water District	53.45
Deep well	10.34
Electricity Facilities	
With electric	100
With- out electric	0
Sanitation	
With toilets	96.29
Without toilets	3.71

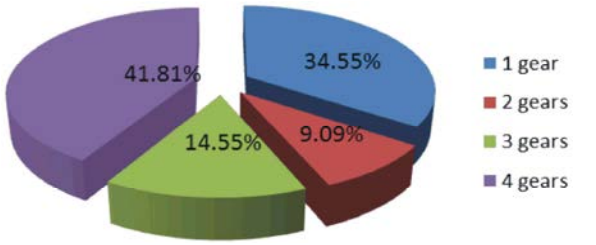

Fig. 1: Number of Gears Used by the Respondents

Figure 1 presents the number of gears used by the respondents and it shows that most of the respondents have use more than one gear for their fishing and majority of them used the gill nets as shown in figure 2 as their gear in fishing because this is the most common method, at low cost and not specific to any individual species, this net catches all varieties of fish meanwhile the least percentage gear used by the respondent is by using the spears. In figure 3 shows the fishing intensity of the respondents and majority of them only at the range of 4-6 days (55.55%) followed by everyday (37.04%) and the remaining are on the range of 1-3 days (7.41%).

As to their vices, figure 4 revealed that most of the fishers were into drinking liquor (74.55%) and smoking (63.64%). These two vices were very common due to coldness while fishing but there were few fishers who have no vices (18.18%) and lastly some of the fishers were engaged in gambling (10.91%).

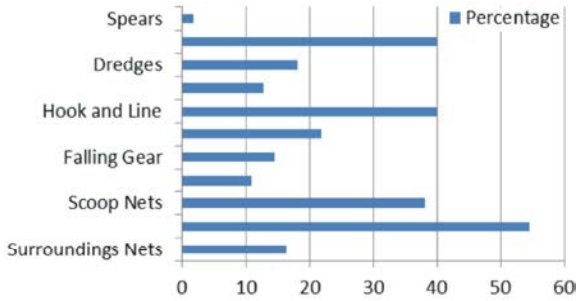

Fig. 2: Types of gears used by the respondents

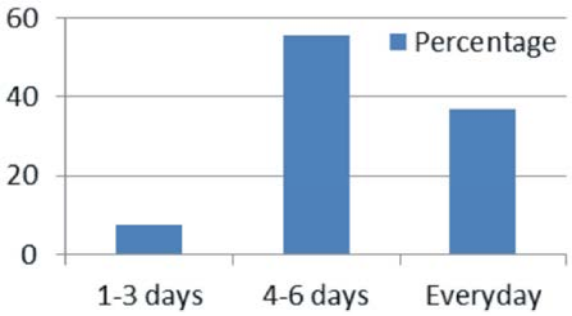

Fig. 3: Fishing Intensity of the Respondents

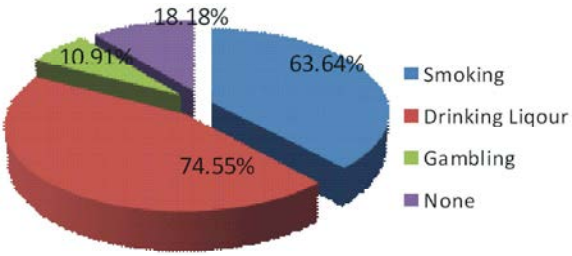

Fig. 4: Vices of the respondents

Table 4: Problems Encountered related to Fishing by the respondents

Problems Encountered	Weighted Mean	Qualitative Description
High Cost of fishing Gears	2.26	High
High Cost of Craft	2.39	High
Non Availability of Baits	2.04	High
High Cost of Transportation	1.69	Moderate
Lack of Credit Assistance	1.69	Moderate
Poor Fish Handling and Processing Equipment	1.46	Moderate
Lack of Storage Facilities	1.81	Moderate
Lack of education on new fishing activities	1.72	Moderate
Presence of Typhoon	2.28	High
Presence of Commercial Fishing	2.05	High
Less Market Price	2.41	High
Less Catch	2.46	High

Table 4 shows the problems encountered of the respondent related to fishing and it pointed out that high cost of fishing gears, high cost of craft, non-availability of baits, presence of typhoon, presence commercial fishing and less market prices and less catch were found to be their most problems and this has a qualitative description of high with 2.26, 2.39, 2.04, 2.28, 2.05, 2.41 and 2.46 respectively. Meanwhile, high cost of transportation (1.69), lack of credit assistance (1.69), poor fish handling (1.46), lack of storage facilities (1.81) and lack of education on new fishing activities (1.72) was their main problem.

CONCLUSION

The result of the study indicated that most fishers in the area were dominantly men, age ranges 41 yrs old and above, at least elementary level. Fishing knowledgewas inherited through their ancestors typically by traditional way. Problems encountered by the respondents were the high cost of fishing gears, high cost of craft, non-availability of baits, presence of typhoon, presence of commercial fishing, less market prices and less catch. It is therefore recommended that in order to raise the income of local fishers the government should address those problems mentioned especially the presence of commercial fishers and the unstable market price and at the same time educate them with the new fishing activities.

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