

## ***SOCIAL SCIENCES DIVISION***

### **AN INITIAL STUDY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE IRISAN DUMPSITE**

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The study aims to present more concrete data on the effects of Baguio City's sole garbage dumpsite in Barangay Irisan on the water supply of low-lying communities. It also seeks to provide data on the economic benefits that the residents may be gaining from the dumpsite. These results will hopefully assist policymakers and other people concerned in dealing with the dumpsite relocation issue.

Results of physiochemical and coliform analysis of water samples from the Irisan tunnel over a ten-month period show that the water is unsuitable for human consumption. The mean values for all the parameters determined in the study were compared with those which support a "Class A" type of water supply. The results of bacteriological and residual chlorine tests strongly suggest the need for disinfection and for other types of treatment as prescribed by the NSDW of the Philippines for "Class A" waters.

A random survey of 52 households (approximately 12% of the total number of households) in Barangay Irisan shows that the economic gains from the dumpsite are mainly due to scavenging and recycling opportunities. The survey results further indicate that the major issues of concern of the residents are centered not on the environmental conditions that prevail in the area and the effects of these on the health of the residents but more on economic needs.

## **A COMMUNICATION STRATEGY TO STRENGTHEN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN SOUTHERN PALAWAN**

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The authors sought to prepare a communication strategy plan for agricultural cooperatives in four municipalities and one city in the southern province of Palawan, namely: Aborlan, Narra, Quezon, Brooke's Point, and the city of Puerto Princesa. The socio-economic and demographic characteristics, the communication-related characteristics, and psychological characteristics of the respondents were studied to find out if these were related to the present knowledge, attitudes, and practices of the respondents regarding cooperatives. The suggestions of the respondents on how to improve the cooperative program were also looked into in this study.

Three hundred respondents were surveyed using a pretested questionnaire from December 1994 to May 1995. The responses were coded and analyzed using frequency counts, means, and percentages. Knowledge and practice were measured using a Likert scale of 3 to 1 with 3 labeled as "fully practiced"; 2, "slightly practiced"; and 1, "not practiced". On the other hand, attitude was measured using the same scale of 3 to 1 with 3 labeled as "strongly agree"; 2, "neutral"; and 1, "strongly disagree". The Chi-Square Test of significance at 10 percent level was used to determine relationship among variables.

Results revealed that the average age of the respondents was 40 years, majority were male, married, had some formal education, and had an average monthly income of P2,320.

Radio, magazines, newspapers, television, and comics were the most available mass media communication channels. The respondents had very limited sources of cooperative information, hence they felt a great need for information on cooperative management, bookkeeping and accounting, values education, and cooperative profit-sharing. They considered radio, interpersonal sources, television, and comics as credible sources of information. However, they preferred radio, interpersonal sources, and pamphlets as sources of information on cooperatives. The respondents further expressed a need for re-education on the concepts and operations of cooperatives, and majority believed that the cooperatives program would be successful.

The respondents generally have relatively high knowledge and practice levels on cooperatives and favorable attitudes.

Findings also revealed that there was no relationship, between the respondents' socio-economic and demographic characteristics, communication-related characteristics, and their present knowledge, attitude, and practice regarding

cooperatives. However, perception of the success of the cooperatives program was significantly related to knowledge, attitude, practice.

Based on the findings, a communication strategy which is audience-oriented, need-oriented, and resource-oriented was formulated. It is hoped that this strategy will strengthen the agricultural cooperatives in Southern Palawan.

## **THE LUMADS OF MINDANAO: BELIEF SYSTEM AND FOLKLORE\***

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This is a study of the extent of folklore awareness and knowledge of ethnic tribes around Mt. Apo National Park. It describes the influence of cultural integration of the natives with mainstream ethnolinguistic groups and vice versa with regards to their belief systems and folklore.

Qualitative and quantitative methods of investigation were used. To confirm the folkloricity of some data, a vertical test and/or a horizontal spread test were/ was applied.

Results showed marked awareness of indigenous myths on creation among the Matigsalog, the B'laan, the Ata, the Manobo, the Ubo, and the Tagabawa tribes. This was observed among the Guiangan, the Tagaculo, and the T'boli to a slight extent.

A similar trend is noted with regards to awareness of other folklore: legends, folktales, fables, folksongs, riddles, and proverbs.

Knowledge of indigenous folklore had deteriorated in all study tribes, with less than half (41.8%) of respondents admitting knowledge about it and only 37% of them admitting that there are tribal people who can still narrate indigenous legends. Folklore gathered and documented reflected the people's close association with nature such as land, mountains, rivers, lakes, and animals in the forest. Briefly, there is marked acculturation among these tribes but traditional consciousness in the form of animistic beliefs and practices have not been completely smothered.

\*Best poster paper award in the Social Sciences Division.

