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Cooperatives and Environmental Sustainability: The Case of Migpange Multi-Purpose Cooperative

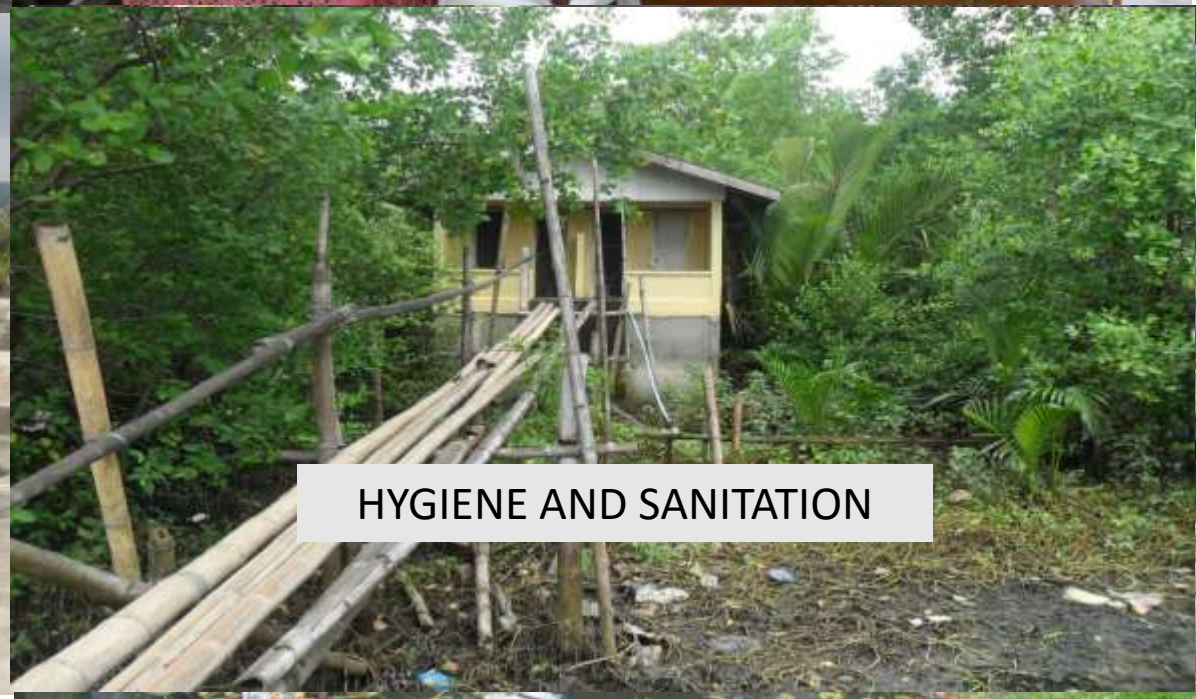
Marian Myrtle G. Onod
Mindanao State University, Marawi City
Philippines

DEPENDENCE ON THE BAY'S RESOURCES

DIMINISHING RESOURCE

COMMERCIAL SCALE BUYING STATIONS

UNCONTROLLED FISHPOND DEVELOPMENT



HYGIENE AND SANITATION

COOPERATIVES are seen as viable instruments for the achievement of SD goals because its values and principles are aligned with that of sustainability principles (ILO). These are now used as strategies in environmental projects

HOWEVER, project-based intervention, despite failing to deliver its intended results on a long-term basis, is still the most common approach to development (Fowler, 2000).

In the Philippines, efforts at environmental sustainability, such as coastal resource management (CRM) are undermined by poverty and lack of community participation because results are not immediate (Caldwell, 2009; Genio, 2007).

Sustainable development requires an ecological orientation which is able to facilitate changes in resource utilization practices which will positively impact the environment.

A stable local organization is necessary to facilitate this kind of change on a sustained basis (Fowler 2000)

…The Fishery Sector Program-Panguil Bay Coastal Resource Management Project (FSP-CRMP) was a 3-year government project funded by the ADB and implemented by the Department of Agriculture in 1991-1993 in selected barangays in the provinces of Misamis Occidental, Lanao del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur….

This study was conducted in July to November 2010 in Barangay Migpange, Bonifacio, Misamis Occidental

This study is interested to find out how MIMUCO, a beneficiary cooperative of the FSP-CRMP performs in relation to environmental sustainability.
How does Community Organizing affect its performance?

SPECIFICALLY, this study is interested to answer the following questions:

1. **What is the performance of MIMUCO an organization?**
2. **What is the level of ecological awareness of organization members?**
3. **What are the change/s if any in their resource utilization practices, then and now?**

METHODOLOGY

QUALITATIVE – KII, FGD

QUANTITATIVE – survey using NEP scale

NEW ECOLOGICAL PARADIGM SCALE:

Likert Scale of 15 positive & negative statements on the 5 hypothesized components of an ecological worldview.

Agreement with the 8 odd-numbered items and disagreement with the 7 even-numbered items indicate an endorsement of an ecological orientation.

1. **REALITY OF LIMITS TO GROWTH** (Statements 1,6,11)
Awareness of the existence of limits in the resources of the earth's environment available for use by humans

AVERAGE TO LOW

2. **ANTI-ANTHROPOCENTRISM** (Statements 2,7,12)
Rejection of the idea of belief that humans are above nature or are meant to dominate or rule over it.

AVERAGE TO LOW

3. **BALANCE OF NATURE** (Statements 3,8,13)
Belief in the fragility of the natural balances and the risk incurred in the undertaking of human activities.

AVERAGE TO HIGH

4. **ANTI-EXEMPTIONALISM** (Statements 4,9,14)
Believes that humans are subject to the laws of nature and are not exempted from the consequences of their extractive activities of nature's resources.

AVERAGE TO HIGH

5. **POSSIBILITY OF ECOLOGICAL CRISIS** (Statement 5,10,15)
Belief that an ecological crises is real and imminent when humans continue with their excessive lifestyle and disregard the laws of nature

AVERAGE TO HIGH

Organizational Performance:

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	▪ Vision not imbibed	▪ Some CBL provisions not followed	
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE	▪ Non-functional	▪ DM, communication flow problems	
LEADERSHIP	▪ Growing demoralization	▪ Credibility problems	▪ Core group of 10, 50% women
MEMBERSHIP	▪ Decreasing	▪ No PMES	▪ Many inactive
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS	▪ None conducted to members	▪ CRM trainings not well understood	
INTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS ENHANCEMENT	▪ Unresolved internal conflicts financial in nature	▪ No relationship enhancement activities	▪ Coop problems discussed in other venues
FINANCIAL CAPABILITY	▪ Fund accountability mechanisms	▪ Trained Bookkeeper	▪ No CBU, coop loan practices risky

RESOURCE UTILIZATION ACTIVITIES, THEN & NOW

PRIMARY SOURCES OF INCOME	THEN	NOW
1. COASTAL RESOURCE-BASED	30	32
CAPTURE	12	5
CULTURE	6	14
VENDING/*PANGLAB-AS*	7	4
BUYING STATIONS	3	7
PAID LABOR	2	1
FISHPOND FINANCING	-	1
2. NON-COASTAL RESOURCE-BASED	2	5
TOTAL	32*	37*

CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

1. This study suggests that environmental sustainability demands more than just providing alternative sources of income for coastal resource-dependent members. Their practices in utilizing the bay's resources need to consider ecological principles.

2. Cooperatives have the potential to positively impact economic condition of members as shown by the type of livelihood activities they may have helped finance. However, these do not necessarily lead to environmental sustainability & fairness among members.

CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

3. As an organization, MIMUCO exhibits problems that will potentially lead to its demise if not addressed immediately. They could not resolve these by themselves and outside help from government, NGOs and academe would be welcome.

4. Finally, the study suggests that project-based CO approach does not bring about long-term effects, in this case, coastal resource management. This is especially because the implementing government agency is devolved and subject to local government priorities and dynamics.