

Environmental Practices of Residents in Selected Barangays of Catarman, Northern Samar

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ABSTRACT

Residents of selected barangays in Catarman, Northern Samar, were interviewed to learn about their environmental views, practices, and information sources. The study's goal was to find out about the respondents' socio-demographic profile, their commonly perceived and directly felt environmental problems, and their attitudes toward environmental conservation, their practices that have an impact on the environment, the media through which they learn about environmental issues, and their recommendations to improve environmental protection and conservation practices. The survey had 60 participants, 20 from each barangay. The proportionate sampling approach was used to determine the number of respondents. Self-administered questionnaires were delivered to the three barangays as part of the survey process. A questionnaire was broken down into five (5) sections: I. II. socio-demographic information Environmental attitudes, part III. IV. Environmentally harmful practices V. environmental information sources and suggestions Frequency counts and percentage computations were used to analyze the data. The respondents' ages varied, but the largest group (38.33 percent) was between the ages of 21 and 30, and the majority (53.33 percent) were females. Most of the respondents had not completed college and 62% of them were unemployed. The most common environmental problems in the upland area were landslides and illegal logging (85 percent). The most generally seen environmental problem in the lowland area was waste disposal anywhere (80%), whereas coastal squatting (100%) was perceived in the coastal area. Most respondents agreed with the positive statements and disagreed with the negative ones, indicating a favorable attitude toward environmental protection and conservation. Most responders (75%) get their environmental knowledge via radio. Environmental information was frequently obtained through interpersonal methods. The launch of extra environmental campaigns (31.66 percent) was the most recommended or proposed for environmental protection and conservation among the respondents' recommendations.

KEYWORDS: *environmental attitudes, practices, sources, environmental information, Northern Samar*

1. INTRODUCTION

The continued destruction of the environment is a major concern these days. We have seen the negative repercussions of environmental damage in recent years, and man is to blame for the numerous changes. Man has lost sight of the ecology in his haste to convert natural resources into monetary wealth. The drive of improved technology, industrial productivity, and rapid economic progress blinded man to the catastrophic environmental damage that this pursuit could entail. He was concerned about conservation and protection. Man has only recently recognized the unique importance of natural resources and the environment.

Numerous environmental catastrophes have emerged from rapid population growth, unsustainable resource usage, and pollution. Various environmental concerns have surfaced. These challenges include air and water pollution, forest deforestation, and global warming. Rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water are rapidly disappearing, while air pollution is getting worse. Food and other essentials of life are

becoming increasingly scarce. With the problems we are facing, the public must be informed of environmental issues so that they may think about and implement methods to safeguard the environment. How the environment could be conserved and protected has become one of today's primary concerns.

Most developed countries have implemented policies that could aid in the preservation of the environment. People in emerging countries, such as ours, have begun to express concern for environmental preservation. Environmental campaigns and studies are now underway in the Philippines. The media is running a nationwide campaign to persuade people to protect and conserve the environment, while researchers are looking into the reasons and remedies to environmental issues.

Solid waste mishandling is the most common problem among Catarman people. Although the municipality has a policy in place for proper garbage disposal, which is known

as the RA. Residents in some places still do not follow or adhere to the policy established by Act 9003, or the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. According to the researcher, there are still occurrences of floods in Catarman because of inappropriate domestic trash disposal.

Some people also toss waste into bodies of water, contaminating and endangering them. Because of man's major role in the destruction of the environment, he has become an important factor in some studies.

People's attitudes, actions, and sources of knowledge about environmental concerns should be studied to identify solutions to environmental challenges. This could aid communication planners in the development and management of environmental initiatives and campaigns by refining messages and strategies.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study on environmental attitudes, practices, and sources of environmental information of the residents of selected barangays in Catarman, Northern Samar aimed to:

1. Determine the socio-demographic profile of the respondents in terms of:
 - a. Age
 - b. Sex
 - c. educational attainment
 - d. Employment
2. Determine the practices of the respondents that affect the environment.
3. Identify their sources of environmental information.

3. METHODOLOGY

The research was carried out in Catarman, Northern Samar. The study's participants were 60 members of the Catarman municipality's three barangays. The survey research design was used in this study on environmental attitudes, practices, and sources of environmental information in Catarman, Northern Samar. Descriptive study survey design is to describe what is there, such as present phenomena and behaviors, with emphasis.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-demographic Profile

Age

Table 1.1 which is the Frequency Distribution by Age shows that 19 or 31.67 percent of the total number of respondents were ages 11-20 years old, 8 from upland, 6 from lowland and 5 from coastal area: 22 or 36.67 percent were ages 21-30 years old, 8 from upland, 6 from lowland, and 8 from coastal area: 7 or 11.67 percent were ages 31-40 years old, 1 from upland, 3 from lowland and 3 from coastal: 8 or 13.33 percent were 41-50 years old, 2 from upland, 3 from lowland, and 3 from coastal area: 2 or 3.33 percent were 51-60 years old, both from lowland while 1 from coastal area was 61-70 years old and 1 from the upland area was aged 71-80 years old. It implies that the majority of the respondents were between the ages of 21 and 30, and that they were more active and cooperative in the study's conduct. The least engaged and active group, aged 61-80, refused to participate in the study because they were no longer interested and active with this type of activity.

Sex

Table 1.2 reveals that males made up 28.67 percent of the total number of respondents, with 8 from highland, 11 from lowland, and 9 from coastal areas, while females made up 32.33 percent, with 12 from upland, 9 from lowland, and 11

from coastal areas. The results show that the majority of the study's participants were women. The majority of those who participated in the study were housewives, and they were the ones who were most interested.

Educational Attainment

Table 1.3 shows that 3 or 5% of the respondents from the coastal area were high school undergraduates; 9 or 15% were high school graduates; 3 from upland, 1 from lowland, and 5 from coastal; 25 or 41.67 percent were college undergraduates, 9 from upland, 9 from lowland, and 7 from coastal; 22 or 36.67 percent were college graduates, 8 from upland, 9 from lowland, and 5 from coastal; and 1 of the lowland respondents had a master. The majority of responders, particularly those in coastal areas, have not completed college. Their location is quite remote from the commercial district, and the residents' income in the coastal area is insufficient to sustain a student.

Employment

Table 1.4 shows the respondents' frequency distribution by job title. According to the table below, 15 or 25% of the respondents were employed, with 8 from the upland, 10 from the lowland, and 3 from the coastal area; 37 or 61.67 percent were unemployed, with 14 from the upland, 10 from the lowland, and 13 from the coastal area; and 8 or 13.33 percent were self-employed, with 4 from the upland and 4 from the lowland.

Commonly Perceived and Directly Felt Environmental Attitudes of the Respondents toward Environmental Issues

In terms of respondents' attitudes toward environmental issues, 54 percent (90%) strongly agreed that waste should not be dumped into bodies of water. Cell phone and computer batteries should not be thrown with other materials in dumpsites, according to 54 percent of respondents. We must practice effective waste management, including waste segregation, according to 52 or 86.66 percent of respondents. We should not burn our garbage, particularly plastics, according to 52 or 86.66 percent of respondents. Commercially distributed soaps such as detergents and shampoos are not harmful to plants, according to 48 percent of respondents. 7.66 percent of responders (46) argued that chemical fertilizers had no environmental impact.

Styrofoam as food containers at fast food restaurants should not be tolerated, according to 43 percent of respondents (71.66 percent). Plastic wrappers, throwaway cups and plates, straws, and other plastic materials should all be banned, according to 42 percent of respondents. Cutting trees to make space for the development of roads, buildings, and other infrastructures is not acceptable, according to 38 percent of respondents (63.33 percent). However, 34 percent of them, or 56.66 percent, were undecided on whether farmers should be encouraged to use chemical fertilizers and pesticides. This means that the vast majority of respondents have a good attitude toward environmental protection since they are directly touched by the negative consequences of their environmental activities.

Practices that Affect the Environment

Table 4 shows that among the enumerated practices that affect the environment, garbage burning ranked first, as perceived by 52 out of 60 respondents, 14 from upland, 19 from lowland, and 19 from coastal; defecating into bodies of water ranked second, as perceived by 44 out of 60

respondents, 8 from upland, 16 from lowland, and 20 from coastal area; waste segregation came in third, with 39 out of 60 respondents composting coming in fourth. This means that garbage burning is the most common activity in the highland and lowland areas, whereas defecating into bodies of water is the most common activity in the coastal area. It implies that the anti-burning legislation is not strictly enforced in their area, and that most families in the coastal area lack latrines, forcing them to defecate in the sea.

5. CONCLUSIONS

According to the findings, people of the selected barangays, aged 51 to 80, were no longer interested in or participating in this type of survey because they were concerned that they would not satisfy the researcher. Females, particularly housewives, are more conscious of what is going on at home since they spend more time there. Residents of upland, lowland, and coastal locations all faced different environmental issues. These issues were caused directly or indirectly by their actions.

By showing positive attitudes about environmental conservation, the respondents demonstrated concern for the environment. Because most of them were exposed to environmental initiatives through the tri-media, this is the case. Most of the respondents, as well as other inhabitants of their barangays, burn waste. Because garbage collectors cannot reach their location, particularly highland and coastal areas, the respondents resort to burning their garbage.

Radio is the most accessible media for spreading environmental campaign information. Aside from being inexpensive and easily available, radio is the sole media that can be enjoyed while doing home chores or at work. As suggested by the respondents, it was established that environmental initiatives should be implemented on a regular basis. Additional environmental efforts are desperately needed by the municipality to raise public awareness and improve practices.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

After carefully reviewing the findings and analysis of the data, the following recommendations are hereby presented. These were formulated from the results/insights developed in the study.

1. Future researchers of the same field of study are recommended to include something in the study that would encourage the respondents whose ages range from 51-80 to participate in the conduct of the study. They must also involve a balanced ratio of males and females among the respondents of the study.
2. Environmental program planners must design different program formats or campaigns among the three different types of locality.
3. Environmental program planners are suggested to use a participatory approach in designing their programs so that the respondents will act in accordance with their positive attitudes.
4. Implementers of the ordinance on anti-burning should be very strict with the policy and garbage collectors must attend to their duties in all types of localities so that people would not be forced to burn their garbage.
5. Environmental program planners are suggested to focus on utilizing interpersonal media implementing their

campaigns because tri-media just for awareness-building and could not change people's behavior.

6. Strengthen linkages and alliances for environmental campaigns.
7. Sustainable programs like school on the air using Huni 102.9 as the medium and continuous circulation of ECOZONE are also recommended.

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