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THESIS/DISSERTATION ABSTRACT
(200)

Title: Tumandok and Pangayaw: Identity, Power, and Resource Utilization
in a Visayan Island No. of Pages 141

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Statement of the Problem

Main Problem: Fishers in the Visayan Islands are considered as the most mobile group in the area. Many of them migrate seasonally to the islands to support their subsistence activities and improve their quality of life. This practice holds true for the people in Gabi, a coastal community in Gigantes Islands, Iloilo. Although generally migrants, the people in the area are still differentiated as tumandok (settlers) or pangayaw (seasonal migrants)--social identities which partly define their access to and control of available land, marine resources, and basic services. This study thus aims to examine the contexts under which social identities are constructed in the community, and to determine their effects on existing resource utilization practices.

Subproblems: Given the issues emerging between tumandok and pangayaw identities, and their relation to resource use, the study seeks to identify the justifications on which people base their claims to these identities; determine the grounds on which people base their practice of ascribing these identities to a person or group; know the conditions under which people challenge claims by others or negotiate their identity; and describe the ways in which tumandok and pangayaw identities (which imply power) influence modes of resource utilization.

Procedure

This study is descriptive in nature. Qualitative data were mainly used in analyzing the contexts of identity formation and the influence of identities on resource utilization. Data were collected through semistructured interview, participant observation, mapping, focus walks, and secondary data gathering. Life story accounts were also taken.

Treatment of Data

The data were analyzed qualitatively, and were organized and assessed based on the study's framework. Assertions were made to emerge from these data constructs, which, at times, were compared and/or contrasted with related written materials. Data analysis entailed collecting, constructing, and classifying information; formulating additional questions; and drawing out insights to arrive at arguments/assertions and conclusions, although not always in a linear manner.

Findings

1. Migration, an integral part of island life, is undertaken to seek betterment of life (material and/or symbolic).
2. Identities such as tumandok and pangayaw are imbued with power, and thus define power relations.

3. Identity can be negotiated.
4. Rules, which are defined by tumandok and are expected to be followed by pangayaw, can be undermined because of their relative flexibility. Social location of the challenges is significant.
5. Access to resources is mediated by local and state rules. Tumandok and pangayaw have differential access to resources. Pangayaw are generally limited by these rules and some strategize to gain resource access.

Conclusions

1. Focus on the concept of power in the study's approach added another dimension to the understanding of social relations in resource utilization, in the sense that the study explored the competition over community resource management and the resulting tensions. Moreover, it highlighted the use of power even by the generally disadvantaged group (pangayaw). It showed that in such conditions, members of the disadvantaged group strategize to increase their access to resources, and that sometimes, they prevail over the more established group (tumandok).
2. Tumandok and pangayaw differentiation is just one of the explanations for differential access to resources.
3. The study demonstrated that resource use does not only involve an economic concern for maximization. It is also concerned with moral issues as implied in the social and political arenas. Fishers have within their repertoire of motivations not just economic fulfillment but also the attainment of what they consider as "the good life" or having symbolic social capital.

Recommendations

The following are the ways by which some of the issues raised can be addressed:

1. Since both tumandok and pangayaw partake in the resources of the area, and have members who use destructive methods of extraction, it is deemed appropriate to raise their level of awareness of environment preservation. Information on sustainable use of resources and/or conservation can be disseminated to them.
2. A way can be found to coalesce the power of tumandok and pangayaw. They can be organized and mobilized toward the sustainable use or conservation of community resources.
3. The state should reassess its enforcement of laws in Gigantes waters, that is, sporadic and exploitative toward pangayaw fishers while favorable for medium- and large-scale fishing outfits, which the police or influential politicians consider as "theirs."
4. The local government should recognize the differences that exist between tumandok and pangayaw, as these constitute a source of tension in the management of community resources.
5. Development initiatives in the area should be made systemwide in order to see the bigger picture. These should consider the frequency of migration, particularly for livelihood purposes.
6. Further study can be made to look into the conditions in which tumandok and pangayaw can cooperate and work together. This study can also explore other influences, such as gender, kinship links, and class, to explain a person or group's access to resources.