

**PROFILE OF THE PARTNER COMMUNITY
OF THE SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAM:
MALUAY, ZAMBOANGUITA, NEGROS ORIENTAL**

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ABSTRACT

This article presents the profile of the partner community of the Silliman University service-learning program. The information for this profile comes from the survey conducted by the faculty coordinator and student-volunteers majoring in Sociology and Anthropology. The data gathered include household demographic profile, socioeconomic characteristics, educational status, health conditions, community and political participation, community problems, and needed intervention programs. The data also include the perception of the community about the capability of Silliman University to work with them and the possible barriers. This information served as the basis for the design of specific projects to be implemented by the participating academic units. At the same time, the gathering of the baseline data was also intended to allow the student to experience the rigors of conducting a sample survey while getting first hand information about life in a rural community from which they could reflect their own condition. The students found the experience academically as well as socially enhancing.

Introduction

This article describes the profile of the partner community of the Silliman University service-learning program. The data presented here are results of the baseline survey carried out as an initial activity of the program before the implementation of specific projects in the community. Twelve student-volunteers majoring in Sociology and Anthropology gathered these data. Covering a period of six weekends, the survey was done during the months of July to September 2001. As a faculty coordinator, I went with the students throughout the period of the baseline survey and closely supervised their work.

Prior to the conduct of the survey, the student volunteers were briefed about the objectives of the activity and its relevance

to the service-learning program which will be initiated in the community. They were specifically informed that the data would serve as basis for the design of specific projects to be implemented by the other participating academic units of the university. Although not all of the student-volunteers had taken Social Research as a subject, their willingness to spare some time during weekends to go to the field and to learn the research process in a practical way sustained their involvement in the baseline survey.

The learning expectation of the baseline survey was for the student volunteers to experience the rigors of field work involving locating randomly sampled households and conducting a successful interview using a structured questionnaire. During the orientation, they were also given tips on avoiding problems in conducting the actual field survey. The questions in the interview schedule were likewise discussed with them to make them aware of the kind of information they were expected to generate. Any vague questions were immediately clarified at the outset to avoid misinterpretations. To maximize their contribution to the project, students who have already taken the research course were paired with those without background in the subject.

Initial Contact and Immersion

To enhance their mobility once they were in the community, the students were shown a map of the relative location of households in the community to be surveyed, as well as the boundaries and the existing roads and trails during the orientation. Their community immersion began with a formal visit to the Barangay Captain who introduced them to the community.

The paired student volunteers were given lists of randomly sampled households to be interviewed. As part of their learning task was to get directions from the residents, the students were provided the names of the households but not their exact locations. At the initial fieldwork, the

students only managed to interview a small number of households. Part of the reason is that, first, the sample households were so scattered that paired student volunteers had to go from one corner of the community to the other side, which took much of their time. Second, since they had no prior experience in asking questions from actual respondents, apart from the simulations done at the orientation, they needed time to read each question carefully to avoid committing errors and this also caused some delay. Lastly, they required more time to establish rapport with the residents before doing the actual interview.

The second visit was more productive and the problems experienced during the initial survey were resolved. This time the paired student volunteers were assigned to sample households located in the same cluster. As they had by this time become more familiar with the questions, they were able to ask them faster and clearer. As well, the local residents had already become used to the presence of the students and were helpful in providing directions to locations of particular household-respondents. Moreover, the residents were aware of the significance of the survey for the proposed service-learning program in their community. This made the conduct of the baseline survey more fruitful during the succeeding weekends.

Preliminary Information About the Community and the Households

Maluay, the partner community, is located about 25 km southwest of Dumaguete City. It has a total population of 2,589 or a total number of households of 555 as of the year 2000 census. The average household size is 4.66. A total of 73 households covering both coastal and upland areas were interviewed. These households were identified from a list through simple random sampling with a random start and a sampling interval with 0.10 margin of error.

Barangay Maluay has a barangay health station, a day care center, a high school, an elementary school, and a barangay hall. This barangay hosts the regular Wednesday market (*tabu*), which draws together many farmers, fishers, and buyers from the different towns in the province. Malatapay, the *sitio* of Maluay where the market is held is also the take-off point to Apo Island, a favorite destination of diving tourists. Two beach resorts and several small restaurants operate in Malatapay serving both foreign tourists and the locals who trade in the *tabu*.

Table 1. Some Basic Information about the Community and the Baseline Survey

Specific Sites Covered by the Survey	Sitios of Mag-abo and Mojon
Institutional Services Located in the Sites Covered by the Baseline Survey	Barangay Health Station, Day Care Center, Elementary School, High School, Barangay Hall
Total Population of Barangay Maluay (NCSO 2000)	2,589
Total Number of Households of Barangay Maluay (NCSO 2000)	555
Average Household Size of Barangay Maluay	4.66
Total Number of Households Interviewed	73

The respondents of the baseline survey were either the husbands or the wives who were alternately identified. In their absence, any adult member of the household present at the time of the visit was interviewed. The females (60.27%) comprised a larger proportion of the sample compared to the males (39.73%). However, there were more males (82.76%) who were married than the females (72.73%). The widowers and widows comprised about 11 percent of the total number of respondents with a one to seven ratio, which means there were more widows than widowers.

Table 2. Basic Information about the Respondents Classified by Sex

Basic Information About the Respondents	Male	Female	Total
Civil Status			
Married	24 (82.76%)	32 (72.73%)	56 (76.71%)
Widower/Widow	1 (3.44%)	7 (15.91%)	8 (10.96%)
Separated	2 (6.90%)	2 (4.54%)	4 (5.48%)
Single/Single Mother	2 (6.90%)	3 (6.82%)	5 (6.85%)
Age			
Average	48.58 years	48.00 years	48.29 years
Range	18- 69 years	21- 88 years	18- 88 years
Religion			
Catholic	70 (95.89%)	48 (92.31%)	118 (94.40%)
United Church of Christ in the Philippines	2 (2.74%)	1 (1.92%)	3 (2.40%)
Christian	0	2 (3.85%)	2 (1.60%)
Pentecostal	1 (1.37%)	0	1 (0.80%)
Iglesia ni Cristo	0	1 (1.92%)	1 (0.80%)
Educational attainment			
None	2 (2.74%)	0	2 (16.00%)
Elementary level	26 (35.62%)	18 (24.66%)	44 (35.20%)
Elementary graduate	17 (23.29%)	9(12.32%)	26 (20.80%)
High school level	13 (17.81%)	10 (19.23%)	23 (18.40%)
High school graduate	6 (8.22%)	5 (6.85%)	11 (8.80%)
College level	4 (5.48%)	3 (4.11%)	7 (5.60%)
College graduate	4 (5.48%)	5 (6.85%)	9 (7.20%)
Vocational	1 (1.37%)	1 (1.37%)	2 (1.60%)
No data	0	1 (1.37%)	1 (0.80%)

The mean age of all the respondents was 48.25 years with a slight difference between the males and the females. The youngest respondents were males (18 years old) while the oldest (88 years old) were females. Majority of the respondents were Catholic (94.40%) as to be expected in a predominantly Catholic country such as the Philippines. Since Maluay is a rural community, it did not come as a surprise that majority (56.00%) of the total respondents only reached or finished elementary education. Meanwhile, those who reached or finished high school and college comprised only 27 percent and 14 percent, respectively.

Since most of the respondents were females, the data show that 35 percent were housewives while 20 percent were farmers. Only about 11 percent of the households were engaged in some business venture. Nonetheless, the data show the spread of livelihood activities that the household pursued. The types of occupation the respondents reported demonstrate the heavy reliance of the community on agriculture.

Table 3. Current Occupations of Respondents and Their Spouses (Multiple Response)

Occupations	Respondents	Spouses	Total
Housewife	29 (39.72%)	16 (28.57%)	45 (34.88%)
Farmer	16 (21.92%)	10 (17.85%)	26 (20.15%)
Business Person	9 (12.33%)	5 (8.92%)	14 (10.85%)
Fisher	4 (5.48%)	3 (5.36%)	7 (5.43%)
Carpenter	4 (5.48%)	3 (5.36%)	7 (5.43%)
Driver		6 (10.71%)	6 (4.65%)
Teacher	1 (1.37%)	2 (3.57%)	3 (2.33%)
Manicurist		2 (3.57%)	2 (1.56%)
Electrician		2 (3.57%)	2 (1.56%)

Bus/Jeep Conductor		2 (3.57%)	2 (1.56%)
Manager/Supervisor	1 (1.37%)	1 (1.79%)	2 (1.56%)
Retired	2 (2.74%)		2 (1.56%)
Nipa Roof (Thatch) Making	2 (2.74%)		2 (1.56%)
Barangay Kagawad	1 (1.37%)		1 (0.77%)
Barber	1 (1.37%)		1 (0.77%)
Tuba Gatherer	1 (1.37%)		1 (0.77%)
Firewood Gatherer	1 (1.37%)		1 (0.77%)
Barangay Health Worker	1 (1.37%)		1 (0.77%)
House Helper		1 (1.79%)	1 (0.77%)
Painter		1 (1.79%)	1 (0.77%)
Construction Worker		1 (1.79%)	1 (0.77%)
Farm Worker		1 (1.79%)	1 (0.77%)
Total	73 (100.00%)	56 (100.00%)	129 (100.00%)

The agricultural character of the community is also further described by the sources of income of households. Aside from fishing, sixty-eight percent of the reported income sources came from agricultural products such as corn, livestock, root crops, fruits, vegetables. The households also processed some farm products for sale in the form of cooked food, handicraft, *tuba*, and firewood.

Table 4. Major Sources of Income of Respondents and Their Spouses (Multiple Response)

Sources of Income	Respondents	Spouses	Total
Corn	18 (31.03%)	9 (24.32%)	27 (28.42%)
Livestock	8 (13.79%)	6 (16.22%)	14 (14.74%)
Rootcrops/Fruits/Vegetables	8 (13.79%)	5 (13.51%)	13 (13.69%)
Store	6 (10.34%)	3 (8.11%)	9 (9.47%)
Fish	5 (8.62%)	2 (5.41%)	7 (7.37%)
Cooked Food	3 (5.17%)	3 (8.11%)	6 (6.32%)

Table 4, continued

Sources of Income	Respondents	Spouses	Total
Handicrafts	3 (5.17%)	1 (2.70%)	4 (4.21%)
Driving Tricycle	2 (3.44%)		2 (2.11%)
Tuba	1 (1.73%)	1 (2.70%)	2 (2.11%)
Remittance	1 (1.73%)		1 (1.05%)
Firewood	1 (1.73%)		1 (1.05%)
Coconut	1 (1.73%)		1 (1.05%)
Buy and Sell (any goods)	1 (1.73%)		1 (1.05%)
Pension		1 (2.70%)	1 (1.05%)
Making Fish Hooks		1 (2.70%)	1 (1.05%)
No Response		5 (13.51%)	5 (5.26%)
Total	58 (100.00%)	37 (100.00%)	95 (100.00)

Despite the variety of economic activities which the households engaged in, the data show that 81 percent received only an average income of less than PhP 3,000 per month. Only about 14 percent earned on the average between PhP 3,001 to 6,000 per month. Those who had more money received either a salary as a professional or remittances from household members working abroad.

Table 5. Estimated Average Monthly Income of Respondents and Their Spouses

Estimated Income in Pesos	Respondents	Spouses	Total
Up to 3,000	41 (87.23%)	25 (73.53%)	66 (81.48%)
3,001- 6,000	5 (10.64%)	6 (17.65%)	11 (13.58%)
6,001- 9,000	0	1 (2.94%)	1 (1.23%)
9,001- 12,000	1 (2.13%)	0	1 (1.23%)
12,001- 15,000	0	1 (2.94%)	1 (1.23%)
15,001- 20,000	0	1 (2.94%)	1 (1.23%)
Total	47 (100.00%)	34 (100.00%)	81 (99.98%)*

*Round-off Error

Child and Maternal Health

Only nine or 12 percent of the total households at the time of the survey had pregnant or lactating mothers. Of the nine households, five received iron or iodine supplement and tetanus toxoid given by the government health centers.

Table 6. Data on the Condition of Child and Maternal Health

· Percentage of households with pregnant or lactating mothers (n= 73)	12.33% (9)
· Number of households with pregnant or lactating mothers who received iron or iodine supplement (n= 9)	5
· Number of households with pregnant or lactating mothers who received tetanus toxoid (n=9)	5
· Percentage of households which has children 0 to five years old (n=73)	28.77% (21)
<Sex of children 0 to 5 years old of 21 households	
Male	52.25% (18)
Female	43.75% (14)
· Number of households with couples of reproductive age which have newly born (n=20)	8
· Number of households with newly born that weigh not less than 2.5 kilos at birth (n= 8)	7
· Number of households with female member whose child delivery was assisted by trained personnel (n= 8)	7
<Qualifications of who assisted in the child delivery:	
Midwife	5
Trained Hilot	2
Do not know	1
· Number of households which breastfeed a newly born up to four months (n= 8)	6
<Reasons why breastfeeding was not practiced by two households:	
Mother has no milk	1
Mixed feeding after three months	1

Table 6, continued

· Number of households which has given immunization to children up one year old (n= 12)	11
· Percentage of households which has children five years old and below who are underweight according to the health center personnel (n= 73)	17.81% (13)
· Percentage of households Percentage of households which has children five years old and below who had diarrhea episode (n= 73)	4.11% (3)
<Sex of children five years old and below of the three households who had diarrhea episode:	
Male	3
Female	2

About 29 percent of the households surveyed had children aged 0 to five years, of which 52.25% were males and 43.75% were females. Of the same number of households, 20 had members who were still of reproductive age. At the time of the survey, eight members had newly born babies, seven of whom weighed no less than 2.5 kilos at birth.

About 63 percent of the households reported having been assisted by a midwife during child delivery while two resorted to trained *hilots*. Of the eight households with babies up to four months, six practiced full breastfeeding. In two households in which breastfeeding was not reported, the mothers had either no milk or had decided to use mixed feeding after the baby was three months old. The high incidence of breastfeeding may have also contributed to a reduced percentage of underweight children among those five years old and below by the standard of the health center. Only about 18 percent of the 73 households interviewed had underweight children. Similarly, the incidence of children five years old and below who had diarrhea episode was very low (4.11%). Of the five cases reported, three were males and two were females.

Education of Children and Literacy

Children of early childhood school age in four of the 25 households were enrolled in the day care center of the barangay, a greater number of whom were females. Meanwhile, about 33 percent of the households surveyed had children 6 to 12 years old of elementary school age. Of these, 63.64% were males and 36.36% were females.

Unfortunately, not all households with children in this age bracket were able to send them to elementary school. Only 19 of the 24 households sent their children to the elementary school in the community. Twelve of the out-of-school children were females while only two were males. The reasons given for the failure of five households surveyed to send their children to the elementary school are the following: late to enroll, no money, delinquency, and the child is mentally retarded.

Thirty-eight percent of all households surveyed had children 13 to 16 years old, 51.35% of whom were males and 48.65% were females. Nineteen of the 28 households who had children in this age group sent all their children to the high school in the community. The number of males in high school was again greater than the number of females reflecting the same trend in the elementary school. The reasons given for the failure of the nine households to send all their children to high school are the following: the child is not interested, the distance of the high school from home, inability to get a scholarship, and lack of money.

Table 7a. Data on Education of Children and Literacy

Number of households which have children who enroll in a day care center, nursery or kindergarten (n= 25)	4
<Sex of children who are enrolled in four households: Male Female	2 3
Percentage of households which have children six to 12 years old (n= 73)	32.88% (24)
<Sex of children six to 12 years old of 24 households: Male Female	63.64% (21) 36.36% (12)

Table 7a. continued

Number of households which have children six to 12 years old who are all in elementary school (n= 24)	19
<Sex of children who are not enrolled if nine households: Male Female	2 12
<Reasons why not all children six to 12 years old are not enrolled: Late to enroll No money Delinquency Mentally retarded	2 1 1 1
Percentage of households which have children 13 to 16 years old (n= 73) <Sex of children 13 to 16 years of 28 households: Male Female	38.36% (28) 51.35% (19) 48.65% (18)
Number of households which have children 13 to 16 years old who are all in high school (n= 28) <Sex of children 13 to 16 years not enrolled: Male Female <Reasons why not all children 13 to 16 years old are not enrolled: Not interested Far distance of school No money Late to get scholarship	19 2 4 2 2 1 1
Percentage of households which said that all of their members 10 years old and above are literate (n=73)	79.45% (58)

As a whole, 79 percent of all households claimed that all their members aged 10 years and above were literate. As such, the literacy rate in the community reflects the low literacy rate in most rural communities in the Philippines. This is particularly true among the elderly members of the population.

Child Welfare and Domestic Violence

Eight per cent of households had children seven years old and below who were left at home by themselves when parents were away. This suggests that parents in general saw to it that one of them stayed home to take care of the young children. Otherwise, grandparents, as well as other relatives or household members, usually looked after the children when their parents were away.

Although it was observed during the survey that children below 18 years old were involved in farm work, this was not viewed as a form of child labor. In rural communities, small children are traditionally considered part of the household labor force and contribute to the earning of the household. Only 4 percent of the household reported having children below 18 years old who work. The proportion of the sexes of the children reported is equal. The kind of work they were engaged in includes harvesting corn, working in other households, and gathering firewood for sale. The children below 18 years old were reported to have limited skills.

Only 10 percent of the households reported having observed some forms of domestic violence in the neighborhood. This minimal observation may reflect the limited awareness of households for what may be considered as domestic violence, some incidents of it being considered normal. The common forms of domestic violence reported included those which were obviously physically destructive such as exchange of heated words, slapping, and throwing of things. Drunkenness of the male member of the household, jealousy, and petty misunderstanding were identified as common causes of violent behavior.

Table 7b. Data on Child Welfare and Domestic Violence

Percentage of households which have children seven years old and below who are neglected when parents are out or away from home (n=73) <Who usually watched children (multiple response): Mother/grandmother Niece/nephew Any household member	8.22% (6) 8 1 1
Percentage of households which have children below 18 years old who have works (n= 73) <Sex of children below 18 years old of three households: Male Female <Works engaged by children (multiple response): Help harvest corn Food server Food Server Gather firewood for sale	4.11% (3) 2 2 2 1 1 1
Skills possessed by children below 18 years old which could be income generating (multiple response): Cooking Plowing Thatch making Academic excellence Harvesting corn Gathering firewood	 2 1 1 1 1
Percentage of households which have observed some forms of domestic violence in the neighborhood (n= 73) <Forms of domestic violence observed in the neighborhood: Family feud (verbal) Slapping Throwing of things No response <Common causes of domestic violence observed: Drunkenness Jealousy Petty misunderstanding No response	9.59% (7) 2 2 1 2 3 1 1 2

Household Health Status and Services Perceived

Household mortality during the past six months was very low. Only 4 percent of the households reported a death allegedly of preventable ailments during the period. Those household members who died were males whose deaths were due to asthma complications. One female died of lung ailment. About 55% of the households reported having members who got sick in the past six months from related respiratory problems. The first three ailments reported were cough, cold, and fever. Incidentally, these morbidity cases are also symptomatic of the causes of reported household morbidity.

Table 8. Household Health Status and Services Received

Percentage of households which have members who died in the past 6 months by preventable ailments (n= 73)	4.11 (3)
<Sex of members of three households who died:	
Male	2
Female	1
<Reported causes of mortality in the household:	
Asthma complications	2
Lung ailment	1
Percentage of households which have members who experienced morbidity in the past six months (n= 73)	54.79% (40)
< Sex of members of 40 households who experienced morbidity:	
Male	54.41% (37)
Female	45.59% (31)
<Reported causes of morbidity (multiple response):	
Cough	27.45% (14)
Cold	23.53% (12)
Fever	23.53% (12)
Bruises	3.92% (2)
Sprain	1.96% (1)
High blood pressure	1.96% (1)
Dysmenorrhea	1.96% (1)
Pneumonia	1.96% (1)
Acute ulcer	1.96% (1)

Table 8. continued

Headache	1.96% (1)
Menopausal problem	1.96% (1)
Urinary tract infection	1.96% (1)
Relapse	1.96% (1)
Asthma	1.96% (1)
Skin ulcer	1.96% (1)
Percentage of households which have members who have received health services for ailment in the past six months (n= 40)	75.00% (30)
<Sources of health services received :	31.58% (12)
Traditional healer	28.95% (11)
Barangay Health Station	10.53% (4)
Rural Health Unit	15.79% (6)
Medical Mission	13.16% (5)
Government Hospital	

Among households which reported having members who were sick in the past six months, only 75 percent received some health services. Close to 32 percent resorted to the services of the traditional healer while 29 percent received some services from the barangay health station located in the community. There were also some who availed of the services of the medical mission, the government hospital in Dumaguete City, and the rural health unit in the *poblacion*.

In addition to the foregoing discussion on the health condition of the residents in the community, the data taken from the barangay health stations indicate acute respiratory infection and pneumonia followed by influenza, diarrhea, tuberculosis, hypertension, parasitism, wounds, skin problems, chicken pox, and eye problem as the leading causes of morbidity. Pneumonia also rated high in the ten leading causes of mortality. This is followed by cancer, pulmonary tuberculosis, congestive heart failure, cardio-vascular incident, cardio-respiratory arrest, still birth, bleeding peptic ulcer,

congenital anomaly, and a combination of myocardial ailments, infection, renal failure, and bronchial asthma.

Meanwhile, the prevalence rate of family planning among households with women of reproductive age (15 to 45 years old) is 32 percent. Although there was a reported use of multiple methods, pills were more widely used by women closely followed by rhythm method, intrauterine device, and injectable contraceptives. Withdrawal, abstinence, and ligation were also reported. Family planning services were generally available at the barangay health station and the rural health unit.

Table 9. Family Planning Prevalence and Services Received

Percentage of households which have couples of reproductive age who practice family planning (n= 44)	31.82% (14)
<Methods of family planning used (multiple response):	
Pills	4
Rhythm	3
Intrauterine device	3
Injectable	3
Withdrawal	2
Abstinence	1
Ligation	1
<Sources of family planning methods used:	
Barangay Health Station	8
Rural Health Unit	3
Traditional Healer	1
Government Hospital	1
Medical Mission	1

Conditions of the Elderly

Almost half of the households surveyed had members aged 60 years and above (49.32%). The proportion of the elderly males (48.98%) compared to the females (50.68%) is also slightly lower. But not all these households which have elderly reported having received some health services during the past six months. Only less than half of these

households (41.67%) have been to the health center for consultation and medication (73.08%). Others went to see a health care provider for blood monitoring, reproductive medical check-up, and to request for vitamin supplements. They generally went to the barangay health station or the traditional healer. Thirteen percent went directly to the rural health unit in the poblacion while those who could afford it went to a private clinic or hospital.

Table 10. Conditions of the Elderly Household Members

Percentage of households which have members 60 years old and above (n= 73) <Sex of members of 36 households 60 years old and above:	49.32% (36)
Male	48.98% (24)
Female	50.68% (25)
Percentage of households which have members 60 years old and above who received health services in the past 6 months (n= 36) <For what are the health services received (multiple response):	41.67% (15)
Consultation and medication	19
Blood pressure monitoring	4
Regular medical check-up	2
Request for vitamin supplement	1
<Sources of health services received:	
Barangay Health Station	6
Traditional Healer	5
Rural Health Unit	2
Private Clinic/Hospital	2

Household Economic Indicators

About 77 percent of the households surveyed owned the house and lot they were occupying. Those who did not own their abodes had nevertheless free use of these. Majority (41.09%) had houses made of combined materials like wood, bamboo, *nipa*

shingles, cement, and hollow blocks. About 32 percent used light materials while only 23 percent had houses made of concrete materials.

About half (49.32%) of the households were engaged in farming. About 42 percent owned the farm they cultivated while the same percentage were tenants. Eleven percent leased the farm they cultivated. In general, all farming households cultivated on the average 42.39 hectares or 1.62 hectares per household. Forty-three percent of the crops these households planted were corn, followed by coconut (13.43%), banana (8.96%), cassava (7.46%), mango (7.46%), and others such as vegetables, bamboo, and a variety of other fruit trees.

Table 11. Type of Abode, Land Ownership and Crops Planted

Percentage of households which own house and lot (n= 73) <Mode of occupancy for those which do not own house and lot (n=17)	76.71% (56)
Percentage of households with particular abode based on materials for house construction (n= 73)	41.09%(30)
Combined	
Light materials	31.51% (23)
Concrete	23.39% (17)
No data	4.11% (3)
Percentage of households which are into farming (n= 73) <Farm tenure of households which farm:	49.32% (36)
Owned	41.67% (15)
Tenanted	41.67% (15)
Leased	11.11% (4)
No data	5.55% (2)
<Size of farm (hectare) cultivated by households:	
Total for all households	42.29 ha
Average per household	1.62 ha
<Crops cultivated by households (multiple response):	
Corn	43.28% (29)
Coconut	13.43% (9)
Banana	8.96% (6)

Table 11. Continued

Cassava	7.46% (5)
Mango	7.46% (5)
Vegetables	7.46% (5)
Bamboo	4.48% (3)
Sirguwelas	4.48% (3)
Jackfruit	1.49% (1)
Starapple	1.49% (1)
<Farm tenure problems experienced by three households:	
Land is not yet legally subdivided among sibling	
Agreement was not realized about being able to buy the lot where house is erected after several years .	1
The lot is a public land and cannot be owned	1

As shown above, only three households had land tenure problems. The nature of the problem includes the following: the farm is not yet legally subdivided among siblings, the agreement about buying rights was not realized, and the land occupied is a public land and cannot be privately owned.

Meanwhile, about 25 percent of the household members were engaged in fishing either as actual fishers or as financiers. The data also show that majority of those into fishing were small-scale who used hook and line as their usual fishing gear. Other fishing gears reported were the beach seiner, fish trap, spear gun, and gill net.

Table 12. Households Involved in Fishing and the Common Gears Used

Percentage of households which are into fishing (n= 73)	24.66% (15)
<Modes of involvement in fishing (multiple response):	
Actual fishing	15
Finance fishing	12
No data	11
<Fishing gears used by households (multiple response):	
Hook and line	
Beach seiner	3
Fish trap	1
Spear gun	1
Gill net	1
no data	2

Forty-five percent of the households reported having members aged 18 years and above other than the respondents and their spouses. Of these members, 54 percent were males while 46 percent were females. Only 33 percent were gainfully employed at the time of the survey particularly in farming (23.09%). Babysitting was also reported while others were store helpers, vendor, junk dealer, food server, fish-hook maker, security guard, electrician, and domestic help. They work either in the *poblacion* or in Dumaguete City.

Despite the fact that other household members helped to augment the family income, about 47 percent considered their income insufficient to meet their needs. Proper budgeting of their meager income as a strategy to make ends meet was reported by 54 percent of these households. Others were assisted by their children working in other locations (11.43%) and by their relatives (11.43%). Other households resorted to various sources of income (11.43%); others reported that borrowing money and opening credit lines in store (5.21%) somehow helped them. Others resorted to pawning their jewelry to neighbors or subsisting more on vegetables as staple diet rather than on rice and viand.

Table 13. Household Members Aside from the Respondents and Their Spouses Gainfully Employed and Management of Meager Income.

Percentage of households which have members 18 years old and above other than respondents and their spouses (n= 73) <Sex of members of 33 households 18 years old and above:	45.21% (33)
Male	53.85% (33)
Female	46.15% (30)
Percentage of households which have members 18 years old and above who are gainfully employed other than respondents and spouse (n= 33) <Works engaged in by household members:	33.33% (11)
Farmer	3
Baby sitter	2
Store helper	1
Vendor	1

Table 13. continued

Junk dealer	1
Fish hook maker	1
Security guard	1
Electrician	1
House helper	1
Percentage of households which consider that their income is not enough to support its members (n= 73)	46.58% (34)
How households manage their meager income to meet needs (multiple response):	
Budget meager income	54.28% (19)
Assisted by children	11.43% (4)
Assisted by relatives	11.43% (4)
Resorted to various sources of income	11.43% (4)
Borrow or open credit	5.71% (2)
Pawned jewelry to neighbors	2.86% (1)
Have more vegetables for food than cereal and viand	2.86% (1)

The economic difficulties experienced by these households have understandably made them aspire for a better future for their children. Majority of their aspirations include seeing their children finish school even only up to secondary level (42.72%), have a stable source of income or livelihood (27.09%), good health, and free from accidents or dangers (14.99%). Others just aspired to be able to feed and clothe them (5.21%). The rest of their aspirations were geared toward their children growing up as good individuals, socially, religiously, and economically. One household just hoped the children will be able to help in the family farm.

Table 14. Aspirations of Respondents for Their Children

Aspirations of respondents for their children (multiple response):	
To finish school even only secondary level	42.71% (41)
To have stable source of income or livelihood	27.09% (26)
To have good health and free from accidents or dangers	14.59% (14)
To be able to feed and clothe them	5.21% (5)
To marry and have responsible and loving partner	2.08% (2)
To go abroad and be successful	2.08% (2)
To be respectful of elders particularly to them	2.08% (2)
To grow up as Christians	1.04% (1)
To be treated fairly by people	1.04% (1)
To get well along among family members	1.04% (1)
To be able to help them (parents) in the farm	1.04% (1)

Household Amenities

Almost 14 percent of the households surveyed did not have their own toilets. Of the 86 percent who had toilets, about 89 percent owned a water sealed type, 6 percent had the flush type, and 5 percent had the antipolo type. Meanwhile, 52 percent had deep well or artesian well as their source of potable water. Of those who had their water source from a faucet, about 22 percent used the communal type while only 16 percent had their own. One household got its water from a spring. Incidentally, only 64 percent of these households said their source of potable water was tested safe.

Clay stove and firewood comprised 87 percent of the reported type of cooking facilities used by all households surveyed. The other cooking facilities reported include petroleum gas (7.89%), kerosene and firewood (2.63%), and LPG and firewood (2.63%). Generally, respondents did not consider fuel a problem as they live in a rural community where firewood from coconut palms and tree branches is abundant.

Table 15. Toilets Owned, Water Sources, and Cooking Facilities of Households

Percentage of households which have toilets (n= 73)	
<Types of toilet owned:	86.30% (63)
Water sealed	88.89% (56)
Flush type	6.35% (4)
Antipolo	4.76% (3)
Percentage of households which have the following sources of potable water (n= 73):	
Deep well (artesian)	52.05% (38)
Communal faucet	21.92% (16)
Own faucet	16.44% (12)
Shalow well (jetmatic)	8.22% (6)
Spring	1.37% (1)

Table 15. Continued

Percentage of households which said that their source of potable water was tested safe (N= 72)	63.89% (46)
Percentage of households with the following types of cooking facilities (multiple response):	
Clay stove and firewood	86.84% (66)
Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)	7.89% (6)
Kerosene and firewood	2.63% (2)
LPG and firewood	2.63% (2)

Community and Political Participation

Survey results show the community involvement of households as insignificant. Only 45 percent of household reported having members who were active in a legitimate community organization. The proportion of male and female household members who are members of these organizations is equal. Majority were members of organizations that help each other when a member dies (33.33%).

Those who received health insurance benefits for hospitalization were members of the Philippine Health Insurance Association (12.12%). This is organized through the initiative of the barangay government which paid for their health insurance premiums. Others were members of a church organization (9.09%), youth (6.06%), barangay council (6.06%), *purok* (6.06%), rural improvement club (6.06%), farmers (6.06%), barangay *tanod* (3.23%) and coconut farmers (3.03%). Majority were ordinary members (84.85%) of these organizations while 9 percent were officers.

Table 16. Membership in Community Organizations of Household Members

Percentage of households which have members who are members of legitimate community organization (n=73)	45.21% (33)
<Sex of members of 33 households who are members:	
Male	50.00% (21)
Female	50.00% (21)
<Types of community organization they are members:	
Kapunungan sa Kasakit	33.33% (11)
Philippine Health Association	12.12% (4)
Church Organization	9.09% (3)
Sanguniang Kabataan	6.06% (2)
Barangay Council	6.06% (2)
Purok Organization	6.06% (2)
Rural Improvement Club	6.06% (2)
Samayang Nayon (Farmers Association)	6.06% (2)
Barangay Tanod	3.03% (1)
Coconut Farmers Association	3.03% (1)
<Positions of household members in these organizations:	
Members	84.85% (28)
Officers	9.09% (3)
No data	6.06% (2)

The political involvement of these households was measured by the number of their members who voted during the local election. Almost 77 percent of the household members aged 18 years and above voted while 23 percent did not vote during the last election. Of the 47 households who had members who did not vote, eight failed to register which is a legal requirement for voting, three lost interest, while others were either suffering from a physical disability, were too old to go to the voting precinct, or had a job out of town. More male household members did not vote compared to the females.

Tables 17. Electoral Participation of Household Members

Percentage of households which have members 18 years old and above who have not voted during the last election (n= 73)	23.29% (17)
<Reasons why not all have voted:	
Not Registered	8
Lost Interest	3
Physical disability	2
Old age	1
Had a job out of town	1
No data	2
<Sex of members of 17 households who have not voted:	
Male	10
Female	7

Community Violence and Problems

Only one out of ten households or 10 percent reported having members who became victims of crime during the past six months. Six of these members were victims of robbery or thievery while one was a hold-up victim. More male household members were victims than the females. Three households (4.11%) reported having male members who were violently attacked resulting in serious physical injuries.

Meanwhile, 63 percent reported having observed instances of conflict among members in the community. Thirty-seven percent said that these conflicts resulted from drunkenness. Other conflicts were caused by land or property problems (14.81%), misunderstanding with neighbors (14.81%), gossip (11.11%), and family feuds or domestic quarrel (9.36%). Other causes include enviousness among neighbors, unpaid debts, and misunderstanding during a basketball game.

Table 18. Crimes Committed Against Household Members

Percentage of households which have members who became victims of a certain crime in the past six months (n= 73) <Types of crimes committed to members of the seven households: Hold-up Robbery/Thievery <Sex of members of seven households who were victims of certain crime: Male Female	9.59% (7) 1 6 5 4
Percentage of households which have members who became victims of violent attacks in the community (n= 73) <Type of violent attacks: Serious physical injuries <Sex of household members who were victims: Male	4.11% (3) 3 3
Percentage of households which noticed some conflicts among members in the community (n= 73) Causes of conflicts noticed by households: Drunkenness Land or property problem Misunderstanding with neighbors Gossip Family feud/domestic quarrel Envy (igi-igi) of what neighbors achieved Unpaid debts Due to misunderstanding in basketball game No data	63.01% (46) 37.04% (20) 14.81% (8) 14.81% (8) 11.11% (6) 9.26% (5) 3.71% (2) 1.85% (1) 1.85% (1) 5.56% (3)

Unemployment and absence of a stable source of income (39%) were considered by the respondents as a major community problem. This is followed by the poor supply of potable water (19.91%) and the lack of medicine and facilities at the health center (11.30%).

Other problems mentioned were poor infrastructures in the community, relational problems among community members, presence of anti-social behavior, poor community leadership, and other related causes. These problems which the respondents enumerated reinforced the data presented earlier about the social and economic conditions of the community.

Table 19. Perceived Problems in the Community

Community problems noticed by respondents (multiple response)	
Unemployment and no source of stable income	39.13% (45)
Poor supply of potable water	13.91% (16)
Health center lacks medicine and facilities	11.30% (13)
Electricity (low voltage)	6.08% (7)
Poor interior road condition	5.22% (6)
Distance to school for interior/upland households	2.61% (3)
Lack of telephone facilities	2.61% (3)
Conflict over property rights and boundaries	2.61% (3)
Too much politicking/no unity	2.61% (3)
Drunkenness	1.74% (2)
Dengue fever	0.87% (1)
Illegal gambling	0.87% (1)
Envy among neighbors	0.87% (1)
Irresponsible leaders	0.87% (1)
Stealing of animals	0.87% (1)
None	7.83% (9)

Identified Priority Areas for Interventions

Needless to mention, the baseline survey provided a closer understanding of the condition of the partner community. As a result, several concerns had become apparent which needed to be addressed. However, given the limitations of the service-learning program in terms of financial resources and the capabilities of participating students and the faculty coordinators, it was not possible to respond to all these concerns.

Hence, it was important to prioritize the needs of the community in order to address them more effectively. This was made possible through the assistance of the local leaders. Interestingly, among the priority concerns identified by the local leaders was the dole-out mentality among the residents and the need to counter it. In addition, catering to the needs of the youth, improving the capacity of the community peacekeepers, and addressing the health needs of children, the mothers, and the elderly were equally stressed.

Consequently, the importance of raising the awareness of the local residents about the negative impact of dole-out mentality was emphasized in the community service learning program. The faculty coordinators and participating students were thus reminded to abide by the principle that the aim of a community program was not to give out material things but to help by teaching people how to get these things themselves.

Following this principle, the community service learning designed programs aimed at assisting children and the youth who have no chance of getting higher education acquire skills such as electronics, electricity, engine troubleshooting, among others, which will enable them to get employment and earn a living. Drug abuse awareness seminar and workshops were also provided to school children, particularly those in high school, to draw them away from socially unacceptable behavior and enable them to pursue productive activities instead of causing trouble.

Seminars on para-legal matters, gender sensitivity, and domestic violence prevention were also designed for *barangay tanod* (community peacekeepers) the community council members, *purok* leaders, and other community organizations to make them more effective.

Given the growing incidence of dengue fever, community service learning set up seminars providing residents basic information about its prevention and control. Similarly, follow-up seminars on family planning and proper nutrition for mothers and children were among the priority projects. So they could help

provide the food needs of their children, mothers were given access to programs which will assist them in locating other sources of income.

Finally, the community service learning initiative included special programs for the elderly designed to maximize their productive use of time as well as serve a therapeutic function. Health care services to improve their physical well-being was an important thrust of this program.

Perceived Capability of Silliman University and Local Barriers

As partners in community development projects, the local leaders were also asked about their perception of the capability of Silliman University to share with them whatever resources it has. This is necessary to gain their trust as a cooperating community in the service-learning program. It is believed that their positive perception of the capability of Silliman University will drive them to support project activities which will be undertaken in the community. A summary of their perceptions shows that they have positive regard of the capability of Silliman University to work with them. According to them, Silliman University has:

- .. human, technical, and material resources to initiate community programs;
- .. sufficient knowledge and skills to undertake seminars and trainings on various concerns to realize such programs; and
- .. wide experience in soliciting financial support or linkages with outside organizations.

Yet, it would be difficult for this program to carry out any project in the community if its internal social dynamics are not well understood at the beginning. For this reason, the local leaders were again asked about possible barriers in the introduction of

intervention projects in the community so that the participating academic units and students could very well deal with the cooperating residents. Knowledge of these barriers will facilitate the development of mechanisms or strategies to overcome them or transform these barriers into facilitating rather than hindering factors. The following observations were made by the local leaders themselves when interviewed about what they perceived as barriers:

- “ The dole-out mentality among residents, i.e. there are those who are willing to participate in a program only when they can gain something materially, especially for free.
- “ The *ningas cogon* attitude of residents, i.e. there are those who show much willingness and enthusiasm at the start of the program, but are unable to sustain their interest long enough to see the project through its successful implementation.
- “ The preference for immediate versus long-term program impact, i.e. there are those who prefer a program which offers immediate benefits with less effort.
- “ The political faction in the community, i.e. those who belong to or identify with the other party usually will not support the programs of the current administration.

Reflections of Student Volunteers of the Baseline Survey

Not only were the student volunteers involved in the field interview, they were also given some experiences in processing the data and in obtaining feedback on the results from the community. As faculty coordinator responsible for the baseline survey, however, I did more of the technical work of putting all the data together in table form. The processed data in tables were then presented to the community by the student volunteers themselves. It was a first experience for the majority of them. The

purpose of the presentation was to solicit feedback to correct questionable data and to clarify wrong impressions.

The student volunteers were assigned to present particular data sets and were also tasked to answer questions from the attending *barangay* officials. The provision of data that made them aware of their condition in a more systematic manner was the service that these students have extended to the community. Their contribution to this activity as students, although not direct, made them realize that they had contributed something to community development while also learning the process of doing field interviews.

Indeed the reflections they wrote on their journals after experiencing the baseline survey manifest other types of learning beyond what they had expected to achieve, i.e. to be capable field interviewers. There were values realized which were sometimes overlooked and not discussed in pure academic field activities. This is where the reflection principle of service-learning makes a difference. Learning in actual field activity should not only focus on enhancing the skills of students but to make them better persons after internalizing the values of working and serving the community. As a way to summarize the potentials of service-learning as an educational strategy to enhance student learning, some of the reflections of volunteer students who were involved in the baseline survey are presented here.

On learned skills and traits needed for a good field interviewer:

- “ *The field interviewer should be a good speaker, not hot tempered, and must have great patience.*
- “ *The field interviewer must be approachable and friendly, be broad and open-minded, have good rapport, and is trustworthy, confident but sensitive to the situation or the feelings of others.*

- “ *The field interviewer should present himself or herself as being of equal status with the respondent in order to make the latter feel comfortable.*
- “ *Since there is a person-to-person contact, an interviewer must be patient and have control of his emotions to be able to deal with different personalities in different situations especially in difficult cases.*
- “ *An interviewer must have the passion for adventure because on some days one goes to the field and unexpected things could happen. An easy-going nature is helpful. Patience is a virtue one must possess or learn in the field. And a good sense of direction is also helpful in finding the way in unfamiliar terrain.*
- “ *The field interviewer should be patient in undertaking the interview process because one talks to someone he or she does not know. One must also be creative in asking sensitive questions because it might affect the interview process as well as the data. He or she must also be observant of the environment to generate some information that cannot be asked but may be observed.*

On the values and insights realized and reflected upon

- “ *Interacting with rural people has been part of my long experience. Talking with them is generally a happy reminder of the Filipino good trait of hospitality and of being trusted despite the absence of any material incentive for them. It also reminds me that in many ways, I have more than enough that I need to share and do more for the less fortunate.*
- “ *It made me more sensitive to the differing needs of each*

household and the problems faced by multiple families who rely on a meager income of one person.

- “ *In rural areas one could easily interact with people because many of them are eager to please and one can easily establish close ties with them. Because of this one can compare the life between rural areas and in the city. The traditional Filipino values that are getting eroded in the cities are still there in the rural areas and I was touched because this is how Filipinos should be.*

- “ *One of my experiences in this field survey is that theory that is not applied in practice floats and learning is weak or shallow. Students can also understand better the practical significance of Sociology and sociological studies in real life experiences.*

- “ *It made me see that most of the time, it really pays to finish school; that although it is not a guarantee to a better future, it guarantees a more stable job than just the making of fish hooks everyday of the week and earning only a few hundred pesos each month. Service-learning is another way of viewing human condition—it does not only make you visualize what other people's lives look like but actually gives you a chance to come into contact with them firsthand.*