

Challenges and Strategic Actions Among Indigenous People's In Marilog, Davao City

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Introduction

- The Philippines is a culturally diverse country with an estimated 14 - 17 million indigenous peoples (IP's) belonging to 110 ethno-linguistic groups.
- Meanwhile, the Philippine Constitution, in recognition of this diversity and under the framework of national unity and development, mandates state recognition, protection, promotion, and fulfilment of the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Further, Republic Act 8371, also known as the “Indigenous Peoples Rights Act” (1997, IPRA), recognized the right of IP's to manage their ancestral domains. According to UNDP (2013), it has become the cornerstone of current national policy on IP's

Introduction

- Despite a constitutional guarantee and the passage of a special law for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in the Philippines, the marginalized group that represent 14% of the country's 100 million population still complains of discrimination that suppresses basic rights and development (Kyodo, 2015).
- Furthermore, they continue to be over-represented among the poorest, the illiterate, the destitute and they are displaced by wars and environmental disasters. Indigenous peoples are dispossessed of their ancestral lands and deprived of their resources for survival, both physical and cultural while they are even robbed of their very right to life (Mowforth, 2014).

Introduction

- In Davao City, geographic surroundings have favoured the co-existence Christians, Moros, and Lumads (Battad, 2011). The rich diversity has created harmonious culture and many other traditions. But a particular district is home to the indigenous peoples. To mention, Marilog District is the home to more than 45,000 people that are mostly indigenous people and more than 31 miles away from the city life. The district itself covers the mountain ranges of Marilog that are mostly under ancestral domain. Despite its proximity to the urban civilization, not all of 12 barangays have access to electricity of the city's power grid and mostly level 1 and level 2 water systems from wells, springs, and public faucets. According to Palero (2015), education of the district is close to par with a total of 45 elementary school and health has always been an issue in the area.

Introduction

- But even with the different government and non-government organizations' intervention to aid indigenous peoples' communities, they are still considered as poorest and the most disadvantaged social group in the society. According to the Human Development Report (2016), the IP's are left behind and unable to catch up. There is therefore a need to revisit the real needs and situation of the IP communities in Marilog to come up with good strategic actions or intervention programs to address their plights, thus, this study.

Statement of the Problem

This study was conducted to determine the challenges experience by the indigenous people communities particularly in Marilog, Davao City. Also, it aimed to determine strategic actions to be undertaken to address the identified challenges. Specifically, it sought answers to the following questions:

1. What are the challenges encountered by the indigenous peoples in Marilog District, Davao City in terms of:
 - a. education,
 - b. health,
 - c. infrastructure,
 - d. livelihood, and
 - e. peace and order?
2. What are the strategic actions suggested by the indigenous people to address the identified challenges?

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

- qualitative phenomenological research design

Source of Data

- primary source of data through focus group discussion (FGD)

Participants of the Study

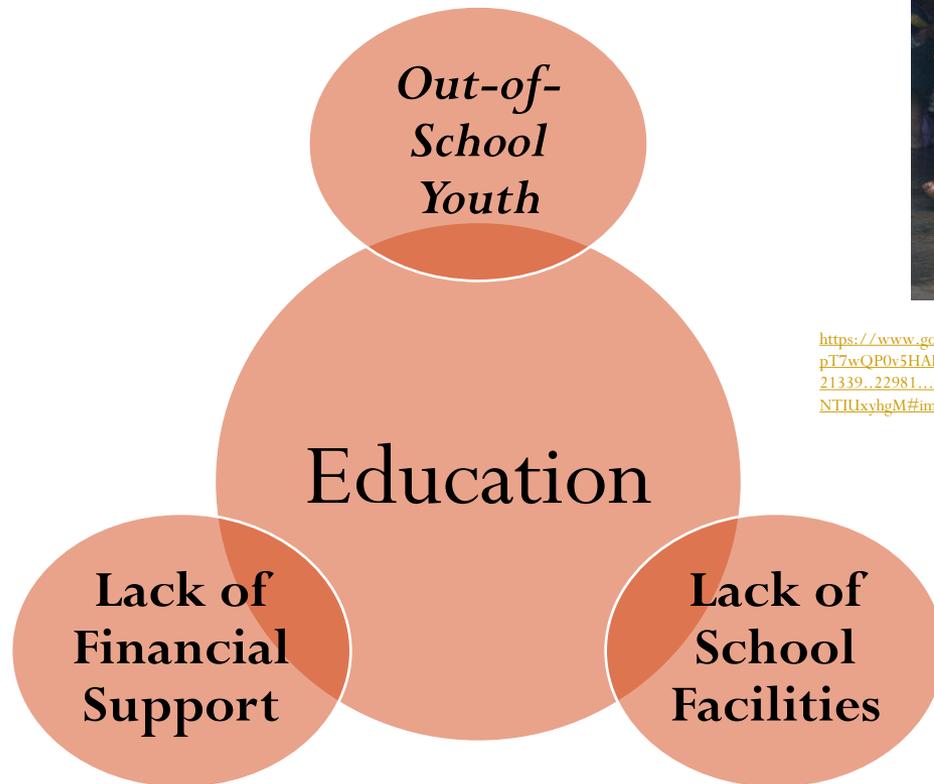
- Tribal Chieftain, Sitio Leaders, IP Youth, IP Women, and Barangay Officials

Data Analysis Technique

- thematic content analysis and bracketing

Findings

Challenges



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Findings

Challenges



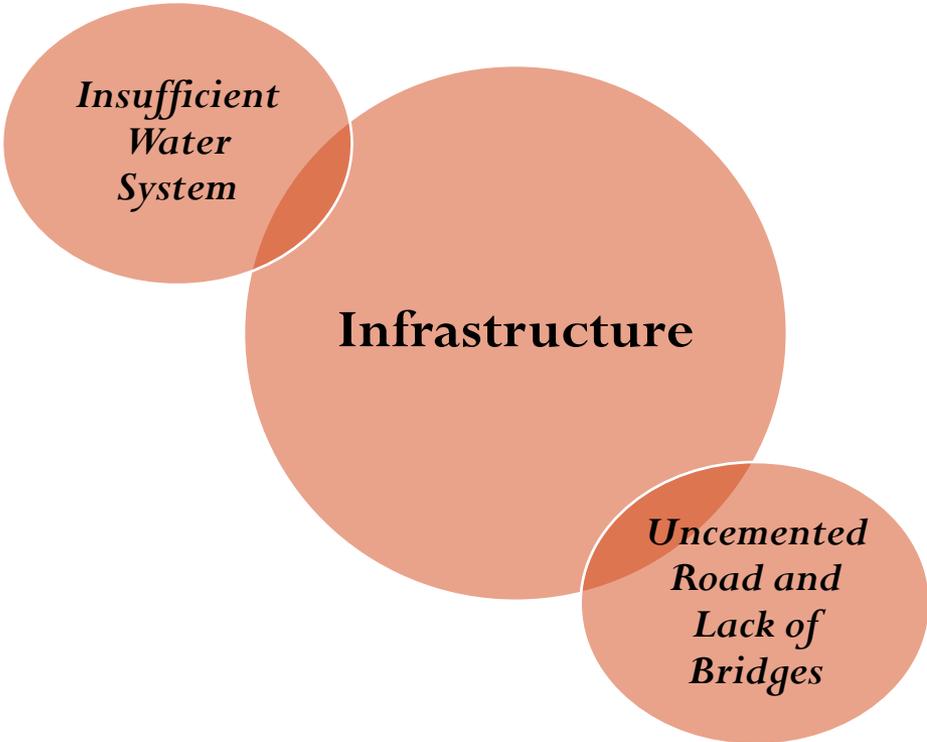
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Health

*Lack of
Health
Facilities*

Findings

Challenges



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Findings

Challenges

*Lack of
Income and
Livelihood
Opportunities*

Livelihood



<https://www.worldvision.org.ph/our-work/livelihood/>

Findings

Challenges



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Findings

Strategic Actions of the Indigenous People



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Education

Ask for
Assistance
from TESDA
and DepEd

Findings

Strategic Actions of the Indigenous People

Health

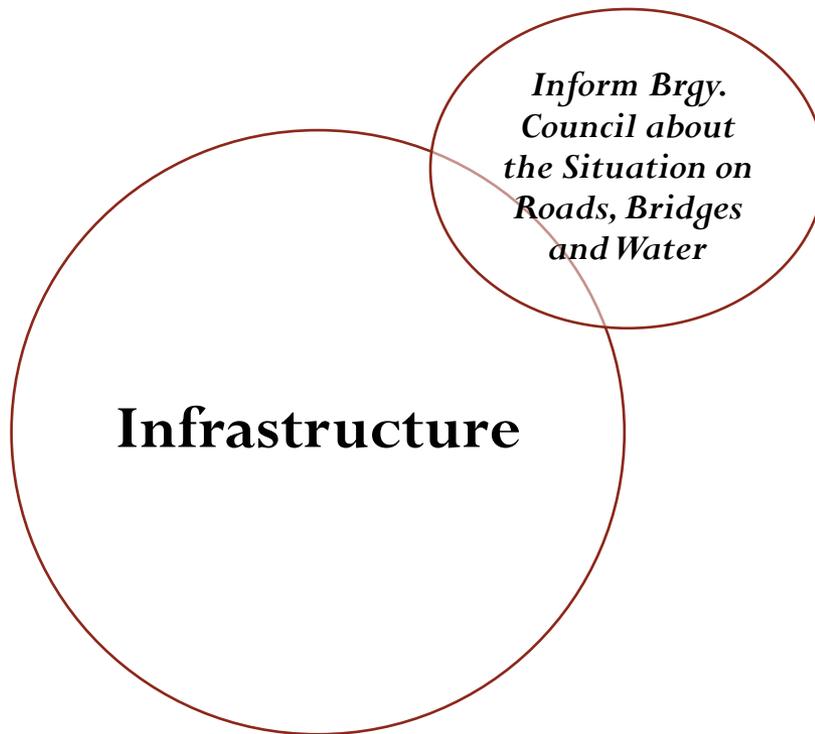
*Maintain
Cleanliness*



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Findings

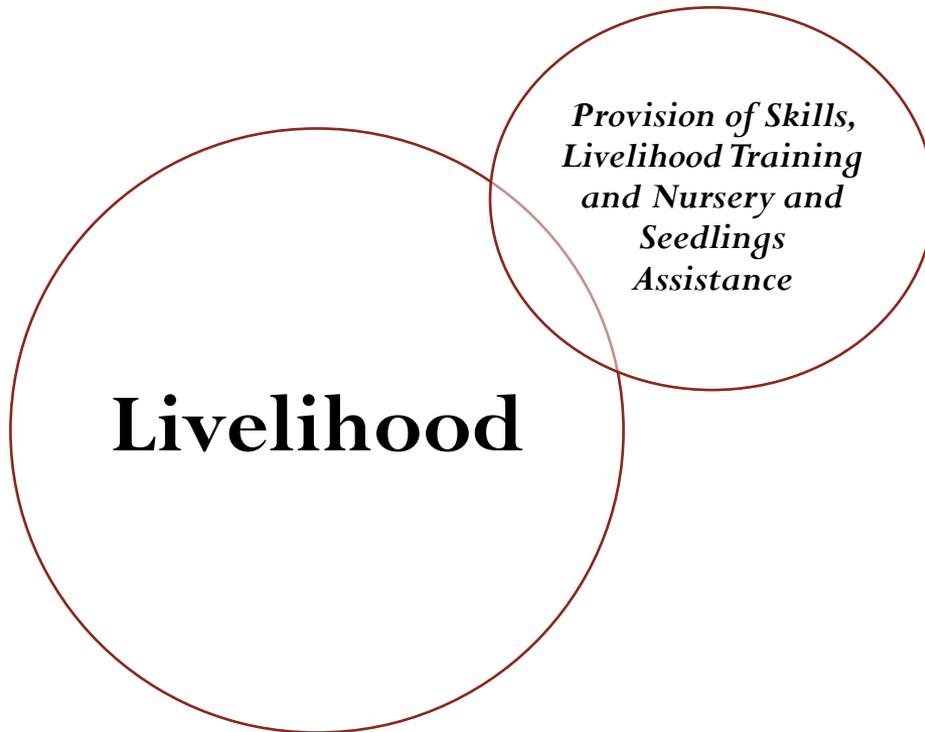
Strategic Actions of the Indigenous People



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Findings

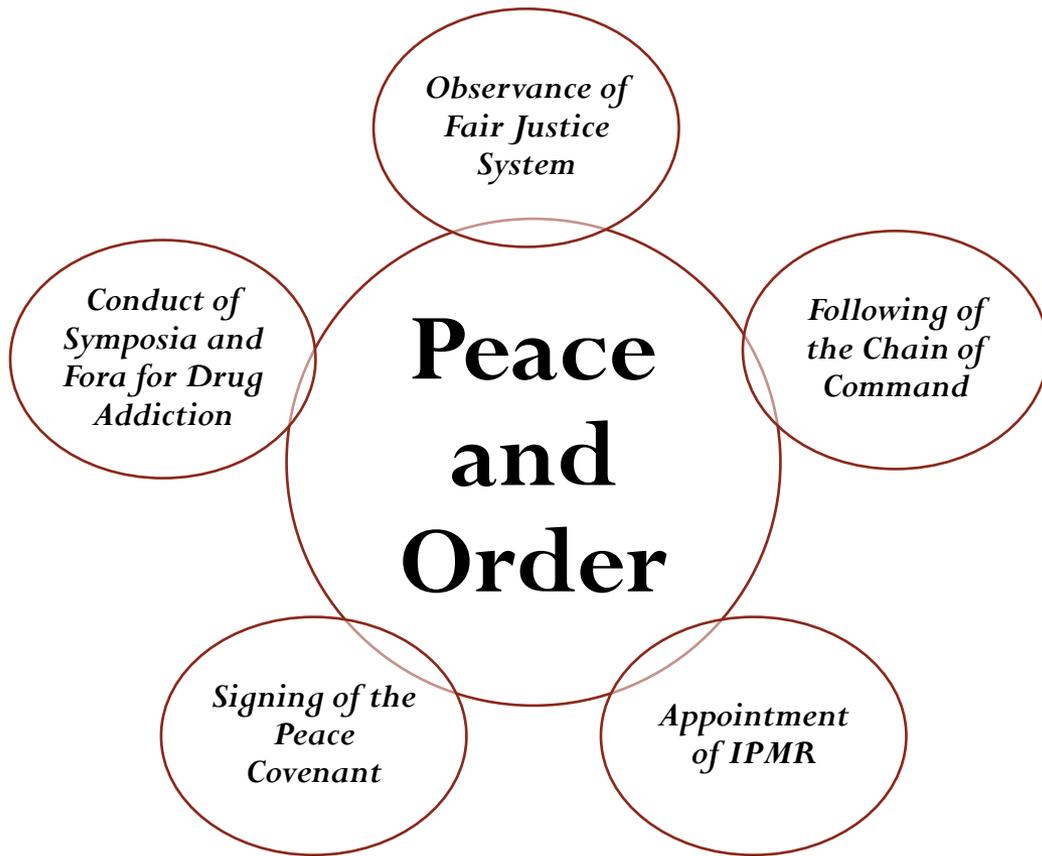
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Findings

Strategic Actions of the Indigenous People



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Recommendations

- The Indigenous Peoples in Marilog, should support their children who want to go to school to further empower themselves and enhance their skills and capabilities, and for them to keep away from vices, drugs, and early marriage.
- The Local Government Unit or the City Government of Davao should organize and implement project and programs for the indigenous people in Marilog to develop the community and to encourage the indigenous people to participate in decision making process. Local government should also identify specific program attributes that directly answer the real needs of IPs in Marilog, Davao City.
- NGO's should do effective collaborative programs and strategies through alternative and more flexible funding channel to support local government project implementations.
- The NCIP should further educate the indigenous about IPRA Law.
- The Policy Makers should review the IPRA Law to avoid conflict from the other laws.