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Fishing in Disguise: A Tale-to-Tell

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ABSTRACT: A lot of people in the world today are engaged in many faces of unlawful activities in order to earn money. One is the use of dynamites in catching school of fish for easy money. Dynamite or blast fishing is the method of using explosive materials that can extremely destroy to the underwater ecosystem, that often destructs the underlying habitat that supports the seawater creatures. This study is anchored on Classical fisheries Management Theory which essentially argues that the productivity of stock is a function of its size and its productive potential. To document the lived experiences of the fisher folks involved in dynamite fishing Moustakas Method, Colaizi and Manen's hermeneutic approach were utilized. The data were collected from five participants which then meets data exhaustion. Through semi-structured in-depth interviews, focus groups observation and reflective diary, data were obtained. The study seeks to acquire lessons from the firsthand experience of the fisher-folks; and to learn more enrichments on the essentials of ecology preservation. The recorded interviews were verbatimly transcribed and assignments of pseudonyms given to participants to sustain confidentiality. Themes derive are the following: 1. Situational Poverty 2. Ecological Destruction 3. Dangerous but beneficial 4. Insuperable 5. No alternative livelihood programs.

KEY WORDS: Dynamite Fishing, a Tale-to-Tell, Accidents, Injuries in fishing.

I.INTRODUCTION

Many people are engaged in different types of unlawful activities just to earn money. One is the use of dynamites in catching school of fish for easy money. Most people involve in this kind of activity are the ones living near the sea. Blast or dynamite fishing is the practice of using explosives that kills the entire seawater creatures including fish in all sizes and the surrounding ecosystem, (such as coral reefs) that supports the other underwater species. Only few survives inside the 30- to 90-foot radius of an explosion that will cause rupture to the internal organs of the fish, fractured their spines or tore at their flesh. This resulted to the decline of underwater species. The frequently practiced on the use of explosives also means danger for the fishermen as well as they often meets accidents and injuries. This phenomenon affects the fishing ground that resulted to decline of catch of fishery resources. The said activity resulted also to cause injuries and the lives of some fishermen including other members of the fisher folks who are involved. These happens because it was observed that the government agencies and LGU concerned are tolerating the said activity. This study explored on the lived experiences of the fisher folks using dynamite as a method in catching volume of fish. The result of this study will benefit the following: Fisher folks, Tertiary School Students, Parents, Teachers/Mentors, Environmental Organization, Local Government unit, and the Community.

II. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SYSTEM

The paper mainly focuses on to acquire lessons from the firsthand experience of the fisher-folks; and to learn more enrichments on the essentials of ecology preservation. The study of literature survey is presented in section III, Methodology is explained in section IV, section V covers the experimental results of the study, and section VI discusses the future study and Conclusion.



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III. LITERATURE SURVEY

The exponential increase of dynamite or blast fishers for more than five decades resulted to the decline of seawater species and ecosystem. RE Katikiro, JJ Mahenge. Describes dynamite fishing remains to be the most devastating and disastrous fishing method in the coastal waters of Tanzania. Sue Wells. Found out that dynamite fishers remains unstoppable inspite of heightened enforcement because most of them belongs to elite groups who have great influence to the authorities.

AudeF. Pacini, et al. pointed the impact of documentation on fish and reef-building corals, but still no substantial data on the effects of the larger species and near shore predators. Dynamite or Blast fishing is associated with underwater explosions where several marine mammals stranding in the Philippines.

AJ Lagbas asserted that during rough and stormy sea Dynamite Fishing activity is dangerous, difficult and unproductive. It is believed to be the source of coral reef degradation.

A Raji, AN Okaeme, W Omorinkuba, RL Bwala proposed the dynamic community based strategies including the protection of fishing grounds, establishment of catch data base, integration of other intervention as alternative source of income to enhance livelihood, reduce fishing pressure, and capacity building of fisher folks, development of rules and regulations.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The study involved Moustakas modification Method of Stevick-Colaizi-Keen phenomenological analysis and Van Manen's hermeneutic approach to phenomenology. The data were collected from five participants which then meets data exhaustion. Data were obtained through semi-structured in-depth interviews, focus groups observation and reflective diary. The respondents of this study are the fisher folks who have experience accidents and injuries using dynamite as a method of fishing. The study was conducted in Brgy. Gigoso, Giporlos Eastern Samar where dynamite fishing is rampant as source of livelihood. The researcher utilized in-depth interview, Focus Group Discussion, Reflective Diary and observation as a tool of data gathering the method outlined by Lysac et al. The interview was recorded face-to-face in a quite room and only the participant, interviewer and the recorder were present. The interview composed of open-ended questions to delve deeply into a particular event, issue, or context that will answer to the following questions. What are the lived experiences of the fishermen using dynamite in catching volume of fish? An unstructured conversational data collection approach was used. During the interview, the participants were asked to recall cases whom they could consider it as positive or negative effect on their lives. In addition, the researcher observed confidentiality at all times through assignments of pseudonyms. Recorded interviews were transcribe verbatimly among five participants with similar experience. Exhaustion of data was reached signaling researchers caseation to collect information.

V. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The study revealed five major themes: such as, (1.) Situational Poverty; (2.) Ecological Destruction (3.) Dangerous but beneficial (4.) Insuperable. (5.) No alternative livelihood Program.

Jensen Eric pointed out six types of poverty and one of this is *situational poverty* which means temporary in nature (Jensen. E. 2009). The people living near the shoreline experiencing scarcity of basic needs practicing ordinary way or old method of fishing cannot support their growing family. For them it is just temporary, when they found easy way of catching volume of fish using dynamites that encourage them to do same thing with other fishermen. The participants revealed that every time a dynamite hit the target and explodes, an *Ecological Destruction* resulted to damage coral reefs, and instant decline of some endangered species. The status of destructive fishing activities were disclosed that nearly half of the cases on reef degradation were related to damage from explosives and poisons (Vietayaki, J. et.al. 1995). These includes the decades practices of small-scale fisheries on the use of explosives and poisons (Mak.et.al 2005). This group of fisher folks were aware of the said destruction to nature, but what comes on their mind was to feed their growing family. It is *dangerous but beneficial* for them. They risk their lives every day from being captured by authorities or going home with injuries on some part of their bodies, or it may cause their lives due to miss-handling or miss-calculation of throwing the dynamite to the target school of fish are the most common experiences of the dynamite fishers. But for them, it does not matter as long as they could catch volume of fish and earn out of it to support their family needs. It is beneficial to them because of small amount of investment that will gain high return



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every time they could catch volume of fish through dynamite fishing. It becomes *insuperable* because in spite of government efforts to apprehend the violators, they still exist. The participants revealed that the said activity could be stopped in due time, if there are no sources of raw materials that is available in the market. It is still rampant because of some influential people who benefit in the market of selling dynamites were involved. All the participants have common aspiration that an *alternative livelihood program* will be introduce for sustainable development that will enable them to be detached from the said illegal activities.

VI.CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

The study identified themes from the experiences of the participants. These themes illustrate that amidst the fisher folks effort to survive through dynamite fishing, it resulted to observed situational poverty and destruction of the underwater environment. The respondents verbalized impending danger because of insuperable activities. However, they persisted due to perceived no alternative means of livelihood. It is highly recommended that immediate action of the local authorities and concerned non-government organization must conduct an awareness and educational campaign to promote the value of life and environment and determine the sustainable livelihood program applicable for the fisher folks, then apprehend the violators. The participants recommended that a livelihood program such as Fishing Net and Motorized Banca or Fish Pen, and small scale business be provided, for them to divert their way of living and stopped doing the said illegal activities. Future works involves the conduct of awareness and educational campaign, determination of sustainable livelihood program in cooperation with the agencies concerned and the community where the fisher-folks are situated. Conduct monitoring and evaluation activity to sustain the said program.

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