

Taking a Deep Dive: Stories of Learners Engaged in Fishing Activities

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Abstract: This study explored the stories of learners engaged in fishing activities. Seven (7) elementary students who participated in the survey came from Magdug Elementary School, Magdug Governor Generoso Davao Oriental. This study used a phenomenological approach to extract the ideas of the elementary student participants. The in-depth interview was employed to gather some information as regards their respective experiences. Using the thematic analysis, the responses from the learner participants of the study the following findings and their corresponding themes were revealed: the stories of the learners engaged in fishing activities showed three themes such as: physically exhausted, making money, and rushing to go to school. The academic coping mechanisms of the learners were seeking assistance from their mothers and siblings and taking a short rest. The insights gained from the findings of the study were: Always get to know the life story of the learner and be considerate of the shortcomings of the learners.

Keywords: *Take A Deep Dive, Elementary Students, Fishing Activities.*

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I. INTRODUCTION

Child labor deepens the cycle of poverty and negatively affects literacy rates, school enrollment, and the physical and mental health and development of children. The participants made recommendations regarding legal and enforcement actions, policy changes, and practical steps including child labor risk assessments in fisheries and aquaculture. All participants of the workshop, as well as other stakeholders, agreed to develop materials to raise awareness. Mitigation of discrimination and marginalization of fishing communities, caste, tribal and indigenous people, and ethnic minorities, as well as gender-based barriers, needed to be included in all actions and considerations (FAO Workshop, 2010).

The International Labor Organization (2022) states that governments need to act to protect children from dangerous professions in small-scale fishing and aquaculture. According to an advisory letter issued jointly by the two UN agencies, almost all governments have accepted international treaties to protect children, but many have not passed national legislation based on these agreements. The research claims that many children who work in small-scale fishing and aquaculture are still exposed to hazardous and harsh working conditions. They may have to handle dangerous chemicals and equipment, dive to dangerous depths—often at night—or work long hours in dirty processing facilities where they could become sick. Girls

who work in fish processing factories also face the possibility of sexual abuse.

Maki (2012) reported that minors labor in severely dangerous fisheries in the Philippines. Muro-Ami, which uses youngsters as divers and swimmers who use nets to fish in reefs, is the most well-known and perilous of deep-sea occupations. They dive for fish or free-snagged nets and are known as reef hunters.

Locally, it was observed that some of the students at Magdug Elementary School, Magdug Governor Generoso, Davao Oriental, had been exposed to commercial fishing or fishing that required a catch as a source of income to supplement the family's daily needs and financial needs. The researcher was personally concerned after learning about the learners' lifestyles, daily routines at sea, and school activities. As a result, she considered learning more about their fishing and school activities. Through appropriate scheduling and knowledge of their life as young fishermen who were only trying to support their families without any malice or labeling their behavior as child labor, the researcher may be able to assist them in this way.

II. METHODOLOGY

In this work, phenomenology was applied to qualitative research. A group of people having first-hand knowledge of a scenario, event, or experience were interviewed. According to certain interpretations of the technique, the researcher uses bracketing to record personal interactions with the subject in order to assist detach themselves from the process. Phenomenology aims to obtain the most pure, unspoiled data in this study. Memorization is one bracketing technique (Maxwell, 2013).

Seven (7) informants made up the study's participant pool. The elementary school students from Magdug Elementary School, Magdug Governor Generoso Davao Oriental, were the chosen informants. They must have been enrolled in local elementary schools and engaged in fishing for a minimum of one (1) year. Since they were minors, their parents' permission was obtained and authorized before the study's execution. The researcher creates written forms or procedures, such as observational or interview protocols, to record the data to gather this information.

Patterns of themes in the interview data were found using thematic analysis. The flexibility of thematic analysis is one of its benefits; it can be used for both exploratory studies, in which the researcher is unsure of the patterns being sought, and more deductive studies, in which the researcher is certain of the specific topics they are interested in. The most crucial aspect of analysis, regardless of the kind of study being conducted or its intended use, is that the researcher respects the data and makes an effort to accurately portray the interview's findings (Montensen, 2020).

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following topics surfaced from the thematic analysis of the participant tales: three motifs emerged from the experiences of the students participating in fishing activities: being physically weary, earning money, and hurrying to get to school. The students' academic coping strategies included asking their mothers and siblings for help and taking brief breaks. The study's conclusions led to the following realizations: Always learn about the learner's life story and show consideration for their weaknesses. The study's conclusions led to the following realizations: Always learn about the learner's life story and show consideration for their weaknesses. Elementary school teachers may be more aware of their students' behavior. Just learning about each student's background and home environment would help teachers better interact with each student in the classroom.

The learners may be directed well through the agreed mode of learning delivery and clarify problems or issues related to their learning modules specifically in their learning tasks. The learners may be encouraged to participate in school

activities. Ideas on time management, as discussed at their level, would help build their ideas about time.

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