

## The Socio-Economic Profile of Coastal Area in Aurora, Philippines: A Basis for Extension and Development Programs



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**ABSTRACT:** This research paper employed a descriptive research design to create a socio-economic community profile of Brgy. Gupa, Dipaculao, Aurora that can be used in formulating suitable extension program for the community. Results showed some aspects that can be the center of future development programs in the community. The weaknesses found were educational attainment, lack of health facilities, use of illegal drugs, and underutilized coastal resources. It was suggested that extension programs must revolve around these key areas. It was also recommended to conduct further needs assessment that will look on aesthetic and cultural resources of the community.

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### INTRODUCTION

A community profile is defined as a summary of baseline data in a certain community or study area. It provides the context for assessing impact-assessment studies and baseline data for development project design and implementation. Developing a community profile encompasses identifying community issues and attitudes, locating notable features in the study area, and assessing social and economic conditions and trends in the community and region that have a bearing on the project (Center for Urban Transportation Research, 2022).

Jack and Holt (2008) said that community profiling is used to identify the strengths, weaknesses, needs and problems of a community that can be used to create decisions about different services that can be handed for them. Furthermore, it was described as a wide-scale assessment of community needs and even resources. It means that it can also be used to examine resources available that are appropriate to meet the needs of the community.

Socio-economic profiling is very important when conducting extension activities and programs. Socio-economic approach can be used to determine the significance of findings for policy makers and concerned development agencies. This approach is concerned with the social, economic, and political domains of the community. To be precise, it focuses in the determining the capacity of individuals based on their characteristics such as educational attainment, gender, wealth, health statuses, access to facilities, and others (Payumo et al., 2020).

In light of the above, there is a need to conduct a community profiling in Barangay Gupa to provide a baseline data that can be used to formulate a barangay development profile. This pioneering study in the community will be used by rural developers, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the community leaders in identifying key areas for extension programs.

Statement of the Problems:

The main objective of this study was to describe the socio-economic profile of Barangay Gupa, Dipaculao, and Aurora. The following questions were answered through this research:

1. How can we describe the demography of Barangay Gupa in terms of:
  - a. population growth trend;
  - b. age distribution;
  - c. household size, and
  - d. Ethnic composition?
2. How can we describe the social development profile of the barangay in terms of:
  - a. access to education: (primary, secondary, vocational, tertiary);
  - b. Health and nutrition;
  - c. Water and sanitation, and

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- d. Peace and order?
3. How can we describe the economic profile of the respondents in terms of:
  - a. Employment,
  - b. Dominant business sector type,
  - c. Type of houses, and
  - d. Electricity?

### METHODOLOGY

#### Research Design

To answer the following research problems, the researcher employed a descriptive research design.

#### Locale of the Study

This study was conducted in Baranagy Dipaculao, Dipaculao, and Aurora. It is a rural barangay that was located in the outside the población.

#### Data Gathering procedure

The researcher utilized secondary data available from the local office of the Philippine Statistics Authority and the barangay record sections. Furthermore, the researcher also conducted interviews among household heads and barangay officials to achieve substantial data regarding their community.

#### Statistical Tool

The researcher used Microsoft excel and SPSS for tabulation and analysis of data. Descriptive statistics was used such as frequency, mean and percentage.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### Demographic Profile of Brgy. Gupa

At present, the rural community of Gupa has a population of 1257. It is the highest population headcount recorded in the place. The annual growth rate is steady increasing except for 2021 wherein the community recorded a slight population decline with -.2%. The highest population increase was recorded in 2020 with 5.2%. In the span of 5 years, Brgy. Gupa experienced an average population growth of 2.42%. This pattern of population growth is also evident in Europe wherein the rural population growth is declining due to migration and ageing (Montalvo et al., 2019).

**Table 1. Number of residents and population growth from 2017-2022**

Year	Population	Growth rate
2017	1115	
2018	1121	.5%
2019	1152	2.7%
2020	1212	5.2%
2021	1209	-.2%
2022	1257	3.9%

Residents from the age group 0-19 comprised 38.31% of the entire population in Gupa. This means that most of them are still studying in either elementary or secondary schools. However, there are only 8.74% who are senior citizens. This implies that there is a low life expectancy in Gupa. Furthermore, it is important to note that majority of population belongs to the working age group which is 16-59. This is a good sign for Gupa since there is a large pool of labor force that can contribute to the development of the community and the nation as a whole (Maestras, Mullen & Powell, 2016).

**Table 2. Distribution of Residents According to Age Bracket**

Age Bracket	Frequency	Frequency
0-19	452	38.31
20-39	388	32.88
40-59	237	20.09
60 and above	103	8.74
Total	1180	100%

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Table 3 shows that there is little difference in age distribution. There are a total of 649 males and 608 females. Same ratio was observed in the national setting wherein males dominates women in terms of numbers (PSA, 2020).

**Table 3. Sex Distribution**

Sex	Frequency	percentage
Male	649	51.63
Female	608	48.37%
Total	1257	

There is a total of 308 household in Gupa. And the average household size is 3.4. This size is smaller than the national household size which is 4.1 in 2020 (PSA, 2020). A smaller household size implies that the household has lower demand of allocating resources to education and health care for its members, thus improving their life standards (United Nations, 2017).

When it comes to ethnic composition, Gupa can be described as a homogenous community. There are only two dominant groups in the community, Ilocanos and Tagalogs. This is expected since rural areas are not as diverse as urban areas when it comes to ethnic composition. According to study, a low ethnic diversified community can exhibit social cohesion and cooperation compared to communities with diverse people. This partly explains why there is a low reported case of disputes among resident of Gupa (Laurence, Schmid & Hewstone, 2018).

### Social Development Profile

Majority (48.97%) of the household heads and spouses had attained elementary diploma followed by those who did not finished primary education and those who did not enter schooling at all with 42.40%. Only 1 had finished vocational school and 23 had attained tertiary education. The low attainment of college and secondary education was attributed to poverty that forced residents to find job at young age instead of entering schools.

**Table 4. Educational Attainment of Household Heads and Spouses**

Highest level attained	Frequency	Percentage
College	23	4.32%
Vocational	1	0.19%
High School	22	4.13%
Elementary	261	48.97%
None	226	42.40%
Total	533	100%

In terms of educational facilities, Gupa has one pre-school and one elementary school. This school was established as a response to the target of the Department of Education to build at least one elementary school in every barangay. However, the nearest secondary school is 3km away from them. Furthermore, vocational schools were located at the capital of Aurora, which is 38km from the community. This partly explains why there is limited number of residents who achieved tertiary education diploma. This scenario further supports the idea of education gaps between rural and more urbanized communities. In most cases, there is sizable college access gap between rural and urban areas resulting to lower college enrolment and graduation rates in rural communities (Ratledge, Dalporto & Lewy, 2020). As of 2022, there is 44 out of school youth in Gupa. According to interview, these youth choose to stop their studies in order to help their parents in working for their family.

**Table 5. Educational Facilities**

Educational Facility	number	Distance to nearest
Pre-school	1	
Elementary	1	
Secondary	0	3km
Vocational	0	38km
tertiary	0	38km

There is only one health facility in the locality which is the health center. The nearest private medical clinic in located at Baler, 38km away or 2-hour travel from Gupa while the nearest hospital is 35km away. Drugstores, which is very essential especially for

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the old and babies, are located in the población of Dipaculao, 8km away. This scenario is almost the same for all rural communities. At present, 70% of the population living in the countryside are still struggling with no or limited access to quality health care services (DOH, nd).

**Table 6. Health Facilities**

Health Facilities	number	Distance to nearest
private medical clinic	0	38km
hospital	0	35km
maternal and child clinic	0	8km
barangay health center	1	
family planning centers	0	8km
drugstores	0	8km

In 2021, there five cases of death among children 0-5 years old due to diseases. Fortunately, there is no reported cases of death related to pregnancy. When it comes to nutrition, there are only five malnourished children reported in the health center of the community. Another significant figure is the 22 persons with disability and 2 bedridden. Common disability in the community are psychosocial, orthopedic and speech disability. According to barangay health workers, their target is to reduce to zero the number of malnourished children in their community that is why they are closely monitoring the children especially those who are between 0-5 years old.

To maintain the good health condition of the community, there are 11 health staff employed in the barangay. There are seven barangay health workers and one barangay nutrition scholar, one barangay population scholar, one midwife and one nurse.

### Water and Sanitation

Barangay Gupa has good source of water for drinking and hygiene. There are 181 households who are using hand pump as their main water source. The second dominant water source is from natural sources such as river, stream, lakes and springs. Lastly, there are 16 households who are using tap water.

**Table 7. Water Sources**

Sources of Water	Frequency
Deep/shallow well	0
Hand pump	181
Tap water	16
Commercial water refilling station	0
River, stream, lake, spring	42

Table 8 shows that 66.67% of the households owned sanitary toilet while there are 33.33% with unsanitary toilet. The presence of unsanitary toilet in Gupa is a negative development because it can cause various diseases especially on girls. The effect on women is greater as unsanitized toilets do not offer a clean environment for menstrual hygiene management (Coswosk et al., 2019).

**Table 8. Environmental Sanitation**

ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION	Frequency	Percentage
Sanitary Toilet	200	66.67%
Unsanitary toilet	100	33.33%
Without toilet	0	0

### Peace and Order

In the past five years, there are only two crimes reported in the locality. There are 19 count of drug related cases and 3 cases of rape. The 19 cases of drugs are reported in 2019 as part of the Oplan Tokhang instituted by Duterte administration. The rape cases are all incest involving daughters that are below 18 years old.

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**Table 9. Crimes in the past 5 years**

Types of crimes	Counts
Drugs	19
Rape	3

According to interview, there two are main groups that are responsible for maintaining peace and order in the community. There are 9 barangay police who are tasked to roam around the community at night and 7 lupon members that are tasked to settle dispute between opposing parties within the community. In instances that there is a need for PNP intervention in their place, the barangay captain said that the municipal police office is very responsive on their requests that is why they are maintaining peace within their area.

### Economic Profile

As seen in Table 10, majority of the residents are self-employed with 34%. Furthermore, there 30% who are laborers or those who are working as part time carpenters? There are 13 and 11% who are engaged in farming and fishing respectively. This finding did not support the idea that agriculture is the major source of income in the rural communities (Kapur, 2019). This implies that residents are more inclined in work outside farming.

**Table 10. Major occupations**

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Fishing	43	11%
Farming	51	13%
Govt employee	25	6%
Laborer	121	30%
Employed in private company	28	7%
Self-employed	140	34%
Total	408	100%

There are 28 household that are living below poverty threshold. To ease the effect of poverty, there are several projects that are enjoyed by some resident of Gupa. There are 86 beneficiaries of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). There are also 58 residents who are receiving pensions from the municipal, local and national Senior Citizens subsidy.

Table 11 show the type of house in Gupa. Majority are composed of light materials such as sawali, bamboo and kugon roofs. There 18.29% semi concrete houses and 39.63% semi-concrete houses. Barangay Gupa is located in the coastline and during typhoons, some houses are being devastated.

**Table 11. Type of Houses**

Type	Frequency	Percentage
concrete	130	39.63%
Semi concrete	60	18.29%
Light materials	138	42.07%
Total	328	100%

As shown in Table 12, majority have electricity with 71.12% while there are 28.88% with no electricity. House with no electricity are located in the mountainous part of the community, where electrical services are not available.

**Table 12. Electricity**

Status	Frequency	Percentage
With electricity	234	71.12%
Without electricity	95	28.88%
Total	329	100%

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study showed the following weaknesses that can be considered as crucial aspects to be addressed in the community. First is the educational attainment of the household heads and spouses. Since majority of them are college undergraduates, programs to be implemented in community must enhance their functional literacy in order to gain practical skills for real-life purposes. With the presence of out of school youth, the local officials must encourage and support the youth to enter in Alternative Learning System (ALS) to achieve better education. Scholarships can be offered for those who can't afford to study.

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Second is their health facilities. Since there is only one health center in the community, the municipal health unit must conduct regular medical and dental mission in the community to ensure a healthy community. Another good project for the community is to build a “Botika ng Baranggay” so that resident will no longer go to the Poblacion just to buy medicines. Furthermore, health experts must conduct information drive that will demonstrate the use natural and traditional medicines as substitute for commercial drugs. Since the nearest hospital is located 38km away, the researcher suggests that donating an ambulance is a good project so that they can go to the hospital with haste during emergencies.

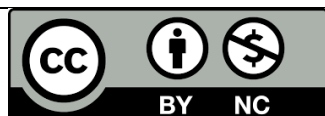
Third, to decrease the use of illegal drugs, the Sangguniang Kabataan can conduct activities that will promote physical activities and talent and skills among the youth. With this, the youth can become more productive and in turn, keep them out form drugs and any other illegal activities. Information drives about the negative effects of drugs are also effective way to keep youth away from illegal drugs.

In terms of economic life in the community, it is surprising that there are only few residents that are involved in fishing given the geographic location of the community. It was suggested that the government must implement programs to strengthen the fisheries sector in the community. These programs will be beneficial to maximize the natural resources of Gupa which is located near fishing grounds.

To formulate a more comprehensive community development program in Gupa, it was further recommended to conduct another needs assessment that will focus on aesthetic and cultural resources of the community.

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