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CENTRAL VISAYAS WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT

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WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN CVWSP

Case Study: A Developmental Study of Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The role of women in water and sanitation projects has been delineated since the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade from 1980 to 1990. It is placed within the context of community participation.

There is hardly any doubt now as to the strategic role of women in water and sanitation projects. Women are the major users of water in the household. As domestic managers, they do the food preparation, washing family laundry, house cleaning, bathing the children, watering the plants, feeding the livestock, etc.. They decide how much water to collect, how to recycle used water and how to store water.

Women are the primary health care givers in the family in almost all societies of the world. It is the woman who maintains the hygiene and is the first to deal with health problems at home. They decide what kind of food to produce or buy; thus, influencing the nutritional status of the family. They decide when and how to seek health care outside the home, choosing between traditional and modern medicines. In the community, they transmit old and new health information through their networks and influence fellow women in adopting new facilities or practices. Access therefore, to information on sanitation as well as resources for health care is an important concern for women.

Women are also the educators of children at home. They are generally the ones who guide children in hygiene and direct them in water collection, storage and use. They convey to their children their own values and understanding of health issues. Women have special sanitation needs. The importance of their reproductive health can not be underestimated. In a state of poor hygiene, women become vulnerable to infections brought about by menstruation, childbirth and abortion.

Women generally assist in the water collection for home use. However, they would want to be relieved of this time consuming and hazardous task for other essential responsibilities like livelihood activities and child rearing. According to a report:

The pregnant woman burns 16% of her daily caloric intake on gathering water, while the breastfeeding woman burns 44%. When food gathering, cultivating and wood gathering are added to water drawing, cumulative percentages for the pregnant woman becomes 25% and for the breastfeeding woman, 53%. When the 30% required for metabolism is added, the breastfeeding woman is left with only 17% of her daily calories to expend on other tasks, and the pregnant woman is left with 45%. (The Churchwoman, Winter, 1883-1984).

Women have expertise on their community's physical and social environment. As a result of the gender division of labor, women tend to acquire experiences different from men. They can serve as informants on possible and suitable locations for water and sanitation facilities, availability and reliability of water sources and sanitary arrangements. They are also good informants on who should be trained for maintenance and management.

CHAPTER 2

THE REALITIES OF WOMEN'S CONDITIONS

Women's participation in any development project, however, is dependent on their status in society, which in turn is conditioned by the socio-economic, political and cultural context. It is important for development planners to be familiar with women's conditions so that role expectations can be consistent with the realities.

The Philippine Country Report on Women, 1986 - 1995, prepared for the Fourth World Conference on Women by the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, identified the following critical areas of concern for the Filipino women:

1. Inequality in the sharing of power and decision making at all levels;
2. Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women;
3. Lack of awareness of and commitment to internationally and nationally recognized women's rights;
4. Poverty;
5. Inequality in women's access to and participation in the definition of economic structures and policies and the productive process itself;
6. Inequality in access to education, health, employment and other means to maximize awareness of women's rights and the use of their capacities;
7. Violence against women,
8. Effects on women of continuing national and international armed or other kinds of conflicts.

While no single development project hopes to completely change the status of women in the Philippines, it is rather expected that every development project should contribute towards the improvement of women's status; otherwise project goals are not attained: Due to the importance that women play in a water and sanitation project, this mandate becomes critical for the Central Visayas Water and Sanitation Project (CVWSP).

CHAPTER 3

THE CENTRAL VISAYAS WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT (CVWSP)

3.1 Background

The CVWSP is a joint project of the Government of Australia and the Government of the Philippines. Its area of coverage includes 32 municipalities in the provinces of Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental and Siquijor in Central Visayas. Its major objective is to improve the health of the rural communities of Region VII through the development of water and sanitation facilities.

The primary concern of the project is for the target communities to have sustainable water supply and sanitation systems as well as to learn how to use these facilities to improve their hygiene and health. These facilities are constructed, managed, operated and maintained by the communities in a manner which allow them to attain self reliance.

The development of self reliant communities is attained through an approach which allows community participation in all phases of the project. This means that men and women in the communities participate, from among other things, in the project orientation, identification of key informants, community needs assessments, community planning, preparation and ratification of the constitution and by-laws, training of leaders and officers, health education, and in the construction, operation, maintenance and management of water and sanitation facilities.

To be sure that both women and men in the communities get equal access to opportunities provided by the project, and in consideration of the subordinated status of women in the communities, a Gender Strategy is integrated in the project components.

3.2 AIDAB Women in Development Policy - Women, Equal Partners in Development

Expanding the choices available to women by improving their education, health, and living and working conditions is not only a humanitarian consideration - it is essential for economic and social development. Female participation in the development process cannot be ignored or taken for granted if development is to be equitable and sustainable.

Australia's Women in Development (WID) policy focuses on the involvement and integration of women in the development process. It recognises that an effective development cooperation program involved women at every stage of development assistance activities - from activity design, appraisal, implementation, and monitoring to evaluation and review.

A review of the WID policy was undertaken in 1992. As a result, Australia's development cooperation program will put increased emphasis on women's role as decision-makers and will support measures which aim to:

- ensure that women have a say in decision-making about aid activities to increase the aid program's relevance to their needs and preferences;
- increase women's direct participation in all aid activities to make these more effective
- enhance women's status through specific initiatives to remove systemic disadvantages and cater for their specific need.

A WID Action Plan underpins the new policy and includes:

- development of a five year WID strategy for each element of the development cooperation program;
- development of at least one significant WID activity, involving women in design and implementation, for each country program;
- emphasis on activities such as gender analysis training for staff as well as contractors
- monitoring of program performance against WID indicators

3.3 The Gender Strategy

Initially, the Gender Strategy in CVWSP was implemented only in the Communities component. The NGO CO Teams were assisted by the Provincial WID Resource Person in integrating gender concerns in the community organizing work. Later the program was expanded to include all other components to achieve a more significant impact on women's participation in the project.

The general objective of the Gender Strategy is to increase the participation of women and men in the community in the planning, design, construction, hygienic use, operation and maintenance and management of water supply and sanitation facilities.

The basic rationale is that in order to achieve this objective, men as well as women, must be involved in making the necessary changes in attitudes and daily activity patterns.

3.4 Activities For Implementing the Gender Strategy

The following activities were conducted to implement the Gender Strategy:

- (i) **Orientation Workshop for NGOs and LGUs** - Conducted at the beginning of the project, a half day session on gender awareness was part of the Workshop. The role of women in water and sanitation projects was the primary focus.
- (ii) **Workshop on Participatory Rapid Rural Appraisal** - Conducted during the first month of the project, the issue of sex desegregated data and gender sensitive analysis of community profiles were introduced to the NGO Co Teams and LGU representatives.
- (iii) **Gender Analysis and Planning Workshop** - NGO CO Teams, Rural Sanitary Inspectors, Project Engineers, and other LGU representatives deepened their gender sensitivity as they analyzed data collected from the communities and planned their strategies to involve women and men in the different areas of the project. This was conducted on the third month of the project.
- (iv) **Gender Sensitivity Sessions for User Groups** - These were the formal and informal sessions carried out by the Community Organizers in the course of their work. This was aimed at ensuring that women themselves gain an understanding of their situation, effect changes in their attitudes and translate this into support and commitment to activities addressing gender issues in the planning, designing, implementation and management of the water and sanitation facilities.
- (v) **NGO CO Teams Review Workshop** - Conducted during the 12th month of the project, one of the areas reviewed was the participation of women in the project, including the methods used to achieve that participation.
- (vi) **Gender Sensitivity Training for Community Leaders** - One representative from each target barangay was trained to conduct basic gender sensitivity training for their respective organization. Each trainor was provided a training kit at the end of the seminar.
- (vii) **On-going support and guidance by the WID Resource Person** - These were the technical inputs provided by the Consultant to the project implementors so that the Gender Strategy can be implemented more effectively.

3.5 Integration of Gender Strategy in the Components

The following were the means of integrating the Gender Strategy in the different Components:

3.5.1 Communities

(a) Social Investigation

- Collection of sex desegregated baseline data
- Activity profile of men and women in their productive, reproductive and community management roles;
- Profile of men and women's access to resources and control of benefits.

(b) Project Orientation

- Women and men representations in orientation meetings;
- Gender issues as project theme.

(c) Core Group/Committees/Association Formation

- Equitable representation of women and men in the leadership structure;
- Consideration of women's work and time.

(d) Community Education

- Gender Sensitization of men and women
- Advocacy for shared parenting
- Consideration for women's work in planning for project activities.

(e) Community Planning

- Consultation with women regarding location of water facility, reliability of traditional water sources and health and sanitation concerns.

(f) Formation of Water and Sanitation Organizations

- At least 30% are women members
- Women as officers and in non-traditional roles.

3.5.2 Infrastructure

(a) Planning and Investigation

- Women's difficulties considered in existing type of water facilities;
- Women's inputs in the inventory of water sources;
- Percentage of women users of water facilities;

(b) Design

- Validation of data gathered on women users by technical personnel ;
- Design criteria consider women's needs i.e. type and location of water facility.

(c) Pre-Construction

- Desegregated data on skills inventory for construction requirements;
- Pre-construction to include women.

(d) Construction

- Job openings for skilled and unskilled labor open to men and women;
- Women as construction supervisors wherever possible.
- Equitable compensation of men and women in construction work.

(e) Operation, Maintenance and Management of Water System

- Equitable opportunities for women in technical and management positions;
- Equitable compensation of men and women hired for operation and maintenance facilities.

3.5.3 Health

(a) Health Education

- Health messages should be gender-sensitive
- Health education materials include focus on women's health vis-a-vis water and sanitation;
- Training activities should ensure adequate women representation;
- Health personnel involved in health education should undergo gender sensitivity sessions;

(b) Latrine Construction

- Consultations with women users on recommended design of latrine;
- Women's representation in latrine construction training;
- Women involved in actual latrine construction.

3.5.4 Planning and Monitoring

- Quantitative data on the gender mix in the training activities; membership/leadership structure in organizations should be included in the regular reports;
- Qualitative determination of extent of project resources channeled to women as part of post project evaluation.
- Qualitative data on observations on the differential impact on women and men of project activities, i.e., perception of enhanced status; increased time for personal needs; better health, etc.
- Equitable access of women to trainings under the project.

CHAPTER 4

THE DEVELOPMENTAL STUDY

4.1 Background

The UNDP-World Bank, Gender Issues Sourcebook for the Water and Sanitation Sector, (1994) noted that there is already a rich collection of women's experiences in water and sanitation projects. In the Philippines, however, there is still a dearth of this type of study. In fact, the International Training Network (ITN), Philippines, an agency concerned with the water and sanitation sector in the Philippines, had only started to conduct a Gender Orientation Workshop in 1993 "in response to the heightened interest of participating institutions and affiliate members of the Network on women's proactive involvement in water supply and sanitation programs and projects". (ITN Newsletter, July.- Dec., 1993).

The CVWSP Case Studies Project may still be the pioneering work in the documentation of women experiences in the area of water and sanitation in the country.

4.2 Objectives of the Study

The following are the objectives of the case study:

1. To document the strategies used by community organizers in ensuring women's participation in the community organizing work;
2. To look into the factors that encourage women in the community to participate in community organizing;
3. To come up with an analysis of women's quantitative and qualitative participation in all stages of the community organizing work;
4. To determine the impact of women's participation on their lives from the personal, family and community levels based on the perception of the women participants and community leaders;
5. To find out the problem areas in women's participation based on the experiences of women participants and document how these problems were addressed.

4.3 Methodology

The quantitative data on women's participation is taken from their attendance in the different activities of the community organizing work. Their attendance is compared with those of the men and the activities where they participated more are identified and also compared with those of men.

The qualitative data are gathered from interviews of 32 key informants and 11 barangay officials. In addition, 2 focused group discussions involving 19 women members of organizations were also conducted. There is a total of 62 respondents in the study.

- a. **Key Informants' Interviews** - Three women and one barangay leader were interviewed in each target barangay in Sta. Catalina, making a total of 43 respondents. The key informants were asked about the nature of their participation in the different activities of the community organizing work, what encouraged them to participate in the project, what were the reasons for failure to attend in some activities of the organizations, and what is the impact of their participation on themselves, their families and their communities. The barangay leaders, on the other hand were asked their views on whether it is necessary to include women in organizational activities, their specific views of women's involvement in the CVWSP, and what are the effects of women's participation in decision-making, economic activities and the organizations in the community.

- b. **Focused Group Discussions** - Two focused group discussions were conducted involving women representatives of 10 out of the 11 target barangays. The focused group discussions were used to find out how the women participants perceive their participation in the community organizing work, what problems they encountered in their participation, as well as the mechanisms, if any, that they employed to address these problems. They were also asked of their perception on the impact of their participation on themselves, their families and their communities

4.4 Setting of the Study

Sta. Catalina is the fifth town to the south of Dumaguete City, with a distance of 94.12 kilometers. Its total population is 53,560, broken down into 21,134 males and 32,426 females. The labor force is 10,555 with 16,068 coming from the agricultural sector and 787 from the industrial sector. It has an employment rate of 21%. Unemployment and underemployment rates are placed at 63% and 15% respectively. The average annual income of its 10,040 households is P20,000. It is derived from salaries and wages (17%) and from farm income (60%)

The town has a total land area of 52,314 hectares used as follows: agricultural with 4 major crops, namely sugar cane, coconuts, rice and corn; residential; commercial-industrial; and forestal and public lands.

Sta. Catalina is a third class municipality which means that it has an annual income between 2.5 - 3.5 millions.

There are a number of social, educational, health and economic institutions which have been established by both NGOs and GOs. There are the Farmers Irrigators Association, Settlers Association, Multi-Purpose Cooperative, and Credit Cooperative Financing Services. It has a government hospital, 21 health centers, 23 private clinics, 4 high schools, 23 elementary schools and 2 recreation centers. A sugar central in the town was recently cited as the Most Outstanding Firm with Family Welfare Programs for 1994 by the Department of Labor and Employment and the Labor Population Office.

Since the 1980s, however, Sta. Catalina has been tagged as the "hotbed of insurgency in the northeastern part of Negros Island" (Plowshare, Vol. 2 No. 8, Sept. 1992). Armed encounters between government troops and NPA guerrillas took place in Sta. Catalina. There were reports of arson, looting, massacres or salvaging and bombing. Today, it is still the home of the 336th PNP, 57th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army.

Sta. Catalina has a total of 22 barangays, and eleven of these are covered by the CVWSP. Barangays under the CVWSP which are along the national highway are Alagilang, Cawitan, Mabuhay, and Poblacion. Those in the hinterlands are San Jose, Buenavista, Obat, Mansagumayon, Milagrosa, Caigangan, and Sto. Rosario

4.5 Women's Attendance in Community Organizing Work

Data from eleven organizational activities were availed of and the attendance of women and men in these activities were taken. From the data gathered, there were more women than men who attended in the following activities: project orientation, community group interview, ratification of the constitution and by-laws, election of officers, officers training, household unit representatives (HURs) training, organizational development training, pre-registration training and participatory project evaluation. Only in the core group training did men attend more than women. There was an equal attendance of women and men in the community planning. The gender difference in attendance range from 40% more women in the HUR trainings to 2% more men in the core group training. Total participation of women was placed at 58% and men's participation at 42% or a difference of 16% in favor of women

Table 1 presents the gender participation in the Community Organizing Work in Sta. Catalina.

Table I

GENDER PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY ORGANIZING WORK
Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental

CO Activity	Total Part	Men Part	Women Part	Gender Dif
Project Orientation	836 100%	396 47%	440 53%	44 6% > women
Community Group Interview	387 100%	173 45%	214 55%	41 10 > women
Community Planning	272 100%	136 50%	136 50%	0 0
Core Group Training	112 100%	57 51%	55 49%	2 2% > men
Ratification Cons & Bylaws	395 100%	156 39%	239 61%	83 22% > women
Election Officers	587 100%	242 41%	34 59%	102 18% > women
Officers Training	91 100%	45 49%	46 51%	1 2% > women
HUR Training	172 100%	52 30%	120 70%	68 40% > women
Org. Dev. Training	313 100%	107 34%	206 66%	101 32%
Pre-register Training	249 100%	85 34%	164 66%	79 32% > women
Participatory Evaluation	29 100%	7 24%	22 76%	15 52% > women
Total Participation	3443 100%	1456 42%	1987 58%	531 16% > women

It is interesting to note that while there were more women who attended the activities of the community organizing work including the election of officers, their participation did not translate into their election to the key positions in the organizations. There were more male (68%) than female (32%) Presidents and Vice Presidents. The women were elected to the traditional female positions of secretaries and treasurers, where they comprise 68% compared to 32% of men. In the over all total of officers, 57% were men and 43% women. This result is however, well above the project goal of 30% women to be elected officers. It should be pointed out, however, that there were overwhelmingly more women (70%) Household Unit Representatives (HURs) compared to men (30%). It is very likely that women were elected to this post because of their traditional roles as primary health care givers at home. However, as HURs, women were trained not only in health education but also in latrine construction. So this particular role allowed women to cross the demarcation line between what is women and men's work. This alone can be considered a liberation for women from the perception that they are good only for housework. Their participation in latrine construction proved that they too can do construction work, which has traditionally been "men's work". There will be no reason now why women cannot participate in the construction of the water facilities.

Below is table 2 which presents the gender distribution of officers in the organizations.

**Table 2 - Gender Distribution of Officers in
11 Community Organizations
Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental**

President/Vice President		Secretary/Treasurer		Other Officers	
Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
15	7	7	15	17	8
68%	32%	32%	68%	68%	32%

While this result can be considered a big feat for women in the organizations, this still shows that women have to continue with the "struggle" until they can be perceived as fully fit to be elected to the top positions of organizations.

4.6 The Survey of Women Members

A survey involving 32 women members of the CVWSP organizations was conducted. They were asked of the nature of their participation in the project activities, what problems did they encounter and how they addressed these problems. They were also asked on the impact of their participation on the self, the family and the community.

4.6.1 Profile of Respondents

Nine (9) of the respondents are between 20-30 years old, thirteen (13) are between 31-40 years old, seven (7) belong to the 41-50 years old bracket, while three (3) are between 50-55 years old. Among the respondents, only one (1) is a widow, three (3) are unmarried, while the remaining 28 are married. Eight (8) of the respondents, including the unmarried ones, do not have children, while the rest have from 1 - 11 children. The average number of children is four (4).

In terms of work, the majority (18) of the respondents claim to be homebased and did not specify their particular occupation. Four (4) are engaged in farming, four (4) in vending, two (2) work as teachers, two (2) others as day care workers, one is involved in a little business while another is into swine-raising.

Five (5) of the women were able to finish a collegiate degree, while four (4) others also reached the college level. Most of the respondents (14) reached the secondary school level while seven (7) were able to reach the elementary grades. Two (2) did not indicate their educational attainment.

As regards their membership in the organization, ten (10) of the respondents hold the position of Board Member, three (3) as treasurer, two (2) as secretary, two (2) as vice-chair, one (1) each as PRO, auditor and member of the Education Committee. The remaining twelve are active members of the organization.

4.6.2 Women's Participation in the Different Stages of Organizing

The first stage of the organizing process was the community entry stage. Only 22 of the respondents admit having been present during this stage, while 10 did not participate. For those who participated, 15 claimed that their participation was satisfactory; while 2 said that theirs were unsatisfactory because they merely observed and were not actively participating in the discussions.

For those who were not able to join the community entry activities, the reasons they cited were that they were either busy at home, unaware of the activity or it was their husbands who attended the activity.

However, the next stage which consists of the community orientation, was well attended, and is in fact, the third most attended activity in the community organizing process. Twenty-seven (27) of the respondents claim to have been involved in this activity and most of them describe their participation as satisfactory. Still, five (5) of the respondents were not able to participate citing as reasons that: 1) a family member was sick at that time; 2) they were not aware of the activity; and 3) it was their husband who attended.

The next activity involved making the community profile wherein the members of the community were asked particular questions regarding the background of the community and other similar data. Asked whether they were actively involved in this activity, 25 women answered in the affirmative, while 7 said they were not involved. Of those who participated, 18 describe their participation as satisfactory; while three (3) said theirs appeared to be unsatisfactory because of their insufficient knowledge about the community history and other similar data.

Community planning was the next activity of the organizing process, and this was the second most attended activity. Twenty-eight (28) of the women said they able to participate in the community planning activities where only four (4) missed out. Asked why they failed to participate in the community planning activities, one said that she was sick at that time; while another said that she was out of town. The two did not specify their reasons. The women were also asked whether in the course of the planning, women's needs were being considered. In particular, they cited that the water system as well as the toilets were designed for the convenience of the women. They also said that women's time allocation for meetings and child care services were considered.

As to the core-group training, only a little over half (18) of the total respondents were able to participate. Fourteen (14) said they were not at all involved in this activity. Among the reasons for those who were not involved were that: 1) they were not chosen; 2) they were not available because of other work; 3) a family member was sick; and 4) she had to attend to the child. Among those who participated, many claim that their participation may be described as satisfactory. Fifteen (15) said that they actively participated because they were to share their ideas and they were involved in the discussions. Three (3) said they feel that they did not actively participate but were simply observing and listening to the ideas of the other participants. One said that she was content with what the others were saying. Another said that she had reservations because she did not have extensive experiences yet and might be criticized as being imprudent.

The next stage consisted of the formulation and ratification of the constitution and by-laws of the organization. In the formulation of the constitution and by-laws, only 23 of the women said they were involved, while the remaining 9 respondents said they did not participate in this particular activity. Among those who did not participate, three (3) claimed that their reason was because they were not members of the education committee, two (2) said that a family was sick at that time; while one (1) answered that she was not aware of the activity and the other that she had other work to do.

As to the ratification of the constitution and by-laws, this was the most attended activity, wherein only one (1) of the respondents was not able to attend. Her reason was that she was out of town at that time to attend to some important business.

The election of officers was also well-attended with 28 of the respondents saying they able to attend, and four (4) claiming that they were absent during that time. Among those who were absent, their reasons were either that a family member was sick at that time, or that they had to attend to other important work.

The next activity was leadership training. Of the 32 respondents, only eighteen (18) participated in this activity. Of those who participated, 13 think that their participation was satisfactory while only one (1) believes that her involvement was insufficient. The remaining fourteen (14) were not involved because 1) they were not officers of the organizations, 2) they had to stay home with the children; and 3) they had other work to do.

In terms of attendance to meetings, the majority claimed to have attended most of the organizational meetings. Only four (4) are confident that they have attended all of the meetings, while six (6) say that they attend meetings only sometimes. For those who regularly attend the meetings, they say that they always take most of the regular meetings and already allot a time for this. The others say that they attend meetings because they are interested and that it is important to know what issues are being discussed. For those who have been absent, they said that this was either because they had other work to do or they had to attend to pressing family concerns. One said that she did not receive any communication regarding the meeting, perhaps because her house is far and hardly accessible.

Asked to describe their participation in the meetings, nine (9) of the women said that they are active participants in that they always share their ideas while four (4) claim to share their ideas only occasionally. Five (5) believe that they are also actively participating because they join in the deliberations, and two (2) said that they participate by asking questions and clarifying certain issues. A considerable number of the women (5) think that their participation is quite limited because they merely observe and listen to the ideas being shared. Two (2) admit that they are still shy about voicing out their ideas, and would rather listen in the meantime.

The 32 respondents have unanimously agreed that indeed women's views are accepted during the meetings. Many of the women think that this is probably because the women have confirmed through their experiences that their views are being respected. Others believe that it is because of the general attitude that everyone is free to voice out their opinions and ideas. Others attribute the acceptability of women's views to the fact that women's views are actually good and that they are for the good of everyone. A few also think that there is also recognition that women's views are necessary and therefore should be encouraged.

Despite the apparently massive participation of the women respondents in the different stages of the organizing process, it is worthwhile to note that only seven (7) were actually involved in all the stages from community entry to leadership training activity. However, it is equally worthwhile to note that based on their responses, the reasons for the women's failure to participate in all of the other activities have largely been beyond their control or otherwise not intentional at all.

The table below presents the women participation in the different activities of the community organizing work and their perceptions of the quality of their participation.

Table 3. Women's Participation in Activities and Remarks on their participation

Participation/Activity	No.	Remarks	No.
A. Community Entry		Description of participation	
Yes	22	Satisfactory	15
No	10	Unsatisfactory	2
B. Community Orientation			
Yes	27	Satisfactory	20
No	5		
C. Community Profiling			
Yes	25	Satisfactory	18
No	7	Unsatisfactory	3
D. Community Planning		What particular needs met ?	
Yes	28	time for meetings	
No	4	design for water system	
		design for latrines	
Were women's needs taken into consideration ?			
Yes	28		

Participation/Activity	No.	Remarks	No.
E. Core group training		Did you share your ideas	
Yes	18	Yes	15
No	14	No	3
Description of participation		Why not ?	
Satisfactory	15	Still observing	
		Content with what others have to say	
F. Constitution & Bylaws Formulation		Why not?	
Yes	23	not member of Ed. Com	
No	9	Family sick	
		not aware	
		had other work to do	
Ratification			
Yes	31		
No	1		
G. Election of Officers			
Yes	28		
No	4		
H. Leadership Training		Why not?	
Yes	18	not an officer	
No	14	stay home with children	
I. Meetings		Why ?	
All	4	Interested	
Often	22	Schedule always noted	
Sometimes	6	Had other things to do	
		Had family concerns	
		Important to know	
Are women's views accepted ?	32	Why ?	
		Women's views respected	
		Women's ideas good	
		everyone free say ideas	
		women's views necessary	
Other reasons why did not participate			
had work to do			
family member sick			
nobody left at home			
take care of child			
not aware			
Total women who participated in all activities	7		

4.6.3 Factors That Encouraged Women To Participate

The reasons that motivated the women to participate in the project are varied. Asked regarding this, the top responses of the women pointed to their general concern for the barangay. For many of the women (21), they were encouraged to join the project because of the project idea itself since it addresses not only the water problem but health and sanitation concerns of the community as well. Ten (10) of the respondents also link this with their concern for the progress of their barangay. Five (5) say that they were motivated to participate in the project by their desire to help others and according to four (4) respondents, to interact with the other members of the community.

On the whole, these responses reflect a strong concern on the part of the respondents, for the general welfare of their community, notwithstanding the fact that who else would benefit from their community's progress but themselves. Probing deeper however, it is not as simple as who benefits, but who are involved. These responses actually indicate that there is a conscious effort on the part of the community members to actively and collectively work to address community problems rather than to passively wait and rely on a few government authorities to act on their problems.

This strong concern is visible as well in the women's responses that they are now more concerned about barangay affairs as compared to before, when asked about changes in themselves as a result of their participation in the project.

The other factors that encouraged women to participate in the project refer more to their personal motivations and needs. Five (5) said that they wanted to improve themselves by adding to their personal knowledge and skills; five (5) said that they wanted to join an organization; two (2) wanted to do other things outside of the house; while one (1) each said that she wanted to prove that women are not simply for the home and that women have a big role in the community. One (1) also claimed that it was her husband who encouraged her to join.

Table 4 below presents the factors that encouraged women to participate in the activities of the CVWSP.

Table 4. Factors that Encouraged Women to Participate

Factor	No.
1. Project idea - water/sanitation	21
2. For barangay progress	10
3. Wanted to help others	5
4. Add to what I know	5
5. Wanted to join an organization	5
6. Interaction with others	4
7. To get out of the house	3
8. Women have a role	1
10. Husband encouraged me	1

4.6.4 Impact of Women's Participation

On Self

In terms of work schedule, most of the women admit that there have been significant changes. Twenty-three (23) of the women admit that they are busier now, with 14 explicitly saying that their participation in the project has led to additional work. Seven (7) however, indicate that they have learned to adjust their time. Three (3) admit that there are occasions when they no longer have time to attend to their responsibilities at home. On the other hand, three (3) of the respondents believe that there are no significant changes in their work schedule since they have been involved in the project.

For the women also, their participation in the project has led to important realizations about themselves. Nine (9) of the respondents realized that they could contribute something to the community which they had not otherwise thought of before. Seven (7) believe that their participation has led to their self-improvement, referring to additional knowledge and skills.

Six (6) of the respondents also claimed that they are more confident about themselves now; while five (5) expressed that their exposure to the project has resulted in the realization that they, too, have rights as women.

Three (3) of the women were also proud of themselves especially because they were able to share their ideas and views regarding the project; while two (2) were happy that they have proven to themselves that women are not simply for the home.

On the other hand, four (4) of the women said that there have been no changes about their perception of themselves since they joined the project.

In terms of new knowledge and skills, the respondents had plenty to share. The top response of other women is that they have learned to interact with and understand the other members of the community, and relatedly, that they have learned to cooperate in community concerns. This means that, for many of the members, they have learned to be more tolerant of each other's weaknesses as well as eccentricities.

Beyond that however, it also means that the community members have started to bond and work together, disregarding personal differences in consideration of common and nobler goals.

This particular response is perhaps more greatly appreciated if one were to consider that prior to the project, the communities had very few reasons to bond together, and especially for the women, this has been the first time that they are actively involved in a collective effort to address community concerns.

The women also said that they have learned much from their participation in the project especially in terms of organizational management and leadership skills, as well as speaking skills.

Other responses include learning more about health and sanitation, learning how to make bowls and construct toilets and venturing into what are traditionally regarded as men's work. A few of the women also said that they have learned new ideas from other women, and learned new skills regarding home management.

As to the other effects on themselves brought about by their participation in the project, many of the women (11) also shared that they are now more concerned about their barangay than before. On the other hand, two (2) women responded that they have been able to attend seminars only now.

On Family

The women also report noticeable changes within their families. Many of the women claimed that their spouses are actually supportive of their efforts in that their husbands understand when they have to go out. For some of the women, they claim that their husbands now allow them to go out.

Two of the women have observed that their relationship with their husbands is on equal footing now. Another two report that their family members have commented that because of their busy schedules, some of their responsibilities at home have not been attended to.

Two single respondents also reported that there have been changes within the home in that they now help in housework. On the other hand, five (5) women claimed that there have been no changes in the perception of other family members about them.

As a result of the changes, twenty five (25) of the women claimed that decisions at home are now shared and that their views and suggestions carry more weight. Three (3), two (2) of them single,

admitted that they are now actively participating in decision-making at home. However, two (2) of the respondents still insist that the husband's decision should be followed.

There have also been changes in the dynamics of housework. Because the women are busier now and have to attend to other concerns outside the home, there have been changes in the family members' attitudes toward housework. According to 21 of the women, housework is now being shared by the family members. Two (2) said that their husband now sometimes help in housework, while one (1) woman says that housework is divided only between herself and the children. An unmarried respondent also shared that she now helps in the housework.

In reference to the married respondents, there have also been changes in their husbands' perception of them. Among the changes reported are: 1) husband's recognition that they too, have rights and can contribute to the community as well; 2) that the wives are more understanding now; 3) that their husband's have more respect for them now; and 4) that the women are more active now. A woman also said that her husband now perceives her as a partner in the livelihood activities of the family.

One woman said that there have been no changes in her husband's perception of her.

As to their children's perception of them, eleven (11) of the women claim that their children look at them with more respect and as more responsible. One (1) woman also commented that her children think that she is more understanding now. On the other hand, one (1) woman reported that her children have perceived that she has less time for them now. Five (5) others think that there have been no significant changes in their children's perception of them.

As to the changes in the other family members' perception of them, seven (7) women think that they are looked upon with more respect; while two (2) others believe that other family members now believe them to have some worth. One (1) also reported that other family members perceive her to be always attending seminars, without any elaboration whether this is positive or negative. Another woman says that other family members have begun to dislike the idea that she is away from home much too often now.

On the Community

The women were also asked about the effects of their participation in the CVWSP on the community. As regards changes in people's perception of women, many of the respondents answered that people in the community now have realized that indeed women can contribute something to the community. Nine (9) respondents think there is also an observation that women are more involved now, with 11 respondents indicating that as a matter of fact, the women are more active than the men.

Some of the respondents also believe that women are now being perceived as capable, and are active in the decision-making processes of the community. The rights of women are also being recognized, as well as the idea that women are equal to men. Some also reported observations in the community that women now are more confident about themselves. One (1) woman claimed that it is the women who guide the men into doing what is good.

Asked whether women are more active in the community now, all respondents answered a resounding yes. They attributed this occurrence not only to the fact that women are given the importance, but also because they are given the opportunities to use their capacities. Add to this the fact that women are more active in the organizations than men.

Some also suggested that women are encouraged to be active participants in the community processes because of positive discoveries about their capabilities like being able to do what is traditionally men's work, as well as having ideas that men do not have. One (1) respondent especially specified that women are more active now because of the CVWSP. However, another respondent laments the fact that some women are still not involved in the project and that others do not attend meetings at all.

Apparently, all these have also resulted in changes in the way women now view their roles in the community. For many of the women (17), they believe that they can really contribute something for the good of the community, which one woman particularly referred to as "a big role". For others, (14) they believe that women should be partners in the progress of the community as well as leaders, which in the words of a respondent, means that women are not for decorative purposes only. Some (5) also believe that they are no longer subordinate to the men, and that they have their rights as women. A few think that there will be more significant changes in the dynamics in the community especially that women have now been elected to barangay posts.

Table 5 below presents the impact of women's participation on the self, family and community.

Table 5 - Impact of Women's Participation

	No.
A. On Self	
Work schedule	
additional work	14
busier	9
learned to adjust to schedule	7
times when no time for housework	3
none	3
Self-perception	
can contribute to project	9
self-improvement	7
more confident in self	6
has rights/freedom	5
able to share ideas	3
not only for the home	2
none	4
New knowledge/skills	
understanding other members	
organizational leadership skills	8
health and sanitation	4
cooperate in community	3
construct latrines	3
speaking skills	2
new ideas	1
home management	1
men's work	1
Changes in lifestyles	
concerned about barangay now	11
able to attend seminars	2
none	5
B. On Family	
Family's perception of you	
husband encourages	7
family members understand	5
husband now allows to attend meetings	5
equal relations	2
some housework undone	2
helps in housework now	2
none	5

Decision-making	
shared	25
actively participates	3
husband decides	2
Housework	
shared	21
husband sometimes helps	2
shared with children	1
helps in housework now	1
Husband's perception	
have rights/can contribute to community	5
more understanding now	3
respectable	2
active	1
help in livelihood	1
busier now	1
same	1

4.7 The Survey on Barangay Leaders

Eleven barangay leaders were involved in the survey. They were asked their views on whether it is necessary for women to be included in the organizational activities, particularly in the CVWSP, and the effects of this participation on the community.

4.7.1 Profile of the Respondents

Of the eleven (11) respondents, eight (8) are females while the remaining three (3) are males. Six are between 40-50 years old, three (4) are above 50, while one (1) is below 30 years old. Six (6) served as barangay councillors, two (2) as barangay captains, and one (1) as a barangay health worker.

Their involvement in the CVWSP vary. Six are simply members of the organizations, two (2) are board members, one (1) is the chairperson of the organization, another is a cluster leader, while another is with the monitoring and evaluation committee.

4.7.2 Views About the Inclusion of Women in Organizational Activities

All of the respondents agree that it is necessary for women to be involved in organizational activities. The reasons they cited could be grouped into. 1) the necessity of women's participation in the development of the community; 2) the capability of women to be involved in such activities; and 3) the idea of giving women opportunities for development.

In particular, the respondents said that it is necessary for women to be involved in organizational activities not only because all organizations require women's participation but also to allow the women to help the barangay since they are also concerned about the community's development. Some respondents also believe that women should be given due importance, and that they should be educated to know that they have a right to be leaders in the community. Others said that women can help run the organizations while another insists that it is, in fact, the women who make the organization work.

In terms of particular areas that women should participate in, four (4) respondents claim that women should be involved in the particular tasks of cleaning the surroundings/sanitation or beautification/planting flowers. Another four (4) think women should also be active in organizational management, particularly attendance to meetings, planning and running the organizations.

Three (3) of the respondents also believe that women should also participate in the construction of latrines. One respondent thinks that women should be involved in water concerns while another believes that they should be in education work.

Finally, one male respondent claimed that women should particularly take care of receiving visitors.

Among the respondents, it may not be surprising that two (2) males and one (1) female emphasized women's work in the household as the basis for women's participation in the project; or that since women do most of the work at home, they should therefore be involved. They were perhaps referring to the project concept itself of addressing the basic concern of water and sanitation. However, it is comforting to note that there is a large number of the respondents who trust women's capabilities in managing or participating in community activities.

In addition, it may be observed that while some women cite non-traditional areas of work as the areas where women should participate (i.e. the construction of latrines) these are not mentioned by the men. In fact, one male especially indicated that part of women's role in the organization should include cleaning, planting flowers, and entertaining guests, over and above running the organization.

Finally, the constant mention by the respondents that women should participate in the areas of attendance of meetings and organizational planning is perhaps merely a confirmation of their experience on what women are already doing in the project.

4.7.3 Views of Women's Participation in the CVWSP

According to many of the respondents, women have a big contribution to the project, especially in the areas of cleaning, sanitation and beautification. This perhaps reflects so much of their association of women's traditional roles at home with their roles in the project. One participant went as far as saying that women's participation is important to the project, and that this is but natural for women because of the nature of sanitation. Another also said that the project has been to guide women in cleaning the household as well as the community, apart from other things that women should do. Still another respondent indicated that women's participation in the project has been partly anchored on their hope to learn more about sanitation and health, as well as leadership skills for the development of the family and the entire barangay.

Whether these views are indeed a reflection of how some people view the project as an extension of women's roles at home, the results have definitely been not for naught. The respondents immediately acknowledge that the participation of women has been a success especially in the sanitation and beautification of each household. According to some, their barangay has changed significantly because of this; and in addition, their participation has also helped the sanitation habits of neighbors who are not even involved in the project.

The other side of the picture has been the acknowledgement of women's empowerment as a result of their participation in the project. According to some respondents, women have proven themselves to be good managers of the program in sanitation, especially since they are the ones who are actively involved.

Another respondent also praised the project and expressed her confidence that because the project values women's capabilities, the project will be successful. Another respondent also appreciated the fact that women are actively involved and commented that the community organizer even gives more to women.

One of the male respondents also believes that the project has provided opportunities for women to contribute their knowledge to the project and claimed that this is good. On the other hand, another respondent believes that women can be good in running the CVWSP and is happy over the fact that women will learn to fix the water pump.

4.7.4 Effects of Women's Participation on the Community

Based on the observations of the respondents regarding what the effects of women's participation have been on the community, it is clear that significant changes have taken place. Apparently, many of the respondents appear to be amazed at the changes, especially with the concurrent changes in women's attitudes.

Among the responses, some say that women are now actively participating in making decisions within the community and that their suggestions are being duly recognized. Some add that women are being actively sought and consulted about community plans and decisions. According to one respondent, women make decisions faster because planning is done immediately and there is always cooperation among the women. These are all perhaps the result of the general observation that women's capabilities are now being recognized by the community.

Some have also observed that women now are able to suggest or voice out their ideas and that they are being heard as a sector within the community. They claim that women's voices are not only heard but given importance as well.

Alongside this development of course, is the observation of some of the respondents that women's needs are also being addressed. Finally, some respondents, without much elaboration, have also noticed that women are more reliable leaders than men.

4.7.5 Participation of Women in Community Activities

In terms of women's participation in community activities, the respondents also noticed several changes. According to their observations, more women are joining community activities now than compared with before. In fact, they claim that more women are involved now than at the start of the project. This is specially visible during meetings, where it is the women who usually attend.

As a matter of fact, the high visibility of women has led to the rise of many women to become community leaders, some having been elected to the barangay council.

However, some also say that women are actively participating alongside the men. As aptly put by a respondent, with more people involved, the project will proceed faster.

4.7.6 Economic Activities in the Community

As regards economic activities in the community, most of the responses claimed that women are also helping the men in livelihood activities. However, it is worthy to note one of the respondent's observation that with the apparent self-improvement undergone by a lot of women as a result of their participation in the project, some women now are learning to farm, to ferment tuba but are still actively venturing into other areas of what was otherwise traditionally regarded as men's work.

4.7.7 Organization Within the Community

The general observation among the respondents is that women are active in all the organizations in the community and that, as a matter of fact, more women than men work for and are involved in the organizations because the women seem to be more enthusiastic and active. According to them, this is a good opportunity for the women to prove their worth.

4.8 The Focus Group Discussions

Two focus group discussions involving 9 and 10 or a total of 19 women members of organizations, were conducted. They were made to discuss the nature of their participation in the community organizing work, the problems they encountered in their participation and how these problems were addressed. They were also asked their perception of the impact of their participation to the self, the family and the community.

The two focus group discussions are treated separately in the report.

Focus Group Discussion I

There were 10 participants in this group coming from five barangays, namely: San Jose, Buenavista, Mansagomayon, Caigangan and Obat.

• Profile of Participants

The majority of the participants belong to the middle-aged group with ages ranging from 34 - 43. Only two women fall outside of this group: one who is 25 years old and another who is 55 years old.

Six of the participants are married while one is a widow. The remaining two women are single, one of whom is a single parent.

Except for one, all of the participants have children. The majority of them (6) have between 1 to 5 children, while two have 8 and 9 children, respectively.

The common occupations of the women are farming, raising animals and backyard gardening. Two are also engaged in laundry work and another in dressmaking.

Of the nine participants, one is a college graduate, four reached the high school level while the same number finished only the elementary level.

In terms of their membership in organizations, all of the participants hold a particular position in their respective organizations. Two of the women are members of the Board of Directors, two hold the position of president, the same number as vice-presidents, two as Health and Sanitation Committee members and one is a secretary.

Of those married, all their husbands are engaged in farming, and except for one, all of the husbands are also involved in the CVWSP project.

• Participation in the Community Organizing Activities

In the community entry stage, eight out of the nine women said they participated in the activities. They said that both men and women were involved, although there were more men than women.

In the community orientation stage, all of the women were able to participate. Representatives from Buenavista said that more women than men were involved in this stage, saying that women were more interested than the men in this stage of the project. On the other hand, those from the other barangays claimed that men equalled women in attendance.

All of the women also claimed to have been active in the making of the community profile, both in interviewing and in responding to questions. In San Jose, more women were involved than men because the latter were working. In contrast, more men were involved in this stage in the barangay of Buenavista because, according to the participants, men knew more about the community history and profile. Representatives from the three other barangays, however, admitted that the involvement of the men equalled that of the women in this particular activity.

In the community planning stage, the women said all of them were involved. Many of them claimed that more women than men were involved in this aspect of the project largely because the men were busy with their work.

All of the women also said that they were able to participate in the core-group training. Representatives from San Jose and Buenavista claimed that more women than men were involved in this activity; while those from the other three barangays insist that both women and men had about equal attendance.

The making of the Constitution and By-laws, the participants said, was delegated to the Education Committee. Their ratification however, involved the entire organization. All of the participants claimed to have taken part in the ratification. Representatives from Buenavista asserted that more women than men were involved; while those from the other barangays claimed that participation of both women and men were about equal.

In the election of officers of the organization, the participants claimed that all of them were able to participate. They added that more women than men attended the election and yet this did not necessarily translate into more women being elected as officers. In Barangays San Jose and Obat, more male officials were elected, with the participants rationalizing that men are more responsible leaders. In contrast, representatives from Buenavista and Mansagomayon disclaimed this and illustrated their example where more women than men were elected officers, while in Caigangan, there were about equal women and men officers.

During the latrine construction training, three barangays sent one male and one female representatives each, one barangay sent two female representatives, while the other barangay sent two female and one male representatives. However, it was only the barangay of San Jose which had started the actual construction of the latrines. In their experience, more women than men were involved in this phase. Women were involved in transporting sand and gravel, mixing these with cement and forming the bowls.

● Problems Encountered in Women's Participation

Among the problems encountered by the women in their participation in the project was transportation which hindered some of them. Participants from Mansagomayan said that transportation available from their place is very limited with only one trip a day which is irregular in its schedule. Hence, the waiting time both for the transportation and for the other women already in the meeting place causes delay. Some also indicated that the roads are very bad (especially those from Buenavista) and in case of floods or heavy rains, mobility is very limited (especially those from San Jose who have to pass through a bridge).

Time allocation also causes some difficulty. Some women are kept at home due to housework or in times of emergency (like when a child is sick). Other women however, manage to adjust their time for housework by making up for lost time later in the day or week.

Others have misgivings about some officers of the organizations wearing different hats, especially because some are also barangay officials. Another raised the problem of attendance, saying that the same people attend meetings with hardly any new members. Still another participant disclosed that some women were not allowed by their husbands to attend meetings.

The greatest block however, seems to spring from a traumatic experience of the people in general in Sta. Catalina. A few years ago, their barangays and nearby villages were the center of activities of revolutionaries and sympathizers from the revolutionary leftist movement who brought with them their own consciousness-raising and development activities. In due time, the military was hot on their tracks and the people were left to witness the burning of their homes by the military as well as the war between the revolutionaries and the military troops. Many of them were forced to evacuate.

This experience has instilled indiscriminate fear and distrust among the people that they practically distrust the entry of strangers into their communities. While others have gotten over the

experience, the sentiment of fear and distrust remains high among a considerable number. And this was palpable even among some of the participants in the focused group discussion. This distrust becomes one of the major hindrances to a collective and unified community participation in the project. Notwithstanding, efforts are being made from the project staff as well as those active in the organizations to explain the nature of the project and the benefits it would bring to them. The participants themselves agree that there is already much progress in this regard. Yet, they themselves cannot blame others who take longer in getting over the trauma of their experience.

- **Factors that Encouraged Women to Participate**

Most of the women were personally motivated to participate in the project. Some of them said that they were personally interested because of their positions as barangay leaders, others as health workers, and others simply because they wanted to help their communities. Others said that participating in the project would mean added education for them.

- **Effects of Women's Participation**

On themselves

The benefits brought by the project to the women were varied. Many of them realized that they need not necessarily be imprisoned at home doing housework only. In fact, they feel liberated from this by having other things to do and think about, while in the process, being able to help their community. In fact, one said that she considered herself an ordinary person before. But in the course of the project, her leadership skills became acknowledged by the people in the community to the extent that she was elected president of the organization -- something she had never expected in her life.

The women also feel more confident now in terms of speaking their minds and sharing in discussions. They have also learned new skills and their knowledge about certain things has greatly increased.

One of the benefits about their participation in the project that seems to overwhelm them is getting to know more people and developing friendships among the other women in the community. Apparently, the women have bonded together in the community to form an informal support group system.

One woman also mentioned that her participation in the project gave her the opportunity to meet distinguished people, referring to Ms. Sonia Roco, the senator's wife.

On the Family

The women related that before, they used to fight a lot with their husbands. However, their exposure to the seminars and trainings in the project have helped them to be more patient with each other. They said that they have learned to adjust to each other. Some added that it is even their husbands who reminded them of the schedule of their meetings.

Their children have also learned to understand what they are doing. They said that this is probably so because what they learn from the project they also share with their families.

On the Community

According to the participants, women now are becoming more active in the community as they are given responsibilities. They also said that women's opinions and ideas are respected and trusted. They supported this by saying that even the men immediately obey what the women say. This is also evidenced by the fact that many women ran for seats in the May 11 barangay elections and many of them also won.

Aside from these, women said that their participation in the project has also helped improve the sanitation habits of the people in the community. Even their neighbors who are not involved have been influenced, especially in cleaning their surroundings and in their cooking habits.

Focus Group Discussion II

In this second group discussion, the participants came from four barangays, namely: Alangilan, Cawitan, Mabuhay, and Milagrosa. There were 9 members in the group.

● Profile of the Participants

This is a relatively young set of women since many of them were between 32 - 40 years old, one was aged 53 years while the other was 58 years of age.

All of the participants are married. One had the most number of children in the group at five, another did not have any children at all, while the rest had between 2 - 4 children.

The women were engaged in animal raising, backyard gardening, small-scale vending, farming. Some were also employed by curling hair, another by dressmaking and still another as a day care worker.

The lowest educational attainment among the women was Grade 6 (3) while the highest was at the college level (3). Three others reached the high school level, while another did not indicate her educational attainment.

Like the other Sta. Catalina group, all the participants in this focus group discussion were officers of their respective organizations. Three were members of the Board of Directors, one was the president, another the vice-president, two held the position of secretary while three belonged to Committees.

The husbands of the women were also employed largely as farmers; others were in different occupations like carpentry, chain saw operation, fishing and military service. Of these husbands, six were similarly involved in the CVWSP project while the rest were not.

● Participation in the Community Organizing Activities

Only three of the participants claimed to have attended the preliminary organizing activities during the community entry stage. Apparently, news of the project soon spread since at the later stage during the community orientation, all the participants were able to join. All of the participants were also able to join in the community profiling and community planning stage, with still a large number (9) able to participate in the water system designing aspect, while the same number were involved in the latrine construction.

Since participation in the core group training was by selection and not voluntary, only a few of the organization's members were involved. However, five of the women claimed to have been present during the echo of this training to the organizations. In addition, more women were able to join the later leadership training.

The writing of the organizations' constitutions and by-laws also involved only four of the women; similarly, their ratification involved only half of the participants.

In summarizing their participation in the project, the women claimed to have been active in attendance at meetings and seminars; mixing cement for and forming the toilet bowls; fetching water, sand and gravel for the latrine construction; giving notices to members regarding organizational meetings; serving snacks during meetings and other activities; preparing the physical arrangement for the meetings, and distributing available materials.

- **Problems Encountered in their Participation**

The greatest problem encountered by the women in their participation in the project has been adjusting their time to attend to both responsibilities at home and organizational concerns. As a means of coping with the increasing demand on themselves, the women have adjusted by rescheduling their time for doing housework. Instead of doing these at the regular time of the day, some have resorted to doing the laundry or other postponable work at night or at times when there are no urgent organizational activities to attend to.

The other problem faced by the women pertains to other members of the organization who either creates intrigues among other members or those who distrust the organization. Their strategy in confronting these includes ignoring those petty intrigues and at the same time adding more efforts to make the members understand the organizational context and rationale of the activities.

- **Effects of their Participation**

On Themselves

The women's participation in the project has made a large impact on their time. They said that their responsibilities at home have increased and they seem to always be running out of time for housework. Although they do adjust their time schedule, this does not obliterate the fact that their time available is the same while their concerns have been augmented. In fact, the women disclosed that because they are so busy already, they no longer have the time to argue with their husbands

Their being busy with the project has also somehow strained their relationship with other relatives (siblings, in particular) who do not usually offer their help or even refuse to help during times of exigent needs, like looking after their children.

On the other hand, the women do appreciate the opportunity to be able to go out of their homes and attend to concerns other than housework. They also greatly recognize the skills and knowledge that they have learned out of their participation in the project. For one, the women said that their shyness has been superseded by confidence in dealing with other people. Secondly, they have also developed organizational skills, for example, in managing organizations and dealing with members of the organization. Many claimed to have extended their patience in trying to understand and accommodate the views and wishes of other members. They also said that they have learned to adjust their particular behaviors to adapt to the general interest.

The participants likewise claimed that they heartily welcome their knowledge of new skills, especially those technical ones which they never before imagined they could learn, like in construction work. They also value the new ideas they gathered from other members as well as from their trainers.

Perhaps, with their confidence supplemented with their new skills and knowledge, the participants also indicated that they are now more interested in politics.

Effects on the Family

From the experiences of the women, their husbands had been very cooperative in their efforts. For one thing, arguments at home have been greatly reduced owing to the lack of time for the women to engage in them. However, the women were proud to say that their husband's faith and belief in their capabilities have significantly improved. Husbands no longer doubt that their wives are up to something suspicious.

In fact, their husbands are the ones who encourage them to join the meetings and even remind them of their schedules. Some women said that they do not even have to ask permission from their husbands anymore.

Effect on the Community

According to the participants, women have become more active now in the community; and they are especially visible during community meetings.

This has resulted in the community's recognition of women's capabilities. Some women were elected to the leadership of other community organizations. In the field of politics, many women were recommended to run for the barangay elections, and many of them have won. In fact, the women observed that there are more women members in their barangay councils now.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

5.1 Women's Participation in the Project

Hence, in conclusion, the different stages of the organizing process involved both women and men. At most, the men could only equal the attendance of women; but in some cases, the women surpassed the men. Only in cases where participation in the activity was reserved for a special group (writing of the constitution and by-laws for the Board of Directors; core group training for the core group; leadership training for the officers), are the women's attendance markedly reduced.

However, the women's great visibility in these stages in the community organizing process does not necessarily mean a strong overturn towards women in the development of the organizing process. A wide membership of women in an organization is not always congruent to a wide influence in the decision-making. The election of mostly male officers in some areas still indicate a traditional dependence upon stereotypical male characteristics for leadership in the organizations. This is a carry-over of an inherited conception that community affairs is a man's domain, owing perhaps to the fact that many community organizations are still led by men. Yet, there are also significant experiences in the project of women being elected to the leadership of the organizations. At best, one can see not a dominance of male leadership but more or less a balance of male and female leadership in the organizations involved in this study.

As can also be gathered from the women's responses, even as the men occupy the top positions in the organization, women remain a palpable influence in decision-making. From the data, the women have indicated that their voices are being heard during meetings and consultations. This influence may even arise as a necessity since, if one studies carefully the dynamics of the organization, it is, in fact the women who implement these decisions and instigate the management of the organizational activities.

It can also be seen from the results of this study that the participation of the women in the various aspects of the community organizing work is characterized both by the women's traditional roles as well as their venturing into new roles not previously assigned to them.

Apparently, responsibilities like preparing for meetings, reminding members of meeting, serving snacks during activities, receiving guests and the like, are extensions of wifely obligations at home. And yet, women have also ventured into non-traditional responsibilities like organizational leadership, involvement in construction work, etc. Other previous experiences show that for women to actively take part in the decision-making of mixed organizations, is already a big achievement. Discounting the factor of possible necessity, this requires not only sufficient motivation and confidence on the part of the women, but acceptance as well on the part of the men and the entire community in general.

5.2 Effect of Women's Participation

Indeed, the women's participation in the project has led to their increased responsibilities, which would in turn, have an impact on their time allocation. For some women, this is resolved by more participation of the husbands and children in housework. For others, the problem remains and their means of coping would be to readjust their schedules. As already indicated earlier, their burden increases while their time available remains the same.

This problem causes serious considerations in terms of how to implement women's projects without incrementing their original multi-burdened situation. At this point, the women's interest in the project is marked by a noble consideration and anticipation of the greater good for the community, i.e., water for the community. However, in the final analysis, the longer the project takes in making concrete results, the heavier will be the burden on these women. In fact, this could even decimate women's interest in the project.

It may seem as a matter of analysis, that the women have long been accustomed to the idea of

carrying multiple roles and burdens that they would rather look at the many benefits the project has given them, rather than the negative impact of the project on them. They put much value in particular to the significant changes in their attitudes, their perceptions of themselves, as well as the reception of society to their new image as women.

For many women, the realization that they are also useful outside the home has proved to be a stunning experience. In fact, this has led to the increased confidence in themselves and opportunities for fulfilling their potential not only as wives but as persons, as leaders, and as active members of the community. While they do personally acknowledge this, they appeared a bit surprised that their families and the entire community would acknowledge these as well.

The most significant indication of this has been the increased visibility of women in the community. The participant's testimonies to the election of women in the leadership of community organizations, and even to the community's political structure, is clearly an unexpected result of changes being effected by their active participation in the project.

For women who have always been relegated to the margins in the history of development efforts, the joy of even just having their presence felt in community meetings cannot be underscored. And that the women are now elected to barangay posts - a feat they solidly attribute to their increasing significance in the community because of their active participation in the organizing process of the CVWSP - is simply a phenomenon beyond words.

The monumental development of women being elected to barangay posts reveals two underlying factors: (1) the fact that women are being pushed out of the private world of their homes into the public world of the community; and (2) the community's acceptance of women as leaders.

There have also been changes in family dynamics. As mentioned earlier, husbands have been generally receptive to the idea of their wife's active participation in community affairs. In fact, they are the ones who encourage their wives to join the meetings. For many husbands, their support is manifested in their willingness to take on some of their wives' responsibilities at home.

In the general sense, all these sum up what women have in fact achieved out of their participation in the project: LIBERATION - liberation from the prison of housework; liberation from the larger society's traditional perception of them as fit only for the private sphere of the home but unfit for the public sphere; liberation from their perceptions of themselves resulting from centuries of socialization to the female stereotype.

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