

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

GUINYAWAN, RAEG NOEL F. APRIL 2013. Perception of Karao Indigenous People To The Proposed Cordillera Autonomous Region. Benguet State University, La Trinidad, Benguet.

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## **ABSTRACT**

This study was conducted November 2012 at Karao, Bokod, Benguet to determine if the respondents are aware of the Third Organic Act; To identify the advantage and disadvantage of Autonomy, to determine the problems that may be encountered if the organic act is ratified and identify some external factors that may affect the perceptions and attitudes of the respondents towards autonomy.

A total of 40 respondents from barangay Karao were interviewed. The respondents had relatively low level of family income, some of the respondents were literate they had the same cultural tradition and ethnic affiliations.

The respondents did not differ significantly in their perceptions and attitudes to the granting of a Cordillera Autonomy. The respondents felt that the Republic act No. 9566 was effective and that it was for the interest of the people living in the area.

The respondents expressed that most of the pressing problem in the Cordillera's today were economic, political and unemployment and they perceived the solution to these problems was a closer attention to be given by the National Government.



Respondents with lower higher educational attainment and lower income had the tendency to accept the proposed autonomy, while those with lower educational attainment and older in age had tendency to reject the granting of autonomy.



## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Profile of the Respondents

This study includes a survey of the demographic and economic profile of the respondents. A discussion on their sociological profile is also presented in relation to their degree of influence to perceptions and attitude.

Age. Table 1 shows that the respondents have ages ranging from twenty to sixty (20 – 60) years and above. The greatest number belonged to forty one to fifty (41 – 50) years old, thirty five percent (35%) followed by thirty one to forty (31 – 40) years old, fifty one to sixty (51 – 60) years old, sixty one (61) and above seventeen percent (17%) and twenty to thirty (20 – 30) years old twelve percent (12%). The data shows that most of the respondents were adults.

Gender of Respondents. The number of the female respondents was fifty-two point five percent (52.5%) slightly higher than male respondents with forty-seven point five percent (47.5%).

Level of Education. All the respondents were literate. Majority finished tertiary level and some even finished graduate studies. This makes them generally aware of the issue at hand like level of understanding and openness to the issue of cordillera autonomy.

Economic Activity. The table shows that thirty-seven point five percent (37.5%) of the respondents are government employees and thirty percent (30%) are students. Seventeen point five percent (17.5%) are farmers and fifteen percent (15%) are working in the private sector.

Below is a tabular presentation of the aforementioned data.



Table 1. Profile of the respondents

| PROFILE                   | NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS | MEAN |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------|
| <u>Age</u>                |                       |      |
| 18-30                     | 5                     | 12   |
| 31-40                     | 7                     | 17   |
| 41-50                     | 14                    | 35   |
| 51-60                     | 7                     | 17   |
| 61-70                     | 7                     | 17   |
| TOTAL                     | 40                    | 100  |
| <u>Gender</u>             |                       |      |
| Female                    | 21                    | 52.5 |
| Male                      | 19                    | 47.5 |
| TOTAL                     | 40                    | 100  |
| <u>Level of Education</u> |                       |      |
| Elementary                | 1                     | 2.5  |
| High School               | 9                     | 22.5 |
| College                   | 19                    | 47.5 |
| Graduate School           | 11                    | 27.5 |
| TOTAL                     | 40                    | 100  |
| <u>Occupation</u>         |                       |      |
| Government Employee       | 15                    | 37.5 |
| Private Employee          | 6                     | 15   |
| Farming                   | 7                     | 17.5 |
| Unemployed/student        | 12                    | 30   |
| TOTAL                     | 40                    | 100  |



### Level of Awareness to Autonomy

Awareness to autonomy. The level of awareness of the respondents towards autonomy is shown in table 2, ninety-seven percent (97%) majority of the respondents are aware about the autonomy compared to two percent (2%) who have not heard of autonomy. The mean response of the respondents was highest for their perception that the granting of Cordillera Autonomy would help preserve and develop the communal social order and economic system.

Understanding of what autonomy means. Forty three percent (43%) strongly believe that autonomous governance from the national government will promote unity, economic and social development in the region. Twenty three percent (23%) of the respondents believe that an autonomous region would promote unity and coordination among the people, both from the lowlands and the highlands, seventeen percent (17%) of the respondents believe that full separation from the government will ensure the region's internal power and the return of ancestral lands and domain in Karao and the whole Cordillera in general. Fifteen percent (15%) of the respondents were undecided about it.

Awareness in the renewed move for autonomy. Eighty two percent (82%) of the respondents were aware of the renewed autonomy while seventeen percent (17%) of the respondents have not heard of the new proposed Cordillera Autonomy.

The respondents learned about the source of information on Autonomy through:

*Radio/TV.* Fifty nine percent (59%) more than half of the respondents got their information on autonomy from the radio/TV. This mode is a good source of information. This implies that people who are tuned to radio/TV could get information about Autonomy, and are more aware of the issue because of their access to the information. Another



implication of this result is about the power of the media with regard to information dissemination and its role in ensuring the awareness of the people about important matters that affects them.

*Newspaper/brochures.* Forty one percent (41%) of the respondents got the information from reading newspapers/brochures. The lesser number would be implicated on the fact that the access to broadsheets and newspapers is actually limited in the area. Daily newspapers or even weekly, for that matter, rarely reach the area, the few papers that reach the respondents usually come from the city when they happen to visit.

*Press conference/forums.* Six percent (6%) of the respondents were informed about autonomy from attendance in press conferences and forums that were actually conducted in the area. The low result could either mean that press conference or forums were rarely conducted in the area or that only a few are actually interested and bother to attend. The first implication would in a way violate what was mandated in the constitution about the need for regular forums and information dissemination to the public, in order to keep them knowledgeable about it, and give them basis on which to base their decisions to. The second implies that the matter on autonomy, to the layperson is actually of no relevance to them, and that they are not interested because they feel that with or without autonomy, life goes on.

*Local leaders.* Twelve percent (12%) of the respondents learned of the proposed autonomy from the local leaders. Local leaders, holding a respectable status in the area are sources of information to the local community. This implies that, for the government to actually tap the public, local leaders must be used and oriented even made properly aware and knowledgeable about the issue because they are the ones who actually deal with the



people. Local leaders are important in making the public knowledgeable and aware of the programs of the government, hence, they must be used in informing the public, in order to disseminate information better.

*Word of mouth.* Thirty one percent (31%) of the respondents have heard of Autonomy by word of mouth. This poses a problem because the information might be wrong and distorted. Wrong and distorted information when fed to the community usually develop a strong negative attitude. A favorable attitude is developed only if the information is objective and honest. Negative attitudes usually make the people narrow-minded and close minded, oftentimes going against before trying to understand first. Narrow-minded and close-minded people are the hardest to educate, because even if they do not actually have factual basis for their reluctance, they still do. They resist necessary changes and refuse to accept what is actually beneficial to them.

*Posters/notices.* Three percent (3%) of the respondents have been informed through posters/notices in barangay halls or Bulletin boards. This implies that some people actually read and want to be aware of what the government has in store for them. The fact that they read notices and posters means that they are interested in seeking more information, otherwise, they would not bother to even glance at them.

*Period of awareness.* Forty percent (40%) of the respondents just recently learned about the autonomy. While twenty percent (20%) of the respondents learned about it in 2011. Forty percent (40%) of the respondents learned about autonomy in the previous years when cordillera autonomy was first proposed. The lack of information implies that there is a need to exert more efforts to ensure that the public and the people are aware of Autonomy Bill.



Awareness to House Bill 5595. Forty five percent (45%) of the respondents have heard of the house bill 5595 (Organic act) on this year (2012) while fifty five percent (55%) of the respondents have not heard of it due to lack of information. In general, respondents are aware of the proposed Bill, though derived from different sources, the overall impact of this awareness results is that, the Ikarao's are concerned and are actually willing to participate in the move for Autonomy Pro or Anti, their stand does not matter, what is significant, respondents or Ikarao's in general are concerned about the events that would eventually change their lives. This is interesting in the sense that ikarao's are no longer passive participants who only wait for what's given to them. They are more vocal about their opinions, and are more responsive to social events and change.

Table 2. Level of awareness

|   | FREQUENCY | PERCENTAGE (%) |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| <b>Awareness to Autonomy</b>                |           |                |
| Aware (yes)                                 | 39        | 97             |
| Not aware (no)                              | 1         | 3              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                | <b>40</b> | <b>100</b>     |
| <b>Understanding Autonomy</b>               |           |                |
| Self-governance                             | 18        | 44             |
| Better coordination of development projects | 9         | 23             |
| Full separation from the government         | 7         | 18             |
| Undecided                                   | 6         | 15             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                | <b>40</b> | <b>100</b>     |





Table 2. continued...

|  | FREQUENCY | PERCENTAGE (%) |
|--|-----------|----------------|
| Awareness in the renewed move for Autonomy |           |                |
| Aware (yes)                                | 33        | 82             |
| Not aware (no)                             | 7         | 18             |
| TOTAL                                      | 40        | 100            |
| Source of information                      |           |                |
| Radio/TV                                   | 19        | 59             |
| Newspaper/Brochures                        | 13        | 41             |
| Press conference/Forum                     | 2         | 6              |
| Briefings/Meetings                         | 4         | 12             |
| In school                                  | 0         | 0              |
| Word of mouth                              | 10        | 31             |
| Posters/Notices                            | 1         | 3              |
| *Multiple responses                        |           |                |
| Period of Awareness                        |           |                |
| 2012-present                               | 16        | 40             |
| 2011                                       | 8         | 20             |
| Earlier years – 2010                       | 16        | 40             |
| TOTAL                                      | 40        | 100            |
| Awareness to House Bill 5595               |           |                |
| Aware (yes)                                | 18        | 45             |
| Not aware (no)                             | 22        | 55             |
| TOTAL                                      | 40        | 100            |



### Perception Towards Autonomy

Autonomy will foster unity in the Cordilleras. Fifty seven percent (57%) of the respondents agree that autonomy is the best solution to the problems in Cordillera such as tribal differences. However, twenty two percent (22%) of the respondents disagree. Twelve percent (12%) of the respondents strongly agree while seven percent (7%) of the respondents are undecided. Results show a positive attitude and perception towards a more unified cordillera. This belief implies an unspoken hope to develop a more harmonious community while culturally and traditionally speaking, Cordillerans are now more open-minded as to consider something and look into the more positive aspects of it. A hope for more unified Cordillera also implies that the Cordillerans are now more aware of their identity and heritage, as a result of such they hope for unity not only to assert their rights but also the willingness to protect them. A more unified Cordillera is a stronger Cordillera, one who knows it's worthy and dignity.

Preservation and development of social and economic order. Sixty five percent (65%) of the respondents agrees that autonomy will help promote communal, social and economic order, while twelve percent (12%) who strongly agreed, seventeen percent (17%) disagree and five percent (5%) of the respondents are undecided. The high percentage showing that autonomy will help preserve and develop a more orderly economy and society in the Cordilleras shows the need for it, as shown by the unspoken clamor for its development. This positive belief that autonomy will bring a more orderly social and economic, order shows that autonomy is reviewed in a positive manner.

Eradication of graft and corruption. More than half or fifty seven percent (57%) of the respondents disagree that graft and corruption will be eradicated through autonomy,



while twenty five percent (25%) who agreed so, and the remaining ten percent (10%) are undecided. Seven percent (7%) strongly agree that autonomy will eradicate graft and corruption. Results show that while respondents believe on the positive effects of autonomy, eradication of graft and corruption is seen as a problem. This implies two things, at least. One that respondents are skeptic toward the eradication of graft and corruption and two, that graft and corruption cannot be eradicated. That is already an accepted fact of life. It is interesting to note that people are resigned to the belief that graft and corrupt is already a natural human trait. Its eradication is not a matter of a possibility; it simply is a normal thing. That being, efforts must be done to change this belief otherwise, people will no longer see the need for its total eradication.

Independent utilization of natural resources. Forty seven percent (47%) of the respondents agrees followed by twenty seven percent (27%) who disagree; fifteen percent (15%) strongly disagree while 10% of the respondents are undecided on whether or not autonomy will enable the Cordillerans to utilize their own natural resources independently. Majority of the respondents agreed that, through autonomy, Cordillera will become more independent when it comes to the utilization of its natural resources, again this result shows a more positive outlook towards autonomy and also the view of the people that as Cordilleran's they are more capable of protecting their national interest, as well as utilizing it a manner more beneficial to them.

More revenue benefits. More than half or sixty percent (60%) of the respondents agreed that autonomy would bring in more revenue which will help develop the social and economic status of the cordillera, only few disagreed for the reason that the revenue would not be used properly to develop the Cordilleras.



Land returns. Forty seven percent (47%) of the respondents disagrees followed by thirty seven percent (37%) agrees, ten percent (10%) strongly agree and five percent (5%) of the respondents are undecided when asked if autonomy will enable the local government to recover lands from non-Cordillerans. Majority believes that autonomy will in a way, make the Cordillera more Cordilleran by virtue of the idea that Cordilleras should own Cordilleran land. This view may be attributed to the need to assert identity and heritage, however, it may also open to negative effects such as regionalism and discrimination in the end.

Promotion of discrimination. Thirty two percent (32%) of the respondents disagree followed by twenty two percent (22%) who agrees, and ten percent (10%) are undecided when asked if autonomy will lead to discrimination. One third of the respondents recognize that autonomy might promote discrimination towards other ethnicities and races in the assertion of Cordilleran identity. Hence, while autonomy is being pushed, efforts to maintain humility and harmony with other tribes and ethnicity must also be taken into consideration however it is believed that such would not happen because Cordilleran's do not discriminate and are open to living with other people regardless of their ethnic origin.

Internal power struggle. Fifty percent (50%) of the respondents agree followed by twenty two percent (22%) who disagrees, seventeen percent (17%) of the respondents strongly agree and ten percent (10%) are undecided with regard to internal struggle that would lead to violence and corruption. Half of the respondents believe that internal power struggle will still exist despite autonomy. Implying that power struggle is a part of human nature, respondents were not too realistic in the sense that, autonomy is not seen as an answer to everything that despite autonomy human nature will always stand on its own.



## General Perceptions

Sentiments about the setting up of an autonomous region. Forty two percent (42%) of the respondents agrees followed by twenty seven percent (27%) disagrees, seventeen percent (17%) strongly agree and twelve point five percent (12.5%) of the respondents are undecided. This question aims to determine whether Cordilleran's are willing to become autonomous or not. The results showed that less than 50% are actually willing to, which would signify reluctance to change or contentment with the present political situation of the region for that matter.

Readiness for autonomy. Forty five percent (45%) of the respondents disagreed while twenty seven percent (27%) who strongly agreed, twenty two percent (22%) of the respondents agree and five percent (5%) of the respondents are undecided. The results imply that while open to autonomy, the need to be prepared for the consequences and the changes that autonomy will give should be taken into consideration. As of now, respondents believe that, more preparations should be undertaken in order to fully prepare the Cordillera's for autonomy.

Baguio City and Benguet Province as part of autonomy. Forty percent (40%) of the respondents agreed followed by thirty percent (30%) disagreed, twenty five percent (25%) strongly agree and five percent (5%) of the respondents re undecided. Less than half of the respondents agreed that Baguio and Benguet should be part of the autonomous region because of the natives who live here have the same culture and ethnic affiliation. This also implies the fact that these two places are recognized as the center of the region and that their inclusions to the autonomy would be a vital factor to its success.



Perceived problems of the Cordilleras. Eighty five percent (85%) of the respondents stated that lack of employment is the most pressing problem followed by seventy two percent (72%) who said political problem, seventy percent (70%) economic problem and two percent (2%) others (tribal feuds) other than mentioned lack of educational facilities and good local leaders are some problems facing the Cordilleras today. Despite being a proud race, Cordilleran's believe that they are also affected by the current social standing of the country, and that as Filipinos themselves, they are not exempted from these.

Table 3. Perception of the respondents toward autonomy

| PERCEPTIONS   | Strongly Agree |    | Agree |      | Disagree |      | Undecided |    |
|---|----------------|----|-------|------|----------|------|-----------|----|
|   | F              | %  | F     | %    | F        | %    | F         | %  |
| Autonomy will Foster Unity in the Cordilleras             | 5              | 13 | 23    | 58   | 9        | 23   | 3         | 6  |
| Preservation and Development of Social and Economic Order | 5              | 13 | 26    | 65   | 7        | 18   | 2         | 4  |
| Eradication of Graft and Corruption                       | 3              | 8  | 10    | 24   | 23       | 58   | 4         | 10 |
| Independent Utilization of Natural Resources              | 6              | 15 | 19    | 47.5 | 11       | 27.5 | 4         | 10 |
| More Revenue Benefits                                     | 6              | 15 | 24    | 60   | 7        | 18   | 3         | 7  |
| Land Returns  | 4              | 10 | 15    | 38   | 19       | 47   | 2         | 5  |
| Promotion of Discrimination                               | 4              | 10 | 19    | 22   | 23       | 58   | 4         | 10 |
| Internal Power Struggle                                   | 7              | 18 | 20    | 50   | 9        | 22   | 4         | 10 |



Table 3 continued...

| PERCEPTIONS   | Strongly Agree |    | Agree |    | Disagree       |    | Undecided |    |
|---|----------------|----|-------|----|----------------|----|-----------|----|
|   | F              | %  | F     | %  | F              | %  | F         | %  |
| <b>General Perceptions</b>                              |                |    |       |    |                |    |           |    |
| Sentiments About the Setting Up of an Autonomous Region | 7              | 18 | 17    | 43 | 11             | 27 | 5         | 12 |
| Readiness for Autonomy                                  | 11             | 28 | 9     | 22 | 18             | 45 | 2         | 5  |
| Baguio City and Benguet Province as part of Autonomy    | 10             | 25 | 18    | 40 | 12             | 30 | 2         | 5  |
|   | Frequency      |    |       |    | Percentage (%) |    |           |    |
| <b>Perceived Problems of the Cordilleras</b>            |                |    |       |    |                |    |           |    |
| Lack of Employment                                      | 37             |    |       |    | 85             |    |           |    |
| Economic Problem  | 28             |    |       |    | 70             |    |           |    |
| Political Problem                                       | 29             |    |       |    | 73             |    |           |    |
| Others (Tribal Feuds)                                   | 1              |    |       |    | 3              |    |           |    |

\* Multiple Responses



## SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Summary

The study sought to determine the perceptions and attitudes of Barangay Karao Municipality of Bokod towards the proposed Cordillera Autonomy in relation to the development of the region.

The average age of the respondents was between 41 to 50 years old. Majority of the respondents were female and almost all of the respondents were literate or able, attend school at one point in their life or able to achieve sufficient education. The respondents expressed that the inclusion of Barangay Karao, Bokod and Benguet Province in the Cordillera Autonomous Region would decrease discrimination from the highlanders to the lowlanders. Respondents agree that the objectives of setting up an Autonomous Region in the Cordilleras would be generally positive, however the negative consequences that would possible arise are: (a) that the existence of power struggle among the politicians would still exists or would become more pronounced, (b) that the people of the Cordilleras are still not ready for an Autonomy as of the moment, there is still a need for further preparation and commitment, (c) and that Autonomy is not the ultimate solution to the problems of the Cordillera people. Instead respondents suggested that a keener attention from national government, creation of more rural development to benefit the rural people, and the elimination of red tape in the implementation of projects and removal of bad personnel in government offices as well as bad politicians would actually be a better choice and more plausible option.





On the other hand, respondents were informed of the proposed autonomy primarily through the radio, brochures and pamphlets, and through word of mouth. The general implication of this result would be; media plays a great part in informing the people of the things that interests them. Because of this, the government should use this medium more if it wants to further educate its people in matters that would benefit and affect them. However, word of mouth in information dissemination plays a significant and crucial factor. The problem with word of mouth is the accuracy of the information being passed, information passed by word of mouth eventually get distorted and exaggerated along the way. People who have different interests might use this avenue to their advantage and prejudice others. While word of mouth plays an important part, it must also be regulated; otherwise, the true purpose of a rather important venture would only fall at the mercy of dishonest and deceitful people.

### Conclusions

Based on the findings, the following conclusions are formulated:

1. Generally, the respondents had a positive attitude on the issue of granting Autonomy to the Cordillera Region specifically the inclusion of Benguet to the proposed Autonomy;
2. All the respondents from the different sectors still need for further as to preparation and commitment towards the importance, objectives and consequences of the proposed autonomy;
3. The socio-economic background showed a very strong influence on the idea of setting up a Cordillera Autonomous Region. Older respondents had positive attitudes



towards the idea of setting up an Autonomous Region. Respondents with higher educational level revealed positive perceptions and attitudes towards Autonomy;

4. The other factors like the ethnic affiliation, mass media, politicking also showed role effect towards the formation of perceptions and attitudes to the interested persons; and

5. Conclusively, the findings portray that majority of the respondents had positive perceptions towards the inclusion of Benguet to the Cordillera Autonomy and to the setting up of an Autonomous region in general.

### Recommendations

On the basis of the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations are presented:

1. There should be a continuous information drive on Cordillera Autonomy so people will have a clear understanding of what autonomy is;

2. The advantages and disadvantages of autonomy should be presented to the people; and

3. All available sources of communication media should be used for information campaign on Cordillera Autonomy.



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