

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to determine the socio- demographic profile of the respondents, main task of the children that they can do in the field, and the problems and hazards affecting children in vegetable production.

Fifty children were chosen as respondents of the study. The data gathering was done by using survey questionnaires and with personal interviews.

The respondents of the study were mostly females and most of them were studying in elementary and high school levels. Most of their parents' occupation was farming. They lack of financial support as is the main problem of the respondents on role of children in the field.

The respondents roles were to help their parents in the farm works where mostly females can did the light works like weeding, planting, harvesting, cleaning the field, fertilizer application and the males mostly did the hard works like carrying the harvested crops, spraying, irrigating, hauling of harvest and hilling up.

The problems identified were exposure to toxic chemicals, heavy work in the field that caused health problems like body pain, head ache, dizziness and back pain. These were



the reasons affecting children's performance in their studies that resulted to failing grades, absences, lack of concentration in school and end up to school drop outs. The respondents need to be trained in vegetable production to gain additional knowledge and experience to have skills in farming.



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic Profile of the Respondents

Table 1 presents the socio-economic profile of the respondents, which include the age, sex, and educational attainment, number of siblings, parents' occupation, area cultivated, and the crops planted.

Age. Out of the fifty respondents, 42%, were within the bracket of 13 to 15 years old; 24% from 16 to 18 years old; 16% were within the bracket of 10 to 12 years old and 10% from 8 to 9 years old. The youngest among the respondents was 8 years old and the oldest was 18 years old.

Sex. Majority of the respondents, 64% were females and 36% were males. This shows that there were more females than males who were involved in the study.

Educational Attainment. Forty two (42%), were in high school; 28%, of the respondents were elementary; 18%, were high school graduate and 12%, elementary graduate. Results shows that the respondents were mostly studying but there were 30% of them which were out of school youths. They finished elementary and high school and did not continue to study in high school and college. Results showed that there were more children who were studying than those who were not attending in school.

Number of siblings. Out of the 50 respondents, 48%, were 5 to 6 siblings in the family; 34%, have 7 to 8 siblings in the family; 10%, claimed that they have 3 to 4 siblings in the family and 8% were in 9 to 10 siblings in the family. This shows that the respondents have big families and this is the reason why they need financial support. This implies that



large families affect the income distributions thus families to do more work in the farm to sustain family needs.

Parents Occupation. From the multiple responses result shows that most of the respondents parents' occupation were farming with 100%; 12% of the respondents claimed that their mothers were government employees and doing farm work also 8%, labourer; 6%, driving; 4%, carpentry and 6% OFW. This implies that farming was the main source of the respondent's parents but some of them have other jobs aside from farming.

Area cultivated. Majority of the respondents' parents; 30% had an area cultivated of 2500m²; 30%, had an area cultivated of 5000m²; 24%, with an area cultivated of 10,000m²; 8%, had an area cultivated of 7500m² and 8%, of the respondents' parents' had an area cultivated of 1000m². This shows that most of the respondents were cultivated an area ranges from 2500 to 5000m². As the data imply that the highest area cultivated to vegetable farming is 10,000m² and the lowest is 1000m².

Crops cultivated. Most of the respondents parents were 80%, planted onions; 72%, planted carrots; 64%, planted cabbages; 30%, of the respondents' parents' planted potatoes; 26%, planted Chinese cabbage; 10%, planted sugar beets and celery and 2%, planted broccoli and cauliflower. The data show that in Barangay Central, Buguias, Benguet were most of them planted onions, carrots, potatoes and cabbages.



Table 1. The socio-economic profile of the respondents

INFORMATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
<u>Age</u>		
8-9	5	10
10-12	10	20
13-15	22	44
16-18	13	24
TOTAL	50	100
<u>Sex</u>		
Female	32	64
Male	18	36
TOTAL	50	100
<u>Educational Attainment</u>		
Elementary	14	28
Elementary Graduate	9	18
High School	21	42
High school Graduate	6	12
TOTAL	50	100
<u>Number of Siblings</u>		
2-4	5	10
5-6	24	48
7-8	17	34
9-10	4	8
TOTAL	50	100



Table 1 continued...

INFORMATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
<u>Parents Occupation</u>		
Farming	50	100
Labourer	4	8
Driving	3	6
Carpentry	2	4
Government Employee	6	12
Overseas Filipino workers	3	6
<u>*Multiple Responses</u>		
<u>Area Cultivated (m²)</u>		
1000m ²	5	10
2,500m ²	15	30
5,000m ²	15	30
7,5000m ²	6	12
10,000m ²	9	18
TOTAL	50	100
<u>Crops Planted</u>		
Potato	15	30
Carrots	36	72
Cabbage	32	64
Chinese cabbage	13	26
Onions	40	80
Lettuce	2	4
Broccoli	1	2
Cauliflower	1	2
Sugar Beets	4	8
Celery	5	10

Note: Multiple Responses



Activities can you perform in the farm. Majority of the respondents were 78%, of who performed planting; 74%, helped in weeding; 72%, helped in harvesting; 66%, helped in fertilizer application; 50%, hauled of harvested crops and hilling up; 40%, in cleaning the field; 32% in irrigating; 30%, in carrying harvested crops; and 10% helped in spraying. This data show that most of the respondents can do the work in the field but for the females they were exempted in spraying the plants, carrying the harvested crops and irrigating. The tasks of the females in the field were weeding, planting, harvesting, cleaning the fields, fertilizer application, and for the males can mostly do hard works like carrying the harvested crops, spraying, irrigating, hauling of harvested crops and hilling up.

According to Palome, (2005), children are also compelled to work from an early age because of the centuries old tradition that the child must work through solidarity with the family group, so as to compensate as much as possible for the economic burden that he/she represents and to share in the maintenance of his/her family, which is usually a very large one reasons.

Reasons for helping in the farm. All of the respondents claimed that they helped their parents in the farm. There were 78%, of the respondents stated that the reasons why they are helping their parents in the farm were for the sake of surviving; 60%, claimed lack of labour; 26%, mentioned to help augment family income for their survival, 32% w¹ 18 save money for their future, and 10%, were mentioned it's their own decision. The data show that most of the respondents had lack of financial support and that was the reason for dropping from school.

Awareness of parents in the field work. All of the respondents (94%) their parents were fully aware of the activities of the respondents in the field and 6% mentioned that



their parents were not aware because some said that they knew how to work in the farm, so they just work on their own without the consent of their parents. This data show that most of the respondents' parents were aware of their children working in the farm because they were with them while working in the field; they wanted that the children to be trained in the farm work. Also to join with their parents in doing farm works during weekends.

Table 2a. Activities or work can they do in the farm

WORK IN THE FAR M	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Cleaning the field	40	80
Planting	39	78
Weeding	37	74
Harvesting	36	72
Fertilizer application	33	66
Hilling up	25	50
Hauling of harvested crops	25	50
Irrigating	16	32
Carrying harvested crops	15	30
Spraying	5	10

Note: Multiple responses



Table 2b.Reasons of the respondents for helping their parents in the farm

REASONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
To survive	39	78
To help augment family income	13	26
To save money for the future	16	32
Own decision	5	10
Lack of labour	30	60

Note: Multiple responses

Table 2c.Awareness of parents of the children's activities in the farm

AWARE NESS OF THE CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Aware	49	98
Not aware	1	2
TOTAL	50	100

Physical Problems. Majority of them (60%), experienced body pain; 34%, had head ache; 30%, experienced fever; 14% had no physical problems; 12%, had back pain and 4%, were stunted accordingly they claimed to carry heavy load. This results show that they encountered health problems when they were working in the farm.

Effects to academic performance. Most of the respondents (66%) claimed that farm labour affected their academic performance, and 34%, claimed that it does not affect their academic performance. These results show that problems in academic performance were



one of the reasons why they do not attend classes, resulted to poor grades and stop going to school.

Hazards. Majority 52% mentioned that they were exposed to toxic chemicals; 30% have to carry experiences of heavy load; 16% mentioned about the unsafely pathways; 6%, claimed to no rain coats/boots and 4% were had exposure to hot temperature in the field. This implies that the children were vulnerable to toxic chemicals and heavy loads resulted to sickness and physical deformities.

Need for training in vegetable farming. Forty eight percent (48%) said that they need to be trained in vegetable farming and 4% do not accept to be trained on vegetable farming. This data show that the respondents need training on vegetable farming to prepare them for future functions when they manage their own farm and to enhance their knowledge in farming.

Table 3. Problems Encountered of the Respondents

INFORMATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
<u>Physical Problems</u>		
Head ache	17	34
Back pain	6	12
Dizziness	10	20
Fever	5	10
Stunted	2	4
Body pain	30	60
None	7	14

Note: Multiple Responses



Table 3 continued...

INFORMATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
<u>Effect on academic performance</u>		
Affect their studies	33	66
Do not affect their studies	17	34
TOTAL	50	100
<u>Hazards Encountered</u>		
Heavy Loads	15	30
Toxic chemicals	46	42
Unsafely Pathways	8	16
No rain coats and boots	3	6
Hot temperature	2	4
Note: Multiple Responses		
<u>Necessary to be trained</u>		
Willing to be trained	48	96
Trained	2	4
TOTAL	50	100



SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

Most of the respondents were females. The highest age of the respondents was 18 years old and the lowest was the 8 years old. Most of them were studying in elementary and high school while they participate in farming activities to help their parents. Farming is the main occupation of their parents'. Other source of income in the household includes driving, carpentry, government employee and Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW). Most of them have 5 to 6 siblings in the family. The respondents' parents' have an area cultivated ranging from 2500 to 5000m² and most of them planted onions, carrots, potatoes and cabbages.

The respondents have their role to help their parents in the farm work. The females can do light work like weeding, planting, harvesting, cleaning the fields and fertilizer application. The males can do hard work like carrying the harvested crops, spraying, irrigating, hauling of harvest and hilling up. Female had more job than males in the farm. But most males can do hard work while females can do light work.

The common problems encountered by the respondents were exposure to toxic chemicals, heavy work in the field that cause health problems like body pain, head ache, dizziness, and back pain. These might be the reason for the children not to continue their studies because some says that they are absent and experience failing grades in school. Other says that they cannot concentrate in their studies.



According to the respondents they need to be trained more in vegetable production, to gain additional knowledge and experience on vegetable production. To prepare them for their future they know how to sustain their vegetable farm.

Conclusions

Based in the findings of the study the following conclusions were made:

1. The children in Barangay Central, Buguias, Benguet are mostly females and they were mostly studying in Elementary and high school level. Respondents' parents' occupation was farming. Most of them belong to large families with 5 to 6 numbers of siblings;

2. The respondents' roles were to help their parents in the farm labour. Females can do light work like weeding, planting, harvesting, cleaning the fields and fertilizer application. The boys can do hard work like carrying the harvested crops, spraying, irrigating, hauling of harvest and hilling up. Female were responsible for light job while males can do hard work;

3. Common problems encountered by the respondents were physical problems such as exposure to toxic chemicals and heavy work that resulted to health problems. Farm labour affects their studies that result to absences and failing grades; and,

4. Children need to be trained in vegetable production to gain knowledge, experience and skills in farming.



Recommendations

Based on the results of study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Children should be assisted by parents while they help them to do work in the farm;
2. The parents should be aware of the toxic chemicals that children should not be exposed to harmful chemicals;
3. Parents should encourage their children to value education while they give them chance to help them in the farm; and,
4. Practical farm experiences should be part of their early training to improve their skills in vegetable production.



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