

Research Article

Assessing The Politico-Cultural and Socio-Economic Needs of Fisherfolks in the Province of Marinduque: A Pilot Study

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ABSTRACT

Marinduque's inhabitants rely heavily on marine resources since it is bound by four bodies of water where the north bounds the Tayabas Bay, northeast by Mongpong Pass, South-east by Tayabas Strait, and Sibuyan at the south. This research presents a pilot study aimed at comprehensively examining the intricate reciprocity between politico-cultural and socio-economic factors that influenced the well-being of fisherfolk in the province of Marinduque. Through a quantitative approach, the gathered data sets out a holistic understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by fisherfolk, represented by the forty (40) individuals who are residents of the nearby shore. The politico-cultural aspects of this paper are rooted in the political structure and cultural dynamics shaping the lives of fisherfolk in the province, including governance system, policy frameworks, and cultural traditions that influenced their daily experiences. On one hand, the socio-economic dimension explored the economic factors affecting their livelihoods, such as market trends, resource management, and access to essential services. The needs like the provision of alternative sources of income, land ownership, and social infrastructure (safe drinking water, electricity, etc.) are fundamental, as they address these foundational necessities for the fisher folks in the province. These findings indicate that a comprehensive approach that combines economic recognition and cultural understanding is crucial for supporting artisanal and small-scale fisheries.

Keywords: politico-cultural, socio-economic needs, fisherfolks, Marinduque province

1. INTRODUCTION

Marinduque is an island province with a rich cultural heritage that continuously faces unique challenges in its fishing communities. Factors affecting the fishery sectors are rapid urbanization, environmental degradation, and changing market dynamics which add layers of complexity to the lives of fisherfolk. This study is supported on the article entitled Cultural Political Economy approach (Bryant, 1998), where the understanding of culture and politics intersects with economic processes.

In an international setting, the fishery sector faces a diverse challenge that ranges from several factors such as poverty, hunger, overfishing, climate change impacts, and geopolitical tensions which the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 1, 2, and 17, continuously regulates, in order to sustain the needs of a more worthwhile use of marine resources. The research entitled Tragedy of the Commons (Hardin, 1968) posits a formative concept in terms of environmental and resource economics. Additionally, the Social- Ecological Systems Framework pioneered by seminal author Berkes et al., offers deep insight on the interconnectedness of the social and ecological systems. The theory provides a framework for understanding how human societies and their environmental inhabitation co-evolves. In this context of fisheries, this theory recognizes the complex relationship of movement of the fishing communities and the ecosystem they depend on, highlighting the need for adaptive and sustainable management approaches from the local government units.

In the national setting, the Philippines heavily relies on its coastal resources, which makes the socio- economic well-being of fisherfolk is integral to national development. The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, amended in 2015, provides the legal framework for sustainable fisheries management. However, issues arising such as illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing persist, worsening the vulnerability of fishing communities. The Political Ecology of Fisheries (McCay, 1978) sets a framework that look into the political and social dimensions of fisheries management. Additionally, the Community-Based Resource Management theory (Pomeroy, 1995) pertains to the importance of the local community in the management of natural resources, with the help

of the local authority. The current trend in the Philippine fishing society, leans on the community-based approaches to fishery management. In which, the role of local communities in decision-making processes, recognizing their knowledge, needs and aspirations in sustainable development is found crucial in community building. The synthesis of the perspective of this study is essential to gain understanding of the political, cultural, and economic forces that influence the well-being of fisherfolk in Marinduque. Through an associative lens, this research seeks not only to assess needs but also to contribute valuable ideas for the formulation of policies by the local policy makers and interventions that can foster sustainable and equitable development in fishing communities

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study is quantitative in nature. Particularly, descriptive survey design which allows respondents to discover the perspective and gauge the impacts of the municipal programs within the community. This research design could provide a comprehensive understanding of the effects of municipal programs on the socio-economic and political development of coastal barangays, which could be useful for policy and program development in the future. Distribution of survey questionnaire to forty (40) respondents was used to gather data on their perspectives, and perceptions of community members, program beneficiaries, and local officials in Barangay Balogo, Santa Cruz, Marinduque. This provides information on how the municipal programs have impacted the socioeconomic and political development of the coastal barangay.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The study aimed to investigate the following objectives:

1. To determine the demographic profile of the respondents, specifically in terms of:
 - a. Gender
 - b. Age
 - c. Marital status
 - d. Educational attainment
 - e. Years of residence in the barangay
2. To identify government programs considerations, particularly those related to:
 - a. Socio-economic development
 - b. Politico-cultural development
3. To assess the needs of the respondents in relation to their socio-economic and politico-cultural development.

Table 1. Profile of the Respondents

Group	Profile	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	34	85
	Female	6	15
Age	20-24	2	5
	25-30	2	5
	31-35	3	7
	36-40	5	12
	41-45	10	25
	46-50	14	35
	51-55	2	5
	56-60	1	3
	>60	1	3
Marital Status	Married	40	0
	Single	-	-
	Widow/widower	-	-
Educational Attainment	No Formal Schooling	1	2
	Elementary	6	15
	Secondary	20	50
	College / units in College	13	33
Year of residence	10 years and below	5	12
	11- 20 years	3	7
	21-30 Years	9	23
	31-40 Years	17	43
	>40 Years	6	15

Table 1 presents the profile of the 40 respondents in terms of gender, marital status, age, years of residence, and

educational attainment. A large majority of the respondents were male (85%), while only 15% were female, indicating a notable gender imbalance in the sample. In terms of age, most respondents fell within the mid-adult range, with 35% aged 46–50 and 25% aged 41–45. The 36–40 age group accounted for 12%, while younger adults (20–35) and older individuals (51 and above) were minimally represented. This suggests that the perspectives gathered primarily reflect those in their mid-working years. All respondents reported being married, implying that the findings are shaped by individuals with family and household responsibilities. Regarding educational background, 50% had completed secondary education, 33% had attended or completed college, 15% finished only elementary school, and 2% had no formal schooling. This reflects a mix of educational attainment levels, with a majority having basic to moderate education, though support and training programs should still consider those with limited schooling. In terms of residency, 43% have lived in the barangay for 31–40 years, followed by 23% who have stayed for 21–30 years. Meanwhile, 15% have been residents for over 40 years, indicating long-term settlement and deep community ties. Only 12% had lived in the area for 10 years or less, suggesting that the community is largely stable and well-established, which can be an advantage when implementing community-based programs and interventions.

2. Government programs consideration, particularly those related to:
 - a. Socio-economic development

The criteria for the elaboration and implementation of national programs are envisioned for responsible conservation of fisheries resources and fisheries management and development, this ranked first on the bases of the government officials' consideration on socio-economic needs with mean (3.36). The result from Table 2 was moderately agreed by the respondents, that the elaboration of the implementation processes involves integrated process planning, consultation, decision making, formulation, and implementation of resource allocation. They find it necessary to ensure that the fishery activities are governed by the existing policies, rules and regulations for the continued productivity of resources and achievement of fishery objectives. Also, it appears that respondents like to have a precise delineation of specific tasks to each of the processes. It could also be suggested then that the dynamics of state and society in which the fisherfolks take proof of interaction, that social groups like theirs could achieve higher end. This is justified in Migdal's theory of state-society relations that social control is inherent upon state & could be undermined by operative roles and active interaction of the people in the society which is in this case represented by the fisherfolks.

The open access for aquaculture, farming or other small-scale business ventures government is an alternative source of income provided by the province is ranked second on the bases of the government officials' consideration on socio-economic needs equivalent to (3.35). In Flores (2014) aquasilvi culture is defined as a national program of the government for multi-purpose production system that allows production of fish within the mangrove reforestation project. This technique enables to produce fish without cutting the mangrove tree. The program envisioned to rehabilitate mangrove resource, provide livelihood, and address problems on climate change, food security and poverty among municipal fisherfolks. This is based on the response for the follow-up interview with the government official who is in charge for this program.

The programs are in accordance with the relevant rules of international law, for responsible fishing and fisheries activities, taking into account all their relevant biological, technological, economic, social, environmental and commercial aspects is ranked third or fourth on the bases of the government officials' consideration on socio-economic needs with mean (3.25). This finding is supported by Balton (2003), who cited that some of the notable international instruments on fisheries regulations include the following:

International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW) of 1946, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982, Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas of 1993, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of 1995, Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem of 2001, Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing of 2009. The participants of the study moderately agreed that in their sector they should have maintained compliance with international standards believing that the instrument creates legal rights and duties for efficient use and management of marine resources. They knew that the instruments would have enormous exchange and would have a greater impact to their politico-cultural and socio-economic development in the long run.

Livelihood programs for fisherfolks are also considered by the government such as fish preservation, weaving, pottery making, canning of fish to help align the income of the fisherfolks, this also ranked third or fourth on the bases of the government officials' consideration on socio-economic needs equivalent to (3.25). This result is supported by the records from the office of the provincial and municipal agriculture offices.

Table 2. Socio-economic needs

the government official's consideration on socio-economic needs	Mean	D.E.	Rank
The programs are in accordance with the relevant rules of international law, for responsible fishing and fisheries activities, considering all their relevant biological, technological, economic, social, environmental and commercial aspects.	3.25	MA	3.5
The criteria for the elaboration and implementation of national programs are envisioned for responsible conservation of fisheries resources and fisheries management and development.	3.36	MA	1
It promotes the contribution of fisheries to food security and food quality, giving priority to the nutritional needs of local communities.	3.20	MA	5.5
Infrastructure and facilities are appropriately constructed aimed at uplifting the standard of life of every member of the fisherfolks.	3.20	MA	5.5
The government prioritizes health programs for the fisherfolks through regular monitoring of the rural health units.	3.14	MA	8
Open access for aquaculture, farming or other small –scale business ventures government is an alternative source of income provided by the provincial.	3.35	MA	2
Trainings and seminars, or granting scholarships to fisherfolks and their children aimed at upgrading the skills and basic knowledge of fisherfolks	3.15	MA	7
Livelihood programs for fisherfolks are also considered by the government such as fish preservation, weaving, pottery making, canning of fish to help align the income of the fisherfolks.	3.25	MA	3.5
MEAN	3.24	MA	

Legend:

Mean Range Descriptive Equivalent (D.E.)

3.5 -4.0 Strongly Agree (SA)

2.5 -3.4 Moderately Agree (MA)

1.5- 2.4 Slightly Agree (SLA)

1.1- 1.4 Disagree (D)

It promotes the contribution of fisheries to food security and food quality, giving priority to the nutritional needs of local communities and is ranked fifth or sixth on the basis of the government officials' consideration on socio-economic needs equivalent to (3.20). The fisherfolks have moderately agreed that the consideration entails the balance of marine resource utilization and food security objectives. In Bennett (2018) in view of the 2030 Sustainable Development, the goals which drive at ending hunger and poverty, achieving food security and improving nutrition. In this study, the above manifests especially the case of the fisherfolks far from the ideal reality. When one fisherman was asked, why did you catch that crab that will still give many fingerlings? (Bakit mo hinuli ang isda na yaan ay manganganak na?) He replied, "It has been caught, why let it go? (Ang sagot niya, ay nahuli na po bakit pa po Apakawala-an pa ay dagdag kita at may apakain pati sa pamilya?) This attitude appears to be assertive to claim such for food or income, but it does not conform to the fishery goal to achieve food security in the long run. Good as well that the government, especially at the municipal level, has instituted policies through an ordinance that will determine legally caught marine resources.

The infrastructure and facilities are appropriately constructed aimed to uplift the life standard of every of the fisherfolks is also ranked fifth or sixth on the bases of the government officials' consideration on socio- economic needs with a mean of (3.20). In Republic Act 8435 otherwise known as Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) of 1997, the welfare of the small farmers and fisherfolks towards the modernization of agriculture, declares a policy that anybody who belongs to this sector shall have the participation and share to the fruits of growth and development and the utilization of resources efficiently thru establishment of basic income, support services and infrastructure. Briones, (2022) stressed that in one of the theories of change under AFMA that in order to address the micro constraints at the farm level and enterprises, there must be direct provision of irrigation, infrastructure, public education and promotion of new technology. Observed related fishing facilities and infrastructure in the sites under study revealed that the construction of infrastructure and facilities through the initiative of the provincial government have to be upgraded. In the nine (9) barangays of the three municipalities, it is observed that most of their boats are stationed in beaches and in other places where these are secured. In barangays where there are landing or berthing facilities, the boats are docked. These are necessary to reduce operational cost and damages to dock, increase safety control, and monitor registered or illegal boats that come and go to their shore.

The Trainings and seminar or granting scholarship to fisherfolks and their children aimed at upgrading the skills and basic knowledge of fisherfolks is ranked seventh on the bases of the government officials' consideration on socio-economic needs (3.15). Records can tell that there are trainings, seminars, and grant of scholarship but limited only to few recipients. However, participants affirmed that their attendance is for meal purposes only. For the scholarship grant children of the fisherfolks were given opportunities to enjoy and enroll in Agriculture and Fisheries programs in college on full scholarship. This is to encourage secondary school graduates to pursue these programs to have more specialized in this field.

The government prioritizes health program for the fisherfolks through regular monitoring of the rural health units is ranked eight based on the government officials' consideration on socio-economic needs with the mean of (3.14). Being the least among the choices, the respondents also moderately agreed that the government should provide health programs for the fisherfolks, but they knew also that this is for all residents of the barangays under rural health system. It should be clearly stated in the program that the municipal doctor with his staff must visit the barangay to conduct physical examination especially who needs most of medical attention. Generally, the common activities of the rural health team include general consultation, minor surgeries, family planning and counselling, immunization, distribution of medicines, blood temperature and pre-natal check-up and other ailments and vaccination during the time of pandemic. They also knew that except for the health center, there are lacking facilities like for lying-inn services and medicines and equipment for emergency situation.

b. Politico-Cultural Needs

The recognition of the important contributions of artisanal and small-scale fisheries to employment, income and food security is ranked first on their political perspective about the impact of the programs of the government with mean (3.42). Generally, the suppliers of food in the market are fisherfolks. The quantities of fish they catch every day determine the price per kilogram noting on the law of supply and demand. Fisherfolks also serve as caretakers and overseer of the coastal area against strange fishermen. Considering these roles of the fisherfolks, the provincial government and its counterpart at the municipal and barangay level, together with the other agencies of the government like the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources had intensified launching of programs to increase their income through value chain system. Moreover, they uphold substantial programs that would enhance empowerment and self-reliance among fisherfolks. The government programs need to be aligned to the national and international standards, laws and code is ranked second on their political perspective about the impact of the programs of the government with mean (3.42). One of the identified challenges in the province is the issue of boundary delineation. The fisherfolks had moderate agreement that the national laws, particularly the fishery code of the country, stipulate the boundaries of each of the municipal waters. In the case of the municipalities under investigation, they found boundary issues like intrusion of fishermen from other provinces. They are within the municipal water boundaries with sophisticated equipment causing catch depletion which eventually loses fish spot. This caused a decrease in their income due to overfishing. In the implementation of the programs under existing law, it may be regarded as a challenge for benefits between farmers and fisherfolks that exist due to competition within their sector. The fisherfolks claim that they counterpart receives more assistance because there are multi agencies that are attached to their sector. Recognition of the paramount importance to fishers of cultural understanding about the conservation and management of the fishery resources on which they depend is ranked third on their political perspective about the impact of the programs of the government with mean (3.40). The respondents have revealed that they must be recognized in terms of politico-cultural and socio-economic landscape of fisherfolks in the province. As traditional workers in the waterfront, the government has to assist the fisherfolks in understanding the culture of conservation and management of the fishery resources. For Bihasa (2015), the prevalence of several social organizations like the fisherfolks is influenced by Filipino values like voluntary and charity concepts in connection with the mentioned development will form part of state and society relation dynamics. The group of fisherfolks as a civil society may counterbalance the major interest of the state in fulfilling its duty in serving the people. Their participation and consciousness in the process of government actions is intended to provide scrutiny in all of the program undertakings of the state. Likewise, in Auzzir et al. (2014), the notion of public-private partnership (PPP) which is derived from the concepts of political economy and public choice theories can be viewed as a form of governance system that brings together all stakeholders in the development and implementation of a policy program or project

To include fisherfolks in public discussions regarding pressing issues of their concern is ranked sixth on their political perspective about the impact of the programs of the government (3.27). The respondents emphasized that this nature of interaction between the government and their sector is limited in terms of public discussion on the programs they received. As mentioned earlier, the government has generally doled out the programs without consulting their priorities and interest. Most of these programs had been set aside due to lack of interest among the fisherfolks. One observed project in the field like fiber glass boats are now unusable is either lack of finances for repair or they preferred the traditional banca. In the study of Perazzini (2020) it is still necessitated to some level of public sector participation while the government has engaged in effective risk management planning to motivate and engage the entire community with positive results and achieve risk mitigation goals.

The government conceptualized that aquaculture, farming or other small-scale business ventures as alternative source of income is the nearest cultural interest of fisherfolks is ranked seventh on their political perspective about the impact of the programs of the government with the mean of (3.27). One of grey areas about this is lack of appreciation of the fisherfolks about the programs like aquaculture and other small-scale business venture. Since the type of programs are delivered through association, individual ownership is wanting. Moreover, its concept is not actually an alternative source of income but a type of job that the main income on their part would derive. One conception about this is job-substitution which is interpreted "stop fishing and do something else" rather than adding other activities to an income portfolio. Since the programs need longer time to obtain the output, it requires labor and effort, the fisherfolks may find easier solutions to address their daily subsistence.

Table 3. Politico-Cultural Needs

Political cultural perspective on the need of the government's programs	Mean	D.E.	Rank
Recognition of the important contributions of artisanal and small-scale fisheries to employment, income, and food security.	3.42	MA	1.5
Include fisherfolks in public discussions regarding pressing issues of their concern.	3.27	MA	6.5
Recognition of the paramount importance to fishers of cultural understanding the conservation and management of the fishery resources on which they depend.	3.4	MA	3
The government programs need to be aligned to the national and international standards, laws and code.	3.42	MA	1.5
The government conceptualized that aquaculture, farming or other small-scale business ventures as alternative source of income is the nearest cultural interest of fisherfolks.	3.27	MA	6.5
The identification of livelihood programs is formulated and implemented must be related to cultural interest and commodities.	3.24	MA	8
Training and seminar, or granting scholarships to fisherfolks and their children aimed at upgrading the skills and basic knowledge of fisherfolks.	3.3	MA	5
Infrastructure and facilities, subsidies, and social security packages are important investments in improving the quality of life of fisherfolks.	3.37	MA	4
MEAN	3.34	MA	

Legend:

Mean Range Descriptive Equivalent (D.E.)

3.5 -4.0 Strongly Agree (SA)

2.5 -3.4 Moderately Agree (MA)

1.5- 2.4 Slightly Agree (SLA)

1.1- 1.4 Disagree (D)

The identification of livelihood programs that are formulated and implemented must be related to the fishing cultural interest and commodities is ranked eight on their political perspective about the impact of the programs of the government (3.24). The fisherfolks have ingrained fishing activity and will not leave fishing for cultural reasons. In this case, the identified livelihood programs must be assumed and emphasized by the government to be non-specialized and non-professional also. Since the livelihood programs require expertise, a technical team for this purpose may be provided by the government.

3. The needs of the respondents in relation to their socio-economic and politico-cultural development.

The fisherfolks strongly agree that the enjoyment of right to determine and decide on their own priorities for cultural, political, social and economic development is ranked first with mean (3.56) as far as their politico- cultural and socio-economic development needs are concerned. In Article 1 of the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted by the General Assembly in 1976 thru Resolution No.2200A, recognizes such right of self-determination to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development. The finding is indicative of an assertion of right, which means that the respondents had claimed their own version of development. They are people on the ground that practically know their interest and priorities as members of the community. They have said that the programs of the government are either national or local and generally cascaded from them down to their level. It may also suggest that the participative political culture as mentioned by Almond and Verba is embedded upon fisherfolks to actively involve themselves with the program undertakings of the provincial government. Politically, this is the right to live in democracy and the enjoyment of right with the meaningful representation, participation, and decision-making about individual and community concerns.

They moderately agree that the provision social security like group accident insurance scheme for active fishermen and social amelioration in cases of death and partial and permanent disability with mean (3.49) ranked second. It could be noted from the results that fisherfolks hold for social protection they can get from the programs of the government to reduce poverty and vulnerability. As they had stated, there is a need to be capacitated through social amelioration programs at times when their physical strength has diminished. This poor condition of the fishermen who have lost their income due to disability may again revitalize by enhancing growth and productivity and create opportunities for self-reliance.

The provision of fish preservation facility to intensify the processing, storage and transportation ranked third in their politico cultural and socio-economic development needs with mean (3.47), the facilities referring to the importance of facilities in fishing. A processing or storage facility helps to attain self-sufficiency in fish. It is likely suggested that in instances of oversupply of fish particularly during season, such can be used to prolong high perishable fish, therefore, it keeps up with its quality which will help to increase the income of the fisherfolks. This line of perspective enables them to manage food security in terms of adequacy in quantity and sufficiency of fish quality that can be supplied domestically and nationally. To be food secure, the people always

have access to food and maintain fish supply amidst climatic crises and the closed fishing season.

Table 4. Politico cultural and socio-economic development needs

Politico cultural and socio-economic development needs	Mean	D.E.	Rank
Implementation of poverty eradication programs must be aimed at developing fisherfolks socio-economic needs and priorities	3.46	MA	4
Provision of alternative sources of income to minimize unemployment and hunger	3.42	MA	6
Grant land ownership for fisherfolks outside of easement territory.	3.41	MA	7
Provision of social infrastructure like water facility that provide safe drinking, electricity, recreational, medical and other facility such as banking facility and community hall.	3.39	MA	9
Provision of fish preservation facility to intensify the processing, storage, and transportation.	3.47	MA	3
Provision social security like group Accident Insurance Scheme for active fishermen and social amelioration in cases of death & partial and permanent disability	3.49	MA	2
Provision of adequate landing and berthing facilities to fishing vessels.	3.40	MA	8
Improvement of the cooperative system that is vital for fisheries sector.	3.31	MA	11
Fisherfolks enjoy the right to determine and decide to their own priorities for cultural, political, social and economic development.	3.56	SA	1
Subsidy of vessel or gear for catch individual system resulting in higher income.	3.37	MA	10
Provision of assistance to capacitate fishers in terms of subsidy package, mechanized boats and deep-sea fishing vessels.	3.25	MA	12
Provision of trainings, seminars, and technology like Global Positioning System device to enhance fish catch capabilities of fisherfolks.	3.44	MA	5
MEAN	3.1	SA	

Legend:

Mean Range Descriptive Equivalent (D.E.)

3.5 -4.0 Strongly Agree (SA)

2.5 -3.4 Moderately Agree (MA)

1.5- 2.4 Slightly Agree (SLA)

1.1- 1.4 Disagree (D)

As gleaned from Table 4, the respondents contend that the subsidy of vessel or gear for catch individual system resulting in higher income which is ranked tenth in their politico cultural and socio-economic development needs is equivalent to (3.37). In Bennagen (1998), who studied the environmental damages in seaside due to mining, there was a genuine decrease in their caught fish which pushed them to go beyond the normal fishing spot. Evidently, they need a subsidy from the government, a bigger boat to catch fish farther seaward and additional fuel to reduce consumption. In the present study, the fisherfolks reside in coastal areas very close to the deep sea, needs bigger boats. The result assumes that the more subsidies the fisherfolks avail themselves from the government the more income they could generate from fishing, hence, could provide more for their families.

Meanwhile, the improvement of the cooperative system that is vital for the fisheries sector is ranked eleventh in their politico cultural and socio-economic development equivalent to (3.31). Although this is one of the least choices, the respondents moderately agreed that the cooperative system would help them to improve their living conditions like small-scale fishers. It is also believed to show significance in the co- management of fishery resources as well as to slow down the rapid depletion of these resources.

As has been mentioned earlier, a subsidy from the government entails higher income, hence, the respondents also revealed that provision of assistance to capacitate fishers in terms of subsidy package, mechanized boats and deep-sea fishing vessels which is ranked twelfth (3.25) in their socio-economic needs.

Similarly, the finding indicates that subsidy packages that would enhance their fishing capability to go beyond the regular fishing spot using mechanized boats could mean a wider fishing area. Eventually, this could help them to harvest a bigger catch in a short period of time and meet the fish demand for the increasing population.

4. CONCLUSION

The findings of the study show how interconnected nature of the politico-cultural and socio-economic needs affects the fisherfolk in Marinduque Province. The recognition of the contributions of infrastructure and facilities, subsidies, and social security packages appears as the highest priority, indicating a clear understanding about tangible factors which directly impact the well-being of the fisher folks. Additionally, the involvement of fisherfolk in public discussions and decision-making processes ranked second, which emphasize the importance of considering their participation in addressing pressing issues.

Moreover, the health programs, responsible fisheries management, and infrastructure give emphasis on the multi-dimensional strategy employed by the local government. Overall, the findings support a holistic and informed approach to address the diverse needs of fisherfolk in the province of Marinduque, the combined economic recognition, cultural understanding, and sustainable practices for a resilient and thriving fishing community creates better opportunities for the fisherfolk.

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