

Rural Livelihood Survey on Selected Barangays in Urdaneta City, Pangasinan

Josephine Sardan Lambinico, Urdaneta City University, Philippines

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Abstract

This study surveyed the rural livelihood of selected barangay in Urdaneta City. It sought to answer the questions on the household profile of the family members; type of house structure materials, equipment, farm materials, livestock and vegetable gardens of the respondents; status of the farmland and irrigation system in selected barangays; existing health condition of the household-members and health services provided; and action plan can be proposed in enhancing the livelihood status of household members. Descriptive method was used to derive the respondents' profile. Concluded that, the age of couples distribution is characterized as middle adulthood. Age distribution of children is characterized as school-age stage. The occupations of the head of the families are generally service providers. Spouses are doing vocational work. Parents and their children are high school graduates who have finished their basic education, they are capable of reading, writing, and perform arithmetic. Household-respondents have no alternative source of income besides their main occupation due to absence of skills to do the work and other jobs that require skilled training. The house of the community members are made of softwood, few of them uses bicycle, motorbikes and appliances. Those who are engaged in farming don't own tools and machines in cultivating their farmlands. Some are engaged in agriculture. Majority of the farmers served as tenants and lease as contracted from the landowners. They do not have irrigation system. Immunization is needed for the children. Delivery of health services to be provided to the community is wanting.

Author Note

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Overcoming current knowledge gaps in the rural areas requires moving beyond the current primarily case study-based state of knowledge on the importance of natural resources to overall livelihoods strategies.

Rural households throughout the developing countries use food, fuel, fodder, construction materials, medicines, and other products from agricultural, natural, and non-cultivated environments in order to meet subsistence needs to generate cash income (Byron and Arnold, 1999, FAO, 2008, Kaimowitz, 2003, Sunderlin et al., 2005 and World Bank, 2004). Quantifying the relative and absolute contributions of environmental income to total income portfolios is important for understanding the livelihoods of rural people.

The focus in the resolution of the poverty alleviation are the extent and the determinants of poverty and inequality, the welfare implications of the degradation of natural resources, and for designing effective development and conservation strategies (Angelsen and Wunder, 2003, Jagger et al., 2012, Oksanen and Mersmann, 2003 and Vedeld et al., 2004).

Poverty among Filipino people is stereotypical issue, even though the past administrations proposed and implemented actions in alleviating the problem. Lack of coordination in the full implementation and consistent action in promoting areas also remain as one of the concern.

The City of Urdaneta is not exempted on the poverty effects as one major problem in the vicinity particularly in the unequal distributions of its agricultural lands which affects the income generation of marginal farmers. The Office of the City Agriculturist claimed that approximately number 8,750 hectares or 72.3% of the locality's land area, of these, 6,002 hectares are irrigated rice land, 537 hectares rain fed lowland, and 87 hectares rain fed upland, or a total of 6, 626 hectares planted with rice. Likewise, 125 hectares are devoted to corn; 27 hectares legume; 320 hectares fruits and vegetables; 2 hectares root vegetables; 3 hectares tobacco; 5 hectares cotton; and 274 hectares fruits (mango and calamansi). Over all, with only 7, 382 hectares devoted to agricultural products and 10.3 hectares utilized as fishponds, 1, 357.7 hectares are underutilized or unproductive. The same source reported that 395 hectares are grassland/pastureland presumably used for raising livestock.

Residents in non-irrigated barangays' main occupation is farming are totally dependent in rain water during rainy season that usually starts from May to August. On the midst of October, farmers are ready to harvest their crops only happens once a year. The land remains idle particularly on November up to April while counterparts in irrigated areas have two (2) cropping.

There are total of 35 barangay in Urdaneta City, Pangasinan , some of which are non-irrigated. Some of these are barangays were Oltama, Sugcong and Cabaruan that produces common crops like rice, corn, mungo beans and other vegetables. Most of the residents are hired by the landowners or tenants as farm workers. Its land topography is composed of rolling hills and wide pasture lands located at the remote south-western part of the city adjacent boundary to the neighboring town of Villasis, Pangasinan. These rolling hills provide a panoramic view of surrounding terrains and

the whole community. The wide pasture lands and rice fields have given way to farmers as the main source of livelihood.

The main concern of the study is to determine the profile of these three barangays using the livelihood system approach (LSA) to support planning and monitoring at the local level. As resources become scarce, there is a need for information to be planned and implemented for interventions through efficient or better targeting of the rural livelihood. Once the livelihood systems and their vulnerable groups are identified and profiled, the design indicators for regular monitoring will allow stakeholders to continuously assess the poverty as to basic needs and security will improve rural development.

Social Problems in the Philippines explains poverty in three sociological perspectives namely symbolic interactionism, structural-functionalism, and conflict theory. The structural-functionalist view poverty as a consequence of a just economic system in which those who perform the least useful task are rewarded the least. It is unnoticeable for people to be given the same remuneration on giving different inputs since they vary in exertion of intellect, competence, skills, and efforts. The improvement of their capabilities will be a factor of the change on their living condition (Garcia 1994). The symbolic interactionism expect poverty to occur because not all are highly communicative, the theories attribute it to the daily living activities. Based on the conflict theory, poverty occurrence is attributed to the existence of class division. The existence of poverty is social stratification that is dominant group sets, making the poor ones struggle just to cope up their needs. Everybody desires to have better life even poor families.

Therefore, social change is most likely to occur when it is addressed through comprehensive, multi-sectoral efforts. The employment income, training, education, financial assets, housing, and other needs are the foundation in the sustained poverty reduction.

Figure 1

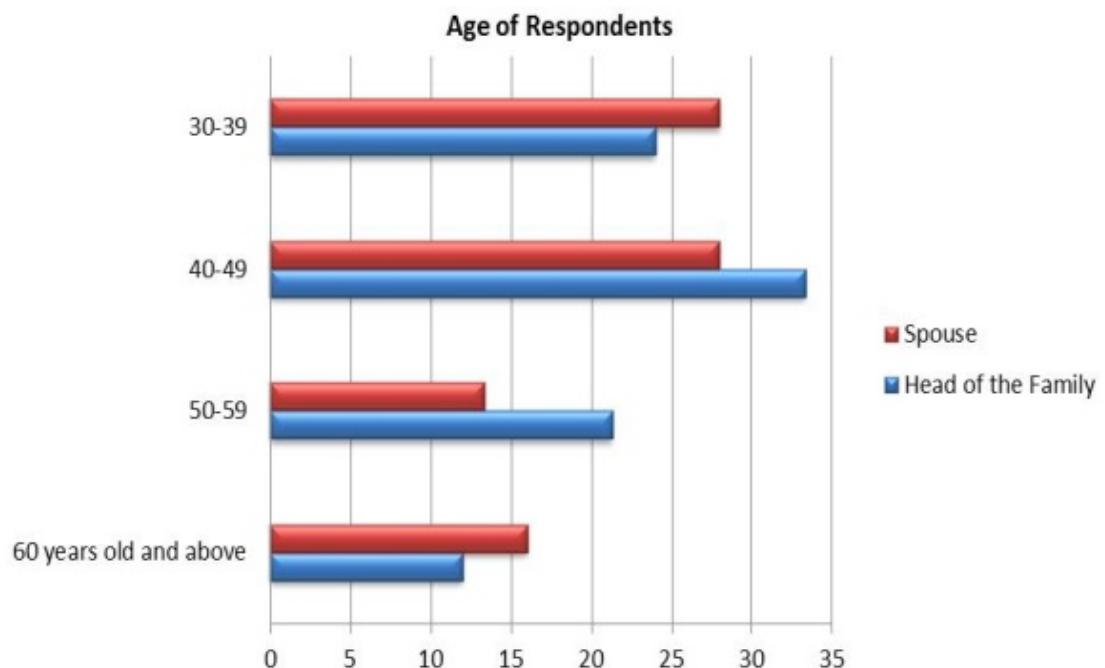


Figure 1 shows that 33.33% of the family head ages from 40 to 49 years of age while only 9% ages from 20 to 29 years old. 14.67% of spouse's age is 20 to 29 years old while 13.33% age from 50 to 59 years old.

Figure 2

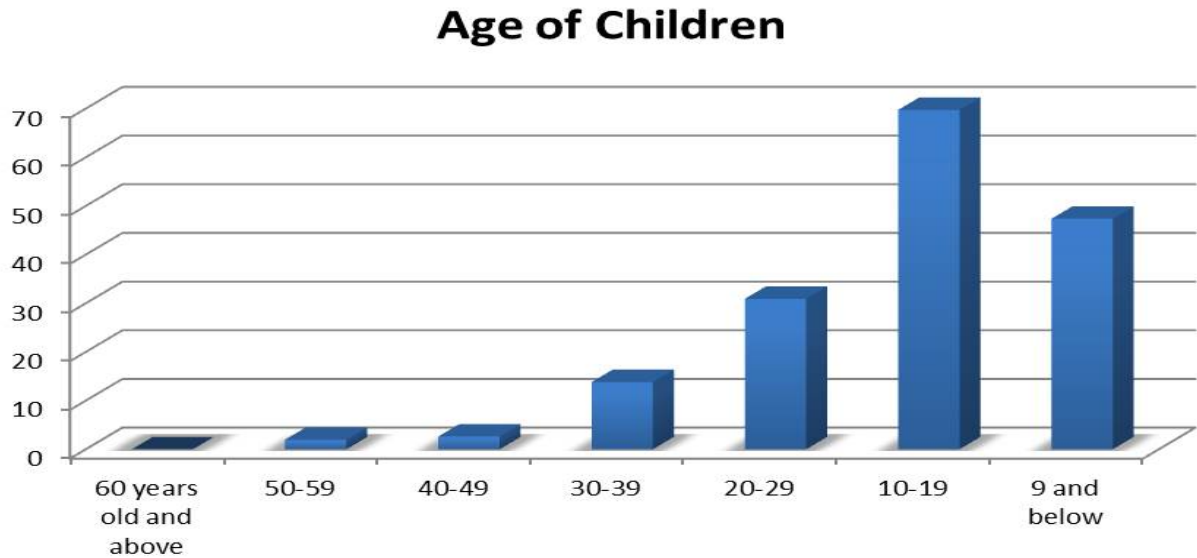
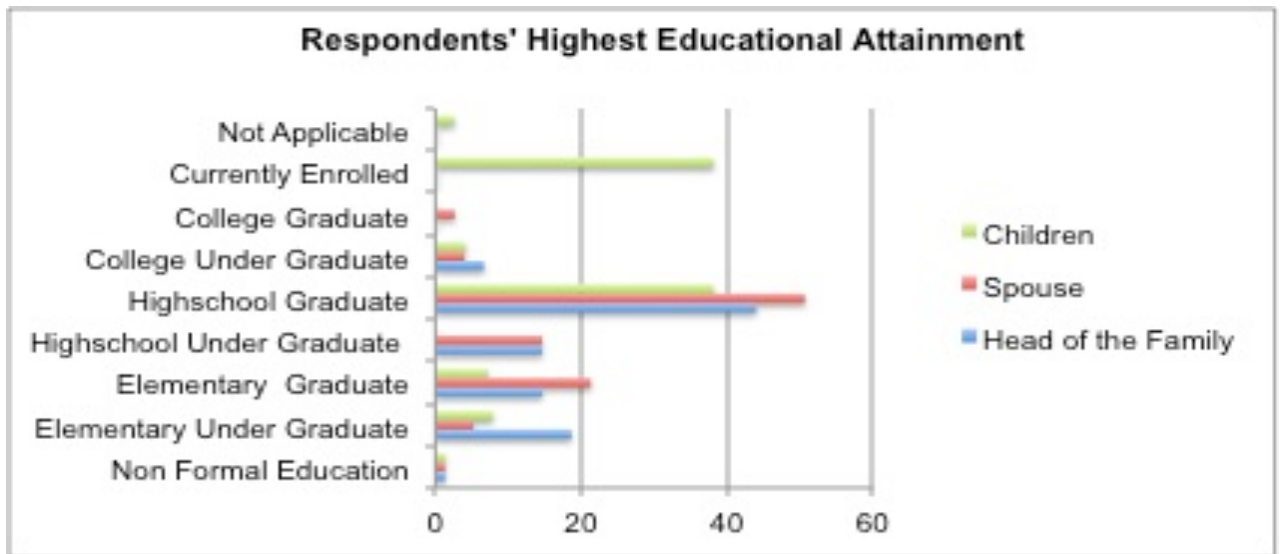


Figure 3



In Figure number 3, 44% head of the family and 50.67% of the spouse respondents' graduate in high school as highest educational attainment. 1.33% of the respondents' both head and spouse did not have formal education due to financial issues.

Figure 4

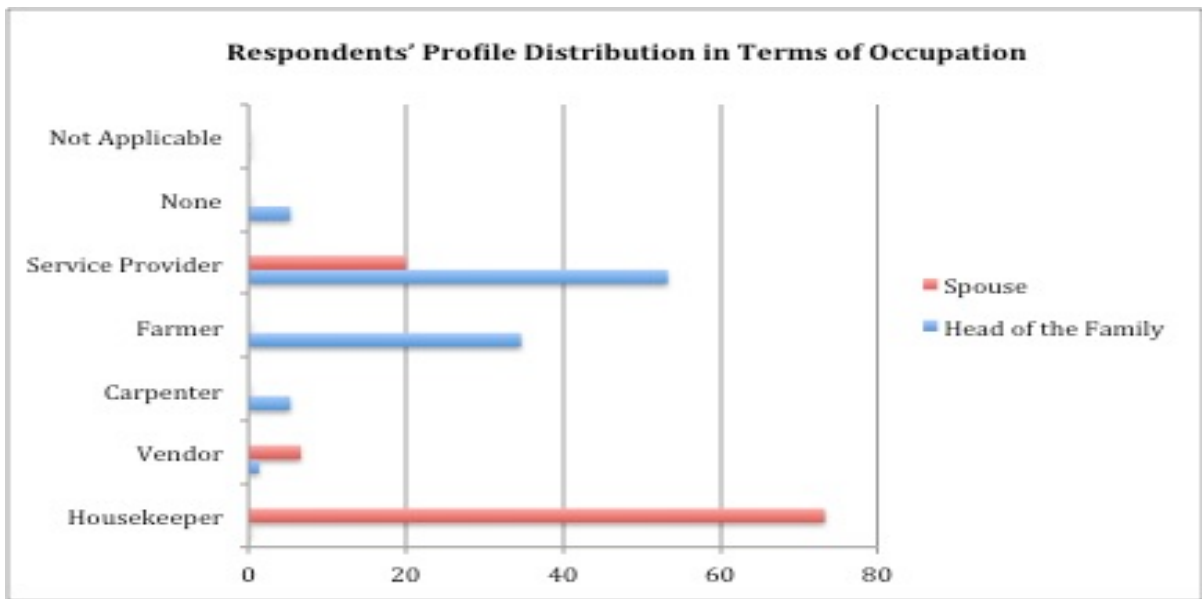
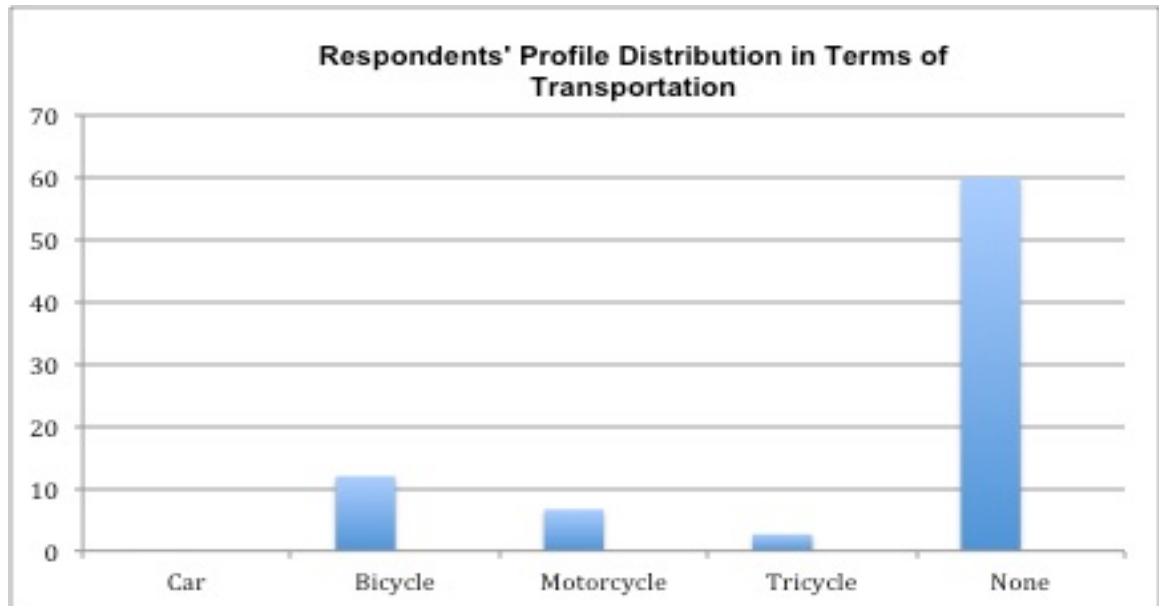


Figure number 4 shows that 53.33% head of the family respondents' occupation is service providers such as security guard, driver and factory worker while 73.33% of their spouses are housekeepers. On the other hand, 1.33% of the head of the family and 6.67% of spouse are vendors.

Figure 5



In Figure number 5, 60% of the respondents' do not own transportation instead, they commute to go to different places. On the other hand, 2.67% owns' tricycle that serves assistance in their occupation, several leisure other outside activities.

Figure 6

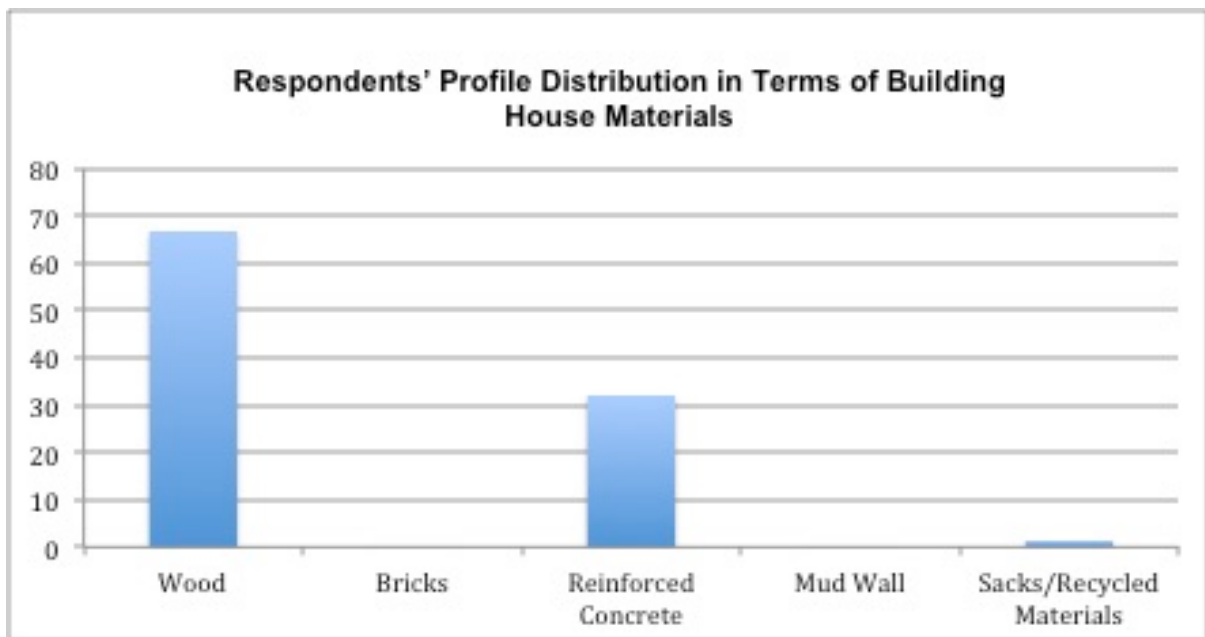


Figure 6 shows that 66.67% of the respondents' use wood as material for their house because it is cheaper compare to bricks. While 1.33% use sacks or recycled materials as artificial wall. 32% of the respondents' use reinforced concrete since it is long lasting.

Figure 7

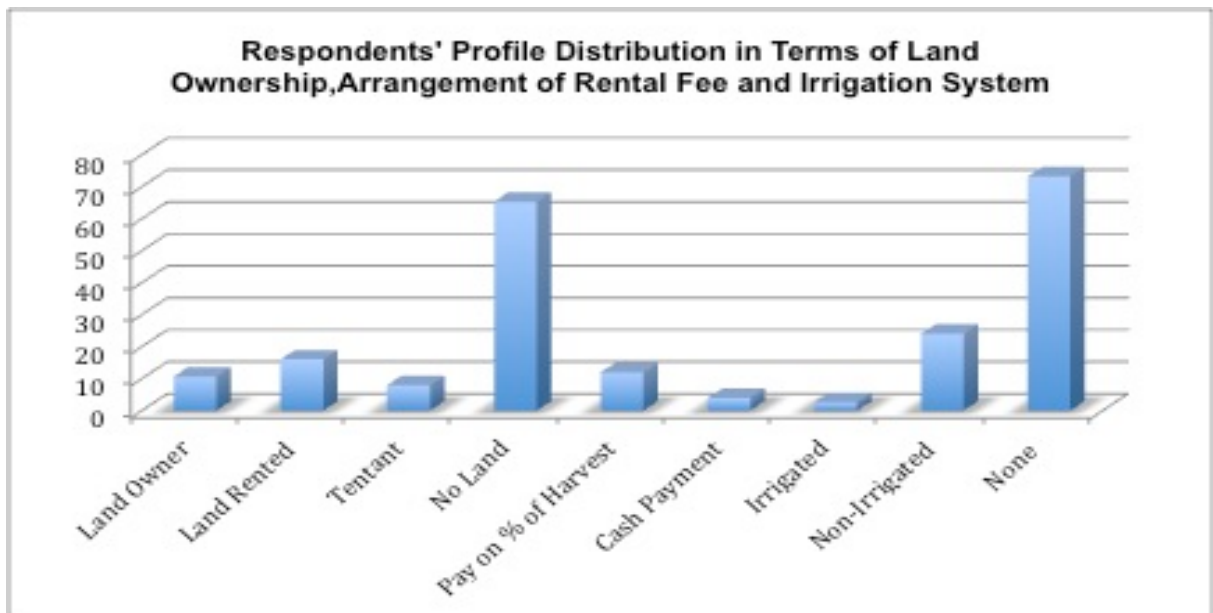


Figure 7 shows 65.33% of the respondents are not into farming rather render services like carpentering and vendors as source of income while 16% rent land for agriculture. For the farmer respondents, 12% of them pay percentage of their harvested crops to landlord while 4% pays cash. In terms of irrigation system, 73.33% opt not to response while 24% do not have irrigation system and mentioned they wait for the rain to occur. 65.33% of the respondents are not into farming rather render services like carpentering and vendors as source of income while 16% rent land for agriculture. For the farmer respondents, 12% of them pay percentage of their harvested crops to landlord while 4% pays cash. In terms of irrigation system, 73.33% opt not to response while 24% do not have irrigation system and mentioned they wait for the rain to occur.

Figure 9

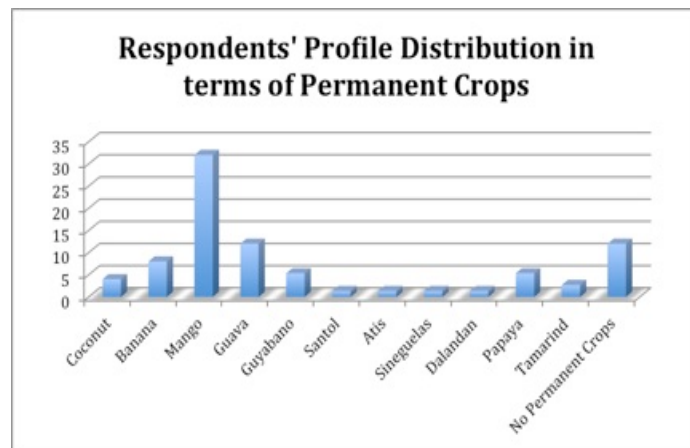


Figure 9 shows that 32% of the respondents' plant mango as permanent crops whereas santol, atis and sineguelas have the least a percentage of 1.33. The crops are usually for personal consumption and found at their backyards or farm. It is under a program named "Tulongan sa Purok" with an objective maintain backyard garden as supplement of daily consumption.

Figure 10

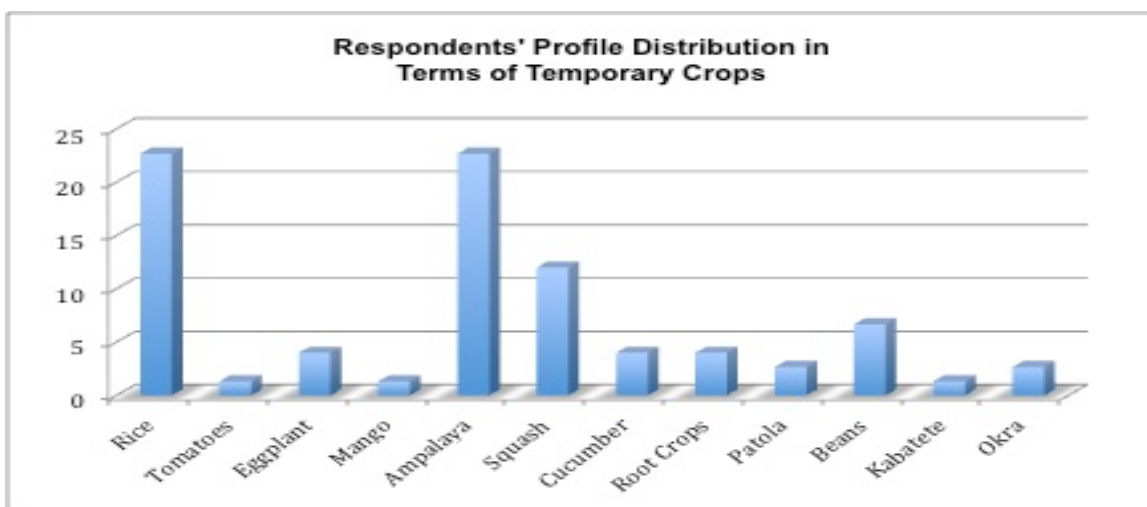
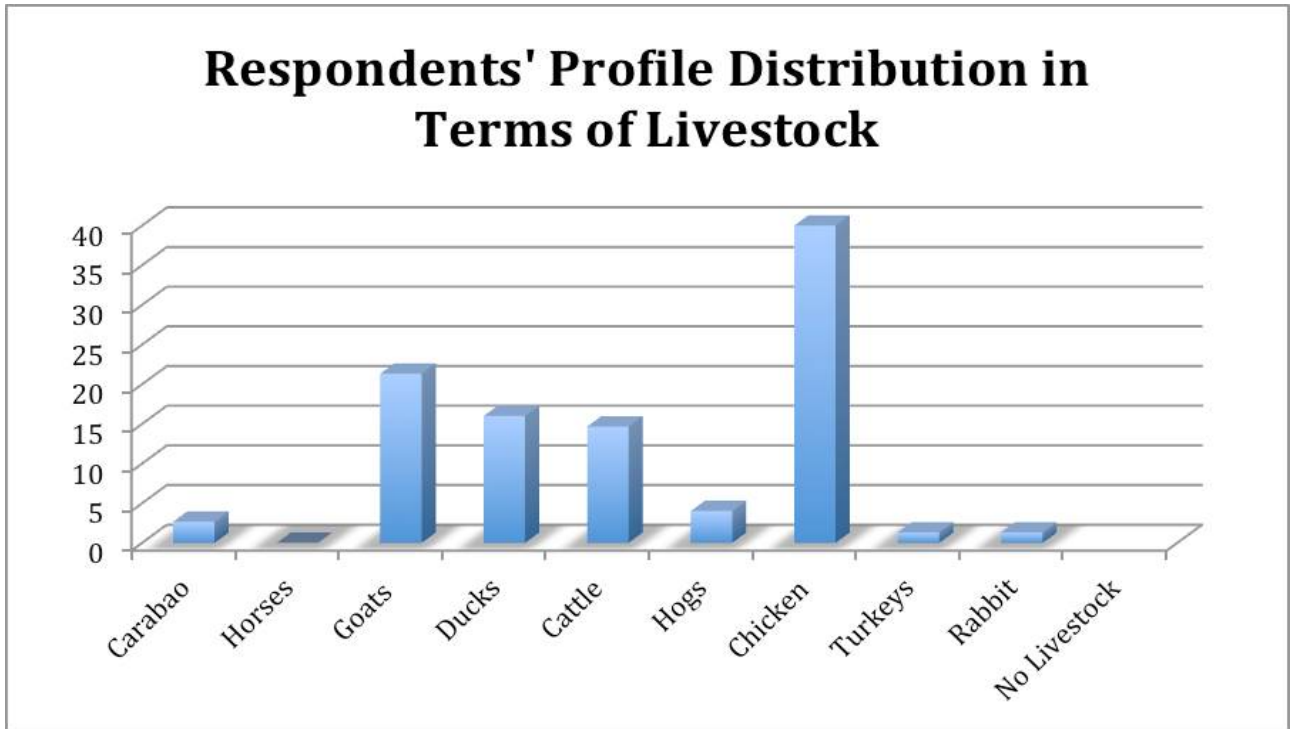
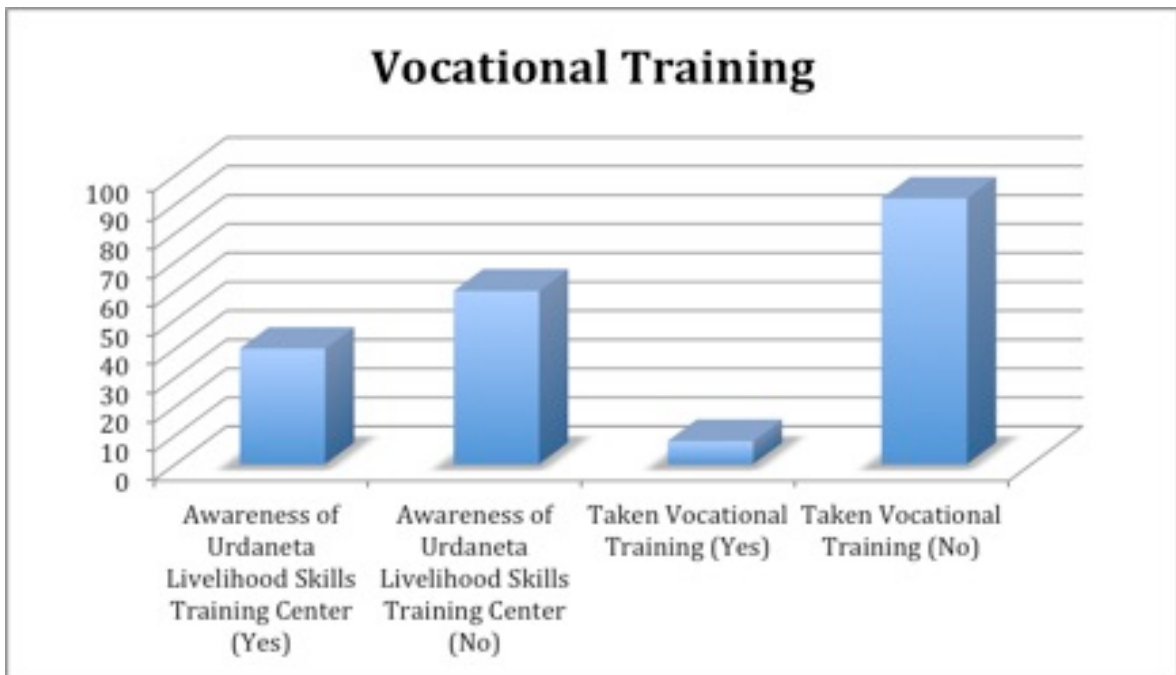


Figure 10 shows, 22.67% of the respondents' plant rice and ampalaya as source of income. Rice is commonly planted during wet/rainy season because irrigation system or pump station is an option to water the plant. Tomatoes and kabatete have the least choice 1.33%.

Figure 11



In Figure 11, 40% of the respondents' raise chicken as source of income since it is easy to breed at the same time readily available for consumption. On the other hand, carabao and horse are the least livestock source of income because it is expensive at the same time needs ranch to raise.



In Figure 15, It is shown that 82.67% of the respondents are not aware on the mentioned training that gives the reason 92% did not take the training. Although 42% of the respondents are aware in the training but was not able to attend due to financial constraints

Salient Findings

On the basis of the data gathered, the salient findings are summarized as follows:

1. The household profile with respect to age shows that the highest number of head of the family garnered 25 which ranges along the age bracket of 40-49 years old followed by 18 along the age bracket of 30-39 years old. A frequency of 9 that belong to 60 years old above and the lowest frequency is 7 whose age ranges to 20-29 years old. On the other hand, spouses along the age brackets of 30-39 and 40-49 shared the highest number with the same frequency of 21 and only 12 constitutes 60 years above. On the other hand, spouses along the age brackets of 30-39 and 40-49 shared the highest number with the same frequency of 21 and only 12 constitutes 60 years above. In terms of the number of children, the highest figure registered was 106 whose age bracket is 10-19 years old, followed by 47 along 20-29 years old. The lowest is 3 within 50-59 years old.

With respect to grandchildren there are 5 along 9 and below years old and only 3 within 10-19 years old.

Result

Based on the findings from the study, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. The age distribution of head of the families including their spouses is characterized as middle adulthood which is a period where they are actively involved in raising children. It is also called a production stage where couples are engaged in work in order to provide their children's basic needs including education.
2. The age distribution of children is characterized as school-age stage from late childhood to early adolescence period.
3. The occupations of the head of the families are generally service providers like security guard, driver, factory workers, and farmers. On the other hand, their spouses are doing manicure or pedicure job and domestic helpers.
4. Parents and their children are high school graduates who have finished their basic education. And are capable to read, write, and perform fundamentals of arithmetic which are considered *3 r's* under the program of Department of Education.
5. The household-respondents have no alternative source of income besides their main occupation. due to the fact that many of them do not possess essential skills to do the work and other jobs that require skilled training.
6. A typical house of the community barangays are made from "pawid" which is reinforced by softwood such as coconut lumber. There are only few of them uses bicycle, motorbikes and appliances. Those who are engaged in farming do not own tools and machines in cultivating their farmlands. About a good number of them are engaged in livestock raising and growing vegetables or fruit bearing trees.
7. Majority of the farmers does not own their cultivated land but instead they served as tenants and lease as contracted from the landowners. And with no irrigation system.
8. Immunization is needed as a vital intervention for the children. Delivery of health services to be provided to the community is wanting.

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