



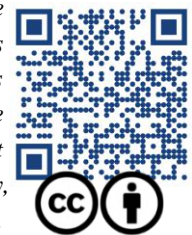
Impacts of Tourism on the Socio-Cultural Aspect of the Dumagat Along Dupinga

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Abstract— This research paper examines the impacts of tourism on the socio-cultural aspects of the Dumagat community in Dupinga, Gabaldon Nueva Ecija, emphasizing the importance of indigenous perspectives. It combines scholarly knowledge and firsthand insights to assess these impacts comprehensively, advocating for sustainable tourism policies that preserve the cultural integrity of the community. Findings suggest a mixed impact of tourism, with positive economic effects but concerns about the erosion of local traditions. The paper recommends a multifaceted approach, including cultural sensitivity, community involvement, and education, to mitigate negative impacts and empower indigenous communities.



Keywords— Dumagat, Eco-tourism, Socio-cultural Impacts, Indigenous Tourism, Indigenous Community, Sustainable Development.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the current global landscape, tourism has evolved into a potent force, driving economic growth and fostering cultural exchange. However, the impact of tourism on indigenous lands/ancestral domains has raised crucial concerns related to the preservation of cultural heritage, traditional practices, and the overall well-being of indigenous peoples/indigenous cultural communities (IPs/ICCs). This research focuses on the specific case of Dupinga, Gabaldon, to comprehensively assess the impact of tourism on the socio-cultural aspect of Dumagat.

Indigenous tourism involves indigenous peoples directly in tourism activities, either through cultural attractions or by managing the activities themselves. It's seen as a delicate form of niche tourism, and in areas where economic opportunities are scarce, it can provide a vital means for Indigenous communities to sustain their livelihoods.

The rapid increase in tourism along the Dupinga River in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija, among indigenous peoples and cultural communities, sparks concern about its diverse

impact on their socio-cultural fabric. With global travel on the rise, there's an urgent need to examine the intricate dynamics and consequences of tourism on indigenous societies, particularly focusing on potential cultural erosion, economic dependencies, environmental implications, and the effectiveness of current strategies in minimizing negative effects.

In 2004, the residents of Dupinga, specifically the Dumagat, built nipa huts along the river, raising awareness and turning the area into a beloved destination for Novo Ecijanos. This initiative also became a significant income source for the indigenous Dumagat people. Acknowledging its appeal to tourists, the local government now manages tourism activities, sharing profits with the Dumagat community and prioritizing the preservation of the river's cleanliness.

This study highlights the crucial role of indigenous voices in shaping discussions on tourism impacts. It emphasizes the need to pay attention to the effects of tourism on Dupinga's indigenous population. By engaging with and valuing these voices, valuable insights into their

challenges, as well as potential benefits and opportunities from tourism, can be uncovered. Through a thorough synthesis of scholarly knowledge and direct perspectives from the Dupinga community, the research aims to offer a comprehensive assessment of tourism's socio-cultural impacts on Dumagat.

The research aims to understand and address the various impacts of tourism on Dumagat in Dupinga, Gabaldon. Additionally, it advocates for preserving indigenous heritage by identifying areas needing attention and protection. The ultimate goal is to contribute to the development of sustainable tourism policies that honor and protect the cultural integrity of the Dumagat community.

II. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This study examines the impacts of tourism on the socio-cultural aspects of the Dumagat in Dupinga, Gabaldon Nueva Ecija. Specifically, it sought to answer the following questions:

1. How may the respondents be described in terms of:
 - 1.1 Age;
 - 1.2 Sex;
 - 1.3 Religion;
 - 1.4 Civil Status;
 - 1.6 Dumagat Blood Quantum Degree;
 - 1.7 Monthly Income;
 - 1.8 Highest Educational Attainment?
2. What various tourism opportunities do the Dumagat provide for visitors exploring the Dupinga River?
3. How may the positive socio-cultural impacts of tourism to the Dumagat be described in terms of;
 - 3.1 Cultural Exchange;
 - 3.2 Economic Opportunities;
 - 3.3 Cultural Revitalization; and
 - 3.4 Increased Awareness?
4. How may the positive socio-cultural impacts of tourism to Dumagat be described in terms of;
 - 4.1 Cultural Erosion;

- 4.2 Economic Dependency;
- 4.3 Cultural Deterioration; and
- 4.4 Decreased Awareness?

5. Is there a significant relationship between tourism opportunities and its impact on the livelihood of the Dumagat?

III. METHODOLOGY

The researcher used quantitative research method in order to meet the objectives of the study. The 42 respondents chosen through purposive sampling technique that represented 75% of the total population of the households in Dumagat in Dupinga, Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija. The instrument used to gather data is survey questionnaire. The instruments were developed and validated prior to data gathering through content validity, construct validity, and pilot testing.

The data analysis employed several statistical techniques, including Frequency Distribution, Weighted Mean, and Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient. Range of scores and its verbal interpretation is shown below:

Scale	Weights	Verbal Interpretation
3.50 – 4.00	4	Strongly Agree
2.50 – 3.49	3	Agree
1.50 – 2.49	2	Somewhat Disagree
1.00– 1.49	1	Disagree

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This encompasses an exploration of the demographic profile of the respondents, an evaluation of the tourism opportunities provided by Dumagat to its visitors, an analysis of the impact of tourism on the socio-cultural aspect of Dumagat, and an investigation into the relationship between tourism opportunities and the socio-cultural aspect of Dumagat.

Table 1. Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Variables	fn = 42	%
Age:		
16 – 23 years old	8	19.05%
24 – 31 years old	10	23.81%
32 – 39 years old	8	19.05%
40 – 49 years old	4	9.52%

<i>50 years old and above</i>	12	28.57%
Sex:		
<i>Male</i>	21	50%
<i>Female</i>	21	50%
Civil Status:		
<i>Single</i>	17	40.48%
<i>Married</i>	25	59.52%
Religion:		
<i>Roman Catholic</i>	6	14.29%
<i>Methodist</i>	4	9.52%
<i>Born Again</i>	28	66.67%
<i>No Religion</i>	1	2.38%
<i>Others</i>	3	7.14%
Blood Quantum Degree:		
<i>76 – 100% Dumagat</i>	27	64.29%
<i>51 – 75 % Dumagat</i>	11	26.19%
<i>26 – 50 % Dumagat</i>	4	9.52%
Monthly Income:		
<i>20,000 and above</i>	2	4.76%
<i>10,000 – 19,999</i>	13	30.95%
<i>5,000 – 9,999</i>	14	33.33%
<i>1,000 – 4,999</i>	6	14.29%
<i>1,000 and below</i>	7	16.67%
Highest Educational Attainment:		
<i>Elementary</i>	36	85.71%
<i>Secondary</i>	3	7.14%
<i>Did not attend school</i>	3	7.14%

Table 1 shows the demographic profile of respondents reveals a diverse distribution across age groups. Notably, 19.05% fall within the 16 to 23 age bracket, and aged 32 to 39, 23.81% are aged 24 to 31. Additionally, 9.52% are between 40 to 49 years old, while 28.57% are 50 years old and above. Gender of the respondents are fairly distributed, with 50% male and 50% female respondents. The majority of respondents are married (59.52%), while 40.48% are single. "Born Again" dominates religious affiliation (66.67%), followed by Roman Catholics (14.29%) and Methodists (9.52%). Most respondents identify with

high Dumagat ancestry, with 64.29% reporting 76-100% Dumagat blood quantum.

Respondents' incomes varied widely. The largest group earned 5,000 to 9,999 pesos (33.33%), with fewer earning higher amounts. Only 4.76% earned 20,000 pesos or more. Additionally, 30.95% fell into the 10,000 to 19,999 peso bracket, 14.29% earned 1,000 to 4,999 pesos, and 16.67% earned below 1,000 pesos. Regarding education, 85.71% have attained elementary education, 7.14% have reached secondary education, and 7.14% have no formal education.

Table 2. Tourism Opportunities

Variables	fn = 42	%
Do you provide tourism opportunities to visitors?		
<i>Yes</i>	13	30.95%
<i>No</i>	29	69.05%
If yes, specify:		
<i>Floaters rental</i>	1	2.38%
<i>Cottage rental</i>	12	28.57%
<i>Selling food like (fish, crab and others.)</i>	1	2.38%
<i>Videoke rental</i>	1	2.38%
<i>Others, please specify:</i>	1	2.38%
<i>Honeybee</i>		

Table 2 presents the tourism opportunities provided by 42 respondents. Among them, 13 (30.95%) offer tourism opportunities, while 29 (69.04%) do not. Notable services among those offering opportunities

include renting floaters (2.38%), cottages (28.57%), selling local delicacies (2.38%), renting videoke (2.38%), and other miscellaneous services like selling honey (2.38%).

Table 3. Cultural Exchange

Indicators	Mean	Interpretation
The increase in tourists brings positive effects to our culture and traditions.	3.05	Agree
Tourism deepens our culture through acceptance and appreciation of it.	3.17	Agree
Our cultural heritage fades because it is increasingly being influenced by modern culture due to our interactions with tourists.	2.14	Somewhat Disagree

Table 3 suggests that the increase in tourists has a mixed impact on the local culture and traditions:

The majority agree (3.05) that the influx of tourists has a positive effect on the culture and traditions, indicating that tourism contributes positively to the preservation and enrichment of local customs.

Similarly, there is agreement (3.17) that tourism deepens the understanding and appreciation of the local culture through acceptance and value appreciation.

However, there is also slight agreement (2.14) that the knowledge of the local culture diminishes due to the influence of modern cultures brought by interactions with tourists.

Overall, while tourism is seen as beneficial in some aspects, there are concerns about its potential negative effects on the preservation of traditional knowledge and practices.

Table 4. Economic Opportunities

Indicators	Mean	Interpretation
Tourism helps us earn additional income.	3.83	Strongly agree
Tourism creates equal opportunities for our livelihood.	2.67	agree
Tourism helps alleviate poverty in our community.	3.29	agree

Table 4 suggests a mixed perception regarding the impact of tourism on the local community's economic situation:

With a strong agreement mean of 3.83, the majority believe that tourism helps provide additional income, indicating a positive perception of tourism's economic benefits.

An agreement score of 2.67 suggests a moderate level of consensus on the notion that tourism offers equal opportunities for livelihoods within the local population. This indicates that while there might not be unanimous agreement, there is recognition that tourism has the potential to distribute economic benefits fairly among community members.

Nonetheless, there is general agreement 3.29 that tourism contributes to reducing poverty in the area, indicating a positive perception of its potential to alleviate socioeconomic challenges.

Overall, the data indicates a generally positive perception of tourism's economic impact on the local community. Most believe it provides additional income, with moderate consensus on equal opportunities. There's also agreement that tourism helps reduce poverty. Overall, while some nuances exist, the view leans towards tourism being beneficial for the local economy and socioeconomic challenges.

Table 5. Cultural Revitalization

Indicators	Mean	Interpretation
Tourism fosters the enhancement of our cultural heritage.	2.74	agree
The influence of tourism brings about changes in our culture.	2.60	agree
Tourism helps disseminate knowledge about our culture.	4	Strongly agree

Table 5 suggests that respondents generally agree that tourism positively contributes to cultural revitalization within the community.

The first statement received a relatively agreement mean (2.74), indicating that most respondents believe tourism significantly enhances or enriches their culture. However, the slightly lower mean score (2.60) for the second statement suggests that some respondents harbor reservations or concerns about the nature of these changes. This implies that while tourism does induce cultural transformations, some perceive these changes as potentially negative or disruptive to traditional cultural practices.

The last statement garnered a relatively high agreement mean (4), signifying that respondents believe tourism plays a crucial role in disseminating knowledge about their culture. They likely view tourism as a platform for educating others about their traditions, history, and values, thereby fostering cultural understanding and appreciation among visitors.

Overall, while respondents generally perceive tourism as having a positive impact on their culture, including enrichment and knowledge dissemination, there are nuanced concerns about the nature of cultural changes brought about by tourism.

Table 6. Increased Awareness

Indicators	Mean	Interpretation
Our culture becomes more recognized because of tourism.	3.05	agree

Table 6 presents the that with a mean score of 3.05, respondents agree that tourism contributes to a better

understanding of their culture. This indicates a consensus among the majority of respondents.

Table 7 Spearman's Rank Correlation

Spearman's rho Correlation		Income
Cultural Exchange	<i>r - value</i>	.008
	<i>p - value</i>	.960
Economic Opportunities	<i>r - value</i>	-.120
	<i>p - value</i>	.450
Cultural Revitalization	<i>r - value</i>	-.437**

	<i>p - value</i>	.004
Increased Awareness	<i>r - value</i>	-.270
	<i>p - value</i>	.084

Table 7. In a study examining the relationship between different aspects of cultural exchange and income, Spearman's rho correlations were calculated. Results indicate a statistically significant negative correlation between cultural revitalization and income ($\rho = -.437$, $p = .004$), suggesting that higher levels of cultural revitalization are associated with lower incomes. However, no significant correlations were found between income and cultural exchange ($\rho = .008$, $p = .960$), economic factors ($\rho = -.120$, $p = .450$), or awareness ($\rho = -.270$, $p = .084$).

The statistically significant negative correlation between cultural revitalization and income ($\rho = -.437$, $p = .004$) suggests that communities or regions with higher levels of cultural revitalization tend to have lower incomes. This finding may indicate that areas focusing more on cultural preservation and revitalization might prioritize cultural activities over economic development, potentially leading to lower overall income levels.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

Through meticulous analysis and interpretation of the gathered data, the following conclusions are drawn;

1. Dumagat community emerges as a complex tapestry of diversity. They have different profiles and also opinions about the impact of tourism to them. Educational attainment in the community is primarily at the elementary level, indicating potential barriers to higher education.
2. Approximately 30.95% of residents engage in offering tourism opportunities.
3. Concerns about cultural erosion, economic dependency, and cultural deterioration highlight the need for sustainable tourism practices and cultural preservation strategies.
4. Preserving Dumagat's cultural heritage is important, especially in the face of challenges like cultural deterioration and modern influences.
5. There's a negative correlation between cultural revitalization and income.

Recommendations

This research provides a series of targeted recommendations to address pressing issues in Dumagat.

Based on the conclusions above, we recommend the following actions:

1. Dumagat primarily attained elementary education, it is imperative to advocate for and actively encourage residents to take significant steps towards pursuing education. There's a pressing need for the Local Government to implement initiatives that would provide free education to the young generations of Dumagat.
2. Invest in educational initiatives, including comprehensive training programs covering hospitality management and craft-making. By nurturing creativity and empowering communities to develop their own tourism offerings, we can promote economic sustainability and preserve Dumagat's rich cultural heritage.
3. Dumagat mostly rely in tourism, it is recommend to diversify the economy by investing in other industries such as agriculture and hospitality. Provide training and program to increase their knowledge and skills so they can access higher-skilled jobs.
4. Promote sustainable tourism by practicing cultural sensitivity, involving the community, and educating tourists. Foster cultural exchanges through traditional activities, provide alternative livelihoods to reduce tourism dependency, and implement cultural preservation initiatives to educate about Dumagat's heritage.
5. While there is revitalization of culture, they tend to have lower income levels. It's better to have sustainable development while preserving cultural heritage. Understanding the relationship between tourism and livelihood outcomes will contribute to more informed decision-making regarding economic development strategies.

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