

CONTRIBUTIONS OF LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES OF RURAL MARRIED WOMEN TO QUALITY OF LIFE OF HOUSEHOLDS. Burgos E.T.* & Braña E.L.
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The study was conducted to determine the demographic profile of Rural Married Women (RMW), their livelihood activities and the contributions of these activities to the health, social and economic conditions of their households. Using the survey method, RMW and their households living in two villages, Mianay an agricultural village in Sigma town, and Lonoy, a fishing village, in Sapián Town, both located in Capiz, a province in the South of the Philippines were studied. Findings showed that in Mianay, the agricultural village, 66.4% were self-employed, 22.4% were unemployed and 11.2% were employed while in Lonoy, the fishing village, 62.2% were self-employed, 21.1% were unemployed, and 16.7, were employed. Having spent an average of 7.5 years in school, RMW of both villages belonged to households with from 5 to 5.5 members. Among the livelihood activities of self-employed RMW, small variety store operation, fish vending, rice farming, livestock raising, and fruit vending, ranked from highest to lowest, were the activities that provided the highest income. Teaching and working as a househelp provided the highest income for the employed RMW of both villages. Earning an average annual income of \$235.72 (at 25 Philippine pesos per U.S.\$) from self-employment and \$608.04 from employment in the fishing village and \$461.84 from self-employment and \$710.80 from employment in the agricultural village, the income represented 43.8% (for employed RMW), 43.9% (for self-employed) contribution to the household income in the fishing village and 52.3% (for employed RMW, and 38.% (for self-employed RMW) contribution to the household income in the agricultural village. Using recreation activities, membership in community organizations and education of household members as social indicators, findings indicated that households of RMW with livelihood activities were better by 45.5% than household of RMW without livelihood activities. With type, ownership of house and lot, appliances, furniture, cooking facilities, water source, type of toilet and lighting as economic indicators, households of RMW with livelihood activities were better by an average of 41.85%. Using weight and body mass index of pre-schoolers and the food diversity index as health indicators, the households of RMW were better by an average of 52.65%. The livelihood activities of rural married women in the villages studied, improved the quality of life of their households in terms of the social, economic and health conditions. There is a need for government and non-government organizations to provide support to rural married women in terms of access to loans, training and opportunities for employment. Further studies should be conducted on how occupational skills may provided before women leave school at the first or second years in the secondary level.