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Dimensions of Poverty of Indigenous People

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Dimensions of Poverty of Indigenous People^{*}

By

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and Kenneth Ilarde^{**}

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I. Background

The period 1995-2004 was proclaimed by the international community as the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People in order to focus on issues of concern to indigenous people (UN, 1997). The Decade of the World's Indigenous People was set to serve as a time frame to assess indigenous people's needs and to accelerate the correction of situations in which indigenous people are at disadvantage. It also intends to offer a framework for the launching of activities and the promotion of progress for indigenous people. It also seeks to provide an opportunity to bring about tangible improvements in the lives of indigenous communities. In particular, the Decade aims to strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by IP in such areas as human rights, environment, development, health, culture and education.

The marginalization and exclusion from the mainstream political, economic, and social spheres prompted indigenous people to lobby and have their concerns included in a number of international meetings and global conferences such as the UN Conference on Environment and Development, World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference on Women. In all of these conferences, issues of indigenous people around the world were discussed. Governments were requested to implement recommendations relating to IP and to adopt national legislation to protect and promote their rights.

In the Philippines, indigenous people are identified as among those groups in the society who are vulnerable to various policy shocks. In this regard, one of the challenges for the national government spelled out in Medium Term Development Plan 2001-2004 is to provide economic opportunities to uplift majority of them from poverty. In this regard, two key issues are likewise, needed to be addressed. Is the incidence of poverty for IP communities more serious than for other sectors of the national population? Are there arguments for targeting poverty reduction programs specifically for indigenous population?

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To address these issues, it is crucial to have information on what are the conditions of the indigenous people in the Philippines, how many are there and where they are. Unfortunately, there are no official statistics to provide the necessary information. The statistical system has not acted on the repeated requests by the IP advocates for the need to conduct a census of IP to ensure inclusion of IP in the demographic data of the country.

In the absence of official statistics to assess the level and extent of human development conditions of indigenous people, this study shall attempt to describe their status based on household level-data gathered through the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) being implemented in selected localities in the country. The CBMS provides information on the different dimensions of poverty. For the purposes of the foregoing discussion, this version of the paper shall present initial results from the CBMS survey conducted in Barangay Isumbo, Southern Palawan. Eventually, this on-going research work being done under the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Network Project shall expand analysis of the status of IP in other CBMS sites.

II. IP in the Philippines: A Historical Background¹

Indigenous people are regarded as those with a social or cultural identity distinct from the dominant or mainstream society which makes them vulnerable to being disadvantaged in the process of development (ADB, 2002).

In the Philippines, indigenous people are composed of a number of tribes found in various parts of the archipelago, mostly in the hinterlands, where they are near nature. On the account of centuries long isolation, they have generally fallen behind the mainstream population in terms of socioeconomic development because of massive exploitation of discriminatory laws and development projects. It is mainly for this reason that the promotion of their general welfare and development has become a special concern of government.

In 1997, the Philippine Congress passed Republic Act 8371 entitled Indigenous People's Right Act, which uses the term "indigenous peoples" as the collective label for non-Christian and non-Muslim ethnic groups in the Philippines (WB, 2002). The indigenous population of the Philippines comprises a wide range of different groups that vary in terms of settlement patterns, economic subsistence, social structure, stratification and sociopolitical organization as well as articulation with the wider society. These groups are found within three major geographical areas, namely Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. No exact figures exist regarding the aggregate number of the indigenous population or even the number of distinct indigenous groups in the country

According to the NCIP, the total population of indigenous peoples in the Philippines in 1998 was estimated to be between 12 and 15 million (ADB, 2002). According to the NCIP, 61 percent of the indigenous people are in Mindanao while 33

¹ Drawn from the Primer of the National Commission on Indigenous People

percent reside in Luzon. The remaining 6 percent are scattered among the Visayan islands. The Philippines was divided into seven ethnographic areas as set by IPRA for representation in the NCIP:

- Region 1 and CAR
- Region II
- The rest of Luzon (Regions III, IV (part), and V)
- Island groups (Regions IV (part), VI, VII, and VIII)
- Northern and Western Mindanao (Regions IX (Zamboanga Peninsula) and X (Northern Mindanao))
- Southern and Eastern Mindanao (Regions XI (Davao Region) and XIII (Caraga))
- Central Mindanao (Region XII) (SOCCSARGEN)

III. Dimensions of Poverty among IP Groups

Poverty tends to have a disproportionately severe effect on indigenous people (UN, 1997). They tend to be among the poorest of the poor, the most vulnerable and the most deprived groups of society. Analysis of poverty among indigenous communities in several countries indicate several issues, including the following:

- *Lack of basic health services:* Indigenous communities are often deprived of basic health infrastructures
- *Low level of education:* Most educational systems available to indigenous children do not take into account the traditional and cultural values of indigenous people. This has contributed to very high illiteracy rates among indigenous communities. Moreover, in general, indigenous people have less access to mainstream education than does the population at large.
- *Non-protection of intellectual and cultural property rights:* Indigenous people have expressed concern that the knowledge they have gathered over centuries has been exploited commercially without their agreement.
- *Unemployment:* Indigenous communities generally suffer from a high rate of unemployment.
- *Human Rights:* For centuries, the basic human rights of indigenous people have been violated in many ways.
- *Land and Resources:* Indigenous people have a particular relationship to the land and have been resisting relocation in some countries.
- *Self-Determination:* Indigenous populations argue that they have the right to self determination, to be able to determine freely their political status and consequently to pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

In the case of the Philippines, various studies suggest that these same issues also affect the local IP communities. An assessment of poverty conditions of indigenous people in Cordillera and Mindanao regions (ADB 2002) indicate the following issues:

1. Income and employment
2. Water and sanitation
3. Basic education and literacy
4. Food security
5. Infrastructure
6. Participation in development process
7. Lack of material property

Based from anecdotal evidences, indigenous communities that have been relocated from their traditional communities and that have lost access to their land natural resources, and other assets are likely to bear the burden of material poverty as well as social and cultural deprivation. The same is true for communities who have lost their livelihood as a consequence of mining, logging, and similar extractive activities.

While there are no official poverty statistics relating to IPs, one can get some indication from existing data. For instance, ADB (2002) estimates that 99.9% of the population living in CAR (Cordillera Autonomous Region) are IPs. If this is correct, then the profile of the population in CAR reflects the situation of the IPs in CAR.

The poverty situation in the whole country did not improve significantly between 1988 and 2000. Poverty incidence declined from 40.2% to 33.7 % over the same period. However, the number of poor families has actually increased from 4.36 million families in 1988 to 5.14 million families in 2000 owing to the population growth. In CAR, the incidence of poverty has declined from 41.9 percent in 1988 to 36.6% in 2000. Meanwhile, the number of poor families has increased from 89,572 in 1988 to 262,659 in 2000. It seems that the poverty situation in CAR has, in fact, worsened more than the situation in the whole country.

**Table 1. Magnitude and incidence of poor families
for the Philippines and CAR: 1988, 1991, 1994, 1997 and 2000**

	Poor families			
	National		CAR	
	Magnitude	Incidence	Magnitude	Incidence
1988	4,230,484	40.2	89,572	41.9
1991	4,780,865	39.9	111,030	48.8
1994	4,531,170	35.5	122,942	51.0
1997	4,511,151	31.8	110,142	42.5
2000	5,139,565	33.7	100,698	36.6

Data Source: National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB)

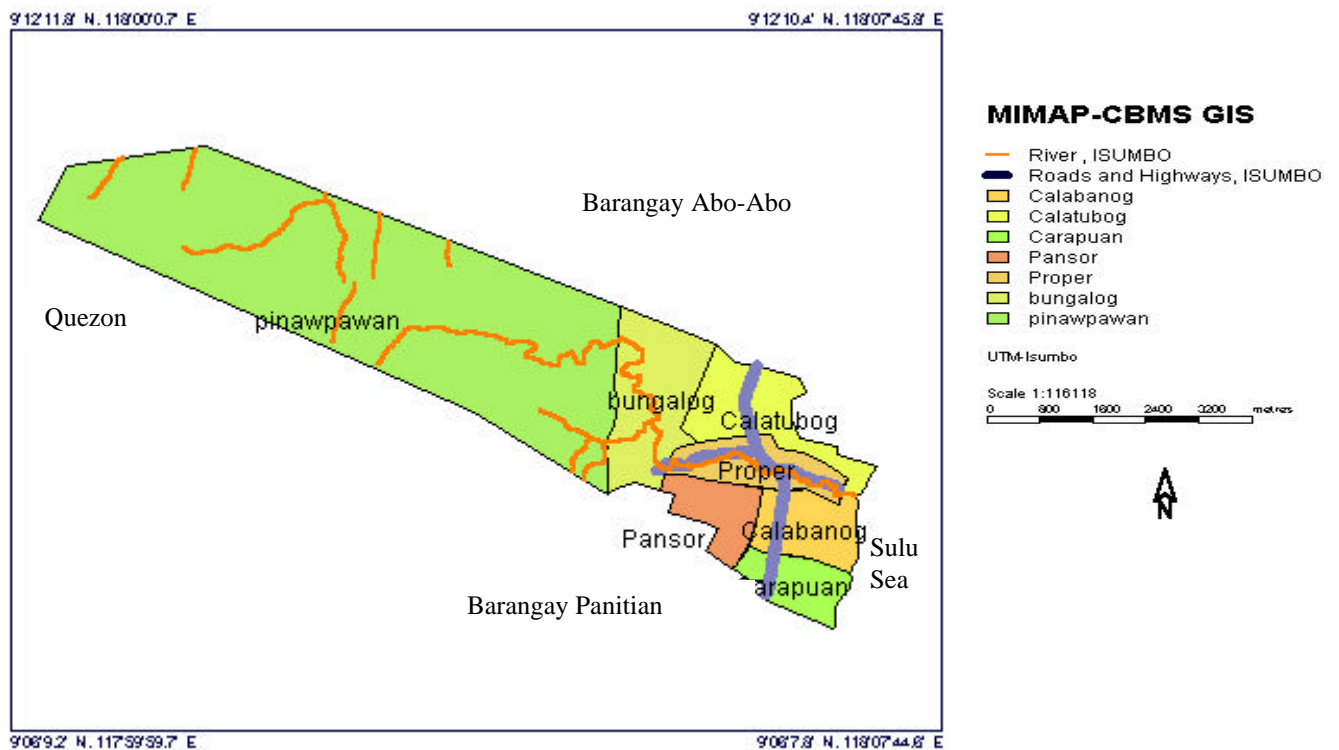
IV. A CBMS Case Study of IPs in Barangay Isumbo, Southern Palawan

This section attempts to shed light on the different dimensions of poverty affecting the indigenous people by examining one barangay in Palawan. This is part of an on-going study on the conditions of IP in the CBMS sites.

The foregoing discussion was based on the data gathered through the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) survey conducted in Barangay Isumbo, in Sofronio Española, Palawan for the year 2002.

Barangay Isumbo is noted to be one of the poorest communities in Española. It has a total land area of 44.12 square kilometers.

Map 1. Spot Map of Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española



Demography

Barangay Isumbo has a total population of 1,941. It is comprised of 442 households with an average household size of four. About 110 of these households are classified as Indigenous People (IP) households.

Table 2: Demographic characteristics of Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001

Purok	Households	Population	Household size
Total	442	1941	4.4
Bungalow	41	148	3.6
Calabanog	65	312	4.8
Calatubog	48	258	5.4
Carapuan	41	160	3.9
Pansor	47	195	4.1
Pinawpawan	70	260	3.7
Proper	130	608	4.7
Non-IP	332	1503	4.5
IP	110	438	4.0

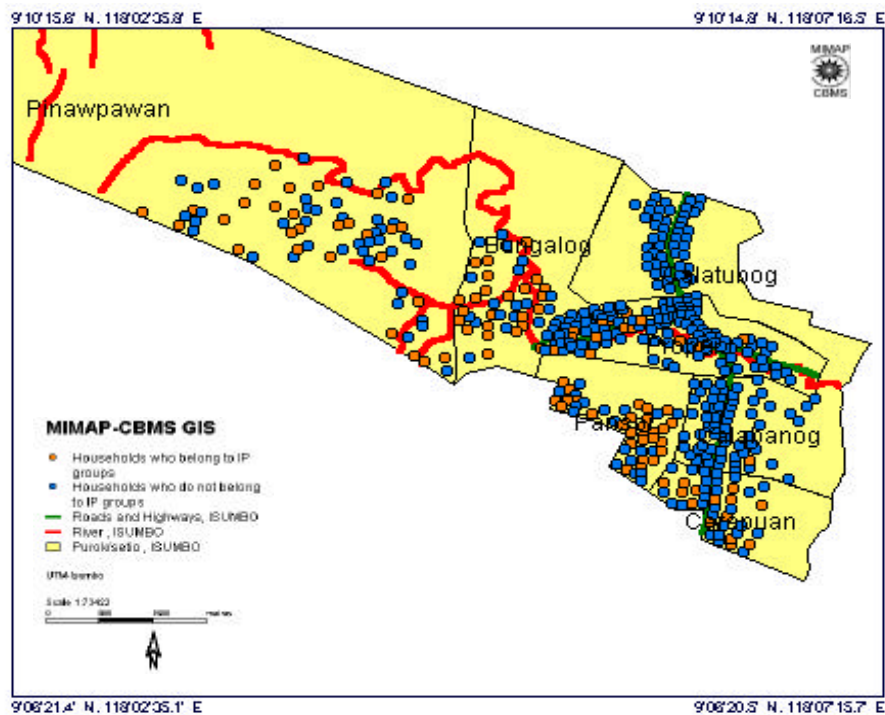
The barangay is home to an indigenous community known as *Palawan*. The *Palawanos* comprises about 22.6 percent of the total population of the barangay. An IP household is usually composed of 4 members.

Table 3: Demographic characteristics of Indigenous People in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001

Purok	Total Households	Total Population	Household Size
Total	110	438	3.9
Bungalow	23	93	4.0
Calabanog	1	4	4.0
Calatubog	0	0	-
Carapuan	14	55	3.9
Pansor	28	112	4.0
Pinawpawan	29	109	3.8
Proper	15	65	4.3

The greatest proportion of IP households in Barangay Isumbo is located in Puroks Pinawpawan (26.4%), Pansor (25.5%) and Bungalow (20.9%). The only purok in the barangay without the presence of an IP household is that of Calatubog.

Map 2. Distribution of IP households by purok



In terms of population distribution, the greatest proportion of Palawanos is found in Purok Pansor (25.6%), Purok Pinawpawan (24.9%) and Purok Bungalag (21.2%).

Economic Activities

Almost 44 percent of the population aged 15 years old and over in the barangay are in the labor force. Female labor force participation rate is considerably lower than for males. Data reveal that the entire labor force of the barangay is employed at the time of the survey. As has often been cited, the poor cannot afford to be unemployed. However, the nature of employment in this particular barangay leaves much to be desired.

Table 4: Employment and underemployment by purok and by sex in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001

Purok	Population 15 years old and above	Labor force population	Labor force participation rate	Number of working population 15 years old and above	Employment rate	Number of underem- ployed	Underem- ployment rate
Total	1108	484	43.7	484	100.0	457	94.4
Bungalog	85	46	54.1	46	100.0	41	89.1
Calabanog	188	82	43.6	82	100.0	79	96.3
Calatubog	149	57	38.3	57	100.0	53	93.0
Carapuan	97	41	42.3	41	100.0	39	95.1
Pansor	112	47	42.0	47	100.0	45	95.7
Pinawpawan	153	74	48.4	74	100.0	72	97.3
Proper	324	137	42.3	137	100.0	128	93.4
Male	582	429	73.7	429	100.0	414	96.5
Female	526	55	10.5	55	100.0	43	78.2
IP	253	121	47.8	121	100.0	113	93.4
Male	137	110	80.3	110	100.0	107	97.3
Female	116	11	9.5	11	100.0	6	54.6
Non-IP	855	363	42.5	363	100.0	344	94.8
Male	445	319	71.7	319	100.0	307	96.2
Female	410	44	10.7	44	100.0	37	84.1

In general, farming is the main source of income in the barangay. Almost 70 percent of those who are employed are engaged in farming activities. Others are employed as laborers while 5.3 percent are engaged in fishing.

Table 5: Occupation of employed persons in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001

Occupation	Total	Percent	IP	Percent	Non-IP	Percent
Farmer	340	69.8	94	77.0	246	67.4
Laborer	52	10.7	8	6.6	44	12.1
Fishermen	26	5.3	11	9.0	15	4.1
Businessman	17	3.5	5	4.1	12	3.3
Handicraft/textile maker	12	2.5	3	2.5	9	2.5
Others	40	8.2	1	0.8	39	10.7
Total	487	100.0	122	100.0	365	100.0

Major agricultural crops being produced by farmers in the barangay are palay, corn and cassava. Others are also engaged in coconut farming and some fruit bearing plants and trees like *banana*, *mango*, *santol* and *lansones*.

The CBMS data reveal that 77% of the IP workers in the barangay are engaged in farming. IP workers undertake most of farming activities in the upland and cleared up timberlands. IP farmers in the barangay commonly plant cassava, corn, palay, camote and bananas. They are also involved in farming coconut and other fruit bearing trees like mango and santol. IP workers are also active in backyard production, mostly taking care of chickens and pigs.

Aside from farming, IP workers are likewise engaged in other livelihood activities like fishing, gathering of forest products, and handicraft making. They gather forest products such as timber, honey and rattan. Some are involved in small-scale handicraft making. Others are involved in handicrafts-making whose end-products include baskets and woodcarvings. These products were made from the forest products they gather and thereafter are being sold to the marketplace in the barangay or in markets of its neighboring municipalities (Narra and Brooke's Point). Some IP workers are reported to even travel as far as Puerto Princesa to sell their produce.

Ownership of Land and Farming Implements

Of the 340 persons engaged in farming activities, 77.4 percent have their own land. The proportion of farmers who own agricultural lands is greater among IP farmers with 91.3 percent as compared to Non-IPs, where 72.2 percent of which owns agricultural land. Whether ownership of land by the IPs refer to the western type of titled land or claim to ancestral land has to be verified.

Table 6: Number and percent of farmers who own agricultural land in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001

Own agricultural land	Number	Percent
Total	261	77.4
IP	84	91.3
Non-IP	177	72.2

Most farmers in the barangay still use common and traditional farming implements in their agricultural activities. More than 70 percent of farmers still use carabaos or cows. Also, most of the farmers still use plows and harrows. Still a small proportion of farmers uses modern implements such as threshers (38%), sprayers (37.7%), mowers (16%) and tractors (4.2%). Also only a few have access to farm facilities like granaries/warehouses (2.7%), farm sheds (0.9%), and irrigation pumps (0.9%).

Table 7: Number and percent of farmers using agricultural implements in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001

Use agricultural implements	Total		IP		NON-IP	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Beast of burden	244	72.4	64	69.6	180	73.5
Plow	227	67.4	53	57.6	174	71.0
Harrow	165	49.0	30	32.6	135	55.1
Mower	54	16.0	5	5.4	49	20.0
Thresher	128	38.0	13	14.1	115	46.9
Insecticide/Pesticide Sprayer	127	37.7	17	18.5	110	44.9
Tractor	14	4.2	0	0.0	14	5.7
Granary/warehouse	9	2.7	0	0.0	9	3.7
Farmshed	3	0.9	0	0.0	3	1.2
Irrigation pumps	3	0.9	0	0.0	3	1.2

Comparing the access to farm implements and facilities between IP and non-IP farmers, we can observe that non-IPs have greater access than IPs. IP farmers use more traditional implements like carabaos (69.6%), plow (57.6%) and harrows (32.6%), although quite a few do use insecticide/pesticide sprayers (18.5%), threshers (14.1%) and mowers (5.4%). However, IP farmers do not have access to tractors and facilities like granaries, farmsheds and irrigation pumps.

Table 8: Number and percent of farmers adopting agricultural technologies in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001

Use of agricultural technologies	Total		IP		NON-IP	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
High yielding crops	115	34.3	21	22.8	94	38.7
Use of organic fertilizer	128	38.2	11	12.0	117	48.1
Use of inorganic fertilizer	102	30.5	10	10.9	92	38.0
Use of pesticides	178	53.3	23	25.0	155	64.0
Use of soil dressing	3	0.9	0	0.0	3	1.2

The farmers of Barangay Isumbo employ agricultural technologies to improve their crop yields. Almost 50 percent of the farmers use pesticides and more than 30 percent use organic and inorganic fertilizers. Also 34.3 percent use high yielding crops for farming. Some IP farmers also employ these agricultural technologies although the proportion is lower compared to non-IP farmers. More than 20 percent of IP farmers use pesticides and high yielding crops and about 10 IP farmers use fertilizers in improving their farm yields.

Underemployment

In spite being employed, data likewise revealed that 94.4% of those who are working indicated a desire for additional work. Underemployment rate for males at 96.5

percent is much higher than that of females with 78.2 percent. Underemployment rate among IP is marked at 93.4 percent while that of non-IP is noted at 94.8%.

Income

The high underemployment rate reflects the generally low income derived from the economic activities engaged in by the employed.

Table 9. Summary table of total and per capita income of households in Barangay Isumbo, 2001

Total HH Income	Total		IP		Non-IP	
Average	29021.8		23853.9		30718.5	
Income Range	Magnitude	Proportion	Magnitude	Proportion	Magnitude	Proportion
Total	441	100.0	109	100.0	332	100.0
>1000 to <=8000	3	0.7	1	0.9	2	0.6
>8000 to <=15000	26	5.9	6	5.5	20	6.0
>15000 to <=22000	170	38.5	46	42.2	124	37.3
>22000 to <=29000	107	24.3	39	35.8	68	20.5
>29000 to <=36000	78	17.7	12	11.0	66	19.9
>36000 to <=43000	15	3.4	3	2.8	12	3.6
>43000 to <=50000	17	3.9	0	0.0	17	5.1
Above 50000	25	5.7	2	1.8	23	6.9

Per Capita Income	Total		IP		Non-IP	
Average	7660.0		7127.0		7835.0	
Income Range	Magnitude	Proportion	Magnitude	Proportion	Magnitude	Proportion
Total	441	100.0	109	100.0	332	100.0
>100 to <=3100	13	2.9	1	0.9	12	3.6
>3100 to <=6100	185	42.0	47	43.1	138	41.6
>6100 to <=9100	120	27.2	35	32.1	85	25.6
>9100 to <=12100	88	20.0	20	18.3	68	20.5
>12100 to <=15100	14	3.2	5	4.6	9	2.7
>15100 to <=18100	6	1.4	0	0.0	6	1.8
>18100 to <=21100	2	0.5	0	0.0	2	0.6
Above 21100	13	2.9	1	0.9	12	3.6

Poverty incidence

Survey results indicate that 88.7 percent of the households in the barangay are considered poor indicating that these households do not earn enough to meet their basic food and nonfood requirements.²

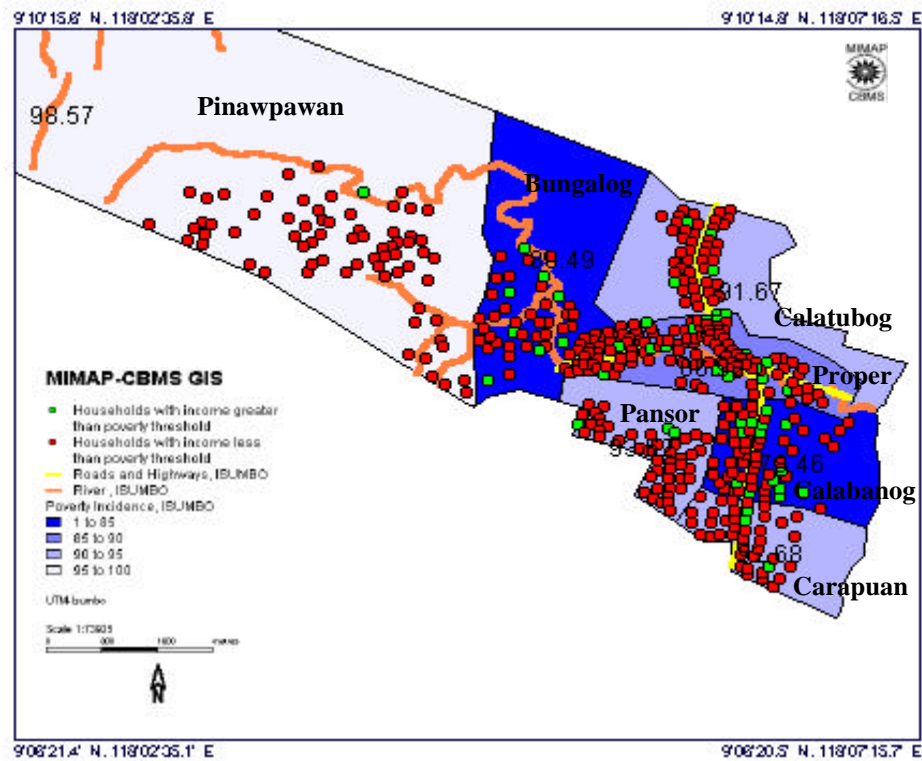
**Table 10: Poverty and subsistence incidence of households
in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001**

Purok	Household	Magnitude of poor	Poverty incidence	Magnitude of subsistence poor	Subsistence incidence
Total	442	392	88.7	291	65.8
Bungalag	41	33	80.5	21	51.2
Calabanog	65	51	78.5	45	69.2
Calatubog	48	44	91.7	34	70.8
Carapuan	41	38	92.7	31	75.6
Pansor	47	44	93.6	37	78.7
Pinawpawan	70	69	98.6	43	61.4
Proper	130	113	86.9	80	61.5
Male	413	366	88.6	281	68.0
Female	29	26	89.7	10	34.5
IP	110	101	91.8	71	64.5
Non-IP	332	291	87.7	220	66.3

Among the puroks, Purok Pinawpawan has the highest poverty incidence at 98.6 percent while Purok Calabanog exhibited the lowest poverty incidence with 78.5 percent.

² The poverty status in terms of income of these households was examined vis a vis the poverty threshold for the province of Palawan which is **P 11,843** per capita. This was estimated for the year 2001 by adjusting for inflation the official threshold level for rural areas in Palawan in 2000.

Map 3. Poverty incidence Across Puroks, Barangay Isumbo, Española, 2001



Higher poverty incidence was observed among IP households at 91.8 percent compared to that of non-IP households which was marked at 87.7 percent.

Table 11: Poverty incidence of IP and non-IP households by purok, Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001

Purok	Number of IP households	Magnitude of poor IP households	Poverty Incidence among IP households	Number of Non-IP households	Magnitude of poor Non-IP households	Poverty Incidence among Non-IP households
Total	110	101	91.8	332	291	87.7
Bungalog	23	19	82.6	18	14	77.8
Calabanog	1	0	0.0	64	51	79.7
Calatubog	0	0	-	48	44	91.7
Carapuan	14	14	100.0	27	24	88.9
Pansor	28	25	89.3	19	19	100.0
Pinawpawan	29	29	100.0	41	40	97.6
Proper	15	14	93.3	115	99	86.1

Table 11 compares the poverty incidence of IP households from non-IP households by purok. In general, poverty incidence among IP households is higher than

that of non-IP households. All IP households in Purok Pinawpawan and Purok Carapuan are poor. In the case of Purok Pansor, however, the poverty incidence of non-IP households is much higher at 100 percent compared to that of IP households.

Looking at subsistence poverty incidence (Table 10), 65.8 percent of the total households in the barangay do not have enough income to support even their basic food needs.³ Purok Pansor exhibited the highest subsistence incidence at 78.7 percent while Purok Bungalogs attained the lowest subsistence incidence with 51.2 percent. Table 10 shows that the incidence of subsistence poverty among the IP households (64.5%) is lower compared to that of non-IP (66.3%).

**Table 12: Subsistence incidence of IP and non-IP households
by purok, Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001**

Purok	Number of IP households	Magnitude of subsistence poor IP households	Subsistence Incidence among IP households	Number of Non-IP households	Magnitude of subsistence poor Non-IP households	Subsistence Incidence among Non- IP households
Total	110	71	64.5	332	220	66.3
Bungalogs	23	12	52.2	18	9	50.0
Calabanog	1	0	0.0	64	45	70.3
Calatubog	0	0	-	48	34	70.8
Carapuan	14	11	78.6	27	20	74.1
Pansor	28	22	78.6	19	15	78.9
Pinawpawan	29	17	58.6	41	26	63.4
Proper	15	9	60.0	115	71	61.7

Meanwhile, the poverty incidence in terms of population in the barangay was estimated at 91.4 percent (Table 13). Across puroks, Purok Pinawpawan has the highest poverty incidence with 98.8 percent while Purok Calabanog has the lowest with 82.1 percent.

³ The 2001 subsistence threshold for rural areas in Palawan was estimated at P8,230

**Table 13: Poverty and subsistence incidence of population
in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001**

Purok	Population	Magnitude of poor	Poverty incidence	Magnitude of subsistence poor	Subsistence incidence
Total	1941	1774	91.4	1517	78.2
Bungalog	148	132	89.2	106	71.6
Calabanog	312	256	82.1	242	77.6
Calatubog	258	233	90.3	203	78.7
Carapuan	160	149	93.1	136	85.0
Pansor	195	184	94.4	167	85.6
Pinawpawan	260	257	98.8	199	76.5
Proper	608	563	92.6	464	76.3
Male	1035	941	90.9	814	78.6
Female	906	833	91.9	703	77.6
IP	438	416	95.0	341	77.9
Non-IP	1503	1358	90.4	1176	78.2

Meanwhile, the barangay has a subsistence incidence of 78.2 percent (Table 13). Again, Purok Pansor has the highest subsistence incidence at 85.6 percent and Purok Bungalog has the lowest at 71.6 percent.

Comparing subsistence poor incidence between IP and Non-IP population, data shows a greater proportion of subsistence poor among non-IP population than that of IP.

**Table 14: Subsistence incidence of population by purok,
Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001**

Purok	Number of IP	Magnitude of subsistence poor IP	Subsistence Incidence among IP	Number of Non-IP	Magnitude of subsistence poor Non-IP	Subsistence Incidence among Non- IP
Total	438	341	77.9	1503	1176	78.2
Bungalog	93	71	76.3	55	35	63.6
Calabanog	4	0	0.0	308	242	78.6
Calatubog	0	0	-	258	203	78.7
Carapuan	55	50	90.9	105	86	81.9
Pansor	112	94	83.9	83	73	88.0
Pinawpawan	109	76	69.7	151	123	81.5
Proper	65	50	76.9	543	414	76.2

Assets

Ownership of consumer durables

One aspect we want to look at is ownership of consumer durables by the households. Previous MIMAP studies suggest that ownership of these assets correlates well with income. Households who are economically better off tend to acquire these assets. They provide a means for smoothing consumption in times of crisis.

The proportion of households who own radio is 48.3 percent. This is followed by those households owning stereo components with 11.1 percent while 5 percent of the households own refrigerators or freezers. A small proportion of households also owns other amenities like electric fans, television, electric iron, washing machine and VCD/VHS/DVD players.

**Table 15: Percent of household owning household amenities
in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001**

Amenities	Total	Poor	Non-poor	IP	Non-IP
Radio	48.3	46.9	59.2	40.7	50.8
Stereo/Component	11.1	10.2	18.4	4.6	13.3
Television	4.3	3.8	8.2	0.0	5.7
VCD/VHS/DVD	3.6	2.8	10.2	0.0	4.8
Refrigerator/Freezer	5.0	3.8	14.3	0.0	6.6
Electric Fan	4.5	3.8	10.2	0.0	6.0
Electric Iron	4.3	3.8	8.2	0.9	5.4
Washing Machine	3.9	3.3	8.2	0.0	5.1
Microwave	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Telephone/Cellphone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Aircon	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vehicles					
truck	0.2	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.3
car	0.2	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.3
tricycle	2.3	1.5	8.2	0.0	3.0
jeep	0.2	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.3
jeepney	0.2	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.3
bike	7.5	6.9	12.2	2.8	9.1

The proportion of households owning consumer durables is always higher for non-poor households than poor households for every amenities listed in the table.

IP households do not own many amenities. Only 41 percent of the IP households own radios while 4.6 percent owns stereo component. Only one IP household owns electric iron.

In addition to low incomes, another reason why households in the area do not own many amenities is the low access to electricity in the area.

A small proportion of household owns vehicles. No IP households own motorized vehicles.

Education

Elementary school participation

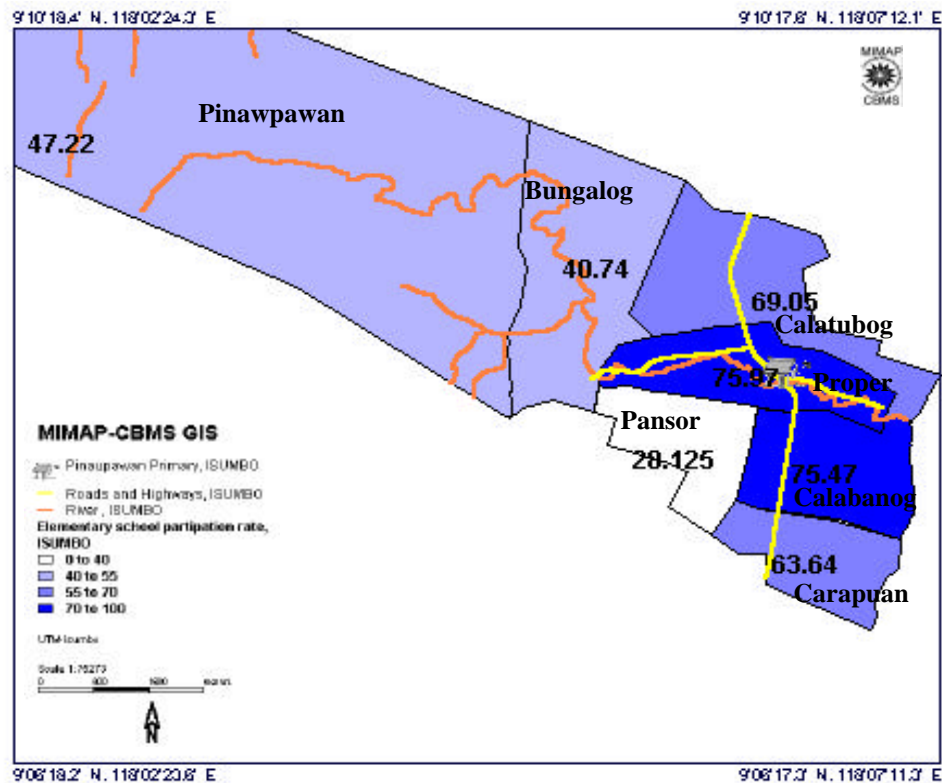
The number of children (aged 6-11 years old) attending elementary school is 218. This gives an elementary participation rate of 63.9 percent. The elementary participation rate among females is higher compared to the elementary participation rate for males, mirroring the pattern observed at the national level.

**Table 16: Elementary participation
in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001**

Purok	Children aged 6-11 years old	Children aged 6-11 years old in elementary school	Partici- pation rate
Total	341	218	63.9
Male	187	115	61.5
Female	154	103	66.9
IP	77	32	41.6
Male	43	19	44.2
Female	34	13	38.2
Non-IP	264	186	70.5
Male	144	96	66.7
Female	120	90	75.0

Among the puroks, Purok Proper has the highest elementary participation rate at 76 percent while Purok Bungalag has the lowest with 40.7 percent. It is not surprising the Purok Proper has the highest elementary participation rate because the only elementary school in the barangay is situated in that purok.

**Map 4. Elementary Participation Rate Across Puroks,
Barangay Isumbo, Española 2001**



Out of the 77 IP children aged 6-11 years old, only 32 children attend elementary school. Elementary school participation rate among IP children is observed to be lower at 41.6% compared to that of non-IP children (70.5%).

**Table 17: Elementary participation of IP
in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001**

Purok	Children aged 6-11 years old	Children aged 6-11 years old in elementary school	Participation rate
Total	77	32	41.6
Bungalog	19	7	36.8
Calabanog	0	0	-
Calatubog	0	0	-
Carapuan	5	4	80.0
Pansor	23	6	26.1
Pinawpawan	14	6	42.9
Proper	16	9	56.3

Secondary school participation

Only 81 out of the 173 children aged 12-15 years old in the barangay are in secondary school, indicating a secondary school rate of 46.8%. Just like at the national level, the secondary school participation rate is considerably lower than the elementary school participation rate. This is partly due to the absence of a secondary school in the barangay. The nearest high school is located at Barangay Abo-abo which is 2 kilometers away.

The secondary school participation rate among IP children is noted to be much lower at 11.1 percent compared to that of non-IP children (56.2%). But what is striking is that no male IP aged 12-15 is attending secondary school.

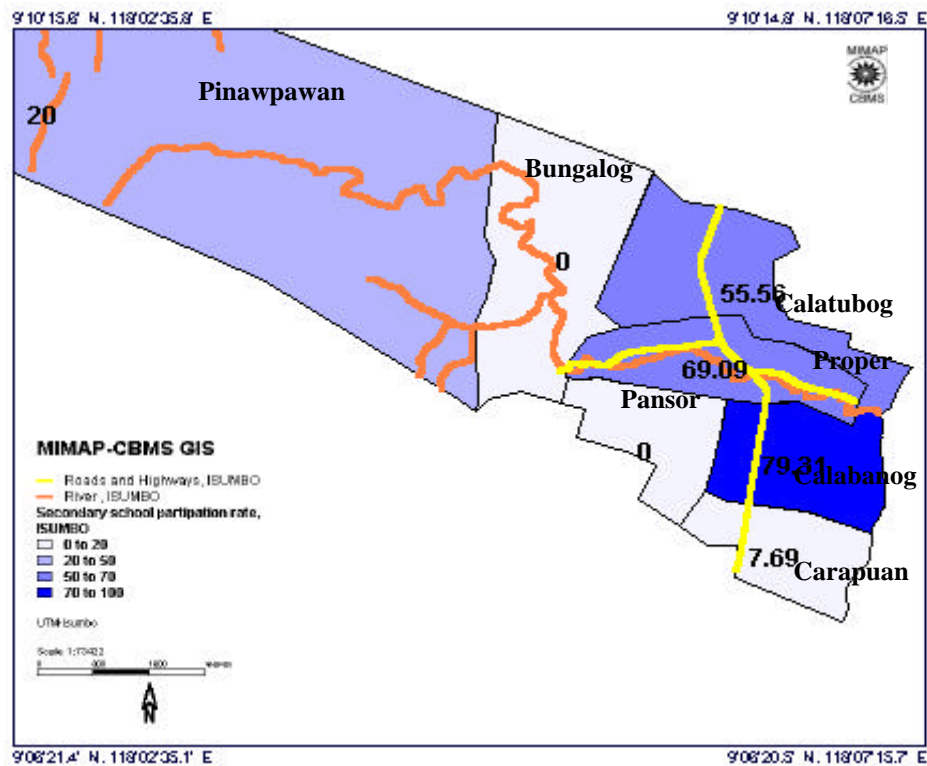
Table 18: Secondary participation of IP and non-IP children in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001

Purok	Children aged 12-15 years old	Children aged 12-15 years old in secondary school	Participation rate
Total	173	81	46.8
Male	81	36	44.4
Female	91	45	49.5
IP	36	4	11.1
Male	17	0	0.0
Female	19	4	21.1
Non-IP	137	77	56.2
Male	65	36	55.4
Female	72	41	56.9

Table 19: Secondary participation of IP in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001

Purok	Children aged 12-15 years old	Children aged 12-15 years old in secondary school	Participation rate
Total	36	4	11.1
Bungalag	9	0	0.0
Calabanog	0	0	-
Calatubog	0	0	-
Carapuan	4	0	0.0
Pansor	10	0	0.0
Pinawpawan	9	2	22.2
Proper	4	2	50.0

**Map 5. Secondary Participation Rate Across Puroks,
Barangay Isumbo, Española 2001**



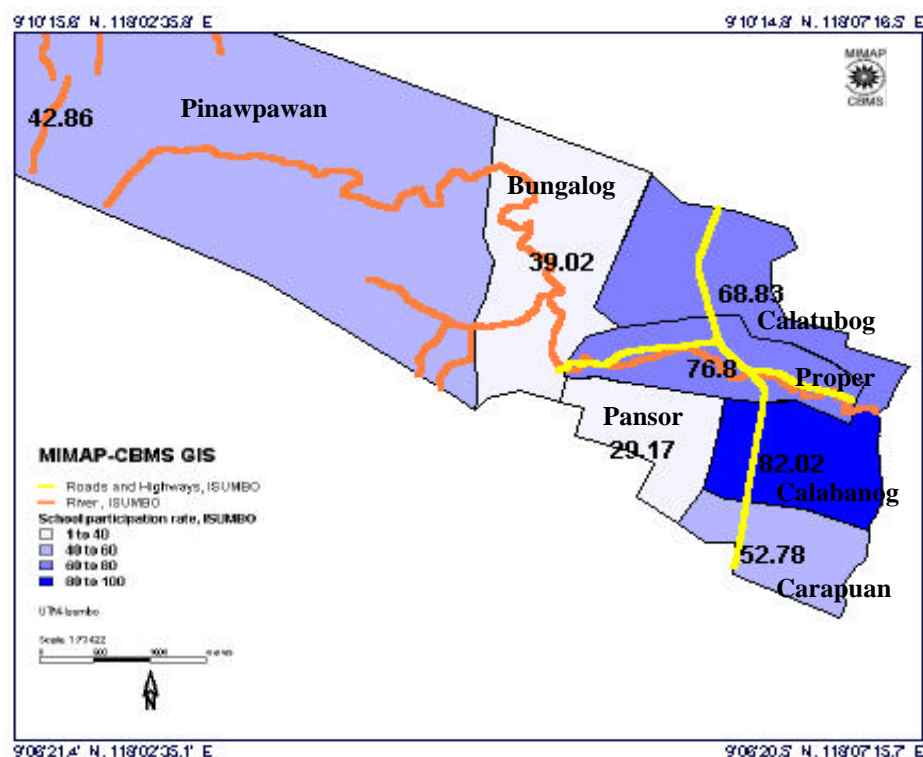
Purok Calabanog has the highest secondary participation rate at 79.3 percent. All 12-15 year old children in Purok Bungalog, Pansor and Carapuan are not in secondary school.

School participation rate of children 6-16 years old

Data on school participation rate of children 6-16 years old reveal that 64.1 percent are attending school. In general, school participation rate for non-IP children (71.8%) is much higher than that for IP children (41.4%).

Looking at data across puroks, Calabanog has the highest rate at 82 percent while Pansor has the lowest school participation rate at 29.2 percent.

**Map 6. School Participation Rate of Children Ages 6-16 Years Old
Barangay Isumbo, Española, Palawan**



Meanwhile, data disaggregated across sex indicates that the school participation rate among females is higher than that of males.

**Table 20: Over-all school participation among IP and non-IP children
in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001**

Purok	Children aged 6-16 years old	Children aged 6-16 years old in school	Participation rate
Total	548	351	64.1
Male	289	178	61.6
Female	255	173	67.8
IP	116	48	41.4
Male	63	25	39.7
Female	55	23	41.8
Non-IP	428	303	70.8
Male	229	153	66.8
Female	201	150	74.6

Table 21: Over-all school participation of IP in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001

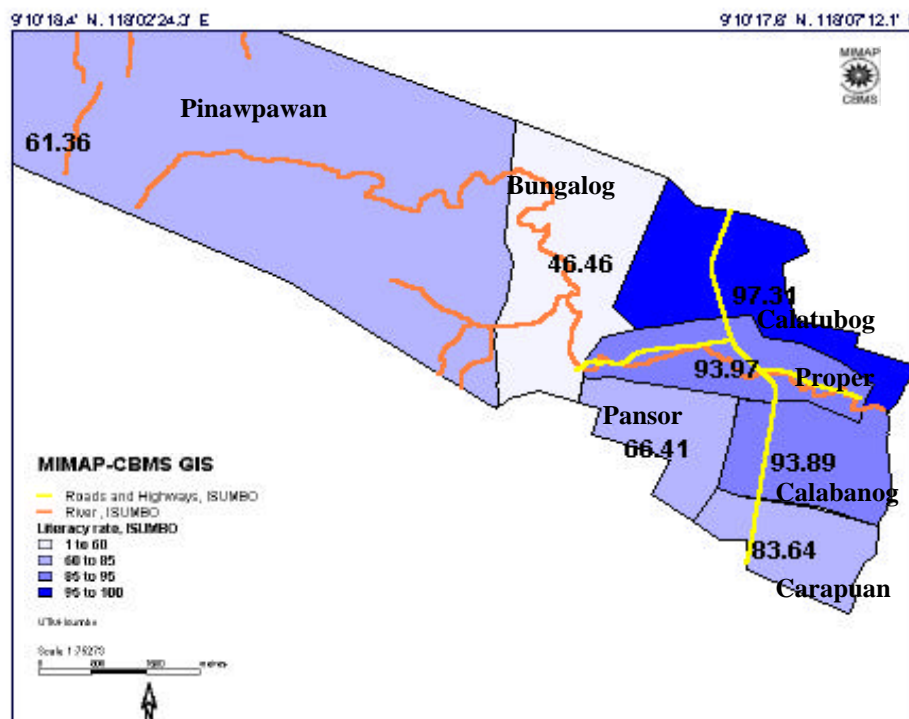
Purok	Children aged 6-16 years old	Children aged 6-16 years old in school	Participation rate
Total	118	48	40.7
Bungalog	28	10	35.7
Calabanog	0	0	-
Calatubog	0	0	-
Carapuan	9	5	55.6
Pansor	34	9	26.5
Pinawpawan	26	12	46.2
Proper	21	12	57.1

Based from additional data gathered during the validation of CBMS survey results, members of the community attribute the low school participation rate to poverty. It was revealed that many households do not have enough means to put their children to school. Another reason given is that some of the people start a family at a very young age.

Literacy

Eighty three percent of the population in the barangay aged 10 years and over is literate. The literacy rate among the IP (61.6 percent), however, is noted to be much lower than that of non-IP.

Map 7. Literacy Rate Across Puroks, Barangay Isumbo, Española 2001



Purok Calatubog has the highest literacy rate at 97.3 followed by Purok Proper and Purok Calabanog with 94 and 93.9 percent respectively. Purok Bungalog has the lowest literacy rate at 46.5 percent.

Table 22: Number of literate person and literacy rate in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001

Purok	Persons aged 10 years old and above	Literate persons 10 years old and above	Literacy rate
Total	1326	1101	83.0
Male	692	593	85.7
Female	634	508	80.1
IP	294	181	61.6
Male	159	109	68.6
Female	135	72	53.3
Non-IP	1032	920	89.1
Male	533	484	90.8
Female	499	436	87.4

Literacy rate among males (85.7 percent) is observed to be higher, compared to that among females (80%) in the barangay.

Table 23: Number of literate person and literacy rate among IP in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001

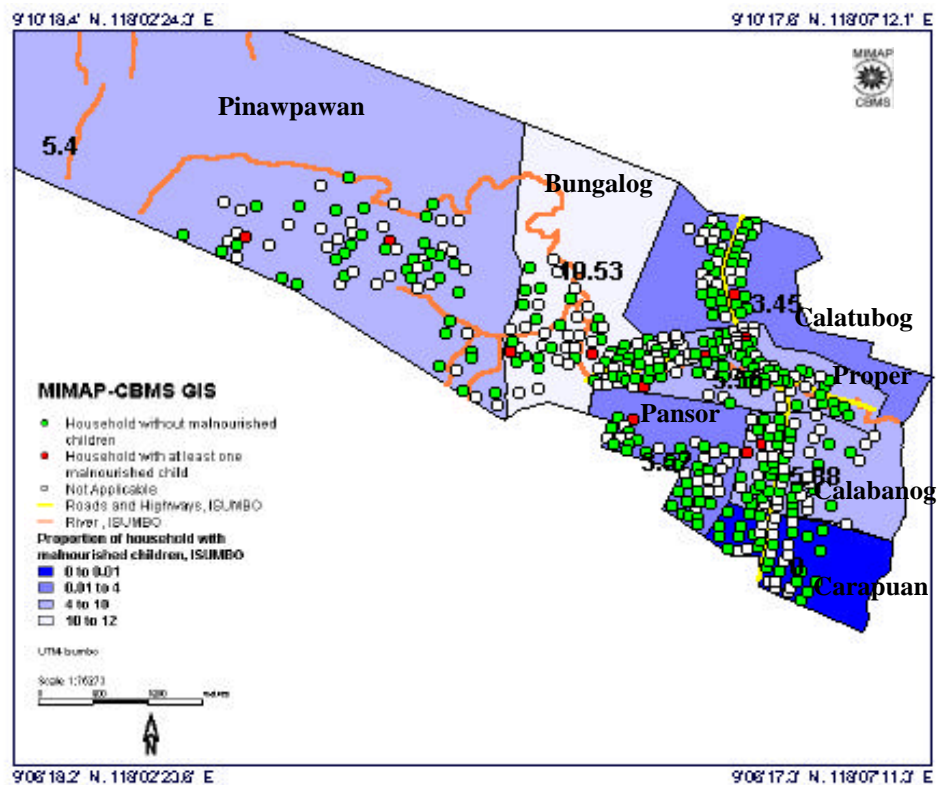
Purok	Persons aged 10 years old and above	Literate persons 10 years old and above	Literacy rate
Total	294	181	61.6
Bungalog	61	29	47.5
Calabanog	4	2	50.0
Calatubog	0	0	-
Carapuan	38	27	71.1
Pansor	76	49	64.5
Pinawpawan	75	41	54.7
Proper	40	33	82.5

Health

Prevalence of malnutrition

Out of the 243 households with children 0-6 years old, there are only 12 households who have malnourished children. Only two households with malnourished children are households of indigenous people. Eleven (11) households with malnourished children are poor households while ten out of the 11 households with malnourished children are subsistence poor.

Map 8. Households with malnourished children in Barangay Isumbo, Española 2001



Child deaths

There are 52 infants counted during the year, 53.9 percent of that is female. No infant deaths were reported during the survey period. Also, no child deaths occurred in 2001. The barangay has 372 children aged 1-6 years old.

Access to Basic Services

Access to safe drinking water

Of the total number of households in the barangay, 57.2% percent have access to safe drinking water supply⁴. Only 36.4 percent of IP households have access to safe drinking water supply as compared to 64.2 percent access of non-IP households.

Table 24: Number and proportion of households with access to safe drinking water among IP and Non-IP households in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001

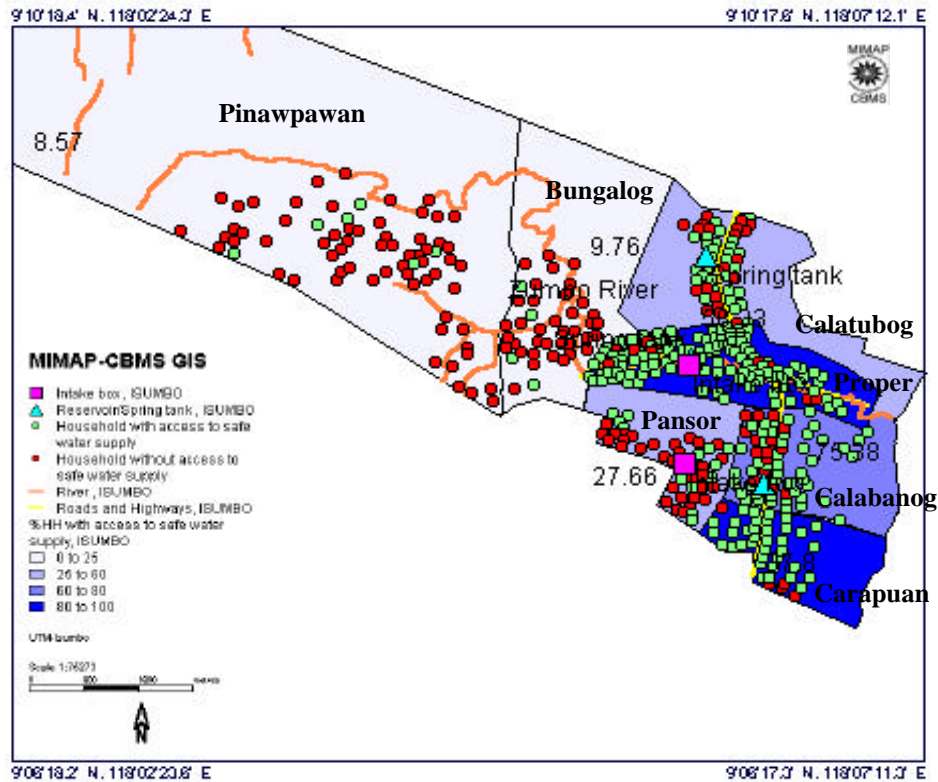
Purok	For IP			For Non-IP		
	Household	Number of households with access to safe drinking water	Proportion of households with access to safe drinking water	Household	Number of households with access to safe drinking water	Proportion of households with access to safe drinking water
Total	110	40	36.4	332	213	64.2
Bungalog	23	4	17.4	18	0	0.0
Calabanog	1	1	100.0	64	48	75.0
Calatubog	0	0	-	48	28	58.3
Carapuan	14	12	85.7	27	24	88.9
Pansor	28	6	21.4	19	7	36.8
Pinawpawan	29	3	10.3	41	3	7.3
Proper	15	14	93.3	115	103	89.6

Most households with access to safe drinking water get their water from community water system and from deep wells. While those households with no access to safe drinking water get their water from dug wells and bodies of water like river, spring and streams. Of the IP households who do not have access to safe drinking water, 39.1 percent get their water from dug wells while 22.7 percent get their water from rivers, streams and springs.

Purok Pinawpawan and Purok Bungalog have the lowest proportion of households with access to safe water with 8.6 percent and 9.8 percent, respectively. On the other hand, Purok Proper has the highest access to safe drinking water with 90.4 percent.

⁴ Water systems considered to be safe water sources are community water systems, deep well and artesian wells.

**Map 9. Access to safe drinking water
by purok and existing water sources
in Barangay Isumbo, S. Espanola, 2001**



Access to sanitary toilet facility

In general, households in Barangay Isumbo have low access to sanitary toilet facilities with only 30.5 percent of the households having access to the said facility.⁵ About 38 percent of non-IP households have access to sanitary toilet facility compared to only 8.2 percent among IP households.

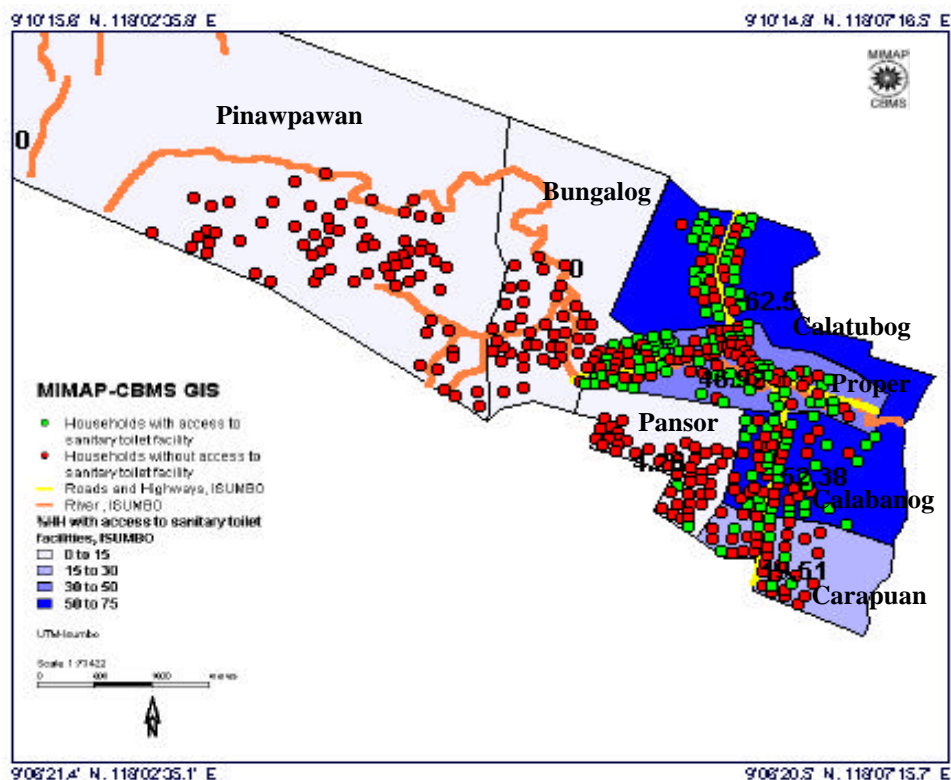
⁵ Households with access to sanitary toilet facilities refer only to only those households who own or who have access to water-sealed toilets

Table 25: Number and proportion of households with access to sanitary toilet facilities among IP and Non-IP households in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001

Purok	Household	For IP		For Non-IP		
		Number of households with access to sanitary toilet facilities	Proportion of households with access to sanitary toilet facilities	Household	Number of households with access to sanitary toilet facilities	Proportion of households with access to sanitary toilet facilities
Total	110	9	8.2	332	126	38.0
Bungalog	23	0	0.0	18	0	0.0
Calabanog	1	1	100.0	64	33	51.6
Calatubog	0	0	-	48	30	62.5
Carapuan	14	1	7.1	27	7	25.9
Pansor	28	1	3.6	19	1	5.3
Pinawpawan	29	0	0.0	41	0	0.0
Proper	15	6	40.0	115	55	47.8

Looking at the conditions across puroks in the barangay, Calatubog (62.5 %) has ranked with the highest proportion of households with access to sanitary toilet facility followed by Calabanog (52.3 %) and Proper (46.9%). Conditions are relatively worse-off in Carapuan and Pansor wherein 19.5 and 4.3 percent of the households have access to sanitary toilet facilities. Topping the list of problem areas concerning this indicator are Pinawpawan and Bungalog wherein all households have no access at all.

Map 10. Access to sanitary toilet facility in Barangay Isumbo, S. Espanola, 2001



Access to electricity

Only 12.6 percent of the households in the barangay have access to electricity. Most of these households are comprised of non-IP. Meanwhile, out of the 106 IP households only one has access to electricity.

Table 26 shows that all households in puroks Bungalog, Carapuan, Pansor, Pinapawan have no access to electricity. The highest proportion of households with access to this facility is located in Purok Calatubog marked at 54.2 percent.

Table 26: Number and proportion of households with access to electricity in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001

Purok	Household	Number of households with access to electricity	Proportion of households with access to electricity
Total	442	55	12.4
Bungalog	41	0	0.0
Calabanog	65	1	1.5
Calatubog	48	26	54.2
Carapuan	41	0	0.0
Pansor	47	0	0.0
Pinawpawan	70	0	0.0
Proper	130	28	21.5
Male	413	52	12.6
Female	29	3	10.3
IP	110	1	0.9
Non-IP	332	54	16.3

Table 27: Number and proportion of households with access to electricity among IP and Non-IP households in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001

Purok	For IP			For Non-IP		
	Household	Number of households with access to electricity	Proportion of households with access to electricity	Household	Number of households with access to electricity	Proportion of households with access to electricity
Total	110	1	0.9	332	54	16.3
Bungalog	23	0	0.0	18	0	0.0
Calabanog	1	0	0.0	64	1	1.6
Calatubog	0	0	-	48	26	54.2
Carapuan	14	0	0.0	27	0	0.0
Pansor	28	0	0.0	19	0	0.0
Pinawpawan	29	0	0.0	41	0	0.0
Proper	15	1	6.7	115	27	23.5

Shelter

Tenure status

Looking at the tenure status of households in the barangay, about 96.6 percent of the households are formal settlers.⁶ The proportion of formal settlers among non-IP households is relatively higher at 97.6 percent compared to 93.6% among IP households.

In general, there are only 15 households that were classified as squatters. Among the IP households, only 7 were classified as squatters.

⁶ Formal settlers refer to those households occupying own house and lot, renting them from the owners, or occupying rent-free house and/or lots with consent of the owners.

Table 28: Number and proportion of households who are formal settlers in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001

Purok	Household	Number of households who are formal settlers	Proportion of households who are formal settlers
Total	442	427	96.6
Bungalow	41	38	92.7
Calabanog	65	61	93.8
Calatubog	48	48	100.0
Carapuan	41	41	100.0
Pansor	47	45	95.7
Pinawpawan	70	69	98.6
Proper	130	125	96.2
Male	413	413	100.0
Female	29	29	100.0
IP	110	103	93.6
Non-IP	332	324	97.6

Makeshift housing

Table 29: Number and proportion of households living in non-makeshift housing in Barangay Isumbo, Sofronio Española, 2001

Purok	Household	Number of households living in non-makeshift housing	Proportion of households living in non-makeshift housing
Total	442	435	98.4
Bungalow	41	41	100.0
Calabanog	65	64	98.5
Calatubog	48	46	95.8
Carapuan	41	40	97.6
Pansor	47	46	97.9
Pinawpawan	70	70	100.0
Proper	130	128	98.5
Male	413	407	98.5
Female	29	28	96.6
IP	110	108	98.2
Non-IP	332	327	98.5

Most households in the barangay live in non-makeshift housing⁷. Only 1.6 percent of the households live in makeshift houses. Meanwhile, only 1.8% of the IP households surveyed was found to live in makeshift housing. This may be attributed to the abundance of forest products, i.e. wood, in the area that is a common material being utilized for the construction of houses of IP in the barangay.

Summary of Findings

Based from the CBMS survey results in Barangay Isumbo, IP households/IP in the community are found to have:

- High poverty incidence; higher than that of non-IP
- High subsistence poor incidence; lower than non-IP
- High underemployment rate
 - Mostly engaged in farming activities
- Greater proportion of farmers who own land
- Low elementary school participation rate among children
- Low access to safe water
- Low access to sanitary toilet facilities
- Very low access to electricity

There was a marked difference in the poverty status of IP and non-IP based from income and non-income indicators gathered. In particular, there was a notable wide disparity in terms of literacy and elementary school participation rate and access to basic services such as safe water, sanitation facilities and electricity.

In terms of the income-based measure of poverty, the attribution of the condition of poor IP households seem not to differ much with that of non-IP households. In general, households classified as poor in the barangay are those whose main source of income is farming. Results from other CBMS sites regarding this indicator, also point out that households involved in this type of activity often than not have very limited capacity to meet their basic food and non-food requirements. One major reason relating to this is the seasonality of income earning opportunities for these households. Aside from which, their situation is aggravated with poor access to infrastructure facilities such as roads and markets that would aid these households to sell and get profit from their produce. This is particularly true in the case of IP communities that are usually located in the upland, miles away from the center of economic activity of a particular locality.

The condition of IP in Barangay Isumbo Palawan reinforces the general conclusions of the study conducted in the IP communities in the Cordillera and Mindanao regions in terms of the development areas of concern as discussed in the earlier sections of this paper.

⁷ Non-makeshift housing are those houses made of strong and light materials

**Table 30. Summary table of CBMS indicators
of Barangay Isumbo, 2001**

AREA OF CONCERN			All households	IP	NON-IP
A. Survival					
Health	1.	Proportion of Infant deaths	0.0	0.0	0.0
	2.	Proportion of Child deaths (1-6 years old)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nutrition	3.	Proportion of households with malnourished children	4.9	3.4	5.4
Water, Sanitation and Electricity	4.	Proportion of households with access to safe water supply	57.2	36.4	64.2
	5.	Proportion of households with access to sanitary toilet facility	30.5	8.2	38.0
	6.	Proportion of households with access to electricity	12.4	0.9	16.3
B. Security					
Shelter	7.	Proportion of households who are formal settlers	96.6	93.6	98.5
	8.	Proportion of households not living in makeshift housing	98.4	98.2	98.5
Security	9.	Households with members who were victims of crime	0.7	0.9	0.6
C. Enabling					
Education and Literacy	10.	Elementary school participation rate	63.9	41.6	70.5
	11.	Secondary school participation rate	46.8	11.1	56.2
	12.	Proportion of children aged 6-16 years old attending school	64.1	40.7	70.5
	13.	Literacy rate	83.0	61.6	89.1
Income	14.	Proportion of households with income greater than the poverty threshold	11.3	8.2	12.3
	15.	Proportion of households with income greater than the food threshold	34.2	35.5	33.7
Employment	16.	Employment rate	100.0	100.0	100.0
	17.	Underemployment rate	94.4	93.4	94.8

V. Recommendations

A major challenge in responding to the needs of IP communities is that of developing appropriate interventions, given their distinct culture and traditions.

Initial findings of the CBMS case study indicate a high level of poverty incidence among the indigenous people since most of them rely only on farming if not forestry activities as sources of livelihood. Given the seasonal nature of their source of income, this signals a need to expand economic opportunities for IP communities. The poor condition of the IP is likewise magnified with their very low access to basic services such as safe water, sanitation facilities, and electricity. This further indicates the need to target the IP community as among the priority beneficiaries of social programs and established safety nets.

The national government has already initiated policies and programs that gear towards addressing this issue. In fact, a national medium-term development plan for IP has long been drafted and was finally approved by the President in a recent IP summit. Said comprehensive plan aims to address the issues of IP and strengthen the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) as the main machinery for plan and program implementation.

Meanwhile, IP concerns have already been incorporated in some of the on-going programs of selected national government agencies such as the Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (CIDSS) Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. In general, CIDSS addresses the minimum basic needs of families in the poor areas using the five-pronged approach of community organizing, family development, focused targeting, localization, and convergence. Among its other objectives, the *CIDSS Program to Liberate the Indigenous People from Indignity* specifically aims to institutionalize culturally appropriate projects and programs for families and individuals/sector in need of special protection aside from providing basic services to the communities.

The National Anti-Poverty Commission also has a micro-finance program. An earlier study assessing national programs and policies conducted in 2001, however, pointed out the difficulty among IP to avail of this program because it requires a level of literacy which they do not generally have.

Another critical area of concern among the IP is education. It is evident from the results of the CBMS case study that literacy rate among the IP is considerably very low as compared to non-IP. School participation rate, both in elementary and secondary level among children, is likewise low. Earlier case studies pointed out how certain groups of indigenous people view education as a tool for a better life. Improved access in education among indigenous people in the long run is expected to build their capacity to have a better understanding of their rights thereby providing a better means to defend it. If we were to address this issue, there seems to be a need to provide for a more flexible educational system that would facilitate learning among school-aged children of IP

households in spite of their mobile lifestyle. Key respondents during CBMS field workshops done in selected IP sites in Palawan, in fact, have attributed the non-attendance of school-aged children among IP households to their mobile lifestyle to cope with the seasonality of income earning opportunities of their source of livelihood. One of the best practices being implemented by local government units in these sites relating to this concern is an adult and child literacy program wherein a teacher (referred as “para-teacher”) goes into IP communities and holds an informal learning class.

At the national level, the Department of Education has likewise initiated activities that would customize an elementary and secondary school curricula for the IP, and to develop a non formal-educational system. Other support programs of the national government on education for IP are the NCIP Education Assistance Program, National Integrated State Grant Program (NISGP), and Selected Ethnic Group Education Assistance Program (SEGEAP). The NISGP and SEGEAP are full scholarship nationwide programs by the Department of Education and Commission on Higher Education for the IP covering tuition fees and book allowance at all levels of education. The NCIP Education Assistance Program, on the other hand, is a nationwide program that is initiated and funded by the Congress of the Philippines. The program provides financial assistance of a maximum of P 5000 per semester to IP at all levels of education (elementary, secondary and tertiary). Earlier assessments of the government’s scholarship program, however, point out that a number of those availing these scholarships are non-IP. Noted reason for this is that the required average is impossible to achieve for the IP due to factors such a inaccessibility of schools, household chores that need to be done leaving no time to study, and lack of money to purchase school necessities.

Meanwhile, with funding support from international agencies, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is also implementing projects to address IP concerns including biodiversity management and conservation, and forest and watershed management with emphasis on community participation and self help. A few activities address sustainable upland socioeconomic development through improved agricultural technology, access to basic services and markets, and strengthening community organizations.

Other equally important issues need to be addressed as advocated by the NCIP. For the IP who are still intact with their ancestral domains, focus should be on their rights to their ancestral lands and domains, respect for their cultural integrity and their self empowerment and determination. Some specific programs recommended include the identification, delineation and titling of their land and domain claims, the preparation of their ancestral domain and protection plans, the development and management of their resources, and codification of their custom laws in conflict resolution and adjudication among others. On the other hand, it would also be important to consider those IP who may no longer be within their domains and have settled elsewhere. There is also the case of those IP who have been relocated and no longer have domains to go back to and who cannot practice and assert their own custom and traditions in their current locations.

The various concerns of indigenous people are primarily met through the design of the project itself (WB, 2002). Among the essential project design elements highlighted in earlier studies that define the strategy to address indigenous people's concern are: the criteria used for targeting municipalities for project interventions, the approach of facilitated participatory planning and management wherein groups are enabled to influence the choice of sub-project proposals and the requirement that the community profile and needs assessment provide baseline data on indigenous groups. As of date, the National Statistics Office has not yet conducted an official census of the IP in spite of the demand by advocates for the inclusion of the IP in the demographic data of the country. The absence of official disaggregated data, was cited by earlier studies, covers discrimination in access to health, education, and other basic services. This indicates the need to come up with statistics and corresponding benchmark information to determine how large the population of IP is, where they are located, what their conditions are, what their needs are, and what they want to be. Data may be generated as part of the existing surveys and censuses being done at the national level complemented with the use of community-based monitoring systems at the local level.

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