

Contextualizing Laudato si in the Philippines: Environmental Problem in Purok 1A, Hapay na Mangga, Barangay Dolores, Taytay, Rizal

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Abstract

Laudato si (2015) is a landmark encyclical in the teachings of the Catholic Church concerning the environment. While the Church has issued encyclicals before on social teaching, and

(ICIC) of schools, colleges, and universities can plan to educate and mobilize communities to protect the environment and the threatened resources and species in the area.

Over the last years, there has been a growing interest in issues related to the care of the environment. To sustain this commitment as citizens, ther

Methodology

Mixed-method research design and the convenient sampling technique were employed in this study. Forty-seven (47) research participants were sampled. A Personal Information Sheet (PIS) was used to obtain personal data from the participants.

They were determined using the purposive sampling technique (Sarantakos, 2013). The data were gathered using an unstructured interview. The interview was individually done to validate the perspectives, practices, and problems relevant to the environmental problems from the participants. The use of in-depth interview facilitated the gathering of detailed and useful information to provide the context to the data (Leedy & Ormrod, 2010; Boyce & Neale, 2006).

Guided by the interview protocol, the participants were oriented on the purpose of the study, duration of the interview, the interview approach, content, confidentiality, consent, and recording methods, and the use of the data.

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Table 1.*(Frequency and Percentage Distribution)*

| Demographic | Categories | <i>f</i> | % |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------|
| <i>Age</i> | | | |

Continued

| Demographic | Categories | <i>f</i> | % |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------|
| | Service Crew | 1 | 2.1 |
| | Student | 1 | 2.1 |
| | Teacher | 5 | 10.6 |
| | Welder | <u>1</u> | <u>2.1</u> |
| | <i>Total</i> | 47 | 100 |

Table 1 shows that there are 47 respondents. In terms of age, six-point four percent (6.4 %) gave no answer, fifty-seven point four (57.4 %) are 18 – 35 which, means they belong to Early adulthood; thirty-two-point two percent (32.2 %) are from the Middle age bracket 36 – 60. With reference to Havinghurst's human life stages, most of the participants belong to early adulthood. In terms of sex, forty-six-point eight percent (46.8 %) are male; forty-eight-point nine percent (48.9 %) are female; and four-point three percent (4.3 %) gave no answer. In terms of religion, most of the participants are Born Again Christian, with sixty-three point eight percent (63.8 %); followed by Roman Catholic with twenty-seven point seven percent (27.7 %). However, there are two 2 or six point four percent (6.4 %) with undisclosed religion. All the respondents are from *Purok 1A, Hapay na Mangga, Brgy. Dolores, Taytay, Rizal.*

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Table 2.
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Water is an essential necessity of human existence and industrial development, and it is one the most delicate component of the environment (Das and Acharya, 2003; Yisa and Jimoh, 2010; Yu and Salvador, 2005). Rivers supply more than 90% of water supply-

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Conclusion

The research revealed significant differences in perceptions respondents about how they care their environment. This study provides some insights on the participation of the local community in the pollution of the river. This study suggests how the factors can be used to inform all the people to initiate programs based on the encyclical *Laudato Si* by doing a social analysis.

The research suggested that local people, authorities involved in the river water management were less aware of the water ethics. Many of them had shown tendencies to approach water issues from a technical perspective; they were less cognizant to the socioeconomic and social justice perspectives and the importance of the river in their lives. Disaster preparedness and awareness among stakeholders, implementers and enforces is still significantly lacking and should be enforced. Even though there are many legislations and guidance, there exists a gap in the implementation and action as seen on the figure 1.

Effective public education and outreach efforts through ICIC, San Beda Outreach Programs can be valuable tools for encouraging constructive public participation and building strong communities. A strengthened information, education, and communication (IEC) component through an enriched content and rationalized delivery can help in counteracting the problem of pollution and garbage in the area. *Laudato si* suggests that people must focus on wide-ranging information on ecology, environmental conservation and management, and population education and must be disseminated to a more diversified community.

To contextualize the findings of this paper, the following recommendations are in order: (a) revisit the of the community service programs of the university through the alignment of its programs and activities to the vision, mission, goals, and objectives; (b) strengthen the community-building with special focus on sustainable environment; (c) re-tool the faculty and non-teaching personnel on the nature and purpose of community service programs such as immersions, outreach, and advocacies on environmental protection; and (d) re-assess the environmental protection policies suggested by *Laudato si* for a comprehensive assessment in caring for the environment.

References

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