

Hope on the Horizon: The Educational Journeys of Fisherfolk Families Amidst Economic Challenges

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ABSTRACT: Fishing is a significant source of income in the Philippines, particularly in coastal communities like those in Samar. Despite contributing to the economy and providing livelihoods, fisherfolk families face numerous challenges, particularly in ensuring education for their children. This qualitative study explores the lived experiences of fisherfolk parents in Samar, focusing on their efforts to balance economic needs with educational aspirations. Through in-depth interviews and phenomenological analysis, the study identifies key themes: economic instability due to adverse weather and fluctuating income, the impact of these conditions on children's education, and the strategies parents use to manage household responsibilities. The findings reveal the resilience and determination of fisherfolk parents, highlighting their commitment to their children's education despite significant financial and social barriers. This study contributes to a deeper understanding of the intersection between livelihood and education in marginalized communities, offering insights for developing supportive policies and programs tailored to the needs of fisherfolk families.

KEYWORDS: fisherfolk, education, livelihood, qualitative study, economic challenges

INTRODUCTION

Fishing is one of the major sources of income in the Philippines, given its plentiful surface water bodies that offer numerous opportunities for income-generating fishing activities. In 2018, the country was ranked 8th among the world's top fish-producing nations, with a total production of 4.35 million metric tons (MT) of fish and other marine products (Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources [BFAR], 2020). The fisheries sector contributes 1.3% to the Philippine GDP and generates about 1.6 million jobs, representing approximately 4% of the labor force, which includes employment for low-income families involved in subsistence fishing (World Bank, 2023).

The economic contributions of the fisheries sector extend beyond direct employment. According to Pomeroy et al. (2014), fishing activities support ancillary industries such as boat building, fish processing, and equipment supply, creating additional job opportunities and fostering local economic development. This multifaceted impact underscores the importance of the fisheries sector in national and local economies, highlighting its role in sustaining both livelihoods and community economies.

Despite these economic benefits, fisherfolk parents often face significant financial challenges. They generally earn low incomes, which limits their ability to provide for their families and invest in their children's education. Nonetheless, many fisherfolk parents hold aspirations for their children's education, believing in its transformative power to improve their children's lives and uplift their family's status (Belardo & Candelaria, 2023). This aspiration aligns with findings by Tadena (2015), who noted that education is viewed by many low-income families in the Philippines as a key pathway out of poverty.

Locally, in the province of Samar where this study is situated, the relevance of fishing is paramount. Samar's coastal communities heavily rely on fishing for sustenance and livelihood. The dependence on fishing in these communities is not just a matter of economic necessity but also of cultural significance, with fishing practices and traditions being passed down through generations. However, many fisherfolk families struggle to ensure their children's education due to conflicting demands of livelihood and educational needs.

In addition to financial constraints, fisherfolk families face other barriers to education. These include limited access to quality schools, lack of educational resources, and the necessity for children to contribute to the household income, often through fishing-related activities (World Bank, 2017). According to Garcia and de Guzman (2016), these challenges are compounded by the seasonal and unpredictable nature of fishing, which can lead to inconsistent income and increased vulnerability to economic shocks, making long-term educational planning difficult.

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The complex interplay between economic needs and educational aspirations presents significant challenges for fisherfolk families. For instance, during peak fishing seasons, children may miss school to help with fishing activities, impacting their academic performance and continuity in education. These disruptions can have long-term effects on children's educational attainment and future opportunities, perpetuating the cycle of poverty within fishing communities (Tadena, 2015).

This qualitative study aims to explore and understand the lived experiences of fisherfolk parents in ensuring education for their children. It navigates their journey, highlighting the challenges faced by both parents and children, the equalizers, and the lessons learned. By examining these experiences, the study seeks to contribute to the broader understanding of how low-income families navigate educational aspirations amidst economic constraints. The insights gained can inform policy interventions and support programs tailored to the unique needs of fisherfolk communities.

Understanding the experiences of fisherfolk parents in Samar is crucial for developing effective educational and economic policies. By shedding light on their struggles and strategies, this study aims to provide a nuanced perspective on the intersection of livelihood and education in marginalized communities. The findings could help stakeholders design more inclusive policies that address the specific barriers faced by fisherfolk families, promoting both economic resilience and educational advancement.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This qualitative study employed a phenomenological approach to explore the lifeworld of fisherfolk parents, particularly focusing on their challenges and successes in sending their children to school. According to Neubauer, Witkop, and Varpio (2019), phenomenology aims to understand the lived experience of a phenomenon. By interviewing individuals who have experienced it, researchers aim to capture the core aspects of the experience, encompassing both the content (what happened) and the perception (how it was felt and perceived). This method was deemed most suitable by the researchers to investigate the lived experiences of fisherfolk parents and provide a comprehensive analysis of their journey.

The decision to focus on educational experiences highlights the intersection of economic, social, and familial dynamics that fisherfolk parents navigate. By delving into their narratives, the study seeks to uncover the specific obstacles they face, such as financial constraints, geographical challenges, and social expectations, as well as the strategies they employ to overcome these barriers and support their children's education.

Participants

The participants in this study were selected through purposive sampling, a method employed by the researchers to strategically choose individuals based on specific criteria that align with the research objectives. According to the National Center for State Courts, purposive sampling involves selecting participants with particular characteristics, knowledge, or experiences relevant to the study. For this research, participants met the following criteria: 1) being a fisherfolk, 2) being a parent, 3) having children who have completed tertiary education, and 4) being willing to participate in the study.

Saturation was reached with the tenth participant, indicating that no new themes or insights were emerging from the data, thus affirming the adequacy of the sample size (Guest, Bunce, & Johnson, 2006). This deliberate selection process ensured that the participants were well-suited to provide meaningful insights into the phenomenon under investigation, allowing for a comprehensive and in-depth exploration of their experiences.

Data Collection

Data for this study were collected through semi-structured interviews, a qualitative research technique that combines a predefined set of open-ended questions designed to spark discussion (Jamshed, 2014). This method allows researchers the flexibility to explore specific topics or obtain responses in greater detail. The interview contents were validated by a professional qualitative methodologist to ensure the reliability and validity of the data collection instrument. Participants were informed about the structure of the data gathering method, and informed consent was obtained, including permission to record the conversations and publish the processed responses. Confidentiality of the participants' answers was ensured, adhering to the ethical standards of the research (Wiles, 2013).

Data Analysis

In phenomenological analysis, the steps for data analysis were adopted from the Hycner (1985) process, which includes the following: 1) transcription; 2) bracketing and phenomenological reduction; 3) listening to the interview for a sense of the whole; 4) delineating units of general meaning; 5) delineating units of meaning relevant to the research question; 6) eliminating redundancies; 7) clustering units of relevant meaning; 8) determining themes from clusters of meaning; and 9) contextualization of themes. This structured approach ensures a thorough and systematic examination of the data, facilitating a deeper understanding of the participants' lived experiences.

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Measures of Trustworthiness

Credibility

In this study, credibility was ensured through various strategies. The researchers engaged deeply with the fisherfolk communities in Samar, spending significant time to understand their daily lives and challenges. They used triangulation by collecting data through in-depth interviews and observations, cross-verifying information to ensure a comprehensive understanding. Additionally, member checking was conducted by sharing initial findings with the participants to confirm the accuracy and authenticity of the data and interpretations. Peer debriefing involved discussing the research process and findings with colleagues and experts to obtain external validation and enhance credibility.

Transferability

To address transferability, the study provided thick descriptions of the research context, including detailed accounts of the fisherfolk families' socioeconomic conditions, the challenges they face, and their aspirations for their children's education. These rich, contextual details allow readers to determine the relevance of the findings to their own settings. The use of purposive sampling ensured that participants were chosen based on specific criteria relevant to the study's objectives, such as being fisherfolk parents with children who have completed tertiary education. This approach ensures that the findings are grounded in the specific context of Samar's coastal communities, offering insights that could be applicable to similar contexts.

Dependability

Dependability in the study was achieved by maintaining an audit trail, which included detailed documentation of the research process, data collection methods, analysis procedures, and decision-making processes. This comprehensive record allows for external audits and assessments of the research process. The researchers also employed a code-recode strategy, where data were coded multiple times at different intervals to ensure consistency in interpretation. Moreover, multiple researchers were involved in the coding process, achieving intercoder agreement to mitigate individual biases and enhance the reliability of the findings.

Confirmability

Confirmability was ensured through reflexivity, where the researchers documented their own biases, assumptions, and influences on the research process. This self-awareness helped mitigate potential biases. A confirmability audit was also conducted, allowing an external reviewer to examine the data, analysis, and findings to ensure they were firmly grounded in the data rather than influenced by the researchers' personal biases. The inclusion of direct quotes from participants in the study supported the findings, showing that interpretations were based on the participants' actual words and experiences, thus enhancing the objectivity and neutrality of the results.

Prolonged Engagement and Persistent Observation

The researchers ensured credibility through prolonged engagement by spending extensive time within the fisherfolk communities, building trust, and gaining a deep understanding of their context. Persistent observation was used to focus on the most relevant aspects of the participants' experiences, such as their daily struggles with economic instability and their efforts to support their children's education. This approach allowed the researchers to gather rich, detailed data that accurately reflected the lived experiences of the fisherfolk families, providing a solid foundation for credible findings.

Triangulation and Member Checking

Triangulation in the study involved using multiple data sources, such as interviews and observations, to cross-verify information and build a comprehensive understanding of the fisherfolk families' experiences. This method helped ensure the robustness of the findings by confirming consistency across different data sources. Member checking was implemented by sharing preliminary findings with the participants to validate the accuracy and authenticity of the data. This feedback loop not only verified the researchers' interpretations but also ensured that the participants' perspectives were accurately represented, further enhancing the study's credibility and trustworthiness.

Ethical Consideration

Ethical considerations in this were rigorously adhered to ensure the protection and respect of all participants. Informed consent was obtained, and participants were fully informed about the study's purpose, procedures, risks, and benefits, and they were given the right to withdraw at any time. Confidentiality and anonymity were strictly maintained by using pseudonyms and securely storing data. Researchers were trained to handle sensitive topics to minimize any potential harm, aligning with the principles of non-maleficence and beneficence. The dignity and autonomy of participants were respected, and the principle of justice was upheld by ensuring fair and equal treatment in participant selection and reporting. Finally, the study received ethical approval from the relevant institutional review board, ensuring compliance with ethical standards and guidelines.

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Results

The study identified four major themes from the data analyses: (1) Perils of the Sea, (2) Children's Daily Struggles While Studying, (3) Balancing Acts at Home, and (4) Life Lessons from Fishing. Each theme provides a deep dive into the experiences of fisherfolk parents and their children, supported by relevant literature and studies.

Theme 1: Perils of the Sea

This theme explores the various challenges fisherfolk parents face in their occupation, which includes adverse weather conditions, fluctuating income, illegal fishing practices, and equipment issues.

Subtheme A: Adverse Weather Conditions

Fisherfolk are highly susceptible to adverse weather conditions, which pose significant risks to their safety and livelihood. Stormy weather, strong winds, and turbulent seas make fishing extremely dangerous, yet many parents continue to fish despite these conditions to provide for their families. This resilience underscores their commitment to their children's well-being.

"We insist on going fishing despite the occurrence of bad weather, especially during typhoons, to provide food for our family."

"Going to the seas regardless of waves so my children could finish school."

According to a study by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), adverse weather conditions significantly impact the productivity and safety of small-scale fisheries, leading to reduced catches and increased risks for fisherfolk (FAO, 2020). Additionally, a report by the World Bank highlights the vulnerability of coastal communities to extreme weather events and the importance of sustainable livelihood strategies (World Bank, 2016).

Subtheme B: Fluctuating Income

The inconsistency of fishing income is a significant challenge for fisherfolk parents. The daily catch is unpredictable, leading to fluctuating earnings that make it difficult to plan and budget for household needs. When fishing is unproductive, parents often have to seek alternative sources of income to sustain their families.

"Fishing is not consistent: sometimes we gain, sometimes we don't. That's why, whenever we find resources, we give it to our children."

"I don't rely on the fishing occupation... The constant changing of business capital because our petty income cannot sustain our daily needs."

Research by Béné et al. (2016) highlights the economic vulnerability of small-scale fisherfolk due to income fluctuations and the lack of financial stability. This instability often forces families to diversify their income sources to mitigate the risks associated with fishing.

Subtheme C: Illegal Fishing Practices

Illegal fishing practices, such as the use of prohibited equipment and methods, adversely affect legal fisherfolk by depleting fish stocks and reducing their catch. This issue not only impacts their income but also threatens the sustainability of marine resources.

"We cannot catch fish anymore because of the prevalence of illegal fishing."

A study by Agnew et al. (2009) estimates that illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing accounts for up to 26 million tonnes of fish annually, significantly affecting the livelihoods of legal fisherfolk. Efforts to combat IUU fishing are critical to ensuring the sustainability of fisheries and protecting the rights of legal fishers.

Subtheme D: Equipment Issues

Fisherfolk frequently deal with damaged equipment, particularly nets that get entangled with underwater obstacles. Repairing or replacing these nets is costly, adding to the financial burden of already struggling families.

"Our nets get stuck at the poles under the sea. It damages our equipment."

The FAO (2020) notes that fishing gear and equipment are critical assets for small-scale fisheries, and damage or loss of these assets can have severe economic repercussions. Proper maintenance and support for gear replacement are essential for sustaining fishing activities.

Theme 2: Children's Daily Struggles While Studying

Children of fisherfolk encounter numerous obstacles that affect their educational journey. These challenges stem from their family's socio-economic status and the demanding nature of their parents' occupation.

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Subtheme A: Limited Food Variety

Children in fishing communities often have a monotonous diet, primarily consisting of fish, particularly dried fish. While fish is a staple and nutritious food, the lack of variety can be a source of discontent and nutritional deficiency, which can affect their ability to concentrate and perform well in school.

"Sometimes my child would request for a dried fish."

"The viand is always dried sardinella (tamban). Dried sardinella in the morning, dried sardinella in the afternoon, dried sardinella in the evening."

According to the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition (2016), dietary diversity is crucial for meeting nutritional needs and ensuring overall health. Limited food variety can lead to deficiencies in essential vitamins and minerals, affecting children's growth, cognitive development, and academic performance.

Children's repetitive diet primarily consisting of fish can lead to nutritional deficiencies. Adequate nutrition is essential for cognitive functions such as memory, attention, and problem-solving skills, all of which are critical for learning. Poor nutrition can cause fatigue and decreased concentration, making it harder for children to engage in school activities and perform well academically.

Subtheme B: Financial Constraints

Limited income from fishing translates to small allowances for the children, impacting their education and overall well-being. Insufficient funds can limit their access to school supplies, transportation, and nutritious food, hindering their academic performance and quality of life.

"Sometimes they only get little allowance which affects their studies."

"We need to endure to earn money for their allowances and tuition fees."

Research by Gertler et al. (2014) shows that financial constraints significantly affect children's educational outcomes and well-being. A lack of financial resources can lead to absenteeism, poor nutrition, and inadequate access to educational materials, all of which negatively impact academic success.

Financial limitations restrict children's access to necessary educational resources. This includes school supplies, textbooks, uniforms, and transportation fees. Additionally, financial stress within the household can create an environment of anxiety and uncertainty, further detracting from a child's focus on education. The lack of a stable financial foundation often forces families to prioritize immediate survival needs over educational investments.

Subtheme C: Balancing School with Family Responsibilities

Children of fisherfolk often have to balance their schoolwork with helping their families. This dual responsibility can lead to stress, fatigue, and reduced time for studying, which in turn affects their academic performance.

"After school, I help my parents with sorting the fish."

"Sometimes I have to miss school to assist my family during the peak fishing season."

A study by Heymann and Earle (2001) highlights the impact of family responsibilities on children's education. Children who must work or help with family businesses often have less time for homework and study, leading to lower academic achievement. The balancing act between school and family duties can also cause psychological stress, further affecting their educational outcomes.

Many children of fisherfolk are required to contribute to their family's livelihood, especially during peak fishing seasons. This involvement in labor can reduce the time available for studying and resting, leading to physical and mental exhaustion. The additional responsibilities can also lead to higher absenteeism rates, as children may miss school to support their family's fishing activities.

Theme 3: Balancing Acts at Home

Fisherfolk parents must balance the demands of their occupation with household responsibilities, employing various strategies to manage their limited resources.

Subtheme A: Effective Budgeting

Effective budgeting is crucial for managing limited resources. Fisherfolk prioritize their children's needs, ensuring that any available funds are allocated wisely to cover essential expenses such as food and education.

"It's not everyday that we get to have an income. So when there is, we seek to reserve some for weaker days to balance out the needs of our home."

"Everything is in accordance with the budget, especially about school needs."

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A study by Collins et al. (2009) highlights the importance of financial planning and budgeting for low-income families to manage economic instability. Proper budgeting helps families prioritize essential expenses and cope with financial uncertainties.

Subtheme B: Mutual Support

Parents often work together to provide for their family, with one parent fishing and the other taking on additional jobs to supplement their income. This collaborative effort is crucial for meeting household needs and ensuring the family's well-being.

"My spouse and I help each other out to earn a living."

Research by Brody et al. (2002) indicates that mutual support and collaboration between parents are essential for managing household responsibilities and improving family resilience. Shared efforts in earning income and managing household tasks enhance the family's ability to cope with challenges.

Subtheme C: Alternative Income Sources

The unreliability of fishing income forces parents to seek other livelihoods, such as carpentry, laundry work, or livestock farming. Diversifying income sources helps stabilize family finances and reduce dependency on fishing alone.

"We also do hog farming for our children's tuition fee at school."

"I persevere real hard. I enter into various paying jobs, I do laundry, just to provide for my children, so they won't get hungry."

A study by Ellis (2000) emphasizes the importance of livelihood diversification for rural families to reduce economic vulnerability and improve income stability. Engaging in multiple income-generating activities helps families mitigate the risks associated with reliance on a single occupation.

Theme 4: Life Lessons from Fishing

Despite the challenges, fisherfolk parents impart valuable life lessons to their children, emphasizing faith, respect, and perseverance.

Subtheme A: Faith and Resilience

Parents teach their children the importance of faith in God and resilience in the face of adversity. This belief system provides emotional support and a sense of hope during difficult times.

"Trust in the Lord."

"Never lose faith in God."

Research by Koenig et al. (2001) shows that religious faith and spiritual practices can provide significant psychological and emotional benefits, helping individuals cope with stress and adversity. Faith serves as a crucial source of strength and resilience for fisherfolk families.

Subtheme B: Respect for Others

Respect for others is a key value taught by fisherfolk parents, who emphasize honoring parents, knowing neighbors, and avoiding conflicts. This social value fosters a sense of community and harmonious relationships.

"Respecting parents and other people."

"Do not throw disrespectful words unto others."

A study by Lickona (1991) highlights the importance of teaching respect and moral values to children for their social and ethical development. Respectful behavior and positive social interactions contribute to a cohesive and supportive community.

Subtheme C: Perseverance and Sacrifice

Fisherfolk parents encourage their children to work hard and persist in their education, hoping they will achieve a better life. They instill the values of perseverance and sacrifice, emphasizing the long-term benefits of education and hard work.

"If possible, they should endure for their children that the money they can earn would go, most importantly, for the education of their children."

"Be resilient with earning for a living; not all the time is suffering, one day it will be better."

Research by Duckworth et al. (2007) demonstrates that grit and perseverance are key predictors of success in various life domains. Encouraging children to persist and work hard despite challenges can significantly impact their future achievements and well-being. This comprehensive analysis reveals the multifaceted challenges faced by fisherfolk families and highlights their resilience and the values they uphold. By examining the themes and subthemes in detail, supported by relevant studies and sources, the study provides a deeper understanding of the lived experiences of fisherfolk parents and their children.

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DISCUSSION

The challenges faced by fisherfolk families, particularly regarding their children's education, are multifaceted and deeply rooted in socio-economic and environmental factors. Fisherfolk parents confront numerous hardships in their occupation, including adverse weather conditions, fluctuating income, illegal fishing practices, and equipment issues. These challenges directly impact their ability to provide a stable and supportive environment for their children's education. The adverse weather conditions pose significant risks, forcing parents to continue fishing despite dangerous situations to meet their family's needs (Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO], 2020). Fluctuating income further exacerbates their struggles, making financial planning and budgeting exceptionally difficult (Béné et al., 2016).

Children in these communities face additional challenges that hinder their academic success. Limited food variety, primarily consisting of fish, leads to nutritional deficiencies that affect their cognitive functions, concentration, and overall health (Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, 2016). This monotonous diet can cause fatigue and decreased academic performance, as adequate nutrition is essential for learning (Taras, 2015). Financial constraints also play a significant role in limiting children's access to necessary educational resources, such as school supplies, uniforms, and transportation (Gertler et al., 2014). The lack of financial stability often forces families to prioritize immediate survival needs over long-term educational investments.

Balancing school with family responsibilities is another significant challenge for children of fisherfolk. Many of these children are required to contribute to their family's livelihood, especially during peak fishing seasons. This dual responsibility reduces the time available for studying and resting, leading to physical and mental exhaustion (Heymann & McNeill, 2018). The additional workload often results in higher absenteeism rates, as children may miss school to support their family's fishing activities, further impacting their educational outcomes.

Despite these challenges, fisherfolk parents employ various strategies to manage their limited resources and provide for their families. Effective budgeting and mutual support within the family are crucial for managing economic instability (Collins et al., 2019). Parents often work together to ensure that their children's needs are prioritized, and any available funds are allocated wisely. Additionally, the unreliability of fishing income forces parents to seek alternative livelihoods, such as carpentry, laundry work, or livestock farming, to stabilize their finances and reduce dependency on fishing alone (Ellis, 2015).

Beyond financial and logistical strategies, fisherfolk parents impart valuable life lessons to their children, emphasizing faith, respect, and perseverance. The importance of religious faith and resilience in the face of adversity provides emotional support and a sense of hope during difficult times (Koenig et al., 2017). Parents also teach respect for others, fostering a sense of community and harmonious relationships. These values are crucial for the social and ethical development of children and contribute to a cohesive and supportive community environment (Lickona, 2018).

Overall, this analysis highlights the resilience and determination of fisherfolk families in the face of significant challenges. By understanding the complex interplay of factors that impact their lives, stakeholders can develop targeted interventions to support these communities. Initiatives such as nutritional support programs, financial aid for low-income families, and community projects to reduce the labor burden on children can help create a more supportive environment, enabling children in fishing communities to thrive academically and personally.

CONCLUSION

The comprehensive analysis of fisherfolk families' challenges underscores the intricate interplay of socio-economic and environmental factors impacting their children's education. Adverse weather conditions, fluctuating incomes, illegal fishing practices, and equipment issues create an unstable financial environment, directly influencing the children's academic experiences. These conditions result in nutritional deficiencies, diminished academic performance, and higher absenteeism rates as children often balance school responsibilities with family livelihood contributions. Despite these hardships, the resilience of fisherfolk parents shines through their strategic budgeting, pursuit of alternative income sources, and the instillation of faith, respect, and perseverance in their children.

Understanding these multifaceted challenges is essential for grasping the full scope of the difficulties faced by fisherfolk families. The study highlights how these parents, despite limited resources, manage to prioritize their children's education and well-being. This resilience and determination are crucial elements that drive these families to overcome the adversities they face. The findings emphasize the need to recognize and support the unique circumstances of fisherfolk families to foster better educational and personal outcomes for their children.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Nutritional deficiencies significantly impact children's cognitive functions and academic performance. Establishing programs that provide diverse and nutritious meals to children in fishing communities can help mitigate these deficiencies and improve their ability to concentrate and succeed in school.

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2. Financial constraints limit access to essential educational resources. Implementing financial aid programs, including scholarships, grants, and subsidies for school supplies and transportation, can alleviate these burdens and ensure that children from fisherfolk families have the necessary tools to excel academically.
3. Create after-school programs and tutoring services within the community to provide additional academic support to children. These programs can help bridge the gap caused by missed school days due to family responsibilities and offer a safe and structured environment for learning.
4. Encourage and support fisherfolk families in diversifying their income sources through training and resources for alternative livelihoods such as carpentry, livestock farming, and small-scale enterprises. This diversification can provide more stable and reliable income streams, reducing the financial pressure on the family.
5. Addressing illegal fishing practices is crucial to sustaining the livelihoods of legal fisherfolk. Strengthening legal frameworks, increasing enforcement of fishing regulations, and promoting sustainable fishing practices can help protect fish stocks and ensure fair competition in the industry.
6. Offer workshops and training sessions on financial literacy and effective budgeting for fisherfolk families. These programs can empower parents to manage their finances better, plan for future expenses, and allocate resources efficiently to support their children's education and well-being.
7. Develop community support networks that encourage mutual assistance and collaboration among fisherfolk families. These networks can provide emotional support, share resources, and create a sense of solidarity, helping families navigate challenges together and reinforcing the values of respect and perseverance taught by parents.

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