



LOCAL GAMES IN MAONON, LIGAO CITY, BICOL PENINSULA: SYMBOLISM OF COMMUNITY IDENTITY

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ABSTRACT – One of the indicators of well-established local practices is the continuity of its local games. Playing local games as recreation can lead to enhancement of each contribution towards sustainability of local culture and awareness of ecological goods and services. However, with the current technologies that surround everybody, there is a probability of local practices to be left out. This present study sought to 1) determine the local games currently played in Maonon; 2) describe the nature of the local games, and 3) identify the cultural values portrayed in these games. Fifty-six (56) key informants were interviewed in Bikol, a local dialect. Photo and video documentation were taken along the beach, in the school grounds, and on the streets. Secondary data were also collated for analysis. There were twenty-six (26) local games identified, and *iloy-iloy* was the most popular game among the informants. The materials of the games were readily available in the natural environment and creatively done by young children. Games were either played on land or at sea. There were games classified as ordinary, whereas some games made use of formula and few included sea animals as part of the game. Distinct cultural values such as resourcefulness, determination, and cooperation were displayed while playing the local games. Indeed, local games emphasize the local identity of a place and highlighted some of the local values which concerned the benefits derived from its natural setting.

Keywords: Cultural values, Place identity, Traditional games, Senior Citizen



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