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**PARTICIPATION - WHO OWNS IT?**  
**Enhancing community participation**  
**on Bohol Island, Philippines**

**A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of  
the requirement for the degree of  
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## **ABSTRACT**

Community participation has been seen as a means of improving project outcomes with participatory development practices being mainstreamed by most multilateral development agencies. However, 'participation' remains an overused, poorly understood and subjectively defined concept with various partners in the development process concurrently exhibiting different understandings of the concept. A critique of participation also suggests that the rhetoric of participation not only exceeds the practice but that practitioners can use participatory development in an unjust and abusive manner. A problem development organisations in the Philippines face is how to enhance community participation in project communities.

Using a case study approach, this research studies a non-government organisation (NGO) and a rural community in the Philippines, partners in implementing two development projects during 1995 - 2003. Research on Bohol during June - July 2004 sought to understand the factors which influenced the willingness and ability of community members to participate in the projects, and the strategies used by the NGO to enhance community participation.

This research finds that project participation was enhanced by the community's social cohesion, the NGO's authentic planning and implementation with the community, and the project personnel's respectful and trusting relationships with community members. Similarly, the manner in which project components explicitly met felt need, the enthusiasm generated by the NGO, and the high degree of community ownership of the projects, led to community participation. In contrast, community conflict, the community's negative experience of historical events, selective participation, and the high perceived costs of participation led to non-participation.

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# CONTENTS

ABSTRACT .....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	iii
CONTENTS .....	iv
LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES .....	vii
ACRONYMS .....	viii
GLOSSARY .....	ix
CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
Research Background.....	1
Research Justification.....	2
Problem Statement .....	3
Central Research Question .....	3
Objectives .....	3
Outline of the Thesis .....	4
CHAPTER 2. THE NATURE OF PARTICIPATION.....	5
Introduction .....	5
History of Participatory Development .....	6
The Journey to Alternative Development .....	8
Growth and Modernisation Theory.....	8
Dependency Theory .....	8
Neo-liberal Theory.....	9
Alternative Development and Participation .....	10
What is 'Participation'?.....	10
Typologies of Participation .....	12
The Case for Participation.....	16
The Case Against Participation .....	18
Factors Influencing Participation.....	21
Internal Factors .....	22
External Factors .....	26
Institutionalising Participation in NGOs.....	33
Conclusion.....	35
CHAPTER 3. THE PHILIPPINES AND CASE DESCRIBED .....	37
Introduction .....	37
The Philippines .....	37
Geography .....	37
Filipino Culture, Traits and Values.....	39
A Brief History of Filipino Participation .....	39
Contemporary NGOs in the Philippines.....	45
The Case Described .....	46
Development Actor One: The Community .....	46
Development Actor Two: The Development Organisation.....	53
Development Actor Three: The Projects.....	55
Conclusions .....	58
CHAPTER 4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY .....	60
Introduction .....	60
Research Approach .....	60
Case Study Selection.....	61

The Fieldwork.....	62
Methods Used.....	63
Ethics.....	68
Data Analysis.....	69
Conclusions.....	70
CHAPTER 5. PARTICIPATION IN ACTION.....	72
Introduction.....	72
The Community.....	72
Extent of Social Cohesion.....	73
Extent of Community Need.....	75
Degree of Trust in External Projects and Organisations.....	77
The Development Organisation.....	79
Degree to Which Development Organisation is Trusted by Community.....	79
Development Workers' Ability to Build Community Trust.....	82
Degree of Enthusiasm Generated by Development Organisation.....	85
Extent to Which Development Organisation is Able to Establish Community Ownership of Projects.....	88
The Development Projects.....	93
Degree to Which Project Meets Felt Needs.....	93
Degree of Community Inclusion.....	95
Degree to Which Incentives or Disincentives were Used with Members.....	97
Extent of Cost to or Demands of Membership.....	98
Conclusions.....	101
CHAPTER 6. ACTION AND THEORY EXAMINED.....	103
Introduction.....	103
The Community.....	103
Extent of Social Cohesion.....	103
Extent of Community Need.....	106
Degree of Trust in External Projects and Organisations.....	107
The Development Organisation.....	108
Degree of Trust in Development Organisation.....	108
Degree of Trust in Development Workers.....	110
Degree of Enthusiasm Generated by Development Organisation.....	112
Degree of Community Ownership of Projects.....	113
The Development Projects.....	117
Degree to Which Project Meets Felt Needs.....	117
Degree of Community Inclusion.....	118
Degree to Which Incentives or Disincentives were Used with Members.....	119
Perceived Costs to or Demands of Membership.....	120
Conclusions.....	121
CHAPTER 7. CONCLUSIONS.....	123
Research Implications.....	124
Organisation and Project Factors.....	124
Community Factors.....	126
APPENDIX 1. Rapid Rural Systems Appraisal (RRSA).....	128
APPENDIX 2. Rotary and PACAP Project Accomplishments.....	130
APPENDIX 3. Map of Sagbayan Municipality.....	133
APPENDIX 4. Barangay Katipunan: Pre-Rotary Project (1995).....	134
APPENDIX 5. Barangay Katipunan: Post-Rotary Project (1997).....	135

APPENDIX 6. Barangay Katipunan: Post-PACAP Project (2003) .....	136
APPENDIX 7. Barangay Katipunan Timeline .....	137
APPENDIX 8. Photographs .....	138
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	139

## **LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES**

Figure 2.1: Ladder of Citizen Participation.....	13
Table 2.1: Dimensions of Rural Development Participation.....	14
Figure 3.1: Map of the Philippines.....	38
Figure 3.2: Map of Bohol .....	50



## ACRONYMS

AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
BPA	Barangay Power Association
BOHECO-I	Bohol Electric Cooperative
CD	Community development
CHNM	Chocolate Hills Natural Monument
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CO	Community organising
CPP	Communist Party of the Philippines
DA	Department of Agriculture
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DOLE	Department of Labour and Employment
IRRM	International Rural Reconstruction Movement
KLLEP	Katipunan Livestock and Livelihood Enhancement Project
LGC	Local government code
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NIPAS	National Integrated Protected Area System
NPA	New People's Army
NZ\$	New Zealand dollar
P	Philippine peso
PACAP	Philippine-Australian Community Assistance Program
PECCO	Philippine Council for Community Organisation
PKP	Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas
PO	People's organisation
SNRMP	Sagbayan Natural Resource Management Project
SWCF	Soil and Water Conservation Foundation, Inc.
UKA	Uswag Katipunan Association

## GLOSSARY

<i>abono</i>	an association for emergency loans
<i>alayon</i>	work groups
<i>bakya</i>	wooden clogs
<i>barangay</i>	a political area/unit of less than 1,000 people
<i>biray</i> or <i>dayong</i>	organisation that raises funds for funeral expenses
Boholano	a native of Bohol and the language thereof
<i>boluntario</i>	voluntary work
<i>bukas na</i>	procrastination
<i>camote</i>	sweet potato
<i>carabao</i>	water buffalo
<i>centro</i>	the centre of the barangay
<i>datu</i>	chief or king
Filipino	a native of and language of the Philippines
<i>gabi</i>	taro root
<i>gala</i>	family groups that contribute to their son's wedding expenses
<i>kaingin</i>	shifting cultivation
<i>kanya-kanya</i>	self-centredness
Katipunan	name of the local case-study barangay
<i>mañana</i>	procrastination
<i>mogotes</i>	residual limestone hills
<i>pamilya</i>	family or extended family
<i>purok</i>	a subdivision of a barangay
<i>ripa</i>	a rotating credit association
<i>sitio</i>	a subdivision of a barangay
Tagalog	the official Filipino national language
<i>tinginit</i>	dry season
<i>tingulan</i>	wet season
<i>utang na loob</i>	indebtedness