

## Indigenous Knowledge on Natural Disasters and Survival Strategies among the Riverine Manobo And Highland Higaonon in Agusan Del Sur, Philippines



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In the Philippines, the richness of knowledge survival was noted among the indigenous peoples and communities. This knowledge was interwoven in their belief systems which have been developed and handed over many generations. The study was conducted to describe the beliefs, knowledge system and survival strategies of riverine Manobo and Highland Higaonon during natural disasters. It employed descriptive method involving respondents' interviews, focus group discussions, on-site observation and archival documentations. Descriptive statistics as utilized for quantitative and thematic approach for qualitative data. The study revealed that the animistic belief of riverine Manobo and Highland Higaonon enunciates deep respect to nature. Reconciliation with nature is obtained through adherence to moral codes and the performance of religious rites. The study concludes that the Manobo and Higaonon developed distinct ways of coping threats posed by natural disasters. It is manifested through their ability to predict impending disaster and their capacity to build typhoon-and-flood resilient dwellings which have been tested over generations.

Keywords: Ethnography, indigenous knowledge, Disaster Risk Reduction Management, survival strategies, descriptive design, Philippines

200 words