

LISTEN TO THE CRY FROM WITHIN: THE PLIGHT OF THE AGTA TRIBE AT NAGTIPUNAN, QUIRINO

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Introduction



Indigenous Peoples (IPs) like the Agtas are typically assimilated and absorbed in the mainstream culture, but their plight for survival seems forgotten and their culture seems trapped in the recesses of the rich historical past we typically romanticize.

*Photo courtesy of RDET, QSU, Cabarroguis Campus
Agta Tribe taken at Disimungal, Nagtipunan, Quirino*

Agta tribe tends to be a marginalized group of people who maintain their cultural practices. More often than not, the capitalist societies refer to them as a "primitive people". This is because these individuals have continuously value their cultural practices despite the spread of globalization.



*Photo courtesy of RDET, QSU, Cabarroguis Campus
Agta Tribe taken at Disimungal, Nagtipunan, Quirino*



To this day, the Agtas/Aetas in Quirino province (Cagayan Valley) still kept their way of life. They are the most simple, peace-loving group of people in the province. They are located in the three Sitios of Nagtipunan namely Sitio Masuc, Sitio Tilitilan, Sitio Calbo Dioryong of Disimungal, Nagtipunan, Quirino. The tribe members are peacefully living in the area despite of their perplex struggles for survival.



Objectives of the Study



*Photo courtesy of Rolan Garcia, SABUAGAM Group International.
Agta Kids taken at Disimungal, Nagtipunan, Quirino*

This study was designed to provide reflection on the aspirations and plights of the Agta Tribe at Nagtipunan, Quirino. It also aims to look into the real picture of their situation and be able to craft initiatives to address their desires and to alleviate their predicaments.



Theoretical Framework of the Study

This study is anchored on social constructivism. It is an interpretive framework whereby individuals seek to understand their world and develop their own particular meanings that correspond to their experience (Creswell, 2013).



*Photo courtesy of Rolan Garcia, SABUAGAM Group International.
Agta Kids taken at Disimungal, Nagtipunan, Quirino*



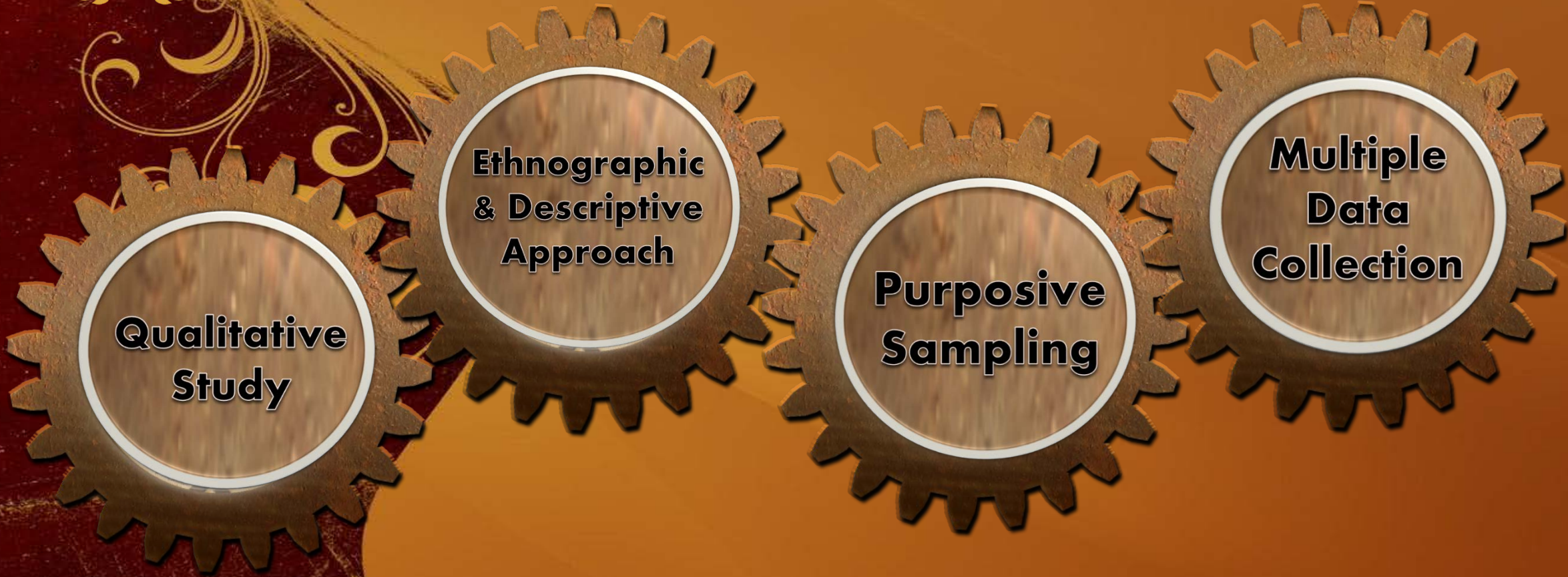
Therefore, it is logical that the best way for the researchers to uncover this reality is to capture their plights from the natural environment and from the perspective of the actors themselves of the situation.



*Photos courtesy of RDET, QSU, Cabarroguis Campus
Agta Tribe taken at Disimungal, Nagtipunan, Quirino*



Methodology of the Study



**Qualitative
Study**

**Ethnographic
& Descriptive
Approach**

**Purposive
Sampling**

**Multiple
Data
Collection**



Results and Discussions

I. Plights Of The Agta Tribe

A.

Intentional Discrimination

"We are intentionally discriminated from other tribes, as if we do not belong to the civilization...please treat us like normal individuals."

"They always look at our physical appearance and never consider our inner desires ..."



Photo courtesy of RDET, QSU, Cabarroguis Campus
Agta kid taken at Disimungal, Nagtipunan, Quirino

B.

Thirst for Knowledge/Education

"I am 25 years old, married and grade 4 pupil... I want to learn how to read and write for my children..."



Photo courtesy of RDET, QSU, Cabarroguis Campus
Agta tribe member taken at Disimungal, Nagtipunan, Quirino

"We want to be educated... we want to get out from ignorance...we need your patience..."



Photo courtesy of RDET, QSU, Cabarroguis Campus
Taken at Disimungal, Nagtipunan, Quirino

C.

Needs for Sustainable Livelihoods

*"Help us learn how to survive...
but please assist us and do not
leave us..."*



Photo credit <https://photos.travelblog.org/Photos/104754/713176/f/6895424-Aeta-Children-0.jpg>

D.

Crave for the Ancestral Land Title

*"We want to own our ancestral
land...we crave for the document
of our possession..."*



Photo courtesy of RDET, QSU, Cabarroguis Campus
Agta kid taken at Disimungal, Nagtipunan, Quirino

E.

Abuse of Agta Tribe's Innocence



Photo courtesy of RDET, QSU, Cabarroguis Campus
Taken at Disimungal, Nagtipunan, Quirino

"Our thumbmarks symbolize our innocence, please tell us what is all about the text..."

"Writers and researchers, please tell us the purpose of writing about our tribe... Please do not leave us after getting information from us..."



Photo courtesy of RDET, QSU, Cabarroguis Campus
Taken at Disimungal, Nagtipunan, Quirino



II.

Initiatives of QSU, Cabarroguis Campus in Response to the Plights of the Agta Tribe

1

Collaboration with the Government Agencies and Non-Government Organizations (NGO's)

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)



Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)



National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)



SABUAGAM Group International



2

Relief Operations and Medical Missions in collaboration with the SABUAGAM Group International



Photo courtesy of RDET, QSU, Cabarroguis Campus
Taken at Disimungal, Nagtipunan, Quirino



Photo courtesy of RDET, QSU, Cabarroguis Campus
Taken at Disimungal, Nagtipunan, Quirino



Photo courtesy of RDET, QSU, Cabarroguis Campus
Taken at Disimungal, Nagtipunan, Quirino

3

Environmental Awareness and Management through Tree Planting Activity at Sitio Dioryong, Nagtipunan, Quirino in collaboration with the DENR, Maddela, Quirino and SABUAGAM Group International



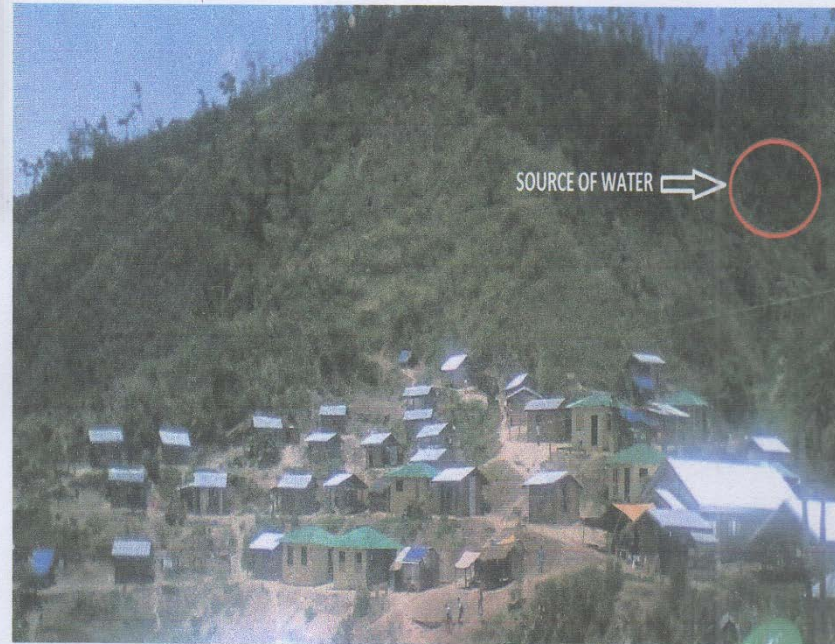
Photo courtesy of RDET, QSU, Cabarroguis Campus
Taken at Disimungal, Nagtipunan, Quirino



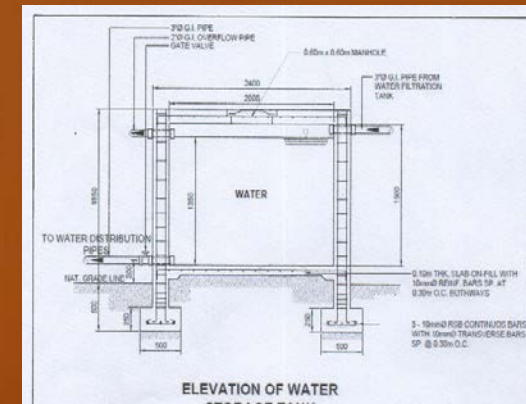
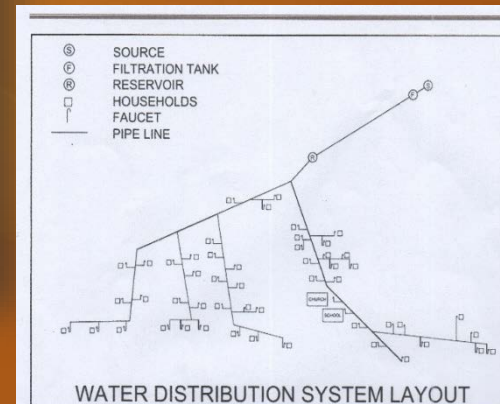
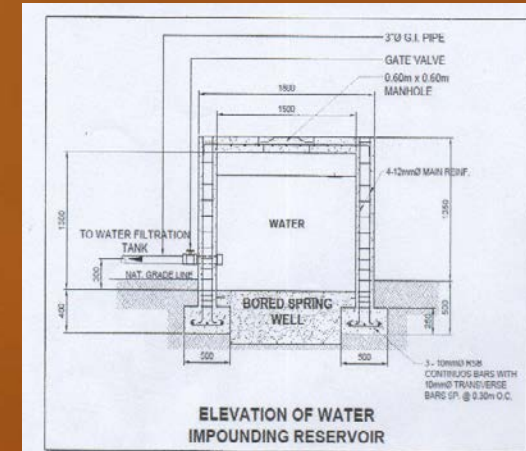
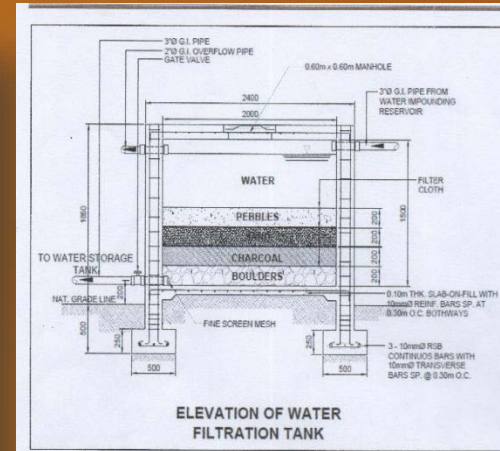
Photo courtesy of RDET, QSU, Cabarroguis Campus
Taken at Disimungal, Nagtipunan, Quirino

4

Proposed Water Supply System thru the initiative of the QSU College of Engineering and to be funded by the SABUAGAM Group International



Spotted location of the water source.



5

Literacy and Livelihood Programs thru the Extension and Training Services of the university in collaboration with the Department of Trade & Industry (DTI)



a.

Functional Literacy Programs

- For elders and children

b.

Livelihood Programs

- Soft broom Making
- Food Processing

Conclusions



*Photo courtesy of RDET, QSU, Cobarroguis Campus
Taken at Disimungal, Nagtipunan, Quirino*

The Agta tribe were intentionally discriminated by other tribes.

Learning how to read and write is the desire of the Agta tribe.

The Agta tribe aspires for sustainable livelihood programs.

The Agta tribe members crave for respect and acceptance.

Quirino State University took the initial steps in addressing the plights of the Agta tribe.

Therefore, as a community, let us help indigenous peoples especially the Agta tribe address their plights on their thirst for education, land ownership and care for the natural resources. Let us help them preserve and nurture their traditional knowledge systems and culture. Letting them understand opportunities for diversification of livelihood strategies. As such, we will be able to develop their resilience in facing various shocks or threats of globalization.



*Photo courtesy of RDET, QSU, Cabarraguis Campus
Taken at Disimungal, Nagtipunan, Quirino*

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Thank You Very Much for Listening!
Have a Blessed Day to Everyone...