



# Open Access Indonesia Journal of Social Sciences

Journal Homepage: <http://journalsocialsciences.com/index.php/OAIJSS>



## Barriers to Development of Selected Municipalities of Sulu Province

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### ARTICLE INFO

#### Keywords:

Barriers to Development  
Government  
Tausug  
Province of Sulu  
Development Situation

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All authors have reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript.

<https://doi.org/10.37275/oaijss.v4i2.98>

### ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to determine the barrier to the development of selected municipalities of Sulu province. It aimed to find out the Suluanos' concept of development in terms of political, economic, socio-cultural, technological, and ecological aspects, including how these perceived barriers affect the development of Sulu. This research utilized the descriptive method where the Quantitative aspect gathered the data from 400 adults of ten big municipalities using a checklist questionnaire. The respondents were selected through systematic sampling. For the qualitative part, the collected data were from 90 participants through focus group discussions. The statistical tools used were frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, and group means. The finding revealed that the Suluanos' concept of development upheld the development policies which are participatory, equitable, appropriateness, concertizing, and environment friendly and the corresponding functions of development such as the political, economic, socio-cultural, technological, and ecological aspects. Of the five development functions, the economic aspect (2.95) was the main barrier to development. It is followed by the technological aspect (2.91), the political (2.79), and ecological (2.42) as the fourth rank. On the other hand, the socio-cultural part (2.21) was the least encountered barrier. The perceived barriers that affected the development of Sulu were related to lack of high ethical standards, transparency, accountability, effectiveness, and lack of respect for and commitment to social justice, human rights, environmental life protection, and people's empowerment. Based on the data gathered, the findings made the researcher conclude that the political, economic, technological, socio-cultural, and ecological aspects in Sulu were considered barriers to development. They were not within the bounds of good governance. Bureaucracy was weak due to the leaders' personalities, who were neither transactional nor transformational. At the same time, they were not within the context of the alternative model of development. To minimize if not eliminate the barriers to development, the government's efforts should be geared towards accountability to improve the quality of governance and dispensation of justice. Further studies are recommended to determine other predictors that can similarly evaluate the development conditions of Sulu Province.

### 1. Introduction

Raja Baginda established the Sulu Central Government in 1390 at Busa, one of the progressive settlements of the time. It served as the seat of Sultanate founded by Sayid Abubakar, the Paduka Mahasari Al Shariful Hashim in 1460 (Cabel, 1993). It reached the status of a city in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Sulu archipelago of long ago linked two worlds by the logic of geography. Being located at a most strategic point, she became the center of maritime trade in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. China is to the northwest. Mindanao is to the northeast, and Visayas and Luzon are to the north. Borneo is to



the southwest. And to the southeast are the Celebes and Muluccas (Giagonia. 1997).

Trade with the Chinese junks was extensive until the Spanish achieved naval superiority after 1840. Several official trading missions were sent to the Celestial Throne in the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Sulu had trade links with the neighboring states of Sabah, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, and Indonesia. Islam also spread through these routes. The missionaries boarded the merchant vessels to reach the southern parts of the Philippines. Sulu also had a prominent and influential form of government known as the Sultanate of Sulu.

The political, economic, and social situations in the areas were severely affected by the coming of the colonizers, the Spaniards, and the Americans (Esmula, 1997). The Sultanate began to decline during the Spanish colonial period, and it suffered heavy setbacks due to inferior arms and the Divide and Rule policies adopted by the foreign aggressors.

Bruno (1973) pointed out that the Tausug men were predominantly farmers, fishermen, and traders. The rich soil and mild climate and favorable location of the island where the Tausugs lived, and evenly distributed rainfall allowed the farmers to raise a variety of crops, thus enabling them to make farming a rewarding means of livelihood. The natural love of Tausugs for the sea and of adventures had extended trade to parts of neighboring Indonesia and Malaysia, which trade, even centuries ago, was a profitable enterprise.

According to Cabel (1988), Sulu Sea-borne activities such as trade and commerce, international politics, diplomacy, and defense against imperialism have earned a niche in the history of a great nation. Viewed from any angle, it stands out as a reminder of glorious and steadfast resistance against all forms of oppression.

Tausugs had proven their industry and resourcefulness in making Sulu the axis of the hub of the growing international trade that was sweeping Europe and China (Capital Gazette: Vol. 1, No. 1: 11/2000).

Before the creation of the province of Tawi-Tawi in September 1973, Sulu was the name given to a chain of islands situated between two landmasses, Borneo and Mindanao. Jolo is the capital of Sulu.

Sulu is the southernmost part of the 56 provinces of the Republic of the Philippines. It consists of 18 municipalities. Ten are located in the Sulu mainland and eight are in the islands. The mainland municipalities are Jolo, Indanan, Patikul, Maimbung, Parang, Panamao, Panglima Estino, Luuk, Talipao and Kalinggalan Kaluang. The island municipalities are the following: Siasi; Pandami; Pangutaran; Pata; Lugus; Panglima Tahir; Tapul and Tongkil.

Sulu has a total area of 160,040 hectares and a population of 619,668 (National Statistics, 2000). Its climate is moderate and is outside the typhoon belt.

Presently, Sulu is different from before, and the real essence of the governance deviates from that was founded in 1390. It has been about six decades now that Sulu is still beset by various problems like poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, and innumerable crimes. The difference can be observed in the current political, cultural, economic status of Sulu.

Historically, Sulu was one of the most progressive and developed in the South; however, recent facts and statistics show that Sulu is one of the poorest provinces in the country (Statistic 2000).

With the mention situation, the study seeks to identify, describe, and analyze the barrier to the development of the selected municipalities of the province of Sulu in terms of political, economic, socio-cultural, technological, and ecological.

## 2. Literature Review

Several literature and studies have a direct and indirect relationship with the topic investigated, and they provided keen insights into the nature of the subject under investigation.

Thomas Kuh Alternative Development Model pointed out that the barriers between the vision to



development and the world order are complex, weighty, and inherently political. Kuh emphasized that the world's total of physical, economic, technological, cultural, and human resources were not appropriately reproduced and redistributed to meet the basic needs of every child, woman, and man on earth. Development can be pursued through the five components of power structures: Participatory, Equitable, Appropriateness, Conscientization, and Ecology. It is known as PEACE.

Motivation can lead to development and barrier to development. Hunt, McClelland (1961), and Winter (1971) theorized that human motive is the essential factor to development, while Hobbes and atomistic psychology claimed that human motives would serve as a barrier to development. McClelland and Winter pointed out that progress or development was related to the inner concerns in the values and motivations men have that lead them to exploit opportunities, take advantage of the favorable trade opportunities, and others.

An egoistic theory of human nature views that all actions are motivated to achieve pleasure and avoid pain. Nature has placed humankind under a sovereign master, pain, and satisfaction. This theory is about selfishness. In the absence of restraints, Hobbes asserted that people's selfish motives would lead to a "nature state" of war, with each individual pitted against all others.

Motivation theories imply that the application of the development tool is related to the inner values and motivation of individuals having political power to implement the five components of development to satisfy the individual's basic needs in society.

### **Clarifying the development situations**

As a consequence of man's awareness, the structure of society is being formed, including the political, economic, and socio-cultural aspects, to improve the living conditions in the community.

Boutros-Ghali (1994) described the formulation of society's structure related to the development dimension as the essential measured direction of

development that functions together in an interlocking and mutually reinforcing way in the context of peace, economy, environment, society, and democracy.

"The experience of Singapore, Fajardo (1990), indicated that the development of the private sector will not come out of its own but will have to be promoted and supported by the State through macro and micro-economic policies." Korten (1990) synthesized the definition of development from numerous dialogues as the process by which the members of society increased their personal and institutional capacities to mobilize and manage resources to produce sustainable and justly distributed improvements in their quality of life consistent with their aspiration.

The Holy Qur'an revealed that: "God will not change the condition of the community unless the people in the community change their conditions."

### **Political situation**

The issue centers on the position of individuals and groups holding power and authority. According to Best et al. (1986), authority is the legitimate exercise of power emanating from the position. People who possess power will obtain wealth, and those who have wealth will acquire power. In this respect, Maciver commented, as the consequence of 'power as the source of wealth and wealth as a source of power, the society has to face the effect such as political instability, chaos, and undisciplined people. With this development cannot be reached.

Politicians today are greedy for power and wealth. They are vying for posts in the government, exhausting all their efforts and resources to grab them and hold on to them. Common people use it as a tool to satiate their lust for power and wealth. Ortega emphasized that while expected to render social justice and welfare, the government cannot initiate significant reforms because it manifests the interests of the elite as exemplified by traditional politicians. According to Tiangco (1991), administrative and economic policies are pro-rich.



It elected officials from the president down to the municipal level all come from the rich.

Tan (Capital Gazette,1999) of Sulu Governor describes that the development of Sulu hampering due to the system of governance does not fit the attitude and behavior of the Tausug. The forces of history tempered that for more than three hundred years of aggression into highly steeled characters with a strong sense of individualism and sharp danger.

### **Economic situation**

Bara pointed out: "Resources and production are the lifeblood of any state or region. No country or region can rise until its people erect solid control over its resources. Lanao Lake and the Sulu Sea are among the example of resources whose management is not in the hands of the autonomous region. Lanao lake is the source of energy that provides 75% of the Mindanao power grid, whereas the Sulu Sea provides tuna supply, sardines, and seaweed products. Unfortunately, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) has no control over these resources".

Tiongco (1999) generally observed that: "Our elected officials, from the president to the lowest municipal officials, all came from the rich exploiting 5%. What kind of laws and economic policies then would you expect the rich to promulgate to financially and politically empower the 95% they are exploiting?" According to De Guzman (1992), the accepted system of the national accounts does not provide an accurate understanding of the actual extent of welfare that accrues to the individual members of society.

### **Socio-cultural situations**

Sangkula (1969) describes Suluanos as courageous and freedom-loving people, progress-conscious, and aware of their privileges and obligations as loyal citizens of a democracy, part of a nation, and cherishing their culture as compared to those of other ethnic groups of the Philippines. With these given values, Rasul (1970) pointed out

that the government had neglected the Muslims, who are indeed equally Filipino, and they have suffered isolation and economic dislocation. Hence, they are now struggling for identity to call the attention of the government. This idea was also conveyed by Khan (1961) that Moros in the Philippines had been neglected by the government and had been the object of exploitation by some unscrupulous Filipinos who wanted to take advantage of their illiteracy condition. Glang (1964) observed that there were prejudices of the Philippine Press, the Philippine government, and Non-Muslim groups against the Muslim minorities in the Philippines, which prejudices were biased, unfair, and not good signs for a healthy Philippine Community. It is related to a clash of cultures that affects the development where there is a lack of trust (Rasid).

The effect of discrepancy is social conflicts. This social conflict is rooted in the oppressive structures and systems that allow only a few in our society to control the political process and reap the benefits from the domestic economy (Ortegas, 1999).

The model of development has forgotten the higher values like ethics, morality, and social justice. It strengthens the patriarchal ideology and system. Public life is purely for the pursuit of profit and power.

### **Technological situation**

The development and growth of industry play an essential part in the economic prosperity of the country. And no country can permanently maintain its wealth without industrial progress (Afzal-ur-rahman, 1980). To Hank's belief, Smith (1989) pointed out that the invention of better machines and equipment increased productivity.

Lack of skills, capability, and experiences to manage their affairs is a hindrance to development. An indication that the Sulu is base on the agricultural economy. Aquino (1994) observed that Suluanos still practice traditional agriculture. It is a sign that technological advances are still not accessible to the people. The stumbling block to



increased production is the farmer's indifference to modern methods (Sarahadil).

### Ecological situation

The World Bank Report (1992) says that the development of the environment is an essential part of development. Without adequate environmental protection, it is undermining the development. It is closely linked with the development process, as indicated in the study conducted by Panda (1997). The environmental crisis confronts the world today that has endangered the very basis for human survival. Degradation of natural resources caused by the shift in property rights from communities to state or individual control through increased control and/or privatization.

The destruction of coastal resources (mangrove forests, sea grass beds, and coral reefs that directly and indirectly benefit the coastal areas) results in the rapid reduction of marine animals, causing hardships to the fishing households along the coasts (Chansnoh, 1993).

## 3. Methods

### Study design

Deals with a brief description of the procedures involved in carrying out this research work. This

research study used a descriptive research design to determine the political, economic, socio-cultural, technological, and ecological barriers to development. It employed qualitative and quantitative research approaches. The quantitative data were from the checklist questionnaire, while gathered qualitative data from the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Key Informants (KI).

### Respondents

The study was composed of ten big municipalities of Sulu Province, which have a total population of 488,815.

### Sampling design

The sample size for the random selection of respondents base on Slovin's formula (1960) with a margin error of 0.5. A population of 488,815 resulted in a computed sample size of 400. Of the 400-sample size, each municipality represented proportionately based on the frequency distribution of the population by applying the formula: sample size multiplied by the percentage of the frequency distribution of the population. Table 1 shows the proportionate distributions of samples.

Table 1. The percentage distribution of respondents by municipality

Municipalities	Sample Distribution	% of Distribution
Jolo	72	18%
Indanan	44	11%
Parang	48	12%
Siasi	48	15%
Talipao	60	8%
Luuk	32	7%
Old Panamao	28	7%
Patikul	28	5%
Pangutaran	20	5%
Maimbong	20	5%
Total	400	100%

Table 1 indicates that from 400 samples, each municipality represents proportionately based on

its population's percentage distribution. The 400 samples were distributed in the following



proportions: Jolo got 72 or 18 percent; Indanan got 44 or 11 percent; Parang, 48 or 12 percent; Siasi, 48 or 15 percent; Talipao, 60 or 8 percent; Luuk, 32 or 7 percent; Old Panamao, 28 or 7 percent; Patikul, 28 or 5 percent; Pangutaran, 20 or 5 percent and Maimbong, 20 or 5 percent.

The selection of ten big municipalities was through purposive sampling, while the selection of respondents was through systematic sampling with a random start. Systematic sampling draws by selecting an interval of every one hundred adults, determined based on the estimated number of occupants per house (NSO 2000) after a random start. The outcome of five coins tossed once was based as starting point. For one head, the starting point was from North to South; for two head coins, the starting point was East to West; for three head coins, the starting point was from South to North; for four head coins, the starting point was West to East; and, for five head coins, the starting point was from the center to any direction. For the municipality of Jolo, all barangays were proportionately represented based on the number of populations.

### **Demographic profile of respondents**

The gender of the respondents indicated that 65% (260) were male while 35% (140) were female. The mean age of respondents was 41.44 or 41. The oldest was 59 years old, and the youngest was 25 years old. Mean, 276 or 70% of 400 grouped with senior age category and 120 or 30% under the young age category (all below the mean). The data indicated that the study respondents generally belonged to the middle age group (39-45 years old).

The data revealed that out of 400 respondents, 93% were married, 2% were widowed, and 5% were single. Regarding educational background, about four-fifths (79%) of them finished tertiary, 17% secondary education, 3% elementary education, and one percent with a post-graduate degree. The data manifested that the mean number of children or dependents was three. The lowest was one, and the highest was eleven. Two hundred and ninety-two (292) or 73% of the respondents had one to four children; 44% had three to four dependents; 29% with a dependent of one to two. Among the 280 (70%) respondents, their mean monthly income was P 10,585.00. The lowest was P 5,000.00, and the highest was 20,999.00. Below the mean, 33% of the respondents fell under the income of P 5,000.00 to P 7,999.00. Above the mean, 7% were in the income level of P 120,000.00 to 14,999.00; above the mean, 7% in the P 15,000.00 to 17,999.00 level, and 13% with the income level of P 18,000.00 to 20,999.00. The data disclosed on the occupation of the respondents, 65% were government employees, 18% were in fishing, 15% were in farming, 5% were in business, and 2% were private employees. Regarding the number of Years in Service/Job, the mean year in service or business was 12 years. The lowest was one (1) year, and the highest was 35 years.

### **Profile of the selected municipalities**

The profile of the selected municipalities (Provincial Information Office, 2000) is shown in Table 2 and described below.



Table 2. Profile of selected municipalities

Municipalities	No. of households	Total land area in hectares	Main product	Services
Jolo	12,814	2,220	-	4 Colleges, One University, Ten High school
Indanan	9,132	10,190	Abaca, Seaweed, Cassava, Coconut	2 High Schools
Parang	8,176	9,740	Seaweed, Cassava, Coconut	One High School
Siasi	8,094	10,252	Coffee, Cattle, Cassava, Coconut	One College, 2 High school
Talipao	11,938	14,100	Coffee, Cattle, Cassava, Coconut	One High School
Luuk	6,231	16,710	Seaweed, Cassava, Coconut	One High School
Old Panamao	5,663	5,110	Seaweed, Cassava, Coconut	One High School
Patikul	5,939	17,930	Abaca, Coffee, Seaweed, Coconut	One High School
Pangutaran	4,643	25,810	Atis, Citrus, Seaweed, Coconut	One High School
Maimbong	3,920	4,790	Seaweed, Cassava, Coconut	One High School

The household population stood at 619,430. Jolo has the smallest land area, and Talipao, which accounted for the bulk of the agricultural production, had 11.79% of the total population. Other highly populated municipalities were Siasi, Parang, Indanan, Patikul, Luuk, and Panamao (44.6%). The other ten municipalities had only 43.61% of the population.

The number of households in Sulu reached 98,151. Jolo had the most significant number of households at 12,814 or 13%. This was followed by Talipao (11,938), Indanan (9,132), Parang (8,176) and Siasi (8,094). The average household size was 6.

The population density in Sulu was 377.93 persons per square kilometer. Jolo had a high density of 3,960.7 square kilometers, while island municipalities of Pangutaran were 101 per square meter.

Sulu had a relatively young population. Fifty-nine percent (59%) of the people of Sulu belonged to the economically active group of 15 to 64 years, and Forty-one percent fell under the dependency group.

Each Household had an estimated average

annual income of P 23,850.00 and P 22,482.00 estimated yearly expenditure. Fifty-two percent (52%) of the total households whose yearly income fell within 19,999 and below in the province were deficit spending. Twenty-four percent (23.8%) of the families within the range of P 20,000.00 to 29,999 bracket barely subsisted.

Coconut and cassava were the top agricultural products. The yield per hectare of various crops in Sulu was relatively low.

#### Data gathering procedure

The researcher asked permission from the respective authorities in the areas under study. Traditionally, consent is through visiting the Authorities concerned, informing them of the purpose of the research, and asking for their approval and cooperation. Then, upon granting the request, the researchers and his research assistant, knowledgeable in the area under study, started gathering data by distributing questionnaires to the respondents. The respondents were oriented on the purpose of the study and instructed how to accomplish the instrument. For those who could not understand



English, translating the questionnaires given into the Tausug dialect. Retrieval of the questionnaires immediately done after.

### **Conditions of focus group discussion**

A focus group discussion (FGD) interview (query) with at least six to ten participants. It is conducted simultaneously with a moderator leading the discussion of a specific topic. It is open and Flexible. It allows intensive exploration of opinion, feelings, attitudes, and behaviors not possible through the quantitative method (Sarihani, 2000).

A group of 10 participants was invited on a specific date and time to discuss the problems currently existing in the selected municipalities of Sulu Province as specified in the FGD guide questions. The researcher acted as the facilitator and the research assistant as the secretary.

Each participant answered the questions as instructed individually, and this was followed by sharing ideas. Recording the Focus Group Discussion sessions in audiotapes and transcribing the analysis.

### **FGD participants**

The FGD participants were selected based on the following: the expected respondents have the information sought; Issues were within the respondents' experiences, and the respondents would provide the information.

The barangay officials and other local leaders supplied the prospective respondents who accepted the invitation and attended focus group discussions.

Ninety (90) participants were involved in the FGD. Of the total number, 10 each were from Jolo, Pangutaran and Indanan, 9 each were from Patikul, Parang, Siasi, and Talipao; 8 each from Luuk, Old Panamao, and Maimbong. Conducting one FGD in each municipality. With the average number of participants per focus group, the discussion was nine (9).

### **Profile of FGD**

Of the 90 participants, 66 (73.33%) were males, and 24 (26.67%) were females. Concerning marital status, 76 (84.44%) were married, and 24 (15.56%) were single, including widowed. The educational background of the participants was as follows: 6 (6.67%) with master's degree; 73 (81.11%) with bachelor's degree; and 11 (10.33%) high school graduate. The type of occupation: 20 (22.22%) were businessmen; 30 (33.33%) were in the academy; 12 (13.33%) barangay officials/ community leaders; and 62 (68.89%) head of household. Of the 62 households, 40 (64.52%) were government employees, while 22 (35.48%) were private employees.

### **Research instruments**

The FGD was composed of four items. The questions were: 1. How do you see Sulu ten years from now? 2. How can the development be attained? 3. What barriers do you see to attain this? 4. What can you do to attain this? In the interview, the researchers asked about the system of governance, leadership commitment, the sense of responsibility, and peace and order. In the economic aspect, they asked the participants about infrastructure projects and the adoption of modern technology, in social aspects, asking them about the attitude and mentality of the Tausugs about development. The questions were about coastal resource management, preservation, and control of ecology in the ecological aspect.

The questions were distributed to the respective samples in Jolo, Indanan, Parang, Siasi, Talipao, Luuk, Old Panamao, Patikul, Pangutaran, and Maimbong. The researcher facilitated the distribution, administration, and retrieval of the questionnaires.

### **Validity of instrument**

The three professors of the Mindanao State University-Sulu validated the submitted instrument. Requesting them to pass judgment by rating each item using a three-point scale: 1 - was





poor, 2 - was good, and 3 - was excellent. The analyzed rating was through an analysis of variance. Results (CV was .061 and TV was 3.00) showed no significant difference in the rater's rating who generally rated the items as good.

Before collecting data, the questionnaires were pre-tested among the residence of Panglima Tahil to determine the validity of its contents. Translating the English version into Tausug and verifying the translation's correctness and reliability, translated the Tausug translations back into English.

Conducted a retest among 30 residents of the mentioned municipality who were not included in the study to further determine the instrument's reliability. The data were measured using split-half reliability coefficients, and the questionnaires had a reliability coefficient of 0.80. The result indicated that there was reliability. The phase of validation dealt with the problems of phraseology and terminology.

Strongly Agree	-	1
Agree	-	2
Disagree	-	3
Strongly Disagree	-	4

Disagree indicated that there were barriers to development except in the peace and order problem (Agree would mean barriers to development). The respondents' responses on the statement of the development were analyzed using the mean and standard deviation. The percentages, the equivalent of the Z-scores, were used to determine the response category. The group means were ranked from the highest to the lowest score to determine which would significantly affect the development. In the analysis, the higher the score, the more significant was its negative impact on development. The peace and order problem was the opposite; the lower the score, the greater its negative effect on development.

The respondents' suggestion on attaining the development in Sulu was categorized according to the similarities and patterns and was analyzed using frequency and percentage distribution. Focus

### Statistical treatment of data

The statistical tools utilized in the analysis and interpretation of data were as follows: (1) frequency and percentage to describe and compare magnitude. (2) weighted average (mean) to analyze the assigned points in the Likert Scales. (3) score to convey the distance from the mean, and (4) ranks to describe the positional importance of the item with other items.

The data was acquired through the questionnaire and tabulated correctly and analyzed—the concept of development utilized frequency count and percentage Interpreting range interval of 1- 2.5 as Agree and 2.5 – 4.0 as Disagree. The following weight measures barriers to development:

group discussion sessions were transcribed, classified, and analyzed to meet the objectives of the study.

## 4. Results

### The perceived barrier to development

The focus group discussion (FGD) participants felt that Sulu was going backward. They mainly mentioned that political, economic, socio-cultural, technological, and ecological aspects affected the development of Sulu.

### Political aspect

The political factors reexamined in this research were governance, leadership, and peace and order. The governance includes the bureaucracy, public accountability, and administration of social justice.

Establishing the bureaucracy to attain specific goals. The goals centered on six statements stated



in table 3A, which obtained a weighted mean of 2.67 and a standard deviation of .89. Spearheading the development program had a mean of 2.22 with a standard deviation of .95. Working for the general welfare obtained a mean of 2.71 and a standard deviation of .86. Supporting the marketing of local products obtained a mean of 2.90 and a standard deviation of .94. The mean score and standard deviation for centralization of financial resources were 2.34 and .73, respectively. Protecting the fishermen from the exploitation of multi-national capitalists obtained a mean score and standard deviation of 3.02 and, 92 respectively. The administrative policy got a mean score of 2.85 and a standard deviation of .91.

Public accountability is concerned about the public offices' commitment to their duties and responsibilities. It has a weighted mean of 3.28 and a standard deviation of .75. It indicated that most of the respondents disagreed with three statements under obligation, as shown in table 3B

The administration of social justice is concerned with six quarries shown in table 3C, which obtained a group means of 3.22 with a standard deviation of .66, falling under disagree. It indicated that respondents perceived that the behavior and practices of the concerned officers were not in line with social justice.

Table 3. Mean responses on bureaucracy, accountability, and administration of social justice

A. Bureaucracy	Mean	Standard Deviation
The local government spearheads the development program.	2.22	0.95
The local government works for the welfare of many, not just a few.	2.71	0.86
The concerned government agency is active in supporting the marketing of local products of cottage industries/ farms.	2.90	0.94
Centralization of financial resources causes red tape.	2.34	0.73
Protect the fishermen from the exploitation of the multi-national capitalists utilizing sophisticated fishing vessels.	3.02	0.92
The administrative policy is pro-poor	2.85	0.91
Overall Mean and Standard deviation	2.67	0.89

B. Public accountability	Mean	Standard Deviation
Political officials (elected officials) are doing their duties and responsibilities.	3.26	0.62
Use the government money wisely.	3.24	0.77
Graft and corruption are seldom (rarely) practiced among politicians.	3.35	0.85
Overall mean and standard deviation	3.28	0.75



C. Administration of social justice	Mean	Standard Deviation
Human rights are respected.	3.30	0.64
Ensure the welfare of the people.	3.29	0.66
Ensure the security of the people.	3.23	0.73
The Philippine judicial system is in harmony with the Tausug customs and traditions in solving crimes.	3.16	0.66
The Philippine judicial system is fast in solving crimes.	3.17	0.65
The Philippine judicial system encourages the Tausug to report the suspect/accused.	3.27	0.68
The Philippine judicial system is pro-poor	3.09	0.63
Overall mean and standard deviation	3.22	0.66

Category: Below 2.5 – Agree; Above 2.5 – Disagree

### Leadership

The leadership function examines through leadership personality such as transactional and transformational. As shown in Table 4A, the leadership personality obtained an overall group mean of 3.01 and a standard deviation of .75. It revealed that the respondents perceived that the character of political leaders was neither transactional nor transformational.

The peace and order obtained a cumulative average mean and standard deviation of 1.75 and .79, respectively, as shown in Table 4B. The data revealed that the majority of the respondents perceived that peace and order problems were related to the dynasty system, personal grudges/family feuds where military operation caused havoc and destruction to property, and displacement of civilians from their community.

Table 4. Mean of responses on leadership personality, peace and order problem

A. Transactional Personality	Mean	Standard Deviation
The political leaders are responsive to the needs and demands of the residents.	3.43	.55
The political leaders are straightforward in matters of decision-making.	2.88	.78
The political leaders are impartial in providing development programs.	2.76	.90
Group mean and standard deviation	3.02	.74
Transformational personality		
The political leaders are visionary.	2.92	.82
Political leaders are concerned with freedom.	2.89	.77
Political leaders are concerned with equality and justice.	3.08	.80
Group Mean and Standard Deviation	2.96	.80
Overall Mean and Standard Deviation	3.01	.73
B. Peace and order problems	Mean	Standard Deviation
The dynasty system does affect the development of Sulu.	1.71	.67
Personal grudges/ family feuds do affect the development of Sulu.	2.10	1.0
Land disputes do affect the development of Sulu.	1.60	.66
Military operations do cause havoc and destruction to property.	1.67	.82
Military operations do cause displacement of civilians from their community.	1.65	.78
Overall Group Mean and Standard Deviation	1.75	.79

Category: Below 2.5 – Agree; Above 2.5 – Disagree

### Economic aspect

The economic aspect examines through the

accessibility of capital and the basic needs and infrastructures. Table 5A, on average, the



accessibility of capital had a mean score and standard deviation of 2.89 and .72, respectively. The data manifested that the respondents perceived that the financial institutions were not accessible to the community.

Infrastructure Facilities refer to physical facilities that the local government provides to serve the interest of the public. As shown in Table 5B, on average, the respondents' perception of the infrastructure facilities had a mean score and standard deviation of 3.02 and .63, respectively. It

meant that the respondents perceived that the infrastructure facilities were inadequate, inappropriate, and of low quality.

Basic Services refers to two essential services such as clean water and electric power. Table 5C shows the average responses on basic needs, which fell under the category of disagreeing, where the average mean score of 2.92 and standard deviation of 1.00. It indicated the respondents perceived that clear water and electric power were inadequate for every community.

Table 5. Mean of responses on accessibility of capital, infrastructure, and basic needs

A. Capital (accessibility to financial assistance)	Mean	Standard Deviation
There is access to small business units to financial institutions to stimulate economic activities.	2.73	.72
There is a project to provide revolving funds (soft loans) to enable villagers to initiate income-generating activities.	2.73	.82
The local government is active in supporting/ initiating the marketing of local products/ cottage industries.	3.00	.59
The local government grants financial assistance to the poor population.	3.01	.73
Development interventions like an income-generating project by the local government and non-government organizations are adequate.	3.00	.73
Overall Mean and Standard Deviation	2.89	.72
B. Infrastructure	Mean	Standard Deviation
Infrastructure facilities for the development of your community are adequate.	3.11	.54
Infrastructure facilities are appropriate to the need of the residents.	2.97	.68
Infrastructure facilities are of good quality.	2.98	.67
Overall Mean and Standard Deviation	3.02	.63
C. Accessibility to basic needs	Mean	Standard Deviation
Clean water is adequate and accessible to everybody in the community.	2.92	1.00
Electric power is adequate and accessible to everybody in the community.	2.97	1.02
Overall Mean and Standard Deviation	2.94	1.01

Category: Below 2.5 – Agree; Above 2.5 – Disagree

### Socio-cultural aspect

The socio-cultural aspect expresses in terms of attitude, mentality, and literacy. Attitude showed in table 6A obtained an overall mean of 2.19 and a standard deviation of .82. The respondents

perceived that the traditional bond on family is still intact. They appreciate the introduction of modern technology. However, they believed that 'crab mentality is typical among the Tausug.

Literacy refers to the educational system that



influences the lifestyle of the people. Response on literacy had a mean score and standard deviation of 2.22 and .67, respectively, as shown in Table 6B. It indicated that respondents perceived that literacy had a negative impact on the values Tausug. The educational system led to dependence on the government for job opportunities and the

curriculum oriented toward a white-collar job. It changed the values of Tausug from "adat-centric to secular-centric." It also changed the values of Tausug from close family ties to individualism. The respondents perceived that educational standard was a problem.

Table 6. Mean of responses on the attitude of the people and literacy

A. The attitude of the People	Mean	Standard Deviation
The traditional bond which ties together both the family and community is still intact.	2.49	.68
The Tausug appreciate the introduction of modern tools/ technology in their community.	2.06	.81
"Crab Mentality" (Putting down those on the top position) is typical among Tausugs.	2.01	.96
Overall Mean and Standard Deviation	2.19	.82
B. Literacy	Mean	Standard Deviation
The educational system does lead an individual to be dependent on the government for job opportunities.	2.34	.80
The educational curriculum orients toward a white-collar job.	2.06	.51
Education does change the values of Tausugs from adat-centric to secular-centric.	2.34	.49
Education does change the value of Tausugs from close family ties to individualism.	2.29	.64
Educational standard in Sulu is a problem.	2.09	.91
Overall Mean and Standard Deviation	2.22	.67

Category: Below 2.5 – Agree; Above 2.5 – Disagree

### Technological aspect

The technological aspect looks upon the transfer of technology through course offerings of educational institutions, technological assistance from local government, and the promotion of indigenous technology. The responses on the technological aspect, as shown in table 7, on average, obtained a mean score of 2.91 and a standard deviation of .75, which fall under the category of disagreeing assistance on farming and

fishing, were inadequate. The courses offering by educational institutions are not appropriate to the development need of Sulu. Due to the absence of appropriate technology, farming and fishing were still applying traditional techniques. Modern techniques of fish and fruit preservation were not available. Modern methods of processing coffee, copra, and seaweeds were not also available. The local government is not promoting indigenous.



Table 7. Mean of responses on technological transfer

Technological Transfer	Mean	Standard Deviation
Technological assistance in farming is adequate.	3.01	.82
Technological assistance in fishing is adequate.	3.02	.82
Courses offered by educational institutions in Sulu are appropriate for Sulu's development needs.	2.79	.88
Sulu lags in development due to the absence of appropriate technology.	2.49	.73
Farming practices are no longer utilizing traditional techniques.	3.13	.66
Fishing practices are no longer utilizing traditional techniques.	3.13	.66
The local government is promoting indigenous technology.	2.81	.91
Modern techniques of fruit preservation are available in Sulu.	2.96	.59
Modern techniques of fish preservation are available in Sulu.	2.89	.65
Modern methods of seaweeds processing are available in Sulu.	3.04	.60
Modern methods of Copra processing are adequate in Sulu.	2.88	.63
Modern methods of coffee processing are available in Sulu.	2.77	.69
Overall mean and standard deviation	2.91	.72

Category: Below 2.5 – Agree; Above 2.5 – Disagree

### Ecological aspect

The ecological aspect examines in terms of coastal management and forest protection. As shown in Table 8A, the average mean score and standard deviation on coastal management were 2.91 and .75, respectively. The local government and residents have no initiative to conserve mangroves and the protection of marine life. They do not prohibit quarrying of gravel and sands along the coastal lines.

Marine life protection deals with three important living resources: the river, seagrass beds, and coral reefs, which directly or indirectly benefit the

communities in the coastal areas. In table 8B, all items fell under the category agree, and it had an overall group mean of 1.91 and a standard deviation of .59. The respondents perceived that dynamite and cyanide fishing, including coral collection, were still practice.

Forest protection refers to the prohibition of cutting trees. Tree planting is not encouraged, and cutting is not prohibited as indicated in table 8C that forest protection obtained a weighted mean of 2.52 and standard deviation of .84.

Table 8. Mean of responses on coastal management, marine life protection, and forest protection

A. Coastal management	Mean	Standard Deviation
The local government and residents initiate the conservation of mangroves for the protection of marine life.	3.06	.59
Local government agencies prohibit quarrying of gravel and sands along the coastal lines.	2.76	.84
Overall mean and standard deviation	2.91	.72
B. Marine life protection	Mean	Standard Deviation
Still, practice dynamite fishing.	1.82	.52
Still practicing cyanide fishing.	1.82	.52
Still practicing the coral collection.	2.09	.74
Overall group mean and standard deviation	1.91	.59
C. Forest protection	Mean	Standard Deviation
Tree planting is encouraged by the concerned agency.	2.25	.83
The local government prohibits the cutting of trees.	2.79	.84
Overall mean and standard deviation	2.52	.84

Category: Below 2.5 – Agree; Above 2.5 – Disagree



## 5. Discussion

### Perceived barriers of development of Sulu (political aspect)

Among the political factors reexamined in this research were governance, leadership, and peace and order. The governance includes the bureaucracy, public accountability, and administration of social justice.

"Politics refers to the operation of the government." The key instrument in attaining the objective of development is the State Institution that will be at the disposal of the leadership; the executive-legislative and judicial branches whose structure, human resources expertise, and logistics should be utilized wisely for the collective endeavor (Constantino et al., 1991: 22-23).

Marcos (1981) cited the definition of social justice by Chief Justice Laurel: "It means the promotion of the welfare of the people, through the maintenance of proper economic and social equilibrium in the inter-relations of the community members." Table 3 implies that there was no generation of good governance. An indication was that the administrative policy was pro-rich, and the centralization of finances caused Red Tapes. The development programs are for a selected few. Support the marketing of local products or cottage industries. There were no protections for The fishermen from the capitalists' exploitation in implementing the laws that protect them. Concerning the respondents' responses, Ortega emphasized considering the relevance of the political aspect to the existing conditions in the country. The government expects to initiate significant reforms but because it is diverted by the interest of the elite as exemplified by traditional politicians. In many instances, an elected official is more inclined to serve his private interest primarily and give his public duties only secondary importance. According to Sapru (1981), the public servants have tendered to exercise political function, and they abuse their power. According to the observation of Tiangco (1991) that elected

officials from the president to municipal level came from the rich 5%. It significantly implied that you could not expect the laws and economic policies promulgates to financially and politically empower the 95% the rich are exploiting. In this respect, Maciver commented, as the consequence of 'power as a source of wealth and wealth as a source of power, the society has to face the effect such as political instability, chaos, and undisciplined people.

As pointed out in a table, the government officials are not doing their duties and responsibilities. Many of them were not using government money wisely in addition to graft and corruption. According to Pimentel (2003), the over-concentration of powers in the central government slowed down the decision-making process and stymied national development. He emphasized that the unitary system concentrated all resources needed to develop a nation at the hands of the central government located in Manila (Repadas, 2002). The bureaucratic maze interlaced with self-serving officials blamed for the trickling of development, especially in the countryside (Ortega). Espiritu (1990) cited that the officials handling requests may pass them on to the next in authority, make time before acting on them, or delay the action by requiring a lot of information or more paperwork. Signifying this process as "Red Tape."

Table 3 shows that the administration of social justice was pro-rich and was not concerned about human rights and the welfare of the majority. It conflicted with the Tausug customs and traditions in resolving crimes, and its slowness in resolving crimes caused reluctance on the Tausug to obey the law.

The governor of Sulu, Sakur M. Tan, believed that Sulu development hampers due to the system of governance that does not fit with the attitude and behavior of Tausug... (1999).

On leadership personality (Table 4), the leader was neither transactional nor transformational, resulting in a negative effect on the development of



the community. The leaders were not responsive to the needs and demands of the residents. They were not trustworthy, for they were partial in providing development programs. They were not visionary, not concerned with freedom, equality, and justice. The effect was similar to the finding of Fajardo that nepotism and extravagance, and other similar habits erode all plans and programs of development. Thus, the leaders were not concerned with the grass-root sentiment that gradually improves the peace and order situation, according to Logman and James (1982).

According to Eliasi (1994), real peace and order depend mainly on the sense of security developed by firm justice administration, guided by time evidence. Table 4 indicates that the unstable peace and order perceived as a barrier to development. In effect, the military operation causes havoc and destruction of the property and disturbances in the community living conditions. Focus Group Discussion (FGD) pointed out that the residents often had the victims, not the lawless elements. The Secretary-General of the United Nations says that cannot sustain development without peace, and sustainable human development cannot sustain peace without indigenous. "Peace and security are the prerequisites to sustainable development. According to Ranario (1999), armed conflict disrupts the economic life and causes physical injuries, separation, and loss of family, and develops a sense of distrust toward the government for not making their effort in attending to the need for social justice.

Table 5 indicated that inaccessibility to financial institutions caused the people in the community to remain in a state of hardship since they have no working capital to finance their income-generating projects. Inaccessibility to financial institutions attributes to stringent requirements is imposed by government banks, according to Aquino (1994). He pointed out that Sulu has insufficient credit and is suffering from financial crises. It implies that only those who have access to existing resources- the rich-can- can afford to invest heavily in producing

more incredible wealth that cab makes them affluent. While the poor have very little to invest, their productivity remains low, and they stay poor. The inaccessibility of capital can be considered a contributory factor as a barrier to development.

On the socio-cultural aspect, the perceived barriers were the attitude and mentality of the Tausug in addition to literacy. On the attitude, the traditional bonds that held the family and the community were no longer attached to their daily lives. It signified that there was volatile unity among the people in the community.

Crab mentality was typical among the Tausug. The majority of the respondents perceived that this mentality was one of the causes of no progress in the community.

Literacy had a negative impact on the Tausug values. The change of Tausug values from adat-centric to secular-centric and closed family ties to individualism changed Tausug's outlook. They became dependent on the government for job opportunities and orients toward white-collar jobs.

Lack of skills, capability, and experiences to manage their affairs are the hindrance to development. An indication of this is that Sulu anchored on the agricultural economy. Aquino (1994) observed that Suluanos still practice traditional agriculture. It is a sign that technological advances are still not accessible to the people, in addition to their indifferences of the use of modern methods, according to Sarahadil (1995).

The technological transfer was not accessible to the people in the community, and they were still utilizing traditional farming and fishing techniques. Modern methods or techniques of fish and fruits preservation and copra and seaweed processing were not available in Sulu. The absence of appropriate technology considers as one of the causes of regression of Sulu.

In the ecological aspect, coastal management was not appropriately and adequately implemented. There is no proper way observed on the quarrying of gravel and sand along the coastal





line. The fishermen were not aware of protecting the marine life environment, and they still used dynamite and cyanide in catching fish, and they still collected corals. It implied that the concerned agencies and the residents lacked awareness about ecologies closely linked with the environment process. The environmental extremity that confronts the world today has endangered the very basis of human survival. Degradation of natural resources caused by the shift in property rights from communities to state or individual control through increased control and/or privatization.

“Forest is vital elements for human development” (Global issues, 2000). Destruction of coastal resources (mangrove forest, sea grass beds, and coral reefs that directly and indirectly benefit the communities in coastal areas) result in the rapid reduction of marine animals, causing hardships to the fishing households along the coast (Chansoh, 1993)

## 6. Conclusions

From the findings, drew the following conclusions:

The Tausug concept of development sustained capacity to achieve a better life for all the members of the society attained through the congruency of the development functions. These functions were political, economic, socio-cultural, technological, and ecological aspects that revolved around the power structure of participatory politics, equity, appropriateness, conscientization, and ecology that provided a better condition of life for the people in the community.

As perceived by the respondents, the development policies were not within the context of the Alternative Model of Development. In politics, governance was poor, as manifested by a weak bureaucracy, lack of commitment to public accountability, and malpractices in the administration of social justices.

The bureaucratic position was an indicator of one's personal achievement and not something that implied a more significant challenge to one's

dedication and abilities.

The notion that public office was the public trust replaced the self-serving idea that public office was the source of wealth and wealth was a source of power. Thus, money became the way to political office, and political office became more money. As a consequence of 'power as a source of wealth and wealth as a source of power,' Sulu had to face the effects such as political immaturity, chaos, and undisciplined people.

Sulu had not produced a leader as a protector and defender of freedom who was just committed to the well-being of his people. It had shown that elected leaders usually served those interest groups to which they owed loyalty and those groups had enough political power in the community. Blood relationships still prevailed over reasons.

Peace and order were detrimental to development—military approaches to resolve conflicts provided adverse effects on the residents' social and economic well-being.

On the economic aspect, the concern for people and how best to provide them with materials means to help them realize their full potential were not the government's priority. The stringent requirements of the government banks were the manifestation that the government was not concerned about granting financial assistance to small business units and poor people of the community. Essential services, like portable water and electricity, were inadequate and inaccessible to the community.

Lack of capital and investors, low access to credit, market, and technology, and the lack of access to essential social and economic services were obstacles to development.

The socio-cultural aspect had a negative effect on development because of the negative attitudes and values ingrained by harsh realities on people. The Tausug values changed from adat-centric to secular-centric, from spiritual to worldly desires and closed to family ties to individualism. Brainwash by the political system that promoted money as the defining purpose of society. Work preference oriented toward white-collar jobs. They



became dependent on the government for job opportunities. Traditional bonds were no longer vital to bind family and community together. Though Tausugs appreciated the modern methods or technology, this outweighs by the crab mentality.

The technological aspect was considered a barrier to development since the technological transfer was inadequate and inaccessible to the people in the community. An indication was that the farmers and fishermen were still utilizing traditional techniques, and modern techniques of fish and fruit preservation, copra, and seaweed processing were not available in Sulu. Likewise, courses offered by educational institutions in Sulu are not appropriate for Sulu's development needs.

On the Ecological aspect, coastal management was not properly and adequately implemented. An indication was that the fishermen were still collecting corals and utilizing dynamite and cyanide to catch fish and the presence of sophisticated fishing vessels operating within the 15 nautical miles limits of municipal, territorial water of Sulu province that destroyed corals and other marine ecology. There is no proper procedure observed in the quarrying of gravel and sand along the coastal line. Through the concerned agency prohibited the cutting of trees and encouraged the planting of trees, the residents were still unaware of the conservation of the mangrove for protection of the marine life.

## 7. Acknowledgement

This research work is motivated by the situation that affects the development of Sulu. With deep appreciation, the researchers are grateful to those who, in one way or another, had led them in the right direction and full realization to finish the work. They sincerely expresses their thanks and profound gratitude to all of them.

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