

**THE FISHERMEN'S VILLAGE:
A CASE STUDY OF A BAGONG LIPUNAN IMPROVEMENT OF
SITES AND SERVICES PROJECT IN BAGO APLAYA, TALOMO,
DAVAO CITY**

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I. INTRODUCTION

In spite of man's unprecedented progress in industry, education and the sciences, the lack of a simple refuge affording privacy and protection against both natural and man-made elements has constantly plagued the majority of the people, especially those in the lower income classes. This lack of adequate shelter and the search for effective and feasible solutions has been a constant preoccupation of national planners.

In consonance with this, the Bagong Lipunan Improvement of Sites and Services, otherwise known as BLISS, was launched as a national development strategy on 9 January 1979 through the issuance of Executive Order 517. The aim of BLISS is "to demonstrate the integrative benefits and to bring forth the essential services of the government in the service of man." The emphasis on man as the center of all forms of social and economic development calls for the provision of basic social services needed by man, including, among others, water facilities, power, adequate shelter, medical services, sports and recreation, and livelihood opportunities.

II. PROJECT BACKGROUND

BLISS entails the improvement of housing and land resource utilization. Its more strategic aspect, however, is the development of the community's economic base and the teaching of values of cooperation and self-reliance.

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BLISS lays the foundation of model human settlement either by locating it in a new site which has better and more facilities or by improving the lot of a depressed community. The attendant increase in income among households could then enable the beneficiaries to meet their basic needs.

This working strategy applies to every model community site being developed under the BLISS program. Implemented in both rural and urban communities, the BLISS program is involved in the establishment of model communities where the basic needs of man are fulfilled in part through government assistance and through the efforts and initiatives of the community residents. These communities are expected to stimulate the growth of surrounding communities, thus spreading progress at the grassroots level.

In the rural areas, the BLISS project entails the development of three types of model communities. The Level I model is envisioned as a neighborhood community of 50-100 families, complete with basic services. The Level II model is an agro-industrial community of 100-500 families in an area of 50-100 hectares, complete with basic services as well as a viable industry to serve the economic needs of the locality. The Level III model is an ecological community, with an area of more than 200 hectares and 500 resident families, complete with basic services and essential facilities designed to intensify agricultural production.

The major features of these model communities include the provision of low cost but comfortable houses made of local materials to residents, payable through amortization, and the organization of residents into an association responsible for managing the community and its projects. Through the help of other cooperating agencies, community members are trained in various aspects of community development as well as in basic management and production. In order to provide the community with additional income, the residents are being assisted in putting up livelihood projects.

The program has seven specific features, namely:

1. Shelter and livelihood

Under the shelter and livelihood program, houses shall be designed and constructed to provide the minimum basic space for a healthful and enjoyable living for the average Filipino family. Indigenous construction materials and local architectural motifs are to be incorporated in the housing designs, thus reflecting Filipino traditions, culture and beliefs. The program shall demonstrate that the

provision of shelter with accompanying income-generating projects is a viable strategy for development. A combination of mutually supportive rural enterprises will be selected and promoted in each site on the basis of market conditions, local availability of materials, technical support, state of available technology, and the capabilities of the client population.

2. Reorientation of attitudes on land ownership, use and management

The program seeks to reorient the residents' attitudes and values regarding the use and management of land as a social resource in contrast to the traditional concept of land as a commodity of trade (freehold). Under the usufruct arrangement, the control, disposition and jurisdiction of the land would be in the hands of the government and the beneficiaries would only be entitled to use and enjoy the fruits of the land. The program will demonstrate a system where security of tenure, lower loan repayments, and income-generating projects are assured by the government.

3. Community resource management

The community resource base will provide the starting point for determining the appropriate mix of rural enterprise, the nature and magnitude of resource supply and utilization, and the integration of various enterprises to ensure that food production and energy generation projects capable of providing the basic community needs for food and power, among others, are appropriately tapped within the area.

4. Self-reliance

The Bagong Lipunan Sites shall be developed into self-sufficient communities through the integrated delivery of the eleven basic needs under the Ministry of Human Settlements concept. It will demonstrate that even the "poorest among the poor" are capable of improving their quality of life provided they are properly motivated and willing to commit their own available resources.

5. Technology transfer

With the active participation of the people, appropriate labor-intensive technologies will be promoted in the community to improve the productivity and growth prospects of rural enterprises and the quality of life of communities and households. Each site will

be developed with technologies adapted to the areas, and will subsequently harness technologies developed and generated in each area.

6. Countryside mobilization

The program is premised on the concept of maximizing the involvement of the national government and the beneficiaries through a network of effective institutional linkages. Thus, the program is a viable mechanism for the mobilization of the government and the people for countryside development.

7. Institutional development

Institution building activities will be undertaken through the Bagong Lipunan Community Association (BLCA), which is the organizational vehicle for change and development. The institutional development thrust of the program starts with the encouragement of people to participate in the community-level planning process, then proceeds with the provision of training for association management and skill development and eventually goes into periodic reviews and assessments which develop the beneficiaries' decision-making capabilities.

Besides serving the basic needs of the residents and training them in self-reliance, the model community also fulfills other roles to stimulate the growth of surrounding communities, as follows:

- (a) Technology outpost — to showcase low simple technologies appropriate to Philippine conditions.
- (b) Demonstration center — to provide an outpost for the extension of service facilities to neighboring areas and spread valuable information needed in improving the lives of the rural people.
- (c) Production and marketing center — to develop rural industries to create employment opportunities and stimulate the growth of surrounding areas.

In Davao City, the BLISS project is located in Bago Aplaya, Talomo District. It is known as the Fishermen's Village and was implemented through the concerted efforts of the Davao City government and other government agencies led by the Ministry of Local Governments with the end in view of improving the living conditions of selected beneficiaries in the relocation area.

III. STUDY OBJECTIVES

The general objective of the project is to find out whether the program's goal to upgrade and improve the quality of life of the selected fifty families/beneficiaries in the area has been achieved.

Specifically the study seeks to answer the following queries:

1. Did any change in the life of the beneficiaries occur?
2. Was the change the one intended?
3. What was accomplished relative to the immediate goal?

Finally, the study hopes to provide information on the impact of the BLISS project on the beneficiaries as regards their socioeconomic condition and well-being. The results of the study will hopefully aid planners and implementors of the BLISS program in improving and modifying strategies with greater assurance of success.

Methodology

The methodology employed in the conduct of the study is more of a case study approach, utilizing the individual household as a unit of analysis. The data will be subjected to a type of analysis that is based on the hypothesis that the BLISS program is an effective tool in providing essential services which will upgrade the quality of life of families in depressed communities. To test this hypothesis, the study utilized both primary and secondary data. Secondary data consist primarily of the baseline information gathered from the household survey of the beneficiaries conducted in 1979 and from a compendium of related documents from the Ministry of Human Settlements, Ministry of Local Governments and Community Development and the National Economic and Development Authority. Primary data, meanwhile, consisting of basic information needed in the study were gathered by the use of structured interview schedule. These were supplemented with information gathered through personal interviews and observations during the researcher's visits to the area.

Responses were tabulated to allow comparisons along factors touching on the quality of life of the household beneficiaries in a two-time frame (1979 and 1982).

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Target Community

The beneficiaries of the BLISS community used to occupy public land. Their area is traversed by a creek along the eastern position, and during high tide, the water level rises and submerges the area. To facilitate access to the slum area, makeshift footbridges are constructed.

The area is congested—a situation leading to unsanitary conditions. The dwelling units are small and generally made of very light, salvaged materials. Community facilities are also inadequate, if not completely absent. Furthermore, access to various basic services in neighboring communities is difficult. Water sources, for example, are contaminated, except for a free flowing resource for both bathing and washing. The drinking water of most families consists of rain-water collected in water tanks.

There is no proper waste disposal system. Most households use the “wrap-and-throw” method. This poor environmental sanitation aggravates the problem of malnutrition and health conditions of infants and children. Low resistance to infection due to poor nutrition accounts for the high incidence of diseases which is further aggravated by lack of health facilities, medical/health personnel, and the relatively high cost of hospital fees.

From a list of the households surveyed, a total of fifty families were chosen to make up the BLISS community. Prospective beneficiaries had to meet the following:

1. He must be a head of the family, earning a monthly income of at least two hundred pesos up to a maximum of five hundred pesos¹ and in general, capable of paying a monthly loan amortization ranging from ₱50 to ₱127 for a housing loan of ₱10,000 payable in 15 to 25 years at an interest rate of 6-9 percent per annum;
2. He must be a member of the Shelter Savings Program;
3. He must not own any real estate;²

1. Considering the terms of loan and free cost of development, beneficiaries are limited to those who are relatively poor. Thus, a maximum monthly income of ₱500 is suggested. In case of more qualified applicants, a raffle would decide who should be the first beneficiaries of the program.

2. Since the program is designed for people to own homes and lots, those who already own one are disqualified.

4. He must have been a resident of the town for more than a year;
5. He must be residing in a slum area, inasmuch as the rationale for the whole program is to improve and upgrade the living conditions of those living in slum areas;
6. He must be working near the site or the neighborhood. This is because a person living near his place of work has an economic advantage insofar as loan repayment is concerned.
7. He must be sixty-five years of age at the time of the maturity of the loan; otherwise the term of the loan will have to be adjusted in accordance with his retirement age. This is in connection with the borrower's ability to pay;
8. He must not have been a prior beneficiary of the government housing program. This is in connection with the government's desire to extend help to as many people as possible;
9. He must be a natural born Filipino; and
10. He must be a fisherman by profession.

The Model Community

Davao City's BLISS project, otherwise known as the Fishermen's Village, was launched for the purpose of improving/upgrading the quality of life of fifty chosen family-beneficiaries who were taken from their place of residence, a depressed area some 500 meters east of the present site. The Fishermen's Village is a two-hectare government-owned property, bounded by the Ideal Subdivision and other private properties in the north; by the PME father's residence in the east; by the remaining portion of the Bastida property in the west; and by the Gulf of Davao in the south. It is generally plain, traversed by a creek along its west portion. Land use is agricultural in character. The place is accessible through two different routes. One is through the junction of the Davao-Cotabato Highway and the Bago Aplaya Barangay Road which traverses the community towards the private road of the PME fathers; the other is through the Ideal Subdivision road from the junction of the Davao-Cotabato National Road.

Demographic Characteristics

The population is composed of 50 households. However, only 49 households were covered in the study. These comprise a total indivi-

dual population of 309 with an average household size of 6.3. Most were born within the Talomo area while others came from the Visayas (14 percent) and Mindanao (12 percent). Fifty-five percent of the population are under 20 years of age.

Information on the educational attainment of the population shows that 48 percent are elementary graduates. Of those who attended high school, only 11 or about 19 percent completed secondary education. Of the total population, only four were able to enter college. Not one, however, earned a college degree.

Economic Characteristics

Among the economically active population of 179, only a total of 97 persons were employed. Others were either students or housekeepers. The distribution of population by main occupation is reflected in Table 1. The distribution by class of worker and status of employment is provided in Tables 1-3.

TABLE 1
DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY MAIN OCCUPATION, MALE AND FEMALE: FISHERMEN'S VILLAGE, BAGO APLAYA, TALOMO, DAVAO CITY, MARCH 1982

<i>Main occupation</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Per- cent</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Per- cent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Per- cent</i>
Clerical workers	1	1.2	1	5.9	2	2.1
Sales workers	0	—	3	17.6	3	3.1
Farmers, fishermen, hunter, loggers & related workers	58	72.5	0	—	58	59.8
Workers in transport & communication	1	1.2	0	—	1	1.0
Service, sport & related workers	1	1.2	9	52.9	10	10.3
Stevedores & related freight handlers, laborers	11	13.8	0	—	11	11.3
Not stated	8	10.0	4	23.5	12	12.4
Total	80	100.0	17	100.0	97	100.0

TABLE 2
DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY CLASS OF WORKER AND BY SEX:
FISHERMEN'S VILLAGE, BAGO APLAYA, TALOMO,
DAVAO CITY, MARCH 1982

<i>Class of worker</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Per- cent</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Per- cent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Per- cent</i>
Private employee	14	17.5	2	11.8	16	16.5
Government employee	14	17.5	1	5.9	15	15.5
Self-employed	29	36.2	5	29.4	34	35.1
Employer	0	—	5	29.4	5	5.1
Unpaid family worker	23	28.8	4	23.5	27	27.8
Total	80	100.0	17	100.0	97	100.0

TABLE 3
DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY STATUS OF EMPLOYMENT
AND BY SEX: FISHERMEN'S VILLAGE, BAGO APLAYA, TALOMO,
DAVAO CITY, MARCH 1982

<i>Employment status</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Per- cent</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Per- cent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Per- cent</i>
Permanent	46	57.5	9	52.9	55	56.7
Temporary/Casual	14	17.5	5	29.4	19	19.6
Contractual	8	10.0	0	—	8	8.2
Seasonal	12	15.0	3	17.6	15	15.5
Total	80	100.0	17	99.9	97	100.0

Living Conditions and Other Community Facilities

Housing facilities in the BLISS community consist of a total of 50 dwelling units constructed for the same number of beneficiaries by the BLISS housing contractor. The cost of those units (each of

which had its own septic tank) came to ₱500,000. Each house is a single detached unit consisting of a bedroom, a kitchen, a living room, a balcony, and a toilet. Construction materials are a combination of concrete and indigenous materials. Roofing is made up of nipa shingles and walls are of chopped and flattened bamboos (*salasa*). Floorings are made of strips of bamboo.

Electricity in the BLISS community is provided by the Davao Light and Power Company, and households pay depending on the number of kilowatt-hours used. Street lighting is funded by the Davao City government. The amounts spent for power construction/installation by both Davao Light and Power Company and the Davao City government were estimated at ₱15,000 and ₱10,000, respectively. For cooking, most of the households still use wood (75.5 percent).

There was no sewerage used by the BLISS beneficiaries before the BLISS project. Sewage was simply disposed of through open canals or thrown in pits, rivers and elsewhere. Before the BLISS project, only nine households had septic tanks for sewerage. It was only after the BLISS project was completed that the sewerage improved. However, although the housing units have their own septic tanks, only 86 percent of the households utilize them; the rest still use open canals for sewage disposal. The household distribution by type of toilet facilities used before the BLISS project is shown in Table 4.

TABLE 4
HOUSEHOLD DISTRIBUTION BY TYPE OF TOILET FACILITIES
USED BEFORE AND AFTER THE BLISS PROJECT,
DAVAO CITY, MARCH 1982

<i>Toilet facilities</i>	<i>Before BLISS</i>		<i>After BLISS</i>	
Flash/water sealed	16	32.7	47	96.0
Antipolo closed pit	13	26.5	2	4.0
Open pit	10	20.4	0	—
Public toilet	3	6.1	0	—
None	7	14.3	0	—
Total	49	100.0	49	100.0

As regards water supply, an artesian well and a developed spring (free flowing water pipe) have been put up for the BLISS community by the city government. Construction of these came to ₱25,000.

Transportation facilities to and from the junction consist of AC jeepneys and PUJ vehicles which regularly ply the route from Davao City to Toril along the Davao-Cotabato national highway. The BLISS community is accessible through tricycles from the junction of the Davao-Cotabato Highway. The road network in the BLISS community was constructed by the Ministry of Public Highways, now re-organized as the Ministry of Public Works and Highways.

Other community facilities include a cooperative store which sells items mostly needed by the community like rice, sugar, laundry bars and powder soap, small fishing paraphernalia, pain relievers, and so forth. The BLISS community has a one-story multipurpose hall which invariably serves as a health center (clinic) during the immunization campaigns conducted by the local health personnel; as a training center for local skills development programs; and as a day care center in conducting operation-timbang sessions.

A concrete multipurpose pavement has also been constructed in the center of the BLISS community, and it is adjacent to the cooperative store and the multipurpose hall. This multipurpose pavement serves as a basketball court during sports tournament, and as a garage for the BLISS community service vehicle during regular days.

There is also a three-room school building for the BLISS community; however, it has not yet been utilized for the reason that no teacher is available. Elementary schoolchildren attend school at the Governor Generoso Elementary School which is only a short distance away.

A number of government agencies have provided the community with extension services. These include the National Cottage Industries Development Authority (NACIDA) through its cottage industry training program, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) through its pig dispersal program, the Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD) through its Self-Employment Assistance Program (SEAP), the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), the Ministry of Local Governments and Community Development (MLGCD), and the Commission on Population (POPCOM).

Health

A rundown of the household members who became sick within

the last six months from the time the survey was conducted shows that most of those who fell ill belong to the age group 0-4 years old. This could be attributed to the susceptibility of children to sickness. Nonetheless, the majority of the housewives said that their children's health, as well as that of the whole population, improved since transferring to the BLISS community. Influenza and whooping cough appeared to be the most common illnesses experienced by the population. There were also a few cases of measles, bronchitis, pneumonia, and dysentery among children.

Of those who had gotten sick within the last six months from the time the survey was made, 44 patients representing 53 percent of the total consulted private medical practitioners, 5 (6 percent) consulted government doctors, and 4 (5 percent) went to *herbolarios* for consultation and medication. It is disconcerting to note that a total of thirty people who got sick (36.2 percent) did not make any consultations at all. They either resorted to self-medication or just rested in their respective homes and waited for their sickness to subside.

V. FINDINGS

This section reports on the findings and observations as regards the BLISS program in Fishermen's Village in Bago Aplaya, Talomo, Davao City. The findings of the study indicate that, on the whole, the BLISS project met the objectives and goals set for the undertaking.

Living Condition

The goal of the BLISS project was to construct 50 housing units to relocate 50 chosen household beneficiaries, and to provide basic services and facilities in order to improve and upgrade their socio-economic well-being. This goal had been met and the project had a fairly good impact on the beneficiaries' general living conditions. It is quite obvious that their lives are improved as a result of the BLISS project and that their housing is now a far cry from their previous makeshift shanties.

Each beneficiary felt an improvement in his living conditions as a result of the BLISS Project, what with a decent housing unit, a well-tended flower and vegetable garden, and a cleaner environment in the community.

In a span of two years, most of the households have acquired better economic status. They have been able to purchase consumer items which would not have been possible had they stayed in their former place of residence. At present, 80 percent of the households have acquired dining sets and 44 percent have sala sets. Some of these, however, were acquired even before they transferred to the model fishermen's village. After the BLISS project, at least five household beneficiaries purchased sala sets, one acquired a refrigerator, another bought a cooking range, at least three households bought televisions, one bought a stereo, and at least four others bought radios. These are evidences of improved living conditions among the fishermen-beneficiaries. Moreover, it should be noted that the incidence of diseases among the population has decreased as a result of better environmental sanitation and access to health facilities.

One of the intentions of the study on the BLISS project is to determine the beneficiaries' perception of the impacts of the BLISS project. The beneficiaries were asked to rate each situation according to how significant the effect has been on them. Weights were assigned to the order of significance, as follows: first — 5 points; second — 4 points; third — 3 points; don't know — 2 points; and no impact — 1 point. In Table 5, improved environmental condition got the highest score of 4.22. This is followed by increased involvement of housewives in income-generating activities. These activities include the selling of some processed food items, fish vending, and taking turns in the cooperative store activities. Increased participation in community activities also became noticeable within the community. Family members willingly fulfilled assigned tasks especially in *bayanihan* activities.

In an effort to find out more about their living situation, the BLISS beneficiaries were asked other questions regarding the physical, social and economic aspects of their lives. More specifically, there were two major categories of questions asked: one, to find out the degree of satisfaction about the present living condition; and another, to solicit information on the extent of changes brought about by the BLISS project.

The figures in Table 6 reveal a very low degree of satisfaction. Only site accessibility to place of work, recreational facilities and children's playground indicate a high degree of satisfaction. Most express disappointment, especially with the kind of construction materials used for the dwelling units. Construction materials used

TABLE 5
EQUIVALENT SCORE¹ ON THE RESPONSES OF THE PERCEIVED
IMPACTS OF THE BLISS PROJECT, BAGO APLAYA, TALOMO
DAVAO CITY, MARCH 1982

<i>Perceived impact</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Third</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>No impact</i>	<i>Total</i>
Improved environmental condition	2.96	0.73	0.24	0.29	—	4.22
Increased cooperative activities	2.65	0.65	0.49	0.29	—	4.08
Increased health consciousness	1.94	1.31	0.31	0.33	0.02	3.91
Increased employment/income opportunities	2.04	0.73	0.31	0.49	0.06	3.63
Increased participation in community activities	2.75	0.82	0.18	0.37	—	4.12
Increased self-reliance	1.73	1.31	0.43	0.37	—	3.84
Increased involvement of housewives in income-generating activities	3.16	0.41	0.31	0.24	0.04	4.16
Improved general well-being of the beneficiaries	2.14	0.57	0.06	0.57	0.12	3.46

1. To get the equivalent score, the simple formula for mean was applied using the following assigned weights:

First — 5.0 points

Second — 4.0 points

Third — 3.0 points

Don't know — 2.0 points

No impact — 1.0 points

for wallings and roofings are not likely to last long and to withstand weather conditions. In fact, it has been observed that some of the units have started to rot and sag. Nonetheless, the figures show that the majority seem to be satisfied with the facilities and services at their site.

Delivery of Services

As regards the delivery of services, it is apparent that the roles among government agencies were very well understood at the top

TABLE 6
DEGREE OF SATISFACTION¹ WITH PRESENT LIVING CONDITION
IN THE BLISS COMMUNITY, MARCH 1982

<i>Particular</i>	<i>Very satis- fied</i>	<i>Satis- fied</i>	<i>Unsat- isfied</i>	<i>Very unsat- isfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Site's accessibility to						
a. place of work	1.50	2.30	0.06	0.16	0.06	4.08
b. school	—	2.70	—	0.57	0.04	3.31
c. hospital	—	0.65	0.80	0.82	0.65	2.92
d. bank	—	0.65	0.73	0.73	0.22	2.33
e. market	—	0.65	0.73	0.73	0.22	2.33
f. church	—	0.92	0.67	0.73	0.22	2.53
2. Dwelling unit						
a. ventilation	1.40	1.90	—	0.43	0.10	3.80
b. space/size	1.10	1.40	—	0.98	0.10	3.60
c. construction materials	—	0.41	0.06	1.50	0.14	2.10
3. Facilities and services						
a. waste disposal	0.31	3.10	0.06	0.24	0.02	3.70
b. sewerage system	0.31	2.90	0.06	0.33	0.02	3.60
c. water supply	0.41	3.30	—	0.16	0.02	3.90
d. environmental sanitation	0.92	2.50	—	0.33	0.02	3.80
e. power	0.51	3.10	—	0.16	0.04	3.80
f. medical services	0.10	2.00	0.18	0.57	0.14	3.00
g. transportation	—	0.73	0.37	0.94	0.22	2.30
h. marketing facilities	—	0.82	0.43	0.73	0.29	2.30
i. recreational facilities	0.92	2.80	—	0.24	—	4.00
j. children's playground	0.82	2.90	—	0.24	—	4.00
k. parking space	0.82	2.00	0.06	0.57	0.02	3.50
l. educational opportunities	—	2.00	0.06	0.73	0.10	2.90
m. cultural enrichment	—	1.90	0.06	0.77	0.10	2.80
n. extension services	—	1.90	0.06	0.73	0.14	2.80
o. employment opportunities	—	1.10	0.06	0.94	0.24	2.30

1. Same formula applied to Table 5.

management level and well taken at the implementing levels. Basic facilities and needs were provided to the community, as evidenced by several infrastructure projects constructed within the community. The participating agencies such as those for power, water facilities, and road network are considered by the community residents to be effective in the delivery of services especially during the initial stages of program implementation.

From the information gathered, it was found out, however, that in terms of water facilities, the supply for the community still remained inadequate. In terms of extension services, some agencies were not very effective. For example, the implementation and coordination of the swine production project through a pig dispersal program did not live up to the beneficiaries' expectations. While it is true that a total of 10 weanling gilts were initially distributed in 1980 to 10 families in the BLISS community, the program did not succeed as expected. It was confirmed that, of the total number of weanling gilts distributed, three died while seven were sold for the reason that they could not produce piglets. An additional 10 piglets were dispersed to 10 other families in June 1981. The same thing happened. The piglets were sold individually because the piglets did not grow to their full physical size. Inquiries disclosed that the breed given to them was of high quality but required a lot of care and proper nutrition, and could not adapt well to limited space surroundings. In addition, the families lacked the financial capabilities to provide for the animals' proper nutrition. Besides, no follow-ups were made by the agencies concerned regarding extension services. After the animals were given out, everything was left to the families.

Livelihood Projects

Socioeconomic projects geared towards the social and economic upliftment of the family-beneficiaries form part of the livelihood component of the BLISS community. These projects are aimed towards the achievement of additional income for the residents of the community. As far as the Fishermen's Village is concerned, very few of the livelihood projects identified for the community pushed through. Some were not viable while others were not properly coordinated at all.

The major livelihood projects that have been implemented at the BLISS community are the Deep Sea Fishing Project and the Artificial Coral Reef Project coordinated by the Bureau of Fisheries and

Aquatic Resources, and the BLISS Cooperative Store. The projects give out regular dividends to cooperative members. There are other small livelihood projects which supplement the income of the families. These projects are coordinated by the Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD) under its Self-Employment Assistance Program (SEAP).

With no access to the feasibility study for the Deep Sea Fishing Project, no attempt has been made to assess the development of the project venture. However, the following information was gathered. The Deep Sea Fishing Project is an Oplan Kabuhayan RB I approved project of the Fishermen's Village. It has a total cost of ₱685,145. Investment for this project was granted to the community organization, payable within a period of six years and with a grace period of one year at an interest rate ranging from 4 to 6 percent. This project was implemented in September 1980 by the Central BLISS Secretariat. Originally, the project was scheduled to be launched in June 1981 but for some reason or other, the launching of the project did not materialize. Primarily, the reason was a case between the community association (BLCA) and its engine supplier. The beneficiaries aired complaints alleging that they were not consulted on the project's major transactions. No production has been reported so far, although in the course of the boat's testing operations, the fishermen involved were able to bring in catch for their consumption.

The Artificial Coral Reef was put up in 1979 for the purpose of providing habitat for fishes. This involved a total cost of ₱62,850. The project, however, was found to be unproductive and was not pursued.

Other livelihood projects in the BLISS community consist of the communal fishpond which has been constructed through a joint effort of the community association and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. However, it is not being fully utilized by the community due to some chemical pollution that results in the death of tilapia fingerlings. The fishpond is currently utilized for small time tilapia production just for home consumption. It is also utilized for a small duck-raising project of some community residents. There are also some who use the fishpond for washing their clothes.

Livelihood projects for family housewives consist primarily of fish vending, food processing and hog raising, and these are carried out through the self-employment assistance program of the Ministry of Social Services and Development. Through this program, a total of thirty family housewives were each given a loan assistance as initial capital for small time business ventures. This amount is pay-

able within one year without any interest at all. Per information given by the MSSD social worker assigned in the area, the assistance program was able to help the housewives augment their family income. This was confirmed by the loan beneficiaries who, although unable to pay back the amount given them on time, managed to pay at a later time.

The foregoing is an account of the livelihood projects implemented in the BLISS community. It would be premature at this stage to draw conclusions as to their success. However, if the projects were to be given full support and coordination by the participating agencies and if there would be a strong leadership as well as commitment to this new orientation, the BLISS project on the whole could become an effective vehicle to attain the country's development goals.