

Time Management of Corn Farmers of Luna, Apayao, Philippines

Ronald O. Ocampo¹, Rema Bascos-Ocampo²

^{1,2}Apayao State College-Luna Campus, San Isidro Sur, Luna, Apayao, Philippines 3813

Abstract: “Time is the scarcest resource” , a popular passage from a prominent time management consultant, R. Alec Mackenzie. It has been overheard that time is money and must be spent wisely. As workers and managers, this study was conducted to assess the time management of corn farmers of barangay Sta. Lina, Luna, Apayao. Specifically, it sought to determine the time spent by the respondents in the following activities: productive, reproductive, leisure, social and spiritual; identify major activities undertaken by the respondents in a year; document vital lessons on time management as practiced by the respondents. The researchers made use of the descriptive survey method with the use of time log, seasonal calendar, unstructured interview and observation as data –gathering tools. Results revealed that next to rest, their time was spent mostly in their productive activities. Men has greater resting hour than women. Most of their productive time were confined with crop and livestock production. Their major crop produced is corn and rice. Household activities are done by most women although men share the responsibility. Women devote more working time than men which is mostly consumed by doing productive and reproductive activities. Their time is wasted through watching television, drinking liquor, neighboring, idling time away, tinkering around and doing nothing, extended breaks, disorganized works and others. Leisure has been a part of daily activities through watching television; most of their social activities are consumed through neighboring. Activities that strengthen their spiritual life have been part of their daily existence.

Keywords: Time management, Productive time, corn farmers, Gender roles.

I. INTRODUCTION

All people have different talents, skills and personalities, but the amount of time they spend for a day is equal. Only they differ in the activities they spend for their time wisely. Time unlike water, timber, coal, fuel and electricity cannot be saved [1, 2] (Hoff; Mears) or accumulated like raw materials. Time continues its march at a fixed rate of sixty minutes each hour, twenty four hour each day [3]. Time, unlike other resources, can neither be turned on or off nor be replaced. In spite of its preciousness and vast potential, people waste nothing quite so thoughtlessly as time.

Although most people hear about wasting time and just as much about organizing it, too few of them take any positive steps. The importance of the proper mental attitude in the use of time is emphasized by Ted Engstrom [4] as he stated :

“If we don’t want to do something, we can find a thousand reasons for not doing it. It may be too far or too hot or too cold or too wet or too dry. But, if we want to do something, nothing will stop us - obstacles are brushed aside as if they were nothing”.

It has been overheard that time is money [5, 6] and must be spent wisely [7]. The hands of the clock move onward inexorably. People have no control over their speed of flight. People may “stop the clock” on a basketball court or on a football field – but never in the game of life.

Effective managers organize their time better for proper utilization. Organizing the time spent for a day yields to better and more productive life. With a clear philosophy of work as a foundation, and a view of time and its management that is

closely related to what work is, the focus on the stewardship of time is sharpened. Much is said regarding stewardship of wealth and possession. Less is said about stewardship of talent. Little is said concerning stewardship of time.

Time is the ultimate resource [8], this study will not only foster awareness on proper time management but will also enable corn farmers and other people to: improve and broaden their skills for wise utilization of time; increase productivity of corn farmers for an added income; identify gaps necessary for the development of a program/ project to increase the productivity level of the target clientele; improve the management skills of corn farmers. Help them learn how to prioritize their activities and use their time more effectively.

Objectives of the Study:

This study was intended to assess the time management practices of corn farmers in barangay Sta. Lina, Luna, Apayao.

It has the following specific objectives.

1. Determine the time spent by the respondents in the following activities: productive, reproductive, leisure, social and spiritual.
2. Identify major activities undertaken by corn farmers in a year.

II. METHODOLOGY

Research Design:

The study made use of the descriptive survey method of research with interview, observation, the use of time log and seasonal calendar as data gathering tools coupled with documentation using camera.

Locale of the Study:

The study was conducted at Sta. Lina, Luna, Apayao. Almost 90 % of the farming families in this barangay are engaged in corn production. The study area about 274 km north of Tuguegarao, Cagayan, Philippines.

Respondents:

The barangay captain of this barangay was consulted to help identify farmers who were engaged in corn farming. The Slovin's formula was employed in determining the number of samples with 10% margin of error. From the identified 72 corn farmers, a total of 42 corn farmers were selected as respondents, 15 female and 27 male. Selection was done through proportion and drawlots. After identifying the respondents, with the help of the barangay captain, they were requested for a meeting to fill in the questionnaires. It was explained to them that whatever data obtained will be treated with confidentiality.

Research Instrument

The data gathering tools used in the study were: the time log to be conducted on specified seasons; and the seasonal calendar. The data revealed in the time log and seasonal calendar are validated by observation. The researchers are resident of the barangay where the study has been conducted and that method validation is accurate. Each of the respondents was assisted in filling up the tools used in the study to ensure quality of information.

Data Gathering Procedure:

Barangay Sta. Lina in Luna, Apayao, Philippines is a corn producing barangay. In the conduct of this study, the following procedures were undertaken:

- a. the researchers asked permission from the barangay captain of Sta. Lina to conduct the study;
- b. after permission was granted, a list of corn farmers was requested from the barangay;
- c. meeting with farmers was done during the general assembly;
- d. questionnaires were floated during the meeting.

All data were collated and tabulated and interpreted.

Data analysis:

Qualitative and descriptive statistics such as frequency, percentage and ranking was used to analyze the gathered data.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Profile of the Respondents:

Table.1: Profile of respondents

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
20-29	8	19.05
30-39	13	30.95
40-49	13	30.95
50-59	7	16.68
60-69	1	2.38
Sex		
Female	15	35.71
Male	27	64.29
Highest Educational Attainment		
Elementary Level	25	59.52
Secondary	11	26.19
College	6	14.29

Majority of the respondents fall under the age range of 30-49 years old, there are 19.05% under 20-29 and 2.34% are under the age bracket of 60-69 years old. This means that majority of the respondents are within the middle ages. The decreasing number of young farmers poses a threat to the farming industry. Based on FAO and UNDP data, the percentage of rural youth as percent of total population in Asia has been decreasing over the past sixty years which in 2010 was 9% in East Asia and 11% in Southeast Asia. According to Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA), despite being a predominantly agricultural country, there are only 12 million farmers in the Philippines in a total population of about 97 million (2012 data). Many Filipino farmers are small landholders tilling an average of 2.5 ha of land each. In 2008, the 12.03 million Filipinos (75% men) employed in the agriculture sector accounted for 35% of the country's labor force; in 2010, this went down to 11.96 million (or 33%). The number of children aged 5 to 17 years old working in farms nationwide fell to 1.26 million in 2010 [9]. As regards to their sex, 64.29 % are male and 35.7% are female. There are 6 who able to undergo college education, 11 or 26.19% are secondary and more than half of it (59.52%) are elementary level.

Daily Time Activities:

A. Before Planting Season:

Table.2: Daily activities done by corn farmers before the planting season

Activities	Average Time Spent (Hours)			
	Female	%	Male	%
1. Productive				
Feeding the animals	0.49	2	2.58	11
Sub Total	0.49	2	2.58	11
2. Reproductive				
Eating	0.4	2	0.74	3
Cooking	1.6	7		
Washing Plates	1.6	7		
Washing Clothes	1.6	7	0.12	0.5
Attending to children & husbands needs	0.8	3	0.3	1
Cleaning the house	0.8	3	0.48	2
Taking a bath	1.09	5	1	4
Sub Total	7.89	33	2.64	10.5
3. Rest				
Sleeping time	7.1	30	7.5	31
Taking a nap	2.92	12	3.5	15
Sub Total	10.32	42	11	46
4. Leisure				
Watching Television	2	8	3	12.5

Sub Total	2	8	3	12.5
5. Social				
Neighboring	2.6	11	3.52	15
Sub Total	2.6	11	3.52	15
6. Spiritual				
Spiritual activities (reading the bible, praying, etc.)	1	4	1.26	5
Sub Total	1	4	1.26	5
Total	24	100	24	100

Corn Farmers spend most of their time resting such as sleeping and taking a nap. Men spend an average of 11 hours resting while an average of 10.32 hours for women. Corn farmers in Sta. Lina, Luna, Apayao devote most of their time resting which is 42 percent to 46 percent of their total time in a day. This observation tells that corn farmers have limited productive activities before the planting season. Among men an average of 2.58 hours is spent in productive activities while 0.49 hours for women. An average of 10.32 hours is spent by women in their reproductive activities. This is a common scenario among Filipino families especially in the rural areas that women are kept at home doing the household chores. This is being substantiated by business.time.com [10] findings that in 2011, 83% of women and 65% of men “spent some time doing household activities such as housework, cooking, lawn care or financial and other household management,” according to the report. The year earlier, the spread was 84% to 67%, respectively. However, men also help in some household works. Research of University of Michigan Institute of Social Research found that the amount of housework done by women has decreased since 1976, while the amount of housework done by men has doubled. In 1976, women did about 26 hours of housework a week; in 2005, they did about 16.5. Men did about six hours a week in 1976, and in 2005, they did about 12.5 [11]. It is also revealed in the table that men do more of the socialization than women. This is due to the fact that women are confined at home and that they need to attend to the needs of the family at home. Farmers oftentimes view the television as a form of entertainment. Men spend an average of three (3) hours viewing the television while women spend an average of two hours. The spiritual being of the farmers are nourished by daily reading the bible, praying and others which is spent about 1 hour to 1 and a half hour. This shows the spirituality of Filipino family that their belief in the existence of the divine being is nourished through bible reading, praying and attending to religious mass.

B. During Planting Season:

Table.3: Daily activities done by the corn farmers during planting season.

Activities	Average Time Spent			
	Female	%	Male	%
1. Productive				
On-field	2.00	8	6.80	28
Feeding the animals	0.48	2	1.40	6
Sub Total	2.48	10	8.2	34
2. Reproductive				
Eating	1.00	4	1.00	4
Cooking	2.00	8	0.10	0.416
Washing Plates	0.48	2	0.20	0.833
Washing Clothes	2.00	8	0.30	1
Attending to children & husband's needs	1.00	4	0.10	0.416
Cleaning the house	0.40	2		
Taking a bath	1.00	4	1.00	4
Sub Total	7.48	31	2.70	11
3. Rest				
Sleeping time	8.00	33	7.00	29
Taking a nap	1.48	6	1.60	6
Sub Total	9.48	39	8.60	36
4. Leisure				
Watching Television	1.48	6	1.90	8
Sub Total	1.48	6	1.90	8
5. Social				
Neighboring	1.00	4	1.20	5

Sub Total	1.00	4	1.20	5
6. Spiritual				
Spiritual activities (reading the bible, praying)	1.00	4	1.30	5
Sub Total	1.00	4	1.30	5
Total	24.00		24.00	

During planting season female corn farmers devoted more of their time on the reproductive activities which is 7.48 hrs. or 31.17 percent of their total time while men share the responsibility for an average of 2.7 hours or 11 percent of their total time. Corn farmers spent most of their time resting in which they devote 9.48 hours for women and 8.6 hours for men. This scenario tells that in a typical Filipino farming family, men do more of the activities in the farm while women are confined at home doing household chores. However, women also shares responsibility in doing some productive activities. The time spent for productive activities for men is 8.2 hours which comprises 34 percent of their total time in a day. Women share their productive activities for an average of 2.48 hours or 10 percent of their total time. This findings is being substantiated by www.one.org [12] when they stated that male farmers are up to three times more productive than female farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. Further UN FAO [13] stated that women in agriculture and rural areas have one thing in common across regions: they have less access than men to productive resources and opportunities. The gender gap exists for many assets, inputs and services, including land, livestock, labor, education, extension and financial services, and technology. It imposes costs not only on women themselves, but on the agriculture sector, the broader economy and society as a whole.

Since corn farming is their main economic activity, farmers devote most of their time in their field especially corn needs extra attention during the vegetative stage. The usual spiritual activities such as reading the bible and praying remains intact.

Before Harvesting:

Table.4: Daily activities of corn farmers before the harvest season

Activities	Average Time Spent			
	Female	%	Male	%
1. Productive				
On-field	4.30	18	7.00	29
Feeding the animals	1.22	5	0.90	4
Sub Total	5.52	23	7.90	33
2. Reproductive				
Eating	0.60	3	0.66	3
Cooking	0.70	3		
Washing Plates	0.60	3	0.16	3
Washing Clothes	2.13	9	0.16	3
Attending to children & husbands needs	0.40	2	0.15	6
Cleaning the house	1.40	6		
Taking a bath	0.73	3	0.50	2
Sub Total	6.16	26	1.48	6
3. Rest				
Sleeping time	7.80	33	8.07	34
Taking a nap	0.70	3	1.30	5
Sub Total	8.50	35	9.37	39
4. Leisure				
Watching Television	0.90	4	1.60	6
Sub Total	0.90	4	1.60	6
5. Social				
Neighboring	1.02	4	1.30	5
Sub Total	1.02	4	1.30	5
6. Spiritual				
Spiritual activities (reading the bible, praying, etc.)	1.50	6	2.20	9
Sub Total	1.50	6	2.20	9

Result of the survey shows that men devote more of their time resting and doing productive activities while women spend more of their time also resting and doing reproductive activities. Men spent an average of 7.9 hours doing productive

activities while an average of 5.52 hours for women. It is during this time where farmers do most of care and maintenance of the corn. As usual women spent more time doing household chores than men as manifested in the above table. Other activities such as leisure, socials and spiritual are intact.

C. Harvesting:

Table.5: Daily activities of corn farmers during the harvest season.

Activities	% Average Time Spent			%
	Female		Male	
1. Productive				
On-field	4.13	17	6.77	28
Feeding the animals	1.40	6	1.50	6
Sub Total	5.53	23	8.27	34
2. Reproductive				
Eating	1.00	4	1.00	4
Cooking	1.60	6	0.15	6
Washing Plates	0.49	2	0.30	1
Washing Clothes	1.70	7		
Attending to children 7 husbands needs	0.90	4	0.15	6
Cleaning the house	0.70	3	0.55	2
Taking a bath	0.43	2	0.60	2
Sub Total	6.82	28	2.75	21
3. Rest				
Sleeping time	7.13	29	7.07	29
Taking a nap	1.20	5	1.52	6
Sub Total	8.33	35	8.59	36
4. Leisure				
Watching Television	1.40	6	1.90	8
Sub Total	1.40	6	1.90	8
5. Social				
Neighboring	1.00	4	0.97	4
Sub Total	1.00	4	0.97	4
6. Spiritual				
Spiritual activities (reading the bible, praying, etc.)	1.13	5	1.52	6
Sub Total	1.13	5	1.52	6

During the harvest season an average of 8.27 hours is spent by men in their productive activities while women share an average of 5.53 hours. Men spent an average of 6.7 hrs on field works and 1.5 hrs feeding their animals such as Carabao and others while women spend around 4.13 hrs on field works and 1.4 hrs feeding their domesticated animals. The time for resting such as sleeping and taking a nap is still the longest time spent by both men and women with an average 8.59 and 8.33 hrs respectively. An average of 6.82 hours is devoted to reproductive activities done by women.

D. After Harvesting:

Table.6: Daily activities of corn farmers after harvest season

Activities	% Average Time Spent			%
	Female		Male	
1. Productive				
Drying & hauling	2.80	12	4.60	19
Feeding the animals	0.90	4	1.20	5
Sub Total	3.70	16	5.80	24
2. Reproductive				
Eating	0.50	2	0.50	2
Cooking	0.50	2	0.30	1
Washing Plates	0.90	4	0.10	0.4
Washing Clothes	0.95	4	0.40	2
Attending to children 7 husbands needs	0.56	2		
Cleaning the house	1.60	6		
Taking a bath	0.80	3	0.50	2

Sub Total	5.25	23	1.80	7.4
3. Rest				
Sleeping time	8.07	34	7.90	33
Taking a nap	1.70	7	2.30	9
Sub Total	9.77	41	10.2	43
4. Leisure				
Watching Television	1.50	6	1.90	8
Sub Total	1.50	6	1.90	8
5. Social				
Neighboring	1.42	6	1.90	8
Sub Total	1.42	6	1.90	8
6. Spiritual				
Spiritual activities (reading the bible, praying, etc.)	1.80	7	1.50	6
Sub Total	1.80	7	1.50	6

It is evident that after the harvest season, the time allotted to socialization through neighboring, rest and leisure activities is increased. This due to the fact that most farmers have all the time for these activities for farming is over. Their traditional get together (neighboring) activities such as playing cards and drinking liquor and chatting are still in tact. These activities are performed when farmers are not busy in their corn fields as revealed in the time allotted to these activities before and after planting seasons. The time devoted to productive activities is only confined to hauling and drying their harvest and that most of their time is wasted. Abdourahman[8] emphasized that time is the ultimate resource. Franklin[5] and Belsky[6] also said that time is money and must be spent wisely [7]. Ted Engstrom emphasized the importance of proper mental attitude in the use of time[4] .

Comparison of the time spent in each activity between man and woman:

Table.7: Comparison of the time spent between men and women in the different activities

Activities	Time Spent									
	Before planting season		During planting season		Before harvesting		During harvesting		After Harvesting	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Productive	0.49	2.58	2.48	8.20	5.52	7.90	5.53	8.27	3.70	5.80
Reproductive	7.89	2.64	7.88	2.70	6.16	1.48	6.82	2.75	5.25	1.80
Rest	10.32	11.00	9.48	8.60	8.50	9.37	8.33	8.59	9.77	10.2
Leisure	2.00	3.00	1.48	1.90	0.90	1.60	1.40	1.90	1.50	2.80
Social	2.60	3.52	1.00	1.30	1.02	1.30	1.00	0.97	1.42	1.90
Spiritual	0.70	1.26	1.00	1.30	1.50	2.20	0.92	1.52	1.80	1.50

Seasonal Calendar:

The forgoing table presents the major economic activities of the respondents using the seasonal calendar.

Table.8: Major economic activities undertaken by corn farmers in a year.

Months	Activities	Frequency
January		
	Land Preparation (corn farming)	30
	Planting (Corn)	19
	Maintenance of rice field	3
February	Fertilizer Application	34
	Weeding rice field	18
	Spraying rice	16
March	Off-barring/hilling up corn	27
	Harvesting rice	38
	Paid labor	20
April	Seeding (rice)	5
	Land Preparation (rice)	35
	Weeding (corn)	17

May	Harvesting (corn)	42
June	Harvesting (corn)	42
	Transplanting (rice)	30
July	Land Preparation (corn)	27
	Planting corn (2 nd cropping)	17
	Maintenance (rice field)	3
August	Fertilizer application (corn)	21
	Weeding rice field	19
	Spraying (rice field)	16
September	Off-barring & hilling-up corn	27
	Harvesting(rice)	40
	Threshing (rice)	30
	Drying & storing (rice)	25
	Marketing	38
October	Harvesting (corn)	37
November	Harvesting (corn)	37
December	Rest	42

It can be gleaned from the above table that the major economic activities of the farmer-respondents are merely devoted to agriculture. It is during the months of November to December where farmers have less activity to earn for a living. The reason behind this is the festivity of the birth of Jesus Christ celebrated by almost all Christmas around the world.

IV. SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This was intended to assess the time management practices of corn farmers of Lower Apayao. Specifically, it was intended to determine the profile of the respondents, their time spent in their productive, leisure, rest, social and spiritual activities, and their economic activities within the year.

The study made use of the descriptive survey method of research with observation and the use of time log and seasonal calendar as data gathering tools. The study was conducted at Sta. Lina, Luna, Apayao.

Results revealed most of their time is consumed resting such as sleeping and taking a nap during no on time. Men have greater number of hours devoted to rest. Next to rest are productive activities necessary for earning a living. Most of their productive activities are confined with crop and livestock production. Household activities are done mostly by women although men share the responsibility. Leisure has been a part of daily activities through watching television; most of their social activities are consumed through neighboring. Activities that strengthen their spiritual life have been part of their daily existence.

In light of the findings of this study, the following are recommended:

1. Conduct training on time management to corn farmers to make them more dynamic individual, coping with the changes in time.
2. Capacitate corn farmers in the proper use of time especially in times of less productive activities

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