











## Results and Discussion

This section presents the demographic analysis and the level of participation of the residents located in the banks of Cagan creek who are supposedly the recipients of the Adapt-a-Creek Project of Dole Philippines. It is also presented here three case studies which discusses the lived experiences of the residents and their thoughts about the said project.

### Demographics

As shown in Table 1, most of the respondents who were interviewed were females (80%) and only 20% were males. Table 2 shows that most of respondents belonged to the age group of 40 years old and above.

*Table 1. Percentage of Sex and Age of the respondents*

<b>Sex</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Male	6	20
Female	24	80
Total	30	100

*Table 2. Percentage of Age of the respondents*

<b>Age</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
20 to 29 years old	2	7
30 to 39 years old	10	33
40 years old and above	18	60
Total	30	100

### *Activity Status*

Presented in Table 3, 80% percent of the participants who happened to be females were all housewives. They do not have employment or livelihood for they take care of their young children and do the household chores while their husbands or partners are at work. Twenty (20) percent of the participants who were males were employed and have a livelihood.

*Table 3. Percentage of activity status of the respondents*

<b>Activity Status</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Unemployed	24	80
Employed	6	20
Total	30	100

### **Level of Participation**

As shown in Table 4, out of the 30 respondents of this study, only 20% were aware of the Adapt-a-Creek Project of Dole Philippines. They were also able to participate in the different activities of the said project. Eighty (80) percent of the participants were not aware of the project and were not able to participate it its activities.

*Table 4. Level of participation of the respondents*

<b>Level of participation</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Participated	6	20
Not able to participate	24	80
Total	30	100

## Lived Experiences

### Case 1

**Sarah Cabanda**, a 27 years old housewife who lives in the bank of Cagan creek could still recall their past activities in the creek before the plantation of Dole Philippines came in their community. She said that she and her mother used to go to the creek to wash clothes and her brothers fetch its fresh water to be used for cleaning and to water their potted plants.

She could still remember that the water of the creek will overflow during heavy rains when the washed-out leaves, twigs, and log clogged the culvert. When the water subsides, on the next day, her family and some residents cleaned the clogged materials in the creek.

When Sarah was asked if she participates in the activities of the Adopt-a-Creek Project of Doles Philippines, she responded:

*“We do not participate in the clean-up drive and even the tree planting activities of that project. I am not even familiar of the Adopt-a-Creek Project of Doles Philippines. I just remembered that there were some people from other places went in the creek and did some cleaning and tree planting. Most of these people were Barangay officials and other government workers, college students, and workers from Dole Philippines. I could not remember that my family and my neighbors participated or joined in those activities conducted by Dole Philippines.*

*I could not remember that somebody from Dole Philippines informed us about their project, its purpose and its activities.”*



When asked about the changes made by the Adopt-a-Creek Project of Dole Philippines, she said:

*“We saw some changes in the area. There are now lots of mahogany trees in the banks which are products of their tree planting activities before. But the creek still overflows. I also noticed that when the plantation started to exist in the area, during heavy rains, some water do not directly go to the creek. It flows in others areas such as in the vicinities of my neighbors’ houses and on the road. We already informed the Barangay officials about this but the problem still occur until now.”*

## **Case 2.**

Another housewife was also interviewed for this study whose family also lived near the bank of Cogan creek. **Michelle Baleng**, 33 years old, unemployed, and has 4 children was asked if she and her family was aware and participated in the Adopt-a-Creek Project of Dole Philippines. She said:

*“My husband works in the banana plantation of Dole Philippines. We were informed about the Adopt-a-Creek Project of the company. My husband and I were able to join the different activities of the project together with the other workers of Dole Philippines and Barangay officials. We removed the clogged materials in the culvert and also removed the stones that might cause the clogging of the creek.”*

Michelle was asked on what makes her motivated and her family in joining the activities of the said project. She responded:

*“Dole Philippines gave my husband a job as a labourer in their plantation. They also gave us a parcel of land as a tenant. We are so thankful for them because not all people here in the community were given the chance to work. The land that they gave us is already a bonus. The clean-up and tree planting activities is for the benefit of the residents living here near the creek and also for the improvement of our surroundings. Now, we noticed that the river bank has lot of mahogany trees that are products of the Adopt-a-Creek Project of Dole Philippines. The problem about flood has not yet been resolved but this has already been addressed to the Barangay. We will just wait for the result”*

### **Case 3.**

One participant stood out when it comes to noticing the changes brought by the Adopt-a-Creek Project of Dole Philippines in Cogan creek. **Bryan Binagata** is a 34 years old and a livestock farmer. He and his family is also a resident near the Cogan creek. He was asked if he and his family had a chance to participate in the Adopt-a-Creek Project. He said.

*“We are not aware of the project. We just saw long time ago some personnel or officials from the Barangay and students from different schools worked with the employees of Dole to clean the creek and planted some trees. I think they planted mahogany seedlings.”*

When asked if there were invitations for them to join the activities in the project, Bryan responded:

*“No. We did not receive any information inviting us to join those activities. But we clean the creek at our own decision especially when it is clogged which causes water to overflow.”*

Bryan was also asked on the changes made in the surroundings before and after the conduct of the activities of the Adopt-a-Creek Project. He said:

*“Before, when we were still kids, we saw fishes in the creek. I was always tasked by my parents to fetch water from the creek for bathing and cleaning purposes. Though we do not drink the water in the creek, we could still say that the water is fresh and clean during those times. Now, kids do not play anymore in the creek. Nobody fetch water in the creek anymore or wash some clothes. We could smell the chemicals used by the plantation and it has a distinctive odor. My neighbors keep on complaining about the smell and we address it already to the Barangay officials.”*

*“Wala jud kabag-uhan nahitabo. Mas nilala pa gani karun. Sauna, ang pag-overflow lang sa sapa ang amo naandan kung grabe ang ulan kay tungod magbara ang mga dahon ug ang mga sanga sa kahoy. Karun, dili lang sa may sapa ang mag baha, pati ang kalsada ug ang among tugkaran magbaha. Sukad naabot ang plantation sa Dole sa amo lugar, nagbuhat sila ug ilang mga drainage para protektahan ang ilang mga saging. Gi-divert nila ang dagan sa tubig ug kami hinuon ang naperwisyo.”*

“Nothing has changed. The situation became worse when the plantation came. Our problem before was just the overflowing of water from the creek when heavy rain occurs. But now, the plantation made their own drainage system to protect their babana plants and the flow

of water was diverted to other areas. Now, there is flood on roads and even our front and backyards.”

The stories coming from the words of the participants make us realize that the Adopt-a-Creek project of Dole Philippines in Cogan creek, Malagos, Davao City was only participated mostly by their employees, the local government unit thru the Barangay personnel, and students. The local residents especially those who are living near the creek were not involved in the activities of the project. They just voluntarily do the cleaning of the creek as part of their usual routine after a heavy rain. Most of the participants of this study noticed some changes in their surroundings but mostly the changes are negative.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

This study explores the impact of the Adopt-a-Creek Project of Dole Philippines in Malagos, Davao City in the context of environmental changes and the participation of the locals living beside the Cogan creek. The findings of the study revealed that most of the respondents were females and do not have employment or livelihood compared to male participants. Based on the results, only few were aware and were able to participate of the Adopt-a-Creek Project of Dole Philippines. Most of the participants of the study were not informed or made aware of the said project and were not able to participate on its different activities. Based on the lived experiences of the participants, since the establishment of banana plantation of Dole Philippines, they have experienced the negative environmental changes and its negative impacts in their community.

The project initiated by Dole Philippines as part of their corporate social responsibility could have provided positive impressions to some stakeholders but it was not translated to the empowerment of the locals (Nussbaum, 2011) especially on the context of the protection and conservation of the environment. The tree planting activities of the said project only used mahogany plant and did not consider other plants to be planted in the banks of the creek. It only promotes monoculture by disregarding other plants which might also be beneficial to the residents and to other animals (Shiva, 1993). The activities associated to the Adopt-a-Creek Project of the company will supposedly create environmental development in the community but there are no evidences of full participation of the residents along the creeks. This type of “false charity” (Freire, 1970), can be denied if there is a genuine participation of the local community (Cornwall, 2003) that would result to an environmental and social development which will uphold the voices and choices of the marginalized people (Gascon, 2017).

To genuinely involve the locals in the Adopt-a-Creek Project of Dole Philippines, the company must religiously invite them and include them in the planning stage for every activity that the project will undertake. More advocacy programs or activities should be made to inform the public especially the locals for them to participate in the Adopt-a-Creek Project. The company will also conduct other activities or programs involving the residents about sustainability, conservation and protection of the environment in order for the locals to better understand the goals and the message of the Adopt-a-Creek Project. Tree planting activities should not limit the type of trees to be planted. Other types of trees especially trees that provide fruits should also be considered for it will not just protect the landscape of their surroundings but also provide a room for interaction between plants and animals making the ecosystem more dynamic and vibrant.

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