

Title: The Shape of Us: An Analytical Study of the Traits, Values and Superstitious Beliefs of Baileños

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Culture is often passed on to succeeding generations through norms, values and beliefs often in forms of stories and traditions. These are passed down not only as information but for us to achieve a deeper understanding of who we are as a community and also to find ourselves in the society we belong. We may differ physically from others but that does define who we are. We are different from others but in contrary, we also unite into group, we become a community of people which we call our society and that is with our culture. It is a part of who we are, and culture plays a huge part in shaping our identities. It mold and shape us on how to think, act, speak, how to make decisions that is morally right and acceptable in the society by means of people that surrounds us.

Hence this study described how these norms, values and beliefs influence the residents of Gen. E. Aguinaldo and provided recommendations to maintaining and enriching culture in its complex forms with its traits, values and superstitious beliefs.

A combination of quantitative and qualitative methods of research or the triangulation method was used in this study. For the quantitative data, 100 respondents of different ages from 14 barangays of Bailen answered the questionnaire. For the qualitative data, 4 were interviewed. Statistical treatments were used to analyze the quantitative data such as weighted mean and One Way Anova. Litchman's 3Cs of analysis was used to analysed the quantitative data and describe the impact in shaping identities of the Baileños in terms of traits, values and superstitious beliefs. The findings revealed that with regards to familiarity, the traits and values both got high level. In terms of level of practice, values gathered the highest level of practice. Baileños give importance to practicing Bailen Values that has been taught to by our ancestors and passed onto us.

Finally, this paper concludes that people nowadays especially in the age of 35 years old and below are fact-nazis when it comes to superstitious beliefs. They often debate in seeking for the truth, they require evidence and scientific proofs before they believe in beliefs. Thus, this study provides a valuable recommendation like the proposed framework that is divided into 5 sections which can help the Local Municipality of Bailen to maintain and enrich the culture in its complex forms with its traits, values and superstitious beliefs.