

**EXPLORING THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENT-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT IN DAVAO CITY****Mendoza, William Jr., G.<sup>1</sup>****Makilan, Marivic S.<sup>2</sup>****Torino, Marianne Jaycee T.<sup>3</sup>**College of Development Management Graduate Program, University of Southeastern Philippines,  
Mintal Campus, Davao City**ABSTRACT**

This study looks at the lived experiences of those in Davao City Philippines who are impacted by development-induced displacement (DID). This study employs a qualitative phenomenological methodology to understand the experiences and socioeconomic effects of displacement on those impacted individuals. Semi-structured interviews were held with fifteen displaced individuals to gather in-depth personal experiences, the individuals were chosen through purposive sampling. The study identified important themes like barriers to obtaining livelihood opportunities, poor leadership, emotional and social difficulties. Significant difficulties such as income loss, social disintegration and insufficient support networks were reported by the participants. The human effects of development initiatives are thoroughly understood through the data collected from the participants which highlight the necessity of compassionate and practical displacement management techniques. The findings advocate for more sustainable approaches to managing displacement by informing policymakers, project developers and urban planners about the effects of development projects.

**Keywords:**

Development-Induced Displacement, Lived Experiences, Qualitative Phenomenology

**INTRODUCTION****Background of the Study**

Developing industry, innovation, and infrastructure is among the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 17) which aim to achieve decent and equitable lives for all in an environmentally protected planet (United Nations, 2015). Projects for development may include transportation and communication networks, infrastructure for utility services, urban and commercial projects, and more. These large-scale projects are pivotal for socio-economic growth and account for a large portion of a country's annual spending. In 2017, the Asian Development Bank revealed that Asian countries would require accumulated investments of USD1.7 trillion annually from 2016 to 2030 for poverty alleviation and economic growth. For the Philippines, the same priority and focus for development projects is in the economic agenda of the current administration. The Philippine government is projected to spend 5-6% (USD34.4 billion) of its annual Gross Domestic Product on infrastructure development for the years 2023 - 2028 (Balisacan, 2023).

Consequently, these development projects introduce development-induced displacement (DID), affecting about 15 million people every year. In many developing nations, DID has also been observed to worsen ecological and social vulnerability and leaves people displaced, disempowered, and destitute. The affected communities are rendered stressed, traumatized, and without land, jobs, and food (Aboda et al., 2019). In Quezon Province, Philippines, protests were held by members of the Dumagat-Remontados Tribe against the construction of the Kaliwa Dam as it threatens the displacement of 200 families. The project is supposed to act as a renewed water source for the Manila Water Service System to meet the increasing domestic demand for water (Otoridoz, 2023). The New Clark City Project, which stems from the massive infrastructure program of the previous administration has also induced DID in its execution. The project threatens the displacement of 65,000 people, part of which are from the Aeta Tribe, in its efforts to decongest Metro Manila (Beltran, 2020).

Infrastructure and development projects are one of the key drivers for achieving the SDG 17. It facilitates growth through increased productivity and enables trade and connectivity (Asian Development Bank, 2020). However, the current trend of heavy development projects being a priority of the Philippine government constitutes impending displacement for vulnerable communities. The forced displacement of people has wide-

ranging effects on people, including social, economic, health-related, and cultural consequences (Lemessa et al., 2023). This implores research on its effects on Filipinos, in a phenomenological perspective. In the local setting of Davao City, Philippines, this study seeks to unravel the lived experiences of individuals who have suffered from DID. By capturing their lived experiences, the researchers aim to shed light on the human aspect of displacement, including physical and mental tolls, challenges, applied coping strategies, economic hardships, and any compensation that may have been available. Through these narratives of lived experiences, policymakers, project developers, involved government agencies, and urban planners can gain a deeper understanding of the real-world impact of development projects.

### **OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of this study is to explore the lived experiences of individuals affected by development-induced displacement (DID) in Davao City. The study intended to address the following questions:

1. What is the socio-demographic profile of the participants?
2. What are the lived experiences of the participants in facing DID?
3. What are the challenges encountered by the participants in facing DID?

These questions, the researchers believed, paint the picture of the lived experiences of the participants, especially in terms of what they have experienced, how it may have occurred, and what came of them afterwards.

### **SCOPE LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

The scope of this study is focused on Davao City in the Philippines. The target population of this study are individuals who have experienced displacement, specifically due to development projects. The timeframe of the participant interviews is from May 1, 2024, to May 31, 2024. The study utilized both primary and secondary sources of data. Primary data will be conducted through semi-structured interviews ran through the purposive sampling of 15 individuals. Secondary data will be gathered from existing reports and studies. This study aims to explore the lived experiences of individuals affected by DID, how the event occurred, and what came of the individuals henceforth.

There are several limitations, however, to this study. The availability and accessibility of data were limited to the responses of the participants. While efforts were made to ensure objectivity, the study may be influenced by the subjective experiences and perceptions of the participants. The findings of the study are specific to Davao City, and this may not be the case to other cities, regions, or countries. Lastly, due to time and resource constraints, this study may not represent all individuals who have experienced DID in Davao City.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

Firstly, the findings of this study could be of use to the existing body of knowledge on the effects of all types of displacement on individuals. With Davao City as the study location, it could provide unique and valuable insight to the challenges and experiences of displaced individuals in the city. This may, however, differ to other cities and regions with respect to local policy, culture, economy, and geography.

Secondly, this study could be of further use to all government and non-government entities in the Philippines and worldwide, that are invested in the social and infrastructure sector. The findings of this study could improve related policymaking, implementation, and intervention strategies.

Lastly, this study could raise awareness about the issue of DID in Davao City. By bringing attention to the experiences of displaced individuals, it could foster empathy and understanding within the community, potentially leading to increased support and resources for these individuals.

### **RELATED LITERATURE**

#### **Development-Induced Displacement (DID) and its effects**

DID is the forced displacement of people due to urban development that affects millions of people every year. Hirsh et al. in a 2020 study presents that DID has been used interchangeably along with other terminologies in literature, with slight differences accounting for the trigger of displacement that has occurred. The terms similar to DID are urban displacement, gentrification, slum clearances, slum evictions, evictions. Whichever term may be used, it would always refer to the forced displacement of people at the end. The study further reviews that the highest figures of displacement have been recorded in 2018, with 70.8 million people globally as having been forcibly displaced and the numbers are still rapidly growing. Aboda et al. (2019) examined the numerous

consequences of DID in developing countries caused by industrial construction, highways, roads, and dams. The effects involved are (1) Landlessness, (2) Marginalization, (3) Loss of Access to Natural Resources, (4) Homelessness, (5) Joblessness, (6) Social Disintegration, (7) Health Insecurity, and (8) Food Insecurity. Development projects cause more risks than opportunities to the displaced communities and detach them from basic livelihood assets such as land and access to natural resources. Affected communities also suffer from increased morbidity and mortality, as well as disrupted job and social networks. These eight interlinked risks of DID are high probability risks and will most likely affect vulnerable people when development projects are not planned properly (Aboda et al., 2019).

In Pasig City, Metro Manila, a study by Maningo (2022) highlighted the struggles of the urban poor to impending displacement in lieu of a flood management program by the local government. The development of the project lead to informal housing being demolished and people being displaced and needing resettlement. The urban poor face the disruption of livelihood and social networks amidst DID. Communities affected by DID will react differently to their demise, from varying levels of antagonism to militant resistance. The urban poor face the disruption of livelihood and social networks amidst the threat of DID. Hagen & Minter (2019) states that the Agta hunter-gatherers from Dimasalansan, Isabela continue to face displacement due to land-grabbing activities in their domain. As of 2019, at least 122 Agta individuals have been relocated in lieu of development for infrastructure and tourism purposes. Despite being hunter-gatherers, the Agta people are place-bound to their coasts and lands. This attachment is an important part of their culture and personal identity, which has now become severed due to DID.

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

#### Urban Displacement Framework

This study is anchored to the "Urban Displacement Framework" of Hirsh et al. (2020), which posits that Urban displacement, a complex social phenomenon, involves the forced relocation of individuals or communities due to various socioeconomic and political factors. This framework aims to comprehensively understand urban displacement by examining its underlying dynamics through five interconnected concepts. Drawing from social psychology, sociology, political economy, and urban studies, this framework integrates theoretical perspectives to analyze the multifaceted nature of urban displacement and its impacts on individuals and communities.

According to Hirsh et al. (2020), power dynamics between displaced individuals or communities and governing entities significantly shape the displacement process, with authorities often exercising control over policies, projects, and procedures to the detriment of marginalized groups. Displacement disrupts the identities of affected individuals, leading to detachment and a need for reidentification. Eligibility criteria for support programs are often arbitrary, exacerbating disparities, while the temporal uncertainty of displacement leads to heightened stress. In response, displaced communities engage in various forms of resistance, challenging power structures and demanding accountability from authorities.

These key concepts are interconnected and mutually reinforcing, shaping the lived experiences of urban displacement. Power dynamics influence eligibility criteria and temporal considerations, while identity struggles and resistance efforts intersect with broader socio-political contexts. Moreover, adopting a phenomenological approach allows for an in-depth exploration of displaced individuals' subjective experiences and lived realities. By centering on the embodied perceptions, emotions, and meanings attached to displacement, this perspective elucidates how individuals navigate and make sense of their displacement experiences.

### CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The Urban Displacement Framework of Hirsh et al. (2020) states that displacement occurs from varying and intricate circumstances to people with diverse backgrounds across the globe. Yet, five repeating ideas have always presented themselves in every instance. Based on the framework, these five concepts address different aspects of the displacement process, interconnecting the events of displacement all over the world. Using this framework through a phenomenological perspective allows us to deconstruct the challenges that displacement brings to affected individuals.

- Power

Each event of displacement showcases differing power relations between the displaced and the entity of power that may be governmental or private in nature. Tension exists between the authorities and the displaced households or individuals.

- Positionality

People are attached to their homes, and this also forms a part of their identity. Displaced people feel a loss and suffer through a process of reidentification when this attachment is compromised and severed.

- Eligibility

Eligibility to eviction notices, compensation, and resettlement programs are arbitrary in nature in cases of displacement. It may be available in one form or another, but not always defined.

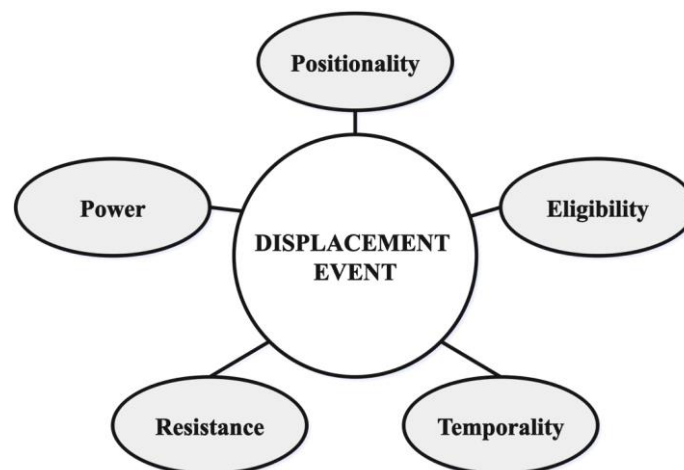
- Temporality

Temporality is the timeframe granted to displaced people from the time that they were notified to the implementation of the eviction or displacement. Living with the knowledge of imminent displacement has psychological implementations to the affected individuals and households.

- Resistance

People will have an immediate reaction to the circumstance of being displaced, or to being notified thereof. This may come in the form of appeals of rejection, abeyance, or help to higher authorities such as government units, Non-Government Organizations, media outlets, etc.

The figure below shows the interconnection of the factors of urban displacement.



*Figure 2.1 Diagram of Urban Displacement Framework (Hirsh et al., 2020)*

### METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted using qualitative design. Case study was employed to exemplify Local Government Unit of Jose Abad Santos, Davao Occidental as the sample. The participants are the Municipal Health Officer, Public Health Nurses, Brgy. Nurses and Midwives.

This research employed a qualitative approach to examine the experiences of individuals displaced by a development project in Davao City. Using qualitative phenomenology, it delved into the personal experiences of individuals to understand the meanings they attribute to their circumstances. Qualitative phenomenology seeks to uncover the subjective interpretations and personal significance individuals assign to their experiences. Unlike purely descriptive approaches, it aims to capture the lived realities of participants, providing insight into the human dimension of complex phenomena (Tymara, 2023).

### SOURCES OF DATA

In phenomenology, human beings' lived experiences are considered the vital source of all meaning and value. This philosophical stance underpins the appropriateness of employing phenomenological inquiry to investigate the lived experiences of individuals displaced by development projects in Davao City. The researchers adopted a methodical approach, conducting interviews with a cohort of displaced individuals to gather their firsthand experiences of development projects in their locale. Additionally, a snowball sampling technique will be employed, selecting fifteen (15) affected/displaced individuals who met specific criteria: being residents of Davao City and having experienced displacement due to local development initiatives. The scope of this

research was confined to areas within Davao City where development projects necessitated the resettlement of affected individuals.

Adhering to the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 10173, commonly referred to as the "2012 Data Privacy Act," the researchers ensured compliance with ethical standards. Prior to commencing interviews, respondents were provided with an informed consent form, affirming their voluntary participation in the study. A meticulously crafted interview guide, developed by the researchers, served as a structured framework for data collection. Throughout the study, strict confidentiality measures were upheld, with sensitive information such as participants' identities, ages, and residences safeguarded. To preserve anonymity, participants were anonymized and identified solely by the designation "P" (Participant) followed by a sequentially assigned number corresponding to their involvement in the study (e.g., P1, P2, and so forth).

#### **DATA GATHERING INSTRUMENT**

The study employed a semi-structured interview guide, a qualitative research tool that facilitates in-depth exploration of specific areas of interest through follow-up questions.

Naz (2022) asserts that a meticulously crafted semi-structured interview guide serves as an authentic and reliable means of data collection. Preferring semi-structured interviews over standardized ones is favored due to its capacity to enable interviewers to delve into the opinions and ideas of interviewees. This approach facilitates deeper probing into responses, allowing for the extraction of additional information and clarification, particularly when navigating complex or sensitive subject matter.

Comprising opening questions to gather respondent profiles, core questions addressing central study themes, and closing questions to conclude discussions, the interview guide ensures systematic exploration of key areas. Throughout the interviews, conversations were recorded to support subsequent data interpretation and analysis. Additionally, a recording sheet was utilized to document significant points raised by participants, ensuring comprehensive data collection. The data collection process was conducted meticulously to ensure the reliability and validity of information obtained from the selected participants in this study.

#### **SAMPLING TECHNIQUE**

The study will employ snowball sampling technique. The key participants in the snowball sampling process are known as seeds and they refer others from their social networks. In turn every new member recommends more individuals. This process keeps going until either the sample size satisfies the needs of the researcher or saturation is reached—that is until no more participants who are relevant are found (Patton, 2015). Snowball sampling is suited for this study because it effectively reaches displaced people who are difficult to identify using traditional techniques. It makes use of social network trust to promote engagement and produce detailed rich data. With this technique a variety of viewpoints on displacement are captured and the sample can grow swiftly and thoroughly until saturation is reached.

#### **PROCEDURE OF THE STUDY**

Primary people with direct experience of development-induced displacement in Davao City will be chosen as study participants. Snowball sampling allows for the expansion of the sample size through participant referrals of other individuals with similar experiences from their social network. To contextualize the experiences in-depth interviews with participants and field observations will be conducted as part of the data collection process. After the data is gathered it will be analyzed. Interview transcripts will be coded and subjected to thematic analysis with iterative refinement until saturation is reached. The results will be cross-checked with multiple data sources and verified by member checking. The findings will be presented in an easy-to-read manner highlighting important themes and suggestions that came from the investigation.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

##### **Socio-Demographic Profile of Participants**

The study participants were divided by gender, with 5 males and 10 females. In terms of age distribution, 2 participants fell within the 31–40 age range, 3 in the 41–50 range, 4 in the 51–60 range, and 6 were 61 years old or older. Regarding civil status, there was 1 single participant, 11 married participants, and 3 widowed participants. In terms of educational attainment, 5 participants completed college, 9 finished high school, and 1 had only completed elementary schooling

Table 1. Socio-Demographic Profile of the Participants in the Study

Gender	
Male	5
Female	10
Age	
31 - 40	2
41 - 50	3
51 - 60	4
61 and older	6
Civil Status	
Single	1
Married	11
Widowed	3
Educational Attainment	
Elementary School	1
High School	9
College	5

### Lived Experiences of Participants in Facing Development-Induced Displacement

The details below provide a description of the themes identified in the data concerning the lived experiences of the participants in facing DID. Each theme listed presents a recurring circumstance that was experienced by the participants first-hand, especially in the time before and during the actual displacement activity. The summary of themes and subthemes are shown in Table 2.

#### Theme 1: Misled by guiding authorities

The participants expressed that their prior communities encompassed an association representing their collective woes as settlers of the land or area. This association communicated with various entities such as the sheriffs, enforcers, and landowners with regards to talks or notices about evictions, displacement, and demolition. However, the participants pointed out that they were misled by the guiding authorities of their association in the events that led to their eventual displacement.

P9: "Bisan nakadawat na mi og court order, mag sigi gihapon og ingon ang mga opisyaes nga dili daw mi manghawa kay amoa man ginabayaran amoang obligasyon kada bulan". (Even though we have already received a court order, the officials kept insisting that we shouldn't leave because we were fulfilling our monthly obligations)

P7: "Nakasab-an amoang presidente sa asosasyon apil ang iyang mga kauban nga opisyaes kay imbis tabangan mi ni Mayor papangita sa amoang yuta nga kabalhinan nga hayahay unta nga dapit apan ilaha man gipatungan ang kantidad imbis 10 million ra ang baligya sa tag-iya, gihimong 12 million". (Our association president, along with his fellow officials, was reprimanded because the Mayor sought to help us with our place of relocation and they instead had the land owner inflate the selling price of his land from 10 to 12million).

P4: "Mangwartahay man amoang opisyaes sa asosasyon, gibinoangan ra gyud mi". (The association officials are just looking for ways to make money, we were just being fooled).

#### Theme 2: Displaced by varying entities



The participants expressed the circumstances of their displacement and position of power that was behind it. Although all participants shared the element of displacement due to development projects, their specific situations still varied in nature.

P8: “Lapukan man ni diri sauna kanang agianan sad og tubig, dinhi nami nagdako tapos kadtong nanaghan na ang mga tao unya nadevelop nasad ang mga kasikbit nga lugar mao to kuhaon na daw sa tag-iyang ang amoa gipuy-an kay himoon daw commercial building”. (This used to be a swamp with no roads and water utilities and we grew up here. More people came and the surrounding area was developed. The owner then decided to take back the land where we were and turn it into a commercial building).

P11: “Gipanghawa nami kay gamiton na daw ang lugar sa tag-iyang nga intsik buhatan siguro niyang negosyo”. (We were evicted because the area was going to be utilized by the owner. Maybe he'd put up a business).

P1: “Gipademolish mi kay di man musugot ang mupalit sa yuta nga gamay ra ang iyang maangkon nga lugar dili man unta mi mademolish kung wala lang gyuy tao nga nangusog aron mapahawa mi”. (We were demolished because the buyer of the land didn't agree to a small portion for us to remain. We wouldn't have been demolished if there hadn't been people who pressured us to leave).

P6: “Naigo man amoang balay sa six lanes na road widening mao to nga nademolish mi”. (Our house was affected by the six-lane road widening, which is why we were demolished).

### Theme 3: No opportunity to prepare for displacement

The participants collectively expressed that they had no opportunity to prepare for the eventual displacement that had occurred, given their circumstances beforehand. This recurring circumstance is split into 2 subthemes, based on the responses of the participants. Some were given notice before their displacement and some lamented that they received no notices at all and were taken aback by the sudden activity of eviction and even demolition. The participants had no opportunity to prepare for the eviction, nonetheless.

#### Subtheme 3.1: Given time and notice, but not enough

P9: “Nakadungog naman mi nga edemolish daw pero pila na sad ka tuig milabay wala may nahitabo so wala lang mi naghawa pod may gani kay naay nakaingon nga anang adlaw daw panggubaon ang mga balay mao to nakahipos ko daan sa amoang mga kahoy ug ubang gamit”. (We already heard that we were going to be demolished, but a few years passed without anything happening, so we decided not to leave. Someone even said that on this day they will start demolishing houses, so I also packed our things),

P1: “Isa ka tuig kapin ang palugit sa amoa unya kay wala man gyud mi kwarta, wala mi laing kapuy-an”. (We were given a grace period of over a year, but since we didn't have money, we had no other place to go).

P10: “Sa dihang gipahibalo nami nga demolison mi, nagool ug nabalaka gyud intawon kay wala mi kabalhinan”. (When we were informed about the demolition, we were shocked and worried because we had no alternative place to go).

#### Subtheme 3.2: Left surprised and without notice

P7: “Diha nako nakabalo nga demolison mi pag-uli nako kay natingala ko sa akoang anak nanghipos sa amoang gamit samtang naghilak”. (I found out about the demolition when I returned home and saw my child packing our things while crying).

P2: “Nakadungog mi nga hapit na daw mi demolison pero wala man mi gipahibalo sa insaktong adlaw, nakadungog ramig chismis nga nag-una una na og pamakwit ang mga opisyaes”. (We heard rumors that we were about to be demolished, but we weren't informed of the exact date. There were even rumors that officials left gradually without letting us know what's about to happen).

Table 2. Emerging Themes and Sub-themes on the Lived Experiences of Participants in Facing DID

Themes	Sub-themes	Supporting Statements
1. Misled by guiding authorities		<p>P9: “Bisan nakadawat na mi og court order, mag sigi gihapon og ingon ang mga opisyaes nga dili daw mi manghawa kay amoa man ginabayaran amoang obligasyon kada bulan”.</p> <p>P7: “Nakasab-an amoang presidente sa asosasyon apil ang iyang mga kauban nga opisyaes kay imbis tabangan mi ni Mayor papangita sa amoang yuta nga kabalhinan nga hayahay unta nga dapit apan ilaha man gipatungan ang kantidad imbis 10 million ra ang baligya sa tag-iya, gihimong 12 million”.</p> <p>P4: “Mangwartahay man amoang opisyaes sa asosasyon, gibinoangan ra gyud mi”.</p>
2. Displaced by varying entities		<p>P8: “Lapukan man ni diri sauna kanang agianan sad og tubig, dinhi nami nagdako tapos kadtong nanaghan na ang mga tao unya nadevelop nasad ang mga kasikbit nga lugar mao to kuhaon na daw sa tag-iya ang amoa gipuy-an kay himoon daw commercial building”.</p> <p>P11: “Gipanghawa nami kay gamiton na daw ang lugar sa tag-iya nga intsik buhatan siguro niyang negosyo”.</p> <p>P1: “Gipademolish mi kay di man musugot ang mupalit sa yuta nga gamay ra ang iyang maangkon nga lugar dili man unta mi mademolish kung wala lang gyuy tao nga nangusog aron mapahawa mi”.</p> <p>P6: “Naigo man amoang balay sa six lanes na road widening mao to nga nademolish mi”.</p>
3. No opportunity to prepare for displacement	3.1 Given time and notice, but not enough	<p>P9: “Nakadungog naman mi nga edemolish daw pero pila na sad ka tuig milabay wala may nahitabo so wala lang mi naghawa pod may gani kay naay nakaingon nga anang adlaw daw panggubaon ang mga balay mao to nakahipon ko daan sa amoang mga kahoy ug ubang gamit”.</p> <p>P1: “Isa ka tuig kapin ang palugit sa amoa unya kay wala man gyud mi kwarta, wala mi laing kapuy-an”.</p> <p>P10: “Sa dihang gipahibalo nami nga demolison mi, nagool ug nabalaka gyud intawon kay wala mi kabalhinan”.</p>
	3.2 Left surprised and without notice	<p>P7: “Diha nako nakabalo nga demolison mi pag-uli nako kay natingala ko sa akoang anak nanghipos sa amoang gamit samtang naghilak”.</p> <p>P2: “Nakadungog mi nga hapit na daw mi demolison pero wala man mi gipahibalo sa insaktong adlaw, nakadungog ramig chismis nga nag-una una na og pamakwit ang mga opisyaes”.</p>



**Challenges Encountered by the Participants in Facing Development-Induced Displacement**

The themes below are identified from the transcribed data with regards to the challenges encountered by the participants in facing DID. They encountered a range of challenges that significantly affected their well-being and dignity. The summary of the themes and sub-themes identified are shown in Table 3.

**Theme 1: Emotional distress**

The participants expressed the differing forms of emotional distress which they have experienced due to their displacement. Some expressed anxiety and uncertainty as they were not sure of what will become of them after their displacement. Some felt loss and grief as they indeed had formed a connection with their prior home and this was disconnected due to their demise.

P11: "Makahilak gyud ko makahinumdom sa mga panghitabo sa amoang kaagi grabe nga kalisod". (I could cry just thinking about the hardships we've faced).

P1: "Dili gyud nako maimagine ang mga kalisod nga amoang naagihan sauna nga wala mi nahimutang diri sa relocation, wala mi kabalo kung asa mi padulong, si mama ra gyud akoang sumbungan ug hilakan sa tanan nakong problema". (I can't even imagine the hardships we went through before we relocated. We didn't know where we were going. My mom was my only confidant, the one I cried to about all my problems).

P3: "Makamingaw gud pero nahitabo naman wala nami mabuhat". (It's nostalgic, but it happened, and there was nothing we could do).

P6: "Makagool gud ug makamingaw kay everytime muadto ko og downtown makita nako among area sauna makahinumdom pako sa amoang mga kaagi atong lugara". (It's both sad and nostalgic because every time I go to downtown, I see our old area and remember our past there).

**Theme 2: Livelihood struggles**

The participants experienced livelihood struggles due to their displacement. This struggle refers to the challenges and difficulties individuals or communities face in sustaining their daily lives and well-being. Based on the responses of the participants, this circumstance is then split into 2 sub-themes. Some faced hardship and sought survival strategies or ways to improve their living conditions which were exacerbated further by the displacement. Some experience unstable income from informal work, relying on low-paying informal jobs without benefits or job security.

**Sub-theme 2.1: Hardship**

P12: "Nasayanan ko sa amoang lugar dadto kay mas dako man og kita akong negosyo ngadto". (I feel regretful about our previous location because my business was much larger there).

P5: "Grasya na lang gyud sa Ginoo, naay silingan usahay manghatag og pagkaon malooy sa akoo, 4Ps ug SSS ra gyud akoang saligan kay tigulang naman ko". (Thank God, sometimes a neighbor would offer food to pity me. I rely only on 4Ps and SSS because I'm already old.).

P3: "Wala naman koy negosyo karon, ug dili ko padal-an sa akoang anak mangutang ra sad ko sa 5'6 mao ra gyud na among ginasaligan sa akong isa ka anak nga nagskwela". (I don't have a business now, if my elder children would not send me money, I can only borrow money from 5/6, that's what my child who's in school supports me with).

**Sub-theme 2.2: Unstable income**

P9: "Kung naay magpa-install og piso-wifi or magparepair og selpon, makakwarta pero kung wala, wala sad". (If someone asks me to install a coin-operated WiFi or repair cellphones, then I can earn money, but if not, then there's none).

P4: "Kung daghan og pasahero dako-dako sad og income pero bawasan pa sa renta inadlaw, carwash pa ug gasolina gamay na lang gyud ang mabilin sa akoo may nalang makapalit og bugas". (If there are many passengers, I earn a lot, but every day the rent, carwash, and gasoline eat up what's left. I can only buy a little rice).

**Theme 3: No access to basic utilities**

The participants collectively experienced having little to no access to basic utilities due to their displacement. This exacerbated their already challenging circumstances. Since their displacement, the participants have been lacking access to electricity – for communication and other purposes, and clean water – for hygiene and sanitation.

P7: “Perti gyung paita kay kinahanglan pami mamaktas human mulugsong sa tabok para lang makakabo kay wala pamay tubig sauna”. (It's really tough because we have to walk far to get water because there was no water before).

P5: “Lisod gyud kaayo kay ako lang baya intawon nya pila raman tawon akong kusog magkariton-kariton rakog hakot sa akoang tubig”. (“It's very difficult, because it's just me, and sometimes I don't have enough strength. I just haul water with my cart.”).

P8: “Magmotor rami magkabo dadto sa among kab-anan og tubig pasahian lang”. (We use motorcycles to fetch water from our water source).

P1: “Hasta gyung lisora sa among sitwasyon diri kay inig malobat amoang selpon muadto pami og highway para makacharge para makontak akoang pamilya”. (It's even harder in our situation because when our phones run out of battery, we have to go to the highway to charge them so I can contact my family).

P10: “Wala mi kuryente diri maong hastang ngitngita inig kagabii nya naay panahon nga hasta gyud kainit maligo ramig singot og kapuyan na mamaypay”. (We don't have electricity here, so it's really dark at night, and sometimes it's so hot, we just sweat and get tired even before sleeping).

Table 3. Emerging Themes and Sub-themes on the Challenges Encountered by Participants in Facing DID

Themes	Sub-themes	Supporting Statements
1. Emotional distress		<p>P11: “Makahilak gyud ko makahinumdom sa mga panghitabo sa amoang kaagi grabe nga kalisod”.</p> <p>P1: “Dili gyud nako maimagine ang mga kalisod nga amoang naagihan sauna nga wala mi nahimutang diri sa relocation, wala mi kabalo kung asa mi padulong, si mama ra gyud akoang sumbungan ug hilakan sa tanan nakong problema”.</p> <p>P3: “Makamingaw gud pero nahitabo naman wala nami mabuhat”.</p> <p>P6: “Makagool gud ug makamingaw kay everytime muadto ko og downtown makita nako among area sauna makahinumdom pako sa amoang mga kaagi atong lugara”.</p>
2. Livelihood struggles	2.1 Hardship	<p>P12: “Nasayangan ko sa amoang lugar dadto kay mas dako man og kita akong negosyo ngadto”.</p> <p>P5: “Grasya na lang gyud sa Ginoo, naay silingan usahay manghatag og pagkaon malooy sa akoo, 4Ps ug SSS ra gyud akoang saligan kay tigulang naman ko”.</p> <p>P3: “Wala naman koy negosyo karon, ug dili ko padal-an sa akoang anak mangutang ra sad ko sa 5’6 mao ra gyud na among ginasaligan sa akong isa ka anak nga nagskwela”.</p>
	2.2 Unstable Income	<p>P9: “Kung naay magpa-install og piso-wifi or magparepair og selpon, makakwarta pero kung wala, wala sad”.</p> <p>P4: “Kung daghan og pasahero dako-dako sad og income pero bawasan pa sa renta inadlaw, carwash pa ug gasolina gamay na lang gyud ang mabilin sa akoo may nalang makapalit og bugas”.</p>

3. No access to basic utilities		<p>P7: “Perti gyung paita kay kinahanglan pami mamaktas human mulugsong sa tabok para lang makakabo kay wala pamay tubig sauna”.</p> <p>P5: “Lisod gyud kaayo kay ako lang baya intawon nya pila raman tawon akong kusog magkariton-kariton rakog hakot sa akoang tubig”.</p> <p>P8: “Magmotor rami magkabo dadto sa among kaban-an og tubig pasahian lang”.</p> <p>P1: “Hasta gyung lisora sa among sitwasyon diri kay inig malobat amoang selpon muadto pami og highway para makacharge para makontak akoang pamilya”.</p> <p>P10: “Wala mi kuryente diri maong hastang ngitngita inig kagabii nya naay panahon nga hasta gyud kainit maligo ramig singot og kapuyan na mamaypay”.</p>
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### CONCLUSION

The data in summary highlights the complex network of socioeconomic and psychological issues that people experiencing Development-Induced Displacement (DID) in Davao City must deal with. The theme of finding it difficult to find a living at relocation sites exposes the harsh reality of displaced people’s financial instability and economic uncertainty. The results provide a moving picture of the significant effects of displacement on people’s lives when combined with the social and emotional challenges, especially the loss of ties to their previous communities.

This information highlights the necessity of comprehensive interventions that put fair employment opportunities first promote community harmony and tend to the psychological needs of impacted groups. To create inclusive and sustainable solutions the study also emphasizes the necessity of cooperation between legislators’ local government officials and community leaders. Through the utilization of the combined knowledge and assets of various parties involved, focused initiatives can be created to lessen the negative consequences of relocation and promote resilient communities in Davao City. In the end the information is a clear call to action imploring interested parties to pay attention to the perspectives of the displaced and implement laws and initiatives that support their rights dignity and hopes for a better future.

### CONCLUDING REMARKS

This study provides insight into the significant psychological and socioeconomic effects that development-induced displacement (DID) has on affected people Davao City. The government must change the current eviction procedures in order to guarantee justice and transparency because they are not apparent and unjust. In Davao City in particular, clearing the backlog of affordable housing is essential to giving displaced people a suitable place to live. In addition, preventing additional displacement and reducing homelessness require fostering equitable growth across all socioeconomic classes. In order to prevent gentrification and prevent impoverished urban communities from being displaced from their homes, policy makers and project developers should also take proactive measures in order to promote equitable and sustainable urban development that benefits all citizens.

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