



# THE CARING MASCULINITIES OF MALE FISHERS:

## A Case Study of Two Villages in Fishing Islands in the Philippines

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*Transforming Aquaculture and Fisheries  
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# Background of the Study

Source: WomeninfisheriesFiji.org



**The most recent investigations on small-scale fisheries (SSF) have predominantly centered on women, highlighting their roles, experiences, and contributions**

(Apriyani et al., 2025; Reis-Filho et al., 2025; Segarra Diaz, 2025; Williams et al., 2025; FAO et al., 2023; Kusakabe & Thongprasert, 2022).

*This focus is intentional, aiming to address the historical marginalization and underrepresentation of women in fisheries research and policy.*

**Why is it important to explore the roles and experiences of men in small-scale fisheries (SSF) through the lens of caring masculinities?**

**GAF**

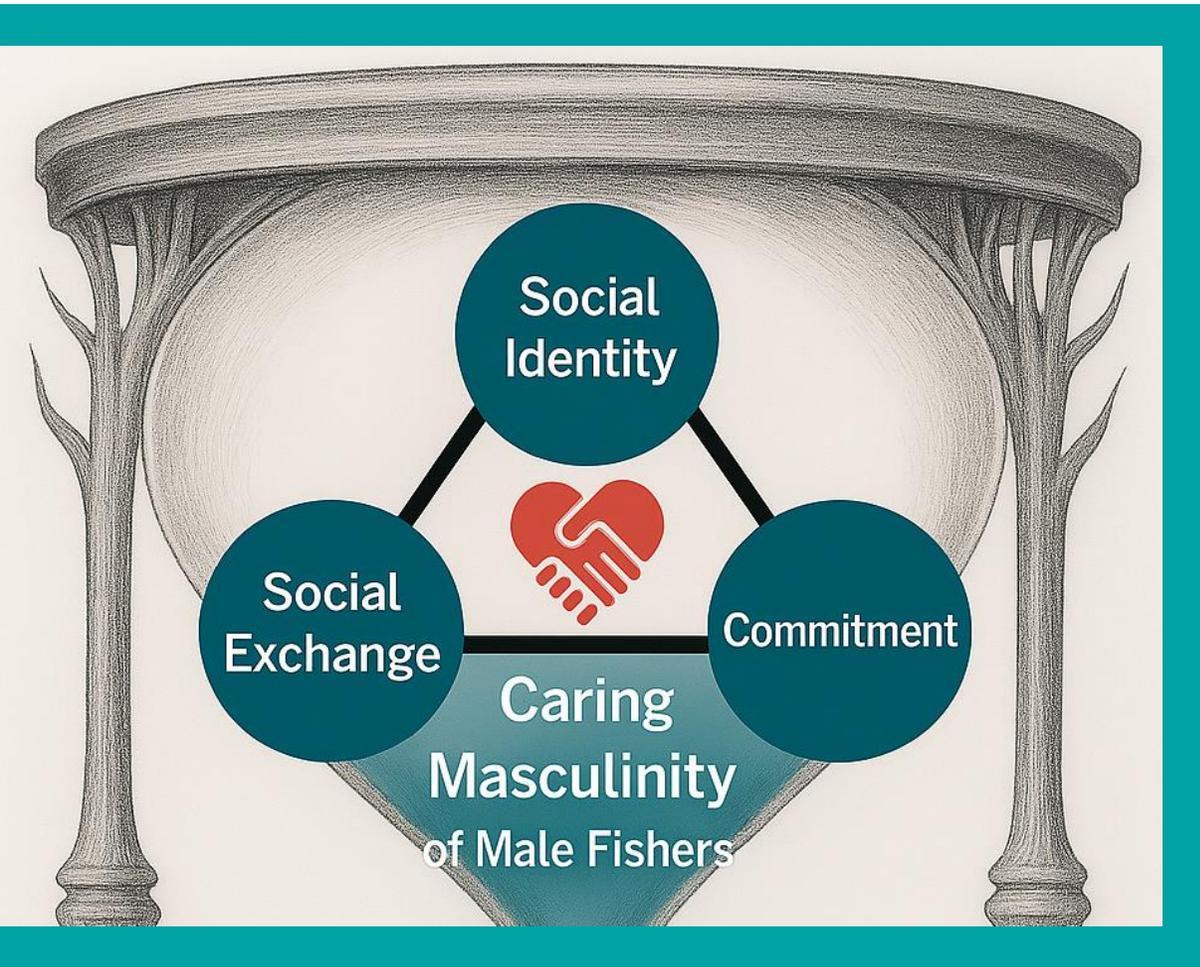


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# The Conceptual Framework



This study explores how male fishers experience their masculinities as grounded in care, responsibility, and ecological interdependence.

RQ1

O1

It investigates how and why male fishers care for one another and the coastal environment, reframing fishing communities as spaces for the emergence of masculine identities beyond extraction and conflict.

RQ2

O2

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# As the conceptual framework guides...

## Social Identity

Men as nature carers, too

## Social Exchange

Men feel good brought by strengthened relationships through sharing altruism, and maximum productivity through cooperation

## Commitment

Men believe that the sea is sacred and gives them life, and that it should not be abused — otherwise, disasters like Haiyan may happen again

Caring  
Masculinity

GAF

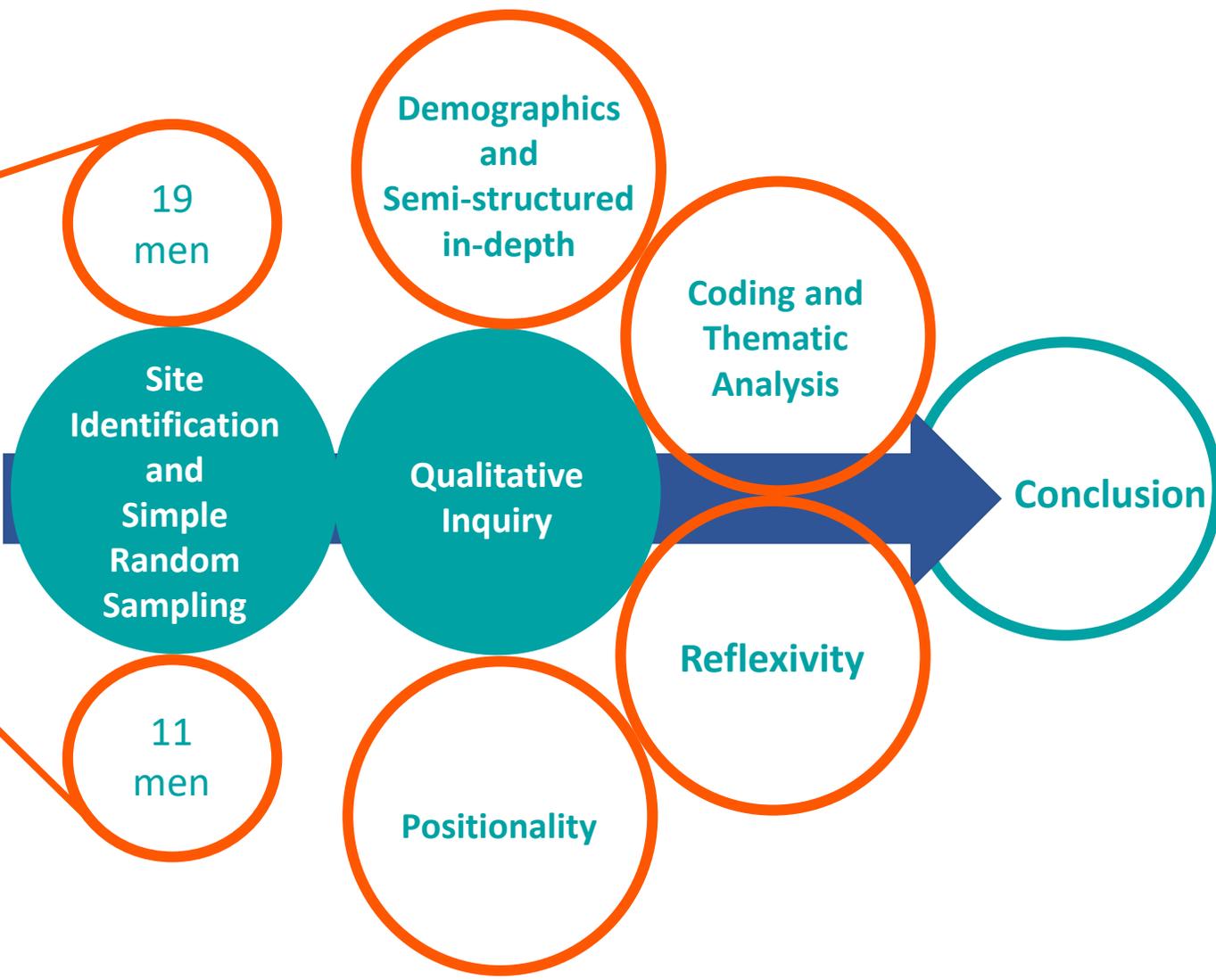
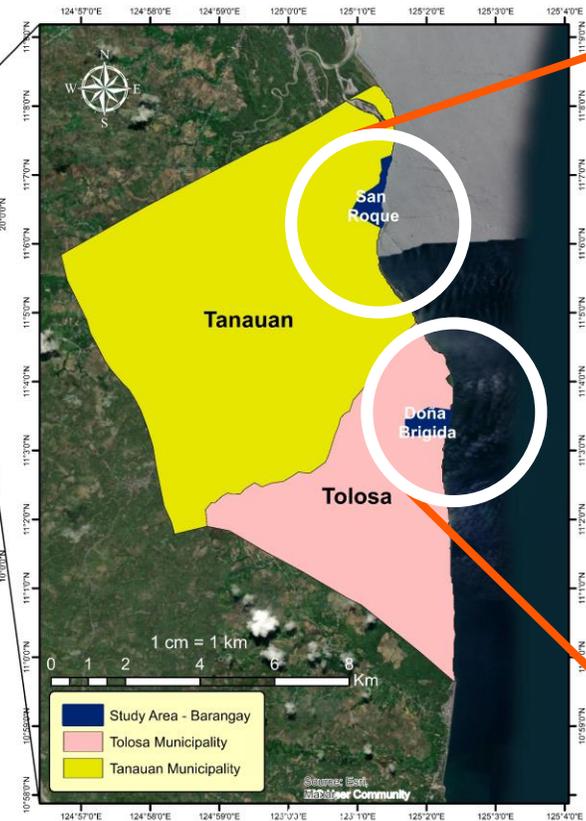
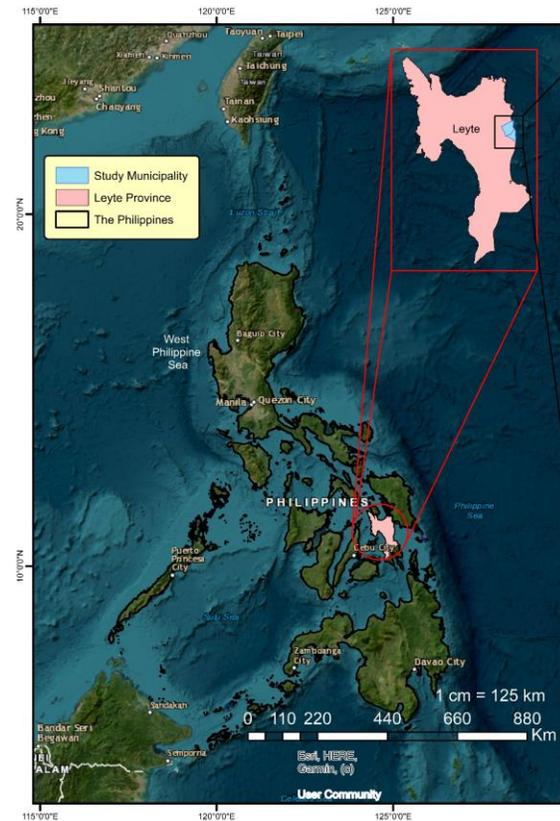
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# Methodology



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# Results and Discussion

## Why male fishers care for one another and the coastal environment?



**Memory of Typhoon Haiyan**

**“The Haiyan (Yolanda) devastation made us realize that it is important to take care of the sea, but sometimes people forget about what happened to us.”**



**Sacredness of the Sea**

**““The sea is God’s gift to us ... we will not be hungry.”**



**Obligations/Reciprocity**

**“Life is not always good, so we should be kind so that when we experience the same, they will also help us. Here, we help each other.”**

**“When my family had financial hardships, my fellow fishers would contribute and lend their hand to us, so we do the same to others.”**



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# Results and Discussion

**Planting and nurturing mangroves as kin-species — protectors of land, fish, and future generations**

**Practicing respectful navigation and fishing within customary or legal zones**

**Mangrove Reforestation**

**Ethical Fishing Practices**

- a. Use of large-mesh nets to avoid catching small fish**
- b. No dynamite or cyanide**
- c. Prioritizing ecological balance over maximum catch**
- d. Boat maintenance & oil spill prevention**

**Net-Based Trash Recovery**

- a. Removing entangled waste from fishing nets**
- b. Coastal litter clearing**

**How male fishers care for the coastal environment?**

**Honoring Local Sea Boundaries**

**Coral Reef Protection**

**Avoiding reef damage**

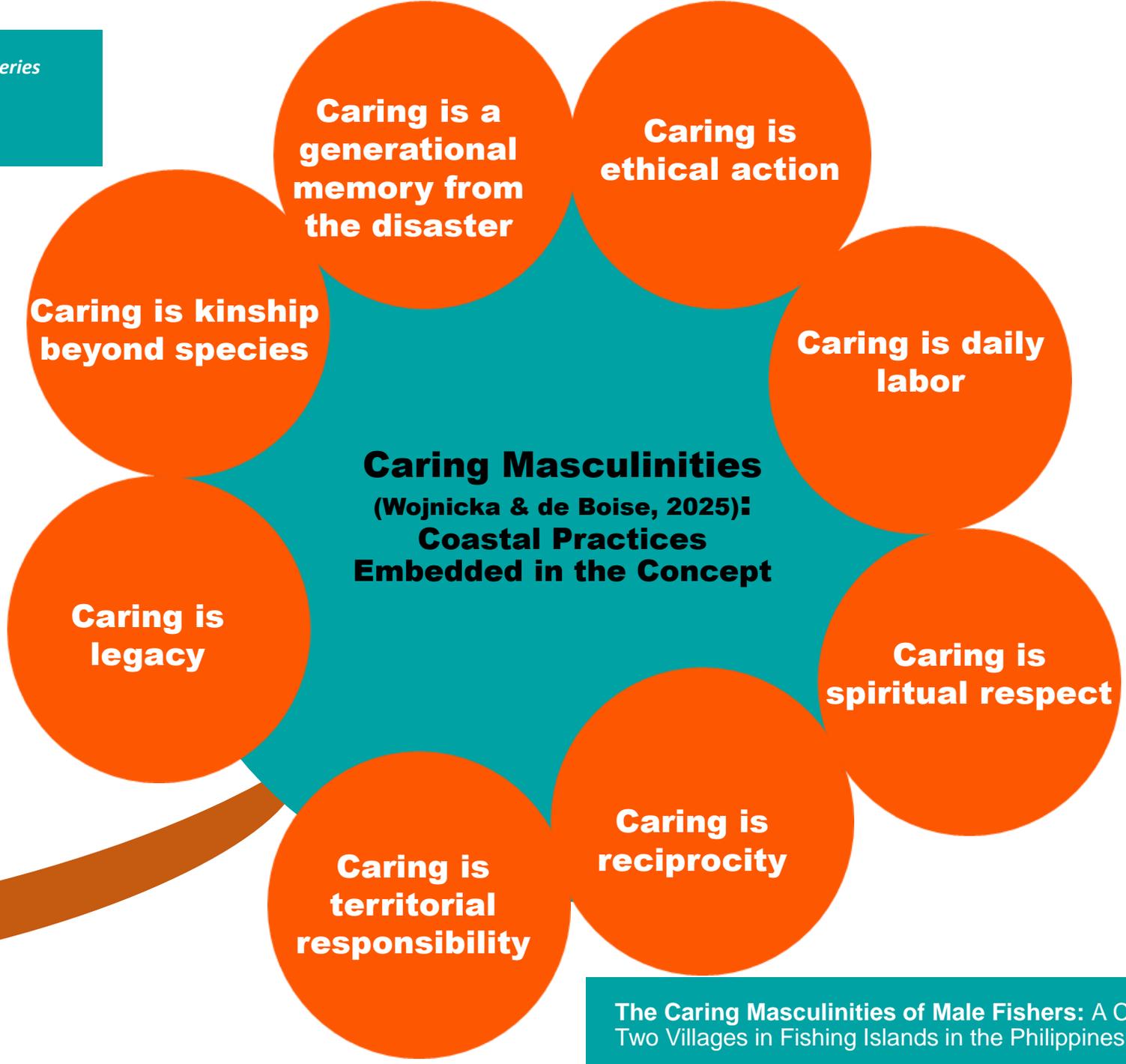
**Then, let us talk about their ways in showing care for one another.**

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**Caring is a  
generational  
memory from  
the disaster**

**Caring is  
ethical action**

**Caring is daily  
labor**

**Caring is  
spiritual respect**

**Caring is  
reciprocity**

**Caring is  
territorial  
responsibility**

**Caring is  
legacy**

**Caring is kinship  
beyond species**

**Caring Masculinities  
(Wojnicka & de Boise, 2025):  
Coastal Practices  
Embedded in the Concept**

# CONCLUSION

## Social Identity

- Male fishers care for each other and the sea because of shared experiences of support and survival.
- Helping one another is part of their social identity — they give help knowing they may need help in the future.

## Social Exchange

- Through cooperation and altruism, relationships are strengthened and productivity improves.
- Their belief that the sea is sacred and must not be abused motivates them to protect it — fearing disasters like Haiyan (Yolanda) may return.

## Commitment

- This reflects a form of caring masculinity — where being a man ALSO means showing responsibility, protecting life, and sustaining both community and environment.

Caring  
Masculinity

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# Mainstreaming Men's Caring Masculinity in Fisheries

## In Programs/Projects

1. Include men as active partners in coastal conservation and disaster preparedness
2. Highlight local stories of men as environmental protectors in Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials
3. Offer capacity-building for men that emphasizes care, cooperation, and stewardship

## In Everyday and Community Life

1. Celebrate and recognize caring male roles (e.g. peer helpers, volunteer fish wardens)
2. Facilitate peer-sharing circles among fishers to reinforce mutual support
3. Engage male leaders in modeling responsible and caring practices for younger generations

**“To care for the ocean world we must care for each other.  
The two cannot be separated.”**

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**References and source discussions are available  
in the full paper.**

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