

WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
GRADUATE SCHOOL
Iloilo City

**CLIMBING MOUNTAINS AND CROSSING SEAS: SELF-ACTUALIZATION OF
HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHERS IN
HARD-TO-REACH SCHOOLS**

A Thesis Presented to
the Faculty of the Graduate School
College of Education
West Visayas State University
Iloilo City

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts in Education
(Biology)

by
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Master of Arts in Education
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Abstract

Journey to Self-Actualization. This study examined the experiences of four high school science teachers assigned in hard-to-reach places which led or are leading them to their self-actualization. It focused on their hardships, difficulties, and challenges, their reasons for staying in the teaching profession and their sources of fulfillment, encouragement and satisfaction. This study employed the qualitative research design, narrative case study, a hybrid of narrative inquiry and case study, where the stories of the teachers explained their experiences which led or are leading them to their self-actualization. It also provided documentation and multi layered analysis of their lives in the context of the schools where they are teaching. Using narrative case study as the research method, the researcher was able to analyze and explain the experience of deep meaning and insights of the teachers. Through observation and interviews, their hardships, difficulties and challenges were identified and described and their sources of satisfaction, encouragement, and fulfillment were examined and understood. Data analysis technique included narrative analysis, thematic analysis and triangulation method. Analysis of the results revealed that although considered as difficulties, hardship and challenges, distance, accessibility to and mode of transportation, travel expenses, exhaustion from length of travel and difficulty in the transport due to the terrain or geography of the area, sleep deprivation, lack of time with the family, lacking teaching materials, and the

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attendance and or number of their students, are never hindrances to the teachers' passion for teaching and outstanding delivery of lessons. These honed them to become creative problem solvers, at the same time, contributed to their reasons for staying in the teaching position for the study revealed that the high school science teachers' passion for teaching and their concern for their students and the community in general, and financial stability keep them in the teaching profession. The high school science teachers' students and families are the high school science teachers' sources of satisfaction, encouragement, and fulfilment which led or are leading them to their self-actualization. The teachers' lives exemplify that creativity and self-actualization may be one and the same.

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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
GRADUATE SCHOOL
Iloilo City

Table of Contents

	Page
Title Page	i
Approval Sheet	ii
Acknowledgement	iii
Abstract	v
Table of Contents	vii
List of Figures	x
List of Appendices	xii
Chapter	
1 INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY	1
Background of the Study	2
Theoretical Framework of the Study	4
Statement of the Problem	7
Definition of Terms	7
Significance of the Study	8
Scope and Delimitation of the Study	10

WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
GRADUATE SCHOOL
Iloilo City

2	REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	11
	<i>The Teaching Profession</i>	11
	Teaching in Far-flung Areas	17
	Residence, Transport and Security	18
	<i>Absenteeism, Transportation and Security</i>	19
	Lack of Incentives	19
	Self-Actualization	20
	<i>Criteria for Self-Actualization</i>	21
	Characteristics of Self-Actualizing Persons	22
3	METHODOLOGY	38
	Narrative Case Study	38
	Research Locale	40
	Participants	42
	Data Collection Procedure	43
	Data Collection	43
	Data Analysis	46
	Narrative Analysis	45

WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
GRADUATE SCHOOL
Iloilo City

	Thematic Analysis	46
4	RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS	48
	Part I. Experiences	48
	Ma'am Juliet's 3 o'clock habit	52
	A. Ma'am Joy's Mountain-to-Mountain Love Affair	65
	B. Sir Romeo's B to C Journey	74
	C. Ma'am Happy's Sea of Happiness	80
	Part II. Keeping The Teachers In The Science Profession	85
	Part III. Sources of Satisfaction, Encouragement, and Fulfillment	100
	Part IV. Full Circle	117
5	SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS	144
	Summary	144
	Conclusions	146
	Implications	147
	Recommendations	153
	REFERENCES	154
	APPENDICES	163

WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
GRADUATE SCHOOL
Iloilo City

List of Figures

Figure		Page
1	Map 1 – Molo to Dingle	40
2	Map 2 – Leon to Tapaz	41
3	Map 3 – Bolo to Calagnaan	41
4	Map 4 – Batad to Carles	42
5.1	Terrain when it rains	50
5.2	The Overflow	50
6	The seashore	51
7	The slippery path uphill	51
8	The muddy trail	54
9	The footbridge	55
10	The free ride	57
11	Microscopy	63
12	The muddy trail and the footbridge	65
13	The stony uphill	66
14	Cooking rice on clay stoves	69
15	The class outside	71
16	<i>Habal-habal</i> ride home	72
17	On the way to the island school	74
18	Draft map	75

WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
GRADUATE SCHOOL
Iloilo City

19	Chess player	78
20	The natural seaport	80
21	Engaged class	83
22	At the market	100
23	Self-actualization of high school science teachers in hard-to-reach schools	117
24	Challenges, difficulties, and hardship	118
25	Factors that keep the participants in the teaching profession	132
26	Participants' sources of satisfaction, encouragement, and fulfillment	138
27	Participants' characteristics according to Maslow's theory of self- actualization	140

WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
GRADUATE SCHOOL
Iloilo City

List of Appendices

Appendix	Page
A Letters Asking Consent	163
B Participant's Consent Form	167
C Profile of the Participants	169
D Guide Questions	171
E Photos	175
F List of Figures	187

WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
GRADUATE SCHOOL
Iloilo City

155

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WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
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156

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WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY
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157

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WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
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158

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159

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WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY
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GRADUATE SCHOOL
Iloilo City

160

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GRADUATE SCHOOL
Iloilo City

161

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WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
GRADUATE SCHOOL
Iloilo City

162

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