

## Letter from the Editors

The papers presented in this issue of the *Philippine Population Journal* dwell on alternatives relating to better understanding and management of the country's fertility behavior. These are expressed in the form of improving the reader's grasp of the delicate nature and intricacies of fertility and its determinants and adding to ideas that bear on the present inputs on fertility reduction programs. Our interest on this is shaped in the light of the current fertility bias of the Philippine population program, which is reflected in the so-called "high scenario" thrust, a package of targets seeking to increase the overall rates of use-effectiveness of program methods of contraception. The program presently aims to attain a population growth rate of 2.0 percent in 1992 and eventually achieve replacement fertility for the country by the year 2000.

Barcelona addresses the issue of improving upon contraceptive adoption through a campaign against rumors on negative beliefs about contraceptives. Using data gathered from a study she conducted in Egypt, Barcelona argues that negative beliefs is a product of the communication process and can be counteracted by stepping-up efforts on IEC. This includes consideration of relevant and reliable information, target clientele's social and psychological situation, and the influences of the belief systems of the society in general.

Natividad's paper adds to a better understanding of the fertility dynamics in the country, especially the factors that can either negate or enhance present efforts for fertility reduction. She provides empirical evidence on the potentials of foetal loss to influence fertility through the birth interval and warns that the rising trend in foetal mortality is a problem that the population program must seriously address itself.

The next paper is a clinical experiment of Apelo, et al, which attempts to answer a practical implementation issue. What is the better IUD to recommend to IUD users given a choice between the Cu 7 and the Cu T 380 Ag? The paper preliminarily dismisses fears of complications attendant to the devices but makes no important distinction between the two in safety and effectiveness.

Vijayakumari's examination of the vital registration system shows that serious underreporting of vital events exists throughout the country, especially in the case of death registration. The author claims that religion above all, plus literacy and the availability of registry offices, are the key factors that affect the registration rates.

The on-going premarriage counselling program (PMC) is assessed by Bautista in her paper. Various factors representing all levels of the administrative structure of PMC are evaluated. The paper concludes that the final evaluation indicator, i.e, KAP of target clientele, is a cumulative product of client "readi-

ness" and the quality of program inputs like the quality and dedication of counsellors and the availability of appropriate print materials.

The future of the program is the common area of concern of the two feature articles. Cabrido's article discusses the relationship between population and resources. He maintains that the population dimension is a critical but often sideswept factor in physical and land use planning. Using the ecosystem compatibility and resource carrying capacity as forceful arguments, he argues for a sound land use and physical plan to support future increases in population.

The more immediate administrative future of the program is the focus of the Perez paper. It brings to the attention of the *Journal* readers the possible bottlenecks for the implementation of the cost-sharing scheme between the national and local governments in financing the program.

The papers in this issue illustrate once more the diversity of population ideas and concerns which the *Journal* is committed to disseminate and publish.