

EDITORS' NOTE

The collection of papers in this issue of the *Philippine Population Journal* focuses on the exposition of demographic interrelationships of a diverse collection of developmental concerns. The featured articles were selected with the purpose of drawing the reader's attention to alternative approaches to solving developmental problems.

Paderanga in his analysis of the determinants of school attainment of 12 year olds found that the mother's rating of her child's IQ, the household's demand for schooling (child's wage rate and rate of return to elementary education) and school quality (school expenditure on personnel per student) significantly affect the number of years of schooling that a child completes. The results bring to our attention the importance not only of educational inputs but also of non- educational variables in the achievement of educational outcomes, which variables can be useful objects of indirect educational policies.

Abenoja's article is largely descriptive. Although the author recognizes that the problems of the elderly now have not yet reached alarming proportions, she warns that it may be a problem in the 21st century. She analyzed the elderly's educational attainment and social participation in an attempt to explain gender and spatial differences among the Philippine elderly today. Taken in the context of the general poverty of the Philippines, she enumerates three dimensions of the aging problem which require policy intervention: gender inequalities, dependency status of the elderly, and spatial distribution of economic opportunities for the elderly.

The Guerrero and Ballescas article is a first attempt to view the consequences of demographic processes (fertility and migration) on selected social institutions (family, political institutions and the church) through a review of literature. Their review uncovers wide gaps in knowledge of the effects of fertility and migration on critical discussions of each institution. Such gaps, it is claimed, emanate largely from the lack of a guiding analytical framework, and of measurement techniques that require multi-level approaches as well as the inapplicability of current methodological frameworks and tools to institutional impact studies. The authors call for more multi-method designs to the study of institutional impacts of demographic processes in order to develop particularized, multi-pronged approach for specific sub-groups rather than the specification of a one-shot population policy premised on a homogenous population.

Madigan, et. al. break new ground in that they document the results of their study using the senior author's newly devised simple method of teaching modern natural family planning (NFP) that can be taught in two half-hour sessions only. Their analysis shows that the simplified method of teaching NFP give failure rates that are at least comparable to other studies or better than anticipated. The authors suggest that evaluation of the effectiveness of this New Simplified Method in relation to other NFP methods should be in terms of its user-error or of method failure rates and should exclude accidental pregnancies arising from chance-taking behavior. They consider their results encouraging for widespread application and useful particularly for couples living in isolated, hard-to-reach places and for busy urban wives.

Abejo's article examines the relationship of community factors such as access to health services and several developments of the community with infant and early

childhood mortality in rural Philippines in 1978. The accessibility of a dispensary and of a midwife or nurse and infant/child mortality showed the largest differences between categories of each of the variables even after controlling for mother's education, father's occupation and region of residence. These results indicate that community factors are greatly associated with the level of infant/child mortality. These associations were found to be greatest in less rather than in more developed villages. The relatively weaker association of the health services variables to infant/child mortality in more developed barangays is attributed in part to relatively better and affordable transportation facilities.

Engracia's paper tackles the Philippine experience on the use of census data. The uses are classified into political and legislative, administrative, and academic or research purposes. The paper also discusses considerations given to the planning for the next round of population and housing censuses to heighten the usefulness of the data that will be collected.

The papers in this issue illustrate the continuing interest of the Journal in bringing to its readers' attention a variety of demographic viewpoints in developmental concerns.