

group could have been spared from being disrupted. Aetas are indigenous peoples whose lives are different from those of the mainstream society. Thus, care could have been exercised in the planning and provision of resettlement sites for the Aetas. As borne out in the foregoing discussion of published secondary evidence, the relocation had brought about devastating changes to the group's ways of life, particularly in relation to their food gathering practices. It is thus crucial to identify and implement ways and means in which the adverse effects of these changes may be minimized.

REFERENCES

- Brosius, J. P. (1990). *After duwagan: Deforestation, succession, and adaptation in upland Luzon, Philippines*. Michigan: Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies University of Michigan.
- Gobrin, G., & Andin, A. (2002). *Development conflict: The Philippine experience* (Advocacy paper): London: Minority Rights Group and Katipunan ng mga Katutubong Mamamayan (KAMP).
- Padilla, S., Jr. (2000). Ang kilusang katutubo sa Pilipinas. In IWGIA (International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs) and AnthroWatch (Eds.), *Katutubong mamamayan* (pp. 110-112). Copenhagen: IWGIA.
- Seitz, S. (2004). *The Aeta at the Mt. Pinatubo, Philippines: A minority group coping with disaster* (M. Bletzer, Trans.). Quezon City: New Day Publishers.
- Shimizu, H. (1992). *Pinatubo aytas: Continuity and change*. Quezon City: Ateneo de Manila University Press.
- Shimizu, H. (2001). *The orphans of Pinatubo*. Manila: Solidaridad Publishing House.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

JEFFRY ACABA is currently taking his Master's degree in Anthropology at the University of the Philippines. He is Program Coordinator for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Global Fund HIV Program Rounds 3 and 5 at the Tropical Disease Foundation. Email: jpacaba@tdf.org.ph

THE GLOBAL FAMILY PLANNING REVOLUTION: THREE DECADES OF POPULATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

Editors: Warren C. Robinson & John A. Ross

Publisher: World Bank, Washington DC, 2007

ISBN-10: 0-8231-6951-2; Paperback; 470 pages

Price: US\$45

Reviewed by: J. Lloyd Ivan V. Pineda

ONE of the greatest social revolutionary efforts the world has ever had is family planning—the deliberate promotion and use of fertility regulation methods to achieve a small family size or number of children among couples in the developing world. Although much has been reported and written about the subject (not always in its favor), the overwhelming data are restricted only to the individual or some comparative family planning experiences of a few countries, usually belonging to the same region. Attempts at organizing a global perspective about this social revolution were absent until the book, *The Global Family Planning Revolution*. Featuring 22 case essays of the national family planning experiences of various developing countries across the world's regions, and substantive overview and conclusion, the publication offers not merely a global view, but a definitive one. The information came from authors and two editors who all possess considerable international firsthand family planning experience and are highly accomplished specialists in the field. The book's preface reveals specifically that the material was conceived and published for three-pronged aims—to address a knowledge gap, to establish a research record, and to generate lessons and insights. These ends appear to form part of the attempt

of the “old guards” (the book’s authors and editors) to “pass on the torch” to the young and future population scientists, so that the family planning program continues as a “burning” or revolutionary concern:

As a new social instrument to address a new social problem, the family planning program swept much of the developing world in the 1960s. We felt that the memory of this vital experience was in danger of being lost; it deserved to be captured in a definitive fashion, partly for young people unaware of the programs’ origins, partly for the historical record, and partly for lessons that apply to other spheres of concern. (p. xi)

The wealth and variety of empirical evidence presented in the book—both in the case essays and in the overview and conclusion—coupled with its systematic organization, and lucid and precise writing have enabled the publication to achieve the three-pronged aims it promised. For instance, the overview and perspective set out as the introductory chapter—in which Steven W. Sinding highlights in considerable details the major characteristics, accomplishments and debates of the family planning movement—offers so much distilled information that would suffice young people’s or researchers’ quest for knowledge or historical record on family planning. They would know, for instance, that the family planning movement originated from rich countries (the United States through the work of Margaret Sanger, Marie Stopes and John D. Rockefeller; and United Kingdom through the work of Rev. Thomas Malthus). They would get to learn, too, that the movement’s advancement had not been smooth all along—it went through a number of challenges and obstacles, which the book has ably captured and discussed in six separate, albeit interrelated phases. The book’s discourse of the origins, complexities and dynamics of the family planning movement in the introduction is, in itself, an attempt at cementing what had really happened. Thus, the setting and founding of this particular historical record would help prevent prospective misinterpretations and misrepresentations of the family planning movement, especially those out to subvert its progressive advancement.

Although some lessons and insights could already be deduced from the book’s introduction, these are most vivid and pointed in the material’s

conclusion, and echoed in succinct terms in the preface. The two editors have presented, very clearly, a number of important lessons and perspectives based on their synthesis of the data given in the case essays, and concluded that no single family planning strategy was available that could be employed across diverse situations. Notwithstanding the multiplicity of approaches, the editors pointed out several common lessons that wove through varied national experiences, to wit:

1. Insights into a country's social, economic and cultural settings along with a realistic appraisal of available resources and political will to move forward are effective starting points;
2. Persistence is important;
3. Encountering unforeseen problems was not uncommon, but countries that adopted a trial-and-error mentality could often overcome these setbacks and get the program back on track; and
4. Developing a successful family planning program was as much an art as a science.

The book's promise of supplying knowledge, historical record, and lessons and insights—while already evident in its introductory and concluding parts—is nowhere more markedly achieved (and more beneficial to future population scientists) than in its individual discussions of the family planning experiences of the 22 featured countries or cases. These national accounts discuss family planning with reference to policy origins, program structures, donor involvement, difficulties encountered, lessons learned and implications for other countries and programs. One effective strategy in the presentation and understanding of each case essay is that it is accompanied by a box showing timeline of key events involved in a country's family planning development or implementation. Expectedly, while the time coverage of the accounts was the same for all countries (1950-1980), the issues and circumstances within which they implemented their family planning programs were not (given that these were contingent upon whether the program was in a formative, middle or advanced stage). Having considered all the data of the featured countries, the editors conclude that in the span of three decades, the family planning programs worked, specifically in increasing the use of contraceptives and decreasing the number

of children among couples in the developing world. Whether the rise in contraceptive prevalence and the decline in family size have gained momentum or not, and in what circumstances they have done so, these must be documented so that the young and future crop of population scientists throughout the world can be well informed and guided. Next volume, anyone?

ABOUT THE REVIEWER

J.L. IVAN V. PINEDA holds a Masters Degree in Pastoral Ministry with a concentration in Pastoral Theology from the Ateneo de Manila University. He is currently a Lecturer of the Theology and Religious Education Department of the De La Salle University - Manila.
Email: pinedai@dlsu.edu.ph