

group where one may find the group's support, these negative feelings may find expression, and if handled competently may enhance suitability of foster mothers. As such ineffective policies and objectionable practices may be pinpointed. In such area where foster mothers are unable to cooperate around the psychiatric treatment of a child because of their lack of knowledge of what is involved, an instructional approach through the group may be used. On the other hand, persistent lack of understanding may be revealed and foster mothers concerned referred for casework. The capacity in helping to organize programs for foster club meetings and speaking on the meaning of being foster parents before an audience may be developed in experiences with group meetings. It is recalled that most of the foster mothers have been recruited through individual contacts with existing foster mothers. This may be enhanced through the capacity of foster mothers to conceptualize the role in interpreting it to others. Modification of parental attitudes or enhancement of the potential of foster mothers to understand the failures of natural mothers and to welcome them to

their homes, even the development of self-awareness, while heretofore being dealt with through casework, may be achieved as effectively and more "economically" through group discussions as it is in group therapy, as such leaving to the caseworker only such aspects as are not "treatable" through group work. In short, all these implications refer to the introduction of group work in the foster family care program. The Foster Parents' Club may be organized and developed as to lend itself to group work on an experimental basis. The impact of such an approach on the quality of foster family care should then be the subject of assessment and its applicability defined.

### *Conclusion*

The study has raised more questions than it has answered. The Foster Family Care Project at this stage of its operation and the foster family care program still under the "protective cloak" of being an experiment on foster family care in the Philippines lends itself most appropriately as the laboratory for the explorations of such questions.

## Prestige and Functional Importance Correlates in the Philippines

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Social stratification theorists have been interested in the functional analysis of stratification at the theoretical and empirical levels. The theoretical statements generally assert that the functional importance of occupational roles is di-

rectly correlated with the prestige of the roles. This relationship is accounted for in terms of the extent to which certain positions and roles are valued in the society. Hence, functional importance is viewed as a basic element which pro-

duces social stratification.<sup>1</sup> Simpson asserts that there is no necessary one-to-one relationship between the functional importance of roles and their prestige.<sup>2</sup> Ramsey and Smith<sup>3</sup> have observed that "functional necessity appears to have a low positive correlation with prestige... The negative correlation between income and social importance suggests the need for further research on social importance as a basic condition producing stratification..." Lopreato and Lewis<sup>4</sup> found that functional importance has a lower correlation with prestige and reward than the phenomenon of skill. They<sup>5</sup> subsequently conclude that functional importance tends to be a relatively unimportant dimension of social stratification. A partial replication tends to confirm their conclusion.<sup>6</sup> Additional studies which reconsider various dimensions of the functional stratification theory under various circumstances provide confirming evidence that functional importance is relatively unimportant.<sup>7</sup>

### Additional Considerations

The above theory and empirical findings tend to reflect these shortcomings. One shortcoming reflects the relative nationalistic character of sociological thinking as a result of sociological theory being written against the background of American society.<sup>8</sup> Professor Clinard suggests that sociology can enhance its respectability—from the viewpoint of theoretical soundness—by becoming more deeply immersed in the cross-cultural perspective.<sup>9</sup> The present research endeavor is oriented in that direction from these perspectives. An attempt is made to reconsider the major proposition of functional stratification theory in relation to data which were acquired from natives of the Philippines. The use of these data will make it possible for one to make some comparative generalizations about the theory's validity, even though the cross-cultural perspective is limited.

What is the relevance of this cross-cultural perspective? There are some known sociological differences between American and Filipino society which might alter the relationship between prestige and functional importance. The relationship between the two stratification elements in the latter society may be different since it does not have the same type of social structure as the United States, one which is characterized by a high level of industrial development, economic level of living, rational social values, etc. Could the various American findings be an artifact of those conditions which are pervasive in American society? Do people in the Philippines sufficiently differ—in terms of fundamental values—for there

<sup>1</sup> Kingsley Davis and Wilbert E. Moore, "Some Principles of Stratification," *American Sociological Review*, 10 (April, 1945), 242-249; Kingsley Davis, *Human Society* (New York: Macmillan, 1948), Chapter 15; Talcott Parsons, "A Revised Analytical Approach to the Theory of Social Stratification," in T. Parsons, *Essays in Sociological Theory*, (revised edition, New York: Free Press), pp. 386-439; Bernard Barber, *Social Stratification* (New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1957), Chapter 1.

<sup>2</sup> Richard L. Simpson, "A Modification of the Functional Theory of Stratification," *Social Forces*, 35 (December, 1956), 133-137.

<sup>3</sup> Charles E. Ramsey and Robert J. Smith, "Japanese and American Perceptions of Occupations," *American Journal of Sociology*, 65 (March, 1960), 481.

<sup>4</sup> Joseph Lopreato and Lionel S. Lewis, "An Analysis of Variables in the Functional Theory of Stratification," *Sociological Quarterly*, 4 (Autumn, 1963), 301-310, 306.

<sup>5</sup> Lionel S. Lewis and Joseph Lopreato, "Functional Importance and Prestige of Occupations," *Pacific Sociological Review*, 6 (Fall, 1963), 55-59.

<sup>6</sup> Edward E. Harris, "Prestige, Reward, Skill, and Functional Importance: A Reconsideration," *Sociological Quarterly*, 5 (Summer, 1964), 261-264.

<sup>7</sup> Edward E. Harris, *Empirical Essays In Functional Stratification Theory*, (forthcoming).

<sup>8</sup> Vilhelm Aubert, *Elements of Sociology*, (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1967), pp. 155-156.

<sup>9</sup> Marshall B. Clinard, "The Sociologist's Quest for Respectability," *Sociological Quarterly*, 7 (Autumn, 1966), 399-412, 407.

to be a marked difference in the association between prestige and functional importance? Do people in the Philippines sufficiently differ in terms of fundamental attitude which might result in a different empirical relationship, because they (the Filipinos) might have a particular attitude about the social condition which prevails in their society?<sup>10</sup> Even though these questions have been raised in a general cross-cultural perspective, the major focus of attention is on the Philippines, the source from which the data come. We are interested in knowing to what extent the social climate of this society tends to influence the implications of functional stratification theory.

The relevance of this study can be seen in relation to certain characteristics and dynamics of Filipino society. Some brief descriptions of these characteristics and changes include the basic rural and agricultural society in which towns and cities are emerging. Some of the old and important cultural patterns are becoming more firmly fixed, others are disappearing, others are being modified beyond recognition. At the same time, some cultural patterns are remaining intact. Other innovations occur with the introduction of new crops, tools, cultivation practices, ways of transport, housing and residential patterns, trade, and religions. Land-use patterns have also changed and new peoples moving to the islands have introduced new social, economic, and po-

<sup>10</sup> At this point, I basically have in mind a matter which I heard Professor H. Kirk Dansereau mention in relation to the attitude of Turks about certain occupational role incumbents. There seems to be a great concern about the possible "brain drain" among certain professionals who are viewed as being important to the society. These professionals tended to include physicians, dentists, engineers, etc. The question is could this state of affairs in a society alter the empirical relationship between prestige and functional importance?

litical patterns.<sup>11</sup> The social structure in the latter regard has been generally described as consisting of a peasantry, workers, a middle class, and a political ruling class.<sup>12</sup> The present study is made with this network of social relations as its social context.

## Research Methods

The methods included making a secondary analysis of some data which were published by John F. Doherty.<sup>13</sup> The specific data which were employed had been derived from some rankings of occupations in terms of their prestige and importance.<sup>14</sup> The importance of the occupations can serve as a general index of a kindred functional importance phenomenon. The two rank orders were then correlated in terms of the ranks-difference correlation ( $\rho$ ) procedure.

## Findings

A correlation of 0.69 was found between prestige and the importance of the occupations. In substantive terms, this correlation accounts for 48 per cent of the total variance between the two evaluations. This correlation can be said to be a moderate correlation if one asserts that a moderate correlation has a range from 0.40 to 0.69.<sup>15</sup> A correlation of 0.69 is well within the range of those correlations which are grounded on American

<sup>11</sup> See J. E. Spencer, *Land and People in the Philippines*, (Berkeley, California: University of California Press, 1954).

<sup>12</sup> George E. Taylor, *The Philippines and the United States*, (New York: F. A. Praeger), Chapter 9.

<sup>13</sup> John F. Doherty, "Criteria for Occupational Evaluation," *Philippine Sociological Review*, 13 (April, 1965), 78-84, 79.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, 79.

<sup>15</sup> See J. P. Guilford, *Fundamental Statistics in Psychology and Education*. (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1950), p. 165.

samples.<sup>16</sup> With this being the case, it can be easily assumed that correlations involving other stratification elements (from Filipino samples) would likewise be relatively higher. The observed correlation of 0.69 leads the investigator to believe that the socio-cultural factors which are present in the Philippines do not alter the substantive conclusions which has been demonstrated from American data. Functional importance remains a relatively unimportant element in stratification. Even though the Western influence in the Philippines is relatively strong, the objective shape and span of the class structure in the Philippines fundamentally differs from that which exists in the United States. These structural differences and other social factors which identify Filipino society seem not to have an important impact on the empirical status of functional stratification theory.

<sup>16</sup> Edward E. Harris, *op. cit.*

### Summary and Implications

The present endeavor sought to provide a general test of functional stratification theory. This investigation sought to evaluate the relationship between prestige and functional importance within a non-American social context. Some relevant data from the Philippines made this particular test possible.

The findings of the present study did not substantially alter the empirical status of functional stratification theory. This limited cross-cultural study has profound implications in relation to the contention that the universality of social stratification basically rests on its functional relationship to the society. It seems that the functional element of social stratification is not a primary reason for the existence of social stratification. The relative importance of functional importance seems to be less than the extent to which theorists emphasize.

## Repercussions of Naive Scholarship: The Background of Local Furor

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The Tiruray, a Mindanao hill people whose homeland is the northern part of the Cotabato Cordillera, have never enjoyed a very "good press". To be sure,

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not much about the Tiruray has been printed at all; but what has been published would, in most cases, strike a literate Tiruray as both inaccurate and unfair.<sup>2</sup>

In an article entitled "Around Mindanao" in the March 16, 1901 issue of

<sup>2</sup> A notable exception on both counts is the brief ethnographic report of Wood, G., "The Tiruray," *Philippine Sociological Review*, 5:2 (1957) 12-39.