

## GUEST-EDITOR'S PREFACE

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This issue is devoted exclusively to demographic, or population, studies. The history of science tells us that new and specialized sciences began to develop when and wherever traditional knowledge proved unable to cope with unexpected and never-before-encountered problems. While this statement holds true for demography in general, it applies in a very particular way to the emergence of demography as a field of study in the Philippines. Only 10 years ago the country did not possess a single full-fledged demographic research center, and demographic research itself was scanty, dependent upon the personal inclinations of a few isolated scholars rather than national interest. Since then drastic changes have occurred. The desire for social and economic development, which characterizes present Filipino society, has led to the realization that both change and development are intricately related to and determined by population behavior. As a result, population problems and population studies have received increased attention. Within the past six years a number of demographic research centers have been set up, population studies have multiplied, and the government has instituted a Population Commission.

The articles, reviews, and research note presented in this issue are a reflection of the problem orientation responsible for the rise of demographic interest in the Philippines. The so-called Population Problem, as generally defined, consists of population increase considered too rapid vis-a-vis economic growth. Population growth is the net result of mortality and fertility trends. Any attempt to regulate it has to work through either one of these components, or both of them. Since it is a universal desire to keep mortality at the lowest possible level, a slowdown of population growth can be achieved only through fertility reduction. Hence the preoccupation of demographers with fertility, world-wide as well as in the Philippines.

Three of the following articles deal with Philippine fertility directly, each one approaching it from a different point of view. Smith's paper, using 1960 Census data and starting from an ecological perspective, represents the first thorough attempt made in this country to estimate fertility levels for various geographic regions of the Philippines and to relate them to marriage pattern as well as social-structural and socio-economic influences impinging on the latter and on fertility behavior itself.

Pascual's study of differential fertility in the Philippines could be classified as a continuation of the work started by Concepción (1964) in 1963. It analyzes fertility differentials of married women with various demographic, socioeconomic, and cultural characteristics and points out recent fertility trends by comparing 1960 Census data with those collected during the 1968 National Demographic Survey of Households (NDS). Methodologically, the study relies mainly – though not entirely – on a more conventional technique: per-cent-distribution analysis. Pascual's findings are of particular interest in the sense that they throw doubt on the validity of a number of generally accepted hypotheses as, for example, that fertility tends to be inversely related to economic development, or that rural fertility is higher than that prevailing in urban areas.

Among the three studies dealing with fertility, Hendershot's is the most specialized. It concerns itself with the effects cityward migration exerts on the birth rate of migrants. Findings from comparisons of fertility levels of migrants who had moved from rural areas of northwestern Luzon and Panay Island to Manila with those of natives in the areas of origin as well as in the area of destination confirm in part the so-called "Social Mobility Theory." This theory hypothesizes that cityward migration is selective of persons with high aspirations and potentials for upward social mobility, that migrants participate in urban life at least as much as natives do, and that, as a result, city immigrants tend to have lower fertility than native urbanites. Hendershot's paper is an excellent example of "secondary analysis." The data used for his analysis were collected in 1966 and 1967 by the University of the Philippines Population Institute in the communities of Manila, Calasiao and Miagao, and results of a first analysis of these data were published in 1967 and 1968 (Pratt 1967; Murphy 1968).

Bacol's article is the only one in this collection which deviates from the research bias so obvious otherwise. This is not to say that it does not address itself to a problem as real and as pressing as that of high fertility. Her study of intergenerational occupational mobility, based on NDS (1968) data, describes how the present occupational structure, with its concentration of economically active persons in agriculture, imposes structural limitations on the extent and direction of occupational mobility. The occupational structure emerging from her analysis displays a high degree of rigidity, permitting short-distance moves at best. Education is found to be a necessary, but not always a sufficient, prerequisite for occupational status gain where persons of low-class origin are concerned. Besides mapping out occupational mobility trends, Bacol provides a detailed occupational classification scheme in which occupations are ordered according to prestige (cf. Voth 1970, which is in press at this writing). The paradigm presented by Bacol is the most comprehensive of those developed for the Philippines so far.

Likewise dealing with fertility, but in a more indirect way, is the article by Mortel and Nazaret. Its central theme is vital registration. Recording of births and deaths has been practiced in this country since the coming of the Spaniards, and in 1930 it was made compulsory by law. But despite its long tradition and obligatory nature vital registration has remained deficient. To identify problems related to vital registration and to experiment with new methods designed to achieve more satisfactory results, the Bureau of the Census and Statistics in cooperation with the Population Institute, University of the Philippines, executed a pilot project in two municipalities of Northern Luzon and Northern Mindanao. Mortel and Nazaret, two Census Bureau officers who were involved in the project, provide a description and an evaluation of the procedures used and summarize the results obtained. Experiences garnered through the pilot project are at present utilized in a nationwide sample vital registration project instituted by the Bureau of the Census and Statistics on January 1, 1971. Madigan's research note on intensive population study in Mindanao describes efforts being made along the same lines, though in much more concentrated form, by the Mindanao Center for Population Studies, Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro City.

Stinner's outlined bibliography of books and articles related to demography in general and to Philippine population studies in particular continues a "tradition" which began with a list of "Selected anthropology books and periodicals for Philippine colleges and universities" (Lynch and Corvera 1969). Its compilation was motivated by the desire (1) to enable librarians of colleges or universities interested in introducing population courses in their curricula to select the most important as well as readily available material, (2) to provide teachers with guidelines for the organization of population courses, and (3) to give students of population clues as to where to find demographic information and explanations.

Besides the research note provided by Madigan, Osteria gives a short review of selected findings -- the only ones circulated so far, to my knowledge -- from the Cebu Family Health Project which was

executed from 1967 to 1968 in Cebu City and Province by a research team from the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, U.S.A. The rather lengthy notes of Pullum are an attempt to give the reader a somewhat more rounded picture of substantive and methodological problems encountered by students of fertility world-wide. His summary of technical papers presented in August 1971 at a conference on Statistical Problems in Population Research (East-West Center, Honolulu) will be gratefully received by demographically more sophisticated persons interested in novel ideas as well as in methods which could improve future research.

One final remark: The material presented in this issue cannot claim to give a comprehensive picture of demographic research activities in the Philippines or of the research interests of demographers. One especially important demographic fact has not been touched on at all is *mortality*. It is hoped that a future issue of the *Philippine Sociological Review* will fill this gap.

### References

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