

THESE ARE THE PROBLEMS WE FACE DAW

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The Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus is in effect a group of patriots who control limited corporate resources--talent, energies, several physical plants, funds, and a measure of influence--and wish to use them to the best advantage of the Philippines and its people. Once we have decided what we cannot do, what scales exist to weigh the relative worth of alternative possibilities, what evidences are at hand to tell us which tasks need doing most?

Helpful as a guide would be a list of the most important problems facing the Philippines today. For if we could identify those difficulties which, more than all others, burden the nation and slow its progress, we could also name with certainty some of the tasks most likely to repay the Province's efforts. But how to make the list of problems, that is the question.

One approach might be through a study of the number of column-inches devoted to various national problems in the Manila press. At the head of a list derived in this way we would probably find lack of peace and order, followed closely by graft and corruption. Another approach, which supposes that the nation's leaders know what ails it, is to interview local and national influentials and ask them what they think the most important problems are. Here the list we get is liable to be somewhat different from the press-based list, because it will reflect the thinking of those who are on the inside, as it were, able to distinguish symptom from cause, appearance from reality, by their own intimate experience with the workings of the nation's private and public sectors.

As part of a study of schools and influentials, begun in January 1969, the IPC has been asking the country's national and local influentials what they believe the most important problems are. In December 1969 we also asked the same question of members of the Ateneo de Manila faculty and administration.¹ What follows is a summary of the findings.

The problem that faculty and national influentials most often mention, in one form or another, is the existence of grave deficiencies in the national economy. The words and phrases used include the

following: economic instability, economic dependence, underproduction, economic insufficiency, lack of sound economic planning, lack of long-range plans, lack of money, low buying power, low dollar reserves, lack of foreign exchange, unfavorable balance of payments, lack of organization (Tables 40a, 41, and 41a).

For local influentials the No. 1 national problem is lack of peace and order, a difficulty ranked second by national leaders and sixth by the Ateneo faculty (Tables 39 and 41).

There is across-the-board agreement that the third most important problem facing the Philippines today is graft and corruption--the misuse of public power for private material profit. Social injustice is another grave problem, ranked second by faculty members, fourth by national influentials, and fifth by locals (Tables 39 and 41).

Rated fourth by the faculty and fifth and sixth, respectively, by the nationals and locals is a problem we label moral, cultural, and religious deficiencies in the general populace. Included here are such complaints as citizen complacency, general indifference, failure to exercise democratic rights, lack of national discipline, bahala na, lack of concern for the public welfare, selfishness, self over others, lack of civic consciousness; conflict between the Filipino family system and modernization, breakdown of traditional values; lack of faith, low proportion of men to women attending church services; lack of public opinion (Tables 40a, 41, and 41a).

It is clear that a consensus exists that the gravest problems threatening the Republic of the Philippines at this point in history are basic economic and moral deficiencies; further, it seems agreed that these problems result less from the operations of any outside force than from failures within the nation.

Mentioned with less frequency are several clearly symptomatic problems--unemployment, poverty, high prices, low wages, inadequate roads and bridges, insufficient educational opportunities--and three problems of substance: the population explosion, lack of genuine nationalism, and inefficient government structure.

The problems freely mentioned by influentials and faculty may be briefly compared with the responses of others who differ in age, educational attainment and income. Specifically, we report the replies of Ateneo de Manila high school and college students, Tondo housewives and their husbands, and a national sample of adults living in provincial poblaciones and barrios.²

Compared among themselves, the responses of students show a two-fold trend from first year high school to fourth year college. As students advance in age and educational attainment they give less importance to symptoms (poverty, high prices, low wages, and the like), more attention to causes; place less emphasis on technical problems, more on moral deficiencies.

Tondo household heads, like high school students, think first of the problems they experience and hear people talking about--high prices, unemployment, lack of peace and order, and low wages, in that order, with high prices mentioned twice as often as unemployment. The population explosion is actually mentioned third most frequently by wives, fourth by husbands, but this is almost certainly because of the context in which the question was asked (see note 2). Responses from over 1700 Filipinos throughout the provincial Philippines indicate that when they think of the nation's needs their thoughts turn first to economic betterment (53 per cent of replies) and higher moral standards and performance, particularly by those in power (26 per cent of replies).

The same emphasis on economic and moral problems is observed, in other words, among Filipinos not numbered among the nation's influentials or high-level educators. The complaints are expressed in more concrete and particular terms by students and the relatively poor couples interviewed in Tondo, but the agreement is there: these are indeed the problems we face. What can we Jesuits do to help solve them?

Notes

¹An influential is one whose activities measurably affect public policy or opinion at either the national or local level. Names are arrived at by a combination of reputational and behavioral approaches, with panelists and nominees interviewed in Greater Manila and eight other cities (see Table 42).

The study of schools and influentials is directed by Perla Q. Makil of the IPC, sponsored by the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities (PAASCU). Miss Makil, assisted by deputy-director Horacio Borromeo, Jr., also directed the study of Ateneo de Manila faculty and student opinions on national problems (December 1969). Influentials and faculty opinions were in reply to an open-ended question about national problems. Students ranked 12 problems listed and presented to them for that purpose.

Funds for both projects were furnished by the Faura Research Center, Inc.

² Student opinions came from 239 randomly selected high school and college men (project directors: Makil and Borrromeo). The replies of 106 randomly selected Tondo housewives and 76 husbands were in response to an open-ended inquiry made in December 1969 as part of a survey made to evaluate organized family planning promotional activities in Tondo (project directors: Wilfredo F. Arce and Aurora Silayan Go, both of the IPC).

The provincial sample of 1738 represents most of the 2248 Filipinos interviewed in 1965 in the Philippines Peace Corps Survey (principal investigator, Thomas W. Maretzki, University of Hawaii; chief coordinator, Frank Lynch).

Funds for the Tondo study were furnished by the Manila Health Department and the United States Agency for International Development (AID). The Peace Corps Survey was supported by the U. S. Peace Corps.

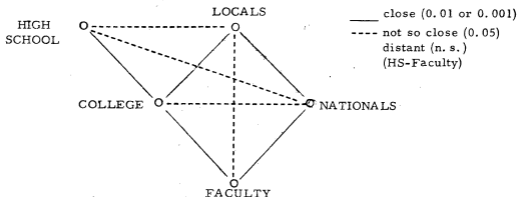
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A NOTE ON TABLE 38

Table 38 shows how closely Ateneo de Manila students and faculty think alike on 12 national problems, and how closely, in turn, influentials in the local and national levels agree with one another and with the Ateneo respondents.

The 12 problems are these: social injustice, poverty, immorality (graft and corruption), lack of peace and order, unemployment, inefficient government structure, high prices, population explosion, insufficient educational opportunities, low wages, lack of nationalism, and inadequate roads and bridges.

The meaning of the statistical values in Table 38 can be presented in the form of a diagram.



In other words, in terms of agreement on the relative importance of the 12 national problems, Ateneo faculty members are close to college students and national influentials, not so close to locals, and distant from high school students.

Ateneo college students are close to high school students, college faculty, and local influentials, not so close to national influentials.

Ateneo high school students are close to college students, not so close to national and local influentials, distant from the college faculty.

National influentials are close to locals and the Ateneo faculty, not so close to students at either level.

Local influentials are close to nationals and college students, not so close to faculty members or high school students.

Table 38. Coefficients of concordance and correlation between and among rank orderings made of the same 12 national problems (Tables 31-33 and 36-37) by various groupings (data gathered June-December 1969)

Grouping	Ateneo de Manila			Influentials	
	Students		Faculty and adm.	National	Local
	HS	College			
Ateneo de Manila					
HS students	0.01*	0.01*	n. s. *	0.05*	0.05*
College students	-	0.001**	0.05*	0.05*	0.01*
Faculty/adm.	-	-	0.001**	0.01*	0.05*
Influentials					
National	-	-	-	No test	0.01*
Local	-	-	-	-	0.001**
Number of respondents ranking	209	130	132	99	246

* Spearman rank correlation coefficient

** Kendall coefficient of concordance W

Table 39. Rankings given to the 15 national problems freely mentioned most frequently by 132 members of the Ateneo faculty and administration, classified by problem, crossclassified by status and academic rank of raters (December 1969)

Average rank order*	Problem	F a c u l t y			
		Instr.	Asst. prof.	Assoc. full prof.	and Adm.
1	Deficiencies in the national economic institution	3	1	3	2
2	Social injustice	2	2	1	7.5
3	Immorality (graft and corruption)	1	3	3	1
4	Moral, cultural, and religious deficiencies in the general populace	6	4	3	3.5
5	Inefficient government structure	4	10	5	11
6	Lack of peace and order	5	7.5	6	5.5
7	Population explosion	7.5	6	10	11
8	Insufficient educational opportunities	11	7.5	7.5	3.5
9	Lack of nationalism	9	5	10	11
10	Unemployment	7.5	15	12	7.5
11.5	Difficulties inherent in the nation's growth stage	12.5	10	7.5	14
11.5	High prices	10	12	10	5.5
13	Poverty	12.5	10	13	9
14.5	Inadequate roads, bridges, etc.	14	13.5	14.5	14
14.5	Low wages	15	13.5	14.5	14
Number of faculty/administration ranking 52			31	38	11

* When the rankings given by administrators and the various categories of faculty are compared, using the Kendall coefficient concordance W , they are found to agree very closely with one another (at the 0.001 level).

Table 40. Rankings given to the 15 national problems freely mentioned most frequently by 132 members of the Ateneo de Manila faculty and administration, classified by problem, crossclassified by rankers' citizenship (December 1969)

Average rank order*	Problem	Filipinos	Americans	Others
1	Deficiencies in the national economic institution	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓
2	Social injustice	3	1	1
3	Immorality (graft and corruption)	1.5	2	4.5
4	Moral, cultural, and religious deficiencies in the general populace	5	4	7.5
5	Inefficient government structure	6	5.5	4.5
6	Lack of peace and order	4	8.5	12
7	Population explosion	7.5	7	4.5
8	Insufficient educational opportunities	11	8.5	19
9	Lack of nationalism	10	8.5	4.5
10	Unemployment	7.5	12	7.5
11.5	Difficulties inherent in the nation's growth stage	13	5.5	12
11.5	High prices	9	14	12
13	Poverty	12	11	12
14.5	Inadequate roads, bridges, etc.	14.5	14	12
14.5	Low wages	14.5	14	12
Number of faculty/administration ranking		89	35	8

*When the rankings of Filipinos are compared with those of the Americans and of others, using the Spearman rank correlation coefficient, they are found in each case to be in close agreement (at the 0.01 level).

Table 40a. Frequencies with which 132 members of the Ateneo de Manila faculty and administration freely mentioned various national problems, classified by problem and included subproblems (December 1969)

National problems and subproblems	Frequency of mention	
	N	Rank Order
DEFICIENCIES IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC INSTITUTION	<u>68</u>	1
<u>Subproblems:</u>		
economic (general), economic instability, economic dependence	32	
underproduction, economic insufficiency	10	
lack of sound economic planning, long range plans	10	
lack of money, low buying power, low dollar reserves, lack of foreign exchange, balance of payments	9	
socioeconomic (general)	4	
lack of organization	3	
SOCIAL INJUSTICE	<u>66</u>	2
IMMORALITY (graft and corruption)	<u>65</u>	3
MORAL, CULTURAL, AND RELIGIOUS DEFICIENCIES IN THE GENERAL POPULACE	<u>46</u>	4
<u>Subproblems:</u>		
attitudes, values: citizen complacency, general indifference, no exercise of democratic rights, laziness, lack of national discipline, bahala na	13	
lack of concern for public welfare, selfishness, self over others, no civic consciousness	13	
religious (personal), lack of faith, low proportion of men to women in churches	7	
cultural (general), conflict between Filipino family system and modernization; breakdown of traditional values	7	
helplessness	3	
lack of creative thinking	2	
permissive society	1	

Table 40a (cont'd) page 2

National problems and subproblems	Frequency of mention	
	N	Rank Order
INEFFICIENT GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE	<u>32</u>	5
LACK OF PEACE AND ORDER	<u>31</u>	6
POPULATION EXPLOSION	<u>23</u>	7
INSUFFICIENT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES	<u>21</u>	8
LACK OF NATIONALISM, SEARCH FOR NATIONAL IDENTITY	<u>20</u>	9
UNEMPLOYMENT	<u>18</u>	10
DIFFICULTIES INHERENT IN THE NATION'S GROWTH STAGE	<u>15</u>	11.5
<u>Subproblems:</u>		
underdevelopment, lack of industrialization	11	
modernization (process itself)	4	
brain drain	0	
HIGH PRICES	<u>15</u>	11.5
POVERTY	<u>12</u>	13
INADEQUATE ROADS, BRIDGES, ETC.	<u>2</u>	14.5
LOW WAGES	<u>2</u>	14.5
TOTAL NUMBER OF MENTIONS	436	

Table 41. Rankings given to the 15 national problems freely mentioned most frequently by 99 national and 246 local influentials, classified by problem, crossclassified by reputed scope of rankers' influence (data gathered June-December 1969)

Average rank order*	Problem	Rankers' reputed influence	
		National	Local
1	Lack of peace and order	2	1
2	Deficiencies in the national economic institution	1	2
3	Immorality (graft and corruption)	3	3
4	Unemployment	6.5	4
5	Social injustice	4	5
6	Moral, cultural, and religious deficiencies in the general populace	5	6
7	Poverty	9	7
8	Population explosion	6.5	8.5
9	Difficulties inherent in the nation's growth stage	10	8.5
10	Inefficient government structure	8	11
11	Insufficient educational opportunities	11	10
12	High prices	15	12
13	Lack of nationalism	12	13.5
14	Inadequate roads, bridges, etc.	13	13.5
15	Low wages	14	15
Number of influentials ranking		99	246

*When the rankings of local and national influentials are compared, using the Spearman rank correlation coefficient, they are found to be in close agreement (at the 0.01 level).

Table 4la. Frequencies with which 99 national and 246 local influentials freely mentioned various national problems, classified by problem and included subproblems (December 1969)

National problems and subproblems	Frequency of mention	
	N	Rank Order
LACK OF PEACE AND ORDER	<u>191</u>	1
DEFICIENCIES IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC INSTITUTION	<u>182</u>	2
<u>Subproblems:</u>		
economic (general), economic instability, economic dependence	79	
underproduction, economic insufficiency	43	
lack of money, low buying power, low dollar reserves, lack of foreign exchange, balance of payments	35	
lack of sound economic planning, long range plans	14	
socioeconomic (general)	10	
lack of organization	1	
IMMORALITY	<u>101</u>	3
<u>Subproblems:</u>		
graft and corruption	92	
unclean/unfree elections	9	
UNEMPLOYMENT	<u>76</u>	4
SOCIAL INJUSTICE	<u>74</u>	5

Table 41a (cont'd) page 2

National problems and subproblems	Frequency of mention	
	N	Rank Order
MORAL, CULTURAL, AND RELIGIOUS DEFICIENCIES IN THE GENERAL POPULACE	<u>67</u>	6
<u>Subproblems:</u>		
attitudes, values: citizen complacency, general indifference, no exercise of democratic rights, laziness, lack of national discipline, bahala na	32	
lack of concern for public welfare, selfishness, self over others, no civic consciousness	10	
cultural (general), conflict between Filipino family system and modernization, break- down of traditional values	10	
religious (personal), lack of faith, low proportion of men to women in churches	12	
lack of public opinion	3	
POVERTY	<u>46</u>	7
<u>Subproblems:</u>		
poverty	37	
disease, health, sanitation, malnutrition	9	
POPULATION EXPLOSION	<u>44</u>	8
DIFFICULTIES INHERENT IN THE NATION'S GROWTH STAGE	<u>38</u>	9
<u>Subproblems:</u>		
underdevelopment, lack of industrialization	35	
brain drain	2	
modernization (process itself)	1	

Table 42. Rankings given to the 15 national problems freely mentioned most frequently by 246 local influentials, classified by problem, crossclassified by rankers' locale of influence (data gathered June-December 1969)

Average rank order*	Problem	Vigan	Naga	Cebu	Bacolod	Cagayan de Oro	Zambo.	Davao	Cotabato
1	Lack of peace and order	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	1
2	Deficiencies in the national economic institution	2	1	1	1	2.5	1	2	2
3	Immorality (graft and corruption)	3	6	5.5	4.5	2.5	3	3	3
4	Unemployment	4	4	3	3	10	4	5	5
5	Social injustice	7	6	5.5	6.5	4	7.5	4	8.5
6	Moral, cultural, and religious deficiencies in the general populace	7	8	4	6.5	6.5	5.5	7.5	14
7	Poverty	13.5	3	7.5	8.5	5	10.5	9	8.5
8.5	Population explosion	7	6	9	8.5	8.5	14	10.5	5
8.5	Difficulties inherent in the nation's growth stage	11.5	11.5	10	4.5	6.5	5.5	10.5	8.5
10	Insufficient educational opportunities	15	9.5	7.5	11	8.5	10.5	7.5	11.5
11	Inefficient government structure	9.5	9.5	12	11	12.5	10.5	6	5
12	High prices	5	11.5	11	14	11	7.5	12.5	11.5
13.5	Lack of nationalism	11.5	13	14	14	14.5	14	14.5	8.5
13.5	Inadequate roads, bridges, etc.	13.5	14.5	14	11	12.5	10.5	12.5	14
15	Low wages	7.5	14.5	14	14	14.5	14	14.5	14
Number of local influentials ranking		30	25	46	30	30	28	39	18

*When the rankings of influentials from the various locales are compared with one another, using the Kendall coefficient of concordance W , they are found to agree very closely with one another (at the 0.001 level).

Table 41a (cont'd) page 3

National problems and subproblems	Frequency of mention	
	N	Rank Order
INEFFICIENT GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE	<u>35</u>	10
INSUFFICIENT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES	<u>32</u>	11
HIGH PRICES	<u>18</u>	12
LACK OF NATIONALISM, SEARCH FOR NATIONAL IDENTITY	<u>13</u>	13
INADEQUATE ROADS, BRIDGES, ETC.	<u>11</u>	14
LOW WAGES	<u>6</u>	15
TOTAL NUMBER OF MENTIONS	934	