Demographic Note

THE ELDERLY POPULATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, 1980: Characteristics and Concerns

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INTRODUCTION

The interest in the elderly population gained prominence in the more developed countries as the relative size of their aged population continued to increase faster than the other age groups due to falling birth rate and to increasing longevity. The socio-economic well-being of the elderly then became a national concern of these nations. This meant allocation of resources to programs extending health and social services, creating economic opportunities, and making available housing facilities for the elderly.

In contrast, the Philippine population remained young due to persisting high fertility levels and further aggravated the problems related to rapidly increasing population, such as, inadequate housing, massive unemployment, serious lack of health and educational facilities and services, and other socio-economic problems. Meeting the needs of the elderlies who comprised less than 5 percent of the population then became less pressing in the face of increasing population that was eating up the resources that could otherwise be channeled to productive economic programs. Moreover, the respect and reverence to elders embedded among the social mores and customs was believed to ensure for the elderly a place in the household of his/her children and relatives.

In recent years, fertility declines were noted in the country while mortality remained relatively more stable; thus, leading to a modest reduction of population growth rate. The trend indicated a possible attainment of the replacement level of population growth during the first quarter of the 21st century (NCSO, 1983).

As a result of this recent phenomenon, the relative size of the young population started to decline. Between 1970 and 1980, the proportion of the population aged 0-14 years declined from 45.7 to 42.0 percent while corresponding figures for the population aged 15-64 years increased from 51.5 to 54.6 percent, or by 3.1 percentage points; and of the population aged 65 years and over, from 2.8 to 3.4 percent (Table 1). Intercensal growth rates for periods 1970-1975 and 1975-1980 showed consistent patterns with the annual growth rate of the young population, declining from 2.0 to 1.80 percent,

or 0.79 and 0.91 percentage points lower than the national averages, respectively.

Despite the increase in the relative size of the population aged 15-64 years, the growth actually represented a decline of 0.24 percentage points during the last intercensal period, although the levels were above the national averages for the two periods.

The Philippine elderly accounted for a very small portion of the population. Nevertheless, their number increased at alarming rates during the last decade. Multiplying at an average annual rate of 3.09 percent between 1970 and 1975, a high annual growth rate of 6.36 percent was recorded between 1975 and 1980. Moreover, with the entrance of the large middle-aged group to the elderly population in the succeeding years, this rate could be expected to be sustained if not accelerated further.

In the coming decades, the effect of declining birth rate is expected to exert its effect on the population of working ages (15-64 years) through a reduction in the relative size of the group. The next question worth pondering on then would be whether or not the needs of the elderly could be properly attended to in private households. In other words, could the working population support the increasing number of elderly?

As an off-shoot of the ESCAP Regional Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting held in Manila in October of 1981 and of the World Assembly on Aging in Vienna, Austria on 26 July to 6 August 1982, the Philippine Plan of Action was formulated on the basis of the consultation dialogues that were conducted. These focused on the identification of problems and needs of the elderly and on the ways and means whereby their potentials could be harnessed in productive activities (Montes, 1982). Problems and recommendations listed during the dialogues were mostly rooted in the lack of economic activities elderlies could engage in. Moreover, "the International Plan of action on aging noted that data concerning the older sector of the population -- collected through censuses, surveys or vital statistics system -- were essential for the formulation, application and evaluation of policies and programmes for the elderly and for ensuring their integration in the development process" (UN, 1984: 513).

Despite the universality of the aging process, and the foreseen problems attendant to it, very little has been done to make life easier for the older generation, or for this special group of people who are the "progenitors of civilization, the transmitter of culture," and the people who "ensure society's lineal succession" (Montes 1982). Moreover, planning activities for their welfare are very much hampered by the serious lack of information on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of this group.

This current study is aimed at providing information on the socio-demographic characteristics, economic activities and living arrangements of the elderly that are available in the data file of the 1980 Census of Population and Housing.

Table 1. Distribution and Growth of the Population
by Broad Age Group: Philippines, 1970-1980

| Age Group | 1970 | | 1975 | | Growth Rate 70-75 | 1980 | | Growth Rate 75-80 |
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	
All Ages*	36,684,486	100.0	42,070,660	100.0	2.79	48,098,460	100.0	2.71
0 - 14 years	16,757,313	45.7	18,493,255	44.0	2.00	20,221,547	42.0	1.80
15 - 64 years	18,864,652	51.5	22,375,237	53.2	3.48	26,240,572	54.6	3.24
65 years & over	1,032,864	2.8	1,202,168	2.9	3.09	1,636,341	3.4	6.36

*Includes "Not Stated" category

CLASSIFICATION OF DATA

The data used in this study came from the 20 percent special enumeration schedule (PH Form 3) used in the 1980 Census of Population and Housing (1980 CPH). From this set of data, information on age, sex, marital status, educational attainment, economic activity, residence, migration status and relationship to head were gathered for the elderly population. Individuals aged 65 years or older composed the elderly population.[1] Two categories for the economic activity variable were formed: engaged in gainful occupation and not engaged in gainful occupation. In the first category, agricultural workers were differentiated from non-agricultural workers.

Educational attainment or highest grade completed was divided into five categories:

1. No grade completed
2. Elementary
3. High school
4. College undergraduate
5. College graduate.

The living arrangement variable was obtained using the relationship to head variable for all members of a household and the household size and composition. The categories for this variable were:

1. Living alone
2. Head living with spouse only
3. Head or spouse living with children and no other adult
4. Head or spouse living with other adults
5. Other relative of the head
6. Non-relative of the head.

For purposes of this study, an "adult" is a "person aged 18 years or older."

To obtain a gradient of urbanization for comparative purposes, the cities and municipalities, and ultimately the barangays, were classified into six areas:

Entirely Urban Cities/Municipalities

Area I	-	Metropolitan Manila
Area II	-	Entirely urban cities or municipalities with population of 100,000 or more
Area III	-	Entirely urban cities or municipalities with population of at least 50,000 but less than 100,000
Area IV	-	Entirely urban cities or municipalitie with population less than 50,000

Other Urban Areas

    Area V   -   Urban barangays of cities or municipalities which are not entirely urban

Rural Areas

    Area VI   -   All rural areas (Appendix A).

The objective of this type of areal classification was to ascertain whether or not structures differ in various types of areas and if they do, is there a discernible pattern from the most rural to the most urban areas. In the above classification, the Metropolitan Manila (Area I) represented the urban extreme while Area VI, the rural extreme.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Being one of the first attempts at describing the elderly population of the country, the study must be taken in the light of some technical and substantive limitations. For one, it is recognized that the needs of elderly for assistance, as defined by their health and economic well-being, vary even among individuals of same age and sex. Hence, to attribute dependency to age is somewhat an arbitrary decision among sociologists and demographers. Nevertheless, the age categorization as proposed by the US DHEW generally classifies the elderly into more homogeneous groups in terms of physical well-being.

The areal classification is also another source of weakness of the study. While Area I, Area II and Area VI definitely classify areas in accordance with the concept of an urban-rural continuum, the other urban areas are ambiguously classified. For example, included in Area V are the urban barangays of the large regional centers in the South, such as the cities of Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Iligan and Zamboanga. In terms of modernization structures accompanying urbanization, these cities are more advanced than some of the small entirely urban areas comprising Area III and Area IV. It must be noted here that some of these small areas have been classified as urban purely on the basis of population density. The areal differentials then expected to be observed may not as well-defined.

Recent migratory moves (between 1975 and 1980) of the elderly have been considered to form a dimension of analysis in the study. However, the data contain no information on the causes of such moves. Explanations of the attributes that differentiate migrants from the non-migrants or the nonmovers have only been surmised on the basis of demographic and socio-economic theories formulated for populations that may not be comparable.

The census data, being rather voluminous for the available computer packages for multivariate analysis, limits the analysis to a bivariate type. No attempt has been made to build models of relationships among the variables involved.

FINDINGS

Age

The elderly in the Philippines number about 1.6 millions, or about 3.4 percent of the population enumerated during the 1980 Census. This figure represents a slight aging of the population as the proportion increased by 0.6 percentage points during the last decade, 1970-1980. Reflective of sex differentials in longevity, an unbalanced sex ratio in favor of the females may be noted. From Table 2, an overall sex ratio of 93.7 males per 100 females is recorded, in contrast to that of the total population (100.7) or to the population aged less than 65 years (100.9). A general decline in the sex ratio may be observed from the rural areas to the most urban areas. Area VI registers a sex ratio of 100.3, while Metropolitan Manila (Area I) registers 77.1. This observation may have resulted from the following factors observed in previous studies (Morada and Morada, 1984 and 1985; Flieger, et al., 1981; Castillo, 1976): female-dominated urban in-migration; differentials in longevity between the males and the females; or a combination of these two factors.

A great majority (about 70 percent) of the elderly are classified as 'young old' or are aged 65-74 years; while 20 to 25 percent, as 'old' or aged 75 to 84 years; and only about 4 to 6 percent, are 'old-old', or aged 85 years and over. It may be noted that the populations of large urban cities and municipalities are slightly younger than the rural population, and thus, have relatively less 'old' and "old-old." In contrast, smaller urban areas (Area IV and Area V) have older population where more than 30 percent are in the older age categories.

The "attractiveness" of urban centers to females is reflected in the sex ratios of the elderly population by area. In Metropolitan Manila, the sex ratio is lowest at about 77 males for every 100 females. The imbalance in the distribution by sex becomes less and less pronounced as the area becomes less urban. This, however, is not true for Area IV which exhibits a higher sex ratio (91.8) than Area V (85.5).

The differentials in the sex ratio by broad age categorization may be a combined effect of biological factors and of social and cultural norms in the country. Among the "old-old," sex ratio is lowest, reflecting the longer life expectancy of females. Again in urban areas, females predominate more than in rural areas. It is interesting to note, however, that in Area II, the sex ratio of the "old-old" population appears to be not as lopsided as in the other urban areas.

Table 2. Percent Distribution and Sex Ratio of the Elderly
Population by Age and by Type of Area, 1980

Area – Distribution/ Sex Ratio	AGES			
	65 yrs and over	65–74 yrs	75–84 yrs	85 yrs and over
PHILIPPINES– Distribution	100.0	70.9	23.7	5.4
Sex Ratio	93.7	94.1	96.0	79.4
Area I – Distribution	100.0	73.7	22.4	3.9
Sex Ratio	77.1	79.6	72.0	64.2
Area II – Distribution	100.0	71.5	23.7	4.8
Sex Ratio	79.7	77.4	87.7	77.8
Area III– Distribution	100.0	72.7	22.2	5.1
Sex Ratio	83.3	84.5	86.0	65.9
Area IV – Distribution	100.0	65.5	28.7	5.8
Sex Ratio	91.8	90.1	103.3	62.1
Area V – Distribution	100.0	69.0	24.9	6.1
Sex Ratio	85.5	85.9	88.4	70.1
Area VI – Distribution	100.0	71.1	23.5	5.5
Sex Ratio	100.3	100.6	103.1	85.8

Marital Status

Among Filipino families, it is commonly observed that husbands are older than the wives (Castillo, 1976). This phenomenon is due both to biological and socioeconomic factors. While females mature earlier and become capable of childbearing even at an early age of 13, males are supposed to be capable not only of fathering a child, but more importantly, of providing financial support to the family. On the other hand, the traditional sex role for a female is less dependent on her social and economic status. It is acceptable for a woman to marry once she becomes capable of being a mother, and she is not expected to engage in economic activities. Generally, she gains the socioeconomic standing of the husband upon marriage.

The marital status distribution and sex ratios of the elderly remain consistent with this tradition. As may be gleaned from the Table 3, relatively more men are married while women of corresponding ages are more likely to be never married or widowed. This result indicates that the elderly men are likely married to women aged less than 65

years. The observed high number of elderly widows may partly be attributed to this so-
cial phenomenon. Since women tend to marry older men, it is more likely that they will
outlive their husbands.

Table 3. Percent Distribution and Sex Ratio of the Elderly
         Population by Marital Status and Type of Area, 1980

Area - Distribution/ Sex Ratio	MARITAL STATUS				
	Never Married	Married	Widowed	Divorced/ Separated	Unknown
Area I - Distribution	7.2	56.9	34.6	0.8	0.4
Sex Ratio	27.8	159.2	23.4	64.6	39.3
Area II - Distribution	6.7	56.6	35.6	1.0	0.1
Sex Ratio	36.4	156.1	27.9	46.1	⋇
Area III- Distribution	6.1	58.7	34.4	0.7	0.1
Sex Ratio	27.7	163.5	28.0	95.1	⋇
Area IV - Distribution	6.7	61.7	30.7	0.5	0.5
Sex Ratio	27.0	157.3	38.4	18.5	45.5
Area V - Distribution	6.5	58.2	34.2	0.7	0.3
Sex Ratio	32.7	161.2	31.1	58.1	112.0
Area VI - Distribution	5.3	61.4	32.2	0.8	0.3
Sex Ratio	36.6	170.4	41.8	80.9	85.7

⋇ - not enough samples

Although the pattern may be observed in all types of areas, the levels vary. The sex
ratios by marital status show that among the elderly in the married category, those in
the rural areas had the highest indicating a higher possibility of males marrying younger
females. In the large urban areas (Area I and Area II) sex ratios are lower implying
relatively less imbalance in the number of married elderly males and females. Addition-
ally, this may imply that age differentials between husbands and wives are smaller in the
more urban than in the rural areas reflecting a relatively less traditional value on mar-
riage among urban dwellers.

The never-married group appears to be relatively larger in urban areas than in the
rural areas. The relative size of this group generally increases from the rural to the most
urban areas.

About a third of the population belongs to the widowed category. In general, the size of this group is relatively larger in the urban than in the rural areas. However, while the sex ratio of this group is about 42 in the rural areas, the corresponding figures for the urban areas are generally lower than the national average of 37.

Highest Grade Completed

The distribution of the elderly by highest grade completed reflects the period where they grew out of (Table 4). About a third of the elderly population have not completed any year of education. This is a great contrast to about 10 percent figure for the population seven years or older for the same year. A little more than half (52.3 percent) of the elderly have elementary education, about seven percent with high school and about 6.5 percent have some college or higher education. Moreover, those who have not completed any year of formal schooling are mostly females, while the males dominated the higher educational levels.

Education is a function of urbanization or modernization. This general observation is supported by the data showing that the proportion of the elderly included in the "no grade completed" category generally declines from the rural to the most urban areas. About 41 percent of the elderly in the rural areas belong to this group while only 9 percent of the elderly in Metropolitan Manila group belong to the same group. In contrast, only 3 percent of the elderly in the rural areas while about 23 percent of the elderly in Metropolitan Manila have some college schooling.

The sex ratios for higher educational levels in Metropolitan Manila (Area I) are not as high as expected. Empirical findings show that modernization generally improves the status of women. Also, the relatively easier access to educational facilities and services in urban center induces parents to send even their daughters to school.

Surprisingly, the highest sex ratios are observed in the small but entirely urban cities and municipalities. It is possible that when access to education is difficult and competitive, females lose out to males. This is not, however, observed in the rural areas where college graduates are predominantly females, possibly due to the tendency of better educated men to move out of rural areas and engage in non-agricultural activities.

Several changes in the socio-economic conditions of the country have occurred since the turn of the century, coupled with changes in the social mores, customs and traditions. The industrialization process has opened avenues for work participation of females in non-agricultural activities which require formal schooling. In contrast to the experience prior to World War II, colleges and universities are becoming female-dominated (Castillo, 1976).

Table 4. Percent Distribution and Sex Ratio of the Elderly
          Population by Highest Grade Completed
          and by Type of Area, 1980

Area - Distribution/ Sex Ratio	HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED				
	No Grade Completed	Elementary	High School	College (Under-graduate	College Graduate & higher
Area I - Distribution	9.3	47.1	20.5	6.3	16.8
Sex Ratio	34.0	58.3	110.1	150.6	124.4
Area II - Distribution	23.4	49.8	15.3	3.3	8.3
Sex Ratio	50.8	73.6	134.3	127.7	137.7
Area III- Distribution	27.1	53.3	10.8	2.6	6.2
Sex Ratio	50.9	86.6	137.7	229.2	142.6
Area IV - Distribution	26.5	60.5	6.7	1.9	4.4
Sex Ratio	53.6	94.5	338.5	353.6	140.0
Area V - Distribution	23.9	56.1	10.6	3.0	6.4
Sex Ratio	47.4	85.7	175.2	230.9	135.8
Area VI - Distribution	41.1	51.7	4.1	0.9	2.1
Sex Ratio	77.3	117.0	180.8	163.9	97.9

Occupation

A large portion (39.0 percent) of the elderly population are still engaged in gainful occupations; and most of them (75.4 percent) are agricultural workers (Table 5). Level of economic activities, as expected, declines with advancing age -- from 43 percent for the "young old," 32 percent for the "old" and 17 percent for the "old-old." For all ages, agricultural workers account for about three-fourths of the total number engaged in gainful occupation. This observation finds strong support in the rural areas where 86 percent of the gainfully engaged elderlies are classified as agricultural workers. This proportion decreases with increasing level of urbanization of the area, so that in Area II about a third (31.6 percent) of those economically active are agricultural workers. Only 7 percent of the gainfully engaged elderly in the Metropolitan Manila are classified in the same category.

Table 5.   Distribution of the Elderly Population by Economic Activity
and Age and by Type of Area, 1980

	Philippines	Type of Area					
		Area I	Area II	Area III	Area IV	Area V	Area VI
65 years & over	1,631,780	141,732	52,272	45,300	27,192	324,592	1,040,692
% Engaged in gainful occup.	39.0	20.4	28.0	30.4	33.0	32.0	44.8
% Agricultural Workers --	75.4	7.3	31.6	43.2	53.5	57.2	86.5
% Not engaged	61.0	79.6	72.0	69.6	67.0	68.0	55.2
65 - 74 years	1,156,252	104,408	37,352	32,940	17,812	224,116	739,624
% Engaged	43.0	23.6	31.2	34.9	37.4	36.4	48.9
% Agricultural --	74.3	7.4	28.7	42.1	52.5	55.3	86.1
% Not engaged	57.0	76.4	68.8	65.1	62.6	63.6	51.1
75 - 84 years	387,668	31,716	12,388	10,044	7,824	80,896	244,800
% Engaged	31.9	11.6	21.6	20.1	28.7	24.5	38.1
% Agricultural	79.5	8.1	44.2	48.2	56.6	62.9	88.1
% Not engaged	68.1	88.4	78.4	79.9	71.3	75.5	61.9
85 years and over	87,860	5,608	2,532	2,316	1,556	19,580	56,268
% Engaged	17.3	10.1	11.7	10.4	4.1	13.0	20.5
% Agricultural --	79.3	*	31.1	56.7	37.5	71.0	87.0
% Not engaged	82.7	89.9	88.3	89.6	95.9	87.0	79.5

Source: 5-percent sample of the 1980 CPH
   -- - Percent of the number of persons engaged in gainful occupations
   * - not enough samples

Work participation is a function of the level of urbanization of an area. Since the group of interest are the elderly, it is expected that as level of urbanization proceeds, the level of work participation among them will decline. This may be attributed to the differential economic structure in the rural and more urban areas, differential social security programs, availability of alternate manpower, differential cost of employing old workers and others. This expectation finds support in the data under study. The highest work participation rate (about 45 percent) may be found among the elderly in the rural areas (Area VI). On the urban extreme, only about 20 percent of the elderlies in Metropolitan Manila (Area I) are gainfully engaged.

Living Arrangements and Relationship to Household Head

Living arrangements and relationship to the head of the household are two impor- tant indicators of the status and the socio-economic well-being of the elderly and of their need for assistance. The reverence of Filipino families for its older members has tradi- tionally accorded the care for the elderly as the responsibility of the offsprings. Never- theless, there are still some elderly who, by choice or by circumstance, are living alone.

It is observed, however, that modernization has served as a catalyst to break the age-old traditions. Western values become increasingly accepted and practiced, special- ly by the younger generations. It is expected that massive programs to assist the elder- ly would soon be necessary to take care of those who have no relatives willing to care for them or those whose offsprings have moved to other places.

In 1980, 5.7 percent of the elderly are living alone while 34.2 percent are household heads who live with their spouses only (Table 6).   The elderly who live with their children and remain as heads and their spouses account for 2.6 percent while the elder- ly who live with other adults but remain as heads or spouses of the heads represent 31.5 percent of the total.

The elderly who live with households of relatives comprise 24.7 percent. This group includes those living with their children, but are not considered heads since they are not the breadwinner of the household and are, therefore, relegated to less important role in the household. Those who stay with non-relatives comprise a mere 1.3 percent. Most of these are females who are probably widowed with no relatives to take them in.

In general, the elderly tend to maintain their own households or are regarded as heads by all the other household members. Females, however, dominate those relegated to lower statuses. Surprisingly the elderly who live alone are also predominantly females.

Living arrangements of the elderly appear to be a function of the level of urbaniza- tion of the area. Living alone appears to be more of a rural than an urban phenomenon. In the rural areas (Area VI), about 6.5 percent of the elderly are living alone. The

proportion generally decreases as the level of urbanization increases, registering 2.8 percent in Metropolitan Manila (Area I). This could, however, be the result of housing congestion and the high cost of living in the more urban areas relative to rural areas, prohibiting individuals and more strongly the elderly, from living alone.

Table 6. Percent Distribution and Sex Ratio of the Elderly
         Population by Relationship to Household Head
         and Type of Area, 1980

Area – Distribution/ Sex Ratio	RELATIONSHIP TO HOUSEHOLD HEAD					
	Living Alone	Head, living with spouse only	Head/ Spouse, living with no other adults	Head/ Spouse living with other adults	Other relative of head	Non-relative of head
PHILIPPINES-						
Distribution	5.7	34.2	2.6	31.5	24.7	1.3
Sex Ratio	55.3	33,249.3	32.9	15.0	40.3	47.3
Area I – Distribution	2.8	29.8	1.7	31.2	32.1	2.4
Sex Ratio	43.8	14,156.8	24.3	16.5	32.1	31.4
Area II- Distribution	3.7	30.7	1.9	31.1	30.0	2.6
Sex Ratio	·38.6	36,381.8	26.2	13.6	35.7	36.9
Area III-Distribution	4.2	32.0	2.3	33.7	26.6	1.2
Sex Ratio	51.9	*	31.8	14.8	35.0	38.0
Area IV –Distribution	3.7	33.8	1.2	36.2	23.8	1.2
Sex Ratio	42.7	13,417.6	·21.7	16.7	45.0	48.2
Area V –Distribution	5.3	32.4	2.6	32.1	26.3	1.4
Sex Ratio	52.1	23,340.2	27.0	14.2	37.5	33.8
Area VI –Distribution	6.5	35.6	2.8	31.1	22.9	1.1
Sex Ratio	57.7	45,320.0	36.0	15.0	43.6	61.9

* – Not enough female samples

The prominence of the elderly becomes less dominant as the type of area becomes more urban. In the rural areas, about 24 percent of the elderly are classified as other relatives of the head of the household or non-relatives of the head of the household. This position of less importance becomes increasingly magnified in the more urban areas, reaching about 35 percent in Metropolitan Manila.

Migration

The elderly population of the country seems to be a mobile group as about 42 out of a thousand elderly have changed their province of residence during the last five years, 1975 to 1980 (Table 7). Nevertheless, the relative absence of mobility of the elderly heading households may also be noted with the group exhibiting the lowest migration rate of 31 per thousand.

The arrangement where an elderly individuals, upon becoming incapable of supporting an independent household, lives with a relative is common in the Philippine setting. It is not surprising, therefore, that a higher migration rate is observed among the elderly who are relatives of the household head (69 per thousand).

Lack of housing programs for the elderly pushes those who have no relatives to take them in to find shelter among friends and other non-relatives in exchange for some services. The absence of filial ties, however, makes this type of arrangement rather less permanent. As may be noted from Table 7, this group exhibits the highest migration rate of 195 per thousand.

Migration rates by relationship to household head appears to follow a similar pattern in all types of areas. However, the levels vary with the more urban areas generally having the more mobile elderly. Noted in Metropolitan Manila (Area I) is an average migration rate of 92 per thousand, with heads/spouses exhibiting a rate of 70; while other relatives and non-relatives, rates of 126 and 220 per thousand, respectively.

Area II, comprised of other large entirely urban cities and municipalities, has the next highest levels as total average migration rate registers at about 63 per thousand distributed as 45 for the heads/spouses, 100 for other relatives, and 122 for non-relatives. The average rate in Area III is lower (57 per thousand), with heads/spouses being less mobile among whom only 33 per thousand are migrants. However, the relatives and the non-relatives of the head are more mobile with migration rates of 119 and 150 per thousand, respectively.

Table 7. Migration Rate[a] Among the Elderly Population
by Relationship to Household Head
and by Type of Area, 1980

| Area | Total | Relationship to Household Head | | |
		Head/Spouse	Other Relatives	Non-relatives
Philippines				
Population	1,612,788	1,191,008	400,652	21,128
Migration Rate	42.2	30.6	68.8	195.4
Area I				
Population	142,912	93,544	45,912	3,456
Migration Rate	91.7	70.4	125.8	219.9
Area II				
Population	52,252	35,200	15,672	1,380
Migration Rate	63:2	44.8	99.5	121.7
Area III·				
Population	44,832	32,320	11,980	532
Migration Rate	57.3	33.0	118.5	150.4
Area IV				
Population	27,192	20,392	6,468	332
Migration Rate	40.3	30.4	56.9	325.3
Area V				
Population	321,604	232,380	84,820	4,404
Migration Rate	41.4	29.3	68.6	160.8
Area VI				
Population	1,023,996	777,172	235,800	11,024
Migration Rate	33.9	25.5	53.6	209.0

[a] Per thousand population aged 65 years or older

As noted earlier, an ambiguity exists in the classification of Area IV and Area V as the large regional centers in the Visayas and Mindanao continue to be partly rural. Hence, despite the presence of modern technology and social amenities in these areas, the urban barangays have been classified under Area V. It appears, therefore, that the levels of migration and the pattern by relationship to household heads in the area are more comparable to Area III. On the other hand, migration levels in Area IV are more comparable to those in Area VI, since the small entirely urban areas comprising Area IV are predominantly those cities and municipalities with less than 50,000 population where the elements of modern urban areas may not all be present.

In Areas IV and VI, the elderly who are non-relatives of the household head are more migratory, exhibiting respective rates of 325 and 209 per thousand population. On the other hand, the other groups appear to be less migratory. In Area IV, only about 30 per thousand heads/spouses are migrants, while among other relatives, the figure is 57. Corresponding rates for the elderly in Area VI are 26 and 54 per thousand elderly.

In general, therefore, the less urban an area, the less migratory is the elderly population who are heads/spouses or other relatives of the head. In the rural areas and in Area IV non-relatives of the head are higher migratory. This suggests that the elderly who have no relatives and who are not able to get into the economic streams in urban areas move into rural areas for subsistence.

CONCLUSION

"Aging" is a process that refers to "an individual's passage through a sequence of irreversible stages that are related to his chronological age as infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age". "Aging", however, may also refer to "a rather complex phenomenon as population aging, or the growth of the relative size of the older members of the population".

The collective needs of the aged individuals in a society give rise to several problems facing the population as a whole. As population ages, the economic burden shifts from predominantly young dependency to old dependency. Unfortunately, no comparative analysis on the cost of providing for a dependent child and for an aged dependent is available. Moreover, the relative size and composition of the working-age population also change, as well as the efficiency of the workers resulting from the concomitant aging of the labor force.

The increasing size of the older population has also important implications on programs for population welfare. Most of these programs are towards expansion of social security provisions, health and medical facilities and services, recreational facilities, adequate housing accommodations and other facilities and services for the elderly.

The physical well-being of an aged individual is only one area of concern. Another equally important area is the psychological and social problems an aging individual encounters in a rapidly changing society. An aged individual feels the increasing isolation from familial and social ties with the decline in economic and social roles.

In the Philippines, the well-being of an elderly is not yet a cause for alarm as the responsibility for the care of an elderly member of the household continues to fall on the children or on the economically active members. Results of the above analysis however, highlight the emerging areas of concern that need addressing in order to make the future more comfortable for the elderly.

Four out of every 10 elderly are gainfully engaged, the remaining 6 are totally dependent on the other members of the society for economic support. Unfortunately, no information on whether those gainfully occupied elderly require further assistance is available. Of the 4 gainfully engaged elderly, 3 are in the agricultural sector which is highly responsive to the urbanization process. As an area becomes urban, the level of work participation in the agricultural sector declines. Further, when worker-land ratio increases, work participation of the less able-bodied workers suffers.

Majority of the elderly are heads or spouses of the heads of households. Some 26 percent, however, are relegated to lower statuses as other relatives or even non-relatives of the head. The size of this group increases with the level of urbanization, indicating the declining status accorded to the elderlies in the urban areas. As the urbanization process gains more ground, therefore, further decline in the status of the elderly may be expected; thereby, making government interventions necessary.

About 42 per thousand elderly have changed their province of residence between 1975 and 1980. The figure is higher in the more urban areas, implying a positive relationship between urbanization and migratory tendency among the elderly. Migration rates by relationship to head vary significantly. While heads/spouses tend to be less mobile, the complementary groups composed of other relatives and no   atives of the household heads are much more migratory. It appears that less filial responsibility and lower status in the household are contributory factors to migratory moves, or that the elderly are less at home in households where they play a dependent role.

The impact of aging on the choice of living arrangements must be considered by policy makers and implementors in the areas of housing, health and medicine, and recreation. In keeping with the nation's programs for population welfare, there is a need to address the problems of this special sector of the Philippine population.

NOTE

[1]This study made use of the age classification as proposed by DHEW in the analyses. The US DHEW (1961) proposed an age categorization that took into consideration the changes in the activities, attitudes and behavior an elderly exhibited during the 35 years or so that an average American aged 65 years was expected to live. Grouping the elderly into more homogeneous groups in terms of age, the use of the following age groups was recommended whenever possible: (1) "young-old" (ages 65-74 years), (2) "old" (75-84 years), and (3) "old-old" (ages 85 years and over).

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APPENDIX A

Areal Classification: 1980

Area I   -   Metropolitan Manila
Area II   -   Entirely urban cities and municipalities with
                      population of at least 100,000

1. Cebu City	6. Baguio City
2. Bacolod City	7. San Fernando, La Union
3. Iloilo City	8. Mandaue City
4. Angeles City	9. Lucena City
5. Olongapo City	10. Tacloban City

Area III   -   Entirely urban cities and municipalities with
                      population of at least 50,000 but less than 100,000

1. Lapu-lapu City	11. San Pedro, Laguna
2. Dagupan City	12. Guagua, Pampanga
3. Malolos, Bulacan	13. Baliuag, Bulacan
4. Naga City	14. Carmona, Cavite
5. Bacoor, Cavite	15. Sta. Rosa, Laguna
6. Cavite City	16. Dumaguete City
7. Binan, Laguna	17. Sta. Cruz, Laguna
8. Meycauayan, Bulacan	18. Cainta, Rizal
9. Binangonan, Rizal	19. Marawi City
10. Taytay, Rizal	20. Mangaldan, Pangasinan

Area IV -   Entirely urban cities and municipalities with
                 population of less than 50,000

1. Bocaue, Bulacan	11. Taal, Batangas
2. Naga, Cebu	12. Balagtas, Bulacan
3. Tagbilaran City	13. Guiguinto, Bulacan
4. Kawit, Cavite	14. Angono, Rizal
5. Pulilan, Bulacan	15. Sto. Tomas, Pampanga
6. Manaoag, Pangasinan	16. Basista, Pangasinan
7. Dinagat, Sur. Norte	17. Cordoba, Cebu
8. Vigan, Ilocos Sur	18. Paete, Laguna
9. Rosario, Cavite	19. Noveleta, Cavite
10. San Jose, Antique	20. Sto. Tomas, Pangasinan

Area V -   Urban barangays of cities and municipalities which
                are not entirely urban

Area VI - All rural barangays