

Fertility Survey of 1963 in the Philippines

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Introduction

The Philippines is starting to experience a rapid rate of growth of the population. Formerly high mortality was holding in check the rapid rise in population consequent upon the rather high birth rates. International migration as a safety valve for population pressure never did play an important role in the changing demographic picture of the Philippines.

After World War II, the government intensively embarked on measures to improve the health status of the population. The effect of this improvement resulted in lowering the rates of mortality. This effect has been reflected in a high annual rate of growth of population of 3.1 per cent which was brought out by the census of 1960.

Similar patterns of population growth have been observed in the past among the Western European countries immediately after the Industrial Revolution, but in these countries a fall in the death rate was followed after a period of years by a rapid decline in the birth rate. In countries where death rates are low and migration to and from the country is not an important factor, variations in fertility largely determine what the countries' future population will be. The effect of fertility is felt at all times and in all segments of the economy.

While the decline in the death rate has been brought about by the efforts of the government, *it will require the efforts of the individual to control and curtail the rather high birth rate.*

There are only two possible methods of controlling population growth either through births or through deaths. Migration as a third factor is very insignificant. If some people in the Philippines have to migrate, where could they go? Southeast Asian countries have problems similar to ours. Nature provides for the enforcement of the inevitable law of stationary population by a fantastically high death rate, particularly of the new born. However, the ultimate purpose of the government is the alleviation of human poverty and the reduction of the ravages of diseases, and not the intensification of poverty and the increase of death rates. Therefore, any proposal to minimize the population growth by restraining or retarding the spread of death control to allow the inevitable law of stationary population to go on must be rejected. Man alone has the ability, which is beginning to be exercised, to control population growth through births.

Some demographers fear that it is dangerous to attempt to reduce death rates further in less fortunate countries without first trying to reduce the birth rates. They assert that the security of the remainder of the world is endangered by the resulting "explosive" growth of un-

derdeveloped populations. Our government is forging ahead with mortality-reducing programs despite this philosophy.

This study describes the actual reproductive performance of the ever-married women and their attitude with respect to the ideal number of children of a family in the Philippines. Studies conducted in many countries have shown that differentials in fertility exist among women. The most widely discussed phenomenon in the field of fertility is the fact that urban women are less fertile than rural women. It has also been pointed out that a comparison between the fertility of women employed in agricultural and that of women in non-agricultural occupations often show large differences. Differentials are also observed among inter-religious, educational and other socio-economic groups of the population.¹ Indications of differentials in fertility by socio-economic groups could be taken as a measure of the future decline in fertility.

The differences in family size between urban and rural groups with similar cultural background and the mechanism by which such differences have been brought about can to some extent reflect the types of changes in behavior which urbanization can bring about in the cultural setting. Similarly, a comparison between groups of urban population at different levels of social and economic status may help to presage some of the differences in fertility patterns which may be expected with economic advancement.

The results of this study are presented in this paper. The findings would appear to be particularly important as the survey was undertaken when everybody was beginning to realize the consequences of a high population increase upon the

social and economic development of the country.

Objectives of the Present Study

In May, 1963, a fertility and attitude survey on the ever-married women was conducted as a part of the regular Labor Force Survey of the Bureau of the Census and Statistics. Since fertility as a major factor in the rapid population growth is of interest to most of us, especially to the researchers, sociologists, and other social scientists, we frequently ask this question — "Are the ever-married women in the urban areas more or less prolific than the women in the rural areas?" Several studies conducted in India and elsewhere have not been able to find consistent differences in the urban-rural fertility rates. Although some studies have found rural levels to be higher than the urban levels, there are a few other studies which have reported the reverse.² According to a fertility survey carried out in Japan in 1940, however, the largest average family (5-18 children) was found among poor people; the average family size among fishermen was found to be 4.04 children, even smaller than the national average (4.64 children).

Jupp, in a recent study in the Philippines, has observed certain indications of urban-rural differentials.³ But even she is a little cautious in interpreting the implications of the study. She states that "any conclusion can therefore be only tentative in nature. The evidence does give some support to the existence of urban-rural fertility differentials; and at least in Manila married women seem to be favored with a somewhat smaller

² "Differential Reproduction in China," *Quarterly Review of Biology*, X, No. 3, (Sept., 1955); Ta Chen, *Population in Modern China*, (Chicago, Ill.: University of Chicago Press, 1944).

³ J. M. Jupp, "Urban Rural Differentials in the Fertility of Married Women in the Philippines in 1956" (unpublished).

¹ "The Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends" (New York: United Nations, 1953).

family than that which has been current in rural areas.”

The objectives of the Fertility Survey of 1963 are as follows:

1. To measure the fertility pattern in the urban and rural areas among the different socio-economic groups of the population;
2. To explore, compare, and analyze differentials in fertility brought about by the influence of the social conditions such as the occupation of the husband, and the education and religion of the women, as well as that of the natural factors, such as age at marriage and duration of marriage; and
3. To investigate the attitude of the ever-married women toward an ideal family size.

Data Available

So far there has been only one survey on fertility in the Philippines on a nation-wide scale and like this present survey it was also included as an additional topic to the regular Labor Force Survey of May, 1963. The multi-stage sampling method⁴ was used in selecting a representative cross-section of Philippine households which numbered 7,191. In this method, a number of representative municipalities from an up-dated list of municipalities in the country were selected at random. Two barrios together with the poblacion were selected at random within the selected municipalities. All households within the selected poblaciones and barrios, as well as in the selected precincts of provincial capitals and cities, were listed and a random sample of household was picked for interview. The selected households were scattered over 300 barrios, 150 poblacions,

⁴ *The Philippine Statistical Survey of Households*, Bulletin Series I, No. 2 (Manila: Bureau of the Census and Statistics).

58 provincial capitals, chartered cities, and metropolitan Manila, which included Caloocan, San Juan, Pasay City, Quezon City, Mandaluyong, Makati and Parañaque. Since this survey had to be conducted as a part of the Labor Force Survey, there was no alternative but to make such households as were sampled for the Labor Force the sample units for this inquiry. And, accordingly, while the survey was an attempt to determine the fertility performance of women in general, it had to be made only on those ever-married women in the sample households. The number of ever-married women were 4,131 in the urban area and 3,676 in the rural area with the ratio of comparison at 52.9 per cent and 47.1 per cent respectively.

Enumeration Items Used and Their Definitions

(a) *Urban and rural*.—The urban areas included chartered cities, provincial capitals, Metropolitan Manila (Manila and adjacent cities and municipalities), and the poblaciones of municipalities other than the provincial capitals; while the rural areas included all barrios of municipalities except those of the provincial capitals.⁵

(b) *Marital Status*.—Marital status was classified as *single*, *married*, *widowed*, *divorced* or *separated*. The classification *single* referred to women who have never married; while the classification *married* applied to those women who were bound in matrimony through civil or church rites, including those divorced women who re-married and those women who lived with men by mutual consent without the benefit of marriage. Women whose husbands were dead and had not re-married were classified as *widowed*; while those legally separated from their husbands and those living

⁵ *Ibid.*

apart from their husbands because of marital misunderstanding or other causes but not legally separated (separation in fact) were classified as *separated*.

(c) *Occupation of husband*.—Occupation is almost fixed and invariable. Most people usually stay in the same occupation for a considerable length of time, if not up to the time of retirement. Therefore, the present occupation has been deemed sufficient for this study. However, with regard to those persons who were jobless at the time of the Survey but who had had previous occupations, inquiries were made as to the kind of occupation they had been engaged in longest. With regard to classification of occupation, the scaling of occupation in the United States was made applicable to the Philippines.⁶ The specific categories used in this study are *white collar*, *manual* and *service workers*. Occupations not belonging under any of these specific groups have been classified as "Others." But as "Others" includes a variety of occupations, this category is not significant in connection with this study.

(d) *Age at first marriage*.—Age at first marriage affects directly or indirectly the average number of children ever born alive to a woman. Women who marry at a later age are less fertile than those who marry early — that is, they are less fecund or less capable of reproduction. Age at first marriage referred to the age at which the married life of a woman began.

(e) *Number of children born alive*.—Children born alive referred to children who were born irrespective of the duration of pregnancy so long as the child breathed or showed any other evidence of life after separation from the mother's womb.

(f) *Highest Grade Completed*.—This referred only to the highest grade completed in the regular or formal system of education — i.e. elementary, high school, and college, whether in public and/or private schools. It excluded attendance in Kindergarten, dressmaking, beauty culture, carpentry, auto-mechanic, or purely vocational courses. Persons who had completed the fifth year of a course requiring more than four years of college or one year of post graduate study were considered as having completed five years of college work.

(g) *Religion*.—The population of the Philippines was classified into the following religions: Roman Catholic, Protestant, Aglipayan, Iglesia ni Kristo, Moslem, Buddhist, and "others." "Others" included those without any religion at all.

(h) *Ideal Number of Children*.—The ideal number of children referred to the number of children that could be supported reasonably well and as humanly as possible, with each child given the love and care it would need, proper food and a good education, so that the opportunities in life it deserved could be accorded to each. To the father the "problem" might have reference to the education and up-bringing of the children; to the mother, to her own health and to the nutrition of at least the youngest of her children. An indirect method was used in asking the question about ideal number of children. When the interviewee had children, the questions were as follows: "You are fortunate to have N children. If all of them were alive, do you think you would like to have more?" "If so, how many additional children would you like to have?" "If no, then is the present number the ideal?" "If not, do you think you already have too many?" "In this case, how many children constitutes the ideal number?" In case the interviewee did not have children, the following questions were asked: "Do

⁶ Donald J. Bogue, *The Population of the United States*, (Glencoe, Illinois: The Free Press).

you think you would like to have children?" "If so, how many children would you like to have?" From this indirect method we computed their estimated ideal number of children.

Degree of Precision of the Data

No statistical survey is free from defects. That there were some errors in this survey should naturally be expected. The data collected in this survey must be treated with this limitation in mind.

The fact that the interviewers who performed the inquiries have much experience in this kind of work improved the quality of data and also reduced the "interviewer's bias." The extent of inaccuracy in the present age was assessed as follows:

Present age.—The age of the ever-married woman is the most important variable in the analysis of fertility study. The age data in any survey have shown certain types of errors like preference for ages ending in particular digits. The error in reporting of age is generally traced to ignorance of one's age, negligence in recalling one's precise age, deliberate mis-statement, and misunderstanding of the question.⁷

Data on ages of the ever-married women were available by single year of age. Closer inspection reveals that there is a great concentration in the reporting of ages ending in 0, 2, 5, and 8 in both urban and rural areas. The forces of attraction of preferred final digits are more marked in the case of rural women than in that of the urban.

Since the analysis was centered on the quinquennial age grouping, the accuracy of the age reporting in the five-year grouping is of importance in this study.

⁷ "Methods of Appraisal of Quality of Basic Data for Population Estimates" (New York: United Nations, 1955).

Preliminary Results

The analysis of the results has barely commenced at this time and therefore only a few salient points concerning the fertility of the average married women and their attitude toward the ideal number of children can be referred to in this paper.

There are several possible methods in measuring the actual level of the productive performance of the population based on the number of live births that occurred to women. They meet different needs and none of them is wholly free from criticism from all viewpoints. The most common measures used in the different studies conducted so far are either the crude birth rate, the child-woman ratio, the completed fertility (average number of children born to mothers who have completed the child-bearing period, 45 years old and over) or the average number of children born to mothers of specific ages.

While it is well-known that the crude birth rate is only a rough measure of fertility as it depends mostly on the age, sex, marital composition of the population, the child-woman ratio is also very rough as it is not a pure measure of fertility being to a large extent affected by under-enumeration, mortality, and to a lesser extent by migration. The completed fertility rate or the average number of children born to mothers with ages of 45 years and over is also a very good measure, but since it deals with women who are older than 45 years there is the possibility of a large number of children missing in the reporting by these women and thus leading to depleted averages. Bias may result from differential mortality between women who have had many children and women who have had few and from the tendency of under-reporting children for older women. This bias may be negligi-

ble at ages up to 59 years and it may be as large as 10 per cent or even more by ages from 70 to 74 years.⁸ The average number of children born to mothers of specific ages is far greater than those based on either of the above-mentioned measures. These specific fertility rates are not significantly distorted by variations of age composition, either in the total population or among the women of child-bearing ages. It also identifies approximately a few stages in the reproductive careers of the different age groups of women.

The levels in the fertility patterns in the urban and rural ever-married women population in this study is gauged by working out the average number of children born to these women in the different age levels.

The average number of children per ever-married woman. How many children does an ever-married woman in the Philippines give birth to on the average? And how many children on the average are born on these women at ages 45 years or over?

According to this Survey, there were 7,807 ever-married women interviewed, and they gave birth to a total number of 38,816 children. Of these women, 52.9 per cent come from the urban areas and 47.1 per cent from the rural areas. On the average, the live births amounted to 4.97 per ever married woman.

In the May 1958 Fertility Survey, the number of children born to ever-married woman on the average was 5.20.⁹ It showed that fertility has declined, though slightly, during the 5 years from 1958 to 1963. Although some surveys of

this kind in the Philippines have shown a declining trend, it would be premature to draw any conclusion.

Out of Rivera and MacMillan's rural survey in Central Luzon, Prof. Amos Hawley made the observation that after 1926-30 the fertility rate began to decline and reached its lowest level in 1941-45 which were the war years. However, after the war there was a sharp rise in fertility amounting to almost 28 per cent. But this rise appears to have run its course by the end of 1950 and the rate began to resume its downward trend.¹⁰

Data on the average number of children born to ever-married woman is shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1
AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN BORN PER EVER-MARRIED WOMAN BY AGE GROUP IN THE URBAN AND RURAL AREAS

Present Age of Woman (Years)	Urban	Rural
	Under 25	1.75
25 — 29	3.15	3.33
30 — 34	4.51	4.62
35 — 44	5.84	6.05
45—over	5.96	6.40
All ages	4.88	5.07
Average standardized for present age of mother ^a	4.85	5.11

^a The combined age distribution of urban and rural ever-married woman population was used as the basis of standardization.

SOURCE: Computed from Appendix Table 1.

⁸ Witson H. Grabill, Clyde V. Kiser, and Pascal K. Whelpton, "The Fertility of American Women" (mimeograph Series, U.S.: Bureau of the Census).

⁹ *The Philippine Statistical Survey of Households*, Bulletin Series No. 6, (Manila: Bureau of the Census and Statistics, June, 1960).

¹⁰ Amos H. Hawley, "Fertility of An Urban Population" (Manila: Institute of Public Administration, University of the Philippines, 1954).

The table shows that with regard to women of all ages and those women with completed fertility (45 years old and over), the urban women are less fertile than the rural. The distribution of ever-married women by the number of child-

ren will help us to understand further the patterns of fertility in these two areas. The following table shows the proportions of ever-married women by the number of children.

TABLE 2
PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF EVER-MARRIED WOMEN BY PRESENT AGE AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN

No. of Children	URBAN		RURAL	
	All Ages	45-over	All Ages	45-over
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
0	5.52	4.19	4.71	3.13
1	8.82	6.57	7.39	5.07
2	11.67	8.46	10.62	5.24
3—4	23.99	18.10	23.16	14.63
5—6	21.27	20.61	23.43	23.84
7—over	28.73	42.07	30.69	48.09

SOURCE: Data from present survey.

For the urban women surveyed, those having below five children comprised 50.00 per cent and women who completed the fertility period (45 years and over) account for 37.32 per cent. in the rural area, where the fertility is higher than in the urban, the women who have children below five represent 45.88 per cent and women with completed fertility, 28.07 per cent. With respect to the number of children, seven and over, a larger percentage of women are found in the rural category women of all ages and woman ages 45 years old and over, represent 28.73 and 42.07 per cent, respectively while in rural area, women of all ages comprised 30.69 per cent and women 45 years of age and over, 48.09 per cent.

Comparison with other countries will reveal the characteristics of the two areas.

For the Philippines, in the urban area, 4.19 per cent of the women with completed fertility were childless. In the rural area, the childless women with completed fertility form only 3.13 per cent. Among the industrialized countries the proportion of childless families has been generally more than 10 per cent in recent years, and in the United States, according to the 1950 Census, the rate of childlessness was as high as 20.4 per cent for women born during 1900-1904.¹¹

The proportion of women whose ages range from 45 and over with 1 to 4 children shows remarkable differentials for different areas. In the urban area, the proportion of women with 1 to 4 children is 33.10 per cent but it is only 24.94 per cent in the rural area. For Japanese

¹¹ Conrad Taeuber and Irene B. Taeuber, "The Changing Population of the United States," a volume in the Census Monograph Series (New York: John Wiley and Sons).

women in 1940¹² and for women in England and Wales¹³ married about 1860, the proportion was 32.6 and 28.0 per cent, respectively. But for women in Great Britain¹³ married in 1925, this type with 1 to 4 children accounted for 73 per cent of the total. In the United States this number constituted 37.3 per cent in 1910 and increased to 63.9 in 1950.

The reverse side of the picture is the decrease in the proportion of women with 7 or more live births. In Great Britain the proportion of this group was 4.3 per cent for women married in 1925. In the United States the proportion of the same group was 36.3 per cent in 1910 and dropped to as low as 7.2 per cent in 1950.

It is interesting to inquire as to how fertility differentials in the urban and rural ever-married women in the Philippines were produced.

Fertility is subjected to the influences of social conditions such as occupation, education, and religion, no less than to the influence of natural factors, like age at marriage and duration of married life.

Factors Affecting Fertility Differences

Age of marriage. The woman's age at marriage is one of the natural factors which have a bearing on fertility or influences the ultimate family size. The lower the age at marriage, the higher the probability that a woman may have a larger number of children. Women who marry at an early age are more fertile than those who enter married life later. Young women are frequently newly-weds and of low parity while older women have generally been married longer and have reached higher parities.

The child-bearing period for women is about 30 years long, from 15 years of age to 45. If a woman is married at 25, her child-bearing span is shortened by one-third. If she marries at 30 only one-half of her potential child-bearing period remains. It is only natural that later marriage should result in lower fertility.

Table 3 shows the cumulative percentage of married women up to a certain age.

TABLE 3
PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF EVER-MARRIED WOMEN BY AGE AT MARRIAGE

Age at Marriage up to:	Cumulative Percentage up to age		
	Total	Urban	Rural
19	48.53	46.09	51.27
24	84.79	83.08	86.71
29	95.95	95.52	96.44
34	98.60	98.48	98.74
39	99.52	99.46	99.59
40 & over	100.00	100.00	100.00

SOURCE: Computed from data of present survey.

For all ever-married women 48.5 per cent are married by the age of 19, 84.8 per cent by the age of 24, and 96.0 per cent by the age of 29. In many Western countries, among women marrying during 1950-1954, 8 to 20 per cent married under 20 years of age, 52 to 66 per cent married at an age under 25, and 78 to 83 per cent at an age under 30.¹⁴ In this survey, the 30 and over constitute less than 5 per cent of the total ever-married women.

Both the urban and rural ever-married women population showed concrete evidence of universal and early marriage. However, more evidence could be found in the rural than in the urban areas.

¹⁴ "Recent Trends in Fertility in Industrialized Countries" (New York: United Nations, 1958).

¹² Ayanori Okazaki, "Positive Study of Japanese Population" (Tokyo: 1950).

¹³ Royal Commission on Population, "Report" (London: H.M.S.O., 1949 [Reprinted in 1958]).

The influence of age at marriage on fertility is also observed in the following table:

TABLE 4
AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER EVER-MARRIED WOMAN BY PRESENT AGE AND AGE AT MARRIAGE

Age Present	Age of Marriage							
	Under 20		20-24		25-29		30-over	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Total	5.66	5.50	4.58	4.99	4.07	4.28	2.47	2.78
Under 25	2.04	2.04	1.06	0.98	—	—	—	—
25 — 29	4.03	4.03	2.59	2.62	1.13	1.37	—	—
30 — 34	5.59	5.32	4.17	4.39	2.67	2.57	1.42	1.80
35 — 44	6.85	6.93	5.72	5.90	4.24	4.50	2.33	1.89
45 — over	7.40	7.39	5.69	6.49	5.11	5.05	2.71	3.32

SOURCE: Computed from Appendix Table 1.

In cases where the age of marriage falls below 20 years the average number of children per urban ever-married woman is 5.66 as compared with 4.58 when the age of marriage falls between 20 and 24 years, and 4.07 for those within the 25-29 year category. In the case of the rural ever-married women, 5.50 is the average number of children for those whose age at marriage falls under 20 years, 4.99 for those within 25-24 years, and 4.28 for those within 25-29 years. In the case of women where the age of marriage is 30 years or more, the average number of children declines to 2.47 and 2.78 for the urban and rural ever-married women population, respectively.

With respect to women who already passed the child-bearing age, 45 years and over, the same pattern as that of all ever-married women surveyed is shown. The number of children per ever-married woman becomes larger as the woman's age marriage goes lower. Naturally, therefore, the average number of children in the latter case is larger

than in the former with respect to all categories of woman's age at marriage.

Women who married before 20 in both areas had more than twice the average number of births than women who married after age 30. If all of the 7,807 women had married before their 20th birthdays, they should have a total of 43,596 births, instead of the 38,186 births they actually reported. This would mean an increase by 12 per cent in the average number of children born. Or if all had married between the ages 20-24, they would have only 37,225; or if they had married between the ages 25 to 29 they would have only 32,566 births, a reduction from their actual average of 4.1 and 16.1 per cent, respectively. If the urban and rural women would all marry between the ages 20-24 the average number of children per woman would decline by approximately 6 to 2 per cent, respectively. While if all married between the ages 25-29, the reduction in the average number of children born to every woman would be from 4.88 to 4.07 and 5.07 to 4.28 for urban and rural, respectively.

Is the reduction in fertility then probably due more to the influence of age at marriage rather than to the other factors?

It will be seen from Table 5 that the distribution of ever-married women by the number of children born to them is also highly affected by the woman's age of marriage.

TABLE 5
PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF EVER-MARRIED WOMEN BY
SIZE OF CHILDREN AND AGE OF MARRIAGE

Number of Children Born	Age of Marriage				
	All ages	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-over
Urban:	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
0	5.52	3.71	5.30	7.14	20.65
1-2	20.42	15.91	21.06	28.38	39.13
3-4	24.11	22.50	25.43	26.19	24.46
5-6	21.28	20.64	23.44	21.83	9.24
7-over	28.67	37.24	24.77	16.46	6.52
Rural:	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
0	4.71	3.48	4.33	7.04	17.69
1-2	17.99	16.31	17.80	21.41	34.61
3-4	23.16	21.71	24.07	26.48	26.15
5-6	23.43	23.05	24.69	25.35	12.31
7-over	30.71	35.45	29.11	19.72	9.24

SOURCE: Computed from Appendix Table 2.

From the above table, it can be seen that childlessness is more common among the urban women than among the rural. Among the urban women the proportion of childless women was less than 4 per cent for women married under 20 years of age but it was nearly twice this for women married at age 20-24. Around 21 per cent of the women who married after age 30 were childless. The same trend can be observed among the rural women. Around 18 per cent of these women were childless.

Among the urban women 28.67 per cent had 7 children and over as compared to 40.71 per cent of the rural ever-married women. A larger proportion of ever-married women having 7 children or more is common among the rural women than among the urban women in each age group, according to age of marriage.

Attitude With Regard To The Ideal Number of Children

Urban-rural differences in fertility have many causes, not all of which involve family limitations. The movement to cities of young unmarried women in search of work tend to make the urban population slightly "less married" than the rural population.

However, conscious family limitation has probably been the major factor in urban-rural differentials, with urban people either wanting fewer children or being more efficient in limitation than the rural people. The higher cost of raising a child in urban areas than in rural areas has been noted by many writers as a major reason for limitation. The actual number of children a woman has exerts some influence on her attitude as to the desirable number of children to have.

Of the 7,807 ever-married women who were asked this question concerning the ideal number of children to have, less than 1 per cent did not give an answer.

The number of children desired is not constant. In normal times there may be some visualization before marriage of an ideal number of children to have. Economic conditions and unplanned pregnancies may cause a change in the number of children expected.

It is evident from Table 6 that there is a need for a smaller number of children.

TABLE 6
COMPARISON OF AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN BY PRESENT AGE OF THE WOMEN

Present Age	Urban		Rural	
	Actual	Ideal	Actual	Ideal
Under 25	1.75	3.49	1.81	3.78
25—29	3.15	4.02	3.33	4.50
30—34	4.51	4.81	4.62	4.79
35—44	5.84	5.45	6.05	5.76
45—over	5.96	5.18	6.40	5.55

SOURCE: Computed from the present survey.

For women under 35 years old, the average ideal number of children is larger than the average actual number of children. This is common to both the urban and rural women. For women who are about to complete their fertility period and those who have completed their fertility, the ideal size is smaller than the actual. Here, we see that women disapproved of the large number of children, especially the rural women.

A comparison between the ideal number of children that the urban and rural women would like to have reveals some interesting aspects of the fertility pattern. Their ideal number ranges from 1 to 16 children with an exceptional case of 18 children recorded.

TABLE 7
PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF EVER-MARRIED WOMEN BY PRESENT AGE AND IDEAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN

Ideal No. of Children	Urban		Rural	
	15-29	30-44	15-29	30-44
0	0.40	0.18	0.43	0.07
1	5.11	3.07	2.91	2.41
2	17.03	14.07	13.25	6.82
3—4	48.40	32.11	44.40	27.23
5—6	24.05	25.01	31.36	36.12
7—over	5.01	25.56	7.65	27.35
Model ideal number of children	4	4	4	5

SOURCE: Computed from data of present survey.

The model ideal number of children is 4 for ages 15-29 and 30-44 in the urban area; 4 for the younger women (15-29) and 5 for women aged 30-44 in the rural area. Comparing these data with similar data in the United States,¹⁵ it is seen that in the latter case, 2 children in 1941 and 3 in 1945 are the modal ideal number of children. More than 90 per cent of the American women take 1 to 4 children as their ideal number but in the Philippines, women who take this as their ideal number accounted for only 49.3-70.5 per cent in the urban and as low as 36.5-60.7 per cent in the rural area. Women who take 5 or more children as their ideal number are only 10 percent in the United States; taking all women in the Philippines, those who take this size as their ideal amounted to 29.1-50.6 per cent with 39.0-63.5 per cent for urban and rural areas, respectively.

Summary

This paper describes, on the whole, the fertility pattern of the ever-married women in the urban and rural areas and

¹⁵ Paul H. Landis and Paul K. Hatt, *Population Problems* (2d ed.; New York: American Book Co., 1954).

their attitude with respect to what is the ideal number of children an ever-married woman should have. It notes that the fertility in the Philippines compared with that of some industrially advanced countries is very high. This study also shows that with regard to all ages and with those whose fertility period was completed, the urban ever-married women are less fertile than their rural counterparts. It points out that the age of marriage which has an influence on the size of children can help decrease the number of children born to an ever-married woman. Increasing the age of marriage would shorten the child-bearing period of the woman and thus the probability of having a small number of children is greater.

The study further reveals that in the urban and rural areas, the ever-married women before completing their fertility period were not in favor of a large number of children and this has been expressed more strongly among the rural ever-married women. There is substantial evidence that a keen desire to limit the number of children was being felt by women in all sectors of the population.

Some Socio-Economic Correlates of Completed Family Size, 1960

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The number of children born to married women is known to be related to their social and economic characteristics. Differences in family size with respect to selected factors have been analyzed previously using data obtained from the 1956 and 1958 rounds of the

Philippine Statistical Survey of Households.¹ The present paper summarizes the findings of an on-going study of a 0.5 per cent sample of households enu-

¹ See M. B. Concepcion, "Fertility Differences Among Married Women in the Philippines," University of Chicago, 1963.