

GUEST EDITOR'S PREFACE

GABRIEL C. ALVAREZ

This special issue is a response to one of the principal objectives of the 1974 World Population Year: "(to) improve knowledge of and information on the facts concerning population trends and prospects and the relevant associated factors (UNFPA: 1973)." The continued enthusiasm expressed by a number of social scientists, mainly demographers, as shown by their contributions to this issue, stimulates rethinking and provides more enlightenment on crucial and unresolved issues of our demographic predicament — rapid population growth.

This is the third issue of the *Philippine Sociological Review* dedicated to population research in the Philippines. Some continuity can be established with preceding issues (Flieger 1971 and Smith 1973). These issues contained studies which served, to some extent, as the groundwork for more substantive research in the field of population. The term "substantive" should be underscored and taken to mean as that which is directly relevant to theoretical development in the field of population. The present issue differs from the previous two issues since it puts greater emphasis on demographic areas or concerns that need more intensive analysis. The particular topics studied are: nuptiality, social mobility by way of occupational achievement, improvements in vital registration, and family planning evaluation. Also included in this issue are three research notes dealing with assortative mating, family planning evaluation of migrants and non-migrants, and scaling of family size and sex preferences. The methodology adopted in these studies represents a varied array of techniques which includes descriptive analysis of rates, percentages and ratios, scalogram analysis, index construction, path analysis, and the algorithm for Automatic Interaction Detection (a multivariate technique).

Smith's article describes and discusses the emerging nuptiality trend of Filipino women based on data drawn from five Philippine censuses and from the 1973 National Demographic Survey (NDS). A decline in the proportion of married women in the younger age groups and an increase in the average age of marriage are observed. This characterizes what Smith labels as the "new nuptiality." Previous research done by the same author (Smith 1968, 1972, 1973b, 1975) support and clarify this observation. The prospect for future fertility reduction is being stressed if the new nuptiality trend continues.

Two articles assess social mobility in the Philippines, as seen from the vantage point of occupational mobility. Both studies focus on a definite research problem attempting to verify the adequacy of some widely-tested hypotheses, namely, the "social mobility" hypothesis and the overurbanization thesis. Deming tries to test the former by examining the influence of family formation (timing and quantity of childbearing) on occupational mobility. The path model design also includes and tests such factors as live births, migration status and duration of marriage. The sample is composed of women married in 1968 who had complete pregnancy histories and whose husbands had complete occupational histories. The effect of early family formation has been consistently supported throughout the analysis on subsequent occupational mobility. Fertility (live births) has also been assessed as having a significant influence on occupational achievement. Delayed child-

bearing shows greater impact on the occupational mobility of migrants. The social mobility hypothesis, to a considerable extent, has been supported by her findings. Bacol-Montilla and Stinner examine the applicability of the overurbanization thesis which postulates that rural migrants are at a disadvantage in the urban setting in terms of occupational mobility due to greater competition for job opportunities. In an earlier study Bacol (1971) analyzed patterns and determinants of intergenerational occupational mobility using a national sample of married males. The present study assessed patterns of intergenerational occupational mobility of married males aged 25-64 residing in Metropolitan Manila. Residential background as well as social origin and destination as measured by father's occupation at age 40 and respondent's occupational status in 1968, respectively, were compared and analyzed. Educational attainment as an intervening variable affecting mobility was also examined. A large proportion (about 40 percent) of the married males studied had agricultural background. Interestingly enough, those of farm origin did not experience stagnation. In essence the overurbanization thesis was not supported by the Bacol-Montilla and Stinner study because: (a) both the high status and the low status farm group had experienced changes in occupational status although the former showed greater mobility; and (b) the high status farm group had greater access to nonmanual and elite status when compared with their urban counterpart and the urban lower class group. These variations are partly accounted for by educational attainment.

The current status of vital registration in the Philippines leaves much to be desired. Problems regarding its accuracy and completeness are among the major drawbacks encountered. Experimentation on the dual-records system conducted by the Mindanao Center for Population Studies at Xavier University is now in its final phase. Madigan and his associates have presented the results for the first phase of the five-year project in an earlier article (Madigan *et al.* 1973). An updated reporting of results from the experiment indicates considerable improvements in the reporting of vital events in both rural and urban Misamis Oriental, as shown by estimated coverage rates. Period and combined rates show a decline in urban fertility. Rural fertility did not exhibit the same trend but is observed to be lower than the national level. Mortality decline is not as discernible. Rates of natural increase for urban areas show a slight decline while those estimated for rural areas remain constant. A similar pattern is observed from provincial and city estimates. Age-specific fertility rates for all women and currently married women from urban and rural areas reveal the same contrasting patterns, i.e. a decline in fertility in the urban areas and a consistently high fertility level for the rural areas. Other fertility measures estimated were total fertility rates and gross reproduction rates for the two groups of married women. In terms of mortality patterns depicted by age-specific death rates, no evident decline is noted for urban mortality while rural mortality declined slightly. A low mortality level is also observed during adolescence and early adulthood. Plausible explanations still cannot be made at this stage of the study to account for these differential patterns.

A major concern of family planning evaluation is to determine the best predictors for adoption and continued use of contraceptive methods. The promotional aspect of family planning, more particularly the practice of contraception, has been the main emphasis of the program. Zablan's study assesses the impact of background (demographic and socio-cultural), acceptability, and accessibility factors affecting adoption and continued practice of contraception. Enrollees of family planning clinics selected and included in the 1972 National Acceptors Survey were evaluated. Adoption of contraceptive methods was best explained and predicted by two acceptability factors, namely, method intended and husband's behavior. Continued use of contraceptive methods was further decomposed into program and non-program continuation. The enrollees' experience in contraceptive usage, i.e. satisfaction of first method used, prior use of contraception, and method accepted, was considered as the most significant predictor for program continuation. Background factors were assessed to have significant impact on non-program continuation. Region was found to be an important predictor for adoption and continuation. This particular finding would imply that regional

variations in family planning promotion does affect the extent of adoption and continuation.

Another way of viewing the impact of the national family planning program is by analyzing changes in knowledge, attitudes, and practice of family planning among married women. Data from the 1968 and 1973 NDS and the 1974 National Acceptors Survey on married women of reproductive ages were analyzed by Laing and Philips. The national program is believed to have induced changes in family size preferences, in knowledge, attitudes, and practice but it has succeeded only in lowering the birth rate by 5 percent during the five-year period. The decline falls below the target reduction of 17 percent for 1977, a goal which may be difficult to attain within the remaining three years.

The three research notes included in this issue touch on various interesting demographic topics. De la Paz discusses the importance of measuring family size and sex preference in fertility research. The preferential scaling of these attributes is done by a scalogram technique devised by Coombs *et al.* Philippine data were analyzed and compared with the results obtained in countries like the U.S. and Taiwan. The migration-fertility relationship studied by Hendershot which appeared in an earlier article (1971) is given further consideration. This present analysis reveals other dimensions of the relationship. The extent of contraceptive knowledge and practice of migrants and non-migrants (urban and rural natives) was analyzed. Migrants were differentiated into residence history categories, specifying duration and place of destination (urban areas and Manila). Rural-urban migrants tend to be more knowledgeable on and more experienced in using some form of contraception when compared to non-migrants. Recent migrants to Manila are also observed to have more knowledge and experience in using some form of contraception than migrants to other urban areas. An initial attempt at analyzing assortative mating in the Philippines based on 1968 NDS data is done by Smith. A criterion of mate selection considered is the level of educational attainment of the wife and the husband. Patterns of mate selection were observed for urban and rural couples. Educational differences between husbands and wives are more pronounced in urban areas. Women, in general, tend to marry upward or choose a spouse with a higher educational attainment while the reverse pattern is observed for the men. A more homogenous selection of mates is more evident among highly educated persons.

All these researches are in their initial phase. These studies when completed would undoubtedly add valuable knowledge to current demographic findings.

The status of population research in the Philippines needs reappraisal. Demographers are still a rarity in the country and the few that are available are actively involved in research and in their academic obligations. The collaborative efforts of other social scientists, mainly sociologists and economists, are becoming more evident in current research. The articles, research notes, and book reviews included in this issue are contributions made by demographers, sociologists, and graduate students currently undergoing training in demography. To maintain the commendable standards achieved by current population research proper research incentives will have to be guided. The basis for sound population policy in the Philippines is high quality and substantive research.

Note

At the time he was guest editor of this issue Gabriel C. Alvarez was assistant professor in Demography at the Population Institute. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Chicago. His research interests include international migration labor force, and labor mobility.

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