

SURVEYS FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES**

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1. The Need For Basic Information and Data.

In performing a wide range of economic and social functions governments need facts to serve as basis for action. The need for up-to-date and accurate information and data has been more keenly felt when governments, particularly those in underdeveloped areas, started formulating and implementing plans for economic and social development.

A government pursuing deliberate planning aims to develop the real income potentialities of the country by using investments to effect desirable socio-economic changes and to increase such productive resources which help to raise the real per capital income. There is, therefore, a need for data on population and the rate at which it is growing. Furthermore, data about the distribution of the working population by levels of income and by sector are required to determine how workers in the various sectors are faring. It is important to know the yearly rate of investment or capital formation since new addition to the country's stock of capital generate new income as well as employment. The effect of the yearly investment or capital formation on employment, i.e., whether the expected employment generated would exceed the yearly increase in the labor force, can be evaluated only if there are available data on the size, composition and degree of utilization of the labor force.

Since the economy in most countries of the region is predominantly agricultural, agricultural development enjoys high priority. The distribution of agricultural holdings by size and kind, land utilization, production, irrigation and drainage, agricultural power and machinery and general transport facilities, etc., should be known first

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before any attempt is made to consider the various land tenure reforms and other institutional changes designed to improve agricultural productivity and standards of living in rural communities.

Since industrialization is one of the main features of economic development, it is necessary to collect information and data on the structure of industrial activities, locally made industrial products and those for export, industrial materials available locally and exported, financial resources available, etc., to determine which industrial activities ought to be expanded. In the case of small-scale industries, additional information on problems of marketing and credit, regulatory laws, wages and others throw light on the appropriate measures to take to insure their healthy development.

The social aspects of development are likewise important. It is necessary to determine the nature and extent of the social services, educational facilities, health facilities and other related services that need to be developed.

In addition to those already enumerated data on foreign trade and balance of payments, prices, public finance, money and banking, transport and communications, national income and others are likewise needed.

II. The Use of Sample Surveys to Collect Information and Data Required in Planning and Development.

In countries where the statistical system is fairly well developed considerable amount of data are obtainable from government statistical agencies or from other government offices which compile data and information as part of their administrative and regulatory functions. The data obtained from these administrative "units" when compiled and summarized form the body of official statistics for various fields. In cases where the level of accuracy of data which have been collected are of the same order as that needed for purposes for which the summarized figures are required then such basic data may be used with confidence. However, if errors at the compilation and summarization stages render the summarized figures useless for the purposes for which these are required, sample surveys may be necessary under controlled conditions.

While the level of accuracy of data on money and banking, public finance, foreign trade and balance of payments in the Philippines are fairly satisfactory to meet the requirements of planning and development, the level of accuracy of other basic data required in planning and development, if they are available at all, is most unsatisfactory. The only alternative to obtain the type of data and information required, therefore, is by conducting sample surveys.¹

III. Recent Sample Surveys Conducted in the Philippines.

A. The Philippine Statistical Survey of Households (PSSH).

The PSSH is a national sample survey conducted periodically to obtain data on the size, composition and distribution of the population, labor force, employment and unemployment, income and expenditures and economic activities of the people. Since May 1956 six rounds have already been completed. The data collected in each of these surveys were:

a. May 1956—Survey of labor force and economic activities, demographic characteristics of the population, household industry, housing, sources of drinking water, and facilities for waste and garbage disposal.

b. October 1956—Survey of labor force and economic activities and demographic characteristics of the population.

c. March 1957—Survey of labor force and economic activities, demographic characteristics of the population, and family income and expenditures.

d. May 1957—Survey of labor force and economic activities, demographic characteristics of the population, household industry, housing, newspaper or news magazine reading, livestock and poultry and farm households.

¹ D.B. Lahiri "On Sampling in Under-Developed Countries—ECAFE Document E/CN. 11/ASTAT /CONF 2/L.12.

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e. October 1957—Almost the same coverage as October, 1956.

f. May 1958—Almost the same coverage as May 1956.

In these surveys about 6000 sample households were enumerated through personal interviews. Three-stage sampling was used. In the first stage, municipalities were selected with probability proportional to population size with replacement. At the second stage, barrios were selected with equal probability without replacement. At the third stage, households were systematically selected with random start.

The central staff was composed of about 59 senior, intermediate, and primary statistical personnel. The field staff was composed of about 300 interviewers including 40 regional supervisors.

The estimated cost of each round of the survey varied according to the coverage of each survey. The cost ranged from about P168,000 to P288,000.

B. The Philippine Statistical Survey of Manufactures

The PSSM is an annual sample survey of manufacturing establishments. This survey was conducted to obtain data on production, employment, payroll, man-hours, raw materials, inventories, and other similar data. The survey was conducted to cover the calendar year 1956.

About 3000 manufacturing establishments were enumerated through mail questionnaires. The sample consisted of 1000 establishments employing 5 to 20 workers which were randomly selected. About 2000 establishments employing over 20 workers were completely enumerated. The type of sampling used was systematic random sampling (stratification by employment size, area and 2-digit industrial classification). This survey, being a mail questionnaire survey, had a relatively small staff consisting of 21 senior, intermediate and primary statistical personnel and four field personnel. The actual cost of the 1956 survey was P232,064.26.

C. The Presidential Assistant on Community Development (PACD) Survey.

The PACD survey project had a three-fold objective; namely:

1. To establish a baseline to pinpoint present living conditions in selected rural areas in the Philippines covered by the community development programs of the PACD;

2. To measure from this baseline after a suitable period of time such improvements that can be objectively ascertained to be the result of the PACD program; and

3. To obtain data and information on which to base decisions concerning the need for specific programs for community development.

In this survey two sets of sample households were interviewed—a sample of households was selected in community development or “PACD” areas and a national sample of households was selected from rural areas representative of all barrios in the country. The latter sample was actually the national rural sample of the PSSH. The latter sample served as a control.

About 9000 sample households were enumerated through personal interview. About 5000 sample households were selected in PACD community development or “PACD” areas and about 3000 sample households were obtained from the PSSH sample households in the rural sector. Uni-stage sampling was used in the selection of the households in PACD community development areas and three-stage sampling was used in the selection of the households in the sample that served as control (The PSSH rural sample).

The central staff consisted of 27 senior, intermediate and primary statistical personnel. The field staff numbered 806 consisting of 623 regular PACD personnel and 173 interviewers and other personnel. A small number of the PSSH central-office staff assisted in processing the data.

The IBM machines and related facilities of the PSSH unit were utilized for processing survey returns. Likewise the 165 interviewers and 10 regional supervisors of

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the PSSH performed the enumeration of sample households selected in the PSSH areas.

The field personnel of the Office of the PACD were employed as interviewers (623 regular PACD personnel) and were not paid out of the funds for the PACD community development survey. The actual cost of this survey reached P105,612.84.

D. The Crop and Livestock Survey

This survey is conducted annually by the Division of Agricultural Economics in the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Data on production of crops, livestock, farm practices and other aspects of the agriculture are obtained in this annual survey.

About 1200 sample farm families are enumerated through personal interview in each survey. Three-stage sampling is used: towns are selected in the first stage, barrios at the second, and farm families at the third stage. Unrestricted random sampling is employed in the selection of towns, systematic sampling with random start in the selection of farm families. The central staff is composed of about 20 senior, intermediate and primary statistical personnel. The estimated cost was P96,000 per year.

E. Other Surveys

Other surveys were conducted by the Division of Agricultural Economics to obtain data on the cost of production of selected crops and livestock in 1957, prices received by farmers, capital formation in agriculture and others.

The Institute of Nutrition conducted a dietary and nutrition survey covering 189 households in two regions in the Philippines in 1956. This year another dietary and nutrition survey was conducted in Manila. About 400 households were covered. Biochemical and clinical investigations were made in these surveys.

Another survey that will be conducted in the near future is the survey on the social implications of small-scale industries in the Philippines. The objectives of this survey are as follows:

1. To determine the social implications of small-scale industries.

2. To ascertain the role of small-scale industries in the economic development of the country; to ascertain whether they constitute a distinct category in the industrial structure of the country; to assess the contribution of such industries to the attainment and maintenance of socio-economic balance in the life of the country and to determine which industries can be expanded.

The survey will include on a sample basis those small-scale industries with a capital of not more than ₱4000 per worker. Different types of industries, both in the urban and rural areas, will be represented.

The sampling frame for the survey will be obtained from the list of manufacturing establishments in the Philippines as up-dated in the 1956 survey of manufactures. This list includes all establishments (employing 5 or more workers) that were primarily engaged in manufacturing in 1956.

The sample design and size of the sample is as follows:

Capital (in pesos)	UNIVERSE	SAMPLE	
	Number of Establishments	Sample size	Per cent of total number of establishments in universe
Under 50,000	579	50	9%
50,000 to 99,000 ..	131	30	24%
100,000 to 149,000 ..	47	10	20%
150,000 to 300,000 ..	58*	10	20%
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The sampling frame will be stratified by size of capital, by location, and by major industry. From this list sample establishments will be selected within the stratum formed by

* Those with a capital of more than ₱200,000 will be dropped to conform to the definition of capital of ₱4000 per worker. (maximum 50 workers). This would reduce the number of establishments to 50.

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size of capital with the use of a random start and corresponding sampling interval within a given stratum. From each of the 100 sample establishments, 5 workers will be randomly selected from the payroll of the establishments using a random start.

Three types of schedules will be used namely: schedule A — Employer's schedule; schedule B — Employee's schedule; and schedule C — Investigator's schedule. Data relating to the community (barrio, town or city) where the workers live and where the establishment is located will be obtained and will be recorded by the investigator in schedule C.

Aside from ascertaining the role of small-scale industries in the over-all economy the research will cover the following social aspects of small-scale industries:

1. Sources of entrepreneurship and background of small industry proprietor
2. Changing social structure and structure of ownership and management
3. Quality and sources of workers
4. Family life
5. Education of workers and educational facilities
6. Health of workers and health facilities
7. Community and plant recreational facilities
8. Juvenile delinquency
9. Shifting political and social control
10. Social effects of mobility patterns
11. Change in levels of living

Other information and data to be collected include:

1. Government help extended the small-scale establishments.
2. Problems encountered in operation—marketing, raw materials used, skilled labor requirements, effect of

government laws, and regulations on plant operations, credit, etc.

3. Work conditions in industry, etc.

The survey is proposed to be conducted in the middle of 1959. Preliminary drafts of the schedules have already been prepared and are presently being discussed.

IV. Regional Approach to the Problems of Developing Social Science Research Activities and Interest.

The countries in the region have many problems in common relating to the development of adequate methods and techniques in social science research. Despite the increasing interest in social science research during the recent year, there is still a shortage of qualified researchers in the area. In a number of countries in the region training facilities are very inadequate, if not lacking. Financial resources for training researchers and for conducting researches are still limited. Much is yet to be desired concerning the dissemination of information on research activities, particularly, the methodological aspect of researches in social science. There is likewise a need for more cooperative efforts among researchers in the region in solving problems on research methods and procedures peculiar to the region. In the face of meager resources available for carrying research activities in social science in the region it is desirable for countries in the region to pool resources and know-how in tackling basic problems relating to the development of social science research activities in the region.

V. The Role of the UNESCO Research Centre

The UNESCO might consider developing a long-term work program in cooperation with governments of countries in the region. This program may include the following:

1. The development of training programs for researchers and related technical personnel from various countries of the region. In this connection training centers may be set. Likewise seminars on various aspects of research methods and techniques may be organized by the UNESCO Research Centre with technical experts of the centre and that of specialized agencies of the UN and

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other organizations. Arrangements for the world-wide exchange of research personnel may be made by the centre.

2. The dissemination of information on research activities in progress and completed in various countries of region and in other parts of the world.

3. The promotion and organization of cooperative undertakings among countries to solve basic problems in research methods and techniques.

4. Making arrangements with various philanthropic and other similar organizations such as the Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, etc. for financing desirable projects calculated to develop further research techniques including their applications in the region.

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