

Post-Retirement Researches of Dr. Burton T. Oñate (1990-2000)¹

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Dad's years after retirement were not years of rest --- for him nor for his family and close friends. During those years, he was very active in research, teaching and projects. In this presentation, I will briefly describe for you some of his most recent researches from 1990 to 2000.

Dad continued his work on Program/Project Benefit Monitoring and Evaluation System (PPBMES), which he pioneered during the early 1970s while Chief Statistician of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He was the PPBMES Project Leader/Director of more than 20 development projects in the ASPAC Region.

What is PPBMES? In the midst of huge government and non-government projects around the country that aim to benefit the common man on the street, how do we measure these projects' effectiveness in fulfilling their objectives? This is what PPBMES does! As the name implies, Program/Project Benefit Monitoring and Evaluation System (PPBMES) is an important management tool for a progressive assessment (monitoring and evaluation) of the success and effectiveness of the projects in achieving anticipated benefits, general welfare and quality of life (QOL) of the recipients of the projects, most of whom are the poorest of the poor, the lowest of the low and the under-privileged. Thus, PPBMES is an effective tool for project planning, implementation and evaluation.

He has documented the application of PPBMES to:

1. Services: such as Technical Education and even the Municipal and Provincial Water Systems (MPWS)
2. Agriculture and Integrated Area Development
3. Manufacturing Sector: Small and Medium Scale Industries (SMSI)

to name a few.

Interestingly, during the second half of the 1990s, Dad also incorporated some relevant criteria of Total Quality Management (or TQM) into the concepts, definitions, and frameworks and models of PPBMES, which is evident in his writings during that period [8]. I will be mentioning some of the TQM works of Dad side-by-side with the discussion on PPBMES. His in-depth knowledge on sampling and non-sampling errors provided the backbone to the surveys conducted for the PPBMES & TQM projects.

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He published a book of 2 volumes on PPBMES in year 2000 [7], which is an integration of PPBMES papers written by Dad from 1970 to 1999. I will discuss with you this morning within the short time that we have some of the interesting PPBMES & TQM projects presented in the book and of which Dad served as project leader:

I. Dad developed a framework for the application of PPBMES to technical education [1]. Project benefits are categorized into three areas:

1. internal efficiency (enhancement of quality of education, students' achievements and attitudes, and educational infrastructure and institutional mechanisms)
2. external relevance and productivity (improved supply of manpower relevant to the nation's development needs, quality of skills and productivity of manpower and employment opportunities for graduates)
3. economic efficiency (income of beneficiaries and income distribution)

In particular, he presented these papers on the subject:

* TQM in Education and applied it to CAHBRIBA in 1996/1999

* TQM in HEIs and CHED: Challenge and Opportunity, October 2000, presented at the UP Open University, College, Laguna.

This was part of his most recent work just before he passed away. He was doing research on the application of PPBMES and TQM in HEIs while he was in Australia towards the end of year 2000. We hope to be able to publish the results of this research as soon as we can.

II. Dad also developed the PPBMES framework for integrated agricultural development and applied it to the Highland Agriculture Development Project (HADP), which was implemented at the Cordillera in 1989 and 1991/92 [7]. Some of the project components considered were: communal irrigation, roads/transport and agricultural support system projects. A PPBMES was instituted to establish data regarding the effects of these components on the project's beneficiaries. PPBMES results indicate that the contents and targets in the Appraisal Reports are quite different from those obtained by the PPBMES surveys. In most cases, the targets in the Appraisal Reports have fallen short of expectation which could imply that the project is not economically feasible but more importantly, the desired social impacts on the rural poor are not being attained or realized. Thus, important and key resources are dissipated, the poor becomes poorer and the quality of life of the intended beneficiaries deteriorates. What will management do to bring the project into its desired path?

III. Another aspect of his work on PPBMES is on the impacts of technology [7]. He applied these PPBMES principles on the MASIPAG project in 1995/1996. MASIPAG is a partnership between farmers and scientists for the development of farmer-based science research and technology in agriculture with representatives from farmer organizations, scientists, and NGOs. The initial project areas were barangays and municipalities in Central Nueva Ecija, Atimonan, Quezon and Buhi, Camarines Sur. The program was developed by the farmers themselves with the assistance of the scientists and the NGOs. The MASIPAG project was used to illustrate the application of PPBMES to measure the possible impacts of the dissemination, utilization and improvements of indigenous technology. The farmers provided information on the efficiency, usefulness and relevance of the training programs aimed at the

dissemination of technologies on the seed, cultural practices, inputs, pest management, entrepreneurship, farming systems, post-harvest and other related topics. How efficient were the training programs? What did they learn? What did they use? Which were relevant to the location-specific farming system? What topics should be emphasized and what new topics need to be considered? Again, the major point of interest is: what were the impacts of these technologies on the quality of life of the farmers themselves?

IV. Dad also applied PPBMES principles in the manufacturing sector [c; d; e]. Some of his projects include:

1. "Quality Assurance Procedure and Productivity". Workshop/Seminar and Actual Implementation. Pineapple canning factory. Crown Packing Inter. Inc. Davao City. May/July 1992.
2. "Statistical Process Control (SPC)", Yazaki-Torres, M. Inc., Calamba, Laguna, Philippines. Dec. '98.
3. Generator of Customer Focus and Profiles through probability sampling surveys which he applied to 7-11 convenience stores and PILTEL (1998) [6] among others.

V. He also applied PPBMES and TQM on statistical operations itself. Specifically,

1. "TQM and the Philippine Statistical System (PSS)". Philippine Society for Quality (PSQ). Manila. Oct. 1997. [2]
2. "TQM on Statistical Operations: National Statistical Office (NSO)". 1997/1998. [3]
3. "TQM and the Korean Statistical System", Seoul, Korea (Korea University), Sept. '98. [4]

Aside from his involvement in projects, lecturing on PPBMES and TQM in various sectors, he was also involved in the drafting of a senate bill. Dad drafted a bill on PPBMES as chief of staff of Senator Teroy Laurel for the implementation of PPBMES in all government programs and projects for more effective changes in the policies, strategies and targets at various levels of government.

His works have been recognized locally and internationally. Some of his most recent awards are the following:

1. Bayaning Pilipino, ABS-CBN, 1995. Given in recognition of his outstanding service to fellow Filipinos, the community, the nation and humanity.
2. Tanglaw (Torch) Award, PAEDA, 19 February 1999.
3. "2000 Outstanding Intellectuals of the 20th Century", International Biographical Center (IBC), Cambridge, England, September 1999; for his Outstanding Contribution in the Field of Statistics and Economics
4. "Man of the Year - 2000", American Biographical Institute (ABI), Raleigh, N. Carolina, USA, February, 2000.

Dad, Dr. Burton T. Onate, a man with a noble vision: "the improvement of the quality of life of the beneficiaries of development, the poorest of the poor, the lowest of the low and the under-privileged using our God-given resources: time, talents and treasures." I believe that he desired to pass on this legacy to the next generation and through this PSA conference, I hope that the study of his works has inspired the

country's statisticians to continue the fulfillment of that vision. Thank you very much and good day to you all.

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