

GUEST EDITORS' PREFACE

ESTER B. DE LA CRUZ
MARIA ELENA LOPEZ
ANA MARIA R. NEMENZO

The papers in this issue were presented at the 1976 National Convention of the Philippine Sociological Society. The meetings were held January 23-25, 1976 at the Faculty Center Conference Room, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City.

At the opening session Lediviña V. Cariño, President of the Philippine Sociological Society, expressed the reason for choosing "Poverty: The Illusion and the Reality" as theme of the Convention. Past research focused on development, whereas the realities of poverty were neglected. The Convention attempted to revive among social scientists a concern for the majority of the Filipino population who live in poverty and to reassess the role of the committed social scientist.

The impact of poverty on women's lives is the subject of the first three papers. Anna Miren Gonzalez points out that because of poverty women have had to remain in traditional roles of wife and mother; in contrast, Susan Evangelista writes about female massage parlor attendants whose work choice is often dictated by being in the mainstream of poverty. Monica Shotwell articulates the plight of women confined at the National Mental Hospital. Apart from the lack of basic necessities, the women are subjected to indignities, consciously or otherwise, and are socialized into accepting a status of inferiority as inmates.

The next three papers are on rural poverty. Jeanne Frances Illo explains how the diminishing quality of education, unemployment, and poor paying jobs contribute to poverty in the Bicol River Basin. Alejandro Herrin examines the socioeconomic impact of electrification on a rural population. The paper read by Laura Samson shows the role of mass media in sustaining and creating illusion about poverty. Randolph David's paper is a critique of urban poverty researches. He suggests expanding the perspective of Philippine urban poverty studies beyond slum areas and lifestyles of the poor to dissect the societal structures which perpetuate urban poverty. The immediate means of coping with urban poverty problems, through people's organizations, is offered by Teresita Palacios. The author explains how people organized around issues can be a powerful instrument in negotiating with government and private institutions for participation in planning and implementing programs that affect their lives.

Inevitably, the work of social scientists, which deals with the Filipino people, most of them poor, necessitates a rethinking of priorities. Jose V. Abueva writes on why social scientists should be committed to reducing poverty and inequity and suggests the ways by which these can be achieved by the academic profession.

There were twenty-one speakers at the PSS Convention who talked on specific topics. If some of the papers are not included in this issue, it is because they were presented extemporaneously, had been or will be published elsewhere, or were not ready for publication. However, the selections in this issue adequately reflect the range of the aspects of poverty that were discussed: income inequality, impact of poverty on personal aspirations and behavior, rural and urban poverty, people's struggle to overcome poverty, and the committed social scientist.

PHILIPPINE JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGY

Volumes 7 and 8 1974-1975

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| <i>Dina Lavoie, f.m.a.</i> | The Phenomenological Transformation of the Self-Concept Towards Self-Actualization Through Sensitivity Training Laboratory |
| <i>Emily Miao</i> | An Exploratory Intervention Experiment on Development of Class Inclusion Concept Among Some Filipino Preschoolers |
| <i>Basilio Iledan</i> | Some Gross Validity Studies Involving the College Entrance Test |
| <i>Josefina B. Jayme</i> | Demographic and Socio-Psychological Determinants of High-Level Migration from the Philippines to the United States |
| <i>Harry R. Day</i> | The Resource Comparison Model of Coalition Formation |

Annual subscription rates: ₱14/US\$5

Mail orders to the Central Subscription Service, P.O. Box 655, Greenhills, Metro Manila 3113 Philippines.