

Editor's Preface

This 1995 issue of the *Philippine Sociological Review* is devoted to Crime and Social Deviance. Some of the articles appearing in this issue are taken from the papers presented at a ceremony held in honor of Professor Ricardo M. Zarco on the occasion of his retirement from the Department of Sociology, University of the Philippines on July 28, 1995. Several other articles are written by Professor Zarco himself and his colleagues and students.

Professor Zarco holds the distinction of being the first Filipino sociologist to specialize in the study of social deviance. He is best known for his writings and research on narcotic drug use, murder trends, and other forms of criminal behavior. He has lent his expertise to various government agencies and intergovernmental bodies concerned with the eradication of crime and violence and the promotion of peace and order in communities. In his many years of

service at the University of the Philippines, he has taught generations of students to appreciate the complexity of social factors underlying deviance and criminality and the values necessary for curbing socially disruptive behavior and practices. The study of crime and social deviance in the Philippines owes much to the pioneering contributions of Professor Zarco who has nurtured interest in the study of this aspect of national life.

The first article in the series, "A Short History of Narcotic Drug Addiction in the Philippines, 1521-1959," is taken from the M.A. thesis of Professor Ricardo M. Zarco and traces the beginnings of narcotic drug use in the country. Professor Zarco argues that except for betel and tobacco leaf chewing and the use of alcoholic beverages from rice, sugar cane, nipa, and coconut palms, pre-Spanish Philippines was free of narcotic intoxicants. Historical records

suggest that narcotic drugs in the form of opium was first introduced in the Philippines by Dutch traders in the 1600s, while opium use may have been promoted by Chinese immigrants involved in the British-Chinese opium trade. Despite restrictions imposed by Spanish colonial rule on the use and cultivation of opium in the country, its use spread among Filipinos living near Chinese settlements and among Filipino Moslems who used opium to gather courage in their armed resistance to Spanish control. American colonial rule similarly restricted the use of opium and other narcotics except for medical purposes, although such restrictions did not completely eliminate the smuggling of narcotics in the Philippines. During the Japanese occupation, the use of morphine and other narcotics was reported among Japanese military forces and some Filipino resistance leaders. In the post-WW II period, the Philippine government has continued a policy of restricting narcotic use and production, outlawing opium, poppy and its alkaloid and derivatives, as well as marijuana and other synthetic drugs.

The second article by Michael Tan, "The Construction of Drug Abuse in the Philippines: The Case of Cough Preparations," examines the social construction surrounding the use of cough syrups and preparations, the second leading

category of drugs sold in the Philippines. Dr. Tan explains that biomedically, cough syrups and preparations are prescribed in cases of persistent coughs which may cause harm to the bronchi or which prevent a patient from getting necessary sleep and rest. More than biomedical information, however, the use of cough preparations is influenced more by "socially constructed realities" regarding their good or bad effects. Cough preparations are socially construed as good when they treat "coughing" which causes both physical and social distress. A cough is popularly seen as a symptom that may lead to a more serious illness and as a condition which interferes with social relations and acceptable social decorum. Using cough syrups in these instances, therefore, is deemed good and beneficial. But a set of negative social attributes has also come to surround cough preparations spawned by the increasing association of these in recent years with drug abuse or addiction and social deviance. Although cough preparations may similarly bring relief and comfort (or *ginhawa*) to drug users and dependents, they are construed as being socially disruptive. This negative image has been partly reinforced by the media which portray drug users as progressing to other forms of criminal behavior, as well as by government bans on certain drugs which lead to the perception that these drugs are

"powerful," and by the suggestive advertising of cough syrup manufacturers. For the most part, the different social constructions on cough preparations override biomedical reasons for their use and contribute to difficulties in evolving a rational policy on drugs.

The next two articles contain the results of studies jointly undertaken by **Professor Zarco** and two of his students, **Filomin A. Candaliza-Gutierrez** and **Marlon R. Dulnuan**. The first examines "Trends in Murder and Rape Incidents in the Philippines and Metro Manila," covering the period 1980 to 1994. The authors note that during the 15-year reference period, the murder rate gradually increased and peaked in 1987. It declined every year thereafter and reached its lowest level in 1994. Murder as an index crime is the best indicator of social violence, being very well-reported to the police. Earlier victimization surveys further reveal that over 90 percent of murders are police recorded, hence, government collected data on murder are generally credible. Metro Manila contributes only 10 percent to the total national murder crime volume and its murder rate is some 30 to 40 percent lower than the overall national rate. In contrast, rape, another index crime, is grossly under-reported so that police statistics on rape do not represent the actual

number. The increase in police reported rapes likely reflects the increase in women's empowerment and the capability of women to report abuses against them. It is also reflective of the increasing participation of women in the economic sector which has raised their social status from economic dependents to active labor force participants. The authors are of the opinion that rape rates have not changed drastically during the past quarter of a century.

In their next article, "A Survey of Rape and Sexual Molestation Victims Among Female Students in a University Setting," **Professor Zarco**, **Ms. Candaliza-Gutierrez**, and **Mr. Dulnuan** present research results showing a rape victimization incidence of 2.3 percent by age 18 years among their university sample of upper- and middle-class coeds. This means that 2.3 percent of their respondents were raped at least once in the past prior to the time the survey was taken. Of this 2.3 percent, 1 percent represents domestic rapes, wherein the perpetrators are relatives or members of the victims' household. The mean age of domestic rape victims is 7.3 years, while that of their perpetrators is 27.3 years. The remaining 1.3 percent are nondomestic rapes, wherein the perpetrators are neither the victim's kin nor household members but mainly outsiders such as male

admirers, friends, acquaintances, and schoolmates. The mean age of female victims of nondomestic rape is 16 years, and that of the perpetrators, 26.5 years. Upper- and middle-class female victims tend not to report such offenses to the police, and not a single rape incident in the survey was reported to the police. The authors' findings on contact sexual molestations (or abuse short of the legal definition of rape) show these to vary with socioeconomic class. The incidence of sexual molestation among the upper class is 9.6 percent and increases to 17.2 percent among the middle class and 33.2 percent among the upper lower class. Domestic molestation accounts for a fewer 25 percent of all cases, while 66 percent are nondomestic cases where strangers figure as the most frequent perpetrators. The incidence of reporting molestation cases to the police is nil among upper-class victims, and 12 percent and 13 percent, respectively, among middle- and upper lower-class victims. With a total of 805 cases, the maximum margin of error for the survey findings is 3.5 percent.

Prepared jointly by Professor Zarco and Dr. Donald J. Shoemaker, the paper on "Student Organizations and Conflict Gangs" at the Diliman campus of the University of the Philippines is based on the analysis of 195 reported instances of inter-fraternity violence and near violence with the

campus police from 1991 to 1994 and of some 138 interviews with fraternity members on campus. Among the findings of the study is that five fraternities are responsible for nearly two-thirds of the violent incidents involving university fraternities. Most of the weapons used in fracas are hand-wielded, with handguns rarely used. Injuries are often slight, requiring limited medical attention. Based on their interviews, the authors suggest that cultural factors underlie much of fraternity-related violence. Among such factors are the cultural acceptance of violence as a way of settling disputes and emulated by fraternities; group allegiance and feelings of identifications with the *barkada* found more salient among the members of "violent fraternities"; and the vulnerability of young impressionable students to *pakikisama* or to "giving in" to the wishes and directives of older fraternity members. These values appear to be consciously inculcated in the socialization of students to fraternity lifestyles.

Titled, "The International Context of Crime and Punishment," Dr. Cicero C. Campos' paper focuses on the etiology of crime expounding on individual level factors and broader social environment or milieu factors impinging on crime. He notes changes in crime rates and patterns as societies move toward more industrialized states. The social

milieu of crime has not only been changing but is continuously expanding as a result of globalization processes. The UN Crime Surveys reveal that the amount of recorded crime worldwide has been increasing at an average rate of 5 percent per year from 1980 to 1986, a rate higher than either the population or economic growth rates of most countries. Moreover, new developments in science and technology, transport and communications, and in money transfers have contributed to the growing internationalization of organized crime that involve the trafficking of illicit drugs, prostitution, illegal gambling, and terrorism. Dr. Campos reiterates the important roles of the family, the school system, the community, and mass media in counteracting crime. He also describes some of the emerging intergovernmental approaches and mechanisms in dealing with transnational crime and in setting standards for crime correction and retribution.

Dr. Donald J. Shoemaker's paper on "Ethnic Identity and Delinquency Among Filipino-American Youth: A Theoretical View" explores the relationship between delinquency among Filipino-American youths and their ethnic identity and immigrant status. Reviewing earlier migration theories and studies, he notes that second-generation migrants, in particular, experience a period of

cultural conflict arising from differences in the values and customs of their host country and their country of origin. This cultural conflict experience may be a temporary phase in the adjustment and eventual assimilation of migrants. A state of cultural conflict, however, may also be indicative of an ethnic resilience or consciousness among migrants who wish to preserve their cultural identity and heritage, and which can serve to buffer feelings of self-worth and pride, particularly in cases where migrants are economically discriminated in the host country. Although Filipino-American youths have not figured prominently in gang and delinquent behavior in the United States, except in Hawaii and Los Angeles which host the largest settlements of Filipino migrants, Dr. Shoemaker notes that community programs which rekindle ethnic values and identity may serve to lower the incidence of crime and delinquency among migrant youths. He hypothesizes that cultural ties and identities with Filipino customs and values will lower rates of delinquency since a strong ethnic identity will also foster a sense of belonging and self-esteem among Filipino-American youths.

In contrast to the adaptation and assimilation problems encountered by long-term Filipino migrants to the United States, the next two articles contributed by two

Japanese scholars of Philippine Studies deal with the difficulties faced by new, and often illegal, Filipino migrants in Japan. In "The Crime Story of a Filipino who Committed Murder in Japan," Ms. Sachi Takahata analyses some of the background factors and processes that lead undocumented Filipino migrants to deviance and other criminal acts in their host country. Using Robert K. Merton's middle-range theory of human behavior, Ms. Takahata attributes the tendency of illegal Filipino migrants toward crime and social deviance to the emphasis placed by Philippine culture and society on economic success as a measure of individual achievement. The goal of economic improvement and mobility is deeply internalized by Filipinos, and especially by poor Filipinos who, because of their position in the class structure, have limited access to legitimate means (i.e., higher education and well-paying jobs) for attaining economic goals. Consequently, they are drawn to deviant acts and even to commit crimes for the purpose of earning money and getting themselves and their families out of poverty. Filipino migrants to Japan tend to rationalize their involvement in deviant and criminal behavior—ranging from their illegal entry and overstaying in the host country to prostitution, cohabitations with various partners, marriages for convenience, murder, and others—in terms of the cultural

goal of helping one's family and ensuring their financial security. This kind of rationalization among Filipino overseas migrant workers becomes hollow after awhile, however, particularly for those whose continued stay in foreign countries and involvement in deviant behavior forms do not bring about lasting solutions to their and their families' economic problems.

Professor Mamoru Tsuda's paper details his reflections as a participant observer in "Interpreting and Translating for Filipino Suspects/Defendants in Japan." He notes that with the increasing entry of foreign workers in Japan, the number of migrant workers involved in criminal incidents either as eyewitnesses, victims, or perpetrators has also been increasing. This is true of Filipino as well as of other foreign migrant workers. But having no established mechanism for dealing with foreign offenders or victims, the Japanese judicial system is ill-equipped to cope with the emerging realities of labor migration. Although the judicial system has engaged the services of an increasing number of interpreters and translators, it has no system of accrediting such persons for investigation and judicial proceedings. Based on the cases he has participated in and observed, he notes that foreign suspects and defendants run the risk of being misinterpreted and misunderstood in police investi-

gations and court hearings. Moreover, problems in the language competence of interpreters and translators and limitations in their knowledge of other cultures where migrant workers come from undermine Japan's ability to uphold judicial norms and standards for ensuring due process and protecting some of the basic human rights (i.e., the right to understand and to be understood) of foreign suspects and defendants.

Also included as a note in this issue is the opening address delivered by **Rafael Alunan III**, then Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government, on the occasion of Professor Zarco's retirement from the University of the Philippines. Secretary Alunan's address calls attention to some of the problems and difficulties facing the Philippine National Police and the criminal justice system. Some of these problems are organizational and administrative, while others are owing to resource constraints

in such areas as personnel, equipment, and research and development. Still others are traced to such broader social problems as scams and graft and corruption that beset the police, the military, and other agencies of government. Solutions must be found to the immediate problems faced by the police and the criminal justice system, although over a longer term, the fight against crime will require the involvement and cooperation of communities.

To help readers locate articles appearing in earlier issues of the *Philippine Sociological Review*, an index of PSR articles from 1989 to 1995 has been prepared as a supplement to this issue. An earlier author and subject index covering the period 1953 to 1988 appears in PSR Volume 37 (Nos. 1-4). The current index additionally includes a title index and was graciously prepared by **Ms. Fraulein A. Oclarit**, librarian, of the Frank X. Lynch Library of the Philippine Social Science Council.