

A STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE OF  
FAMILY PLANNING AND INVOLVEMENT IN FAMILY  
PLANNING AND FERTILITY

By

LEDA G. ALBA

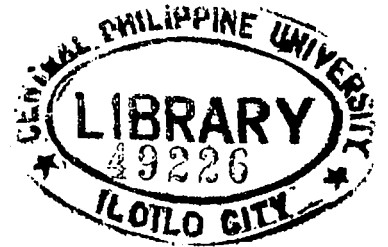
Submitted to the

RAMON ABOITIZ FOUNDATION

GRADUATE STUDIES LIBRARY

CENTRAL PHILIPPINE UNIVERSITY  
Iloilo City Philippines

October 31, 1977



CHAPTER I  
INTRODUCTION

1.0 Preliminary Statement. The World is beset with numerous problems, but one of the most serious is the explosive growth of human population. If this problem is not solved, man may face starvation, poverty or even extinction. A book on population mentioned:

No geological event in a billion years, not the emergence of mighty mountain ranges, not the submergence of entire subcontinents, nor the occurrence of periodic glacial ages - posed a threat to terrestrial life comparable to that of human overpopulation.

Ehrlich, Paul R. and Anne H. Ehrlich. Population, Resources, Environment. W.H. Freeman and company, 1970. pp. 17

Ecologists are sometimes called "prophets of doom," but their warnings are timely and we should think seriously of the future of the world by heeding their warnings.

War is not a very good solution to minimize population growth; neither is pestilence desirable. One of the most logical solutions to this problem of overpopulation is family planning. Several countries have realized this and have gone into intensive programs of controlling population growth. In developing countries, there is a need to improve the standard of living of the people. This can partly be achieved if population is low in proportion to the total income of the country. Perhaps family planning is the answer.

Family planning, sometimes called "population control," is not a new area of concern in the Philippines since history mentioned that population control, Philippine style, dates back to the 12th Century A.D., when Datu Sumakwel, a Visayan ruler, embodied in his code a provision limiting population growth. (U.P. College of Education, et. al. (1976) Manual on Population Education for Research and Evaluation Supervisors, pp. 917

Yet, in spite of this practice, our population has multiplied several times.

Lately, however, family planning has received added impetus when the President issued several decrees and one of these is P.D. 69 where the total number of dependents for which additional exemption may be claimed shall not exceed four dependents. (Lydia Quirolgia-Lugue, and Maria Fe Manguera-De Leon, Textbook on Family Planning Rex Book Store, 1974. p. 33 Quoting See 23,

NIRC.) This necessitates family planning practices if husbands and wives take this seriously. In his State of the Nation Message at the opening of the Seventh Congress on January 26, 1970, President Marcos stated:

The task of government in the control of population is three fold: The first is education, in order to impress on the people the urgent need for controlling the population; the second is the dissemination of knowledge in the techniques of birth control sanctioned by scientific and medical practice; the third is the provision of facilities especially in the rural areas, where assistance in the use of birth control methods may be extended to the poor. (U.P. College of Education. Manual on Population Education for Research and Evaluation Supervisors N.D. p. 71.

This statement further reiterates the government stand on population control.

In line with this program of population control, President Marcos issued Letter of Instruction No. 47, dated December 8, 1972 regarding the integration of Family Planning in the curricula of schools especially in college courses. Realizing that the students are the potential parents of the country, the Department of Education and Culture (DEC) made family planning a required subject in schools.

With this program the government has set up, family planning is assured of strong support. Would knowledge of and involvement in the use of contraceptives methods help to stop the increasing population growth.

#### 1.1 Statement of the Problem.

This study deals with knowledge of and involvement of women in Iloilo Province, in the use of contraceptives. Hopefully, this study intends to find out if knowledge and involvement are associated with fertility; fertility being defined as the number of pregnancies a woman has had. The variables to be discussed in this particular study are knowledge and involvement in contraceptives of women in Iloilo Province.

Team Research Approach. The main thrust of the entire project was to determine which of some pre-determined variables are associated with fertility. Obviously, because of the ex-

tensive coverage of the entire project, the team approach was resorted to. The different areas covered were the following:

1. A study of the relationship between fertility and modernity attitudes.
2. A study of the relationship between fertility and perception of the environment.
3. A study of the relationship between fertility and attitudes towards family planning.
4. A study of the relationship between developmental value orientation and fertility.
5. A study of the relationship between socio-economic status and fertility.
6. A study of the relationship between knowledge of family planning and involvement in family planning and fertility.
7. A study of the relationship of perceived fulfillment of basic needs and fertility.

The sixth problem mentioned above was this researcher's area of study.

The main thrust of this study is to determine whether fertility is associated with (a) knowledge of family planning and (b) involvement in family planning activities. The secondary purpose is to present a profile of the respondents with reference to the two variables.

More specifically, this portion of the entire report aims to seek answers to the following questions:

1) Profile

- a. To what extent are the respondents acquainted with the different methods of contraceptives and with other information relative to family planning?

Are there differences in the extent of knowledge of family planning when the respondents are classified according to (1) residence (2) age at interview or age at first marriage (3) socio-economic status (4) educational attainment and (5) family planning practices?

- b. To what extent are the respondents involved in family planning activities?

Are there differences in the extent of involvement in family planning activities when the respondents are classified by (1) residence (2) age (3) socio-economic status (4) educational attainment and (5) practice?

- c. What methods of contraception are preferred by the respondents?

- 2) Is Knowledge of family planning associated with fertility, controlling involvement?
- 3) Is involvement in family planning associated with fertility controlling knowledge?

It was hypothesized that knowledge of family planning is not associated with the number of pregnancies or fertility. The 5% level of significance was adopted as the criterion for

accepting or rejecting the null hypothesis.

1.2 Importance of the study. This study is deemed important because the data and findings would be helpful to family planning workers, motivators, and family planning policymakers. Data preferably on the choice of contraceptives would especially be helpful to motivators since these are classified according to barrio, town, and city. The family planning workers would know what to expect, more or less, when they are dealing with these people according to their classification.

Since family planning is a required subject in schools the materials gathered in this study would be a useful source of information for teachers. Policy-makers would find these a helpful source to begin with. Marriage counselors who give family planning lectures to couples who plan to get married, would find the results of this study useful and informative.

This portion of the study would be useful to several people. To the doctors who practice medicine in the province of Iloilo, this brief study could serve as a source. According to Peel and Potts:

Birth control practice is today regarded by a substantial and influential majority of doctors as an important element in preventive medicine and the provision of contraceptive advise an appropriate activity for the medical practitioner. /John Peel and Malcolm Potts, Textbook of Contraceptive Practice. U.K. Cambridge at the University Press, 1970 p. 1/