

DETERMINANTS OF LEVELS OF LIVING: A CASE STUDY OF RURAL FARMING COMMUNITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO, PHILIPPINES¹

First Place, Socio-economic and Related Studies Section
Professional Category.

Reynaldo N. Dusanan

Level of living is often held to be an important component of development. Identifying the determinants of levels of living of households was seen as an important step in the design of development programs and projects. Knowledge concerning the determinants of levels of living may be useful in the evaluation of development programs and projects.

This study examined some of the determinants of levels of living among households of the rural farming communities of the Province of Iloilo, Philippines. A total of 977 households were taken as the sample for this study. Hypothesized factors included the policy relevant variables of: household income, occupation and education of the household head, farm size, tenure status; availability of electricity in the barangay, availability of irrigation in the barangay, and distance of the barangay from the city. Household size and marriage duration were considered as "control variables." Level of living was

measured by an unweighted factor-analysis-based score composed of an 11-item index. Multiple Classification Analysis (MCA) was used as the main tool in the analysis.

In the whole sample, household income, education and occupation of the household head, and the availability of electricity in the barangay were found to be significant determinants of levels of living. But among farm households, the level of education of the head, farm size, tenure status and the availability of electricity in the barangay were found to be significant determinants of levels of living.

These findings suggest that increasing the access of rural people to high schools, bringing electricity to rural areas, and fully implementing the land reform, including land redistribution and tenure reform, would likely lead to improvements in levels of living. Further research directed toward the process by which these factors influence level of living is warranted.

¹Abstract of a thesis for Master of Science in Rural Sociology done at the Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., 1983.