

F A M I L Y P L A N N I N G
I N I L O I L O -
DEMOGRAPHIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

By

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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.0 Preliminary statement. Efforts in family planning in the narrower sense of limiting the number of children have received great impetus during the last ten years. The Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP) started work along this area of concern in August 1969, and the Population Commission of the Philippines was created under P.D. 79 on December 8, 1972. The efforts of these and other institutions stemmed out of the fact that in 1970, the population growth rate was 3.4 per cent, which was at that time one of the highest in the world. U.P. Pop. Institute, Philippine Population Profiles, Prospects, Problems, 1970, p. 407

The Philippine Government has not been indifferent to the possible disastrous effects of a population much bigger than the economy can decently support. The Philippine Constitution, for instance, Article IV, Section 10, provides:

... It shall be the responsibility of the State to achieve and maintain population levels most conducive to the national welfare.

President Marcos himself stated:

... It is recognized that a high population growth consumes vital resources from the economic effort. In our country, where resources are scarce and critical, a high population growth is untenable and demands immediate solution. ... RP, Commission on Population, 1974, Four-year Population Program, p. 77

During the past five years or so, studies on population control and family planning have been conducted in this country, but most of these have been on the socio-economic field. We are not aware of studies on the psychological aspects, although it is possible that there are studies along this area but have not been reported.

There are no studies on either the socio-economic or psychological aspects of population control in Iloilo Province, although several conferences and seminars have been held. Unfortunately, the data - if data were used at all as a frame of reference in the discussions - were based on studies conducted elsewhere. In colleges and universities in the province, where population education is a required course, information on the local situation is not available. This is why we have launched this study, even as we have been confronted by the many constraints in time, money, and manpower.

1.1 Thrust of the study. The main thrust of this study was to determine which of certain pre-determined psychological variables are associated with fertility, fertility being defined in this context as the number of pregnancies. However, we were aware that socio-demographic variables like place of residence, socio-economic status, educational attainment have been found to be associated with the number of children. For this reason, we also included some socio-demographic variables so that these could be treated alongside with the psychological variables.

This, hopefully, would present a much broader perspective of the entire population control problem in Iloilo.