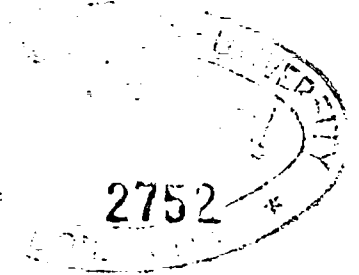


A STUDY OF THE MODERNITY ATTITUDE OF
MARRIED WOMEN AND ITS RELATION
TO FERTILITY



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

No problem has ever been so alarming and received worldwide attention than over population. Much of the literature on population reads like a horror story, conjuring a picture of people rushing lemming-like to their doom since over population carries with it other related problems like shortages in employment, housing, education, health, and food.

The Philippines is one among the countries adversely affected by population problem: thus, there is a necessity for it to adopt a strong population policy. Apolonio Batalla reported during the celebration of the "World Population Year" in 1974 that:

The Philippines has a land area of about 300,000 square kilometers. Its population of more than forty million is the 13th biggest on earth. With an annual rate of about 3.0 percent; the Philippines belong to the fifth ranking group of countries reflecting the same rate of growth. If the rate does not change, the population will double in about twenty-three years.¹

¹ Apolonio Batalla, "The Philippines Tries to Defuse its Population Bomb," Focus on Population and the Philippines (n.p. n.d.), pp. 2 - 3.

Even as early as 1957, there were already some private sectors who felt that very soon our country will face a population crisis due to rapid population increase. The National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP, a protestant group) promoted family planning and established counselling clinics. As the demand for information and services grew throughout the country, the leaders of NCCP responded by developing an organization broader in scope and activities called the "Planned Parenthood Movement in the Philippines" (PFMP), in 1965. Two years later it was incorporated as a national, civic, and voluntary family planning organization.

Another private association involving Catholics, organized in response to the need presented by some of the pioneers in family planning, was the "Family Planning Association of the Philippines" (FPAP). The main focus of FPAP was a nation-wide campaign to inform and educate individuals on different aspects of family planning.

Since PFMP concentrated on training and FPAP on information and education, much of their efforts overlapped particularly in the area of service, with both organizations supporting clinics throughout the country. Recognizing this development as a waste of effort, they merged in July 1969 and called the new institution "Family Planning Organiza-

tion of the Philippines" (FPOP). Since 1970, FPOP has increased its training, information seminars, and service clinics considerably.²

The FPOP is the largest family planning organization in the country at present; yet, it is not equipped either financially or in terms of personnel to reach all who would like to practice family planning.

The Philippine government itself has taken positive action in family planning. The new Philippine Constitution for instance, provides, in Article IV, section 10 that:

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

This section makes birth control or, using a more acceptable current term, population or family planning, a constitutional policy of high priority which the state must implement as a means to achieve desired population levels compatible with our resources.

In 1970, the Philippine government first announced its policy on population matters through Executive Order Number 233 which created the Commission on Population to develop and administer a national population program.

²Family Planning Organization of the Philippines, Why the Philippines Needs Family Planning, A Training Series Handbook No. 1 (Manila: FPOP, n.d.), pp. 55 - 57.

This policy was enacted into law by Congress in 1971, when it passed Republic Act Number 6365, known as the "Population Act of the Philippines"; and with the declaration of Martial Law, this policy was further modified by Presidential Decree 79.³

The role of education in the overall population policy was well-recognized and this can only be realized through the Department of Education and Culture. To carry out the purpose and objectives of the population policy, in February 1970 the Department of Education and Culture committed itself to a national program of population education and proceeded to implement that decision by scheduling a series of population education seminars and workshops.⁴

In 1972, the Population Education Programme of the Department of Education and Culture was under the advisory service of UNESCO and obtained funding support from the

³Lydia Q. Lague and Ma. Fe M. de Leon, Textbook on Family Planning (Manila: Rex Bookstore, 1974), p. 32.

⁴John Edlefsen, "Population Education -- A New Role for the Region's Schools," Population Education Documents, Reproduction Series No. D. 3 (Bangkok: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Regional Office for Education in Asia, 1972), p. 5.

United Nations Fund for Population Activities, (UNFPA).⁵

In January 1974, a national multi-sectoral seminar on population education was conducted with financial assistance from the Colombo Plan Bureau. The primary objective of the seminar was to provide a setting in which representatives from different organizations and agencies in the Philippines could come together to discuss the population situation in the country and the major role of the schools in the Population Education Programme. One of the recommendations of the seminar was that research and studies in the area of population education should be expanded.⁶

Another seminar was conducted in April, 1975 called a "Research Utilization Seminar". This seminar was part of a series for administrators, policy makers, and classroom teachers. The purpose was to encourage educators to utilize research findings as well as to gather feedback from the field to help frame future policies and researches.

⁵United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Population Education in Asia Newsletter No. 1 (Bangkok: UNESCO Regional Office for Education in Asia, May 1974), p. 4.

⁶United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Population Education in Asia Newsletter No. 2 (Bangkok: UNESCO Regional Office for Education in Asia, October, 1974), p. 3.

The three-day April meeting revolved around the theme of appropriate contents and strategies for curriculum development in population education.⁷

As an educator, the investigator felt that she had a part in the great endeavor of curriculum development to improve population education through research. Having this in mind, this research project was developed on the basis of some practical and theoretical considerations.

The investigator would like to answer, in one way or another, the call of Population Education Programme for more research and studies to help improve population education. Educators are asked to consider what attitudes favorable to fertility decline should be developed or improved by the students. The effective establishment of the small-family norm requires, among other factors, an understanding of the motivational basis underlying the large-family norm in different socio-cultural groups. Research done so far to reveal this motivational basis is quite inadequate, and a great deal of further work is needed.⁸

⁷United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Population Education in Asia Newsletter No. 4 (Bangkok: UNESCO Regional Office for Education in Asia, October, 1975), p. 4.

⁸J. E. Jayasuriya, "Population Education and the School Curriculum," Population Education Documents, Reproduction Series No. D. 1 (Bangkok: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Regional Office for Education in Asia, 1972), pp. 10-11.

Investigations concerning fertility can contribute something significant to the family planning programme of the Philippines. In a country like ours, where population growth may soon outstrip development, an important task is to first study the factors underlying this high and rising growth of population in order to see possible ways to control it. As indicated by the 1973 demographic survey conducted by U. P. Population Institute, there already seems to have been a decline in the fertility rates among women twenty-five years old and above between 1965 and 1970.⁹ Even when such data are available, information is needed to determine why some people are more susceptible, or resistant, to family planning. Most essential is information on psychological factors, like the modernity attitudes. And this is the kind of information that our country lacks, particularly the province of Iloilo. If there is any at all, it is incomplete and inadequate. To launch an effective family planning program, it is necessary to have information on what types of psychological attributes of individuals are associated with declining fertility rate.

⁹ Mercedes Concepcion, "Philippines Population: What's in Store?" Focus on Population and the Philippines (n.p.n.d.), p. 14.

Furthermore there is a need to compare findings in the Philippines with those in other developing countries. Some countries have started to explore the field of psychological factors, specifically the relationship of modernism to fertility,¹⁰ and Fawcett has the following to say:

Greater understanding of the psychological components of modernity is clearly needed and studies on this topic are likely to have important implications for the analysis of fertility differentials in developing countries.¹¹

B. The Problem

Statement of the problem. Since the early part of 1970, when the Commission on Population was mobilized, many family planning clinics have been put up in the different parts of the country to promote family planning. yet many people still refuse or hesitate to use their services. What are the underlying causes? The investigator thought that conducting this investigation may partly reveal the situation.

¹⁰ James T. Fawcett and Marc H. Bornstein, Modernization, Individual Modernity, and Fertility, Reprint No. 36 (Honolulu, Hawaii: East-West Center, 1973), pp. 106-128.

¹¹ James T. Fawcett, Psychology and Population (New York: The Population Council, 1970), p. 72, cited by Bom Mo Chung, et. al., Psychological Perspective: Family Planning in Korea (Seoul, Korea: Hollym Corporation, 1972), p. 68.

The major purpose of this research project was to study the relationship between modernity attitude of married women and their (individual) fertility. Modernity attitude as measured in the context of political, economic, familial, and social factors is the independent variable and individual fertility, the dependent variable. The data obtained are centered upon the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the respondents described, in terms of their scores obtained in the political, economic, familial, and social factors, the determinants of modernity attitude?
2. What is the association of each of the four factors (political, economic, familial, and social) to individual fertility? Is any relationship changed when some factors are suppressed?
3. What is the degree of association when a combination of two or more factors is studied in relation to the individual fertility?
4. Among the four factors of modernity attitude which has the highest association with individual fertility?