

# A PROFILE OF THE URBAN POOR IN DAVAO CITY

**NAPOLEON D. AMOYEN**  
**LOURDESITA S. CHAN**

## **Introduction**

The decades of the fifties and the sixties bear witness to the rapid rate of urbanization in most countries of the world, with marked differences between developed and less-developed countries. In the latter, the urbanization process has been characterized by the raging growth of cities caused by the phenomenon of massive and historically unprecedented movements of people from the rural countryside to the burgeoning cities.

Such is the case for the Philippines. During the postwar years, the urbanization process in the Philippines was described as generally slow. However, given various efforts of the government in developing the countryside by dispersing industries outside Metro Manila and controlling population of the rural areas, its pace accelerated in the 1970s. (Pernia and Paderanga, 1981 and Raymundo, 1983)

Thus, while Metro Manila was developing with increasing rapidity, other urban centers lagged behind and the rural to urban migration steadily continued. However, despite gains from urban growth, the negative indicators of urban growth, such as the prolific growth of huge slums and squatter communities, increasing unemployment and underemployment rates and inadequate basic urban services, persisted.

To address such issues, various efforts are being provided which focus on these marginalized sectors of Philippine society. Recently, a consortium involving the academe and non-government organizations (NGOs) working in urban poor communities was

organized in the three major islands – Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao – of the country. In Mindanao, the Urban Research Consortium was established in 1997 through an initial research undertaking for an updated profile of the urban poor. Hence, this study.

Urbanization in the Philippines started in the fifties and was concentrated in Metro Manila before the seventies, “being the center of political, economic and social activities by the previous colonial powers as well as the postwar governments” (Ramos-Jimenez, et al., 1986: 7). This made possible the unprecedented growth of its population due to massive migration from rural areas to Manila seeking better opportunities. Manila’s growth as an urban center saw its effects in the neighboring Southern and Central Luzon. In the Visayas, Central and Western Visayas are the more urbanized regions and Cebu is the primate city. The urbanization of Cebu City may be traced to its being the trading and transportation center of Central Visayas, including its strategic location and abundant natural resources (Ibid). Mindanao has been reported as the least urbanized and industrialized region given its distance from the national government. However, the third most urbanized area in the Philippines is Davao City, located in Southern Mindanao.

Davao City compared to other cities in the Philippines is a relatively young urban center. Historically, it may be considered as a resource frontier settlement, which later developed into a bazaar economy, and then finally a growth center for Southern Mindanao Region. It has a land area of 244,600 hectares divided into 11 administrative districts, which, in turn, are grouped into three congressional districts. It has several district-settlement centers, namely, the Poblacion, Toril, Mintal, Calinan, Panacan, Tibungco, Bunawan and Lasang. Other settlement areas are also developing in the districts of Marilog and Paquibato.

The population of Davao City registered the fastest annual average growth during the period 1905 to 1969, then from 1948 to 1960 and from 1960 to 1970. The population growth of Davao City started to decelerate from 1970 to 1990, from an annual average population growth rate of 6.5 percent during the 1960 to 1970 period to 3.57 per annum during the 1980 to 1990 period.

A major portion of Davao City’s land area has traditionally been used for agricultural purposes. However, the city was considered as predominantly urban in 1980 with the share of urban population to the total population increasing to 66.97 percent, and further swelling to 71.12 percent in 1990.

There are no accurate statistics on the urban poor population, much less on those who reside in slums and squatter communities. Available records only indicate the urban population but not the urban poor population. Based on 1948-1980 figures, there was an increasing trend in urban population. In 1960, the annual growth rate of urban population was recorded at 3.97 and increased in 1980 to 5.02 in contrast to the annual growth in the rural areas (i.e., 2.70 annual growth rate in 1960 and 1.48 in 1980).

As for Southern Mindanao, its share in the total urban population in the Philippines was lowest from 1970 to 1980 (i.e., 5.1 in 1970, 5.2 in 1975 and 6.2 in 1980) compared to other more urbanized areas (e.g., Central and Southern Luzon, Central and Western Visayas).

In terms of slum and squatter communities, Metro Manila registered the largest number of slum and squatter colonies, even bigger than other ASEAN countries (Ruland, 1985 in Ramos-Jimenez, et al., 1986, 11). Based on a survey of the National Housing Authority (NHA) between April 1983 to July 1985, Davao City was reported to have had the highest population of slum dwellers (700,948) in contrast to other cities surveyed outside Metro Manila, even if the figures in Cagayan de Oro City (275,242) and Cotabato City (95,876) were combined. However, its total number of slum areas was relatively smaller (10 areas) than those in Cagayan de Oro City (15 areas) and Cotabato City (11 areas).

#### *Who Are The Poor?*

Literature and studies show that in the 70s, the poverty threshold was used in determining those who are “poor” and “non-poor.” Those whose annual or monthly income fall below the poverty

threshold were considered "poor" while those whose annual or monthly income were beyond the threshold were considered "non-poor" (Abrera, 1976; Maslang, 1983; Mangahas, 1981; NCSO, 1983; *Malaya*, 1986; and *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, 1986). Another measure of poverty was the purchasing power of the consumers, resulting in the classification of consumers from "A" – "Highest Income Group" to "E" – "Very Poor" (Mangahas, 1981).

The people's own subjective perception of their minimum basic needs was also used to establish whether a person is poor or not. The respondents were asked "to give conservative (minimum) estimates of incomes and various expenditure categories below which respondents would consider themselves as poor" (Ramos-Jimenez, et al., 1986, 15), an approach found by Abrera (1976) to be both "feasible and meaningful."

National and local government agencies involved in poverty alleviation define the program thrust and target beneficiaries in accordance with their concept of "poor." According to the National Statistics Coordination Board (NSCB), the "core poor" or the subsistence families/individuals refer to those whose income cannot provide the basic food requirements called the food threshold. Poor families/ individuals are those whose income cannot provide for the basic food and non-food requirements called the poverty threshold.

The Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) defines the urban poor as families living within and below the poverty line as defined by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and who are mostly living in the slum, squatter and resettlement areas. Considered as the underprivileged and homeless sector of urban society, they are the unemployed, the underemployed or the irregularly employed.

In identifying the poor and at-risk barangays in Davao City, the City Commission for the Urban Poor (CCUP) proposed the following criteria: (1) presence of a large number of women of childbearing age, preschoolers and streetchildren; (2) low average income and high rate of unemployment; (3) absence of basic services;

(4) high rates of infant mortality and morbidity; (5) high crime rate and; (6) high population density.

Because of the difficulty in obtaining the barangay-specific indicators (e.g., income, mortality, malnutrition) outlined by CCUP, the only criterion used by the Urban Basic Services Program (UBSP) in selecting its target barangays was the presence of welfare-oriented institutions in the area on the assumptions that these NGOs tend to deliver social services in localities where their assistance is needed most (Avila and Flieger, 1992: 4).

The City Planning and Development Office characterizes depressed areas as having poor environmental conditions, poor housing and/or housing facilities, inadequate satisfaction of basic needs, poor health and sanitation, and a high degree of malnutrition.

Target barangays chosen by the Department of Social Welfare and Services (DSWD) were based on the following indicators: (1) incidence of low income families; (2) prevalence of malnutrition; (3) existence of social problems; (4) sources of potable water supply; and (5) transportation accessibility. Families in targeted barangays were ranked on the basis of the first three indicators and their respective point systems.

The variables common to the definition of five agencies in identifying the poor include the following: income level, employment status, health/nutritional status (especially of children), access to basic social services and living conditions.

The poor have less command over entitlements to goods and services either because they have little or no resource base or have limited income (de Dios, 1992). Sectoral and occupational groups living at the subsistence level have been identified. In the rural areas, these include the upland farmers, landless workers, and marginal fisherfolk. Predominant in the urban areas are the vendors, hawkers, squatters, scavengers, the blue-collar workers, and subcontracted workers.

The urban poor are those who have no security of land tenure; in fact they live in the squalid and congested areas of the city. Possessing little or no resources and skills, they occupy low paying jobs or eke out a marginal existence usually in the so-called informal sector. Because of the low level of affordability of their income, they have limited or no access to basic services to live a healthy and decent life. Instead, they depend on government welfare programs and service delivery systems of the non-government organizations (NGOs).

### Demography

The size of a family is indicative of the possible economic burden that family is experiencing. A large family suggests the need for a large amount to meet the basic family needs to survive. Furthermore, a large family size restricts children in their educational opportunities and household savings. In this study, the household size ranges from one (1) to 16, with a mean computed at 5.56, a little lower than that established in the 1992 urban poor profile, which was 5.99 (Amoyen, et al., 1992: 16). Likewise, the household size of urban poor households was greater than the average household size pegged for the country in 1990, i.e., 5.3 (Castillo, 1993: 10).

The type of household denotes the extent into which the urban families have deviated from the traditional concept of family where members include not only the immediate household members but likewise the relatives. The research findings show that the majority (67.5%) were considered as nuclear, and 32.5 percent as extended. A similar finding was established in a 1992 profile of the urban poor in Davao City (Amoyen, et. at., 1992, 16). However, it runs counter to the findings of Dr. Gelia Castillo (1993: 13), claiming that "there are more extended family households in urban than in rural Philippines." Such arrangements may perhaps be considered as a resource management strategy relative to their limited incomes.

Likewise, it should be noted that some extended families included individuals who had no direct relationship with the respondents. Nine (9) respondents had such household members. These individuals lived with the respondents for various reasons, foremost of which was work (66.7%). Other reasons cited were that these individuals had nowhere to go, being either students or elderly. One respondent reported that the person was their housemaid.

The study revealed that males slightly outnumbered females, with 51.2 percent male household members.

The household members range from being less than a year old to over 70 years, with most of them in the 5-9 years age bracket (16.6%). Furthermore, the age distribution of the household members indicate the age dependency ratio, where the majority were between 15-64 years (65.6%). Others were 14 years and below (31.7%) and 65 years and over (2.7%). These findings show that the urban poor families have more members in the labor force (65.6%), implying that only 34.4 percent were dependents. In comparison, the proportion of those being between 65 years and over was lower than the 3.4 percent established in 1980 (Castillo, 1993: 25).

Focusing on household members aging from 12 years and over, close to half (49.8%) were ever married, i.e., 44.3 percent are currently married, one percent were separated and 4.5% were widow(er)s. The rest were either never married, living together or single parents.

Most household members aging 18 years and over among the urban poor families were Roman Catholics (91%). This could perhaps be due to the fact that this country is predominantly Roman Catholic. Others were members of the Fundamental Baptists, Born-Again Christians, Iglesia ni Kristo and Adventist. These findings reveal the extent to which non-Catholic groups have influenced the urban poor families.

The data on ethnic affiliation of the household members confirm the strong "migrants'-destination" status of Mindanao and other parts of the Philippines, i.e., a "melting pot" of various ethnic

groups. More than a third of the household members (37.4%) reported having mixed ethnic origins as a result of intermarriages. These were led by the Cebuanos (29.4%), Boholanos (10.3%) and Leyteno/Waray (7.2%). Further analysis of the ethnic origins reveals that the parents of the respondents and household members were usually migrants from the Visayas (52.5%), Luzon (2.0%) and outside the Philippines, e.g., China and Spain (0.5%). Only 5.8 percent were from Mindanao.

Most household members aging from five (5) years and over have completed either an elementary (36.1%) or secondary (34.7%) education. A lesser proportion (20.8%) were college graduates. These statistics imply the strong desire among urban poor families to provide at least a basic education for their household members. When asked which of the children aging from 5 to 25 years were "in-school" or "out-of-school," the results show that the majority were "in-school" (63.9%) while 32.8 percent were "drop-outs" – the latter mainly due to the respondents' inability to send them to school (48.6%). Other reasons cited were already working (25.1%), not interested to study (17.9%) and the school is far from the residence (6.9%).

When asked whether the respondents have children who are not currently residing with them, close to a third (31%) admitted so. Most respondents (69%), however, claimed that their children are staying with them. In particular, households with non-resident children have an average of three (3) household members currently not residing with them. Close to half were between 25 and 34 years (45.7%), females (62.1%) and had college education (48.4%). Close to three-fourths were married (74.2%) and usually residing within Davao City (43.1%).

### Household Migration and Mobility Patterns

The respondents had resided in the survey site for a period of from at least a year to as long as 69 years, with close to half (44.5%) having resided in their current residences for less than 10 years. The second biggest group has been residing in the area for 10 to 19 years (24.5%). On the average, they have lived in the survey sites for at least 16 years.

The majority of the respondents had experienced migration (65%), with more than half having moved at least once (59.2%). Others migrated twice (26.2%), thrice (10%) or and four times (4.6%) before settling in their current residences. The present study further reveals that the proportion of migrant urban poor families has been reduced compared to the 81.5 percent established in the 1992 study (Amoyen, et al., 1992). Geographical mobility was usually within Davao City (50%). Some came from other areas in Southern Mindanao (26.1%), and the Visayas (10.7%). The respondents started migrating from as early as the 1930s (10.4%) but most of them migrated in the 1990s to Davao City.

Reasons for migration were varied, foremost of which was having landed a job (42.3%), followed by being near the place of work (22.3%) and being ejected by their landlord (21.5%). These two most often mentioned reasons for migrating have not changed since 1992 (Ibid., 1992). However, the third reason is new and an alarming trend for the homeless.

Asked whether they will reside in their current residence permanently, more than half (56.5%) of the respondents responded positively, with 42 percent claiming otherwise. These figures revealed a significant change from the 1992 study wherein only 6.3 percent planned to move out of their current residence (Ibid.), thus suggesting increasing feelings of uncertainty or restlessness about the future among the respondents. Three of the respondents gave a "don't know" answer (1.5%).

The five major reasons cited by those planning to reside permanently in their current residences include "many job opportunities here" (15%), "no other place to go" (15%), "house is here" (14.2%), "near the place of work" (9.7%) and "own the lot" (8.8%). On the other hand, most of those who have no plans for permanent residency cited their "squatter" status (47.6%) – a reason cited by only 8 percent in the 1992 study. Relatedly, they mentioned their search for a better job and their current residence not being conducive for living being in a fire-prone area (Ibid.). To a lesser extent, others would like to leave their current residences because

they "want to own a house and lot" (26.2%), are "just renting the place" (7.1%), or want to "find a better job" (5.9%).

### *Economic Profile*

A total of 348 working household members was recorded in this study. The number of working household members ranges from one (1) to six (6), with close to half (49.5%) having at least one working household member. They have an average of two (1.8) working household members. Eight of the respondents have no working household members, relying solely on their retirement, rentals from their houses, farm and support from parents as source of income. Such support ranges from P1,000 to P4,000 monthly.

Most of the working household members were in transportation-related jobs (24.7%) or involved with sales-related work (22.1%) or clerical work (16.5%). The working household members were predominantly males (63.2%) while 36.8 percent were females. The working household members were working from as long as one month to over 433 months (or 36 years). Most of them (44.4%) had been working in their current employment from one (1) to 36 months, with almost half (48.3%) working more than 36 months. Around ten percent (7.3%) of the respondents did not know the number of months the working household members had been working. The majority of the working household members (68.8%) worked for 40 hours and over a week, with 19.1 percent working less than 40 hours a week. The number of working hours for over ten percent (12.1%) of the working household members was not known to the respondents. Varied employment statuses were reported by the respondents for their working household members. There were more contractual/seasonal workers (44.4%) among the employed household members, with 29.6 percent as regular/permanent employees. The other working household members were on probationary status (3.8%), casuals (4.4%), and "irregulars" (0.9%). More than a third of the respondents (36.5%) reported other sources of income, mostly involved in sales-related work (37%), in service-related work (31.5%) and production- and manufacturing -related work (30.1%)

The households of the respondents earned from below P2,000 to over P12,000 a month, with 20 percent earning a monthly income between P4,000 to P5,999. Their average monthly household income was computed at P6,291 (or an annual amount of P75,492), an amount found to be lower by P1,464.33 from the standard 1997 average family income at current prices (P7,755.33) established by the National Statistics Office in Southern Mindanao (or by P17,572 a year) (*Sunstar Davao*, 1998: 4). Furthermore, such a mean monthly household income almost doubled five years after the 1992 urban poor study (P3,154 in Davao City, *Ibid*, 32).

A closer look at the data further reveals that more than half of the respondents (53%) had a total monthly household income lower than the total monthly average household income of P6,291 and 60.5 percent had a total monthly household income lower than the average monthly income established during the preliminary 1997 Family Income and Expenditures Survey.

Monthly household expenses ranged from amounts of below P2,000 to those over P12,000, with a third (33%) reporting monthly expenses between P4,000 to P5,999. They spent an average of P5,434 a month for the needs of their households. This figure was lower by P823.33 from the 1997 average expenditures at P6,257.33 or P75,088 annually (*Sunstar Davao*, 1998: 4) and higher by 85.6 percent (P2,804) from the 1992 mean monthly household expenses (Amoyen, et al., 1992, 33). The expense-figures revealed that the households of the respondents saved at least P857 a month from their average monthly household incomes of P6,291. Furthermore, when individual household income were compared with expenses, the data revealed that half (50%) of the households appeared to have savings, inasmuch as their expenses were lower than their income. On the other hand, 43 percent incurred expenses more than their income. When total individual household expenses were further compared with the 1997 average income, over half (64%) had expenses below the mean income based on preliminary 1997 Family Income and Expenditures Survey.

The top four expenses of the respondents were in food, amortization, school expenses, and house rental. They spent almost

half of their income (44.1%) on food, followed by amortization (36.6%), and school expenses (12%). These data, except for food and amortization, showed a change in the values and priorities reflected in the mode of expenditures of the respondents compared to the findings of the 1992 urban poor study in Davao City. The 1992 study showed that the three expense items where the respondents spent most of their income included food, amortization and fuel.

Ownership of appliances among the respondents was high, i.e., all of the respondents claimed to have owned various appliances enumerated in the interview schedule. Three-fourths of the respondents (75%) owned television sets. Other appliances owned were electric fans (62.5%), and kerosene stoves (57.5%). These appliances were mainly acquired through purchase (65.7%). Others gained them through credit (27.2%), as gifts (5.8%), given by relatives (1.2%) and through raffle draws.

Less than half (47.5%) claimed to own a piece of land, with more than three-fourths (82.1%) being homelots while 29.5 percent were agricultural lands. Most of the agricultural lands were located within Southern Mindanao (42.9%), ranging from less than 10,000 square meters to over 50,000 square meters, and close to 71.4 percent were titled. On the other hand, almost all the house lots were located in Davao City (96.2%), ranging from 20 to 600 square meters, and were squatted upon (39.7%).

Credit was often availed of as a coping strategy for limited income. However, in this study, only a few of the respondents (32%) had availed of credit at the time of the survey. The majority of them (90.6%) availed of credit once, usually through salary loans (77.5%), from usurers (38%) or cooperatives (18.3%). The loans usually ranged from less than P2,000 to over P14,000 and were used for payments for house amortization (36.7%). These are usually short-term loans, i.e., payable in less than 12 months (47.9%), with an interest mostly ranging from 20-24% (28.2%). Over three-fourths (80.3%) reported their credit as being partially paid or were paid regularly (64.8%).

Savings denote the value the respondents had placed on it for emergency or future plans and their ability to earn more than what

they had spent for their household needs. Close to half of the respondents (45.5%) reported having engaged in some form of savings. Most saved once a month (25.2%) while others saved either twice, four or six times a month (23.1% each). To a much more limited extent, others saved seven (4.4%) or five (1.1%) times a month. The savings ranged from less than P500 to over P3,500 a month, with most of them saving less than P500 a month (44%). These were done mainly for emergency purposes (83.5%). Others saved for medicine (4.4%), for childbirth (3.3%), for water and electric bills (3.3%), for the education of children (2.2%), and for loan-payments (1.1%). The majority of them kept their savings at home (63.7%), with 35.2 percent saving in banks. Those who did not save mainly cited the insufficiency of their income (96.3%) and their irregular sources of income (3.7%) as the reasons.

### Housing Conditions

The data show that over half (67.5%) of the respondents owned the house they were currently occupying, with 32.5 percent claiming otherwise. However, when asked how they acquired it, close to half (48.9%) claimed that they built the houses they were currently occupying. Others either occupied it with the permission of the owners or rented it (14.1% each). To a lesser extent, some claimed having purchased their houses (11.1%), while others either shared it with somebody else (5.9%), acquired it through amortization scheme (3.7%), or occupied it without the permission of the owners (2.2%).

Three-fourths of the respondents reside in single-type of houses (75.5%). Others were occupants of a two-storey house (9.5%), duplex-type of houses (7.5%), "*barong-barong*" or one-room dwelling units made of re-cycled materials (7%) or other types of housing units. These houses have a floor area ranging from less than 10 square meters to 79 square meters, with the mean computed at 28 square meters. Most of these houses have two (2) rooms (45.5%). Likewise, nearly two-thirds (62%) have wooden floors, with others using cement (28%), bamboo slats (4.5%), soil (4.5%), or a combination of wood, cement, and coconut wood. The roofing materials were mostly galvanized iron (93%) while the materials used as walls were usually

wood or plywood (74.5%). Close to half (48%) of the respondents have stayed in their houses for less than a year.

While the majority of the respondents claimed to own the houses they were currently occupying, only a few (31.5%) reported occupying the lot without permission from the owner. Others were able to occupy their current lots because these were shared to them by those who were there before them (27%). The lot area occupied ranged from below 50 square meters to over 350 square meters. They were occupying an average of 101 square meters of land.

### Access to Urban Basic Services

The respondents identified varied health facilities available near their residences, with barangay health stations being very popular (92%), followed to a much lesser extent by private clinics (23.5%). Other health facilities mentioned included public hospitals, private hospitals, city health office and school clinics.

Furthermore, the respondents noted that varied services were provided by the health facilities identified. All the respondents who indicated the City Health Office as being near to their residences cited consultation, prenatal care and child immunization. Those who mentioned private clinics similarly identified consultations and prenatal services. Most of those who visited barangay health stations mostly cited child immunization and "Knock-out" polio services. Those who reported public hospitals and private hospitals were usually aware of the consultation services while those who mentioned the school clinics cited such services as prenatal, Operation *Timbang*, feeding program, "*alis* disease," "Knock-out" polio, provision of family planning methods, and health education.

Asked about the actual use of the services offered by these health facilities, more than half of those who cited the City Health Office (57.2%) and barangay health stations (57.1%) have actually availed of these services. The majority of those who mentioned private clinics, public hospitals and private hospitals were non-users of those services. Consultations and treatment were the two most mentioned

services availed of by the respondents from the City Health office, private clinics, public and private hospitals. Likewise, the usual services availed of from the barangay health stations were consultations and child immunization.

The data asked of the respondents regarding educational services included school facilities near their residence, school facilities where children were enrolled, the distance of the school where children were enrolled, means of transportation in going to school, and the scholarships availed of by the children. Majority of the respondents (89.5%) reported that their residences were near a school facility, usually a public elementary school (74.6%). To a lesser extent, public daycare centers (43.9%), public (29.1%) and private (28%) high schools were also mentioned. Among those who mentioned living near school facilities, close to three-fourths (71.4%) reported enrolling their children in such facilities. Most children, however, enrolled in public elementary schools (68.1%) and public high school facilities (21.5%). These schools were usually from two to 20,000 meters away from their residences.

The respondents' children used various means of transportation in going to and from the schools where they were enrolled. *Pedicab/trisikad* were used by all those children who were enrolled in private pre-schools while those enrolled in public pre-schools simply walked to school. Children of the respondents enrolled in private daycare centers (78.6%) similarly walked to and from such centers, as did those enrolled in public daycare centers (76.9%), public kindergarten schools (66.6%), public elementary schools (58.7%), private elementary schools (50%), and private high schools (42.1%). Those enrolled in public high schools (51.7%) and private colleges/universities (53.8%) usually used *pedicabs/trisikads*.

Only a few of the respondents reported that their children availed of any scholarship programs (13.3%), mostly from a private agency (50%). Others were either government scholars (39%) or sponsored by religious charitable institutions (11.1%).

The top three sources of food supply for the respondents were the public markets (95%), convenience stores (82.5%), and

supermarkets (74.5%). Varied modes of acquiring food supplies were used, with most respondents paying cash to all sources. The supermarkets were the first (53%) and likewise the second (44.4%) most preferred sources of their food supplies. However, the sari-sari stores (73.7%) were the third most preferred source of food supply.

Only a few of the respondents reported having received some form of food assistance (6%), either from the Department of Social Work and Development, Senior Citizens' Organization, Department of Health or the church. These were canned goods and milk. The milk was received daily while the canned goods were occasionally received.

Data about the receipt of disaster and relief services were determined by asking the respondents about their experiences of disaster or crisis in the last three years, the type of disaster/crisis experienced, and assistance received. Only a few of the respondents reported having experienced any disaster or crisis in the last three years (7.5%), usually floods and, to a lesser extent, fire, bombing and poverty. Fire victims received dry goods and fire prevention services while flood victims received dry goods and were assisted by means of drainage construction. Poverty-stricken families were provided dry goods. This assistance was usually provided by the barangay health stations, barangay government, neighbors, church or *purok* organizations.

The sources of water include those for drinking water and those used for domestic purposes. The usual source of water for drinking was the piped-water installations of the Davao City Water District (95.5%). Others sourced their drinking water through pumps (1%), communal faucets (2.5%) and open deep wells. Water for domestic use was likewise provided by the indoor installation of the Davao City Water District (95.5%), with the rest sourcing it outside their houses from pumps, artesian wells, communal faucets and open deep wells. For some, these outdoor sources were located immediately outside the houses while others had to walk from three (3) meters to 50 meters to draw the water needed.

The respondents used a variety of lighting facilities, foremost of which was electricity (92.5%). Others used lamps fueled by kerosene (6.5%), with one respondent using a generator. The majority of the respondents used kerosene (53.5%) as fuel for their cooking needs, with liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) (25.5%) being the second most popularly used. The others - firewood (7.5%), electricity (7%), charcoal (6%), and a combination of electricity and charcoal - were used to a limited extent.

### Health Status

The health status of the respondents was established by looking at their perception on good health, perceived causes of illnesses, and their sources of information, illnesses in the family for the last six months, mortality data, smoking habits, alcoholic consumption, and maternal and child health.

To understand the importance of health to the respondents, they were asked about their perceptions of "good health." Most of them perceived "good health" as "having no experience of sickness/illness" (37.5%). Others related "good health" to being robust (31.5%), and 3 eating full meals a day (29%). A few mentioned clean surroundings (9%), having no vices (2.5%) and daily baths (1.5%).

Other than asking their perceptions of causes of "good health," the respondents were further asked about their perceived causes of illnesses. The majority cited unsanitary surroundings as a common cause of illness (69.6%). Others attributed illness to the lack of food/vitamins (33%), seasonal/climatic changes (9.8%), abuse of self (5.1%), vices (4.1%), and over work/fatigue (1.5%). These perceived causes of illnesses were mostly based on personal experiences or observations (58.4%). Parents were likewise mentioned as health care information-sources (8.9%), as well as health personnel, seminars/training, neighbors, schools, doctors, broadcast media (e.g., television/radio), print media (e.g., magazines, books, and newspapers), and friends.

Asked about their experience of illnesses for the past six months, the majority of the respondents admitted being sick (60.5%), yielding a total of 192 household members reported ill during the past six months. Most of these households had at least one (1) ill household member (63.6%). The household members reported ill during the past six months ranges from below five (5) years to 79 years, with half of them being less than 10 years old (50%). A total of 17 types of illnesses were mentioned by the respondents that afflicted their households, with fever (26%) and cough (19.3%) being the two most cited illness. Close to half consulted a medical doctor whenever household members fell ill (49.5%). A smaller group mentioned self-medication, i.e., either using over-the-counter medicine (30.7%) or using herbal medicine (10.4%). Others consulted either a traditional medicine man or midwife, while some brought the sick household member to the hospital.

Less than a fifth (17.5%) of the respondents reported deaths in the family since they resided in their current residences, yielding a total of 42 dead household members. Those who died ranged from below five years old to over 75 years old. They mostly died in 1990s (52.4%) mainly due to complications (16.6%) and cardiac arrest (14.2%). Other causes of death cited were leukemia and hypertension (7.1% each), including asthma, severe diarrhea, tetanus in the navel and pneumonia (4.8% each).

Citing the United Nations Organization's review of the quality of the cause-of-death statistics, the Population Center Foundation (1981: 99-100) highlighted the top two most cited causes of death as being the diseases of the circulatory system (cardiac arrest - 6, hypertension - 3, kidney trouble - 3, and weak heart - 3), followed by infectious, parasitic and respiratory diseases (asthma - 2, severe diarrhea - 2, tetanus - 2, pneumonia, and malaria - 1). In a related manner, the major causes of death mentioned in the present study were similar to such major illnesses, i.e., heart diseases, third killer pneumonia and fifth killer hypertension identified in the country in 1998 (Crowell and Cheng: 1998, 32)

Smoking appeared to be popular among the urban poor families, with more than half (55.5%) reporting having household

members who smoke. The majority reported having at least one smoking household member (82%), aging between 15 years old to over 75 years old. The smokers were usually males (89%), smoking from one to as much as 25 sticks of cigarettes a day.

Less than half of the respondent-households had members drinking alcoholic beverages (93 households representing 46.5%), the majority of whom were males (86%). At least 75 households admitted having one member who drank alcoholic beverages (80.6%). The ages of these members ranged from 15 years old to over 65 years old, drinking from one bottle to over eight bottles of alcohol a week, usually pocket-size bottles (65.6%) and were mostly beer (53.8%).

### *Maternal Health*

The majority of the respondents admitted having had previous pregnancies (87%). Those who claimed otherwise (10%) were either already old when they got married, never married, newly-married or sterile.

The number of pregnancies ranged from one 1 to 13, with less than half reporting more than four pregnancies (40.8%) while 59.2 percent had at least four pregnancies. With an average of 4.5 pregnancies, the respondents may be considered at "high risk," based on information from the Department of Health which considered mothers with four or more pregnancies as "high risk." The majority reported receiving prenatal services (90.8%), with 9.2 percent failing to do so. A total of 783 pregnancies from 174 respondents were recorded, 698 of which were live births, 30 stillbirths, 51 miscarriages and four (4) abortions. Likewise, 664 of the live births were currently alive while 34 were already dead at the time of the survey. The majority of the respondents (81%) were not pregnant at the time of the survey. Only nine (9) respondents (5%) were pregnant at the time of the survey, i.e., from two to nine months. All these pregnant respondents received prenatal services. Of the nine pregnant respondents, four reported having no disabilities or complications in their pregnancy. Five respondents did, mostly painful urination (80%), followed by the swelling of legs, body or face, and anemia.

It is interesting to note that despite the promotion of family planning use by concerned agencies, it appeared that the use of family planning (FP) among the urban poor respondents was minimal (45.5%). Those who were not using any FP methods at the time of the survey justified such behavior, citing mostly their desire for an additional child (38.8%) and their fear of side-effects (33%). Other reasons advanced by the non-users of FP included old age, being widowed, and FP being contrary to their religious beliefs.

The method used by most of the FP users were pills and tubal ligation (26.4% each). Others used IUD (16.4%), rhythm/calendar (13.2%), injectables (5.5%), condom, natural family planning (4.4% each) and abstinence (3.3%). Of the 91 occasional users of FP, close to three-fourths (70.3%) were current FP users while 29.7 percent were not. The current non-users cited the side-effects as the reason which discouraged most of them from continually using contraceptives (37%). Others mentioned their current pregnancy (26%), old age (18.5%), desire for another child (14.8%) and their being a widow (3.7%). The current users of FP mostly cited their use of bio-rhythm/ calendar/withdrawal (32.8%), followed by voluntary tubal ligation (28.1%). Others used IUD, pill, condom, injectable and natural family planning methods. Generally, both husbands and wives decided on the use of contraceptives (73.4%). For a small group, the wives made the decision themselves (17.2%) while others cited their husbands (9.4%). Information about family planning was usually provided by midwives (63.7%), followed by doctors (38.5%) and friends (29.7%).

The variables on child health included the number of children below five (5) years old, the number of malnourished children under five years of age, the number of children under five years old who received child immunization and the type of immunization received.

Nearly two-thirds of the respondents (63.2%) reported having no children below five years old while over a third (36.8%) did – yielding a total of 92 children below the age of five years. Six of these children from five households were reported as malnourished. Likewise, 87 of these children received child immunization. However,

it should be noted that not all of these children completed the required doses of vaccines, thus resulting to only 84.8 percent fully immunized child coverage.

### *Food And Nutrition*

The usual food eaten by the respondents' households was rice coupled with a variety of viands for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Most of the respondents eat rice and fish (11.5%), followed by bread and coffee (10.5%), and rice, fish and egg (8.5%). They usually ate rice and vegetables (24.5%) for lunch, followed by rice, fish and vegetables (19.5%), and rice, vegetables and meat (13%). Dinner usually consisted of rice, fish and vegetables (31%) while others had rice and vegetables (22.5%) or rice and fish (14%).

The top three foods eaten for snacks were bread/biscuits (23.5%), banana cue or bread/biscuits (21%) and bread/biscuits and softdrinks/juice and biscuit/bread (10.5%).

When the foods eaten by the respondents were further grouped, data showed that rice, being the staple food for Filipinos, was almost always paired with fish or shellfish for breakfast (80.7%) and dinner (69.4%), and with vegetables (71%) for lunch.

### **Environmental Sanitation**

Environmental sanitation is indicative of the type of environmental practices of the respondents as these affect their health. This, specifically, included information on ownership of toilets, disposal of garbage and waste water, and flood experiences. The majority (83%) reported having their own toilets, most of which were water-sealed types (92.2%). Others have the modern flush-type, the "antipolo"-system, and canal pipes directly connected to the sea. These findings indicate a significant increase from the 1986 figures where 48.8 percent owned sanitary toilet facilities, i.e., water-sealed and modern flush types (Ramos-Jimenez, 1986, 34). Those without toilets

(17%) were further asked about their usual waste disposal. Most of them (35.3%) used the seashores directly while others used public toilets, community toilets, or their neighbor's toilets. One respondent reported using the "wrap-and-throw" method.

Garbage disposal is a basic facility in any household as this provides protection from any illnesses borne from garbage. Eight out of every ten respondents (81%) deposit their trash in a bin for collection by the City Government. Others burn it (10%) or dump their garbage either in a nearby vacant lot (3.5%) or in a compost pit (2.5%). A few bury it (1.5%) or throw it out to sea (1.5%). Again, the findings show a significant change from the 1986 study where the urban poor in Davao City were reported as worse off since only a negligible percentage (3.6%) availed of the City Government's garbage collection services (Ramos-Jimenez, et al., 1986: 36). This change could perhaps be due to the daily garbage collection (41.4%) in the city.

The respondents usually disposed of their waste water through blind drainage (35%) or canals directly leading to a river or the sea (25%). Others did it through their septic tanks and ponds while some disposed of it directly to the sea or river/creek/canal. A few buried their garbage in the ground through the sewage pipes, including using as bath-water for the pigs.

When asked to describe their premises, most of the respondents noted that their premises are usually dry but sometimes flooded (31.5%). Approximately, one-fourth described their premises as dry and flood-free (27%), even being swampy (20%). Others described it as usually dry but often flooded (8.5%), near the riverbank (3.5%), near a creek/canal (1.5%) or near the seashore (8%). Those who reported that their areas were sometimes or often flooded were further asked about the causes of the floods. Research findings revealed that the majority of the respondents (65%) attributed such floods to a poor drainage system, with a second group citing canals clogged by solid wastes (22.5%). Others mentioned their low-level locations, earthfilling or high tides.

### Community Organizations

Critical for people's involvement in community affairs is the knowledge of organizations through which these efforts can be channeled. While more than half of the respondents (58%) knew of existing community organizations, a sizable percentage (42%), however, remained unaware. Such unawareness may possibly be due to the lack of information dissemination on the part of the organizations or sheer indifference or apathy on the part of the respondents. But for whatever reasons there may be, this lack of knowledge would surely reduce the number of people who get involved in community affairs.

More than half of the respondents (52.6%) knew of only one organization. Less than a third (28.4%) were aware of two or more organizations. The type of community organizations people are familiar with are indicative of the prominence these organizations may have in their community and personal lives. In this study, the top organizations known by most of the respondents were church-based (52.6%), urban poor (50%), civic (32.7%), cooperative (14.6%) and women's (10.3%) organizations.

A significant proportion of the respondents and their household members (91.4%) were members of the community organizations they were familiar with. Less than ten percent (8.6%) were not members of any community organizations. Those with organizational membership were mostly members of one community organization (51%), mostly church-related organizations (56.6%) and urban poor organizations (50%). The popularity of church organizations may perhaps be attributed to such organizations regarded as important sources of strength and power particularly among those who are less endowed materially.

Likewise, urban poor organizations have always been noted advocates for the right to domicile, protection against undue eviction, pursuit of basic infrastructure needs like water, drainage and electricity and other similar concerns. Such associations may similarly serve as a source of collective strength to assert or claim these concerns, hence, the popularity of these organizations. The majority of the respondents

and their household members were not officers of the organizations they were affiliated with. Most of the respondents noted that such organizations were conducting meetings or dialogues (56.1%). More than half of the respondents (52.9%) described themselves as full members in their respective organizations, i.e., suggesting their active involvement in organizational activities. Going further, close to three-fourths of the respondents (74.3%) declared that their organizations usually attained their objectives.

The majority of the respondents (82.1%) claimed that they had encountered problems in the urban poor organizations they belonged to. The most frequently mentioned problem was organization-related (48.3%), followed by those related to the acquisition of lot/land (36.8%). Other problems encountered were financial mismanagement of officers, indifference of members, unpaved pathway/road and poor drainage system.

They were further asked why they considered these as problems. Organization-related problems were seen as such because they believed that the absence of cooperation among members and the presence of inactive members would lead to the eventual death of the organization. Likewise, they noted that ineffective communication lines would discourage members to continue in the organization. These organization-related issues were indicative of a poor or weak quality of members' involvement. This implies the need to review the parameters of full membership as cited by the majority earlier.

Close to half (43.7%) of those with lot/land problems related them to the fear of acquiring individual titles because of irregular payment of amortization by members. An almost similar percentage believed that "members are losing trust in the Community Mortgage Program (CMP) for it takes time to take-out," while others mentioned the possibility of and "demolition because our lot is squatted on." Somehow such perceptions imply the inefficiency in responding to their desire for land acquisition.

Given their organizational membership, they were likewise asked regarding the transparency of their officers in conducting organizational affairs. The responses indicate a high level of

transparency of the officers in terms of rendering reports (88.7%), providing information about the organization (87.7%), and making records available to members (81.1%). While these responses positively reflect the manner of managing the communication flow, it is still interesting to note that about 20 percent of those who mentioned organizational problems cited ineffective communication line.

The data showed that nearly two-thirds (62.3%) of the respondents with organizational membership agreed that their urban poor organizations were addressing community issues/problems, with land issue being the most often cited (81.8%). Other community issues addressed included housing, poor drainage, poor roads and demolition.

The urban poor organizations crafted a variety of solutions in solving these community issues. The problem on lot acquisition was addressed by negotiating with the landowner, processing of CMP papers, and constantly following-up the landowner to sell the lot. It is evident that concerted efforts such as these are necessary to effect the desired claims on contentious land issues that more often involved the collective interest of the powerless sector. Hence, the necessity for an organization to empower those who may have them in their individual capacity albeit limited.

The housing problem was solved by applying for a loan; cleaning canals for better drainage, improving roads through earth fills and holding dialogues with the authorities on the demolition issue. The results of the actions taken per problem show the efficacy of the respondents through their organizations in solving problems that affect them. While ownership was the long-term aim in resolving the lot problem, nonetheless a few (11.1%) have actually attained this as a result of the action taken. Working towards the same end was evident since the same percentage of respondents (11.1%) said that "their land are for take-out" and another 20.4 percent said that "their individuals titles are now in process." Over a fourth (26%) claimed that their papers were being processed. All these responses point to the positive results of the collective actions taken on the issue.

### Political Participation and Empowerment

Focusing on political participation and empowerment, the survey variables included the recognition of local officials, the qualities looked for in a leader, voting for urban poor leaders (both male and female) running for electoral positions, involvement in the past barangay election, observed vote-buying in the community, intention to vote in the 1998 Presidential Election, participation in the registration for the 1998 Presidential Election, understanding of the word "vote," and problems on barangay governance.

To determine the extent of their community awareness, the respondents were asked whether or not they recognized their local officials. The barangay officials were known to the respondents (84.5%), followed by the *purok* officials (79.3%) and city officials (72.4%). While the proportion appeared to be high, it is ironic to note that a group nonetheless did not know their barangay officials and *purok* officials whom they can possibly run to for emergency cases.

Asked about the qualities they looked for in a leader, the respondents were able to enumerate 24 traits. The top five traits cited were helpful (31.9%), active (26.7%), knows how to deal with people (20.7%), kind (19.8%) and honest/sincere (16.4%).

An overwhelming proportion of the respondents would vote for an urban poor leader running for a barangay (91.4%) and city-level (90.5%) positions. This is a recognition of the importance these positions may have in furthering the interests of the urban poor. For who else could be a more effective articulator of their needs in these positions than those coming from their own ranks? Likewise, the urban poor respondents were not particular with the gender of the urban poor leader who would run for barangay or city-level positions. An overwhelming proportion of the respondents would vote for an urban poor woman-leader running for a barangay or city-level (90.5% each) position.

In explaining their reasons for voting (or not voting) for an urban poor leader in a barangay or city-level position, the respondents

indicated the possible criteria in voting for an urban poor leader for an electoral position. Voting for an urban poor leader in a barangay position would be possible if the candidate understands their situation and pursues their claims. Specifically, for an urban poor leader to be voted for in a barangay position, the leader "must have the qualifications" (35.8%), i.e., he/she "can well represent the poor/ knows or understands the problems of the poor" (20.7%), "is one of us/we know him" (20.7%), and "is good/responsible/hardworking" (17.9%).

Similar considerations were cited by the respondents in voting for an urban poor leader in a city-level position. Though only three respondents would not vote for an urban poor leader for a barangay position, it is interesting to note that two of them indicated a defeatist attitude, i.e., one said "the urban poor leader will not win anyway," and the other cited his being too old to vote. The third respondent reflects a suspicious tone, i.e., believing that "the urban poor leader might become corrupt because the leader is poor." Likewise, the two respondents who will not vote for an urban poor leader for a city-level position cited old age as an obstacle and explained that "the person must be qualified."

Asked whether they could vote for an urban poor woman-leader in a barangay position or city-level position, survey findings revealed that the urban poor respondents were not particular on the sex of the urban poor leader for a barangay position as long as she is qualified (31.4%), and would serve the people (24.8%). Some admitted that women were better/responsible, more hardworking administrator than men (7.6%). Others noted the need for poor women to be represented, believing that the woman leader must come from the group of the poor.

Likewise, voting for a woman urban poor leader for a city-level position was acceptable if "she is qualified" (27.6%), "she is good" (26.7%) and is "service-oriented" (20.9%). Only two respondents were not in favor of voting for a woman urban poor leader for a barangay or city-level position, giving as reasons: old age, and the belief that men were better than women or that women were weak or not strong enough to handle problems.

An overwhelming majority of the respondents (91.4%) cast their votes in the last barangay election. There were various motivational bases for political action such as penalty avoidance, sense of duty or reward expectations. The motivation founded on sense of duty was one that has great nurturant effect to one driven out of recognition of one's responsibility to maintain the system.

Most of the respondents' decision to vote in the last barangay election was the recognition of one's right and privilege as a Filipino (43.49%). This was followed by a group whose motivation was more legalistic in orientation i.e., "it is embodied in our constitution" (26.4%). Failure to participate in the last barangay election by ten respondents was not a premeditated move but rather due to their names not being included in the list (40%) or their being listed in another place (precinct).

The research findings revealed that the majority of the respondents had not observed any vote-buying in their communities (68.1%) while about 30 percent (29.3%) did, perhaps just to have money (70.6%). Nearly 60 percent (58.8%) of these respondents thought that politicians engaged in vote-buying to garner more votes and to ensure victory in the polls (29.4%).

Almost all of the respondents (99.1%) intended to vote in the 1998 presidential election, with less than one percent (0.9%) having no such intentions. At least two-thirds (66.1%) of those who planned to vote in the 1998 presidential election because they would like to install their preferred new set of candidates, with more than a fourth (28.7%) wanting to exercise their right of suffrage. The lone respondent who would not vote in the 1998 presidential election cited his old age.

Other than asking the respondents about their intention to vote in the 1998 presidential election, they were further asked whether they had registered for it. It was interesting to note that the proportion of those who registered for the 1998 presidential election (98.3%) went down by 0.8% from the proportion of those who planned to

vote in the 1998 presidential election (99.1%). The most cited reason for registering for the 1998 presidential election was the desire to exercise their right of suffrage (61.4%) while old age and indifference were the reasons given by the two respondents who failed to register for the said election.

For the majority of the respondents, voting was considered a necessary function for the selection of people who will run the government. Such perceptions suggest that most of the respondents considered voting as one responsibility citizens have, i.e., as their contribution to the management of the country's affairs. This was supported by the following responses, where most of them said that voting means "to elect responsible people to run our government" (46.5%), and the "right of suffrage" (35.3%). Others considered it as "a privilege of every Filipino" or an obligation "for the good of our country" (10.3% each).

Awareness of problems in barangay governance was limited to 16.4 percent of the respondents, with the following as the three most mentioned problems:

1. lack of monitoring in the area of jurisdiction (21.1%),
2. peace and order (15.8%), and
3. gambling (10.5%).

The respondents acted on these problems by seeking the assistance of their barangay officials (36.8%) or reporting the problems to the barangay captain (21.1%).

Likewise, most of the respondents noted that their urban poor organizations did not do anything about the problems (36.8%) while 21.1 percent asked the assistance of the city government.

### Family Relations

Results show that decision-makers in the household vary depending on the decision points. Somehow this runs contrary to the

traditional patriarchal structure of the family, suggesting the changing power structure in the Filipino family towards shared leadership between the spouses in running family affairs. While this is a positive development, it is nonetheless noted that nothing much has changed in the traditional assignment of roles.

Work has always been the domain of men. The present study yields similar observations, i.e., the majority of decision-makers in the areas of job hunting and type of work were husbands (73.5% and 62%, respectively). While husbands pursued income-generating activities, wives took care of the budget (75%) and family expenditures (74%). At the other end of this position of power was the challenge to make both ends meet and find means to fill-in whatever was lacking. Given the present difficulties confronting the country's economy, women were forced to find other sources to augment the decrepit family income.

However, despite the growing involvement of women in productive work, there was limited increase in the trend towards men sharing child-rearing roles. Survey findings reveal that the majority of the respondents (77.5%) admitted that wives took care of their children. Shared decision-making was evident in such areas as the number of children (57.5%), place of residence (51.5%) and education of children, i.e., "where to send them" (59%) or what school to go to (48.5%). However, the children generally decided on the courses to take (73%).

The areas of work in the household that were largely child-rearing in nature were largely done by the wives. Specifically, these were in the areas of caring for the young children (80%), laundry (74%), house cleaning (71.5%), cooking/food preparation (71%), and marketing (63%). These further confirm the traditional notion that wives continue to dominate in the performance of reproductive tasks. The nurturant aspect of household responsibilities was performed by the wives as indicated by their role in "shopping for basic needs" (74%), "paying of school fees" (62%), "tutoring/assisting children in school work" (58.5%), "payment of rentals for the house and facilities" (56%), and "attending to needs of children" (52%). Nearly

two-thirds (64.5%) claimed that both spouses took charge in teaching children etiquette and manners. Discipline was involved in this task and although fathers would usually do this, they involved their wives in this matter.

The majority of the spouses preferred to go out on picnics (89.5%), watch TV programs (64%) and go to movies (58%). Nonetheless, certain variances were noted, i.e., nearly 30 percent (28.5%) of the husbands preferred going to fiestas/parties while nearly half of the wives preferred to watch sports/games (48.5%). Generally, both husbands and wives preferred to visit friends (72.5%) during their free time. Likewise, they loved watching television (72%) and going on outings (63.5%). It is notable too that about 40 percent (38%) read magazines for leisure. In particular, there seems to be a common preference among the wives to do gardening during their leisure time (70%). Their spouses, on the other hand, used their free time in varied and interesting ways, e.g., sewing/cross-stitching (28.5%), reading magazines (21%) and seeing movies (18.5%).

Nearly nine out of every ten respondents (88%) admitted having arguments with their spouses at certain points of their lives – albeit some rarely (56.2%) – while over 10 percent reported that such disagreements always happened. It has often been observed that financial problems are always at the center of spousal conflicts. Such observations are borne out in the present study, where close to half (44.9%) admitted that financial problems resulted in arguments with their spouses.

The majority of the respondents (88.6%), however, claimed that their arguments did not result in any form of violence towards each other, while over ten percent (10.8%) of the respondents admitted that the arguments did lead to violence. Such a finding is a disturbing reality, considering that it is difficult for respondents to readily admit to any stranger that there is indeed violence in their households. After the arguments, the majority revealed that gestures of reconciliation were exchanged between the spouses (70.4%). Nevertheless, a fifth (21.6%) declared that no such conciliatory moves between them and

their spouses occurred. But it is interesting to note that less than 10 percent claimed that apologies offered after the arguments were accepted.

The majority of the respondents (89.5%) noted that they have close relations with their children, with five percent claiming otherwise. A part of a child's relations with parents is confiding to them. The data show that the majority of the respondents reported that their children (84.5%) confide in them while 10 percent admitted that their children do not do so. Half of the respondents described themselves as playmates of their children (50%). More than a third (39.5%) however, claimed that they were not playing games with their children. The majority of those acting as playmates of children do it once a week (60%). Others play with their children either two (2) to three (3) times a week, four or more times a week or even every night.

Over three-fourths of the respondents (78%) reported that they express their love to their children, usually by embracing them (37.8%). Others showed their love by befriending them (32.7%), and kissing them (14.7%). To a lesser extent, some respondents admitted buying clothes and toys for them (9.6%), giving them attention and care (7.7%), and giving them advice (3.2%).

The majority of the respondents did not have any experience of their children wanting to leave their house (84%) while more than ten percent (10.5%) admitted having runaway children. Most of these cases were attributed to their being scolded (57.1%). Others noted that their children ran away from their house because of the influence of peers (23.8%) and because of the uncomfortable situation in their home (19%).

The data revealed that disciplining children was a shared responsibility between the wife and the husband (47%). For some respondents, the disciplinary authority rested solely on the husband (14%) or the wife (34%). Disciplining children was usually given through advice (54.8%). Others scolded their children (22.1%), with some resorting to violence by hitting or slapping them (18.4%). Still others disciplined their children by using a combination of scolding

and giving them advice (2.6%), or by scolding and whipping them (1.1%), among others.

When asked further whether they rewarded children who did good things, the majority of the respondents did, i.e., by expressing their appreciation or by giving them some incentives (85%). Others rewarded their children by treating them well (44.7%). A number expressed their appreciation by hugging them, giving them food (21.2% each), or giving them money (7.1%). Still others gave both money and food, told them stories, or bought them clothes.

Were there any instances that parents severely punished their children in the past? The results of the study show that incidence of child abuse is limited to 21.5 percent of the respondents. Children were severely punished whenever they ignored parental reprimands (44.2%). Some punished their children severely whenever they failed to go home early, i.e., after going around with friends. Other occasions cited were whenever they told lies, whenever they spend more time with their friends, whenever the child they were baby-sitting met some injury, whenever the child broke household things/appliances, and whenever the child quarreled with neighbors.

The forms of punishment that may be regarded with alarm are whipping (95.3%), punishing their children by putting them in a sack, or not giving them food to eat.

### Ethnic Relations

The respondents live in a multi-ethnic community. The population was largely a composite of Cebuanos (94%), Boholanos (78.5%), Ilonggos (62.5%), and Ilocanos (39%). The respondents usually had close friends who were Cebuanos (82.5%). Perhaps, this is due to the fact that a majority of the residents are Cebuanos and that people feel more comfortable with those belonging to the same ethnic group as theirs.

As a measure of social distance, the respondents were further asked the ethnic group they preferred their children to relate with,

i.e., in terms of close friend, spouse, co-worker, source of advice, a visitor in a family affair, overnight visitor, sleep in the house of a neighbor, a roommate in a hotel, a roommate in a ship's cabin, and as a co-passenger in a tricycle. The responses of the respondents were processed using the following: like (1.0 to 1.6); moderately like (1.7 to 2.3) and dislike (2.4 to 3.0).

As earlier intimated, people tend to be more comfortable with those coming from the same ethnic group, there being a sense of comfort in having a shared culture. Perhaps this explains why the respondents preferred as close friends those from the dominant ethnic groups of Cebuanos (1.56), Boholanos (1.72) and Ilongos (1.73). There was no ethnic group in particular that the respondents disliked significantly as close friends of their children.

Most of the respondents preferred that their children marry either Boholanos (1.71) or Cebuanos (1.73). The scores for the Tausug (2.02), Maranao (2.02) and Maguindanao (2.01) seem to imply that these ethnic groups were less likely preferred spouses of their children. Survey findings suggest that ethnic dissimilarity is a major consideration when marital relations are involved.

Generally, openness to ethnic diversity is more pronounced in a working relationship than in the preceding personal relational context. Although the pattern of ethnic preference was similar with the choices for close friends, a less discriminating trend was observed in the choice of a co-worker, as evidenced by the reduction of the percentage difference between and among ethnic groups which were usually preferred as co-workers of their children. However, there was a noticeable number of respondents who disliked working with Tagalogs (2.04). For advice, the Cebuanos (1.73) and Boholanos (1.78) were similarly preferred by a good number of respondents. Maranaos (1.95) and Maguindanaoans (1.94) were less likely to be sources of advice. Similarly, most respondents would prefer the Cebuanos (1.73) and the Boholanos (1.77) as their children's visitors in a family affair. The Tausogs (1.95), Maguindanaoans (1.95) and Maranaos (1.94) were least desired as guests in a family affair. As overnight visitors of their children, the Cebuanos (1.73) and Boholanos (1.78) were most preferred by the respondents.

A quarter of the respondents would prefer a Cebuano (1.76) to sleep in their neighbors' houses. Still, the Maguindanaons (1.94) and Maranaos (1.94) were less desired to sleep in the neighborhood. Almost a quarter of the respondents preferred a Cebuano (1.76) to be their child's roommate in a hotel. This was followed by a Boholano (1.78) and an Ilonggo (1.84). Most of the respondents would prefer a Cebuano (1.76) to be a roommate of their child in a ship's cabin. Similarly, some would not want their children to share a cabin in a ship with a Subanon (1.94), Maguindanaoan (1.93) or a Maranao (1.93). The preference for a co-passenger in a tricycle does not reflect much ethnic preference although a Cebuano was still preferred by many (1.78). The least preferred were the Maranaos (1.94).

### Value System And Spirituality

A list of values was read before the respondents and they were asked to identify which of these were taught to them by their parents. The data revealed that the top two values taught to them by their parents were: respect for elders (83.5%) and honesty (69.5%). Based on ranking, the values on honesty (2.4), respect for elders (2.5) and punctuality (2.4) were highly emphasized by their parents to them. Research findings show that respect for elders was taught by most of the respondents (83.5%) to their children, followed by the value of honesty (65%), kindness (48.5%) and responsibility (44.5%). Empathy (20.5%), appreciation of work ethic (22%) and punctuality (18%) were taught by a smaller proportion of the respondents. When the respondents ranked these values according to emphasis, the results show that respect for elders (2.7), honesty (2.6), truthfulness (2.4) and punctuality (2.4) were highly emphasized by the respondents to their children.

There is another area where one can see how values were transferred to the members of the family by their parents. The questions asked include attendance in Sunday masses, praying together and studying the bible as a family. More than half (51.5%) of the respondents attended Sunday masses. Others attended mass in the church once a month, 2-3 times a month, four or more times a month, or once a year. Five respondents admitted failing to attend

any masses at all. More than half (60%) of the respondents revealed that they do not pray together as a family, with 40 percent doing so. Furthermore, the study of the Bible as a family was limited to three percent of the respondents.

Likewise, the respondents were asked their views on time management. They were asked to agree or disagree with statements regarding value of time management.

The results showed that more than half of the respondents agreed with the following statements:

1. After doing my daily activities, I spent two hours resting (80.5%)
2. The time I spent with the children was more than what is needed (66%), and
3. Most of my time is spent for household chores like cleaning the house and washing clothes (57%)

More than half disagreed with the following statements:

1. I do not rest during lunch break-even if I finished my chores (80.5%)
2. My free time was wasted by seeing a movie or window-shopping (79.5%)
3. Cooking breakfast consumes much of my time (67%)

The above-cited findings revealed that the respondents observed certain schedules in managing their time.

Furthermore, the statements on which they disagreed imply that the respondents do rest, for cooking breakfast, seeing movies or window-shopping were not wasteful.

### **Community Programs And Problems**

Nearly half (49.5%) of the respondents were aware of programs/projects implemented in their community. These projects/

programs were pathways (31.3%), streetlights (28.3%), road graveling and drainage system (22.2% each), daycare centers, and the CMP (11.1% each). To a lesser extent, others mentioned basketball courts (7%), health services (5%), and livelihood projects, water installation, construction of barangay halls (4% each). A total of 161 projects/programs implemented in the community was known to 99 respondents in their community.

What were the benefits received by the community from these projects/programs? The results indicated that the top three most mentioned benefits received by their community from the projects/programs were the concretization of pathways (46.5%), lighted pathways (30.3%), and protection from floods (26.3%). The services offered by these projects/programs to the residents of the community were varied. The top three most cited services offered include concretization of pathways (40.4%), provision of streetlights (31.3%) and drainage construction (18.2%). Except for two out of the 99 respondents knowledgeable about the projects/programs implemented in their communities, all considered these services as beneficial to the community. Two respondents claimed that health services and road graveling/earthfilling were not beneficial, i.e., one was frustrated that his tuberculosis was not cured while the other complained that the road earthfilling has resulted in flooding in the area.

When asked about the problems encountered in the community, land/lot ownership was the most frequently mentioned problem encountered (59.5%), followed by livelihood/employment (39%), and sewerage (17%). Other problems encountered were education, health, and water. The most frequently cited problem on land/lot ownership their squatter-status (37.8%). Others complained that they have not yet received their lot titles, the members being indifferent on lot acquisition, and the problem of negotiating with the land owners. Others expressed their fears of not having any other place to stay once their houses are demolished or of being asked to vacate the land. Other problems derived from the fact that the location of their house is along the sea front or that they do not have any money to pay the amortization.

Livelihood-related problems cited by the respondents included low income, lack of job opportunities, their unstable jobs and irregular salary releases.

The health-related problems were illnesses, the unsanitary environment, the limited supply of medicine in the health center, and being unable to buy medicine.

Irregular water flow and non-ownership of water installations were the specific water-related problems.

Sewerage-related problems included the absence of canals, stagnant water, and floods during heavy rains.

Education-related problems included not being able to support their children in school, the expensive tuition and other fees, the low level of educational attainment and the distance of schools from their residences.

When asked about their community problems, the results indicated that lot ownership (81.5%) was the singular most important problem, followed by unemployment (58%) and house ownership (48.5%). Other less-mentioned problems included drug addiction, limited access to social services, peace and order, demolition/eviction, vices and limited water for drinking.

The respondents were further asked to rank these problems based on urgency, as follows:

RANK	MEANING
1	Needs no immediate action (1.0 - 1.6)
2	Needs attention (1.7-2.3)
3	Needs urgent attention (2.4 - 3.0)

The results revealed that unemployment (2.4) needs urgent attention, with the rest needing attention, i.e., house ownership, lot ownership, access to social services, drug addiction, demolition/eviction, problem on water for drinking, and problem on peace and order. The findings suggest that all the problems need attention,

however, they felt that urgent attention was needed for unemployment problems. The feeling of urgency regarding unemployment problems could perhaps be due to the majority of the working respondents having contractual status of employment.

### Perceptions Of Current Issues

The proportion of the urban poor respondents being knowledgeable about government policies on urban poor was minimal (24%). At best, they were familiar with the Urban Development Housing Act, Community Mortgage Program and anti-squatting law.

Again a minimal proportion (31.5%) of the urban poor respondents claimed having heard of the Southern Philippines Conference for Peace and Development (SPCPD). They claimed having heard that the SPCPD refers to "Muslim governance" (25.4%), "the splurge of money by Misuari" (23.8%), "Muslim Autonomous Region" (22.2%), is a "nuisance" (11.1%), its "slow implementation" (9.5%), and as being "open for job opportunities" (8%). When those who claimed having heard about the SPCPD were further asked whether or not they agreed with it, 11 out of 63 respondents agreed with the SPCPD – the rest (49 respondents) did not. Agreement with the SPCPD was buttressed by the observations that "Muslims and Christians were not different from each other," that it was "for the progress of Mindanao" and that "nothing can be done about it for it has (already) been installed." On the other hand, disagreement with the SPCPD was influenced by the fear of Muslim governance, the fear that it may result in peace and order problems, or fear that there will be no change at all.

The number of the respondents who had heard about the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) was again minimal (23%). The information received about the BIMP-EAGA was that, "a group of investors will come to Mindanao," "there will be demolitions because they will be buying lots," "it will provide job opportunities" and "it means development for Mindanao." Twenty-four out of 46 respondents who heard about BIMP-EAGA support it for it means additional employment/job

opportunities, and provides business development and opportunities, i.e., more favorable to investments and for the unity of Mindanao. On the other hand, those who disagree with BIMP-EAGA expressed their fears that “only investors will benefit [from it],” “its purpose is not clear,” “Filipinos will suffer,” “there will be displacement,” and “small businesses will die.”