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Birth and Death in Cagayan De Oro: Population Dynamics in a Medium-Sized Philippines City

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There is no doubt that Resil B. Mojares's *Cebuano Literature* will be an invaluable aid to the scholar and researcher who now can more easily locate materials to examine and to study. While a section on the literary history of Cebuano letters would have proved more valuable than the author's essay on vernacular publishing, his work as a whole provides the groundwork for such a historical survey. Mojares's book is a good beginning; for the scholar, it is a door that opens to the vast field of Cebuano literature that is waiting to be studied.

Teresita Gimenez-Maceda

BIRTH AND DEATH IN CAGAYAN DE ORO: POPULATION DYNAMICS IN A MEDIUM-SIZED PHILIPPINE CITY. By Francis C. Madigan. Quezon City: Ateneo de Manila University Press, 1972. 239 pages.

Many questions remain unanswered even as research in Philippine population dynamics progresses. The country's present population is increasing rapidly due to the large excess of births over deaths as a consequence of a rapidly declining mortality level coupled with a persistently high fertility level. Explanations like this may prove inadequate when evaluating a more local situation. The book distinguishes itself as a demographic study concerned more specifically in evaluating the dimensions of population growth in a Philippine urban center, namely, Cagayan de Oro. For this reason, it can be considered as an urban case study whose main concern is to analyze recent fertility and mortality levels and patterns, and how these would compare to the national experience and to that of selected countries. Madigan and his associates can be singled out (and for that matter the Research Institute for Mindanao Culture) for their efforts in promoting population research on the regional level, particularly concentrating their efforts in the province of Misamis Oriental. This work is a collective endeavor. It is a welcome contribution to Philippine population research. Likewise, it provides valuable insights to policymakers in promoting population control programs on the regional and provincial levels.

The analysis is basically descriptive. Its primary concern is assessing recent demographic patterns, more concretely, by determining current fertility and mortality levels, and the effect of these vital components on the city's population growth. It also includes an evaluation of migration patterns and characteristics. Data from past censuses could not be fully used, since the tabulations for Cagayan de Oro City were unavailable. A general overview of the area and its people is presented and is greatly substantiated by secondary data drawn from various sources. This discussion is, perhaps, one of its kind ever published and is a valuable reference for researchers and development planners whose interest and concern are in the area itself.

The study is based on survey data gathered by the Research Institute for Mindanao Culture during the early sixties. Its findings and conclusions are, in many ways, relevant today. The demographic pressure experienced by the country and most of its regions have not changed much, if at all, despite ongoing population control programs receiving government support. An optimistic attitude held by many including the authors of the study is that things will hopefully turn out for the better. To the many advocates of population control, a major disappointment to take note of is that fertility reduction cannot be achieved overnight and its desired effects will be felt after a decade or so. Our best assurance now is to continue working toward fertility reduction so as not to perpetuate the current crisis. The expectations held by the authors concerning declining fertility as characterized in the urban scene were not confirmed by these data. The fertility level of Cagayan de Oro was as high as that of the country.

One can easily be misled into regarding this work as a fertility study. Unlike other fertility studies done on the Philippines, it is more comprehensive in scope, since it considers the other vital components of growth and it attempts to be more evaluative. The entire discussion on fertility appears to be confusing because a discussion of factors affecting fertility comes prior to the assessment of current fertility levels. On the whole, the treatment given to fertility has been extensive and, to some extent, quite exhaustive for a local study. The analysis was able to quantify the Cagayan de Oro fertility experience not only in terms of crude birth rates but also age-specific birth rates for all women and married women, timing of fertility, total fertility rates, and reproduction rates. Comparisons were made between urban and rural Cagayan de Oro fertility during certain periods with that of some Philippine regions and cities and foreign countries like Taiwan, Costa Rica, Japan, France, and the U.S. The rationale for making these comparisons, for the choice of specific countries, and the qualitative comparability of these fertility indices have not been explained at length. It would have been more profitable to compare Cagayan de Oro to some American, Asian, and Philippine cities — rather than to countries and regions.

Fertility has been evaluated in terms of education, income, occupation, social class, and religion. Among the correlates of low fertility were high educational attainment, high income, upper-class status, and being Protestant. Evidence of low fertility among women with these characteristics could have been brought about by the use of some form of voluntary birth control, years prior to the official proclamation of a population control policy. These findings are comparable to other fertility studies done in other parts of the country during subsequent years. Madigan and his associates suggest that future success of fertility reduction may have to depend upon increased education, higher earning capacity and living standards.

The chapter on mortality can be considered the greatest asset of this book.

It also reveals insightful thinking on the mortality situation of the national scene. Other assessments on the same topic fail to exhibit the scholarly quantity and treatment made. The analysis has made use of results and findings of previous assessments and vital reports as well as estimates made by the authors when discussing and describing the various dimensions of the mortality experience of the Philippines, as shown from a longitudinal perspective. Urban Cagayan de Oro mortality is viewed from this perspective. Its mortality experience, quantified in terms of crude and adjusted death rates and age-specific death rates, is shown to be more favorable than that of the national and international scenes (particularly referring to mortality pattern of Japan, Taiwan, and a number of Western countries). Male and female average life expectancy has improved over time as revealed by the life analysis. This pattern is comparable with that of some South American and European countries. Female life expectancy, as observed for urban Cagayan de Oro as well as for the other countries, tends to be far superior to that of males.

This is one of the first attempts at doing a life table analysis on Philippine urban mortality data. Its methodological contribution is an enhancement in Philippine demographic research and should be emulated by subsequent mortality assessments. Differences in mortality levels have been observed in terms of income, occupation, social class, and educational attainment. Low mortality is associated with higher income, a white-collar occupation, upper social class status, and high educational attainment. This socioeconomic correlation of low mortality needs more intensive evaluation. It is, in some sense, disappointing that differential mortality analysis has not been done as intensively on the national and regional level. The dearth of research findings on Philippine mortality is notably stressed by this local study's failure to use comparable life table results done on the national and regional levels. This study can consider itself a pioneering work on Philippine mortality.

When assuming urban population growth, a component which needs distinctive treatment is migration. Unfortunately, this input of the Cagayan de Oro study leaves much to be desired. The chapter on migration concerns itself more in analyzing migration differentials using variables like income, education, occupation, social class, and fertility. A more meaningful inquiry would have been to evaluate the magnitude of migration flows and streams to urban Cagayan de Oro, timing and frequency of move, and the like. These types of migration data cannot be derived from census reports. Questions should have been included in the survey to elicit these data. Attempts should have been made to assess the impact of net migration on the population growth of Cagayan de Oro City. This finding would have expanded our knowledge about Philippine urbanization. The minor emphasis given to migration may have stemmed from a hypothetical assumption, although unfounded, that this component played a minor or less significant role in urban population growth, particularly in the case of Cagayan de Oro.

The study is an initial attempt at using a case study approach to population dynamics in an urban area. It has achieved its main purpose of being descriptive and evaluative. This could very well serve as a pattern for other local demographic studies. Research of this kind will be useful to regional development planning. It can help bring policymakers to realize that more local studies are needed to help understand local problems.

Gabriel C. Alvarez

ELEMENTS OF FILIPINO THEOLOGY. By Leonardo N. Mercado, SVD. Edited by Victoria S. Salazar. Tacloban City: Divine Word University Publications, 1975. 251 pages.

Presumably a companion volume to the author's earlier (1974) book, *Elements of Filipino Philosophy*, this pioneering work, which attempts to express the Christian Filipino's reflections on Christ and His Church and the Christian's response, is certainly a welcome one. As the insightful though hastily written preface by C. G. Arevalo, S.J., points out, it contributes to the implementation of the mandate of both Vatican II (Ad Gentes) and the Asian Bishops' Conferences (1970 and 1974) to indigenize theology in the Asian, in this case, Philippine, setting.

Crucial to this enterprise is the chapter on indigenizing theology, which in effect describes the method followed throughout the volume, a volume intended to be a college textbook in Filipino theology, supplied with guide questions and reading suggestions.

The fact that the volume has an editor makes one surmise that it arose from class lectures that were transcribed and eventually edited for publication. Some chapters amount to outlines and précis rather than full expositions.

Basically, the method is one of discussing a particular topic (God, spirits and the departed; the individual, society and ownership; fate and freedom; sin and *gaba*; law; work and leisure; faith; hope; mercy and love; respect and obedience; nonegoism; signs and worship; water and baptism; food, fiesta blood and the Eucharist; marriage and celibacy; ministry; health and sickness; death) from the point of view of Philippine culture, using the reports of cultural anthropologists, linguists, sociologists and participant observers and such cultural sources as proverbs, sayings, customs, festivals, behavioral patterns of Filipinos, and showing points of similarity and comparability between these views and Christian thought as embodied in the Scriptures and in the living life of the Church.

One can cavil at minor features in an initial attempt of this kind (the proverbs cited from Tagalog, Bisayan, and Ilocano, mostly in the section entitled "Response" are sometimes contradictory in their import; a few are irrelevant to the topic under discussion; the summary treatment of certain