



SERP-P NEWS

Innovating Knowledge Exchange in Policy Research

September 2017 | Vol. 6 No. 1

Socioeconomic Issue on Spotlight POVERTY

The Philippines is one of the fastest-growing economies in Asia, with a reported gross domestic product growth of 6.5 percent during the second quarter of 2017. However, the benefits of this high growth have consistently

failed to reach the marginalized population. According to the **Philippine Statistics Authority (2017)**, 21.9 million Filipinos were considered poor in 2015, placing one in five Filipinos below the poverty line.

Poverty persists in the Philippines for a number of reasons. According to **Albert and Martinez (2015)**, the weak impact of economic growth on poverty reduction is due to the country's high income inequality. The levels of income inequality have barely changed since 2003, which suggests that the new opportunities generated by economic growth do not necessarily benefit the poor. Furthermore, a study by **Bayudan-Dacuycuy and Bajaj (2017)** showed that poor education, lack of employment and access to services, conflict, and extreme weather events contribute to food poverty.

There have been efforts from the Philippine government to decrease the poverty incidence. One of them is the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino* Program (4Ps), a conditional cash transfer program being implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Started in 2008, the program provides cash assistance to poor families to support their health and basic education needs. In one of the initial evaluations of the 4Ps, **Reyes et al. (2015)** found that the program led to a three-percent increase in the school participation rate of children aged 6–14. This translates to an additional 100,000 children attending school in 2011 as a result of the 4Ps.

continued on page 3

ANNOUNCEMENT

Call for Papers



The *Philippine Journal of Development* is a professional journal published by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies. It accepts papers that examine key issues in development and have strong relevance to policy development. As a multidisciplinary social science journal, it accepts papers in the fields of economics, political science, public administration, sociology, and other related disciplines. It considers papers that have strong policy implications on national or international concerns, particularly development issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

CLICK HERE for the guidelines in the preparation of articles. Submissions and inquiries may be sent to PJD@mail.pids.gov.ph

MEMBER-INSTITUTION ON SPOTLIGHT UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP-CIDS)

In the early 1980s, then University of the Philippines President Edgardo J. Angara, envisioned the University of the Philippines-Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP-CIDS) as a policy research unit that will harness the multidisciplinary expertise of UP toward the solution of the nation's critical problems. The UP President's Committee for the Establishment of a Strategic Areas Studies Unit submitted its recommendations on the creation of a university-based think tank. On June 13, 1985, the UP Board of Regents approved the establishment of the University Center for Strategic and Development Studies (UCSDS). The center's name was soon changed to the University Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UCIDS) "in order to reflect the center's primary objectives and goals".

Since the 1990s, UP-CIDS has been convening programs on a wide array of issues, ranging from European studies to Asia-Pacific and Philippine concerns. It has also been in the forefront of endeavors

in the 1990s and 2000s toward understanding the dynamics of peacebuilding, especially in Mindanao. Beginning in 2014, UP-CIDS has been organizing research programs, roundtable discussions, and forums on ASEAN integration, national marine policy review, migration, environmental governance, sustainable energy, and China Studies, among others.

UP-CIDS spans various perspectives, methodologies, and ideologies in its conduct of basic and policy-oriented research. The Center harnesses the University's multidisciplinary expertise in its studies on critical fields. Its mandate is to develop, organize, and manage research issues of national significance. Such issues, because of their importance and inherent complexity, require an integrative and collaborative approach and also more sophisticated research methodologies and skills; encourage and support research and study on these issues by various units of the University and individual scholars; secure funding from public and private persons and agencies; and ensure that the research outputs and recommendations of the Center are published and openly disseminated.

Know more about the UP-CIDS [here](#).

Dr. Albert holds a PhD in Statistics from Stony Brook University in New York, USA, where he got his master's degree also in Statistics.

His areas of expertise include poverty measurement and diagnostics, agricultural statistics, education statistics, survey design, data mining, and statistical analysis of missing data.

Check out his publications below.

- National Accounts and Household Survey Estimates of Household Expenditures: Why Do They Differ and Why Should We Be Concerned?
- Do Men and Women in the Philippines Have Equal Economic Opportunities?
- What Does ASEAN Mean to ASEAN Peoples? (The Philippine Case)
- Trends in Out-of-School Children and Other Basic Education Statistics
- Why some Firms Innovate and Why others Do not
- Examining Trends in ICT Statistics: How Does the Philippines Fare in ICT?

For other publications by Dr. Albert, simply type "Albert" in the search box of the [SERP-P website](#).



Photo from AIM website

SERP-P FEATURED RESEARCHER Dr. Jose Ramon G. Albert

Dr. Jose Ramon G. Albert is a senior research fellow at the Philippine Institute for Development Studies. He was the secretary-general of the National Statistical Coordination Board from 2012 to 2014. He was also the training chief of the Statistical Research and Training Center, the research and training arm of the Philippine Statistical System, from 2005 to 2007, and research chief from 1999 to 2005 of the same office. He was also a former adjunct faculty member of the Stephen Zuellig Graduate School of Development Management.

continued from page 1

Policies and programs for building the human capital are vital to decrease the poverty incidence. In a discussion paper, **Mina and Imai's (2002)** emphasized that education is an important determinant of both poverty and vulnerability. Highly educated individuals have higher probability of gaining more stable and/or better-paying jobs. Expectedly, households headed by degree holders are less likely to be food poor than those headed by noncollege graduates (**Bayudan-Dacuycuy and Baje 2017**).

In a study published by the Asian Development Bank, **Fernando (2009)** suggested using a multidimensional approach to poverty reduction by involving multiple agencies, sectors, and stakeholders. He added that further research on chronic poverty is needed for the formulation of more effective policies and programs.

The **Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippines (SERP-P)** has a collection of studies on poverty, including those that tackle the impact of legal minimum wages on reducing the poverty incidence (**Paqueo and Orbeta 2016**), the vulnerability of Filipinos to poverty (**Mina and Reyes 2017**), the impact of conditional cash transfer program on school attendance and poverty in the Philippines (**Asian Development Bank 2008**), and understanding

of the nature of poverty and the recent progress in poverty reduction in the Philippines (**World Bank 2001**), among others.

SERP-P Resources on Poverty

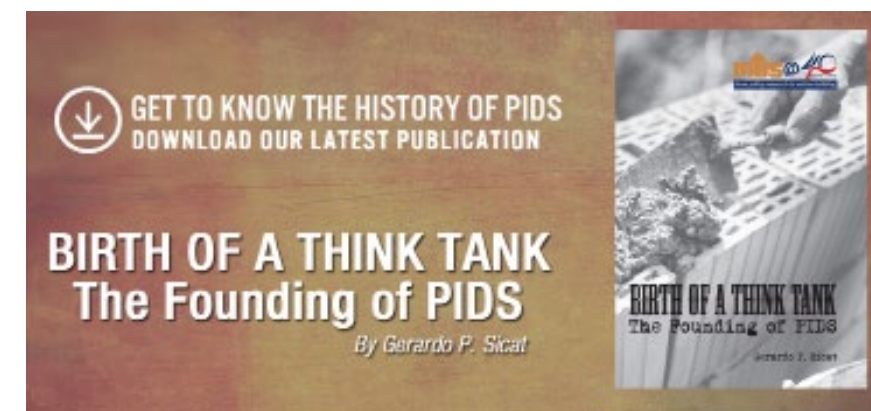
- Measure and Determinants of Chronic and Transient Poverty in the Philippines
- Estimating Filipinos' Vulnerability to Poverty
- Health Financing for the Poor in the Philippines: Final Report
- Estimation of Vulnerability to Poverty Using a Multilevel Longitudinal Model: Evidence from the Philippines
- Is Poverty Really Decreasing, and If Not, Why Not?
- Child Poverty in the Philippines
- Regional Integration, Inclusive Growth, and Poverty: Enhancing Employment Opportunities for the Poor
- Poverty in the Philippines: Causes, Constraints, and Opportunities
- Ex-ante Impact Evaluation of Conditional Cash Transfer Program on School Attendance and Poverty: The Case of the Philippines

For more poverty-related studies, simply type "Poverty" in the search box of the [SERP-P website](#).



The **Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS)**, together with the participating agencies, celebrated the 15th Development Policy Research Month (DPRM) with the theme "**Strengthening Decentralization for Regional Development**" (*Pagpapatibay ng Desentralisasyon Tungo sa Kaunlarang Panrehiyon*).

Know more about the celebration [here](#). For copies of the seminar presentations, go to <https://www.pids.gov.ph/seminars>.



LATEST SERP-P RESOURCES

- Measure and Determinants of Chronic and Transient Poverty in the Philippines
- Food Security Potentials of Agroforestry Systems in Selected Upland Farming Communities in the Philippines
- BINHI Tree for the Future: Debunking the Reasons Not to Plant Native Trees
- Discovering New Roads to Development Volume 4: Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Resilience
- Dairy Buffalo Value Chain Analysis in Luzon, Philippines
- Asian Journal of Agriculture and Development Vol. 14 No. 1
- Social Network Analysis of Selected Community-based Forest Management (CBFM) Projects in the Philippines
- Measuring and Examining Innovation in Philippine Business and Industry
- Risks, Shocks, Building Resilience (Proceedings of the Second Annual Public Policy Conference 2016)
- Assessment of the 2017 Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion
- Evaluation of Fiscal Incentives in the Philippines
- Preventing Childhood Stunting: Why and How?
- Building Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World: A Look at the APEC 2015 Priority Areas (Volume II)
- Chronic Food Poverty in the Philippines
- Chronic and Transient Poverty and Weather Variability in the Philippines: Evidence Using Components Approach
- The Triple Burden of Disease
- Understanding the Principles Underlying the Philippine Competition Law
- Estimating Filipinos' Vulnerability to Poverty
- Analyzing Housework Through Family and Gender Perspectives
- Scoping Study on Reducing Unnecessary Regulatory Burdens in the Philippine Food Manufacturing Industry
- The Rise of Collaborative Economy in the Philippines
- The Impacts of Roll-On/Roll-Off Transport System in the Philippines
- A Review of Philippine Government Disaster Financing for Recovery and Reconstruction



Call for Submissions



The **SEARCA Photo Contest 2017** is now open with the theme "Agriculture for all, by all: Moving forward on agricultural and rural development in Southeast Asia".

Deadline: November 30, 2017

Events



The Philippine Institute for Development Studies and the Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) International will hold an international workshop on "The Digital Economy: Potential Benefits, Challenges, and Implications for Regulation", to be held on October 25, 2017, Wednesday, from 9:00AM to 2:00PM at the PIDS Conference Hall, 18th Floor of Three Cyberpod Centris, EDSA, Quezon City. This workshop also marks the Philippine launch of the new PIDS-CUTS International joint initiative titled "Regional Inclusive Growth Programme".

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Career opportunities at **PIDS**

- **One (1) Division Chief III (Publication and Circulation Division)** Item No. RID 03
- **One (1) Division Chief III** Item No. AFD 03
- **Technical Assistance for PIDS Publication**
- **Consultant for Legal, Research and Administrative Matters**

ABOUT THE BANNER PHOTO

The banner photo used for this issue features the out-of-school youth in Navotas City. The photo was part of the PIDS Photo Contest 2016 and was taken by Cherry Madriaga.

If you want your forthcoming events, latest publications, and other announcements to be included on the *SERP-P News*, contact:

Jachin Jane O. Aberilla
SERP-P Coordinator
Email: jaberilla@mail.pids.gov.ph
Tel.: 877-4022

SERP-P Team at PIDS:

Sheila V. Siar, Project Manager
Jachin Jane O. Aberilla, SERP-P Coordinator
Gilberto Llanto and Aniceto Orbeta Jr., Technical Advisers



Philippine Institute for Development Studies
18F Three Cyberpod Centris, North Tower
EDSA cor. Quezon Ave., Quezon City