

SERP-P NEWS

Innovating Knowledge Exchange in Policy Research



June 2021

Socioeconomic Issue on Spotlight EMPLOYMENT

Photo from: Rappler

ANNOUNCEMENT

Call for Papers



The *Philippine Journal of Development* (PJD) is a professional journal published by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies. It focuses on the different aspects of development, particularly the economy, business, governance, political dynamics, international relations, and other related fields of study.

As a multidisciplinary social science journal, it accepts original, unpublished papers with strong policy implications on national or international concerns, particularly development issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

For inquiries and submissions, contact PJD@mail.pids.gov.ph.

For the guidelines in the preparation of articles, click [here](#).

Past issues may be downloaded [here](#).

Employment plays a vital role in our society. It contributes to the economic growth and development of a country. In the Philippines, the number of jobs generated by the three main economic sectors—agriculture, industry, and services—varies, reflecting their uneven productivity levels.

Based on the 2020 Annual Preliminary Estimates of the Labor Force Survey conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)¹, the total number of persons in the labor force was estimated at 43.9 million.

Services remained the country's biggest employer in 2020, accounting for 56.9 percent share. Agriculture contributed 24.8 percent to total employment. Industry still accounted for the lowest employment share at 18.3 percent of the total employed persons.

Good education increases the chances of good employment. [Tutor et al. \(2021\)](#) found that a positive college experience, in its multiple dimensions, is generally associated with better employability, a stronger sense of citizenship, less predisposition to political action, and better life satisfaction.

However, having a tertiary education does not guarantee a job with a decent wage ([Balboa and Mantaring 2011](#)). College graduates may find themselves unemployed due to a number of reasons, including not having enough jobs, the mismatch between the courses that students take and what employers need, and the lack of competitiveness of graduates due to substandard quality of education.

Improving education quality in the Philippines and making students ready for employment or entrepreneurship are among the objectives of the K to 12 program introduced in 2013 ([SEAMEO INNOTECH 2016](#)). However, despite the

¹ <https://psa.gov.ph/statistics/survey/labor-and-employment/labor-force-survey/title/2020%20Annual%20Preliminary%20Estimates%20of%20Labor%20Force%20Survey%20%28LFS%29> (accessed on June 20, 2021)

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PARTNER-INSTITUTION ON SPOTLIGHT

DLSU-Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies



AKI
Angelo King Institute
for Economic and Business Studies

The De La Salle University-Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies (DLSU-AKI) is an academic research institute established in 1999 out of the complementary goals of De La Salle University (DLSU) and the Angelo King Foundation (AKI).

DLSU-AKI merges its founding institutions' drive for research excellence, policy relevance, and overriding concern for poverty alleviation. Supported by a worldwide network of donors and partners, the Institute has established a niche in research by integrating economic and business studies and combining macro and micro perspectives.

Since its establishment, DLSU-AKI has undertaken research projects on the following areas: industrial restructuring and development in the Philippines; global and regional

production networks; agricultural marketing and trade; investments in agricultural research and development; family business issues; cost analysis in higher education institutions; managing risks and opportunities of financial liberalization and integration; corporate governance and banking; labor market mismatch; entrepreneurship; international migration and remittances; poverty alleviation; labor market signaling; career guides; development of the capital market in ASEAN; human resource development; and environmental studies.

DLSU-AKI is headed by Dr. Tereso Tullao Jr.

To access studies from DLSU-AKI in SERP-P, click [here](#).

Know more about DLSU-AKI [here](#).

RESEARCHER ON SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Ramonette Serafica

Dr. Ramonette Serafica is a senior research fellow at the Philippine Institute for Development Studies. She is a former associate professor at the Economics Department of the College of Business and Economics of De La Salle University-Manila. She also worked in regional organizations and the private sector.

She earned her PhD and MA in Economics from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She has published numerous studies on services trade, policy, and regulation.

To check the publications of Dr. Serafica in SERP-P, type "Serafica, Ramonette" in the search box of the SERP-P website or click [here](#).



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addition of two years in the basic education curriculum, studies show that the program is not meeting its objectives.

For instance, [Orbeta et al. \(2019\)](#) found that most human resource officers are reluctant to hire SHS graduates. Similarly, only a small percentage (a little over 20%) of SHS graduates enter the labor force as they are not confident that they will get a job after graduation. Those who have passed the National Certification assessments also believed that employers prefer college graduates. The results of a follow-up study by [Orbeta and Potestad \(2020\)](#) confirmed the small number of SHS graduates who enter the labor force.

[Orbeta et al. \(2019\)](#) and [Orbeta and Potestad \(2020\)](#) recommended intensifying information dissemination on K to 12 among employers to convince them to accept SHS graduates. They also called on the government to examine the effectiveness of the SHS curriculum's work preparation component. Employers are also advised to design work immersion schemes that are aligned with SHS tracks or specializations and to provide longer competency-oriented work immersion for SHS students.

The COVID-19 pandemic largely affected the livelihood of millions of Filipinos. According to PSA in its 2020 Annual Preliminary Estimates of the Labor Force Survey, the unemployment rate in 2020 rose to 10.3 percent, equivalent to 4.5 million unemployed Filipinos, from 5.1 percent in 2019.

[Neri \(2020\)](#) noted that many Filipinos experienced unemployment and a reduction in their usual earnings. Businesses big and small were heavily affected by the prolonged lockdowns that led many to close down or operate at reduced capacity. There was also a significant reduction in consumption demand due to massive unemployment and income loss.

According to [Abrigo et al. \(2020\)](#), the manufacturing sector and wholesale and retail trade are projected to suffer severely from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. To mitigate the adverse effects on the economy, they suggested that the government limit the disruptions of economic activities. Furthermore, the national government must implement massive safety net programs to ensure that each household has access to food and other basic necessities. The government must also revitalize economic activities without endangering public safety and ensure that supply chains remain operational.

Moreover, [Bangsal et al. \(2020\)](#) recommended that the government intensify livelihood and credit programs for micro, small, and medium enterprises. They also underscored the impact of the pandemic on overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), many of whom were displaced


and forced to return home with minimal to no savings to sustain their families.

[Roldan \(2020\)](#) noted that long-term solutions are needed to address the livelihood; healthcare, psychological support, and counseling; and legal assistance needs of displaced OFWs. She recommended setting up a dedicated hotline for OFWs; access to health insurance and educational assistance for their children; and reintegration support with well-coordinated initiatives from national agencies, migrant organizations, and local government units.

The Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippines (SERP-P) has a wealth of resources on employment in the Philippines in the context of education and the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are some of them:

- [Innovating Governance: Building Resilience against the COVID-19 Pandemic and Other Risks](#)
- [The 4th Philippine Graduate Tracer Study: Examining Higher Education as a Pathway to Employment, Citizenship, and Life Satisfaction from the Learner's Perspective](#)
- [Senior High School and the Labor Market: Perspectives of Grade 12 Students and Human Resource Officers](#)
- [On the Employability of the Senior High School Graduates: Evidence from the Labor Force Survey](#)
- [Economic Triple Shock: Assessment and Remedial Measures](#)
- [Projected Disease Transmission, Health System Requirements, and Macroeconomic Impacts of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in the Philippines](#)
- [Fiscal Roadmap to Economic Recovery](#)
- [Reintegrating Overseas Filipino Worker Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [The Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on the Labor Market: The Case of the Philippines](#)

For more studies, simply type "labor", "employment", and other related keywords in the Search box of the SERP-P website.



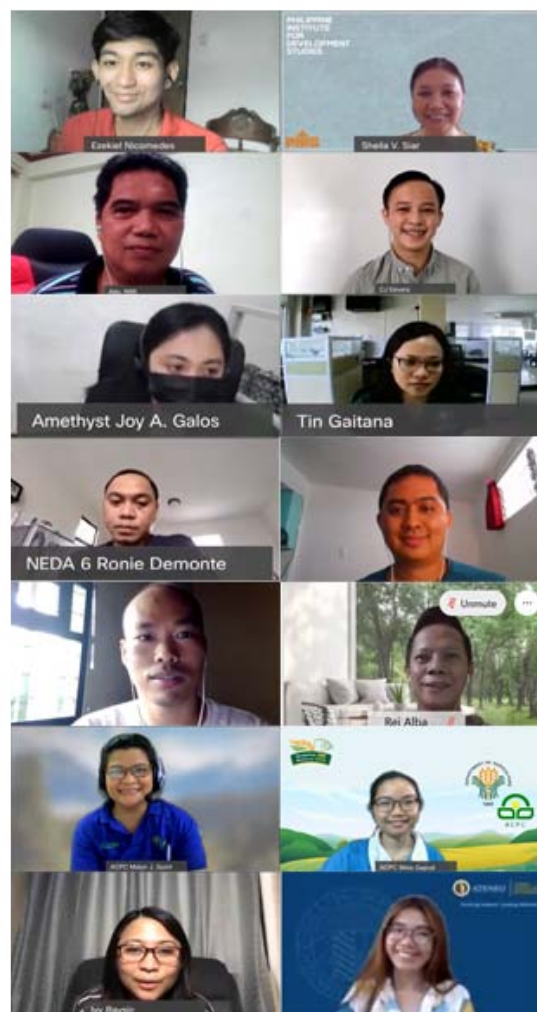
PIDS Annual Report 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic did not deter the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) from pursuing its mission of providing relevant, reliable, and timely policy research to guide policymaking in the country. In 2020, the Institute completed 60 research projects, released 80 publications, and conducted 31 events, 27 of which were webinars. Its senior researchers continued giving technical assistance in the crafting or deliberation of proposed bills in both houses of Congress. The Institute also continued forging strategic partnerships and linkages with various local and international organizations. It also maintained its ISO certification and was awarded the Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME-HRM) Bronze Award by the Civil Service Commission-National Capital Region. [Click here to download the e-copy.](#)

SERP-P Activities

SERP-P Project Manager and PIDS Research Information Department Head, Dr. Sheila Siar, and SERP-P Project Coordinator, Mr. Ezekiel Nicomedes, held a series of online orientation sessions with partner-institutions from May to June 2021. These orientations were intended to acquaint new coordinators about SERP-P.

- May 19, 2021: Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP)
Participants: Atty. Remus Reyes (Head, DAP Research and Development Office) and Mr. Christian Jose Devera, (DAP Institutional Marketing Center).
- May 19, 2021: National Economic and Development Authority Region VI (NEDA VI)
Participants: Ms. Christinne Anne P. Gaitana (Senior Economic Development Specialist) and Mr. Ronie A. Demonteverde (Economic Development Specialist II).
- May 24, 2021: National Economic and Development Authority Caraga (NEDA Caraga)
Participants: Ms. Amethyst Joy A. Galos (Economic Development Specialist II).
- June 2, 2021: Department of Labor and Employment Institute for Labor Studies (DOLE-ILS)
Participants: Mr. Reinerio Alba (Chief, Advocacy and Publications Division); Mr. Nollie Rafer (Supervising Labor and Employment Officer); Mr. Bernard Mangulabnan (Senior Labor and Employment Officer); and Mr. Marc Raphael Peñaredondo (Labor and Employment Officer III).
- June 7, 2021: Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC)
Participants: Ms. Emmalyn Guinto (Chief, Communications and Public Affairs Division) and Ms. Maia Paula Gapud (Information Officer III).



- June 15, 2021: Ateneo School of Government (ASOG)
Participants: Ms. Ivyrose Baysic (Head, Ateneo Policy Center); Ms. Sheena Valenzuela (Research Associate); and Mr. Jurel Yap (Research Associate).
- June 22, 2021: Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU)
Participants: Ms. Marlyn Cacatian (Assistant Professor) and Ms. Susan Aquino (Education Program Specialist II).

SERP-P Network Welcomes DLGU-JRIG and DAP

The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), which developed and manages the SERP-P, forged a partnership with two new institutions—the De La Salle University Jesse M. Robredo Institute of Governance (DLSU-JRIG) and the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP).

SERP-P (<https://serp-p.pids.gov.ph/>) is a knowledge database of socioeconomic materials produced by PIDS,



academic and research institutions, government agencies in the Philippines, and international organizations. Its establishment in 2000 is in line with the mandates of PIDS

to provide a common link between the government and research institutions and to establish a repository of socioeconomic research information.

PIDS President Dr. Celia M. Reyes and DLSU Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation Dr. Raymond Tan, who represented DLSU Chancellor Br. Bernard Oca, FSC, led the signing of the agreement between PIDS and DLSU-JRIG through a virtual ceremony on April 27, 2021. Also present were PIDS Director for Research Information and SERP-P Project Manager Dr. Sheila Siar and DLSU-JRIG Director Dr. Ador Torneo.

DLSU-JRIG produces a wealth of knowledge products from various researches and facilitates engagements in the areas of local governance, decentralization, budget monitoring, sustainability, and other topics. It firmly believes that research is integral to national development and nation-building.

Meanwhile, PIDS and DAP sealed their SERP-P collaboration on May 7, 2021, with Dr. Celia Reyes of PIDS and Atty. Engelbert Caronan Jr., president and chief executive officer of DAP, as principal signatories.

DAP develops partnerships and facilitates the integration of policies, plans, programs, and systems toward a holistic perspective, through the conduct of training, education,



policy/action-oriented researches, consulting/technical assistance, and publications on good governance and productivity improvement.

In 2001, SERP-P had only 1,226 publications contributed by PIDS and seven participating institutions. These numbers have multiplied over the years. The database contains 7,205 publications as of June 30, 2021. The SERP-P Network now has more than 50 members, DLSU-JRIG and DAP being the 53rd and 54th, respectively.



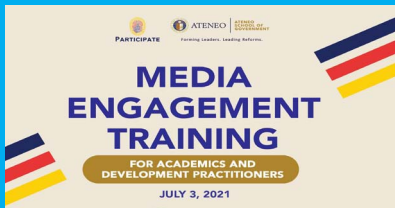
Jesse M. Robredo
Institute of Governance



Most Downloaded Publications in June 2021

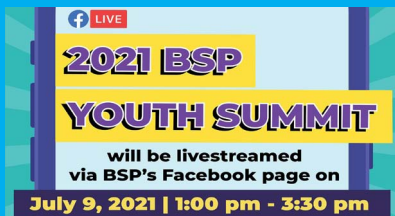
No	Title	Institution	No. of Downloads
1	Agenda for Action for the Philippine Rural Sector	PIDS	1,798
2	The Regulatory Architecture for Microfinance in Asia: In Search of an Appropriate Approach	PinoyME Foundation	1,215
3	Research and Development and Technology in the Philippines	PIDS	862
4	Comparative Tariff Policies of ASEAN Member Countries	PIDS	743
5	Impact of the Global Financial and Economic Crisis on the Philippines	PIDS	622
6	An In-depth Study on the Film Industry In the Philippines	Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc.	612
7	The ASEAN Economic Community and the Philippines: Implementation, Outcomes, Impacts, and Ways Forward (Full Report)	PIDS	533
8	Forming a Government: Parliamentary vs. Presidential System	PIDS	469
9	Fear of Crime and Saving Behavior	AIM Rizalino S. Navarro Policy Center For Competitiveness	334
10	A Glimpse at the School Dropout Problem	PIDS	300

SERP-P Partner Activities



Join the Ateneo School of Government on its one-day online training program titled "Media Engagement Training for Academics and Development Practitioners" on July 3, 2021.

For inquiries, contact the Ateneo School of Government: execed.asog@ateneo.edu.



The *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* (BSP) will conduct the 2021 BSP Youth Summit with the theme "*Ibangon natin ang ekonomiya, i-digital mo na!*" on July 9, 2021, from 1:00 to 3:30 pm. It will be streamed live on the BSP Facebook page. BSP Governor Benjamin Diokno will give the keynote address.

For details, click [here](#).



Join Silliman University in hosting the 8th Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Service-Learning on July 28–29, 2021. The conference, which has the theme "Community Engagement at the Intersection of Research and Extension", has the following subthemes: service-learning and classroom instruction, service-learning and research, and service-learning and community outreach.

For details, click [here](#).

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

SERP-P Team
Email: serpp@mail.pids.gov.ph

Latest SERP-P Publications

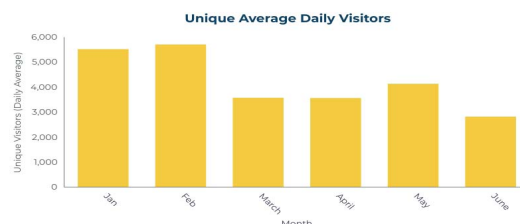
- 2020 ILS Annual Report (DOLE-ILS)
- Caraga Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2017–2022 (NEDA CARAGA)
- Caraga Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2017–2022 Midterm Update (NEDA CARAGA)
- Caraga Regional Development Investment Program (RDIP) 2017–2022 Midterm Update (NEDA CARAGA)
- Caraga Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2017–2022 Midterm Update Results Matrices (RMs) (NEDA CARAGA)
- 2019 ILS Annual Report (DOLE-ILS)
- 2018 ILS Performance and Accountability Report (DOLE-ILS)
- 2017 ILS Performance and Accountability Report (DOLE-ILS)
- 2016 ILS Performance and Accountability Report (DOLE-ILS)
- 2015 ILS Performance and Accountability Report (DOLE-ILS)
- 2014 ILS Performance and Accountability Report (DOLE-ILS)
- Challenges and Societal Perceptions on Sustainable Bioenergy Development in China, India, and the Philippines: Policy Implications (SEARCA)
- MINDORO TREASURES: Teaching Reference for Environment Awareness and Sustainable Use of Resource (SEARCA)
- Monitoring the Philippine Economy Year-End Report for 2020 (DLSU-AKI)
- Asia to benefit most from rise of digital platforms amid pandemic (PIDS)
- Cash Transfers and Temptation Goods: An Analysis on the Impact of Cash Transfers on Poor Households' Consumption of Sugar-Sweetened Beverages in the Philippines
- PIDS Annual Report 2020
- Caraga Regional Recovery Program (RRP) from Coronavirus Disease 2019
- Caraga Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-Asa (BP2) Program Regional Action Plan
- Post-Tropical Storm (TS) Auring Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan (RRP) for Severely Affected Areas in Surigao del Sur
- The 4th Philippine Graduate Tracer Study: Examining Higher Education as a Pathway to Employment, Citizenship, and Life Satisfaction from the Learner's Perspective

SERP-P Access Statistics

SERP-P January–December 2020



SERP-P January–June 2021



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Career opportunities at PIDS
- Career opportunities at NEDA
- Career opportunities at ADB
- Career opportunities at AIM
- Career opportunities at DAP
- Career opportunities at ILS
- Career opportunities at MMSU
- Career opportunities at INNOTECH
- Career opportunities at SEARCA
- Career opportunities at ASOG
- Career opportunities at GIZ
- Career opportunities at BSP
- Career opportunities at World Bank
- Career opportunities at PCAARRD

SERP-P Team at PIDS:
Sheila V. Siar, Project Manager
Ezekiel R.H. Nicomedes, SERP-P Coordinator
Celia M. Reyes and Aniceto Orbeta Jr., Technical Advisers



Philippine Institute for Development Studies
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