

**DECISION-MAKING AMONG
FEMALE FREELANCERS IN CEBU CITY**

A Thesis

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In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

MASTER OF ARTS IN ANTHROPOLOGY

by

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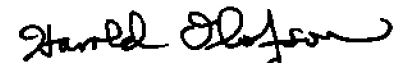
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This thesis entitled "DECISION-MAKING AMONG FEMALE FREELANCERS IN CEBU CITY" prepared and submitted by LENY GODINEZ OCASIONES in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of MASTER OF ARTS IN ANTHROPOLOGY has been examined and is recommended for acceptance and approval for ORAL EXAMINATION.

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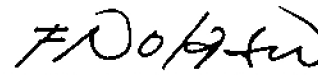

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ABSTRACT

The study sought to construct a model for decision-making used by female freelancers in Cebu City.

The study reveals that the condition of poverty is the primary reason why these women decided to join the sex trade, despite their awareness of society's disapproval of prostitution. Other reasons include low level of educational attainment, having experienced abusive relationships in the past, an unhappy family life, peer influence, and drug addiction. Thus, it was found that ethnographic decision modeling is not an appropriate method due mainly to the absence of alternatives for the women.

The study was completed in two months, employing mainly two qualitative research techniques: one-on-one interviews and on-site observations. To supplement the data and validate the responses obtained from the women, key informant interviews were likewise carried out with people who are closely associated with them.

The study confirms the hypotheses that the women made a rational decision when they opted to engage in prostitution given the unavailability of other alternatives to reach their goals. Likewise, it also confirmed that there would be differences in the women's socio-demographic characteristics, their values, beliefs and practices, but a similarity in that they consider prostitution as the best option and the most rational choice to make given the adverse circumstances they are in.

The study concludes with a set of recommendations for future consideration.

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Chapter 1

THE PROBLEM AND ITS SCOPE

INTRODUCTION

Rationale of the Study

Anthropologists have had a long-standing interest in the study of decision-making. To date, the majority of the research done has attempted to predict the actual decisions people make in a variety of natural settings (Mathews 1987. 54) This is due to a growing interest within the discipline to specify methods for linking human cognitive processes with behavioral systems. As D'Andrade (1995:158) explains, "a cultural model is the representation of what happens inside people – in their minds, or psyches – that results in their doing what they do" A model in the head when confronted with problems in the empirical world (external reality) enables one to "try out" alternatives, conclude which is the best solution for that situation and record the solution for future use (Hill 1998:139)

Then and now, poverty and underdevelopment are the primary reasons why Filipino women engage in prostitution. Moselina (1979:84), in his research on Olongapo City's rest and recreation industry, disclosed that most of the women came from poverty-stricken families. They spoke of their fathers as either tenants, small fisherfolk or seasonal laborers. Many had to drop out of school at an early age in order to help augment the family income

The reported number of Filipino prostituted women in 1998 was approximately 500,000 (IBON Databank, 1998), 100,000 of whom were children distributed in 37 provinces of the country (UNICEF, 1998)