

CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION:  
A STUDY OF 1972 CEBU CITY INMIGRANTS

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A Thesis  
Presented to  
the Faculty of the Graduate School  
University of San Carlos

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In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Arts in Anthropology

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by  
Antonieta Ig. E. Zablan  
March 1977

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APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis entitled, "CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION: A STUDY OF 1972 CEBU CITY INMIGRANTS," prepared and submitted by Antonieta Ig. E. Zablan 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.

Thesis Committee

*Wilhelm Flieger*  
WILHELM FLIEGER, SVD, Ph.D.  
Adviser

*Zenaida R. Uy*  
ZENAIDA R. UY, M.A.  
Member

*Estela C. Astilla*  
ESTELA C. ASTILLA, M.A.  
Member

PANEL OF EXAMINERS

Approved by the Committee on Oral Examination with a grade of Passed.

*Alicia J. Tan*  
ALICIA J. TAN, Ph.D.  
Chairman

*Wilhelm Flieger*  
WILHELM FLIEGER, SVD, Ph.D.  
Adviser

*Zenaida R. Uy*  
ZENAIDA R. UY, M.A.  
Member

*Estela C. Astilla*  
ESTELA C. ASTILLA, M.A.  
Member

*Marcelo M. Bacalso*  
MARCELO M. BACALSO, M.A.  
Representative  
DEC Region VII, Central Visayas  
Cebu City

Accepted and approved in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Anthropology.

Comprehensive Examinations Passed: May 3 and 4, 1974.

*Alicia J. Tan*  
ALICIA J. TAN, Ph.D.  
Dean, Graduate School

Date: December 15, 1976

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to the institutions which, and persons who have greatly contributed to the production of this paper.

Two institutions have made it possible for me to write this thesis: The Office for Research and Scholarship Programs of the University of San Carlos through its past and incumbent directors, Dr. Joseph Goertz, SVD and Fr. Robert Schmitz, SVD, respectively, for enabling me to undertake graduate studies in Anthropology; and the Southeast Asia Population Research Awards Program (SEAPRAP) of the International Development Research Centre and the Ford Foundation, through its coordinator, Dr. Pedro V. Flores, for providing me with funds necessary for conducting this research.

I am also indebted to the members of my thesis committee: Dr. Alicia J. Tan, Dr. Wilhelm Flieger, SVD, adviser; Estela C. Astilla, M.A., and Zenaida R. Uy, M.A., members, for their constructive criticisms of the work and invaluable suggestions that helped improve the paper.

Grateful acknowledgment is due to the "interviewers" who have patiently collected the materials for me, and to Miss Josephine Logarta and Miss Anacleto Reluya, for their assistance in processing the data.

Likewise, to a handful of friends who often encouraged me to go on in times when I faltered, and again to Fr. Flieger, for his enduring guidance and continued support in the process.

Finally, to my mother, who has always been very inspiring.

A.I.E.Z.

Cebu City

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## Chapter 1

### INTRODUCTION

Migration is a widespread phenomenon. It is used by man as an adjustment mechanism as he relates himself to his environment. Man, in his day-to-day living, has to fashion out modes of gaining economic control over his environment, an activity necessary for his continued existence. If he loses economic control over one area, he starts to move to others which hold promise of economic betterment for him. In the Philippines, for example, 14.5 per cent of the total population, that is more than five million people, changed their residence between 1960 and 1970. One half of these moves were long-distance migration, i.e., they involved crossing of regional boundaries.<sup>1</sup>

The cities in particular, with their industries and wage-labor markets, tend to lure the rural folks. For the latter, the city means a place of many opportunities. For the majority, it is a place for economic fulfillment; for a lesser number, it is a place where they can escape from the hard manual labor and monotony associated with rural living.

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<sup>1</sup>National Census and Statistics Office, 1970 Census of Population and Housing, Manila, 1974.

From the standpoint of the urban center, net internal migration is one component of its growth. The latest statistics compiled by the Population Institute, University of the Philippines, show that, between 1960 and 1970, approximately one-and-a-half million people moved from rural into urban areas.<sup>2</sup>

Bogue has outlined the positive functions of internal migration as follows: (1) It is a necessary element of normal population adjustment and equilibrium. By siphoning off excess population to areas of better opportunity, internal migration is a process of personal adjustment for a citizen; (2) It is an arrangement for making maximum use of persons with special qualifications. It moves these specialists to communities where their services can be used most effectively; (3) It is an instrument for cultural diffusion and social integration.<sup>3</sup> However, migration often accounts also for an increase of problems related to social disorganization that a migrant sometimes undergoes in the process of moving into a different cultural milieu.<sup>4</sup> The

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<sup>2</sup>Population Institute, University of the Philippines, Manila 1975; unpublished data.

<sup>3</sup>Donald J. Bogue, "Internal Migration," The Study of Population, ed. Philip Hauser and Duncan (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1959), pp. 486-488.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

rural to urban type of migration performs a dual function: it serves the economic welfare of the migrating ruralite, and it helps the cities to maintain growth rates which are above that of the country as a whole.

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Urban centers in newly developing countries function as magnets for the national population. While this is a necessary and often beneficial function, cities tend to attract migrants in numbers generally far above their capacities to employ, house, feed, service, and educate.<sup>5</sup> Cebu City seems to be no exception to this rule. It has been estimated that, during the year 1972, some 20,000 migrants entered Cebu City, out of which 30 per cent came from rural areas.<sup>6</sup> The influx of people to cities creates demographic, social, and personal problems.

Since migration tends to be age-sex selective,<sup>7</sup> it

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<sup>5</sup>Gerald Breese, Urbanization in Newly Developing Countries, In Modernization and Traditional Societies Series, ed. W. Moore and N. Smelser (New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1966), p. 43.

<sup>6</sup>Wilhelm Fliieger and Brigida Koppin, "Births, Deaths, and Migration in the Eastern Visayas, 1971-72: Results of Two Years of Sample Vital Registration," Philippine Quarterly of Culture and Society, Vol. I, pp. 250, 269.

<sup>7</sup>Elvira Pascual, Population Redistribution in the Philippines (Manila: Population Institute, University of the Philippines, 1969), p. 68.

increases the size of particular age groups more than that of others and affects the numerical balance between males and females of the city population. In order to accomodate the migrants decently, the city has to have extensive housing programs and to expand its water, electricity, and communication facilities. In addition, its economy has to be sufficiently strong to absorb accumulating manpower.

Besides the problem which migration creates for the city, another set of problems is encountered by the rural migrants in their attempts to adjust to the city environment." Firstly, most of them do not possess the skills and the training which the city economy needs. Secondly, they find themselves deprived of the security and control which the kinship-oriented social organization of their barrios offered and have to get accustomed to a formal, impersonal, specialized, and achievement-oriented life style. Thirdly, they come to the city with hopes for a better livelihood which often have few chances to be realized.

This study proposes to investigate (1) why people move to Cebu City, (2) the mechanics of migration to Cebu City, which include the reasons for migrating and facilitating factors as well as impediments, (3) the processes of adjustment of migrants to life in Cebu City, and the problems which they encounter in this process, and (4) the