



Senate Economic
Planning Office

Women's Situation

At a Glance

April 2005

AG-04-2005

The situation of women was one of the agenda discussed in the recently concluded Inter-Parliamentary Union. The discussion veered towards the need to empower and protect them from gender-based discrimination and violence.

* The Philippines ranked 37th and 66th among 177 countries in the Gender Empowerment Measure(GEM) and Gender-Related Development Index (GDI) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2004, respectively.

* The GDI shows the average level of human development with focus on gender while the GEM measures gender equality in economic and political spheres of activity.

Table 1. Comparative Gender and Equality Indicators

Country	Gender-Related Development Index(GDI) Rank	Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) Rank	Life Expectancy at Birth (years)		Adult Literacy Rate (% ages 15 and above)		Seats in Parliament Held by Women (% of total)	Ratio of Estimated Female to Male Earned Income
			2002		2002			
			Female	Male	Female	Male		
Hongkong	23	-	82.7	77.2	89.6	96.9	-	-
Indonesia	90	-	68.6	64.6	83.4	92.5	8	0.51
SouthKorea	29	68	79.2	71.7	96.6	99.2	5.9	0.46
Malaysia	52	44	75.6	70.7	85.4	92.0	16.3	0.40
Philippines	66	37	71.9	67.9	92.7	92.5	17.2	0.59
Singapore	28	20	80.2	75.8	88.6	96.6	16	0.5
Thailand	61	57	73.4	65.2	90.5	94.9	9.6	0.61
Vietnam	87	-	71.4	66.7	86.9	93.9	27.3	0.69

Source: UNDP Human Development Report, 2004

Table 2. Selected Indicators

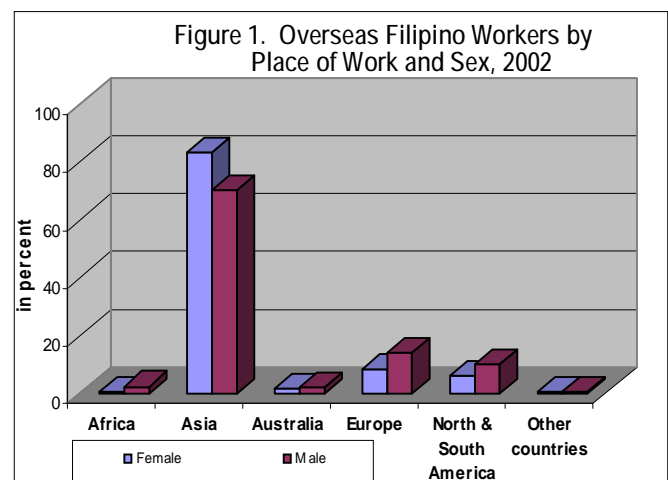
Indicator	Women (%)	Men (%)
By Highest Educational Attainment	92.7	92.5
No Grade Completed	3.1	2.8
Pre-School	0.1	0.1
Elementary	39.2	42.3
Secondary	34.3	33.5
Post Secondary	16.7	16.5
College Graduate and Higher	6.5	4.7
Labor Force Participation Rate	51.4	83.9
Unemployment Rate	11.8	11.4
Proportion of Unpaid Family Worker	8.2	15.9
Overseas Filipino Workers	52.5	47.5

Source: National Statistics Office (NSO)

* More Filipino women are participating in the labor market. From 48.2 percent in 1994, women's labor force participation rate increased to 51.4 percent in 2004. However, they find it more difficult to find jobs than men. The 2004 unemployment rate for women was 11.8 percent compared to 11.4 percent for men. The proportion of unpaid family workers is also higher for women than men.

* In 2002, close to 48 percent of Overseas Filipino Workers who worked abroad are women. Most of them go to Hongkong(22.7%), while most men favor Saudi Arabia (37.0%) as destination (2002 Survey on Overseas Filipinos).

* This so-called "feminization of migration" has a significant social cost as it is the women who are generally able to provide better direction for the family, particularly when it comes to the nutrition, health and education of the children.



Source: NSO

Women and Health

* On the average, Filipino women have their first sex at age 22, first marriage at age 22 and first birth at age 23, according to the 2003 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS). Poor young women are likely to start sexual activity, get married and have children the earliest.

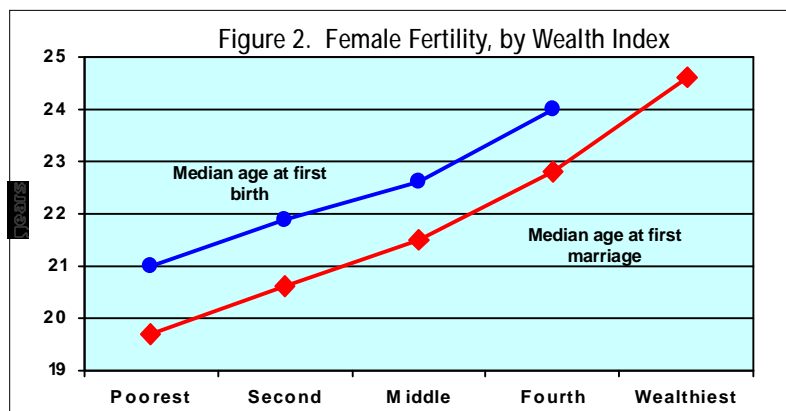
* Married women who do not want any more children or want to wait before their next birth, but are not using any method of family planning have an *unmet need*. Over 17 percent or 2.15 million married women have unmet need for family planning services in 2003. Unmet need is highest in Eastern Visayas (27.8%) and ARMM(27.4%).

* Ten women die everyday due to pregnancy complications while infant mortality is 29 out of every 1,000 live births (Commission on Population). Infant mortality is highest among mothers with no or low education.

* In 2003, 51 percent of pregnant women were not informed about the danger signs of pregnancy (NDHS 2003).

* Nearly three out of five pregnant women still deliver at home, the other two deliver in a health facility.(NDHS 2003).

* A study by the University of the Philippines Population Institute revealed that one in six pregnancies ends up in illegal abortion. Every year, an estimated 400,000 women undergo abortion because of unplanned pregnancy.



Source: PopCom

Table 3. Unmet Need for Family Planning by Region

Region	For Spacing (%)	For Limiting (%)	Total Unmet Need (%)
National Capital Region	6.3	8.3	14.6
Cordillera Administrative Region	12.3	6.1	18.5
I - Ilocos	6.6	7.9	14.5
II - Cagayan Valley	5.1	8.5	13.7
III - Central Luzon	7.7	7.4	15.0
IV A - CALABARZON	7.0	9.1	16.1
IV B - MIMAROPA	7.5	9.8	17.3
V - Bicol	10.4	13.3	23.7
VI - Western Visayas	7.6	11.9	19.5
VII - Central Visayas	8.0	8.6	16.6
VIII - Eastern Visayas	12.3	15.5	27.8
IX - Peninsula	8.9	12.8	21.7
X - Mindanao	5.1	11.4	16.4
X - Davao	5.6	6.4	12.1
XII - Soccsksargen	7.5	9.9	17.4
XIII - CARAGA	9.3	8.2	17.5
Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao	18.9	8.6	27.4

Source: NDHS 2003

Violence Against Women

Table 4. Cases of Violence Against Women by Classification of Offense and Year

No. of Cases Served by DSWD	2002	2003	% Change	No. of Cases Served by PNP	2003	2004	% Change
Total	5,252	5,703	8.6	Total	7,204	6,053	-16
Physically Abused	1,460	1,926	31.9	Physical Injuries/ Wife Battering	4,296	3,553	-17.3
Maltreated/ Battered/Sexually Abused	534	495	-7.3	Rape	1,045	997	-4.6
Involuntary Prostitution	151	91	-39.7	Acts of Lasciviousness	646	580	-10.2
Illegal Recruitment	98	102	4.1	Maltreatment	420	319	-24
In Detention	39	59	51.3	Attempted Rape	275	194	-29.5
Armed Conflict	22	53	140.9	Incestuous Rape	72	38	-47.2
Others	2,948	2,977	1	Others	450	372	-17.3

* Preliminary reports from the PNP show that cases of violence against women(VAW) declined by 16 percent in 2004, a year after the enactment of the Anti-VAW and Children Law. However, because of the nature of VAW cases, they are often underreported and the reliability of official figures is low.

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Most reported cases of VAW in the PNP are physical injuries/wife battering (58.7%), followed by rape (16.5%) and acts of lasciviousness (9.6%).