The Filipino Family Today: A Sociological Perspective

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What is a family?

• Basic Definition
  • the basic unit in society traditionally consisting of parents rearing their children. (Merriam-Webster Dictionary).
What is a family?

• **Sociological Definition**
  • “group of persons united by ties of marriage, blood or adoption, constituting a single household, interacting and communicating with each other in their respective social roles of husband and wife, mother and father, son and daughter, brother and sister, creating and maintaining common culture.” (Burgess and Locke, 1963).
What is a family?

- As a Social Institution
- “as a social group characterized by common residence, economic cooperation and reproduction.” (Murdock, 1949).
Basic elements in the definition of family?

- Group
- Parents
- Children
What is a Filipino Family?
Filipino Family

- The family is the center of the social structure and includes the nuclear family, aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins and honorary relations such as godparents, sponsors, and close family friends.
Filipino Family

- People get strength and stability from their family. As such, many children have several godparents.

- Concern for the extended family is seen in the patronage provided to family members when they seek employment.

- It is common for members of the same family to work for the same company
Portraits of the Filipino Family Through the Years
I first got pregnant when I was 13 years old.
The common notion of the Filipino Family

- **Traditional View of Family**
- Composed of father, mother and child/children.
- Extended family - includes other members of the family (e.g. grandfather/mother, uncle/aunt etc.)
- Combination of two or more nuclear families
What is the Filipino Family today?

- Modern and Present View of Family
- Single parents
- Live-in arrangements
- Domestic partnerships of homosexuals (lgbtq)
- Blended Families/“Stepfamilies”
- Couples opting to delay having a child or choosing not to have any. (Cruz, G., 2014).
The Filipino Family Today

- The society changes, the technology advances and so as the family.
- **The Filipino Family is in Transition** (Cruz, G., 2014)
Challenges Confronting the Filipino Family Today

• Migration (Local and Foreign)
• (Nuclear) Families have become smaller
• ‘Seasonal Orphans’
International labor migration impacts on the family structure and composition

_Emergence of:_

- "Transnational family"
  - families with members living in different nation states

- "Skip generation families"
  - families in which grandparents raise children and parents are absent from the household.

(Partners’ Conference of the Philippine Center for Population and Development (PCPD), 2013)
Challenges Confronting the Filipino Family Today

- Changing Role of Women
- More women are becoming breadwinners and head of households
- ‘Househusbands’ or ‘housebands’
- Gadgets become the substitute parent of a child
Emergence of Female-Headed Households

% HHs which are Female Headed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% Female Headed HH</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>15.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>11.3</td>
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</tbody>
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Census of Population and Housing, 2010
Emergence of Female-Headed Households

- 18% of HH in the Philippines in 2006 are female-headed households (FHH), of which
  - 9% are single
  - 7% are divorced or separated
  - 24% are married but whose husbands have been away from home for a long time
  - 60% are widowed
- Female household headship is an urban phenomenon
- More FHH among the high income group
  - weak link between poverty and female household headship
  (Bernardino, 2011)
Challenges Confronting the Filipino Family Today

• Effects of Mass Media
• Exposure to violent crimes and sex brings negative effects to the development and growth of children.
• Socialization in the family is neglected
• ‘Millennials’ as ‘digital generation’.
Challenges Confronting the Filipino Family Today

- Filipinos spent an average of 4 hours and 17 minutes per day on social media such as Facebook, Snapchat and Twitter. (PDI, 2017)
- 40 percent of kids under 2 years old have used a smartphone or tablet.
- 72 percent of 8 years and above have used smartphone or tablet. (Mashable Tech as reported by GMA news online, 2011).
Challenges Confronting the Filipino Family Today

- Common notion of a Nuclear Family & Self-Identification
- It is not about the composition, what matters is the quality of relationship.
- Family is getting to be more common among groups no matter if they do not fit the traditional definition of what a family is.
Changes in Family Composition

- Emergence of solo parent family
  - Approximately 14-15% of the population are solo parents (DOH-NIH, 2012)

- 7.5% of Filipino youth 15-24 were raised by solo parents i.e. father only or mother only (YAFS, 2013)

(Partners’ Conference of the Philippine Center for Population and Development (PCPD), 2013)
Challenges Confronting the Filipino Family Today

- Family in Crisis (marriage)
- “Today, everyone knows it, the family is in crisis; it is in a global crisis. Young people don’t want to marry or they don’t marry but live together. Marriage is in crisis and so too the family.” (Pope Francis, 2016).
Increasing Proportion of live-in Arrangements

- Percentage of women 15-49 who are in a live-in arrangement increased from 6% in 1998 to 14.5% in 2013 (National Demographic and Health Survey, 2013)

- Percentage of youth 15-24 in a live-in arrangement increased from 4.7% in 1994 to 13.8% in 2013 (Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey, 2014)
Conclusion:

• The composition of a Filipino family is changing.
• Emergence of the ‘not-so-usual’ families is evident.
• There are other factors that contribute to these changing view of the composition of the Filipino family such as their concept of marriage, divorce, sex education etc.
Questions to Ponder:

• As member schools of ACUP, how are we going to inculcate the values that we deemed the students need as they plan for the future and mold their own family?

• As teachers, how are we going to assist our students to be better prepared for their future especially family life?

• As students, how are we going to adapt to these changes?
Questions to Ponder:

• What constitutes your family?
• Who do you consider as part of your family?
Resources:


• Partners’ Conference of the Philippine Center for Population and Development (PCPD), 2013

• National Demographics and Health Survey, 2014

• Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey, 2014


• http://technology.inquirer.net/58090/ph-worlds-no-1-terms-time-spent-social-media
Thank you for listening!