



Measuring Women's Empowerment in the Philippines

by

Ms. Lina V. Castro

Assistant Secretary General

National Statistical Coordination Board

Philippines

**United Nations Technical Meeting on Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender
Perspective**

30 July – 2 August 2013



- I. Introduction**
- II. Source of data/indicators/measures**
- III. How Asset Ownership Were Tabulated/Used?**
- IV. Findings**
- V. Remarks**



I. Introduction



- **The Philippines is committed to improving the socioeconomic conditions for women. In August 2009, the Republic Act Number 9710 : Magna Carta of Women was signed into law by the President (NCRFW, 2009).**
- **The law prohibits discrimination against women and recognizes, promotes, and protects their rights. Implementation of the law by all government agencies is overseen by the Philippine Commission on Women (formerly the National Commission on the Role of Women), under the Office of the President.**
- **Empowerment of women is essential for the achievement of sustainable development. The full participation and partnership of both women and men is required in productive and reproductive life, including shared responsibilities for the care and nurturing of children and maintaining the household.**



Importance of asset and ownership data in the Philippines

- Information on ownership of, access to and control over productive measures, e.g. land, equipment, inputs and/or credit is important in order to have insights into the decision-making processes within the household and even at the community level. These are essential for program interventions relative to poverty reduction and empowerment.

Statistics being generated by the PSS are in support of the Philippines' WEDGE Plan- Women's Empowerment and Development toward Gender Equality (WEDGE) Plan.

- The WEDGE Plan is a Gender Equality Guiding Plan to accompany the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016.

- It will fulfill the President's Social Contract, which states his commitment to gender equality: *“from lack of concern for gender disparities and shortfalls to the promotion of equal gender opportunity in all spheres of public policy and programs”*.





- In the 2008 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), various indicators are analyzed e.g. fertility, maternal health, child health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, TB , women's status and domestic violence are presented or correlated with background characteristics such as age and sex, urban-rural residence, educational attainment, media exposure, wealth quintile, occupation, employment status, and housing characteristics.
- 2008 NDHS collected information on a total of 57,629 persons
- The 2008 NDHS conducted by the Philippines National Statistics Office (NSO) explored women's empowerment in terms of employment, type of earnings, control over cash and earnings, and freedom of movement.



II. Source of data/indicators/measures



- The Women's Questionnaire collected information on general background characteristics including age, education, and household wealth status, for women age 15-49.
- In addition, the 2008 NDHS collected information on other measures of women's autonomy and status, particularly women's roles in making household decisions.
- Information collected in the survey is used to estimate two indicators of women's empowerment: women's participation in household decision-making and women's acceptance of wife beating.
- Currently married women were asked whether they were employed at the time of survey and if not, whether they were employed at anytime during the 12 months preceding the survey.



II. Source of data/indicators/measures



- The type of earnings they received (cash, in-kind, both, or neither) is also asked.
- Besides having access to income, women need to have control over their earnings in order to be empowered. To assess this, currently married women with cash earnings in the 12 months before the survey were asked WHO usually DECIDES how the money she earns will be used: mainly the woman herself, mainly her husband, or the woman and her husband jointly.



Questions asked?

2008 NDHS

- **What is the tenure status of your lot?**
 - Owned/Being amortized/owner like possession
 - Rented
 - Rent free with owner consent
 - Rent free without owner consent
- **Does your household have(answerable by YES or NO):**
 - Electricity?
 - A radio/radio cassette?
 - A television?
 - A landline/wireless landline telephone?
 - A cellular phone?
 - A personal computer or laptop?
 - A washing machine?
 - A refrigerator/freezer?
 - A CD or VCD or DVD player?
 - A component or karaoke?



Questions asked?

2008 NDHS

- Does your household or any member of your household own: (answerable by YES or NO)
 - A bicycle or trisikad?
 - A motorcycle or tricycle?
 - An animal-drawn cart?
 - A car or jeep or van?
 - A tractor?
 - A boat or banca with a motor?

II. Source of data/indicators/measures



Questions asked?

2008 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS)

- E4a. What is the tenure status of the housing unit and lot occupied by your family (answerable by YES or NO)?
 - 1- Own house and lot or owner-like possession of house and lot?
 - 2- Rent house/room including lot
 - 3- Own house, rent lot
 - 4- Own house, rent-free lot with consent of owner
 - 5- Own-house, rent-free lot, without consent of owner
 - 6- Rent-free house and lot with consent of owner
 - 7- Rent-free house and lot without consent of owner
 - 8- Not applicable





Questions asked?

2008 APIS

- E4c. Do you own any other housing unit elsewhere which you also use as residence?
 - 1- YES, how much is the imputed rent per month?
 - 2- NO

- E4g. Do you own any land which you use for agricultural purposes?
 - 1- YES
 - 2- NO, GO TO E5

- E4h. Did you acquire this agricultural land under the CARP land-distribution program?
 - 1- YES
 - 2- NO



Questions asked?

2008 APIS

- E5. Is there any electricity in the building/house?

1- YES

2- NO

- E6. How many of each of the following items does the family own?

a)Car, jeep, van

b)Motorcycle, tricycle

c)Motorized boat/banca

d)Aircon

e)Washing Machine

f)Stove with oven/Gas Range

g)Refrigerator/Freezer

h)Personal computer (desktop, laptop, notebook, netbook, ipad, tablet)

i)Cellular phone





Questions asked?

2008 APIS

•E6. How many of each of the following items does the family own?

j) Landline/Wireless Telephone....

k) Audio Component/Stereo set

l) Video Cassette Recorder/ Player

m) Karaoke/Videoke/Magic Sing ...

n) CD/VCD/DVD Player

o) Television

p) Radio/Radio Cassette Player



II. Source of data/indicators/measures



Questions asked?

2008 APIS

- H1. Is any member of your family a member of the following social/health insurance programs?

1 SSS	YES.....1 NO2
2 GSIS	YES.....1 NO2
5 National Health Insurance Program (PhilHealth)	YES.....1 NO2
5 Private insurance companies	YES.....1 NO2

III. How asset ownership were tabulated/used?



Table 1. Household durable goods
Percentage of households possessing various household effects and means of transportation, by residence, Philippines 2008

Possession	Households		
	Urban	Rural	Total
Household effects			
Radio/radio cassette	69.8	60.5	65.2
Television	84.6	57.5	71.1
Landline telephone	20.0	3.0	11.6
Cellular telephone	81.3	58.7	70.1
Washing Machine	45.1	17.9	31.6
Refrigerator	53.0	26.4	39.8
CD/VCD/DVD player	62.7	38.2	50.5
Component/karaoke	37.7	21.8	29.8
Personal computer or laptop	21.0	4.4	12.7
Means of transport			
Tractor	0.9	2.3	1.6
Boat/banca with motor	1.3	5.5	3.4
Car/jeep/van	15.3	5.1	10.2
Motorcycle/tricycle	22.5	20.6	21.5
Bicycle/trisikad	0.9	21.8	23.5
Animal-drawn cart	4.6	6.6	3.7
None of the above	4.6	14.3	9.4
Number of households/population	6,277	6,192	12,469





WEALTH INDEX

- The wealth index is a proxy measure of the long-term standard of living of the household.
- It is based on household ownership of durable goods; dwelling characteristics; source of drinking water; type of sanitation facilities; and other characteristics related to the household's socioeconomic status.
- A wealth index for the 2008 NDHS was constructed by assigning a weight or factor score to each household asset through principal component analysis.
- These scores were summed by household, and individuals were ranked according to the total score of the household in which they reside.
- The samples was then divided into quintiles-five groups, each with the same number of individuals.





IV. Findings

Table 2. Employment and cash earnings of currently married women

Percentage of currently married women age 15-49 who were employed at any time in the past 12 months and the percent distribution of currently married women employed in the past 12 months by type of earnings, according to age, Philippines 2008

Age	Currently married women		Percent distribution of currently married women employed in the past 12 months, by type of earnings					Total	Number of women
	Percentage employed	Number of women	Cash only	Cash and in-kind	In-kind only	Not paid	Missing		
15-19	40.9	283	86.4	6.5	1.6	5.4	0.0	100.0	116
20-24	43.7	1,000	87.0	6.1	1.7	5.2	0.0	100.0	437
25-29	52.0	1,560	88.2	5.9	1.3	4.6	0.0	100.0	810
30-34	60.3	1,573	86.5	6.2	1.3	6.1	0.0	100.0	949
35-39	64.2	1,522	84.0	8.5	1.5	5.9	0.0	100.0	977
40-44	70.0	1,299	82.7	8.9	1.6	6.7	0.1	100.0	910
45-49	74.5	1,181	80.8	8.2	1.8	8.8	0.4	100.0	880
Total 15-49	60.3	8,418	84.7	7.4	1.5	6.3	0.1	100.0	5,079

- Three of five (60%) currently married women age 15-49 were employed in the 12 months before the survey. Women in the youngest age group were least likely to have been employed (41%). The proportion employed increases with each age group to a high of 75% among married women age 45-49.
- Other findings
 - Not all women receive earnings for the work they do.
 - Not all women who receive earnings are paid in cash.



IV. Findings

Table 3. Control over women's cash earnings

Percent distribution of currently married women age 15-49 who received cash earnings for employment in the 12 months preceding the survey by person who decides how wife's cash earnings are used, by wealth quintile, Philippines 2008

Background Characteristics	Person who decides how the wife's cash earnings are used:					Total
	Mainly Wife	Wife and husband jointly	Mainly husband	Other	Missing	
Wealth quintile						
Lowest	40.2	55.2	4.0	0.0	0.6	100.0
Second	43.8	51.2	4.2	0.2	0.6	100.0
Middle	42.1	53.0	4.5	0.0	0.3	100.0
Fourth	42.7	51.7	5.3	0.0	0.2	100.0
Highest	38.3	58.3	2.8	0.3	0.3	100.0
Total	41.4	54.0	4.1	0.1	0.4	100.0

- 54% of women reported that decision on how wife's earnings are used are done jointly by wife and husband, 58% of which belong to the highest quintile.



IV. Findings

Table 4. Control over men's cash earnings

Percent distribution of currently married women age 15-49 whose husbands receive cash earnings, by person who decides how husband's cash earnings are used, by wealth quintile, Philippines 2008

Background Characteristics	Mainly Wife	Husband and wife jointly	Mainly husband	Other	Missing	Total	Number of women
Wealth quintile							
Lowest	25.7	64.8	9.4	0.1	0.0	100.0	1,653
Second	27.0	64.2	8.5	0.4	0.0	100.0	1,670
Middle	28.9	61.7	9.2	0.1	0.1	100.0	1,723
Fourth	28.0	61.4	10.5	0.2	0.0	100.0	1,677
Highest	25.2	64.4	10.1	0.1	0.2	100.0	1,590
Total	27.0	63.3	9.5	0.2	0.1	100.0	8,311

- Differentials are small with respect to wealth quintile.





IV. Findings

Table 5. Women's participation in decisionmaking by background characteristics

Percent distribution of currently married women age 15-49 who usually make specific decisions either by themselves or jointly with their husband, by wealth quintile, Philippines 2008

Background Characteristics	Own health care	Making major household purchases	Making purchases for daily household needs	Visits to her family or relatives	Percentage who participate in all four decisions	Percentage who participate in none of the four decisions	Number of women
Wealth quintile							
Lowest	90.0	85.7	91.0	91.6	73.0	1.5	1,661
Second	92.5	82.7	90.8	91.3	72.4	1.2	1,683
Middle	94.5	83.7	93.0	92.4	76.9	1.3	1,737
Fourth	95.3	86.9	93.4	93.6	78.9	0.5	1,710
Highest	95.8	88.7	93.5	95.4	82.1	0.9	1,627
Total	93.6	85.5	92.4	92.8	76.6	1.1	8,418

Note: Total includes 11 women with information missing on employment status.

- Participation in decision-making increases with the increase in wealth quintile.



IV. Findings

Table 6. Attitude toward wife beating

Percent distribution of currently married women age 15-49 who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons, by wealth quintile, Philippines 2008

Background characteristics	Husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife if she:					Percentage who agree with at least one specified reason	Number of women
	Burns the food	Argues with him	Goes out without telling him	Neglects the children	Refuses to have sexual intercourse with him		
Wealth quintile							
Lowest	4.1	4.5	9.4	16.9	4.1	20.9	2,160
Second	2.5	3.3	6.7	16.1	2.2	19.1	2,419
Middle	2.3	3.3	6.0	11.5	2.2	14.6	2,661
Fourth	1.6	2.3	3.2	9.6	1.1	11.6	2,937
Highest	0.9	1.7	2.3	6.6	0.7	8.1	3,417
Total	2.1	2.9	5.1	11.5	1.9	14.1	13,594

Note: Total includes 43 women with information missing on employment status.

- Higher proportions reported in lowest wealth quintile.



IV. Findings

Table 7. Experience of physical violence

Percentage of women age 15-49 who have ever experienced physical violence since age 15 and percentage who experienced physical violence during the 12 months preceding the survey, by wealth quintile, Philippines 2008

Background Characteristics	Percentage who have ever experienced physical violence since age 15 ¹	Percentage who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months			Number of women
		Often	Sometimes	Often or sometimes	
Wealth quintile					
Lowest	28.5	1.4	8.6	10.1	1,609
Second	25.8	0.6	9.1	9.7	1,727
Middle	19.8	0.8	6.8	7.5	1,861
Fourth	17.3	0.4	5.6	6.1	2,002
Highest	11.9	0.9	3.2	4.2	2,117
Total	20.1	0.8	6.5	7.3	9,316

Note: Total includes 17 women with information missing on employment status.

¹ includes physical violence in the past 12 months

- Prevalence of experience of physical violence, higher in women of lower wealth quintiles.



IV. Findings

Table 8. Violence during pregnancy

Among women age 15-49 who have been pregnant, percentage who have ever experienced physical violence during pregnancy, by wealth quintile, Philippines 2008

Background Characteristics	Percentage who have ever experienced physical violence during pregnancy	Number of women who have ever been pregnant
Wealth quintile		
Lowest	5.2	1,343
Second	4.1	1,362
Middle	3.8	1,385
Fourth	2.9	1,370
Highest	1.8	1,201
Total	3.6	6,661

- High prevalence of violence during pregnancy for women of lower wealth quintiles.



IV. Findings

Table 9. Experience of sexual violence

Percentage of women age 15-49 who have ever experienced sexual, by wealth quintile, Philippines 2008

Background Characteristics	Percentage who have ever experienced sexual violence ¹	Number of women
Wealth quintile		
Lowest	13.9	1,609
Second	11.9	1,727
Middle	8.8	1,861
Fourth	5.6	2,002
Highest	4.9	2,117
Total	8.7	9,316
Note: Total includes 17 women with information missing on employment status.		
¹ includes women whose sexual initiation was forced against their will		

- Higher proportions of women who experienced sexual violence in the lower income quintiles.





IV. Findings

Table 10. Degree of marital control exercised by husbands

Percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 whose husbands have ever exhibited specific types of controlling behaviors, by wealth quintile, Philippines 2008

Background characteristics	Percentage of women whose husband								Number of women
	Is jealous or angry if she talks to other men	Frequently accuses her of being unfaithful	Does not permit her to meet her female friends	Tries to limit her contact with her family	Insists on knowing where she is at all times	Does not trust her with any money	Displays 3 or more of the specific behaviors	Displays none of the specific behaviors	
Wealth quintile									
Lowest	32.6	16.7	6.1	5.6	23.4	6.1	12.3	55.7	1,392
Second	32.2	15.6	7.1	4.2	18.6	4.8	10.8	57.6	1,400
Middle	33.0	12.3	6.1	3.5	18.7	5.5	10.0	58.6	1,425
Fourth	28.4	10.2	5.5	3.8	16.1	4.3	8.6	65.2	1,441
Highest	24.9	7.9	4.8	2.9	11.9	3.0	7.0	69.9	1,273
Total	30.3	12.6	5.9	4.0	17.8	4.8	9.8	61.3	6,932

Note: Husband refers to the current husband for currently married women and the most recent husband for divorced, separated or widowed women. Total includes 2 women with information missing on employment status.

- Lower proportions observed at the highest income quintile.



IV. Findings

Table 11. Women’s participation in decisionmaking

Percent distribution of currently married women by person who usually makes decisions about four kinds of issues, Philippines 2008

Decisions	Mainly wife	Wife and husband Jointly	Mainly husband	Someone else	Other/ Missing	Total	Number of women
Own health care	49.6	44.0	6.1	0.2	0.1	100.0	8,418
Major household purchases	20.7	64.8	13.6	0.6	0.3	100.0	8,418
Purchases of daily household needs	59.1	33.3	6.5	0.9	0.3	100.0	8,418
Visits to her family or relative	22.5	70.3	6.8	0.2	0.2	100.0	8,418

- Married Filipino women are usually involved in all four decisions, although the extent of their involvement depends on what is being decided.
- Almost six in ten women say they alone make decisions about purchases for daily household needs.
- Decisions about visits to the woman’s family or relatives are most likely to be made jointly by the woman and her husband (70%).
- Decisions on making major household purchases are also likely to be made jointly (65%), however, 14% of women say their husband usually decides about major purchases.
- Half of married women say they make decisions themselves about their own health care, while 44% say they make decisions jointly with their husbands.



IV. Findings

Statistics from the 2008 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS)

Table 12. Families with at least one member enrolled in health, life and/or Pre-need Insurance System, by Income Stratum, Philippines

Income Stratum	Total Number of Families ('000)	Type of Health, Life and Pre-need Insurance System (Percent to Total Families)						
		GSIS	SSS	Philhealth	Private Health Insurance Company/ Health Maintenance Organization	Pre-need Insurance Plan Company	Life Insurance Company	Others
Philippines	18,067	8.4	35.0	42.5	3.5	1.9	3.9	4.4
Lowest 30%	5,420	0.6	13.0	25.4	0.6	0.3	1.0	1.6
Highest 70%	12,647	11.7	44.5	49.8	4.7	2.6	5.2	5.6

- Higher enrolments observed for highest income stratum.



IV. Findings

Table 13. Families who acquired agricultural land under the CARP Land-distribution Program, by Income Stratum, Philippines

Income Stratum	Total Number of Families ('000)	Families with Agricultural Land		Among families with agricultural land, percent who acquired agricultural land under the CARP land-distribution program
		Number ('000)	Percent of Total Families	
Philippines	18,067	4,286	23.7	9.2
Lowest 30%	5,420	1,689	31.2	7.1
Highest 70%	12,647	2,598	20.5	10.5

- 31% of families who belong to the lowest 30% stratum are recipients of land distribution programs.





IV. Findings

Table 14. Families by Tenure Status of Housing Unit and Lot they Occupy, by Income Stratum, Philippines

Income Stratum	Total Number of Families ('000)	Type of Health, Life and Pre-need Insurance System (Percent to Total Families)							
		Total	Own house and lot or owner-like possession of house and lot	Rent house/ room including lot	Own house, rent lot	Own house, rent-free lot with consent of owner	Own house, rent-free lot without consent of owner	Rent-free house and lot with consent of owner	Rent-free house and lot without consent of owner
Philippines	18,067	100	68.6	7.5	2.4	12.3	3.5	5.4	0.2
Lowest 30%	5,420	100	64.7	2.4	2.9	21.2	3.5	4.9	0.3
Highest 70%	12,647	100	70.3	9.6	2.2	8.5	3.5	5.7	0.2





V. Remarks

- **Women's empowerment and women's autonomy can be measured by asking questions on decision-making within the household.**
- **Decisions that affect well-being of family and members of the households are very important.**
- **Gender equality in decision-making at household level by which resources are allocated is important for a family and society.**
- **It would be good to explore other areas of decision-making in succeeding surveys.**





Thank you!

URL: <http://www.nscb.gov.ph>
e-mail: info@nscb.gov.ph

