

Measuring Women's Empowerment and Women's Autonomy in the Philippines¹

by

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Abstract

The Philippines is committed to improving the socioeconomic conditions for women. Based on the Global Gender Gap Report 2013³ of the World Economic Forum, the Philippines ranks 5th out of 136 countries with the score of 0.783, succeeding Iceland, Finland, Norway and Sweden. The Philippines is the only country in Asia and the Pacific that has fully closed the gender gap, specifically, in education and health. However, despite the country's very high rank in the global gender gap, the Philippines ranks 77th out of 186 countries in 2012 with the score of 0.418 on the Gender Inequality Index⁴ (GII) of the Human Development Report (HDR) 2013 of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Further, in the 2009 HDR, the Philippines ranks 59th out of 109 countries with the score of 0.560 on Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM), which measures gender inequality from an economic and political perspective.

Given the above international rankings, the country continues to monitor the status of women and implement laws and programs to empower them and promote gender equality. In 2009, the Magna Carta of Women (MCW)⁵ was signed into law, which prohibits the discrimination against women and recognizes, promotes and protects their rights. Aside from the MCW, the Philippines also called for the inclusion of gender equality and empowerment of women as a stand-alone goal in the post-2015 development agenda at the United Nations. The country has very strong commitment to promoting gender equality as highlighted in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for 2011-2016. The PDP includes gender-related targets and strategies toward achieving inclusive growth.

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. Further, women's empowerment raises the level of participation, which enable women to make decisions based on their own views and perspectives.

The National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) explores women's empowerment in terms of employment, type of earnings, control over cash and earnings, and freedom of movement. These information are used to estimate women's participation in household decision making and women's acceptance of wife beating. On the other hand, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has data on women clients accessing entrepreneurial development trainings, accessing small and medium enterprises (SME) services and other DTI program related activities.

Gender equality in decision making at the household level by which resources are allocated is important for the family/household as well as for the society. Collection of these indicators should be done regularly to be able to assess if gender equality is achieved. Further, other areas of decision making and women's empowerment can be explored in the succeeding surveys.

This paper uses the results of the 2008 and 2013 NDHS and existing administrative data on entrepreneurship to present the monitoring of gender equality in the household and women's economic empowerment done by the Philippine Statistical System (PSS) and the DTI. This paper aims to aid the

¹ A paper to be presented by Interim Deputy National Statistician Lina V. Castro at the High-Level Panel: Use of data for monitoring effectiveness of gender equality and women's empowerment policies and programmes at the 5th Global Forum on Gender Statistics in Mexico on 4-5 November 2014.

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³ The Global Gender Gap Report 2013 benchmarks national gender gaps of 136 countries on economic, political, education and health-based criteria. It was developed in 2006, partially to address the need for a consistent and comprehensive measure of gender equality that can track a country's progress over time.

⁴ A composite measure reflecting inequality in achievements between women and men in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market. A low value indicates low inequality between women and men.

⁵ It was signed into law in August 2009.

policy- and decision-makers to implement programs to further promote women's empowerment and gender equality.

Keywords: *National Demographic and Health Survey, women's empowerment, women's autonomy, Magna Carta of Women*

I. Introduction

The Global Gender Gap Index is first introduced by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in its 2006 Global Gender Gap Report. It examines the gap between women and men in four categories: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment. Based on the latest report⁶, the Philippines ranks 5th out of 136 countries with the score of 0.783, succeeding Iceland, Finland, Norway and Sweden. It is the only country in Asia and the Pacific that has fully closed the gender gap, specifically, in education and health. Further, the Philippines is consistently in the top 10 since the Index has been included in the Report in 2006⁷.

However, despite the country's very high rank in the global gender gap, the Philippines ranks 77th out of 186 countries in 2012 with the score of 0.418 and 78th out of 187 countries in 2013⁸ with the score of 0.406 on the Gender Inequality Index⁹ (GII) of the Human Development Report (HDR) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Further, in the 2009 HDR, the Philippines ranks 59th out of 109 countries with the score of 0.560 on Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM), which measures gender inequality from an economic and political perspective.

Given the above international rankings, the country continues to monitor the status of women and implement laws and programs to empower them and promote gender equality. The country is also committed to improving the socioeconomic conditions for women. In 2009, the Republic Act 9710 or An Act Providing for the Magna Carta of Women (MCW) was signed into law. It seeks to eliminate discrimination through the recognition, protection, fulfilment and promotion of the rights of Filipino women, especially those belonging in the marginalized sectors of the society. It also establishes the responsibility of the government to take actions in order to end discrimination against women and to ensure equality of women and men.

Aside from the MCW, the Philippines also called for the inclusion of gender equality and empowerment of women as a standalone goal in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda at the United Nations (UN). The country has strong commitment to promoting gender equality as highlighted in the President's Social Contract with the Filipino People, to wit: *"From a lack of concern for gender disparities and shortfalls, to the promotion of equal gender opportunity in all spheres of public policies and programs."* Further, the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for 2011-2016¹⁰ includes gender-related targets and strategies toward achieving inclusive growth.

Empowerment of women is important for the achievement of sustainable development. The full participation and partnership of both women and men are required in productive and reproductive life, including shared responsibilities for the care and nurturing of children and

⁶ The Global Gender Gap Report 2013 is published by the WEF. The Global Gender Gap Index 2013 is the result of collaboration with the faculties of Harvard University and the University of California, Berkeley.

⁷ The Philippines ranks as follows: 8th in 2011 - 2012, 9th in 2009 - 2010, and 6th in 2006 - 2008.

⁸ The 2012 and 2013 rankings are published in the 2013 and 2014 HDRs, respectively.

⁹ A composite measure reflecting inequality in achievements between women and men in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market. A low value indicates low inequality between women and men.

¹⁰ The Philippine Development Plan 2011 - 2016 adopts a framework of inclusive growth, generates mass employment and reduces poverty. It will serve as a guide in formulating policies and implementing development programs.

maintaining the household. Further, women's empowerment raises the level of participation, which enable women to make decisions based on their own views and perspectives.

The National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), conducted every five years, devoted chapter in its 2008 and 2013 reports discussing women's empowerment in terms of employment, type of earnings, control over cash and earnings, and freedom of movement. These information are used to estimate women's participation in household decision making and women's acceptance of wife beating. On the other hand, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has data on women clients accessing entrepreneurial development trainings, accessing small and medium enterprises (SME) services and other DTI program related activities.

Gender equality in decision making at the household level by which resources are allocated is important for the family/household as well as for the society. Collection of these indicators should be done regularly to be able to assess if gender equality is achieved. Further, other areas of decision making and women's empowerment can be explored in the succeeding surveys.

II. Data and Measures

The 2013 NDHS Women's Questionnaire collected information on general background characteristics including age, education, and household wealth status, for women age 15-49. For the first time, data on ownership of assets was collected. 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. Likewise, 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.

They were also asked the type of earnings they received (cash, in-kind, both, or neither). 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 were also asked on who usually decides on the following matters: (1) about healthcare; (2) making major household purchases; (3) making purchases for daily household needs; and (4) visits to wife's family or friends.

III. Results and findings¹¹

- The 2013 NDHS results focused on the following:
 1. Employment and cash earnings of currently married women;
 2. Control over women's cash earnings;
 3. Women's control over their own earnings and the earnings of their husband;
 4. Ownership of assets
 5. Participation in decision-making;
 6. Attitude toward wife beating; and
 7. Indicators of women's empowerment
 8. Empowering women through entrepreneurial activities

¹¹ The analysis contained in this paper were culled from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) [Philippines], and ICF International, 2014. *Philippines National Demographic and Health Survey 2013*. Manila, Philippines, and Rockville, Maryland, USA: PSA and ICF International.

1. Employment and cash earnings of currently married women

In the 2013 NDHS, 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.

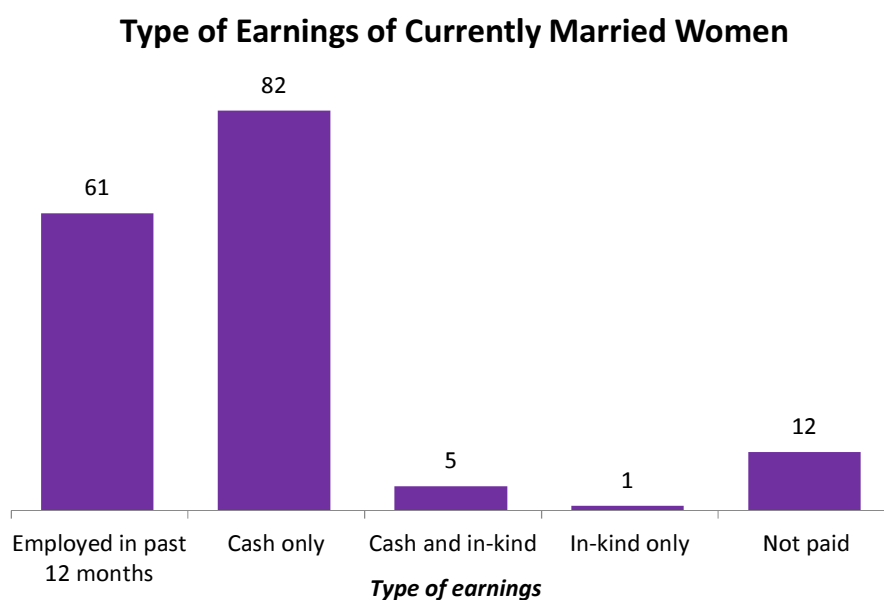
Table 1 Employment and cash earnings of currently married women

Percentage of currently married women 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 2013

Age	Among currently married respondents		Percent distribution of currently married respondents employed in the past 12 months, by type of earnings					Total	Number of women
	Percentage employed in past 12 months	Number of respondents	Cash only	Cash and in-kind	In-kind only	Not paid	Missing/don't know		
15-19	37.1	313	83.6	10.1	0.4	5.9	0.0	100.0	116
20-24	44.9	1,196	83.2	4.5	1.0	11.3	0.0	100.0	537
25-29	50.1	1,484	81.9	5.9	0.8	11.2	0.2	100.0	744
30-34	60.8	1,862	82.9	5.8	0.9	10.4	0.1	100.0	1,132
35-39	66.0	1,725	84.4	3.9	0.9	10.8	0.1	100.0	1,139
40-44	70.2	1,638	82.1	4.7	0.9	12.4	0.0	100.0	1,149
45-49	73.6	1,511	79.7	5.7	1.0	13.6	0.0	100.0	1,113
Total 15-49	61.0	9,729	82.3	5.2	0.9	11.6	0.1	100.0	5,930

A great majority (61 percent) of currently married women 15-49 reported being employed in the 12 months before the survey (Figure 1), only one percentage point higher than in 2008 (60 percent). The proportion of employed women increases directly with age, from 37 percent among married women age 15-49 (school age population) to 74 percent among women age 45-49.

Figure 1



Most employed women earn cash, either cash only (82 percent) or cash and in-kind (5 percent). Although employment is assumed to generate income, not all women receive earnings for the work they do. Overall, 12 percent of married women who are employed received no pay for their work in the past 12 months.

2. Control over and women's cash earnings

In addition to being employed, control over earnings is another dimension of empowerment. In the 2013 NDHS, currently married women who were employed with cash earnings in the 12 months before the survey were asked who usually decides on how the money she earns will be used: mainly the woman herself, mainly her husband, the woman and her husband jointly, or someone else.

Also as a measure of the extent of women's empowerment within the household, married women were asked about the relative magnitude of their earnings compared with their husband's earnings. Table 2 shows information about control over women's cash earnings and relative magnitude of women's cash earnings according to background characteristics.

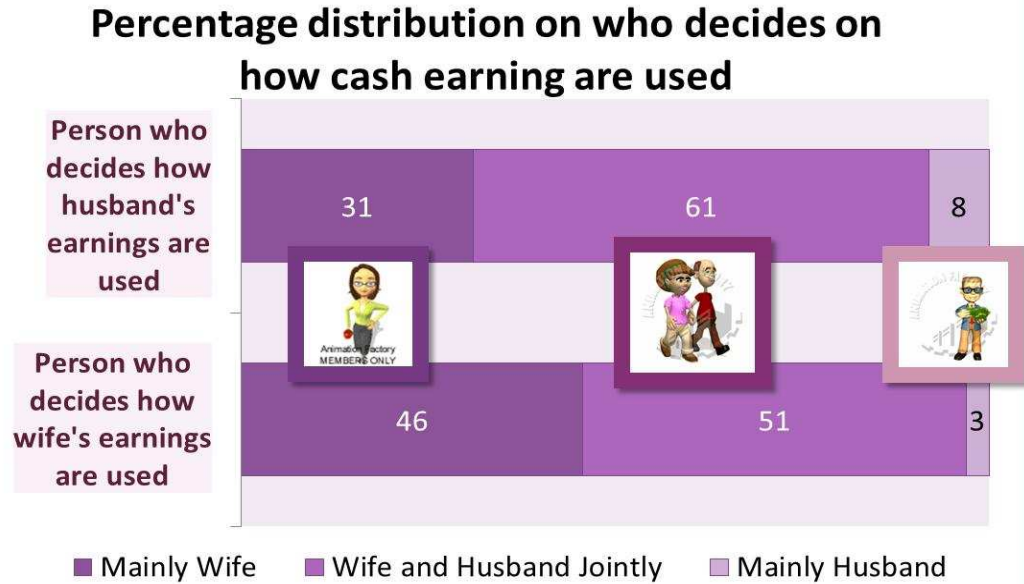
Table 2 Control over women's cash earnings

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, according to background characteristics, Philippines 2013

Background characteristics	Person who decides how the wife's cash earnings are used:					Total	Number of women
	Mainly wife	Wife and husband jointly	Mainly husband	Other	Missing		
Age							
15-19	54.7	38.8	6.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	109
20-24	52.1	44.4	3.0	0.3	0.2	100.0	472
25-29	46.5	50.2	2.8	0.0	0.5	100.0	653
30-34	39.9	56.6	3.3	0.0	0.2	100.0	1,003
35-39	44.5	51.1	3.9	0.0	0.5	100.0	1,005
40-44	43.9	53.3	2.5	0.0	0.3	100.0	997
45-49	49.3	47.7	2.5	0.0	0.4	100.0	951
Residence							
Urban	48.9	47.7	2.9	0.1	0.5	100.0	2,633
Rural	42.1	54.4	3.3	0.0	0.2	100.0	2,556
Education							
No education	51.5	46.2	2.3	0.0	0.0	100.0	63
Elementary	47.0	49.8	2.9	0.0	0.4	100.0	978
High School	46.2	50.0	3.4	0.0	0.4	100.0	2,260
College	43.7	52.9	2.9	0.1	0.3	100.0	1,888
Total	45.5	51.0	3.1	0.0	0.4	100.0	5,189

Married women are more likely to make independent decisions about spending their earnings if they are under age 20 (55 percent), have no education (52 percent), and reside in urban areas (49 percent).

Figure 2



Overall, 46 percent of married women who have their own cash earnings mainly decide by themselves how their earnings should be spent, while 51 percent of the married women surveyed said that they make decisions jointly with their husband. Only three percent of women said that their husband mainly decides how their earnings are used.

Since the 2008 NDHS, there has been an increase in the proportion of married women who say that they mainly decide for themselves how their earnings should be spent (from 41 percent in 2008 to 46 percent in 2013) and a small decrease in the proportion of married women who say that they make decisions jointly with their husband (from 54 percent in 2008 to 51 percent in 2013).

3. Women's control over their own earnings and over those of their husbands

Table 3.1 presents information on currently married women who earned cash in the past 12 months by person who decides how their cash earnings are used, according to whether she earns more or less than her husband. The Table 3.2 also shows information for all currently married women whose husbands earned cash in the past 12 months about who decides how their husband's cash earnings are used, according to the relation between wife's and husband's cash earnings.

Table 3.1 Women's control over their own earnings and over those of their husbands

Percent distribution of currently married women age 15-49 with cash earnings in the last 12 months by person who decides how the wife's cash earnings are used, according to the relation between wife's and husband's cash earnings, Philippines 2013

Women's earnings relative to husband's earnings	Person who decides how the wife's cash earnings are used:				Total	Number of women
	Mainly wife	Wife and husband jointly	Mainly husband	Other/missing		
More than husband	51.9	45.5	2.6	0.0	100.0	1,102
Less than husband	47.2	49.4	3.3	0.1	100.0	2,895
Same as husband	33.7	63.0	3.4	0.0	100.0	1,025
Husband has no cash earnings or did not work	51.4	47.6	1.0	0.0	100.0	125
Woman worked but has no cash earnings	na	na	na	na	na	na
Woman did not work	na	na	na	na	na	na
Total	45.5	51.0	3.1	0.4	100.0	5,189

na= Not Applicable

¹ Includes cases (42) where women does not know whether she earned more or less than her husband

Results show that women who earn more than their husbands are more likely to be the one who mainly decides how their own earnings will be used (52 percent). Women whose cash earnings are the same as their husband's are the least likely to make their own decisions about their earnings (34 percent) and are much more likely to make decisions jointly with their husbands (63 percent). These patterns are similar to those observed in the 2008 NDHS.

Table 3.2 Women's control over their own earnings and over those of their husbands

Percent distribution of currently married women age 15-49 whose husbands have cash earnings by person who decides how their husband's cash earnings are used, according to the relation between wife's and husband's cash earnings, Philippines 2013

Women's earnings relative to husband's earnings	Person who decides how the husband's cash earnings are used:				Total	Number of women
	Mainly wife	Wife and husband jointly	Mainly husband	Other/missing		
More than husband	38.1	53.2	8.6	0.1	100.0	1,102
Less than husband	30.9	61.3	7.7	0.1	100.0	2,895
Same as husband	25.2	68.2	6.6	0.0	100.0	1,025
Husband has no cash earnings or did not work	na	na	na	na	na	na
Woman worked but has no cash earnings	26.2	66.8	7.0	0.0	100.0	740
Woman did not work	31.2	59.7	8.6	0.4	100.0	3,760
Total	30.9	60.9	8.0	0.3	100.0	9,564

na= Not Applicable

¹ Includes cases (42) where women does not know whether she earned more or less than her husband

Regardless of the women's earnings relative to husband's earnings, the woman and her husband are more likely to make joint decisions concerning the use of the husband's earnings. Overall, 61 percent of women say they make joint decisions versus 31 percent who say they alone mainly decide how to use their husband's earnings. Similar patterns can be seen for each category of women's earnings relative to husband's earnings.

4. Ownership of assets

There is increasing evidence that ownership of property by women has positive consequences for women's empowerment, nutritional and health outcomes, and children's schooling. Ownership implies that the house or land is legally registered in the woman's name or since official property records do not always exist or are not maintained, the house or land is recognized as hers and cannot be sold without her signature or equivalent.

Data collected in the 2013 NDHS asked whether the respondent owns a house or land either by herself or jointly with someone else. For this indicator, 'house' means all dwelling types including apartments, duplexes, and houses that are semi-detached or detached, etc., as well as other types of dwellings like town houses and condo units, while 'land' refers to ownership of land of any type, amount or purpose of the land.

Table 4.1 Ownership of assets, land

Percent distribution of women age 15-49 by ownership of land, according to age, Philippines 2013

Background characteristics	Percentage who own land			Percentage who do not own land	Total	Number
	Alone	Jointly	Alone and jointly			
Age						
15-19	0.8	1.1	0.3	97.8	100.0	3,237
20-24	2.5	3.5	0.7	93.3	100.0	2,789
25-29	5.0	6.0	2.1	86.9	100.0	2,156
30-34	8.3	10.4	2.9	78.4	100.0	2,250
35-39	8.9	14.5	4.1	72.5	100.0	1,976
40-44	11.5	16.9	3.7	67.8	100.0	1,924
45-49	14.0	20.5	4.3	61.2	100.0	1,823
Total	6.5	9.2	2.3	82.1	100.0	16,155

The percentage of women who own land is at 18 percent. Seven percent of women say they own land alone, 9 percent of women own land jointly with someone else, and 2 percent own land alone and jointly with someone else.

Table 4.2 Ownership of assets, land

Percent distribution of women age 15-49 by ownership of land, according to residence, Philippines 2013

Background characteristics	Percentage who own land			Percentage who do not own land	Total	Number
	Alone	Jointly	Alone and jointly			
Residence						
Urban	5.7	8.1	2.0	84.3	100.0	8,585
Rural	7.3	10.4	2.7	79.6	100.0	7,570
Total	6.5	9.2	2.3	82.1	100.0	16,155

Women in rural areas are more likely to own land at 20 percent than women in the urban areas, either alone or jointly with their husbands.

Table 4.3 Ownership of assets, land

Percent distribution of women age 15-49 by ownership of land, according to education, Philippines 2013

Background characteristics	Percentage who own land			Percentage who do not own land	Total	Number
	Alone	Jointly	Alone and jointly			
Education						
No education	6.8	16.5	4.7	72.0	100.0	188
Elementary	7.6	11.2	3.1	78.2	100.0	2,593
High school	5.0	7.7	1.8	85.5	100.0	7,916
College	8.0	10.0	2.6	79.3	100.0	5,458
Total	6.5	9.2	2.3	82.1	100.0	16,155

It appears that less educated women are more likely to own land, than better educated women.

Table 4.4 Ownership of assets, land

Percent distribution of women age 15-49 by ownership of land, according to wealth quintile, Philippines 2013

Background characteristics	Percentage who own land			Percentage who do not own land	Total	Number
	Alone	Jointly	Alone and jointly			
Wealth quintile						
Lowest	5.1	8.8	2.7	83.4	100.0	2,620
Second	5.3	7.1	2.0	85.6	100.0	2,886
Middle	5.3	8.0	2.2	84.5	100.0	3,199
Fourth	6.5	9.1	2.2	82.1	100.0	3,572
Highest	9.2	12.0	2.4	76.5	100.0	3,878
Total	6.5	9.2	2.3	82.1	100.0	16,155

Land ownership does not vary much with wealth status.

Figure 3

Percentage distribution of women's ownership of house and land



Table 4.5 Ownership of assets, housing

Percent distribution of women age 15-49 by ownership of housing, according to age, Philippines 2013

Background characteristics	Percentage who own land			Percentage who do not own land	Total	Number
	Alone	Jointly	Alone and jointly			
Age						
15-19	1.9	2.0	0.5	95.6		3,237
20-24	3.3	7.1	1.3	88.3		2,789
25-29	7.3	15.2	4.1	73.4		2,156
30-34	10.8	23.3	5.2	60.7		2,250
35-39	13.5	30.3	8.0	48.1		1,976
40-44	17.4	35.1	7.9	39.6		1,924
45-49	20.8	37.4	7.9	33.9		1,823
Total	9.5	19.0	4.4	67.1	100.0	16,155

Ownership of house increases with the age of women.

Table 4.6 Ownership of assets, housing

Percent distribution of women age 15-49 by ownership of housing, according to residence, Philippines 2013

Background characteristics	Percentage who own land			Percentage who do not own land	Total	Number
	Alone	Jointly	Alone and jointly			
Residence						
Urban	9.6	13.9	3.3	73.1	100.0	8,585
Rural	9.4	24.7	5.6	60.2	100.0	7,570
Total	9.5	19.0	4.4	67.1	100.0	16,155

Women in rural areas are more likely to own a house at 40 percent than women in urban areas (27 percent).

Table 4.7 Ownership of assets, housing

Percent distribution of women age 15-49 by ownership of housing, according to education, Philippines 2013

Background characteristics	Percentage who own land			Percentage who do not own land	Total	Number
	Alone	Jointly	Alone and jointly			
Education						
No education	10.4	33.8	9.5	46.3	100.0	188
Elementary	12.7	30.4	7.4	49.4	100.0	2,593
High school	8.1	17.7	3.7	70.4	100.0	7,916
College	9.9	14.9	3.9	71.3	100.0	5,458
Total	9.5	19.0	4.4	67.1	100.0	16,155

Less educated women are more likely to own their houses.

Table 4.8 Ownership of assets, housing

Percent distribution of women age 15-49 by ownership of land, according to wealth quintile, Philippines 2013

Background characteristics	Percentage who own land			Percentage who do not own land	Total	Number
	Alone	Jointly	Alone and jointly			
Wealth quintile						
Lowest	8.9	31.7	8.0	51.4	100.0	2,620
Second	8.8	20.4	4.8	66.0	100.0	2,886
Middle	8.4	16.6	3.7	71.3	100.0	3,199
Fourth	9.9	14.6	3.4	72.1	100.0	3,572
Highest	11.0	15.4	3.2	70.4	100.0	3,878
Total	9.5	19.0	4.4	67.1	100.0	16,155

House ownership is highest among women in the poorest wealth quintile.

Table 4 shows that 34 percent of women age 15-49 own a house either alone or jointly with someone else. Ten percent of women own a house alone, while 19 percent own a house jointly with someone else, and 4 percent own a house alone and jointly with someone else.

5. Participation in decision making

Women's participation in decision making is a key indication of women's empowerment. The 2013 NDHS obtained information on women's ability to make decisions in the household pertaining to their own health care, major purchases, purchases for daily household needs, and visits to their family or relatives.

Table 5.1 Participation in decision making

Percent distribution of currently married women age 15-49 by person who usually makes decisions about various issues, Philippines 2013

Decision	Mainly wife	Wife and husband jointly	Mainly husband	Someone else	Other/missing	Total	Number of women
Woman's own health care	51.7	44.7	3.3	0.2	0.1	100.0	9,729
Major household purchases	19.6	65.7	11.9	1.2	1.6	100.0	9,729
Purchases for daily household needs	60.6	31.8	5.5	1.5	0.6	100.0	9,729
Visits to her family relatives	24.1	69.1	5.6	0.4	0.8	100.0	9,729

Table 5.1 shows that over half of currently married women (52 percent) mainly decided themselves about their own health care, while 61 percent of women mainly decided alone on purchases for daily household needs, 20 percent of women made decisions themselves regarding major household purchases, and 24 percent of women mainly decided on their own about visits to their family or relatives. The percentage of women who said that they jointly made decisions with their husbands is highest in the case of visits to family or relatives (69 percent) and lowest in the case of purchases for daily household needs (32 percent).

To evaluate women's participation in decision making, the proportions of women who make decisions alone and jointly with their husbands can be combined. The total number of decisions in which a woman participates is a measure of her empowerment.

Figure 4

Number of decisions in which currently married women participate

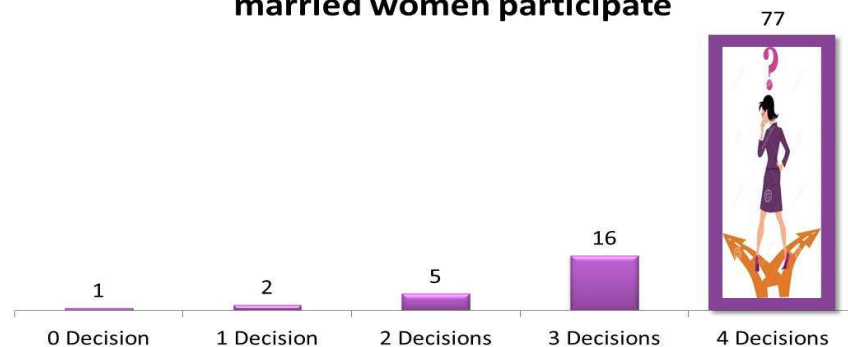


Figure 5

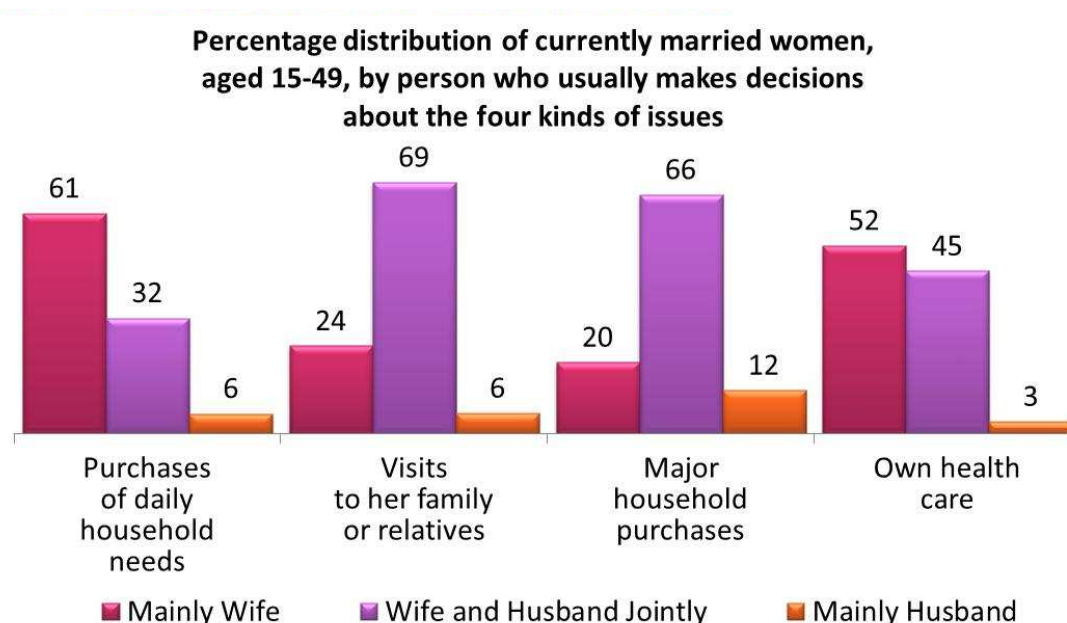


Table 5.2 Women’s participation in decision making by background characteristics

Percent distribution of currently married women age 15-49 who usually make specific decisions either by themselves or jointly with their husband, by age, Philippines 2013

Background characteristic	Specific decisions				All four decisions	None of the four decision	Number of women
	Woman’s own health care	Major household purchases	Purchases for daily household needs	Visits to her family or relatives			
Age							
15-19	87.8	66.4	74.8	89.7	56.9	2.6	313
20-24	95.0	80.5	87.1	91.5	70.0	0.9	1,196
25-29	96.5	85.3	91.2	93.5	77.0	0.7	1,484
30-34	96.5	85.6	93.4	92.3	77.4	0.7	1,862
35-39	96.9	86.6	94.1	93.5	79.5	0.7	1,725
40-44	97.2	86.7	95.3	94.2	80.0	0.4	1,638
45-49	97.6	89.4	95.4	94.7	82.8	0.7	1,511
Total	96.4	85.3	92.4	93.2	77.4	0.7	9,729

As observed, currently married women participate in many household decisions. Table 5.2 shows the percentage of currently married women age 15-49 who usually make specific decisions either by themselves or jointly with their husband, according to background characteristics. The percentage of women who usually participate in all of the four specific decisions increases with age, from 57 percent among women age 15-19 to 83 percent among women age 45-49. It also tends to increase with the number of living children.

Table 5.3 Women's participation in decision making 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 employment (last 12 months), Philippines 2013

Background characteristic	Specific decisions				All four decisions	None of the four decision	Number of women
	Woman's own health care	Major household purchases	Purchases for daily household needs	Visits to her family or relatives			
Employment (last 12 months)							
Not employed	95.5	82.2	91.2	92.5	74.3	1.0	3,796
Employed for cash	97.2	87.4	93.3	93.8	79.5	0.5	5,189
Employed not for cash	96.0	86.3	92.9	93.0	78.6	0.9	738
Total	96.4	85.3	92.4	93.2	77.4	0.7	9,729

Filipino women employed with cash earnings are more likely to participate in all of the four decisions than women in other categories.

Table 5.4 Women's participation in decision making 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 number of living children, Philippines 2013

Background characteristic	Specific decisions				All four decisions	None of the four decision	Number of women
	Woman's own health care	Major household purchases	Purchases for daily household needs	Visits to her family or relatives			
Number of living children							
0	94.4	79.7	86.4	92.5	70.8	0.5	744
1-2	96.2	85.2	91.9	93.0	77.3	1.0	4,433
3-4	97.0	85.4	94.0	93.6	78.1	0.5	2,926
5+	96.8	87.6	93.8	93.4	79.6	0.5	1,625
Total	96.4	85.3	92.4	93.2	77.4	0.7	9,729

The percentage of women who usually participate in all of the four specific decisions, tends to increase with the number of living children.

Table 5.5 Women's participation in decision making 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 residence, Philippines 2013

Background characteristic	Specific decisions				All four decisions	None of the four decision	Number of women
	Woman's own health care	Major household purchases	Purchases for daily household needs	Visits to her family or relatives			
Residence							
Urban	96.6	84.5	92.2	93.2	77.1	0.8	4,734
Rural	96.3	86.0	92.7	93.1	77.7	0.7	4,995
Total	96.4	85.3	92.4	93.2	77.4	0.7	9,729

Urban-rural residence does not seem to make a difference in women's participation in household decision making.

Table 5.6 Women's participation in decision making 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 education, Philippines 2013

Background characteristic	Specific decisions				All four decisions	None of the four decision	Number of women
	Woman's own health care	Major household purchases	Purchases for daily household needs	Visits to her family or relatives			
Education							
No education	93.7	85.1	91.9	90.8	75.4	1.5	147
Elementary	96.0	84.6	92.9	92.3	76.1	0.9	2,015
High school	96.6	84.4	92.1	93.2	76.7	0.6	4,641
College	96.6	87.1	92.7	93.8	79.6	0.8	2,925
Total	96.4	85.3	92.4	93.2	77.4	0.7	9,729

Filipino women who attend college are more likely to participate in all of the four decisions than women in other category although the differences are not large.

Table 5.7 Women's participation in decision making 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 2013

Background characteristic	Specific decisions				All four decisions	None of the four decision	Number of women
	Woman's own health care	Major household purchases	Purchases for daily household needs	Visits to her family or relatives			
Wealth quintile							
Lowest	95.5	83.9	92.6	92.0	74.9	0.9	1,945
Second	96.5	85.9	92.1	93.1	77.8	0.5	1,919
Middle	96.2	84.0	92.4	92.1	75.4	0.7	1,996
Fourth	96.8	85.9	93.9	93.9	79.7	0.6	2,012
Highest	97.1	86.6	91.0	94.9	79.3	0.8	1,857
Total	96.4	85.3	92.4	93.2	77.4	0.7	9,729

Those women who belong to the wealthiest families are more likely to participate in making all four decisions than women in other categories, although the differences are not large.

6. Attitude toward wife beating

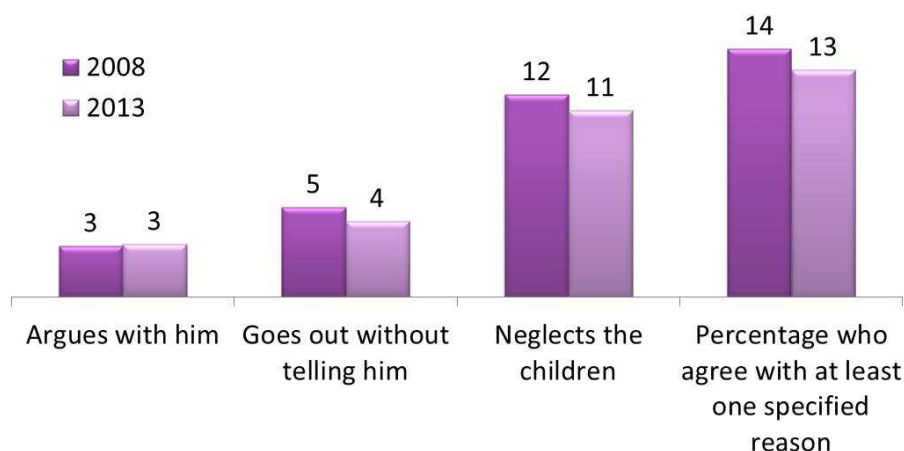
In the 2013 NDHS, women were asked whether they think a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under a series of circumstances: if she burns the food, if she argues with him, if she goes out without telling him, if she neglects the children, and if she refuses to have sexual intercourse with him. Table 6 gives the percentage of all women age 15-49 who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for each of these specific reasons by background characteristics.

Only 13 percent of women agree that a husband is justified in beating his wife for any the reasons (Figure 6). Neglecting the children is the most commonly justified reason for wife beating among women (11 percent), while refusal to have sexual intercourse with him or burning the food (2 percent each) is the least common reason. Four percent of women agree that a husband is justified in beating his wife if she goes out without telling him and three percent believe that wife beating is

justified if a wife argues with him. The pattern of results is similar to that in the previous NDHS.

Figure 6

Percentage of women age 15-49 who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons, 2008 NDHS and 2013 NDHS



The next set of tables also indicate that women who are employed but not paid in cash (Table 6.2), those who are currently married (Table 6.4), those who have five or more children (Table 6.3), and those who reside in rural areas are the most likely to agree with at least one specified reason for justifying wife beating. Justification of wife beating for at least one reason decreases with educational attainment (Table 6.6) and wealth status (Table 6.7). Thus, the higher the educational attainment and wealth status, the lower the proportion of women who agree with at least one specified reason for justifying wife beating.

Table 6.1 Attitude toward wife beating

Percentage of all women age 15-49 who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons, by age, Philippines 2013

Background characteristic	Husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife if she:					Percentage who agree with at least one specified reason	Number
	Burns the food	Argues with him	Goes out without telling him	Neglects the children	Refuses to have sexual intercourse with him		
Age							
15-19	1.8	3.2	4.4	11.1	1.3	13.8	3,237
20-24	1.6	2.8	3.9	10.2	1.4	12.6	2,789
25-29	1.6	3.0	3.7	9.8	1.6	11.7	2,156
30-34	1.8	2.9	4.0	9.5	1.5	11.8	2,250
35-39	2.1	3.3	4.9	10.8	1.5	13.2	1,976
40-44	2.1	3.2	5.2	11.5	2.0	13.9	1,924
45-49	1.6	2.9	4.4	11.5	2.0	13.6	1,823
Total	1.8	3.0	4.3	10.6	1.6	12.9	16,155

Table 6.2 Attitude toward wife beating

Percentage of all women age 15-49 who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons, by employment (last 12 months), Philippines 2013

Background characteristic	Husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife if she:					Percentage who agree with at least one specified reason	Number
	Burns the food	Argues with him	Goes out without telling him	Neglects the children	Refuses to have sexual intercourse with him		
Employment (last 12 months)							
Not employed	2.0	3.1	4.2	10.2	1.6	12.5	6,875
Employed for cash	1.5	2.9	4.1	10.5	1.5	12.8	8,299
Employed not for cash	2.8	3.9	6.5	13.9	1.8	17.6	974
Total	1.8	3.0	4.3	10.6	1.6	12.9	16,155

Table 6.3 Attitude toward wife beating

Percentage of all women age 15-49 who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons, by number of living children, Philippines 2013

Background characteristic	Husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife if she:					Percentage who agree with at least one specified reason	Number
	Burns the food	Argues with him	Goes out without telling him	Neglects the children	Refuses to have sexual intercourse with him		
Number of living children							
0	1.5	2.6	3.8	9.4	1.1	11.5	6,144
1-2	2.0	2.8	3.6	9.7	1.5	12.2	5,123
3-4	2.0	3.7	5.2	12.3	2.0	14.7	3,135
5+	1.7	4.1	6.6	14.2	2.7	17.3	1,753
Total	1.8	3.0	4.3	10.6	1.6	12.9	16,155

Table 6.4 Attitude toward wife beating

Percentage of all women age 15-49 who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons, by marital status, Philippines 2013

Background characteristic	Husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife if she:					Percentage who agree with at least one specified reason	Number
	Burns the food	Argues with him	Goes out without telling him	Neglects the children	Refuses to have sexual intercourse with him		
Marital Status							
Never married	1.5	2.6	3.6	9.2	1.0	11.3	5,615
Married or living together	1.9	3.3	4.7	11.4	1.8	13.9	9,729
Divorced/separated/widowed	1.3	2.8	4.3	10.5	2.1	12.7	811
Total	1.8	3.0	4.3	10.6	1.6	12.9	16,155

Table 6.5 Attitude toward wife beating

Percentage of all women age 15-49 who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons, by residence, Philippines 2013

Background characteristic	Husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife if she:					Percentage who agree with at least one specified reason	Number
	Burns the food	Argues with him	Goes out without telling him	Neglects the children	Refuses to have sexual intercourse with him		
Residence							
Urban	1.0	2.2	2.6	7.8	1.1	9.5	8,585
Rural	2.6	4.0	6.2	13.8	2.1	16.8	7,570
Total	1.8	3.0	4.3	10.6	1.6	12.9	16,155

Table 6.6 Attitude toward wife beating

Percentage of all women age 15-49 who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons, by education, Philippines 2013

Background characteristic	Husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife if she:					Percentage who agree with at least one specified reason	Number
	Burns the food	Argues with him	Goes out without telling him	Neglects the children	Refuses to have sexual intercourse with him		
Education							
No education	8.8	9.3	15.0	22.2	4.7	26.7	188
Elementary	2.8	4.6	7.2	16.1	3.0	19.5	2,593
High school	1.8	3.3	4.5	11.1	1.4	13.6	7,916
College	1.0	1.7	2.2	6.9	1.0	8.4	5,458
Total	1.8	3.0	4.3	10.6	1.6	12.9	16,155

Table 6.7 Attitude toward wife beating

Percentage of all women age 15-49 who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons, by wealth quintile, Philippines 2013

Background characteristic	Husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife if she:					Percentage who agree with at least one specified reason	Number
	Burns the food	Argues with him	Goes out without telling him	Neglects the children	Refuses to have sexual intercourse with him		
Wealth quintile							
Lowest	3.7	4.5	8.1	16.4	2.6	19.8	2,620
Second	1.9	4.2	5.4	13.0	2.1	16.2	2,886
Middle	1.9	2.9	4.7	10.9	1.6	13.2	3,199
Fourth	0.9	2.4	2.8	7.9	1.0	9.8	3,572
Highest	1.1	1.9	1.9	7.2	0.9	8.5	3,878
Total	1.8	3.0	4.3	10.6	1.6	12.9	16,155

7. Indicators of women's empowerment

The 2013 NDHS collected information from women on other measures of women's empowerment, including women's use of family planning and maternal health care services. To assess how selected demographic and health outcomes vary by indicators of women's empowerment, information on women's participation in decision making and their attitudes towards wife beating are summarized in two separate indices.

These indices are based only on women's response to the survey. The first index is the number of decisions in which women participate alone or jointly with their husband (see Table 5 for the list of decisions). This index ranges in value from 0 to 4 and is positively related to women's empowerment (i.e., the more decisions in which a woman participates the greater her empowerment). This index reflects the degree of control that women are able to exercise through making decisions in areas that affect their own lives and environments.

The second index, which ranges in value from 0 to 5, is the number of reasons that a woman believes justifies a husband beating his wife (see table 6). A lower score on this indicator is interpreted as reflecting a greater sense of entitlement, higher self-esteem, and a higher status of women. In general, it is expected that women who participate in making decisions are also more likely to disagree with reasons for justifying wife beating. Note that the decision making index is defined for currently married women, whereas the index on attitudes toward wife beating is defined for all women.

Table 7 Indicators of women's empowerment

Percentage of currently married women age 15-19 who participate in all decision making and the percentage who disagree with all the reasons justifying wife-beating, by value on each of the indicators of women's empowerment, Philippines 2013

Empowerment indicator	Percentage who participate in all decision making	Percentage who disagree with all the reasons justifying wife-beating	Number
Number of decisions in which women participate¹			
0	na	82.3	70
1-2	na	81.8	616
3-4	na	86.4	9,043
Number of reasons for which wife-beating is justified²			
0	78.2	na	8,372
1-2	71.9	na	1,135
3-4	75.5	na	185
5	(73.6)	na	37

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

na=Not applicable

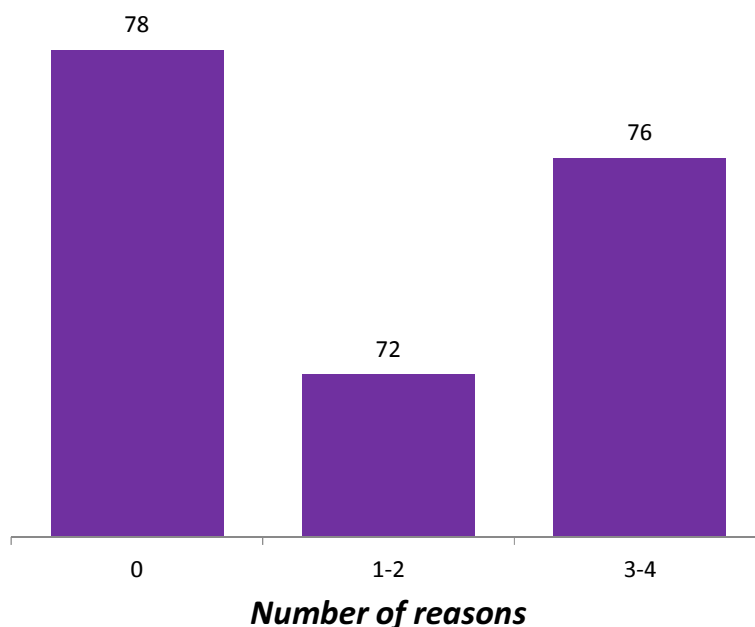
¹ See Table 5 for the list of decisions

² See Table 6 for the list of decisions

Table 7 provides an overview on how these two basic empowerment indicators-the number of decisions in which women participate and the number of reasons for which wife beating is justified-relate to one another. The relationship is not clear, partly because the vast majority of women fall in the higher group since they participate in making 3-4 decisions. Eighty-six percent of women who participate in three to four household decisions disagree with all reasons justifying wife beating. This percentage is higher than for women who participate in two or fewer decisions (82 percent). These patterns are similar to those observed in the 2008 NDHS. Similarly, the proportion of women who participate in all four decisions does not fall uniformly as the number of reasons for which they feel wife beating is justified increases, but instead fluctuates (Figure 6)

Figure 7

Number of Reasons for Which Wife Beating is Justified



8. Empowering Women through Entrepreneurial Activities

Women's economic empowerment refers to women having access to and control over high-value productive resources, such as information, credit, loans or financial assistance, services training, markets and technology, and increased control over the business environment. With women's economic empowerment, women have decent jobs and humane working conditions, while enjoying benefits from wealth-creating opportunities equal with them.

The Gender-Responsive Economic Action for the Transformation of Women (GREAT Women) Project¹² is a governance and capacity development project that aims to promote and support a gender-responsive enabling environment for women's economic empowerment, particularly those in microenterprises.

The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), the national machinery for the advancement of women in the Philippines, is the lead executing agency for the Project. The Commission partnered with key national government agencies particularly the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) involved in micro-, small-and medium-scale enterprise (MSME) development and select local government units to support the project. The PCW partnered with 12 national government agencies, 8 pilot provincial governments and 35 municipal local government units.

Capacity development under the GREAT Women Project is in the form of technical assistance, training, coaching and mentoring, provision of tools and

¹² Philippine Commission on Women, National Machinery for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. *Gender-Responsive Economic Action for the Transformation of Women (GREAT Women) Project*.

knowledge materials and linking with experts and specialists from government agencies, private sector or business support organizations, academe, among others. It also constitutes mainstreaming the cross-cutting themes of gender, economic governance, enterprise development and environment in the development planning process of national government agencies and local government units, i.e., policy-making, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

On the other hand, the DTI, through the Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (BSMED) continues to pursue the development of micro, small and medium enterprise (MSMEs) through the SME Roving Academy to fortify competitiveness and sustainability of these enterprises. In 2013, around 73 percent of women pursued product design related trainings compared to 27 percent of men, while more women availed of domestic-trade related trainings than men (40%).¹³

Table 8.1 Service to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), 2013

Activities	Female		Male		Total	
	No.	% /b	No.	% /b	Subtotal	% to Total
Product design related	173	73	63	27	236	0.52
Construction manpower devt related	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
Export related trainings	13,057	60	8,743	40	21,800	48.19
Domestic trade related training	160	69	71	31	231	0.51
All other trainings (PTTC)	8,768	38	14,199	62	22,967	50.77
Total –Trainings	22,158	49	23,076	51	45,234	100.00

b/Percentage to activity total

IV. Conclusions and Way Forward

- Gender equality in decision-making at the household level by which resources are allocated is important for a family/household and society.
- Other areas of decision-making and women's empowerment in succeeding surveys can be explored.
- The regular collection of information on this area to assess achievement of gender equality at least at the household level should be pursued.
- Policies and programs must be established/implemented to promote women's empowerment and gender equality.

¹³ Department of Trade and Industry 2013 Annual Disaggregated Data.

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