

## NOTES ON SOME SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF BAIS CITY

**Ester C. Delfin**  
**Department of Social Work, Silliman University**  
**6200 Dumaguete City**

### Population and Its Distribution

Based on provincial health data, the population of Bais City was 59,623 in 1990. Ten years earlier it was 49,301, an increase of more than 10,000. Of the 35 barangays, 6 barangays registered a population ranging from 3,000 to 7,000. Only four barangays have populations less than 500. Barangay 2 has the largest population (7,341) followed by Sabahan (6,147) while Hangyad has the smallest (178). The male population is slightly bigger (29,710) than the female population (28,242). Population density is 190.88/km<sup>2</sup>. The average household size is 5.

Figure 1 shows that the population of the adjoining municipalities of Tanjay, Bais and Manjuyod has consistently increased over a five-year interval from 1975 to 1990. The population is relatively young with about 35,000 below 10 and up to 29 years old. Implications of this are the need for more schools and courses to prepare the population for adult and community life as well as the demands for more health facilities. These are addressed by the 1989-1992 development thrust of Bais City which contains the following:

#### 1. Education and Manpower Development

- a. Lack of school buildings to accommodate the growing school population
- b. Lack of tertiary educational institutions offering complete academic courses

#### 2. Health and Sanitation

- a. Lack of health centers
- b. Lack of hospital ambulance and other health facilities
- c. Financial resources to secure needed medicine for indigent patients

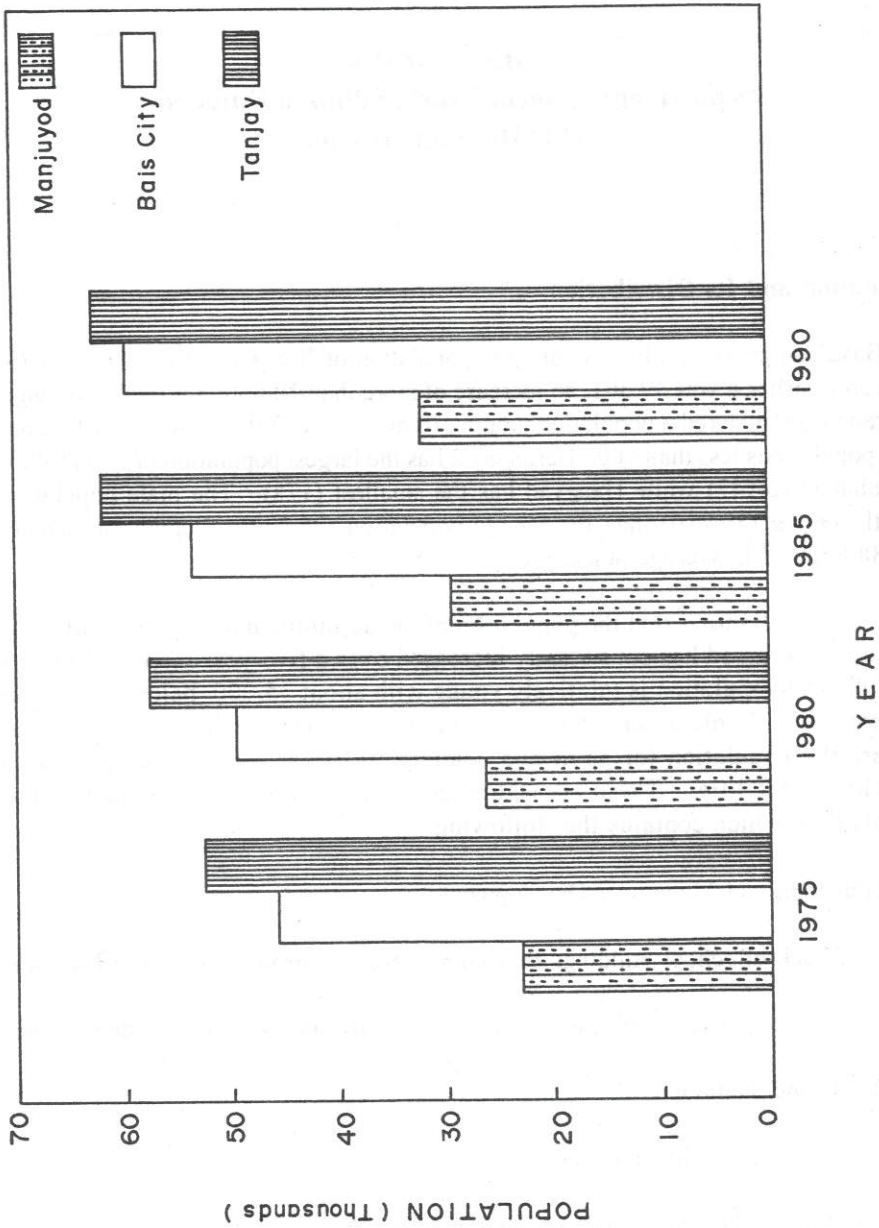


Figure 1. Population growth in three municipalities from 1975 to 1990.

## **Labor Force, Employment and Income**

The labor force is composed of the 10-64 age group. The 1988 census shows a total force of 28,566. Of this labor force, the bulk are fishers and farmers who usually plant rice, corn or sugar cane. Farmers constitute about 34.44% of the workforce. About 66% of the land area is agricultural land.

The bulk of the labor force (22,787) or only 86% have attained elementary education.

The average household monthly income is P8,062 while the per capita income is P1,287. This is a little above the food threshold of P1,261 for a household of six members.

## **Education and Health Services**

### ***Education***

The data for school year 1988-89 show that the public school enrollment is as follows: 9,840 in the Elementary, 2,705 in the High School, 30 in College, and 58 in Technology.

There were 258 teachers in the public elementary school, 60 teachers in the high school, 5 in college, and 5 in technology. Thirty public schools, with a total of 234 classrooms, served the elementary pupils.

Only 483 are enrolled in the private elementary school as against 9,840 in public schools. There are 303 private high school students as against 2,705 in public schools.

The teacher-student ratio in the elementary public school is 1:38 and 1:45 in the secondary level. The DECS standard ratio is 1:36.

### ***Health***

As of 1988, the mortality data reveal that PTB is the top killer (with 35% of the total cases dying from it), followed by congestive heart failure (25%), hypertension (20%) and multiple stab wounds, (20%).

To serve the health needs of people are 12 public doctors, 23 public nurses and 2 public dentists.

In addition, there are 4 private doctors in 4 different private clinics.

There is also one Rural Health Unit (RHU), 12 Barangay Health Stations and one Public Hospital.

The standard ratio of health personnel to the population is 1:5,000 for doctors and dentists; 1:2,500 for nurses and midwives ; and 1:5000 for number of hospital beds.

The Bais data reveal that the ratio of doctors to the population is 1:1,987; the ratio of nurses to the population is 1:2,592; the ratio of dentists to the population is 1:29,811; and of midwives to the population is 1:1,064

The ratio of doctors, nurses and midwives to the population is adequate. The ratio of dentists and hospital beds, however, is far from adequate.

### **The Characteristics of Depressed Barangays of Bais City (DSWD Data 1991)**

According to the DSWD data of 1991, five barangays are classified as depressed, based on the low level of income, high population rate, high reproductive age and high rate of malnutrition. These are in Cabanlutan, Mabunao, Tamisu, Calas-gaan, and Talungon.

There are few women in the household of these barangays because many of the young women have gone to the neighboring cities for employment.

As to educational attainment, the females have higher educational attainment than the males:

|                       | Male | Female |
|-----------------------|------|--------|
| College graduates     | 21   | 35     |
| High School graduates | 45   | 53     |
| Elementary graduates  | 436  | 509    |
| Schooling             | 954  | 1,000  |

### **Employment**

The bulk of the families earn a monthly income of P500 - 1,000 as derived from the data provided by 130 individuals who are employed, 314 who are self-employed, and 670 who are not regularly employed.

Majority of the population do farming (613), followed by livestock raising (222), fishing (159), and vending (107).

### *Civil Status*

Majority of the adults are married (560). There are, however, more widows (54) than widowers (23).

### *Health Condition*

Most of the children are underweight (298). A number are suffering from physical defects, like blindness (35). A number of children have also been submitted for immunization.

Four-hundred and sixty nine have no toilet facilities while 364 have water-sealed toilets.

### *Housing Conditions*

Houses are made of light materials (397) or made of wood (212).

### *Water Supply*

The common sources of water are from:

|               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| Faucet        | 403 |
| Spring, river | 277 |
| Deep well     | 201 |
| Artesian well | 261 |

### *Perceived Problems of Families and the Community*

1. Majority in the depressed areas are unemployed due to lack of opportunities (700). There is underemployment among the 579 labor force members, which implies that the income is too small for their basic needs.
2. Most women are not able to earn because of household responsibilities and taking care of young children.
3. Malnutrition is perceived to be a common problem.

Respondents identified people who can provide solutions to these problems in the family:

1. Individual efforts 674

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 2. Ask help from others |     |
| family or relatives     | 444 |
| barangay leaders        | 327 |
| friends and neighbors   | 277 |
| church                  | 159 |
| social workers          | 388 |

To the respondents, community problems can be solved by embarking on a project to solve the unsanitary conditions and by helping victims of natural calamities and other disasters through monetary contribution or service.