

INTRODUCTION

Gender and Governance has been the theme of recent thrusts in gender mainstreaming. Keeping thus with this theme, *Review of Women's Studies* comes out for its 2002 combined issues covering January to June and July to December, with a focus on Gender and Governance.

Gender and Governance looks at gender as a major concern for planning, decision-making, and administration. Through conscious attention to gender concerns, it seeks improvements and necessary redress in gender relations through governance. It looks at the sharing of government leadership, responses to gender concerns through policies and programs, and participation of beneficiaries in identifying programs as well as in implementing and monitoring these programs. Concomitant to this, governance implies the involvement not only of government but also of the private sector and civil society in addressing raging issues in a polity. Thus, while government retains its pivotal role in providing solutions to problems, it recognizes the cooperative roles of other sectors of society.

This issue of *RWS* tackles the many facets of governance which address gender concerns.

The political participation of women is best presented in their efforts to run for and win elected positions. Three papers explore different aspects of women's political participation. "The Participation of Women in Philippine Elections" by Ma. Karla Balili-Gener and Cassandra Urbiztondo looks at the trend of women's recent participation in the political process as voters and candidates. The paper of Antonia Crisanta Corinthia Naz

on “The Political Participation of Women Legislators in Congress” presents profiles of women national legislators and assesses their efficacy as women advocates. This is discussed at the level of local government by Proserpina Domingo Tapales in “Engendering Local Governance”, which focuses on women local chief executives.

A city’s response to gender mainstreaming is described by Mary Ruby Palma in “Engendering Quezon City”. It shows the efforts of women NGOs in getting the city to directly address women’s issues, and the responses they received from the city government. Local government attention to the needs of working women and their children is discussed in “Night Care for Children of Working Mothers” by five graduate students who did field research in Taytay, Rizal. The paper shows cooperation among the government, civil society, and business in going through with the program.

Two case studies highlight the cooperation between the local government and the private sector using the GBest approach to gender mainstreaming in San Juan, Metro Manila by Jesilyn T. Tadeo and in Sasmuan, Pampanga by Ma. Esel Laxa-Panlaqui and Jesilyn Tadeo.

Our section on laws affecting women contains an evaluative study called “Two Laws on Rape: Twin Imperatives for Justice and Healing” by Merci Llarinas-Angeles and a reprint of a document, “The New Disciplinary Rules on Sexual Harassment Cases” from the Civil Service Commission.

Our Book Section starts with speeches given during the launching of the book *Gender in the Court System*, which was published by the UP Center for Women’s Studies in collaboration with the Ford Foundation, the UNDP, and the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women. The book,

authored by Myrna Feliciano, Carolyn I. Sobritchea, Dante B. Gatmaytan and Flordeliza C. Vargas, is reviewed by Marsha Ruth Gabriela Fernandez.

Another book, *The Gender Budget Trail*, is reviewed by LaRaine Abad-Sarmiento, who also wrote “Book Notes on Gender and Governance”.

We also feature here a list of laws enhancing gender empowerment, because government policy provides the basis for concrete action toward gender equality.

Between the Gender and Governance materials is our Art Section. We printed some art pieces from Flaudette May V. Datuin’s “Spaces of Masculinity and Femininity in the Visual Arts: Bohol, Dumaguete, and Palawan”, to feed our eyes and hearts.

This issue of RWS provides graduate students with the venue to publish their papers. Except for a few materials written by academics, the articles featured here have been authored by graduate students of the University of the Philippines.

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Editor

