

INTRODUCTION

THIS ISSUE FEATURES THE RESULTS of two of the research activities undertaken by the Center in the fiscal years 2016 to 2017 and conducted in partnership with colleagues from UP Mindanao.

Raymundo R. Pavo and Ma. Himaya A. Tamayo-Gutierrez in the first article, “Life Stories of Women Political Leaders in the Dinagat Islands, Mindanao: Pathways to Power and Contributions to Women’s Development Agenda,” trace the routes women politicians in the Dinagat Islands took to become part of the political world.

Are women politicians really largely in politics only because of familial ties and commitments? How do women who are not from traditional political families enter and survive the political arena? This research examines the inclusion process that condition women’s political participation as elected officials in the Dinagat Islands in Mindanao. Through key informant interviews, and guided by the life story approach, Pavo and Tamayo-Gutierrez shed light on four women’s another pathway into political life. The women’s stories of how they became politicians in the province shed light on unique circumstances and principles that brought them to their current political positions, and their struggles in inspiring more women to figure in the political landscape of the province.

The authors assert that the women politicians in the Dinagat Islands who entered the political scene with their ideologies of social justice and principles of commitment, honesty, and transparency continue to keep such principles as their guide posts in gradually counteracting a political culture in the province and prefer service over power for

those at the margins.

In the second research article, Sheila Mae T. Cabazares and Melody Amor S. Nicolas, pose an important insight about a persistent gender issue: the levels of participation and engagement between men and women continue to differ widely and women's unpaid care work remain lowly valued. Further, the intersection of these concerns is underscored in the context of economic rehabilitation in a post-calamity situation where women's participation in livelihood programs is exigent as domestic workload endures. And yet, because of the inopportune difficult situation, women's participation in livelihood programs may bring about a (re)classification of their domestic workload and vice versa.

“Three Years after Yolanda: Economic Rehabilitation vis-à-vis Domestic Workload among Women in Guiuan, Eastern Samar” explores the level of participation in livelihood programs among women in two communities of Guiuan, Eastern Samar, and the interrelation between these engagements with domestic workload schemes through participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions. The research data bare that to facilitate enhanced women engagement, livelihood programs should take into account how women in a particular community view the domestic sphere and their roles in it. More importantly, there is a need to equip marginalized women with skills necessary to engage not only in livelihood projects but in wider economic development processes.

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