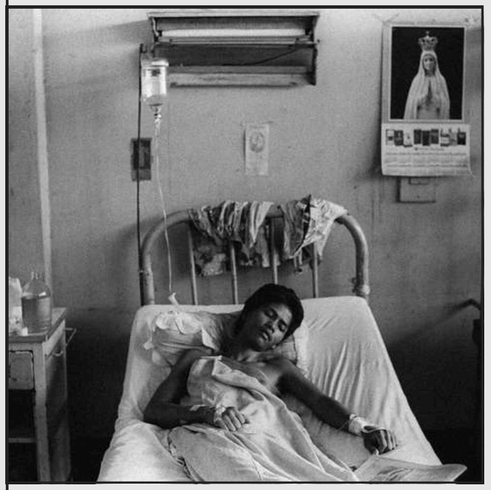
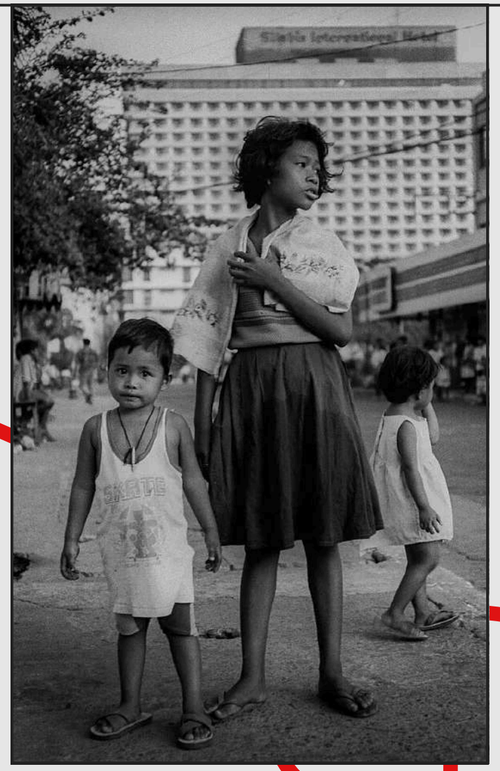
SOCIETAL PROBLEMS

"No one is free when others are oppressed." —John F. Kennedy





PHOTOS BY ALAN DEJECACION

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01.

POVERTY

GMA NEWS ONLINE
YOUR NEWS AUTHORITY

NEWS

Filtered by: Topstories

THRESHOLD REVIEW URGED

NEDA chief: Persons spending P64 below for 3 meals a day considered 'food poor'

By HANA BORDEY, GMA Integrated News

Published August 13, 2024 5:17pm

"As of 2023, a monthly food threshold for a family of five is 9,581 pesos. It comes out about P64 per person," Balisacan said.

Baliscan said the amount would cover three daily meals per person.

"There are certain things that need to be constant, but there are certain things that have to be adjusted because when you compute poverty thresholds using an old number which is obviously not workable anymore, P20 per meal eh hindi totoo 'yung poverty forecast [niyo] (P20 per meal means your poverty forecast is not true.)," Senator Grace Poe said.

"The reason we are keeping it constant, in real terms after adjusting for inflation, is just to ensure that we are tracking properly the changes and allow us to understand whether our policies, our programs are working insofar as these are able to reduce poverty," Balisacan said.

PHOTO BY PAUL DE VOTA

HANA BORDEY,GMA Integrated News & HANA BORDEY, GMA Integrated News. (2024, August 13). NEDA chief: Persons spending P64 below for 3 meals a day considered “food poor.” GMA News Online. https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/916945/neda-chief-persons-spending-p64-for-3-meals-a-day-considered-food-poor/story/

PHOTO BY JAN MOLLER HANSEN

MANILA, Philippines — More than half of Filipino families considered themselves poor as of September, according to a new survey by the Social Weather Stations (SWS).

In the survey released on Wednesday, October 9, the SWS found that 59% of Filipino families see themselves as poor. This translates to 16.3 million families.

The previous SWS survey found the self-rated poverty at 58% in June, or 16 million families.

MANILA, Philippines — More than half of Filipino families considered themselves poor as of September, according to a new survey by the Social Weather Stations (SWS).

In the survey released on Wednesday, October 9, the SWS found that 59% of Filipino families see themselves as poor. This translates to 16.3 million families.

The previous SWS survey found the self-rated poverty at 58% in June, or 16 million families. This means there are around 300,000 more families who have started to consider themselves poor since June.

philstar GLOBAL Subscribe

HEADLINES

16.3 million Filipino families consider themselves poor

Jean Mangaluz - Philstar.com

October 10, 2024 | 11:03am

0

A man cleans a container along Manila Bay on September 19, 2024.

AFP / Jam Sta Rosa

Here are the self-rated food poverty rates per area:

- Metro Manila: 39%
- Balance Luzon: 39%
- Visayas: 49%
- Mindanao: 61%

PHOTO BY MISTERNOW

Mangaluz, J. (2024, October 10). 16.3 million Filipino families consider themselves poor. Philstar.com. https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/10/10/2391538/163-million-filipino-families-consider-themselves-poor

02.

PHOTO BY WORDPRESS.COM

GOV PH

Republic of the Philippines
PNA
PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

CPD flags rising pregnancy among young girls; demands urgent action

By Marita Moaje

January 16, 2025, 8:57 am

Share Share 71

TEENAGE PREGNANCY

CPD flags rising pregnancy among young girls; demands urgent action. (n.d.). Philippine News Agency. https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1241871

PHOTO BY THE JAPAN TIMES

03.

YOUNG MOM. A health worker attends to a young mother and her baby in this undated photo. The Commission on Population and Development (CPD) on Wednesday (Jan. 15, 2025) raised the alarm over the rising incidence of adolescent pregnancies, marking a 6.6 percent increase in 2023. (*PNA file photo*)

In a news release on Wednesday, CPD Undersecretary Lisa Grace Bersales said the alarming trend demands immediate action, highlighting the need for comprehensive, age-sensitive sexuality education to address the issue.

"Our emphasis is on protection from abuse and equipping adolescents with life skills to make informed decisions," she said.

In a news release on Wednesday, CPD Undersecretary Lisa Grace Bersales said the alarming trend demands immediate action, highlighting the need for comprehensive, age-sensitive sexuality education to address the issue.

"Our emphasis is on protection from abuse and equipping adolescents with life skills to make informed decisions," she said.

"This is a critical issue affecting the health and future workforce of our country. Addressing it is essential for realizing the benefits of the demographic dividend and sustaining economic growth," Bersales emphasized. ***(PNA)***

04.

INQUIRER.NET

HEADLINES

6.6% INCREASE IN LIVE BIRTHS AMONG GIRLS BELOW 15

Population body notes ‘alarming trend’ in teen pregnancies

By: Jerome Aning - Reporter / @JeromeAningINQ

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:54 AM January 17, 2025

Share:

‘NENENG’ Two mothers attend a media campaign on teen pregnancy held in Quezon City dubbed “Nanay na si Neneng: A Reality Unchecked,” in this photo taken on Feb. 5, 2024. —INQUIRER FILE

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Population and Development (CPD) is closely monitoring what it described as an “alarming trend” among Filipino girls, particularly the 6.6 percent increase in the number of live births involving very young adolescent mothers under 15—from 2,411 in 2019 to 3,343 in 2023.

Alarming state

Undersecretary Lisa Grace Bersales, CPD executive director, said the country should “take a stronger and broader approach, including [having an] intensified age-sensitive and culturally sensitive comprehensive sexuality education (CSE),” which is one of the strategies under the Philippine Population and Development Plan of Action 2023-2028 that President Marcos approved in November 2023.

Urgent action

“We call for urgent action on this issue given that it affects the health and well-being of this segment of the population, who will be the future workforce of the country. This will significantly impact the gains from the demographic dividend, a condition where the country gains traction for economic growth since the population is mostly made up of working ages 15 to 64,” Bersales said.

“KIDS HAVING A KIDS”

Aning, J. (2025, January 17). Population body notes ‘alarming trend’ in teen pregnancies. INQUIRER.net. https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2025481/population-body-notes-alarming-trend-in-teen-pregnancies

PHOTO BY THE SENTINEL PH

PHOTO BY UNFPA

INEQUALITY

ECONOMIC, GENDER, OPPORTUNITY

05.

Inquirer, P. D. (2024, October 31). In PH, stubborn gaps persist in income, gender, economic status. INQUIRER.net. https://globalnation.inquirer.net/254037/in-ph-stubborn-gaps-persist-in-income-gender-economic-status

INQUIRER.NET

In PH, stubborn gaps persist in income, gender, economic status

According to a 2022 World Bank report, Thailand was the only country in East Asia and the Pacific that had greater income inequality than the Philippines

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 04:55 AM October 31, 2024

Share:

FAIR AND EQUAL Pupils attend class in a makeshift classroom in Labangan town, Zamboanga del Sur, in this June 3, 2019 photo. Investing in good, affordable education and skills development for everyone helps combat inequality, says the United Nations. —Leah Agonoy

MANILA, Philippines — The goal of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10, according to the United Nations, is the reduction of inequalities "in income as well as those based on age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status within a country. The Goal also addresses inequalities among countries, including those related to representation, migration, and development assistance."

It is crucial to address such inequalities, says the UN, because failing to do so "harms poverty reduction and destroys people's sense of fulfillment and self-worth. This, in turn, can breed crime, disease, and environmental degradation. We cannot achieve sustainable development and make the planet better for all if people are excluded from the chance for a better life."

Major challenges

In the Philippines, for instance, social inequalities are a historic, long-festering issue, with the UN noting major challenges in the country's progress on SDG 10. Though the country's score in this regard is moderately improving, it is still insufficient to meet the core targets.

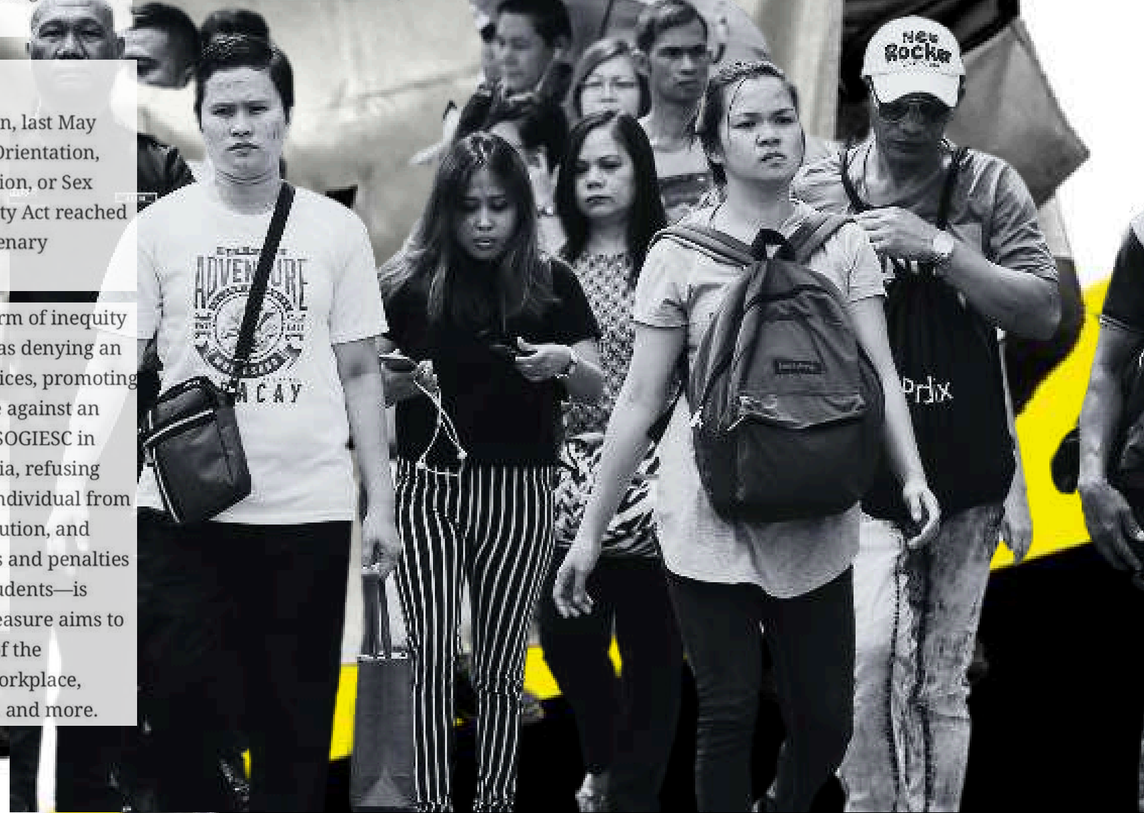
A September 2024 survey of Social Weather Stations (SWS), for example, found out that the country was backsliding in hunger, with 22.9 percent of households experiencing hunger in the third quarter of the year—the second-highest national hunger rate in SWS history. "The new survey finding was second only to the catastrophic 30.7 percent hunger rate of September 2020, during the pandemic lockdown," said pollster Mahar Mangahas in his column in this paper.

SOGIESC bill

In terms of gender representation, last May 2024, the long-proposed Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, or Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) Equality Act reached the House of Representatives' plenary discussion.

Under the proposed bill, any form of inequity on the basis of SOGIESC—such as denying an individual access to public services, promoting or encouraging stigma or abuse against an individual or group, including SOGIESC in professional, work-based criteria, refusing admission to or expelling any individual from any education or training institution, and imposing disciplinary sanctions and penalties that infringe on the rights of students—is deemed discriminatory. The measure aims to protect the rights of members of the LGBTQIA+ community in the workplace, health-care services, education, and more.

Filipino women suffer gender gaps in labor participation–PIDS study

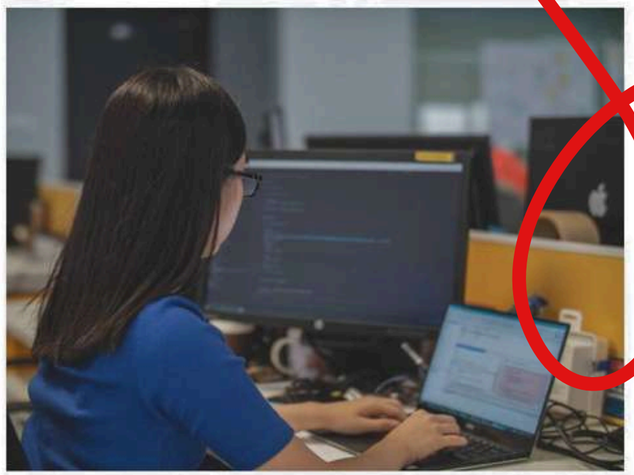


Home › Economy › Gender inequality cited as barrier in achieving work flexibility in PHL

ECONOMY

Gender inequality cited as barrier in achieving work flexibility in PHL

April 1, 2024 | 9:01 pm



UNSPLASH

SOME 53% of women responding to a study said gender inequality is hindering their ability to access flexible work, according to the Avon Global Progress for Women report.

The beauty products company said some 18.6% of respondents also said they were hindered in starting businesses by gender inequality.

In a statement, Avon said respondents cited childcare responsibilities as among the factors obstructing their career and entrepreneurship goals.

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WORKPLACE AS A REFUGE

Despite harassment and micro-aggressions in the workplace, some women described work as a place of refuge.

"This research shows that we're still a long way off gender equality. …we need to do more to create opportunities for women to contribute to the economy, participate in work, and realize their potential," Avon Chief Executive Officer Kristof Neirynck said in a statement.

Global research company Censuswide surveyed 7,000 women from the UK, Italy, Romania, Poland, the Philippines, Turkey, and South Africa. The survey was conducted in December.

In the Philippines, 44% out the 1,000 respondents said they have seen a colleague who appeared to have suffered signs of domestic abuse, including physical injuries.

About 48.79% were confided in by a colleague about being abused by a partner at home.

The Philippine National Police recorded 13,122 cases of violence against women in 2023, 59% of which turned out to be in breach of the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act. — **Aubrey Rose A. Inosante**

06.

CEDTyClea. (2024, April 1). Gender inequality cited as barrier in achieving work flexibility in PHL. BusinessWorld Online. https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/04/01/585078/gender-inequality-cited-as-barrier-in-achieving-work-flexibility-in-phl/

07. UNEMPLOYMENT

INQUIRER.NET

EMPLOYMENT

Philippine unemployment rate rises to 4.3% in January

By: Ian Nicolas P. Cigaral - Reporter / @IanCigaral

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 09:17 AM March 06, 2025

Share:

JOB SEEKERS Workers calling for local employment opportunities
INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

MANILA, Philippines — There were 2.16 million jobless Filipinos in January, up from 1.63 million unemployed in December, as the wealth of seasonal jobs during the Christmas rush might have started to wane, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported on Thursday.

That was equivalent to an unemployment rate of 4.3 percent, worse than the 3.1 percent rate in December 2024.

At the same time, there were 6.47 million employed individuals who sought additional jobs or extra working hours in January to augment their income, higher than the 5.48 million in the preceding month.

Table A-1. Key Labor and Employment Indicators
2019[f]-January 2025[p]

Philippines	Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	Employment Rate (%)	Underemployment Rate (%)	Unemployment Rate (%)
2019[f]	61.3	94.9	13.8	5.1
2020[f]	59.5	89.7	16.2	10.3
2021[f]	63.3	92.2	15.9	7.8
2022[f]	64.7	94.6	14.2	5.4
2023[p]	64.9	95.6	12.3	4.4
2024[p]	64.4	96.2	11.9	3.8
January[f]	61.1	95.5	13.7	4.5
February[p]	64.8	96.5	12.4	3.5
March[p]	65.3	96.1	11.0	3.9
April[p]	64.1	96.0	14.6	4.0
May[p]	64.8	95.9	9.9	4.1
June[p]	66.0	96.9	12.1	3.1
July[p]	63.5	95.3	12.1	4.7
August[p]	64.8	96.0	11.2	4.0
September[p]	65.7	96.3	11.9	3.7
October[p]	63.3	96.1	12.6	3.9
November[p]	64.6	96.8	10.8	3.2
December[p]	65.1	96.9	10.9	3.1
2025[p]	63.9	95.7	13.3	4.3
January[p]	63.9	95.7	13.3	4.3

Notes:
[f] Estimates are final
[p] Estimates are preliminary and may change
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey

Philippine historical jobs data

That translated to an underemployment rate of 13.3 percent, worse than the 10.9 percent previously.

Cigaral, I. N. P. (2025, March 10). Philippines jobless rate worsened to 4.3% in January. INQUIRER.net. https://business.inquirer.net/510471/philippine-unemployment-rate-rises-to-4-3-in-january

As a percentage of the total 48.09 million people in the labor force who are actively seeking for work, the unemployment rate stood at 4.5%, higher than the 3.6% unemployment rate in December last year.

“Ang unemployment rate ay naitala sa 4.5%, o apatnapu’t lima sa bawat isang libo na indibidwal na nasa labor force ang walang trabaho o negosyo nitong Enero 2024,” Mapa said.

The top five sub-sectors that posted the highest annual decreases in the number of employed persons are as follows:

- Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (-1.51 million)
- Agriculture and forestry (-854,000)
- Public administration and defense; compulsory social security (-226,000)
- Manufacturing (-151,000)
- Information and communication (-49,000)

GMA NEWS ONLINE

Jobless Filipinos rise to 2.15M in January 2024

Published March 08, 2024 09:37 AM
Updated March 08, 2024 01:41 PM
By TED CORDERO,GMA Integrated News

The number of jobless Filipinos rose in the first month of 2024 while the number of those with jobs and livelihoods decreased amid the easing of seasonal demand for labor following the 2023 holidays, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported on Friday.

GMA News Online. (2024, March 8). Jobless Filipinos rise to 2.15M in January 2024. GMA News Online. https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/economy/899871/jobless-filipinos-rise-to-2-15m-in-january-2024/story/?amp

"The government sustains its push to attract more job-generating investments by creating an enabling policy and regulatory environment. At the same time, linkages between industry, the academe, and the public sector will be strengthened to address skill mismatches in the labor market,” Balisacan said in a statement.

"The government sustains its push to attract more job-generating investments by creating an enabling policy and regulatory environment. At the same time, linkages between industry, the academe, and the public sector will be strengthened to address skill mismatches in the labor market,” Balisacan said in a statement.

08.

09. ETHNIC CONFLICT

INQUIRER.NET

Aeta folk face road bumps on way back to tribal land

By: Tonette Orejas - 4 years ago

TIGHT COMMUNITY Aeta elders in Zambales are crucial in keeping their tribal communities intact since their displacement from their ancestral domain on Mt. Pinatubo. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga, Philippines — No return to homeland in sight.

Many Aeta folk remain in this fix in the town of Botolan, Zambales province, as well as those in Tarlac and Pampanga provinces, after leaving their dwellings on the slopes of Mt. Pinatubo to escape the volcano's eruption on June 15, 1991.

A total of 31,120 tribal members from 7,840 families were then counted by the Office of Northern Cultural Communities (ONCC), now a defunct agency, as having been displaced by the eruption. But the number could be higher, as an ONCC officer in Zambales reported having evacuated over 7,000 families in Botolan alone in April 1991.

Not policy

Based on existing laws and guidelines, bringing back the Aeta people to their ancestral domain was not a government policy from the start or even considered an unfinished task.

Republic Act No. 7637, which created the Mount Pinatubo Commission in 1992, set up a ₱10-billion fund to provide them with "aid, relief, resettlement, rehabilitation and livelihood services as well as infrastructure support" at the resettlement sites.

"I want to instill to the younger generations of Aeta the values and indigenous knowledge and practices that our ancestors have passed on to us while we await word on whether to return to Baytan or stay in the resettlements," says Aeta leader Lito "Tubag" Jugatan. INQ

Native titles

Like other ethnocultural groups, the Aeta people in the eruption-hit provinces have been asserting ancestral domain claims by securing CADTs. Since Ipra was passed into law in 1997, however, the NCIP approved only three CADTs in the three provinces between 2004 and 2008, and registered these with the LRA in 2009.

Land feuds

Those who are in the process of registering their CADTs have to deal with disputes.

Tribal members in Cabangan town, also in Zambales, were the first in the country to get a certificate of ancestral domain claim (CADC) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in March 1996, but they are on their 25th year of waiting for their CADT (RO3-CAB-0110-151) to be registered with the LRA.

Ulr. (2020, September 26). New Clark City: Built on the shadows of our ancestors. UST Law Review. https://lawreview.ust.edu.ph/new-clark-city/

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10.

April 22, 2025

UST LAW REVIEW

New Clark City: Built on The Shadows Of Our Ancestors

ULR - September 24, 2020

Land feuds

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Orejas, T. (2021, June 15). Aeta folk face road bumps on way back to tribal land. Inquirer News. https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1446190/aeta-folk-face-road-bumps-on-way-back-to-tribal-land/amp

EDUCATION

GMA News Online. (2024b, July 9). The Cost of Miseducation: Lack of investment in PH education sector. GMA News Online. https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/912755/the-cost-of-miseducation-lack-of-investment-in-ph-education-sector/story/?amp

The Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) acknowledged the long-standing "learning crisis" in the Philippines—a problem that is not only felt first-hand by Filipino students and teachers, but is also dismally evident as shown by national and international assessment results.

One of the key issues raised in the EDCOM II report released in January 2024 was that the Philippine government, as compared to neighboring countries, has a "historical and persistent underinvestment" in education, resulting in the decline of its quality.

"DepEd always receives the biggest and the highest allocation, as well as the highest growth in terms of allocation. So not only is it growing big, but it's growing fast. And that's the commitment of the government to education," Gatchalian said.

The education sector, composed of DepEd, TESDA, SUCs, and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), will still be among those that will get the biggest share of the government appropriations next fiscal year. — **VDV, GMA Integrated News**

GMA NEWS ONLINE

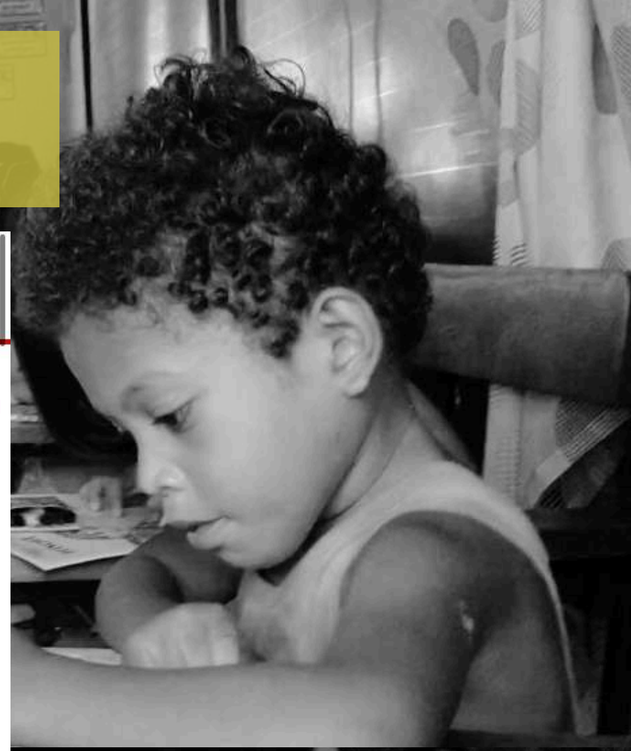
NEWS

In its year one report, the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) stressed the 'historical and persistent underinvestment' in education, resulting in the decline in its quality. PHOTO BY: Roy Lozano

FIRST OF THREE PARTS

The Cost of Miseducation: Lack of investment in PH education sector

Published July 09, 2024 02:31 PM



MANILA BULLETIN

MB125 MATALINONG BOTO 2025 NEWS BI

NATIONAL NEWS

Why the Philippine education system needs urgent 'fixing'

As a 'matter of national survival' EDCOM II Year 2 Report underscores the immediate need to 'fix the foundations' to overcome the learning crisis

BY MERLINA HERNANDO-MALIPOT

Feb 3, 2025 02:55 PM

The Philippine education system urgently needs reform, according to the second-year report from The Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II).

(MANILA BULLETIN / FILE PHOTO)

As the country grapples with a deepening learning crisis, the report emphasized the critical need to address the foundational gaps in the system.

Experts argued that without immediate intervention, the current issues—ranging from inadequate resources to ineffective teaching strategies—will continue to hinder the development of students, further stalling the country's educational progress.

The report, Acidre noted, provided a roadmap—a "clear path to strengthen the foundations of our educational system."

"Recognizing these issues now is paramount to fixing what has been overlooked and ensuring that every Filipino learner has a fair chance to succeed," he added.

"As the country's demographic window closes within a generation by 2045, the next two decades will be critical in shaping our future as a country: whether we move resolutely to address these learning gaps and thereby improve the life chances of our people, or if we allow our learning crisis to persist, resulting in a vicious cycle of lack of opportunity and poverty," EDCOM Executive Director Karol Mark Yee said.

Romulo pointed out that "any working education system requires that we have robust pathways not just in formal education, but also in non-formal and informal ones."

"We need to make sure that we are not leaving any learner behind," he added.

12.

Why the Philippine education system needs urgent 'fixing.' (n.d.). Manila Bulletin. https://mb.com.ph/2025/2/2/philippine-education-system-needs-urgent-fixing

MENTAL HEALTH

GMA NEWS ONLINE

LIFESTYLE

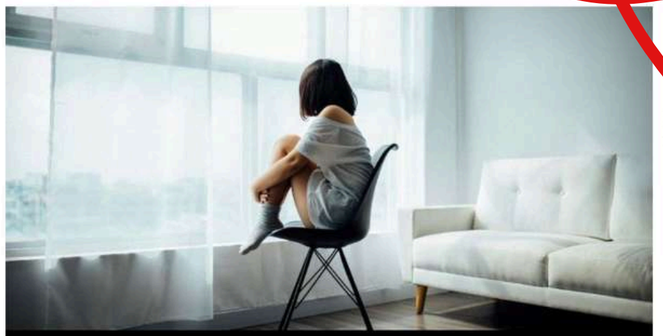


Photo by Anthony Tran on Unsplash

Philippines' mental health quotient worsens in 2024 — study

Published April 21, 2025 10:00 AM

By JOSIAH ANTONIO

The Philippines' mental health quotient (MHQ) has worsened in 2024 to 68.76 from 2023's recorded mental health quotient of 78.44, based on the Mental State of the World report by Sapien Labs, non-profit organization based in Washington DC.

Still, the Philippines' 2024 figure rates higher than the global average of 62.84.

According to **Sapien Lab**, the mental health quotient is a "comprehensive" metric of Mind Health and Wellbeing that "encompasses all aspects of mental function – emotional, cognitive and social as well as drive and resilience – and reflects, in the aggregate, our ability to navigate life's challenges and function effectively."

"If we are to reverse this alarming trend, research must be redirected to a greater depth of understanding of the root causes, and we must take bold preventative steps that utilize this understanding effectively." — **LA, GMA Integrated News**

GMA News Online. (2025, April 21). Philippines' mental health quotient worsens in 2024 — study. Gmanetwork.com; GMA News Online. https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/healthandwellness/943137/philippines-mental-health-quotient-worsens-in-2024-study/story/?amp

Based on the data, key symptoms that are prevalent in more than a third of the younger adult population and have the largest absolute percentage increase compared to older generations of 25% or more include:

- unwanted, strange and obsessive thoughts
- guilt and blame
- mood swings
- feelings of sadness or hopelessness
- fear and anxiety
- and a sense of being detached from reality

Many do not seek help due to stigma or fear of being judged.

ABS-CBN

Spotlight

Mental health issues among Filipinos on the rise: NCMH chief

Sherrie Ann Torres, ABS-CBN News

Published Apr 06, 2023 12:58 PM PHT

MANILA — "Levi," not her real name, started battling mental health issues about 2 decades ago, when her boyfriend left her for another woman after years of promising marriage, while failing to give back around P250,000 that she loaned him.

With medication and regular check-ups, Levi got better, went on to marry another man, and worked as a librarian.

"Kung mga dati, binabalewala nila ang nararamdaman nila, ngayon they are seeking help. One evident statistics there is our 24/7 service hotline, our helpline and suicide prevention line," Reyes said.

"We have seen quadruple increase in the number of calls. Also the age group that is calling -- we receive calls from 7-year-olds telling us about their problems in academics, online dahil nahihirapan din sila, and some of the parents who are calling in behalf of the child. I guess the awareness is increasing in terms of this mental health issues," he added.

"Some of the mental health issue, you're already so used to it. You already developed coping mechanism to combat it. And that's why you are reluctant to seek help because kinakaya mo na lang (you are getting by). But of course, in any other illness, there will come a time that you will succumb to the illness. And we hope we can catch it before it can cause you any more harm," he added.

purpose

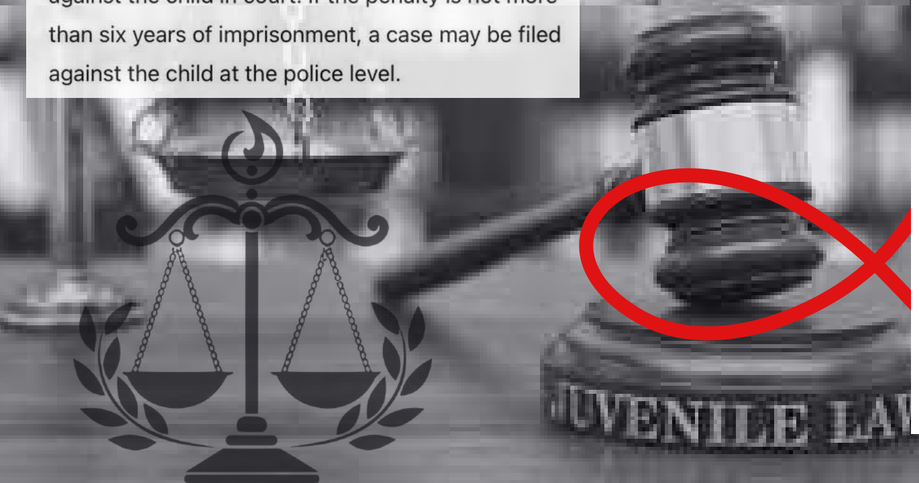
Ann, S. (2023). Mental health issues among Filipinos on the rise: NCMH chief | ABS-CBN. ABS-CBN. https://doi.org/102823100/23f1b5661bf2875df718dd18abc831421a6eac42da17cf7d490b86e4d6a95162

"Hindi namin naibalik [sa doctor kasi] P3,500 per injection. Saan naman ako kukuha nun? ...Hindi ko siya puwedeng iwanan, ganoon lang. Kung saan sya, nakasubaybay lang ako kasi mahirap siyang iwanan ng mas malayo," her husband said.

TARA, USAP TAYO!

15. JUVENILE JUSTICE

If the child is found to have acted with discernment and the imposable penalty of the offense is more than 12 years of imprisonment, a case may be filed against the child in court. If the penalty is not more than six years of imprisonment, a case may be filed against the child at the police level.



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DSWD explains handling cases of children in conflict with law

By Zaldy De Layola

December 12, 2024, 10:09 pm

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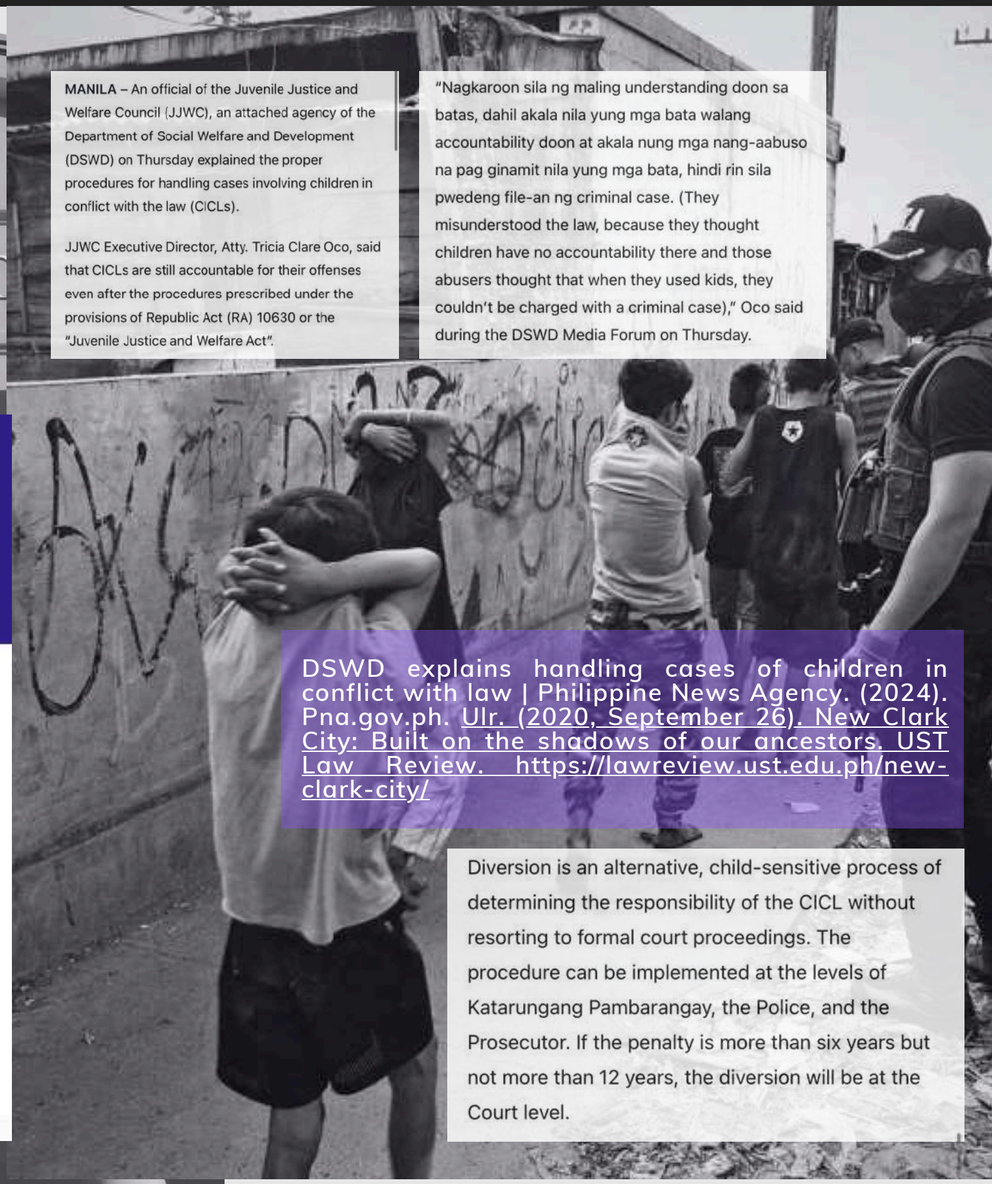

MANILA – An official of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC), an attached agency of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Thursday explained the proper procedures for handling cases involving children in conflict with the law (CICLs).

JJWC Executive Director, Atty. Tricia Clare Oco, said that CICLs are still accountable for their offenses even after the procedures prescribed under the provisions of Republic Act (RA) 10630 or the "Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act".

"Nagkaroon sila ng maling understanding doon sa batas, dahil akala nila yung mga bata walang accountability doon at akala nung mga nang-aabuso na pag ginamit nila yung mga bata, hindi rin sila pwedeng file-an ng criminal case. (They misunderstood the law, because they thought children have no accountability there and those abusers thought that when they used kids, they couldn't be charged with a criminal case)," Oco said during the DSWD Media Forum on Thursday.

DSWD explains handling cases of children in conflict with law | Philippine News Agency. (2024). Pna.gov.ph. Ulr. (2020, September 26). New Clark City: Built on the shadows of our ancestors. UST Law Review. https://lawreview.ust.edu.ph/new-clark-city/

Diversion is an alternative, child-sensitive process of determining the responsibility of the CICL without resorting to formal court proceedings. The procedure can be implemented at the levels of Katarungang Pambarangay, the Police, and the Prosecutor. If the penalty is more than six years but not more than 12 years, the diversion will be at the Court level.

conde, carlos. (2019, January 22). Children in the Philippines as Crime Scapegoats. Human Rights Watch. https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/01/22/children-philippines-crime-scapegoats

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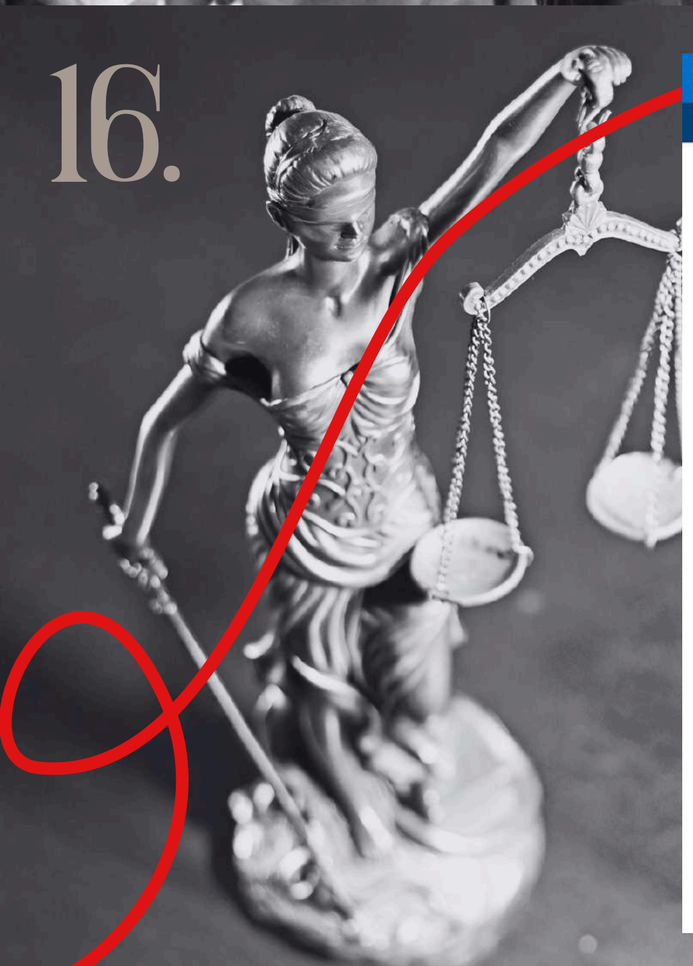

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January 22, 2019 11:40AM EST | Dispatches

Children in the Philippines as Crime Scapegoats

Bill Would Lower Age of Criminal Responsibility from 15 to 9

Carlos H. Conde
Senior Researcher, Asia Division
carloshconde

Detainees sit next to an anti-drug mural of Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte inside the Manila City Jail, October 16, 2017. © 2017 Reuters

Proponents of the bill argue that children would be better protected from criminals who are trying to exploit them. But the law's impact would be punitive: children from 14 to 9 who commit serious crimes such as murder, illegal detention, or "carnapping," or violate the country's draconian drug laws can be sentenced to "mandatory confinement" of up to 12 years.

The Philippine government is one step closer to prosecuting young children as adults, a key plank in esident Rodrigo Duterte's abuse-ridden anti-crime npaign.

On Monday, a congressional committee approved a bi that would lower the age of criminal responsibility fro 15 to 9. If the Senate makes good on its promise to pa