

**SEWING: ITS IMPACT TO DRESSMAKERS IN THE
FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
A SPECIAL PROBLEM**

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ABSTRACT

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Dressmaking among others is one of the source of livelihood in rural areas. The study was conducted to assess the impact of the skill in sewing to dressmakers in the first congressional district Zamboanga del Sur. The respondents were mostly females, aged 41 and above, married, high school graduates, Roman Catholics, Cebuano with a residence of 21 years and above and they are land owners. Their source of income other than sewing is rice farming with a monthly income from all sources of Php 10,000 to Php 20,000. They are members of religious organizations with 8-10 years of experience in sewing and have not attended trainings and seminars before they got into the sewing business. The respondents first learned how to sew at home and their relatives were the first persons who taught them how to sew.

The respondents don not own their shop and their shop is located at the marketplace, with no advertisement to promote their business and the most common sewing facility available at their shop is the over edging machine. Their clients are mostly students and men's apparel are mostly what they make in their shop aside from dresses. They have the most number of clients during enrolment (May-June) and they receive an annual income of Php 45,001 with no trainings undergone.

Due to sewing, the respondents were able to send their children to school, created job opportunities, and gave them a flexible work schedule. The respondents had encountered serious problems on the price of textile, market price of products, and equipment and machineries. The suggested solutions were considered effective by the respondents such as standardization of the prices of textile, technical assistance from the government, and government financial support to the dressmaking industry.