

Editor's Notes

The articles composing this issue revolve around a very vital subject—health. The first is Cecilia G. Conaco's "Prostitution and AIDS/HIV Transmission: Implications on Disease Control Management." The rapid global spread of this modern-day epidemic deserves a serious concern from all sectors. Because prostitution is one of the common conduits of its transmission, immediate government intervention on this aspect is imperative to minimize the spread of the disease.

In the second article, Elizabeth R. Ventura and associates focus their attention on the age-old scourge of malaria. Entitled "BHW Effectiveness in Malaria Control: Lessons from Five Municipalities," the article investigates the various factors behind the effective performance of barangay health workers (BHWs) in consideration of their role in direct service delivery including malaria control activities. Such role is crucial particularly in far-flung and less developed areas where communities do not have access to medical service agents like doctors and nurses.

For her part, Victoria A. Bautista assesses the area-based child survival and development program (ABCSDP) model introduced by the UNICEF as an alternative strategy in improving the health of mothers and children. In her paper "Towards the Institutionalization of the Area-Based Child Survival and Development Program: Highlights of the Feasibility Assessment," the success of the four approaches suggested by the model—convergence, social mobilization, decentralization, and focused targeting—are looked into. Moreover, important lessons from the dynamics in implementation of these four approaches in seven most depressed provinces in the country are drawn to guide decisionmakers and implementors in the institutionalization of the model.

Elena L. Samonte in the "Psychosocial Costs of Post-Employment of Overseas Workers: A Research Agenda" reviews various studies to characterize the stress generated by overseas employment. Such stress takes its toll on the mental health of both the contract worker and the families they left behind. She examines the full cycle of overseas employment in an attempt to determine its psychosocial costs and its various aspects which need deeper exploration.

Lastly, a brief paper entitled "The Service Complexities of General Tertiary Hospitals in Metropolitan Manila" by Ricardo M. Zarco and Alberto V. Santos, Jr. redirects one's attention to the physical aspect of health facilities. The article provides a perspective to understand the development and evolution of hospitals vis-a-vis their service complexities through the use of the scalogram scale.