

Preface

As part of the celebration of the 10th year of the UP-CSWCD Doctor of Social Development (DSD) Program, this 12th volume of PJSD brings together selected papers that interrogate current discourses in social development.

The papers are divided into two sections. The first section examines current social development themes generated from completed DSD dissertations. The second section puts together complementary concepts that explore new ways of looking at development practice.

The DSD curriculum is anchored to praxis-oriented learning. This is evident in the papers presented in section one where the authors engaged in grounded theorizing that reflected their own development practice. *Angelito B. Meneses* surfaced the meaning of *Kahampatan* as the Aytá's concept of development and proposed the use of indigenous research methods. The plight of the children left-behind by OFWs was examined by *Mark Anthony D. Abenir* using the capabilities framework espoused by Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum and informed by his own experience as an Anak OFW. The phenomenon of the 'sandwich generation' among urban poor women was interrogated by *Excelsa C. Tongson* by drawing from feminist standpoint epistemology and Kabeer's Social Relations Approach. *Meredith del Pilar-Labarda* proposed the concept of transformative leadership and governance in pursuing health and development goals focusing on the experience of Region 8. The studies done by Abenir, Tongson and Labarda utilized mixed research methods, combining quantitative and qualitative research methods to surface greater understanding of reality. According to *Teresita Villamor-Barrameda*, two major trends characterize the 13 DSD dissertations she reviewed: (1) privileging the voices and perspectives of the poor and marginalized groups in examining development concepts, and (2) knowledge and meaning-making through grounded theorizing and guided by community organizing-community development (CO-CD) and feminist perspectives.

The second section features articles that re-imagine how social development can be approached, by analyzing, expanding or transforming current social development concepts and practices. It begins with *Rosalinda P. Ofreneo's* examination of the potential of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in achieving women's empowerment, which she does by looking at existing SSE initiatives that are geared towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The next three

articles, in interrogating social development, more closely delved into community experiences that provided opportunities to reconsider familiar social development issues and perspectives in new ways. *Aleli B. Bawagan, Miguela M. Mena, Richard Philip A. Gonzalo* and *Victor G. Obedicen* presented Maribojoc, Bohol's experience as a Learning Tourism Destination, emphasizing the active role of local communities in achieving sustainability in tourism management. *Redento B. Recio* provided a close look at Grassroots Democratic Entanglements in a case study of Baclaran hawkers, which magnified the complexities of various actors' engagements in the urban informal economy. *Paul Edward N. Muego* shared the experiences of a local organization in Las Piñas with disability-inclusive and participatory data profiling, making the case not only for visibility and representation but direct involvement and even leadership of communities in development processes as crucial to a truly inclusive development. For the final article, *Virginia B. Dandan* shared her insights, as a former United Nations Independent Expert who was tasked to prepare the Draft Declaration on the Right to International Solidarity, on the significance of a balanced appreciation of the Human Rights framework from the more negative, violations-focused approach to one that is rooted in its positive, instrumental value.

The last ten years witnessed how the DSD Program searched for its own niche in the development arena. As the DSD Program moves forward, more complex development issues will remain or re-surface, and new ways of thinking and doing 'social development' will emerge. By re-imagining social development, we hope to be part of the collective pursuit of re-claiming people's development.

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