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The Social Weather Surveys of Economic Well-being, 1983-2024

Brown Bag Lecture 2024

Dr. Mahar K. Mangahas

upcids Data Science for Public Policy

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
CENTER FOR INTEGRATIVE AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

The Social Weather Surveys of Economic Well-being, 1983-2024

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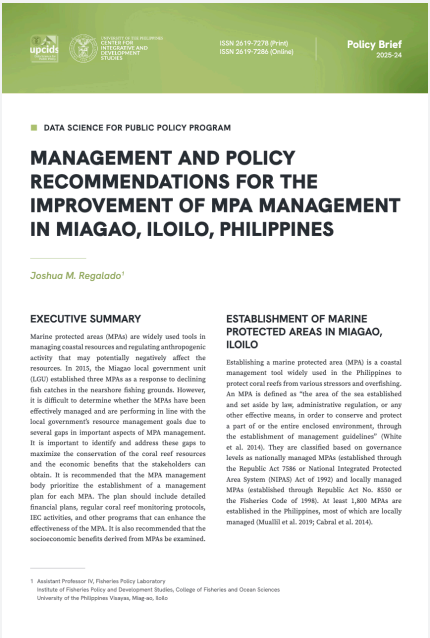

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Policy Brief
2025-24

DATA SCIENCE FOR PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM

MANAGEMENT AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF MPA MANAGEMENT IN MIAGAO, ILOILO, PHILIPPINES

Joshua M. Regalado[1]

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are widely used tools in managing coastal resources and regulating anthropogenic activity that may potentially negatively affect the resources. In 2015, the Miagao local government unit (LGU) established three MPAs as a response to declining fish catches in the nearshore fishing grounds. However, it is difficult to determine whether the MPAs have been effectively managed and are performing in line with the local government's resource management goals due to several gaps in important aspects of MPA management. It is important to identify and address these gaps to maximize the conservation of the coral reef resources and the economic benefits that the stakeholders can obtain. It is recommended that the MPA management body prioritize the establishment of a management plan for each MPA. The plan should include detailed financial plans, regular coral reef monitoring protocols, IEC activities, and other programs that can enhance the effectiveness of the MPA. It is also recommended that the socioeconomic benefits derived from MPAs be examined.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN MIAGAO, ILOILO

Establishing a marine protected area (MPA) is a coastal management tool widely used in the Philippines to protect coral reefs from various stressors and overfishing. An MPA is defined as "the area of the sea established and set aside by law, administrative regulation, or any other effective means, in order to conserve and protect a part of or the entire enclosed environment, through the establishment of management guidelines" (White et al. 2014). They are classified based on governance levels as nationally managed MPAs (established through the Republic Act 7586 or National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) Act of 1992) and locally managed MPAs (established through Republic Act No. 8550 or the Fisheries Code of 1998). At least 1,800 MPAs are established in the Philippines, most of which are locally managed (Mualliil et al. 2019; Cabral et al. 2014).

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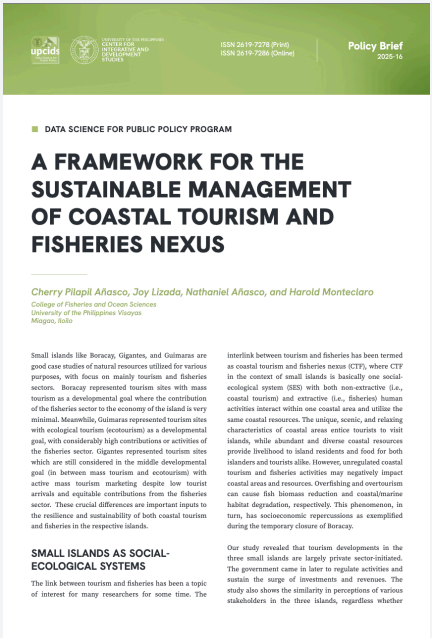
Management and Policy Recommendations for the Improvement of MPA Management in Miagao, Iloilo, Philippines



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Policy Brief
2025-16

DATA SCIENCE FOR PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM

A FRAMEWORK FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL TOURISM AND FISHERIES NEXUS

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Miagao, Iloilo

Small islands like Boracay, Gigantes, and Guimaras are good case studies of natural resources utilized for various purposes, with focus on mainly tourism and fisheries sectors. Boracay represented tourism sites with mass tourism as a developmental goal where the contribution of the fisheries sector to the economy of the island is very minimal. Meanwhile, Guimaras represented tourism sites with ecological tourism (ecotourism) as a developmental goal, with considerably high contributions or activities of the fisheries sector. Gigantes represented tourism sites which are still considered in the middle developmental goal (in between mass tourism and ecotourism) with active mass tourism marketing despite low tourist arrivals and equitable contributions from the fisheries sector. These crucial differences are important inputs to the resilience and sustainability of both coastal tourism and fisheries in the respective islands.

SMALL ISLANDS AS SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

The link between tourism and fisheries has been a topic of interest for many researchers for some time. The interlink between tourism and fisheries has been termed as coastal tourism and fisheries nexus (CTF), where CTF in the context of small islands is basically one social-ecological system (SES) with both non-extractive (i.e., coastal tourism) and extractive (i.e., fisheries) human activities interact within one coastal area and utilize the same coastal resources. The unique, scenic, and relaxing characteristics of coastal areas entice tourists to visit islands, while abundant and diverse coastal resources provide livelihood to island residents and food for both islanders and tourists alike. However, unregulated coastal tourism and fisheries activities may negatively impact coastal areas and resources. Overfishing and overtourism can cause fish biomass reduction and coastal/marine habitat degradation, respectively. This phenomenon, in turn, has socioeconomic repercussions as exemplified during the temporary closure of Boracay.

Our study revealed that tourism developments in the three small islands are largely private sector-initiated. The government came in later to regulate activities and sustain the surge of investments and revenues. The study also shows the similarity in perceptions of various stakeholders in the three islands, regardless whether

A Framework for the Sustainable Management of Coastal Tourism and Fisheries Nexus

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ABOUT THE EVENT PROCEEDINGS

The Program on Data Science for Public Policy (DSPPP) of the University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS) hosted the first Brown Bag Lecture for 2024, "The Social Weather Surveys of Economic Well-Being, 1983–2024." These Brown Bag sessions are designed to foster discussion and knowledge sharing—updates, challenges, and issues—on matters related to data science and public policy.

Two distinguished associate professors, who are also part of the CIDS Program, served as panel reactors: Dr. Rogelio Alicor Panao, Convenor of the Program on Social and Political Change (PSPC), and Dr. Vladimer Kobayashi, one of the Research Fellows of the Program on Data Science for Public Policy, provided valuable insights and perspectives.

Notably, the data presented herein by Dr. Mahar K. Mangahas of the Social Weather Stations (SWS) has also been reported and featured in GMA Public Affairs News.

Opening Remarks

Dr. Ebinezer Florano, Convenor of the Data Science for Public Policy, is also a Professor and Scientist at the National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG). He formally commenced the activity by stating the objectives of the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies (CIDS), particularly of the Program on Data Science for Public Policy (DSPPP), as well as the expected outcomes of this Brown Bag lecture.

He acknowledged the presence of the two (2) former Convenors of the DSPPP: (1) Dr. Jalton Taguibao, an Associate Professor of the Department of Political Science, College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, as his immediate predecessor. He claimed to owe a lot of the Program's progress through Dr. Taguibao's previous efforts. He also recognized (2) former Chancellor Dr. Fidel Nemenzo of the Department of Mathematics, the original Convenor who first conceptualized and formed DSPPP in August 2017.

Dr. Florano also acknowledged the presence of the former Vice Chancellor of the UP Open University, Dr. Melinda Lumanta, and the Dean of the UP School of Statistics, Dr. Joseph Ryan Lansangan, who recommended DSPPP to their students. Dr. Alvin Marcello, another data analysis expert from UP Manila College of Medicine, was also present. He further recognized the Convenors of the UP CIDS Alternative Development Program (AltDev), Dr. Eduardo Tadem, and the Program on Social and Political Change (PSPC), Dr. Rogelio Alicor Panao. This session was made possible with the assistance of DSPPP interns, BS Statistics students, and BS Computer Science interns of UP Diliman.

On behalf of Dr. Rosalie Arcala Hall, the Executive Director of the UP CIDS, Dr. Florano further welcomed all the participants to the first Brown Bag Lecture of DSPPP. He introduced the guest speaker for the lecture, the Chairman Emeritus of the Social Weather Stations, Dr. Mahar Mangahas.

The Social Weather Surveys of Economic Well-being, 1983-2024

Brown Bag Lecture 2024

Dr. Mahar K. Mangahas
Social Weather Stations

Dr. Mangahas opened his lecture with a challenging question to the participants: "Can anyone tell me what they think [the percentage of] poverty is in the Philippines [in 2024]? What proportion of Filipino families is poor now? 18 percent? 15 percent? Or higher?"

Some participants answered 18 percent and said their reference year was two years ago, which Dr. Mangahas remarked was a communication failure on the SWS's part. He humbly said that the SWS has not been able to inform or convince enough people that they have the data. In fact, they have had the data for a long time, even up to this year, and their survey continues. This afternoon's lecture was Dr. Mangahas' first attempt to convince the audience of the University of the Philippines of what the data really say.

The title of this lecture, "Economic Well-Being in the Philippines: The People's History," emphasizes that this series goes back as early as 1983 and continues to the present. Why is it the people's history? According to him, it is called as such "because it is the history in numbers of how the Filipino people say they are [doing in terms of quality of life], because we [the SWS] are a serving institute."

Dr. Mangahas first presented this lecture at the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS) Conference, "Human Happiness and Well-Being in an Uncertain World," held in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia on 27 June 2024. ISQOLS is a 30-year-old international society of jwhich Dr Mangahas is a member that publish affiliated journals such as the Applied Research on Quality of Life and the *Journal of Happiness*.

Recently, he also co-authored the book, *The Untold People's History*. It is essentially a kind of world history that uses the indicators the authors think are the best and the most recent. It may not necessarily be the official, governmental, or multilateral indicators, but what these people believe are the best. His chapter, "The Untold History of Development in Southeast Asia," focused on the region. His co-author is Professor DJ Jesus, the former president of AIM, whose discipline is on history.

The first proposition is on the essential role of survey-based statistics in development studies. In the field of research surveys, it is essential to use statistics. Statistical data are necessary for scientific guidance of governance. The use of data should be of high quality. Dr. Mangahas showed the group that the Social Weather Stations (SWS)[1] have the highest quality of data. He challenged the audience to do what the SWS is trying to do and compete. Ultimately, it would be worth seeing if we do not get the same answers. Quality means relevance, especially when discussing economic indicators. The use of high-quality data means that the data is relevant, realistic, frequent, and accurate. Using such data demonstrates sincerity of purpose in what you do. Survey-based indicators are bottom-up from the people that are more realistic and practical. These are easier to do and faster to gather. These are amenable to independent validation, should anybody doubt what they say. Other people can also validate the data for themselves.

SWS surveys, particularly on poverty, are bottom-up (people-based) and not top-down (policy-based). SWS had been doing it for almost 40 years. The latest data are for the first quarter of 2024. It comprises 46 percent of Filipino

1 The Social Weather Stations, or SWS, is a private and nonprofit research institute in the Philippines. Founded in 1985, it is the leading social polling body in the country, with statistics on the likes of leader satisfaction, economic change, and quality of life, among others.

families who consider themselves poor. Currently, they are completing the fieldwork for the second quarter of 2024, which will be published within the next 30 days. Dr. Mangahas was apprehensive that perhaps nobody knew about that; hence, SWS had to improve its communication capability. SWS makes this poverty survey every quarter, and they report it on their website (www.sws.org.ph). Newspapers similarly publish the report. The survey measurement units used percentage (%) because they are proportions of households or individuals are naturally democratic. They are based on people and not based on money. People are not mere values.

SWS maintained its sampling and field interviewing methodology over time to enhance historical analysis. SWS is going to be 39 years old by August. The research institute archives all these raw data so they can be restudied and/or recomputed for validation and further research. Dr. Mangahas remarked, "All we need is the initiative and the effort. Even if you have a library, the library does not read the books for you. You've got to do it."

Economic well-being is not the only kind of well-being. There are indeed many, but economic well-being is a critical component of the general public's welfare. Looking at SDGs is a very useful classification system not only in the market. The SWS economic indicators focused more on deprivation, such as:

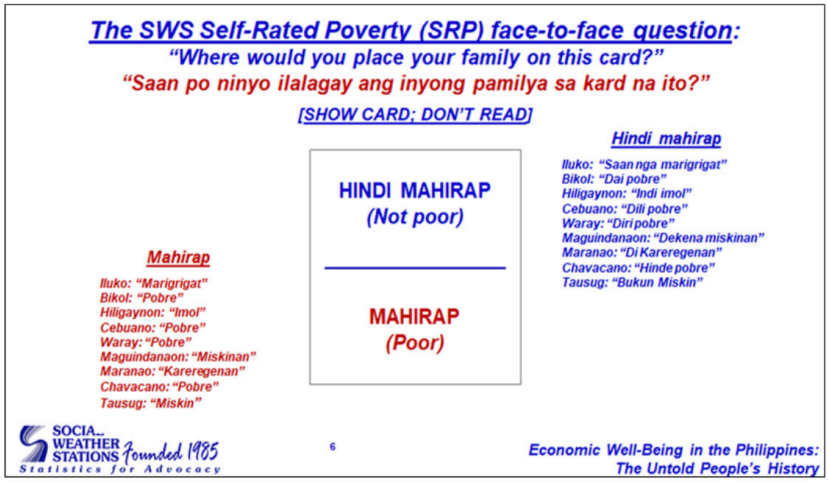
a. Self-Rated Poverty (SRP) has been surveyed 142 times since 1983. These are national surveys, statistically and scientifically conducted quarterly since 1992. SRP has had 102 surveys since 1988 and has been done quarterly since 2001.

b. Joblessness had 123 surveys done quarterly since 1993.

c. Hunger had 104 surveys done quarterly since 1998.

This is actually the most rapid survey-based system monitoring of poverty and hunger in the world. Dr. Mangahas remarked that he kept challenging people if they could find another survey system that does the same. According to him, even the University of the Philippines (UP) does not know this, despite its proximity to the SWS office in Sikatuna Village. But you do not even have to go there. The data is all on the website.

He presented the SWS survey system using the Self-Rated Poverty (SRP) as a prime indicator during interviews with the key question: "Where would you place your family on this card?" (*Saan po ninyo ilalagay ang inyong pamilya sa kard na ito?*) This survey requires that the respondents can read. There is a line in the middle between *MAHIRAP* (poor) and *HINDI MAHIRAP* (not poor). This grid for the interviewer is strictly based on the key question using the show card in Figure 1. Household heads are then asked to answer. This card has been translated into many languages, depicting the meaning of *MAHIRAP*. For example, at the very bottom is the Tausug term, "*Miskin*." This is also the word used in Malaysia or Indonesia. This kind of survey cannot be done via telephone. This card has to be shown physically, since there is no other stimulus except the card. No other question is asked. From the very start, SWS discovered that people tend to point at the line, which is one of their main findings. The line in between was never mentioned, but most of the respondents have pointed at it.



■ **Figure 1.** Self-rated poverty show card presented during field surveys

LESSONS FROM SELF-RATED POVERTY (SRP) SURVEYS

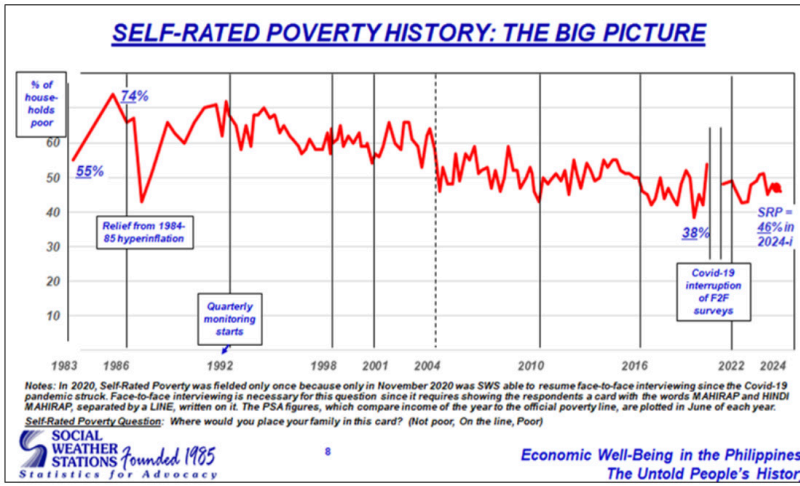
People recognize the border between the poor and the not poor (*hindi mayaman at hindi rin mahirap*). The card has no label and no description; it is simply shown as a card. As of the first quarter of this year (2024-i), the border is wide: the data

show 46 percent of the respondents are poor, 30 percent in the border, and 23 percent not poor. According to Dr. Mangahas, this is the most realistic measure of poverty in the Philippines—much bigger than government's statistics. These three (3) groups—poor, border, and not poor—can fluctuate significantly from quarter to quarter. Significantly means bigger than the margin, which is only 3+ percent nationally, even over one quarter. This justifies the reason why the survey has to be done often.

There are also additional questions, such as the SRP thresholds, which are self-adjusting and realistic: "*Magkano ang kailangan ninyong panggastos sa bahay para hindi ninyo sabihing mahirap kayo?*" ("How much budget would you need for household expenses so that you won't consider your family poor?") Then, the SRP gaps are substantial (actual expenses versus threshold). The concept of threshold and gap is well-known in poverty analysis. It does not matter how you measure it. The details are here, and surveys have been conducted 142 times. It is done every quarter, and the line is repeated and extended. This is the most important database for surveying the country's development statistics.

Dr. Mangahas takes pride in the SWS surveys, which can confidently compete with the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).[2] PSA has its own terms of reference for its 2023 Family Income and Expense Survey (FIES), which is still ongoing only for the first half and they will not do anymore surveys until 2025. The SWS can debate on which indicators to use, since it has more up-to-date data. It currently conducts the seventh-quarter survey for the year. Their fieldwork is about to end, and within 30 days, another last round of surveys for the last quarter will be conducted. The surveys will continue, similar to driving an airplane using radar; it is like using last week's radar if one is using government data. There are good social and political reasons why the government does what it does in underestimating information. They do not want to overestimate, which is another matter. By far, SWS is doing a superior job scientifically, and more people should listen to them on this subject. The group has the best estimate of poverty in the Philippines. It is the fastest in the entire world in terms of measuring poverty by means of surveys.

2 This is the central statistical agency of the Philippine government. They collect, analyze, and publish all data related to social, demographic, economic, and political concerns.



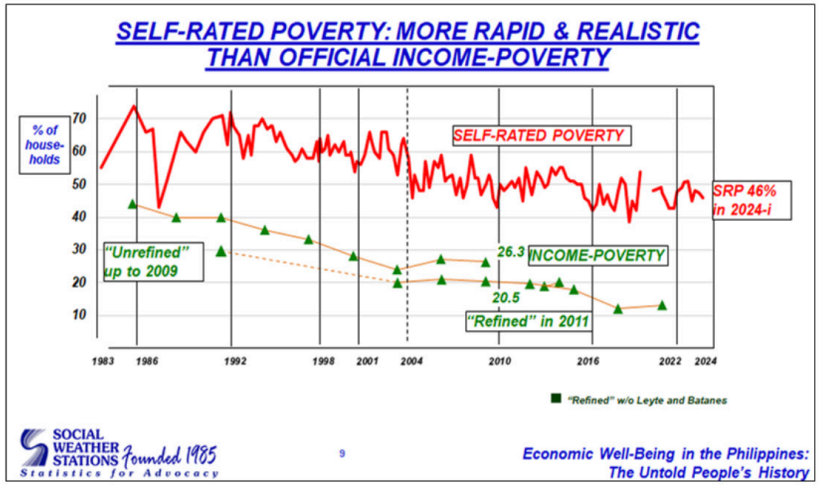
■ **Figure 2.** Self-rated poverty history, 1983-2024

Since 1983, SRP was first done by the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP).[3] Dr. Mangahas was then the Vice-President of the so-called Research for Development Department, better known as RFD and not R&D. They managed to get a national survey using the same system at that time, which came up with 55 percent SRP. They were never able to publish it since it was suppressed. It should have come out in 1983. The next survey result of poverty in the Philippines was published in 1985, which was at 74 percent. It is an all-time record for self-rated poverty. Two years ago, it collapsed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Why should it jump up by 21 points in two years' time (1983–1985)? It was not unexpected since there was 50 percent inflation in the year 1984 and another 25 percent in 1985. The years 1984 and 1985 were hyperinflation period. Then, there was price stability in 1986. It was a calm period; there was a significant drop in poverty, which did not las long as inflation returned. Inflation returned. In a year and a half, it became double-digit again and got close to 20 percent in a few years. Actually, that is the rough and ready parametric of this survey. The top variable of poverty is possibly inflation.

3 The Development Academy of the Philippines is a government-owned corporation that develops strategies to address local and international issues, and also capacitate persons and organizations to perform better within development sectors/industries.

As you look at the big picture, there is a long haul from the beginning to the present. It was not at all smooth but ragged. Why should it be ragged? Why should poverty fluctuate, in terms of why people feel poor? This is because inflation also fluctuates. Calamities would suddenly strike, and then people would get relieve goods. Dr. Mangahas promised to tell more stories on this.

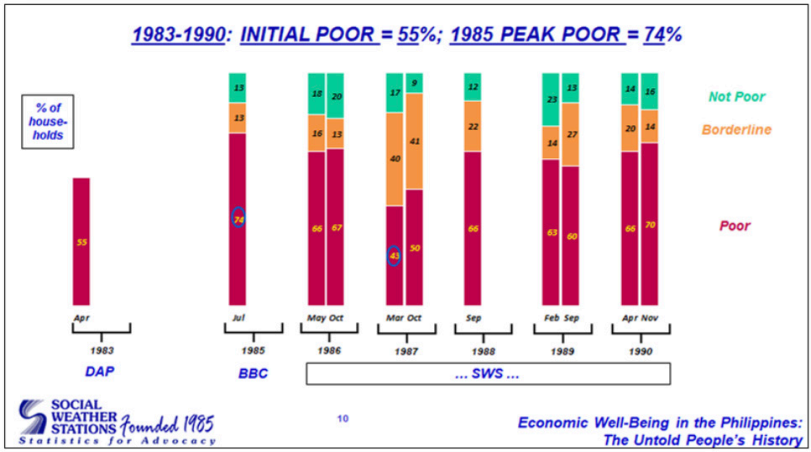
The SWS has been doing this SRP survey quarterly since 1992. That was purely a matter of resources, and thanks to the Almighty, SWS is still solvent. It uses its own funding to do 15 to 20 surveys yearly. Not all surveys are being published due to time constraints. However, four rounds of published social weather surveys make SWS self-supporting, which is their pure agenda. There was a blank of 3 quarters in 2020 not directly because of COVID-19, but because of the lockdowns. Interviewers were not able to go to the field. The Philippines had one of the worst lockdowns in the world, as there was no transportation.



■ **Figure 3.** SWS' self-rated poverty compared with PSA's official income poverty

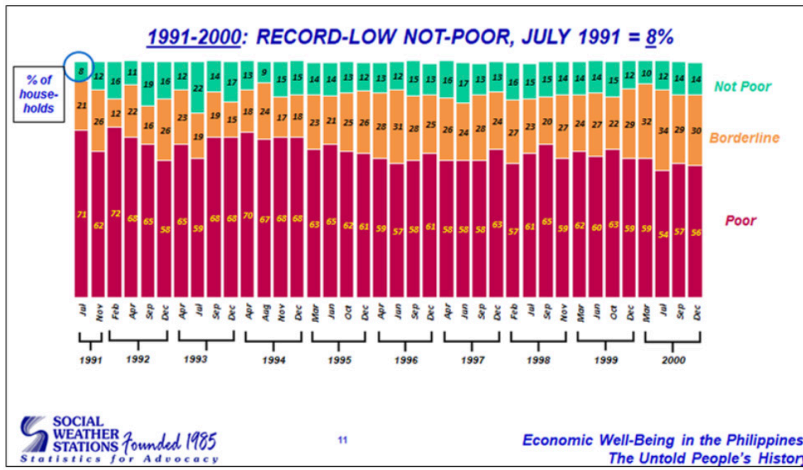
Here is a comparison between the self-related poverty and the income poverty. There are two lines for income poverty. This is because in 2011, the poverty line was lower. PSA was the one that computed the poverty under the old system and the new system. They computed and analyzed it, with 26.3 percent of families under the old system and 20.5 percent of families under the new system. In a flash, they reduced poverty by six (6) points, with the new policy definition. It was not because they gave a very generous poverty line. In his column, Dr. Mangahas wrote the article, "The Lowering of the

Poverty Line," where he discussed the matter. It was pitiful in 2011, as they removed anything fried and made it boiled. In 2011, ulam (viand) became purely fish; bananas were reduced from two to one; the milk for the children was removed completely, but they kept the little milk (creamer) for the adults' coffee. PSA called this "refining the poverty estimate," which is being applied up to now. That is the PSA term. Of course, it is getting harder. But the point is that if data are unrealistic, you cannot expect people to be excited. The most straightforward fact is that everything is an infrastructure problem.



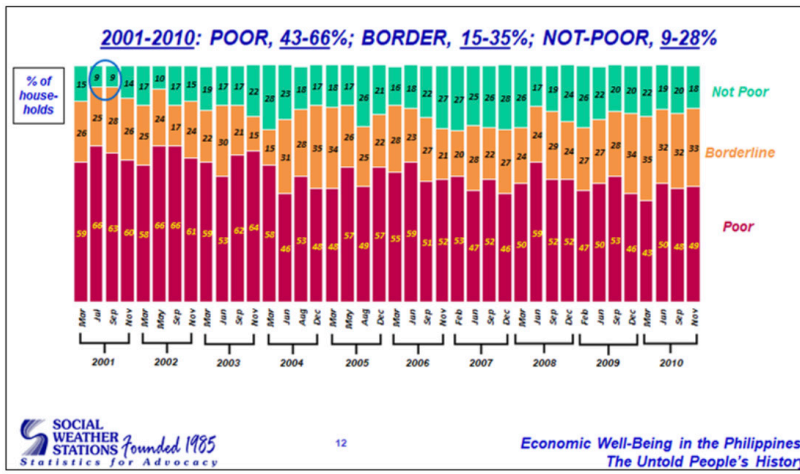
■ **Figure 4.** Milestones in the Philippines' SRP levels, 1983-1990

In the first decade up to 1990, initially, people experiencing poverty was at 55 percent. The peak was 74 percent in 1985. In the first year, the numbers were lost from the data of the DAP. But the publication was there. The red lines represent the poor. The orange lines represent respondents who chose the border. Lastly, the green lines correspond to the not poor. This alone is a very important lesson. It is not a narrow line between poor and not poor. It is a growing expanse that historians should cite. Hence, it is the "Untold History." When do UP historians use the real history? This is the history from below: the people's history. "The People's History" is also the title of a book by Howard Zinn on American history where he talks about the American Indians, not only the whites.



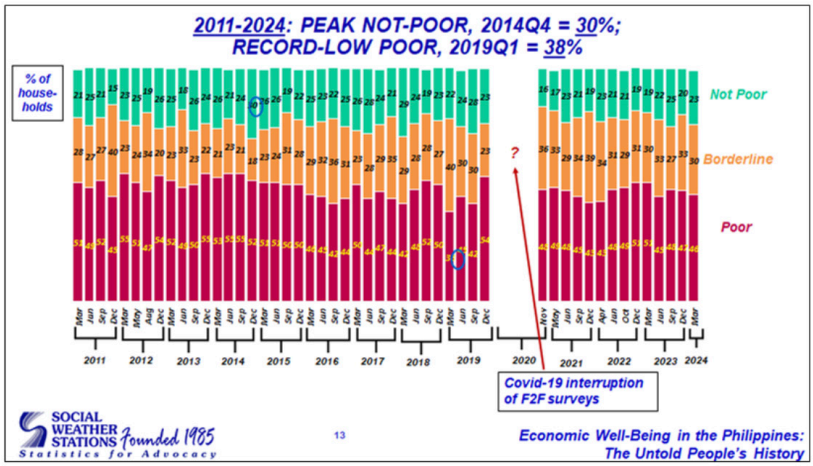
■ **Figure 5.** Milestones in the Philippines' SRP levels, 1991-2000

The quarterly reports began in the second decade. The record showed that the not poor in 1991 was only 8 percent. People said they were not poor (*hindi sila mahirap*). But the borderline was growing, and the poor were slightly diminishing.



■ **Figure 6.** Milestones in the Philippines' SRP levels, 2001-2010

From 2001 to 2010, the poverty range grew from 43 percent to 66 percent. The range of the border changed from 15 to 35 percent. The range of the not poor was from 9 percent to 28 percent. It was moving, and things were changing.

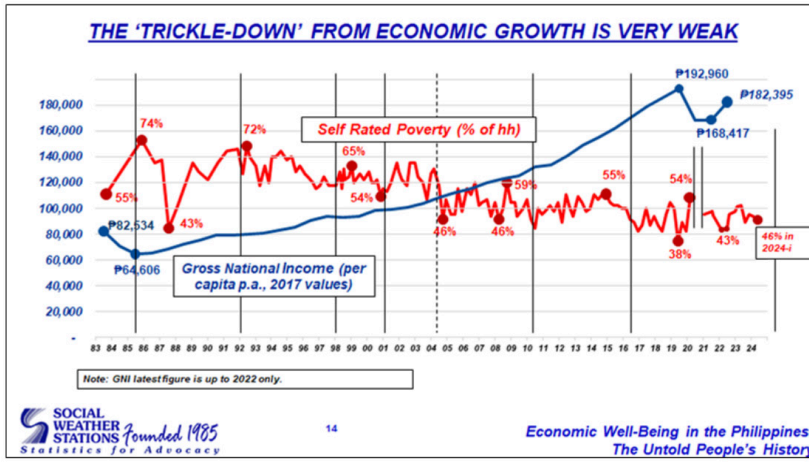


■ **Figure 7.** Milestones in the Philippines' SRP levels, 2011-2024

The peak of the not poor was reached ten years ago. In the fourth quarter of 2014, it was 30 percent. The record-low poor at 38 percent was reached 5 years ago, at 38 percent in the first quarter of 2019. Every new report also includes all the old numbers, but no one looks at them because people are ashamed to offend NEDA and PSA.

The SWS had a blank space during the COVID-19 pandemic due to the lack of transportation. They had to pause the face-to-face card surveys for a while. However, the SWS continued the hunger surveys using mobile phones since they could not go to the field personally. They had a database of mobile phone users and had been asking their sample people if they had a mobile phone and were willing to be re-interviewed. Through this, the SWS accumulated 50,000 sample respondents from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao during the two-year pandemic.

In their hunger survey, they asked if their family experienced hunger. A respondent asked, "which family?" The family I left in Luzon as I could not return home; or the family where I am right now?" There was so much migration inside the country. They could not go home during the pandemic.

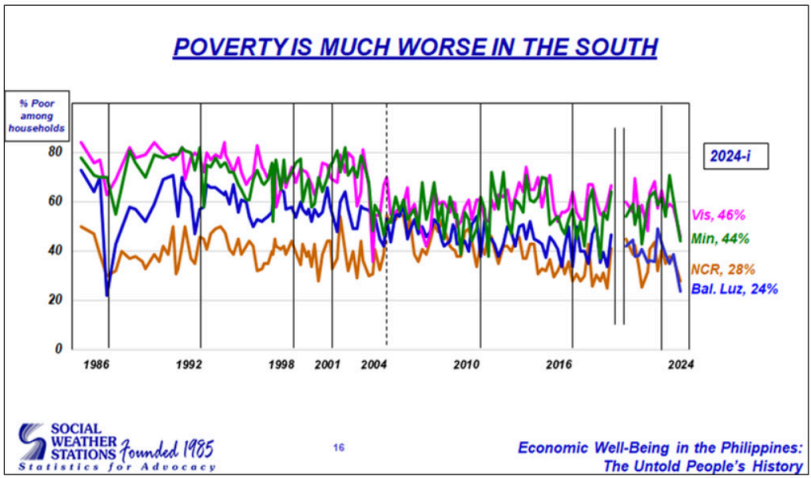


■ **Figure 8.** The trickle-down effect: SRP viz. gross national income

Gross national income increased, but the trickle-down effect was fragile. This is supposed to be corrected for inflation already. Look at how much it has increased since the beginning, yet the trickle-down effect has been very weak.

INITIAL ECONOMETRIC MODELING OF SRP-CHANGE

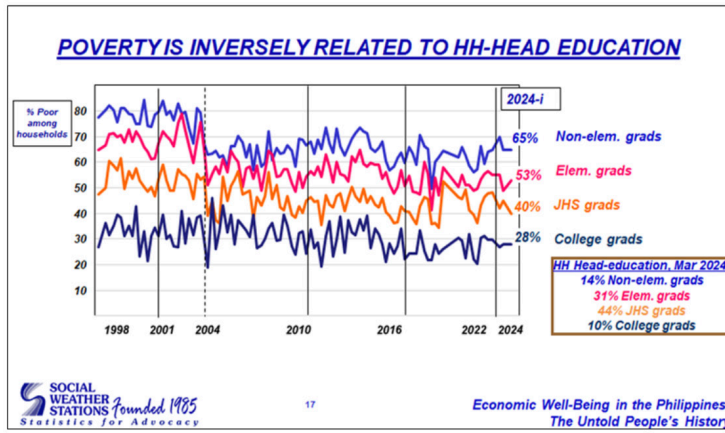
Not too much emphasis was placed on the initial parametric modeling. Still, the elasticity of poverty with respect to a rise of 1 percent in food inflation implied a significant increase in SRP of about 0.68 (holding unemployment constant). A rise in unemployment by 1 percent has a significant implication to SRP of about 1.7 percent (holding food inflation constant). However, a rise in GDP does not have a significant coefficient; it may be negative, but it is not statistically significant, unlike inflation and unemployment.



■ **Figure 9.** Regional poverty levels, 1986-2024

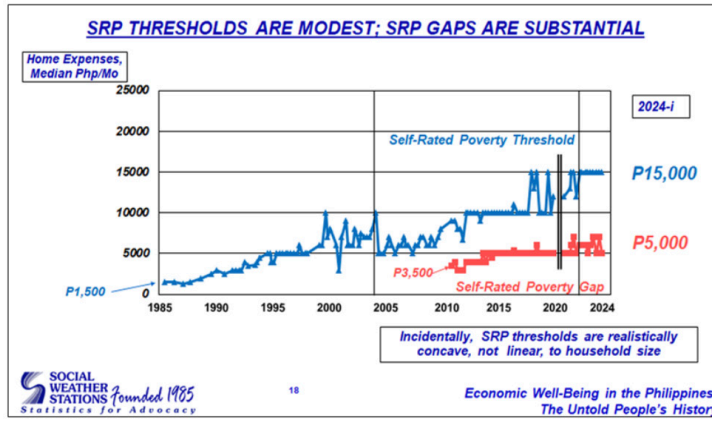
SWS surveys have always been geographically stratified into the National Capital Region (NCR), Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, with a quota of 300 samples for each. At that level, the error margin is +/-6 points. The error of margin may be big, but SWS works on what is possible, and there are many times when it can change by more than 6 points in as little as one quarter. From 2004 to 2013, the numbers merged and then spread again since then. High poverties came down, while low poverties came up a little bit for a while. UP CIDS,[4] as a Center, may already be aware of the dynamics of how fast things can change. It would not be surprising that NCR and Luzon have the least poverty, while Visayas and Mindanao have the worst poverty.

4 The Center for Integrative and Development Studies (CIDS) is the policy research unit of the University of the Philippines. At present, it has 16 Research Programs, including the Program on Data Science for Public Policy (DSPPP).



■ **Figure 10.** Poverty in relation to household head educational attainment, 1998-2024

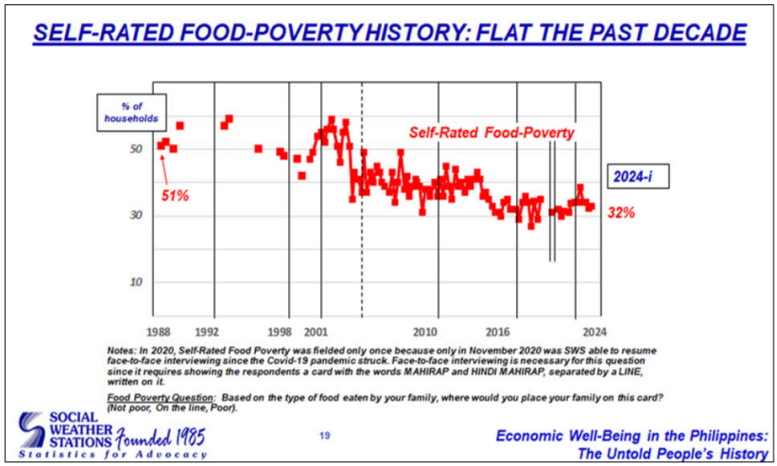
Poverty is also inversely related to household heads and their highest educational attainment. College graduates have the least poverty. But only 28 percent of households are headed by college graduates, whereas those headed by an elementary or high school dropout comprise 65 percent of the population. If only we could eliminate the non-elementary graduates already and have, at the very least, junior high school-headed households. JHS graduates have at least completed their education. The latest data in March 2024 has 10 percent college graduates and 44 percent junior high school graduates.



■ **Figure 11.** SRP thresholds viz. household size, 1985-2024

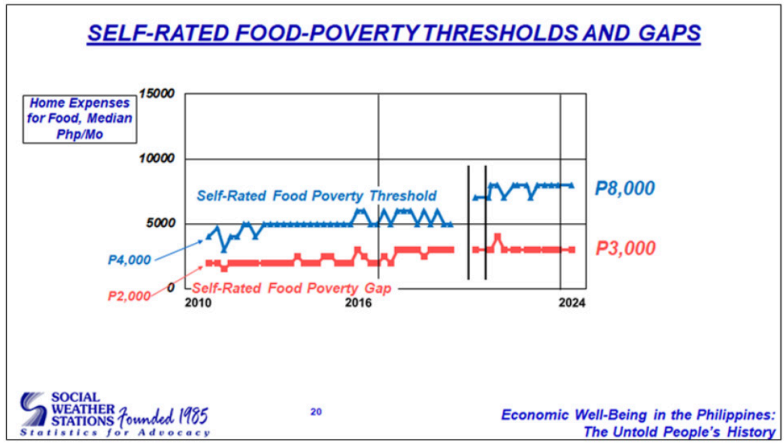
Here, the threshold is presented as a national median average. It presents how much household excess is needed by the family for home expenses in order not to be poor. Nowadays, respondents who said that they are in NCR are flipping

between 20,000 and 15,000 a month. In Mindanao, it is flipping between 10,000 and 15,000 a month. The gap is substantial, while the SRP thresholds are modest. In other words, the problem is big not in terms of economic growth, but in making sure that the people who need it get it.



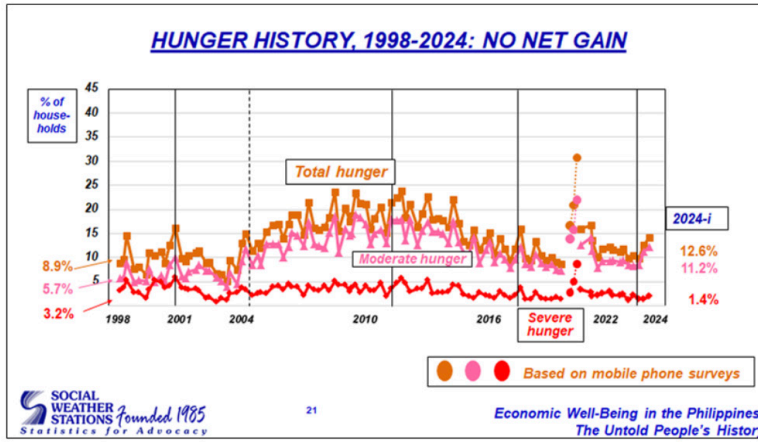
■ **Figure 12.** Food poverty, 1988-2024

The history of food poverty is shorter and has been trending downward quarterly since 2001. However, for the past 10 years, it has generally been flat. The SWS has constantly emphasized staying at the outskirts, and this point has been appreciated.



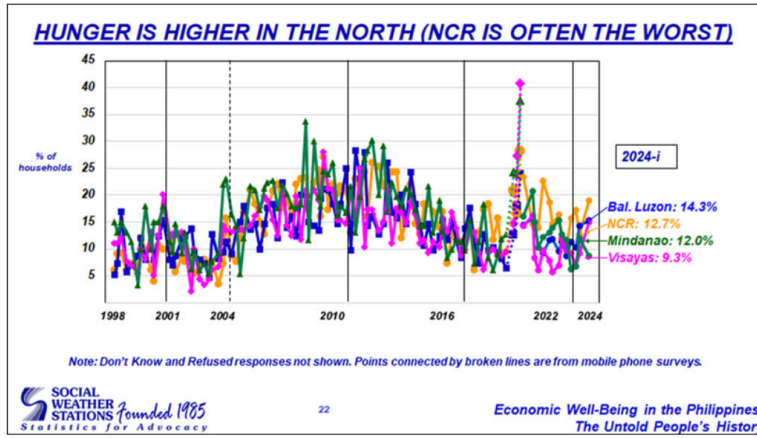
■ **Figure 13.** Food poverty thresholds, 2010-2024

The food poverty threshold has a larger gap. It is not small.



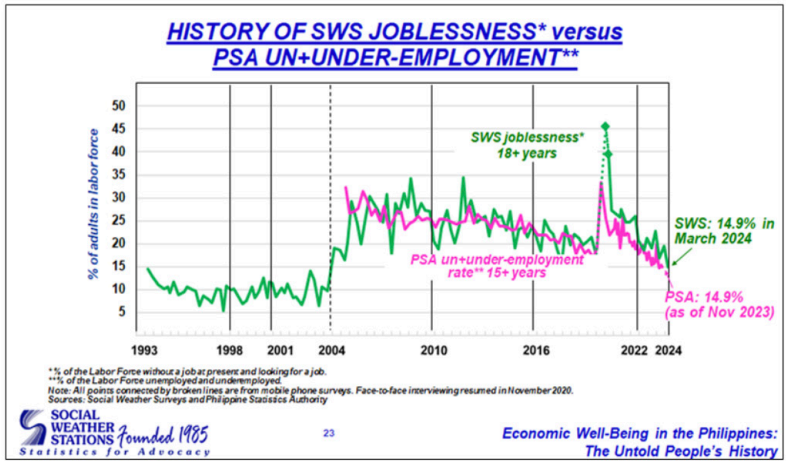
■ **Figure 14.** Hunger history, 1998-2024

The hunger survey was started in 1998 and grew steadily in 2000. The result fluctuated a little bit, decreasing, and then growing year by year from about 2004 to about 2015. It steadily reached practically 20 percent. Families said they experienced hunger at least once in the last three months. If severe, hunger was experienced often or not always; *palagi* or *malimit*. If moderate, that is *minsan* or *ilang beses nangyari*. Those are the simple gradations. The latest data presented that 1.4 percent experienced severe hunger during the first quarter of this year. The base year would have 22 plus million families or households, with 77 million adults. So, the overall trend for hunger is flat because there was worsening in the middle that has subsided again. So the net over 40 years is like nothing happened (*walang nangyari*) and was back to the original level in 1990.



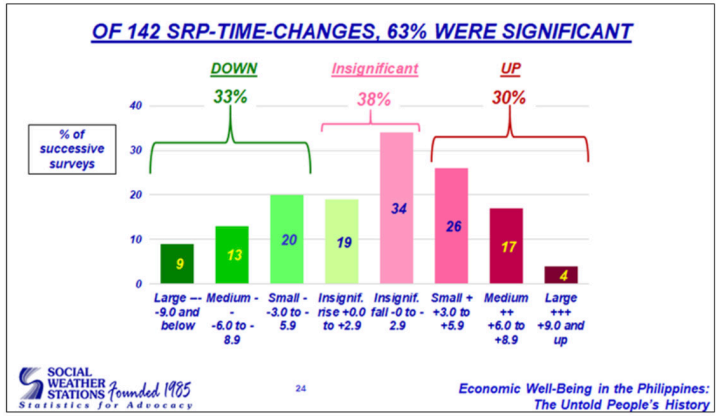
■ **Figure 15.** Regional hunger levels, 1998-2024

The bigger problem now is that hunger is higher in the north. Sometimes, it is frequently the highest in NCR (orange line at 12.7 percent), especially in the last several years, because they do not have supplements from their gardens. Planting or gardening in NCR is practically zero. Visayas and Mindanao have been reproducing their home-produced food.



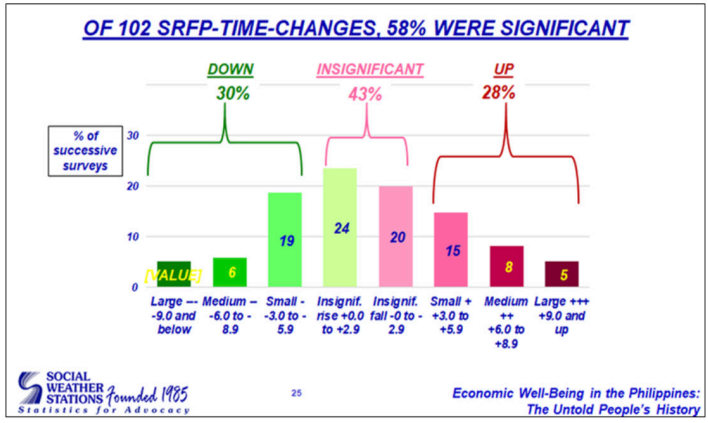
■ **Figure 16.** SWS joblessness versus PSA un+under-employment, 1993-2024

Joblessness is the substitute word for unemployment or underemployment. Officially, to be employed, you only have to work at least one hour a week during the last week before the survey. If you worked for at least one hour and earned income, you are considered employed. In other words, unemployment means idleness. Underemployment is another separate subjective indicator. The government does not negate using subjective indicator and they can ask you: "*Sapat ba ang iyong trabaho o naghahanap ka pa ng ibang trabahong may mas malaking sahod?*" (Is your job enough, or are you actively looking for other jobs with higher pay?) This means underemployment, which is basically what the respondents say, is already too big. To add the unemployment and the underemployment using the same base, namely, it is the labor force. Of the employed, who are the underemployed? SWS basically corrected. It is not necessarily re-computation when they are using the employed labor force. SWS corrected the base using the labor force. PSA used purple line to represent their data, while the SWS used green, which is longer. There is a slight difference in age applicability: PSA included 15-year-olds in their survey, while the SWS began with 18-year-olds. The SWS do not ask whether the laborer is 16 or 17 years old, as it is a small matter. One can see in the figure that if there is a related data series, there's no big difference.



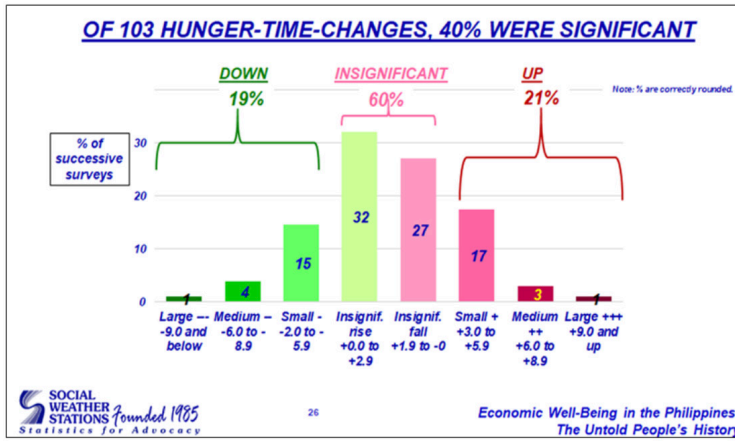
■ **Figure 17.** Significant time changes in the 142 SRP surveys

Here, the significance of the changes is decreased and shortened. There is no need to count since it is only from one point to another point, and most of these are only one point per quarter. Between six months and one year, most of these are just one-quarter of the changes. The difference is insignificant, whether the result is up or down; it is less than three points. It is significant if it becomes more than three points. It is considered small if it is between 3 and 6; medium is between 6 and 9; and large is more than 9. All those things happen, but the bigger ones are more seldom than the smaller ones—33 percent is significantly down, 30 percent is significantly up. Having more down trends is better than having a minimal up. Hence, the overall trend is still slightly down.



■ **Figure 18.** Significant time changes in the 102 food poverty surveys

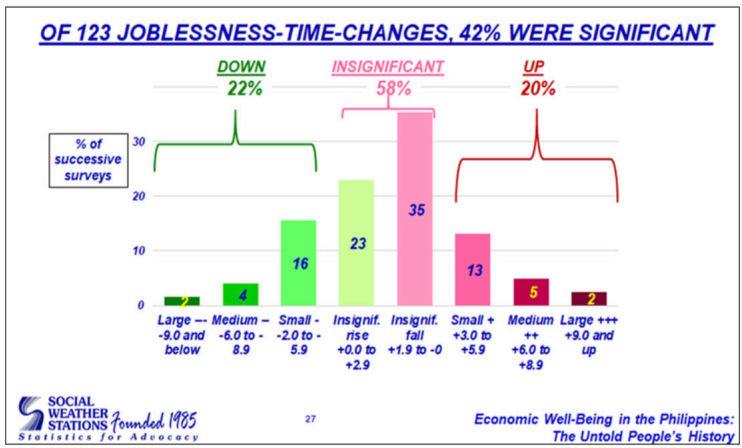
Food poverty is almost the same—that is, slightly down. There were insignificant changes at 43 percent, down at 30 percent, and up at 28 percent.



■ **Figure 19.** Significant time changes in the 103 food poverty surveys

Food poverty also went slightly down, and hunger has significantly changed at a 40 percent gap, which is still very big.

With joblessness, 42 percent was significant. The term "joblessness" was used to differentiate SWS results from PSA results. While PSA uses the word unemployment or underemployment, SWS uses "joblessness" as the interview question posed was: "*May trabaho kayo?*" (Do you have work?) The local term "*trabaho*" (work) is used. SWS would not ask questions like how long have you not been working, nor how much were you earning. They simply ask if the respondent has a job. The man's role may be a house boy. SWS uses the term jobless for clarity of data, in comparison with PSA.



■ **Figure 20.** Significant time changes in the 123 joblessness surveys

MORE LESSONS LEARNED

Very large proportions of the change in the SWS survey findings have been statistically significant over three months—SRP 63 percent, SFRFP 58 percent, hunger 40 percent, and joblessness 41 percent. This shows the importance of quarterly surveying—there is the need to take measures frequently. If there are large gaps between the time measure and public view, there will automatically be an appearance of calm, as if nothing is happening and there is just a straight line. In actuality, situations are changing, and the jumps are significant. In a hospital setting, a patient is tested against some health indicators. Nurses check on the patient every hour. Why every hour? Why not once a day? It is because they have experienced that the stats could change fast, so they do it every hour. It is based on experience. This is how the SWS relates its survey to the masses.

What percent of the poor are hungry? Dr. Mangahas asked if anyone had seen government data about hunger among the poor. When was the last time they measured hunger? Would anyone want to be considered poor? No. He espoused that there are separate measurements for hunger and poverty. There's always more hunger among the poor. However, the reading or the mean of hunger is not fixed; it can fluctuate from point to point, from time to time. Once in a while, not most of the time, hunger and poverty can move in opposite directions. The SWS shows this on their report. The reason for this is that there is still more hunger among the poor and the not-poor. There is also hunger among the not-poor on a lesser scale. He questioned whether anyone had seen official data differentiating hunger among the poor and not-poor. There is none. However, SWS reports the hunger of the poor and the hunger of the not-poor every quarter.

FINAL REMARKS

The SWS website is worth visiting frequently as their surveys contain scientific, realistic, up-to-date data on economic deprivation. Those are not temporary, and no one will get demerits for not continuing the data.

The GNP and GNI are aggregative and exaggerations of people's progress. They do not say anything about the distribution, since there is little public attention on them. That is part of the way data work. There should be more aggressive policies to combat the lack of data on poverty. Cash transfer is one way to

do it. The SWS has separate research on targeted programs for cash transfer, such as the Impact Evaluation Surveys. These are extensive surveys usually commissioned by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The Philippine Integrative Development Studies (PIDS) is tasked to analyze this survey, while the SWS is just gathering data. Dr. Mangahas happily reported that their progress is working according to the analysis. SWS is not putting in self-reported poverty, except once when the sponsor said so. To fight these problems, there must be bigger and stronger targeted programs, especially in education, which is poor. All of these are due to inflation.

Many people can do policy analysis. The SWS's role as advocates is to alert the public on what is going on [in terms of poverty and hunger]. They focus on this topic because it is a severe problem, and they will not leave it unsolved. The SWS must stay on this agenda and continue advocating this issue. Dr. Mangahas challenged the audience to look, in particular, at the data in areas that are not studied. What is happening in Visayas and Mindanao? The SWS may not be in a position to explain that. But they can see that something significant happened there, with 6 to 10 points going down. These numbers are all on the website.

The SWS does not have a regional development staff who would know what is happening there. One thing they did was to have a special look-back after Yolanda. Special questions were asked, including how families were affected by the super typhoon. The SWS figured out that Yolanda increased poverty by three percentage points nationally. Such increase is naturally due to disasters. When a disaster happens, one must be prepared for that eventuality.

The work of SWS involves the following: (1) Alert the people and to see the problem. (2) Touch the people's heart to be "consciencitized"; and, (3) The data has to be analyzed. The SWS have focused more on gathering this particular data, which is part of their curriculum. There are many other things to do, too. As an economist, Dr. Mangahas shared that they look into the survey on satisfaction in life and happiness once a year. Using the word happy or Masaya, the basis is not much from zero to ten. What do the numbers say? These are the knots and bolts of measuring. What can you measure when the person does not feel it? Four-point scale to all? "*Kayo ba talaga'y masaya? Medyo masaya? Hindi masyadong masaya? Talagang hindi masaya? Mas mahalaga yung hindi masaya,*" the lower two points. "Hindi Masaya" is not the majority, but they are too many. One can still say that the majority of Filipinos are happy. Now

that there is happiness, poverty and hunger at the same time, these are clearly super correlated. Those who are hungry and those who are poor have the lowest happiness. It is related, and it all makes sense. Some unhappy people are poorer and have lower happiness. Why is there a gap between them and the ones who are happy? It is unfair to have undeserved unhappiness, but that is how to look at it.

This website is SWS advocacy, and they are doing a lot of other things while there is still a lot of politics. Dr. Mangahas felt aggrieved when people thought the surveys are for voting purposes. SWS had to get the political scientists to see if there's any relation to votes. There's no relationship to popularity. But why is the popularity of politicians different? Dr. Mangahas, as an economist, challenged politicians and political scientists to analyze those things.

Panel of Reactors

DSPPP's Convenor, Dr. Ebinezer Florano, thanked Dr. Mahar Mangahas for sharing an important case of historical data on self-related poverty in the Philippines. There were many insights from the presentation, however depressing those figures in red may reveal about poverty in the country. But these should serve as a challenge to all to advocate, as Dr. Mangahas said, on issues related to the data presented, and some of the policy recommendations for cash transfer, junior high school completion, and accounting application. Two policy research analysts have been invited to jump start the plenary discussion on the subject presented by Dr. Mangahas.

INTRODUCTION OF FIRST REACTOR: DR. ROGELIO ALICOR PANAO

Dr. Rogelio Alicor Panao provided a political science perspective to distinguish between what is referred to as pocketbook evaluations of the economy and the social profit variety of that valuation. Pocketbook and social profit indicators are two different ways of assessing economic conditions. They each have particular perspectives on the economy. Each has its own set of theoretical and empirical significance. Despite being conceptually distinct, they are indeed complementary in terms of research value. These differing perspectives have significant empirical and theoretical implications in the fields of political science and economics.

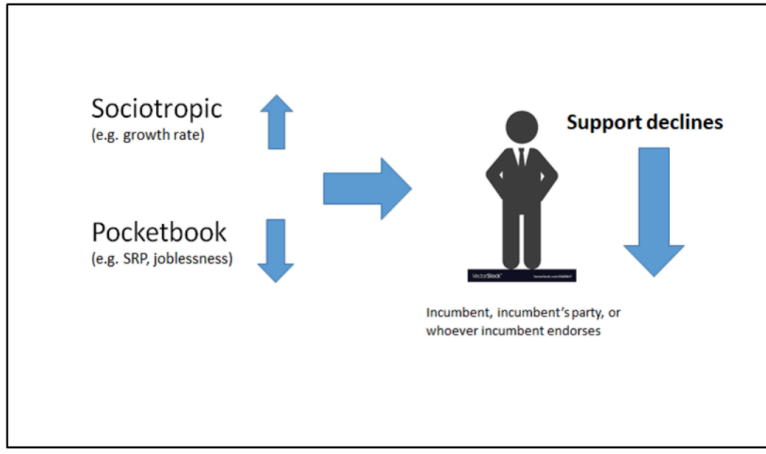
Pocketbook evaluation of the economy focuses on an individual's perception of their financial situation. Pocketbook indicators point to how individuals feel about their economic situation, including income, employment status, personal financial stability, sense of hunger, and sense of poverty. One can see that most of the stabilizing conventions, for example, are as mentioned earlier.

- Personal income changes
- Employment status (e.g., job loss or job gain)
- Personal debt levels
- Personal savings and investments

- Personal feeling of hunger
- Personal feeling of poverty

Sociotropic indicators refer to the collective level of economic perceptions based on broader national economic conditions. These indicators reflect how individuals perceive the overall state of the economy and its time, independent of their personal financial situation. These include macroeconomic indicators often seen in papers or in the news, such as the national unemployment rate, inflation rate, GDP growth, and national debt levels.

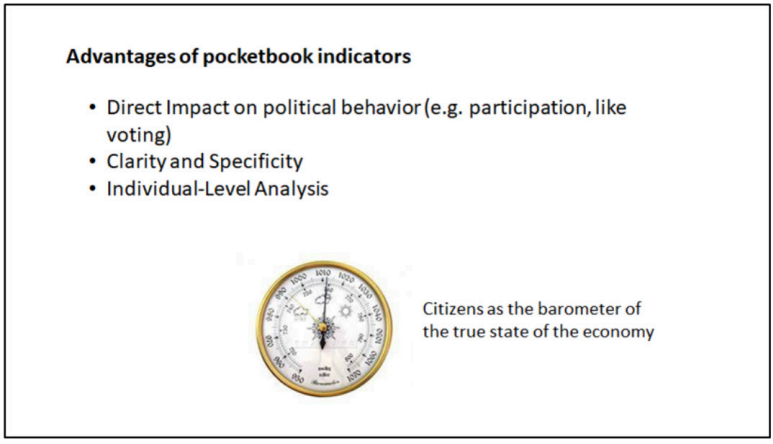
As such, in empirical research, pocketbook evaluations are critical in understanding how personal economic circumstances influence one's political behavior. These evaluations are based on individuals' assessment of their financial situations, including income changes, employment status, and overall economic well-being. Literature has shown that voters, for instance, who perceive their finances to be improving are more likely to support incumbents, whereas those who feel economically insecure are inclined to vote for the challenger. In empirical work, these pocketbook measures are used to explain another dependent variable—in this case, political participation, vote, or support for a political party, an incumbent, or whoever the incumbent is endorsing.



- **Figure 21.** Pocketbook showcase

One implication, well-known in many strands of economic and political literature, is that when the pocketbook evaluation of the economy deteriorates, notwithstanding impressive pocketbook indicators, support for

the incumbent, his or her party, or whoever the incumbent endorses also wins. This can be seen in declining approval ratings. The theoretical logic behind this is that pocketbook evaluations underscore the role of self-interest in political decision-making. The idea is based on rational choice, which posits that individuals make decisions based on their personal benefits and costs. So, in your pocketbook, evaluations of paid-in-hunger, for example, align with a view suggesting that voters are primarily motivated by their financial well-being.



■ **Figure 22.** Advantages of pocketbook indicators

There are many advantages to using pocketbook evaluations in research. For example, there is a direct impact on voting behavior. Pocketbook evaluations provide direct insights into how personal economic circumstances influence voting decisions. Moreover, there is clarity and specificity. Personal financial situations are more tangible and easier to measure than perceptions about the broader economy. It also affords individual-level analysis because it is based on survey data. Pocketbook evaluations allow for examining individual-level data, offering a granular understanding of how economic perceptions vary across demographic groups.

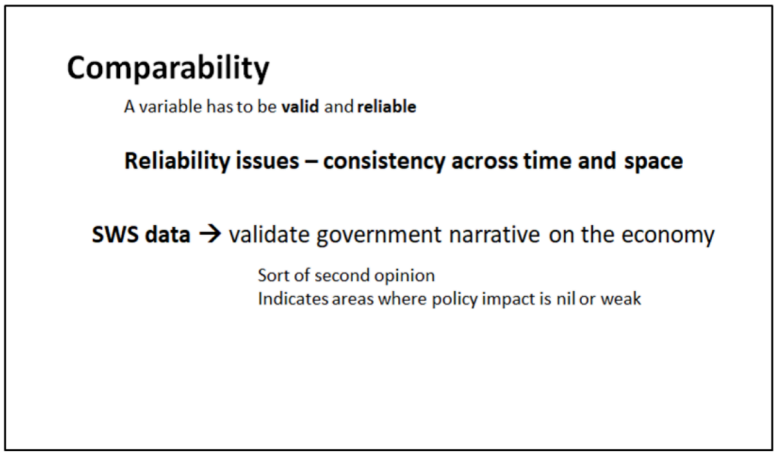
Regarding the data, critics point to several disadvantages in using pocketbook evaluations in research. For example, they argue that its focus is too narrow. It concentrates solely on personal finances. They also say pocketbook evaluations overlook the broader context in which economic perceptions are formed. This narrows the focus and limits our understanding of how national economic

trends influence individual behavior. It is quite obvious that these measures are subjective. Self-rated poverty, for example, is inherently subjective, relying on individuals' personal perceptions and feelings about their economic status. Critics say this subjectivity can lead to inconsistent and unreliable data, as perceptions may vary widely among individuals with similar objective economic conditions.

It is also susceptible to cultural and social norms, which can influence how people perceive and report their poverty status. For example, individuals from different cultural backgrounds or social environments may have varying thresholds for what they consider to be poverty. There is also potential for overemphasis. Overemphasizing pocketbook evaluations might lead researchers to underestimate the significance of sociotropic factors or the economy at large in shaping political behavior. Undeniably, psychological factors, such as optimism or pessimism, can affect how people rate their poverty status. For example, an optimistic person might rate themselves as less poor than their actual economic conditions would suggest, while a pessimistic person might be the opposite. Critics also say there is susceptibility to shock and temporary changes. Temporary changes in income or expenses, such as seasonal employment or unexpected medical bills, can influence self-rated poverty, leading to fluctuations that do not necessarily reflect long-term economic conditions.

Dr. Panao explains that he is not saying that sociotropic variables used by the PSA are immaculate and without issues. That is not the message here. He thinks that pocketbook indicators are worth our while precisely because of the empirical issues conventionally attached to measures such as GDP and inflation.

In news reports and media statements, the Economic Planning Department emphasized that SWS pocketbook measures are not comparable with government data. I believe that is correct, but perhaps there are some nuances of order as well. For methods to be fair, the variables need to be both valid and reliable. Pocketbook evaluations contain real measures of economic experience and are well-known in the literature. In fact, the literature also recognizes that some reported income measures have reliability issues. Reliability means that a measure has to be consistent across space and time.



■ **Figure 23.** Sociotropic variables

Dr. Panao argued that the government should not be worried about SWS data. Based on the presentation, he does not think that SWS wants to be comparable in any way. As a user, he uses SWS data in his projects. SWS pocketbook indicators are useful, among others, in validating the government's narrative or account of the economy. According to Dr. Panao, SWS data is akin to the proverbial second opinion. The government should be receptive to SWS data, especially when there is a big gap or inconsistency with government statistics, because they indicate failure or disconnect in economic policies and state-led economic interventions.

In conclusion, pocketbook indicators, such as self-rated poverty and self-rated hunger from the SWS are important for their research value. They provide ground-level insights. These measures provide detailed understanding into individuals' economic experiences, offer a bottom-up perspective that complements top-down macroeconomic data, and give information that can help validate whether government statistics accurately reflect the population's economic reality. It also opens our eyes to subjective well-being. These measures are typically ignored, but they are important and can be used to study the relationship between objective economic conditions and subjective quality of life. According to literature, understanding how individuals' perceptions of their economic situation correlates to overall happiness. These were mentioned in the presentation, and life satisfaction can be valuable for economic and psychological research.

Pocketbook measures can also help researchers study socioeconomic inequality in greater detail. By examining how different demographic groups perceive their economic situation, researchers can identify disparities that may not be visible in aggregate data and may consequently benefit from policy design and evaluation. Researchers can use pocketbook measures to design and evaluate policies to improve economic well-being. These measures can help identify which policies most effectively address individuals and households' economic challenges.

INTRODUCTION OF SECOND REACTOR: DR. VLADIMER B. KOBAYASHI

Dr. Vladimer Kobayashi is in Davao City and joined the discussion virtually. He first thanked SWS Chairman Emeritus Dr. Mahar Mangahas for his enlightening lecture on the economics of the well-being of Filipinos. Indeed, this is aptly called "The Untold History" because, in contrast to popular narratives of economic well-being, one can only see the unappetizing fact that many Filipinos still feel poor despite good projections of overall economic growth. It also reveals the discrepancies between what is reported in the official statistics and the true conditions of some of our countrymen. Moreover, it contradicts official announcements that poverty is imagined in our country. The SWS case is an important step in understanding the well-being of the grassroots in the country, because the data reflect the situation on the ground. From the perspective of a data scientist and economic researcher, the SWS provides data that is useful for triangulation. Indeed, there are statistical or data science issues concerning such data's conduct, analysis, and reporting.

During surveys, the following questions arise: the effectiveness of the sample, the sampling method, how often questions are asked, and how they are framed. Dr. Kobayashi commended the SWS for putting a premium on data quality, considering the process of garbage in and garbage out. Indeed, documenting the process of data collection is also very important. By analyzing historical data, one can detect a systematic pattern of bias. However, there is also the concern on how our perception of poverty has changed over time. What are the generational effects? Dr. Kobayashi explained that he would not consider himself poor during his time. But when you do not have an Internet connection at this age of technology, you might consider yourself poor. It would be very

interesting to look at that factor. Moreover, perception is influenced by different factors, and they should be considered to improve future surveys.

Operationalization was another concern. How do we operationalize joblessness? Discrepancies arise from measuring different things, or from measuring the same thing differently. This is why there is a discrepancy in the reporting. Another interesting, and perhaps the most crucial, aspect are the insights generated from such data and the analysis performed. Since data is collected over time, or what we call temporal data or time-benefit data, there is an opportunity to triangulate this data with other data or indicators. This data can also be used in evaluation programs, such as the impact or effects of national policies on poverty reduction. Dr. Kobayashi highlighted the importance of triangulation because one source of data, or the data, is the window to see the world. One source of data is only one window of perspective. More intensive patterns will emerge when using or combining different data sources. Essentially, the world is multi-modal, combining sources like temporal data with spatial data and qualitative data, such as text, with images or video. Advances in data science, such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning, make the analysis of multi-modal data visible. As shown earlier, looking at the aggregate analysis by analyzing it by region, educational attainment, or even a combination of these is very interesting.

What is the best way to report or present the data? One needs to be imaginative as it goes to the basics of communicating information. How do you present it to the public, other stakeholders, and policymakers on the national and local levels? These are essential inputs to drop-down policies that trickle down to the bottom. For instance, universal income may reach the city level, but what is the impact in the long term? Dr. Kobayashi emphasized the need to be imaginative about the future of these surveys in light of digitalization, AI, and data science. How can these technologies be leveraged to ensure data quality, increase the frequency of surveys, and conduct automated analysis and reporting? Dr. Mangahas mentioned that this is not yearly, but maybe it can be done daily or even weekly with new technologies. Imagine not doing forecasting anymore, but "now-casting." In the same way, for example, in an airplane, you do not use the weather from yesterday as a guide for today. This is very important in real-time, or nearly real-time monitoring.

Lastly, Dr. Kobayashi pointed out the importance of partnership and open science. By sharing the data for further study and validation, we reap the full benefits of this data. He thanked Chairman Emeritus Mangahas for starting and continuing this advocacy. He assured the audience that these data would be used.

RESPONSE FROM THE LECTURER: DR. MAHAR MANGAHAS

Dr. Mahar Mangahas's core message emphasizes the paramount importance of robust, transparent, and ethically sound methodologies in social surveying, particularly when assessing sensitive areas like poverty and well-being. He advocates for the Social Weather Stations (SWS) approach as a scientific and reliable alternative to official government statistics, especially when the latter might inadvertently, or even deliberately, obscure the true extent of societal challenges.

Dr. Mangahas highlights the SWS's deliberate avoidance of direct income measurement, deeming it "too detailed and too expensive" and yielding "nothing else can be done with such information." He asserts that traditional income and expenditure surveys, like those used by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), are "awful" due as they can change the measuring device if done frequently, and a shorter version of that income questionnaire would lead to higher poverty rates and therefore "that tool had to be scrapped". Instead, SWS finds education a more practical and robust indicator of socioeconomic class, as it's "very clear" and shows "robust correlations with other businesses." Rather than delving into "pocketbook" details or specific financial values, SWS gauges subjective financial well-being. They ask individuals if their financial situation is "getting better... or getting worse? Or is your condition still the same? Do you think things will get better or worse in the future?" This focus on public perception, particularly the "trend of the past" regarding "gainers and losers," provides a nuanced understanding of economic realities. He noted that often, it's the poorer people whose conditions are "hindi umaangat" (not improving), stressing the need for the poor to "get better, or else paano sila makakahabol?" (how will they catch up?).

A cornerstone of Dr. Mangahas's argument is the unwavering scientific integrity of SWS's polling methods. He confidently states that their sampling methodology has been consistently validated by their election track record, which "proves that the sampling was correct" and demonstrates that "people tell the truth to the best of their ability." He laments the absence of a sponsor for exit polling in 2022, which would have further reinforced the accuracy of election results. To ensure data comparability over time, SWS adheres strictly to consistent question wording, emphasizing, "They have not changed a single word of a question because it is for time series." Interviewers are trained to be neutral, refraining from "spiel" or "coaching" and allowing respondents to interpret questions freely. Dr. Mangahas proudly declares SWS surveys as embodying "first-class best practices," asserting that sample accuracy hinges on the absolute number of respondents, not the proportion to the total population. He explains, "A 1,000-size sample is as accurate for measuring a proportion now as 20 years ago, 40 years ago, or 60 years ago," dismissing the notion that larger samples are inherently better unless more granular geographic detail is required.

Dr. Mangahas also directly confronts the complexities and potential pitfalls in measuring poverty and economic hardship. SWS maintains consistency by using the word "mahirap" (poor) in their surveys, believing its meaning "has not changed at all" over time, even with evolving societal standards. He critically evaluates the government's "top-down," calorie-based approach to defining poverty, suggesting it may underestimate the true extent of hardship. He strongly implies that "The institutional establishment position is purposely lessening, as if hiding the gravity of the situation," pointing out that government poverty lines, based on expenditure versus income, tend to yield lower poverty figures. He cites a national statistician who acknowledged that adjusting the system would "automatically increase numerical poverty to unimaginable heights," which "The government will not stand." For Dr. Mangahas, "lowering the poverty line is already a moral problem." He champions "healthy competition" in measurement among various organizations, believing that "dissenting opinions and measures exist" are vital for scientific advancement, as "science relies on replication." This is further underscored by SWS's commitment to providing more frequent and up-to-date data on hunger and joblessness (quarterly) compared to the government's less frequent reports. He also highlights the lack of analysis between economic and governance indicators, noting the government's low approval ratings in fighting inflation and corruption.

In essence, Dr. Mangahas's presentation is a powerful defense of independent, methodologically sound social research that prioritizes accurate public perception over potentially politically motivated data, advocating for a more comprehensive and honest understanding of societal well-being.

Open Forum

The DSPPP Convenor, Dr. Ebinezer Florano, announced that UP will soon have a mirroring of the Philippine Statistics Authority Data Archive (PSADA). DSPPP had initiated the drafting of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in cooperation with the UP Intelligent Systems Center and UP Data Commons, who will be in charge of the technical delivery. It is expected that all members of the UP community—not just in Diliman but also in Mindanao—will soon have access to this by simply registering. At the moment, the data may still be limited, but the MOA is flexible enough to include all other data in the future.

SWS Survey Methodology: Prioritizing Face-to-Face and Overcoming Hurdles

Dr. Mangahas emphasized the "golden rule" of face-to-face surveys for the Social Weather Stations (SWS), despite their use of mobile surveys during the pandemic. He explained that while mobile surveys were a temporary measure, returning to field interviews is preferred due to fundamental challenges with phone-based methods. A major hurdle is the unwillingness of telecommunication companies to allow sampling from their numbers, citing privacy concerns. This makes maintaining a reliable phone database difficult and raises questions about the validity of phone surveys conducted in other countries without local legal frameworks. Dr. Mangahas also noted that Filipinos are not consistently online, even with social media use, making in-person interaction crucial for accurate data collection.

Understanding Economic Class: Education Over Complicated Systems

When asked about classifying the middle class, Dr. Mangahas stated that SWS occasionally uses self-identified class categories as part of international survey programs, but this isn't a habitual practice. He recommends using education as a more consistent and clearer indicator of economic class. He expressed disappointment with the Philippine Statistics Authority's (PSA) attempt at a complex classification system that remains unused, even by the PSA itself, due to its impracticality. He suggested that data from the FIES (Family Income and

Expenditure Survey), conducted every two years, could be a more practical alternative for economic classification.

BARMM Poverty Data: A Separate Challenge

Regarding self-rated poverty in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), Dr. Mangahas clarified that SWS surveys, while including Mindanao, do not have the fixed stratification needed to isolate BARMM data. This means SWS cannot report specifically on self-rated poverty within BARMM as a distinct entity. He acknowledged that the Moro people have historically experienced higher poverty rates, and while other sponsored surveys exist in BARMM, the self-rated poverty question isn't always under SWS's control. Dr. Mangahas stressed that BARMM deserves its own dedicated statistics, but SWS lacks the financial resources to separate and analyze data specifically for the region.

The Nuance of Self-Rated Poverty and Hunger

Addressing the intentional ambiguity in "self-rated hunger" and "self-rated poverty," Dr. Mangahas explained that SWS uses show cards without explicit explanations to avoid "verbal contamination", allowing respondents to interpret the terms based on their own understanding. He suggested that future research could correlate these self-ratings with household assets to provide more context. He also highlighted the often-overlooked "cost of earning" (e.g., mobile phone load) as a factor influencing how individuals perceive their poverty. Ultimately, he affirmed that SWS prioritizes the respondent's own perception of their poverty, stating, "That is poverty based on their estimation."

Outdated Dwelling Classification and the Value of Education

Finally, on the topic of economic classification based on dwelling types (A, B, C, D, E), Dr. Mangahas confirmed that there has been no update to this system. He noted its diminishing utility as the categories increasingly converge, often appearing as "almost D and E now." He again pointed to the PSA's complex, unused classification scheme as an example of a system that is too complicated for practical application. He reiterated that education remains a superior and clearer indicator for economic classification compared to the outdated dwelling-based method.

Closing Ceremony

The Convenor, Dr. Ebinezer Florano, proceeded to award certificates. He was joined by the former DSPPP Convenors, Chancellor Fidel Nemenzo and Dr. Jalton Taguibao, in honoring the guest speaker of the Brown Bag Lecture, Dr. Mahar Mangahas, and the two panels of reactors, Dr. Roger Alicor Panao and Dr. Vladimer Kobayashi. They were each given a Certificate of Appreciation.

- Program on Data Science and Public Policy (DSPPP) Convenor Dr. Florano, along with former Chancellor Nemenzo and Dr. Taguibao, award certificates of appreciation to guest speaker Dr. Mangahas, as well as to the reactors, Dr. Panao and Dr. Kobayashi.

FEEDBACK ON THE EVENT

This event received a highly positive feedback. The majority of attendees found the event successful (63 percent of respondents gave a rating of 5 out of 5), and their expectations were met with a 75 percent rating. Comments indicated that Dr. Mangahas' topic is insightful and informative, allowing them to appreciate how the SWS conducts its surveys and the importance of measuring public sentiment in policymaking and investigating data collected by other enumerators, such as the PSA. They also found the facilities and meals excellent (69 percent). Majority also rated the planning process (50 percent) and the effectiveness of event materials (56 percent) as excellent, although less pronounced than the other three. Some appreciated providing materials for the slides and graphs, while others pointed out camera and sound system issues. Most respondents (88 percent) recommended holding similar events in the future. Some suggestions for improvement include allocating more time for the question-and-answer portion, adhering more to the schedule provided, and expanding the seminar's scope to a broader audience.

CENTER FOR INTEGRATIVE AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Established in 1985 by University of the Philippines (UP) President Edgardo J. Angara, the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS) is the policy research unit of the University that connects disciplines and scholars across the several units of the UP System. It is mandated to encourage collaborative and rigorous research addressing issues of national significance by supporting scholars and securing funding, enabling them to produce outputs and recommendations for public policy.

The UP CIDS currently has twelve research programs that are clustered under the areas of education and capacity building, development, and social, political, and cultural studies. It publishes policy briefs, monographs, webinar/conference/forum proceedings, and the Philippine Journal for Public Policy, all of which can be downloaded free from the UP CIDS website.

THE PROGRAM

The **Program on Data Science for Public Policy (DSPPP)** aims to build the capacity of UP faculty in data science and apply this learned skill to public policy and governance. It seeks to engage a community of researchers within the university and encourage the pursuit of interdisciplinary problem-oriented research using high-level quantitative analyses.

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