

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This is a case study on the sources of influence on Filipino mothers' childrearing practices. The sample respondents were composed of 18 Metro Manila mothers from two succeeding generations (9 mother-daughter pairs). The pairs were evenly distributed along the following socioeconomic levels: Upper A, Upper B, and Lower B class. They were obtained through personal contacts and on the basis of the daughter's socioeconomic class. A questionnaire consisting of 18 questions was formulated regarding the reasons for the respondent's behavior in the following areas of child-rearing: (a) socialization of specific behaviors, (b) permissiveness for aggressive behavior, (c) extent to which different child training techniques are used. The clinical method of interviewing was used with the questionnaire developed serving as an interview guide. Based on a previous study (Stolz, 1967) responses were obtained and then classified into six categories: Values, Beliefs, Family Members, Behavior Setting, Communication Source, Previous Experiences. Percentage scores were computed to show dominant sources of influence in the following areas:

I. Per Socioeconomic Level of Generation II

A. Per Area

1. Socialization

Upper A Level -	Family Members - 27%
	Beliefs - 26%
Upper B Level -	Beliefs - 37%
	Values - 23%
Lower B Level -	Beliefs - 36%
	Values - 24%



2. Permissiveness for Aggressive Behavior

- Upper A Level - Values - 36%
Beliefs - 33%
- Upper B Level - Values - 54%
Beliefs - 30%
- Lower B Level - Values - 80%
Beliefs - 15%

3. Techniques of Child Training

- Upper A Level - Beliefs - 49%
Family Members - 23%
- Upper B Level - Beliefs - 40%
Family Members - 26%
- Lower B Level - Beliefs - 77%
Family Members - 17%

B. Per Socioeconomic Level

- Upper A Level - Beliefs - 35%
Family Members - 21%
- Upper B Level - Beliefs - 37%
Values - 27%
- Lower B Level - Beliefs - 43%
Values - 35%

II. Per Generation Level

A. Per Area

1. Socialization

- Generation I - Values - 32%
Family Members - 24%
- Generation II - Beliefs - 35%
Values - 23%

2. Permissiveness for Aggression

- Generation I - Values - 70%
Beliefs - 13%
- Generation II - Values - 56%
Beliefs - 18%

3. Techniques of Child Training

- Generation I - Beliefs - 44%
Family Members - 26%
- Generation II - Beliefs - 43%
Family Members - 26%

B. Per Generation

- 1. Generation I - Values - 35%
Beliefs - 28%
Family Members - 21%
- 2. Generation II - Beliefs - 34%
Values - 27%
Family Members - 18%



The findings of this study are limited in their generalizability to larger populations and areas of behavior. This limitation is inherent in the case study method - where the sample size is too small, and subjective biases of the researcher can "color" analysis of data. On this basis, the results remain inconclusive, although they can suggest certain areas for more intensive research later on. These results are also limited only to the aspects of childcare (the particular questions discussed) that were mentioned. Finally the sources of influences are limited only to the six categories established by Stolz, which are not exhaustive nor exclusive of other factors of influence in child-rearing practices. This study then is most useful in being able to shed more light on the issue.

The results of this study have pointed out the persuasive influence of 3 categories on certain maternal behaviors. These are values, Beliefs, and Family Members. The emphasis placed on the influence of values and beliefs is to be expected as these two interact with each other in determining behavior. The child rearing process is essentially of personal interaction, where the characteristics of the mother, her child, and the environment operate to influence her reaction in specific situations. This reaction is dependent on the convictions or beliefs that the parent has formed concerning different situations. Beliefs reveal the content of a person's attitudes (Secord and Backman, 1964) and those attitudes are in part, generated by values (Broom and Selznick, 1973). In effect, there is a process wherein one moves from value formation to attitude formation. This might explain why these two categories were



mentioned so often by the mothers. On the other hand, it is also possible that the emphasis our society places on SIR makes the Filipino mother more conscious of the values and norms people are expected to conform to. In addition, the emphasis placed on Family Members indicates that the Filipina mother is also sensitive to the characteristics of the family situation, of the members who compose it, and the kind of interactions they have. This is probably the consequence of the strong family values in Philippine society, (Bulatao 1975) that established several Filipino values that help preserve the nuclear family unit.

If Filipino mothers report Values, Beliefs and Family Members to be the most dominant sources of influence on their behavior what are the general implications for further research in this area? Regarding the methodology used to gather data for this study, certain improvements are recommended. For instance, the Behavior Rating Scales which were modified to have 3 levels instead of 5; may be validated by a panel of raters in subsequent studies.

Focusing on Beliefs alone, future studies should try to find out how these beliefs are founded, and the factors that help maintain such beliefs. Questions that probe deeper into the source of these beliefs should be developed. In this study the researcher found it difficult to ascertain whether the beliefs were formed on the grounds of given information or whether their development had been brought about by other factors. Secondly, the emphasis given to the category Family Members point out the importance of knowing more about the mother herself. The fact that the mothers are sensitive to their own needs



and lifestyles (in rearing their children is reason enough for parent educators to become more acquainted with them. Parent education programs should then begin with the educator familiarizing himself with the mother's personality. Future studies could focus on the analysis of child rearing methods of mother-daughter pairs. Finally, the values that parents hold for their children deserve a more thorough investigation. Other studies could concentrate more on the direction of responses per scaled item e.g. percentage of mothers who rated "frequently" or "seldom" on certain maternal behaviors. If parental programs are to become effective, educators should first establish the similarity or differences between the values of the parent and the values the program encourages them to uphold. If these values are not consistent with one another, they will have to develop methods that are geared towards re-educating them on the areas that need clarification. "

Other future studies should focus on the development of indigenous categories of influence based on the Philippine setting. The researcher will have to classify local expressions like "nakakahiya" and "hindi magandang tingnan" into categories that take into consideration strongly held Filipino values and other sources of influence inherent in our culture.

