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Impact of Temporary Overseas Migration to Saudi Arabia
on the Families and the Community of
Taysan, Batangas: A Case Study

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study is to determine the impact created by Filipino contract workers in Saudi Arabia on their families and on the community, which is, in the case of this study, the community of Taysan, Batangas. Specifically, the study aims to determine two things, namely:

1. What are the economic and socio-psychological effects that husbands working abroad have on their families? and;
2. What are the economic, social, and physical influences that these workers create in their community?

Fifteen families were chosen in the case study. In choosing the respondents, the researchers made use of purposive sampling. The main criterion used is that the husbands must have been working in Saudi Arabia for at least six months already. Furthermore, the community of Taysan, Batangas was chosen conveniently due to its location, which is a typical rural area, and the fact that the researchers have a more than ample background of the said place. In addition to, the semi-structured interview was facilitated by a guideline questionnaire. The analysis was also facilitated by the use of qualitative analysis and the holistic approach.

Based from the interviews conducted, it was found out that the housewives are very much affected by the situation that their husbands are now away from their families. These effects are considered in both positive and negative aspects. On the positive side, the families are now better-off than before, economically speaking. This can be based from the fact that they are now more in the position to send their children to school and pursue college education. They are also able to open savings accounts, and also able to buy more facilities and furnishings for their homes, which normally they could not afford before the husbands' migration. On the negative side, socio-psychologically, the families are deprived of greater emotional interaction, which can only be manifested now through the remittances sent in intangible forms. The housewives also agree that now they have greater responsibilities to their children's needs. Furthermore, speaking on the physical aspect of the community, overseas migration doesn't have a significant effect at present. Physically, there is no favorable impact on the community in relation to the modification of the place, such as roads and bridges. And socio-economically, there is an adjustment of relationship that occurred between the husbands and the wives.

On the larger part of the community, the involvement of the people through neighborhood interaction and spirit is also affected. Their obligation to the community reflected a shift in relation to their previous occupation which is farming.

