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**FAMILY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF OVERSEAS
CONTRACT WORKERS IN SELECTED TOWNS OF CAVITE**

THESIS

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and Development Studies**

CAVITE STATE UNIVERSITY

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**FAMILY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF OVERSEAS
CONTRACT WORKERS IN SELECTED TOWNS OF CAVITE**

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ABSTRACT

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The study was conducted to describe the socio-economic characteristics of overseas contract workers in Cavite, their family income and expenditures; and to ascertain the relationship between income and the socio-economic characteristics, as well as the effect of total income to household expenditures of the family.

This was conducted in four selected towns of Cavite, namely: General Trias, Indang, Silang and Tanza. A sample size of 100 overseas workers was used as a source of information. Data were analyzed using frequency counts, mean and range. Chi square test was also used in determining the relationship between income and socio-economic characteristics. Moreover, a simple linear regression analysis was used to determine the effect of family income on expenditures.

Results of the study showed that the average age of the respondents was 33 years. Majority were male and 38 percent were female. Fifty-seven were already married while 38 percent were still single. Majority of them finished college, 11 percent were vocational graduates while three percent did not even reach high school. Most of the respondents were construction, domestic and factory workers. The average years of working abroad was six years and the average household size was five with three dependents.

The average monthly income of the workers was P24,813 while the average monthly income of their family amounted to P33,200. More than half of the respondents

families were low income earner. Ninety-two percent of the respondents were considered as the major earner. On the other hand, majority of the other family members (23%) worked in different government agencies while ten percent also worked in other countries. The average contribution of OCWs income to the family income was 75 percent. The family's average per capita income was P6,640 monthly.

The average monthly expenditure of the family was P23,264. Housing shared the largest percentage followed by food and education. Twenty-five percent of the expenses was incurred by the workers on the job site.

It was also found that as income increases, expenditures on food decreases while the percentage spent for clothing and footwear, housing, housemaid services, education and personal care tend to increase. The average savings of the family was P9,936 per month.

The findings also revealed that among the selected variables, area/nature of work and years of working abroad were found to be significantly related to income. Family income was found to be significantly related to their expenditures.

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FAMILY INCOME AND EXPENDITURES OF OVERSEAS CONTRACT WORKERS IN SELECTED TOWNS OF CAVITE ^{1/}

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INTRODUCTION

When the overseas employment program was launched by the Philippine government in 1974, it was meant as a stop - gap strategy to bouy the economy. It has been used as a temporary measure to relieve the country's high unemployment and foreign exchange problems. Indeed, contract labor migration effectively met these objectives. It has been the largest absorber of Philippine manpower, consequently becoming the country's biggest dollar earner, with remittances amounting to \$18 billion for the past two decades (DOLE, 1996).

However, industry's contribution is not limited to this level. The institution that benefits most from manpower export is the overseas worker's family. The direct effect of the industry geared towards them since they are the recipients of the remitted salaries.