INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF WORKERS AT CAVITE EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE IN ROSARIO, CAVITE

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MARIEL MOJICA-LISING
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ABSTRACT

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A study was conducted to present the income and employment status of the Cavite Export Processing Zone workers and CEPZ's contribution on the income of the local government.

Secondary data obtained from the National Statistics Office in Trece Martires City, Provincial and Municipal Planning and Development Office, Department of Labor and Employment, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Municipal Budget Office, and the Workers Assistance Center in Rosario from 1980 to 1999 were used in the study.

Primary data on the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of workers were gathered through interview with 160 respondents from CEPZ. The respondents were picked at random by the head of the company's union or organization of workers. Respondents were taken from the manufacturing/production line.

The descriptive method was used in the presentation and analysis of data. Statistical measures such as frequency count, percentage and mean were used in presenting the data and in determining the profile of CEPZ, the socio-economic and demographic profile of its workers and the contribution of CEPZ on the income of the local government.

Industrialization paved the way to the development of Rosario, Cavite but it also indicated reduction of its agricultural land. In 1980, out of its 567 hectares total land area, 30 percent or 167.94 hectares of which were considered as agricultural. In 1998, only six percent or 32.79 hectares was considered agricultural, the rest were converted to accommodate the Cavite Exports Processing Zone (CEPZ) and other industries.

The population of Rosario doubled up from 1980 to year 2000 which can be attributed to the influx of migrant workers. Rosario now boasts of being the first in the province having the most number of establishments.

The labor force inside CEPZ grew steadily every year. A big part of the municipal income came from the CEPZ's share and other income generated from activities related to its operation.

Majority of the CEPZ's workers were single, female, and high school graduates who were between 21 to 30 years old.

Only five percent of the workers were native of Rosario, 34 percent was from the nearby towns in Cavite, and the rest were migrant workers coming from the different parts of the country.

Sixty-eight percent of the workers still received below the minimum wage and have very low level of living and are encountering problems on their jobs.

The municipal government should formulate policies to maximize the economic potentials brought about by the presence of the Cavite Export Processing Zone in their locality. It should also examine all the possibilities of providing CEPZ with the much needed locally-produced raw materials.

Sound tax collection scheme should be formulated to be able to go after underground economies which have been sprouting considerably due to the income generating possibilities brought about by the influx of workers.

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