

HOME ECONOMICS IN THE PHILIPPINES STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES: CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVE: Arribas, Lydia B., College of Home Economics, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City 1101, Philippines

Man needs to respond with the changes of time notwithstanding the fact that quite too often he causes some if not all those changes. It has been felt that changes have never been as fast as there are now and that changes will continue at accelerated rate as the third millennium nears. It is feared that global trends could become too overwhelming for the family to countenance. It is therefore imperative that families get assistance and get prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

This paper attempts to focus on the challenges and perspectives in home economics at the State Colleges and Universities in the Philippines. During the organizational conference of the Philippine Association for Home Economics in State Colleges and Universities last April 25, 1997, two questions were raised, namely: 1) What sort of life does the next millennium have in store for us, for our family, for our society? 2) What are we doing for our share in facing this future?

Home Economics is taught as a subject, course or program and is offered in all state universities. But it is not always taught in state colleges. Agricultural state colleges usually offer home economics. Problems and concerns appear common to most home economics teachers and administrators. Both teachers and administrators appear to be motivated, creative and innovative and have developed a positive view of considering their problems as challenges. Among problems and concerns which challenge them are: 1) common concern for quality and excellence in higher education; 2) advancements in information technology; 3) increased enrollment and declining capacity of the government to sustain budgetary support to higher education; 4) improving human resources and reducing poverty levels.

On the other hand, consensus of views or perspectives are as follows: 1) a need for all leaders in all walks of life to renew commitment to enriching the lives and improving the standards of living of all citizens on a sustainable basis; 2) new efforts in education should be directed toward enriching and sharpening people's skills and talents; 3) educators should be equipped with "technology foresight"; 4) cooperate in performing the role of state colleges and universities; 5) Networking of educational institutions to create new modes of cooperation.