

CRAFTS IN DAILY LIVING: LOCAL RESOURCES, TECHNOLOGIES AND FAMILY DYNAMICS. Lim M.R.* and Florencio C.A. College of Home Economics, University of the Philippines.

This study is a part of a larger study on crafts, food and toys. It investigated the resources and technologies associated with crafts, determined the factors that influence the production and use of crafts and examined the dynamics of rural families. It was conducted in three villages in La Union, Philippines using a survey among 15 randomly selected households in each village and several qualitative methods including in-depth interviews, observations and focus group discussions.

Rural households made a large variety of crafts for household and income generation activities, and selling. Craft makers had a more inclusive identification of crafts compared to technical experts and academicians, used materials available from their surroundings or communities, employed local technologies which are not externally dependent, and observed quality standards starting from the choice of raw materials to the finished product. Craft makers were organized as independent producers or group producers and in both modes craft making was comfortably integrated with household and social functions. They were faced with some difficulties that included dependence on specialists and middlemen.

Several factors were associated with the number and kind of crafts produced and used including geographic location, perception of socio-economic status and gender considerations. Family members participated in crafts production in different ways due to differences in knowledge and skills, gender or physical strength. Crafts production reflected the family's priorities, creativity and ability to adapt to environmental conditions, market demands and community situations. Knowledge and skills in craft making were transmitted primarily by the family in unplanned ways.

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