MESES & MISSERTATION

THE NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF PRE-SCHOOLERS IN A DEPRESSED BARANGAY

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APPROVAL SHEET

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of MASTER OF ARTS IN SCIENCE EDUCATION, this thesis, entitled "THE NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF THE PRE-SCHOOLERS IN A DEPRESSED BARANGAY" has been prepared and submitted by JULIE NAVALTA-MAZON who is recommended for Oral Examination.

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ABSTRACT

This study determined the nutritional status of pre-schoolers in Barangay Marcos, Rosario, La Union and its relationship to identified socio-economic factors which are parents' educational attainment, household size, and yearly family income.

The interview and the Operation Timbang Workbook published by the National Media Production Center were utilized as main tools in gathering data. Two groups of subjects were involved in the study namely: 1) sixty-two pre-schoolers and 2) sixty-two parents of the pre-schoolers. The parents responses were tallied, tabulated and analyzed in terms of frequency counts and given corresponding percentages. The data were analyzed and interpreted in relation to some identified variables like educational attainment, family income, household size and sex using the the chi-square test of independence at .05 level of significance.

Among the subjects there were more normally nourished males than females. Most of them were 48-59 months or 4-5 years old. They have very low economic status as evidenced by the parents yearly income of less

than P1,800. Most of the families have more than four members in the home. Parents of the pre-schoolers were only elementary graduates.

The nutritional status of pre-schoolers was relatively low. Although most of the pre-schoolers' parents were farmers who produce food necessary for man's nutritional needs, their dietary practices, coupled with emotional, psychological, socio-economic factors increased vulnerability to malnutrition.

Income influenced their nutritional status. As the income increased, the number of normally nourished preschoolers also increased while the malnourished respondents decreased as income decreased.

Educational attainment of parents, household size and sex were not significantly related to the nutritional status of pre-schoolers. Therefore these variables were not the determining factors in the assessment of the nutritional level of the children.

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