

**STUDY ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN PHILIPPINE
COMMUNITY-BASED CO-OPERATIVES**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

"The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) has always been strong in mobilizing colleges and universities to develop co-operatives supported by the Japanese Consumers Co-op Union (JCCU). However, the Alliance found out that there is no such consolidation in community-based youth co-operatives. Whatever youth co-ops we have in a few countries are not that strong either. Therefore, ICA hopes to conduct a comprehensive study on youth participation in co-ops in a few selected countries. This study which will result in a regional overview, will provide the directions for a long term development programme ..." This was the backgrounder provided by W.U. Herath, ICA Regional Advisor on Human Resource Development for this particular country study which is focused on youth participation in Philippine community-based co-operatives.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.2.1 General

- * To relate certain socio-economic conditions prevailing in the country with the youth situation
- * To assess the level of participation/integration of the youth in the country's political, social and economic decision-making and productivity
- * To assess the extent of youth integration that has taken place in the activities of the community-based co-operatives of the Philippines
- * To assess the level of participation of youth in decision-making and activities in co-operatives

1.2.2 Specific

- * To identify critical areas for drawing up future strategies for promotion of youth participation, resulting in youth integration in co-op development
- * To create awareness among authorities and all concerned in youth issues based on the level of development the Philippines has shown and the gap which exists in co-ops

1.3 SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

Considering the limitations on resources, the study was based mainly on available data from the original and secondary sources.

The study focuses on the youth aged 15 to 35 years. It is confined only to community-based co-operatives with youth programs/projects. In particular,

these co-ops were identified from NATCCO data bank list of affiliate community-based co-ops which reported in 1995 that they have youth programs/projects. Data presented on youth participation in co-ops were from these co-ops which responded to a more recent survey conducted in July, 1997.

1.3.3 The Sample and the Population

Table 1-1 shows the relative number of the sample (those co-ops which responded to a survey conducted on youth participation last July, 1997) compared to the total NATCCO Network member primary co-ops by type of membership, as of 1994.

Table 1-1. Type of Membership

	Sample	%	Population	%
Institutional	46	100	206	16
Community	—	—	1040	82
unknown	—	—	22	2
Total	46	100	1268	100

Below, the sample is compared to the population by business activity classification.

Table 1-2. Number of Sample by Business Activity

	Sample	%	Population	%
Credit	7	5.2	358	28.0
Consumers	—	—	97	8.0
Marketing	1	2.1	28	2.0
Service	—	—	21	1.6
Producers	—	—	9	0.7
Federation/Union	—	—	20	1.6
Co-op Rural Bank	—	—	9	0.7
Multi-Purpose	38	82.6	681	54.0
Self-Help Groups	—	—	24	1.6
Others	—	—	21	1.9
Total	46	100	1268	100

1.3.4 Findings

Findings presented do not claim to be final and conclusive. The results can serve as inputs for more in-depth studies, planning, and decision-making, and policy advocacy.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

1.4.1 Sources of Data

Data were sourced mainly from surveys conducted by the National Confederation of Co-operatives.

The study considered available data ranging from 1990 -97. As much as possible, data for the more recent years, 1995 - 1997 (July) were used as bases for the study.

1.4.2 Focal Points for Analysis

Certain socio-political and economic parameters were considered and related to the youth situation, among which are household population by age group and sex (urban-rural), household population by employment status, and selected human development and human resources indicators .

Youth participation in the community-based co-ops was analyzed based on the number of youth occupying leadership positions and number of youth employed in the co-ops. Also provided is the number and percentage of males and females who served as managers and board chairpersons of co-ops within the NATCCO Co-op System.

In the process, youth issues and needs were surfaced and strategies for enhanced youth participation, particularly in the activities of the co-operatives were proposed.

2.0 GENERAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY

2.1 PHYSIOGRAPHY AND RELATED CHARACTERISTICS

One of the largest groups of islands in the world is the Philippines. It is composed of 7,100 islands. It is located 966 kilometers off the southern coast of Asia. The archipelago is bounded in the west by the South China Sea, Pacific Ocean in the east, Sulu and Celebes Seas in the south, and the Bashi Channel in the north.

The total land area of the country is approximately 300,000 square kilometers. The archipelago is divided into three major island groups: Luzon (141,395 square kilometers area); Visayas (56,606 square kilometers), and Mindanao (101,999 square kilometers). These three groups are further divided into regions, regions into provinces, provinces into cities and municipalities. Cities and municipalities are also divided into barangays. As of September 30, 1993, the Philippines has 15 regions, including Metropolitan Manila, Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), and Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), 76 provinces, 60 cities, 1,544 municipalities, and 41,921 barangays. The capital of the Philippines is Manila and is also the seat of the national government.

Topography. The country's topography is varied. It has four major lowland plains, namely the Central Plain and Cagayan Valley in Luzon and Agusan Valley and the Cotabato Valley in Mindanao. These lowlands contrast sharply with the adjacent high mountain areas of Central and East Cordillera and the Zambales Mountains. Several plateaus, like the Bukidnon and Lanao Plateaus in Mindanao, add to the diversity of the topography. There are about 106 volcanic landforms distributed throughout the Philippines (21 of these are classified as active).

The total coastline of the Philippines (34,600 kilometers) is the longest discontinuous coastline in the world. Its sea coasts are indented with good harbors, around 132 navigable rivers and 59 lakes. The rivers and lakes are valuable means of transportation and irrigation sources for the fields and farms.

Climate. Based on the rainfall and on the presence or absence of a dry season, there are actually four types of climate in the Philippines: First type: two pronounced seasons, i.e., dry from November to April, and wet the rest of the year (e.g. regions in western Luzon); Second type: no dry season, and the maximum rain period is from November - January. (e.g., in Reg. V and eastern Mindanao); Third type: seasons are not very pronounced, i.e., relatively dry from November to April and wet the rest of the year. Maximum rain periods are not very pronounced, but the short dry season lasts only from one to three months (e.g., western parts of Cagayan Valley, northeastern Panay, central and southern Cebu), Fourth type: Rainfall is more or less evenly distributed throughout the year (e.g., Batanes, northeastern Luzon, southeastern part of Camarines Norte, Albay, western Leyte, Bohol and most of central, eastern and southern Mindanao).

2.2 POLITICAL SYSTEM

2.2.1 National Government

The Philippines has a presidential form of government. In this set-up, the flow of government affairs is lodged on three departments, namely: the legislative, executive and judicial departments.

The Executive Department. The executive official is the President, assisted by the vice-president who is a member of the Cabinet, and the department secretaries. The President and Vice-President are elected by direct vote for a term of six years. The President is not eligible for reelection but the Vice-President may serve for two consecutive terms. The President has the power to nominate and appoint with the consent of the Commission on Appointments, heads of departments, ambassadors and other public officers whose appointments are vested in the President by the Constitution. The President is also the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces and as such, has the power to call on the armed forces to prevent or suppress violence, invasion or rebellion.

Legislative Department. The legislative power is vested in the Congress of the Philippines, consisting of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Congress convenes once a year, but a special session may be called by the President anytime. The Congress has an Electoral Tribunal, which is the sole judge of all contests relating to elections. There is also a Commission on Appointments which meets only during the duration of the sessions of the Congress. The Congress has the sole power to declare the existence of war. It also gives authority to the President to exercise powers necessary and proper to carry out a declared national policy.

The Judicial Department. The judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court and in inferior courts as may be established by law. Judicial power includes the duty of the courts to settle actual controversies involving rights which are legally demandable and enforceable and to determine whether there has been a grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction on the part of any branch or instrumentality of the government. The Supreme Court is composed of the Chief Justice and 14 Associate Justices. All cases involving the constitutionality of a treaty, international or executive agreement, shall be heard by the Supreme Court en banc. The Congress prescribes the qualifications of the judges of lower courts, but no person may be appointed judge unless he is a citizen of the Philippines and a member of the Philippine Bar.

The Inferior Courts. There is a Court of Appeals (based on E.O. 33, 1986) which exercises power, functions and duties through 17 divisions.

There are 15 Regional Trial Courts all over the country based on population. There are also Municipal Trial Courts.

Special Courts. On the same level as the Court of Appeals is the Sandiganbayan. The Tanodbayan is the office of the Ombudsman, an independent body which receives and investigates complaints relative to public office including government-owned and controlled corporations. The Court of Tax Appeals is a special court which specializes in the review of the decisions of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Bureau of Customs and Board of Assessment Appeals.

2.2.2 Local Government

Republic Act No. 6975 was approved in 1990. It established the Philippine National Police under a reorganized Department of Interior and Local Government. In the Philippines, there are four types of local government units: the barangay, the municipality, the city and the province. However, distinct political subdivisions were created and were considered as local government units since they possess all requisites of a municipal corporation such as: legal creation, corporate name, inhabitants, place or territory and a charter. These subdivisions are: the National Capital Region (NCR), Metropolitan Manila, the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

3.0 ECONOMIC DATA

3.1 AGRICULTURE, FISHERY AND FORESTRY

The combined contribution of agriculture, fishery and forestry sector to the gross national product of the country in 1995 was P412,965 billion (20.8%). This was lowered by 1 % compared to 1994.

Weak crop production and continued contraction in the forestry output due to forest conservation measures led to the slowdown of agricultural output.

3.2 EMPLOYMENT

Labor Force Participation Rate and Employment Status - According to the Philippine Statistics Yearbook 1996, total labor force in 1995 was 28,040,000 (65.6 % of total projected household population 15 years old and over). Of these, 13,542,000 (48.3 %) are in the urban areas and 14,497,000 (51.7 %) are in the rural areas. The labor force employed in the urban areas was 12,045,000 (88.9 %). The remaining 1,497,000 (11.1 %) were unemployed (927,000 are males, 570,000 are females). Meanwhile, those employed in the rural areas was 13,562,000 (94.2 %) and the unemployed totaled 845,000 or 5.8 % of the total labor force found in the rural areas (427,000 are males and 418,000 are females). Underemployment rate in 1995 was 19.8 %. See also Table 3-1 (Household Population 15 Years Old and Over by Employment Status, 1995).

Jobs are not being generated fast enough even though job quality has been improving. Job creation in 1994, fell short by 208,000 from the Plan target (Table 4-2). In 1995, the Plan target of 972,000 new jobs was not achieved due to the setbacks in the agriculture sector.

Underemployment remains chronic as around one-fifth of all employed workers in the domestic labor market or about 5.1 million workers are still underemployed.

3.3 PHILIPPINE FOREIGN TRADE

The government's import liberalization program which started in 1990 contributed to the increase in the country's import bills. Imports grew faster than exports leading to a wider negative balance of trade. The peso further depreciated vis-a-vis the U.S. dollar from an average of P24.20 in 1990 to US \$1 to P27.52 in 1991, then slowly appreciated to P25.60 to US \$1 in 1995.

A favorable balance of payment position (BOP) in 1991 was partly due to balance of trade (BOT) deficit reduction of 20.1 %. Exports expanded. Contributing to export growth were garments, electronics, crude petroleum and sugar.

Table 3.-1 Household Population 15 Years Old and Over
by Employment Status, 1993-1995

Employment Status	Year	Philippines
Projected household population 15 years old and over (no. in thousands)	1993	41,453
	1994	42,670
	1995	42,770
Percent in the labor force	1993	64.7
	1994	64.4
	1995	65.6
Percent of labor force: Employment Rate	1993	91.1
	1994	91.6
	1995	91.6
Unemployment Rate	1993	8.9
	1994	8.4
	1995	8.4
Percent of employed: Underemployment Rate	1993	21.4
	1994	20.9
	1995	19.8
Visibly Underemployed	1993	11.1
	1994	10.4
	1995	9.8
Agriculture	1993	45.8
	1994	44.7
	1995	44.1
Non-Agriculture	1993	54.2
	1994	55.3
	1995	55.9

Total merchandise trade in 1995 reached \$43.98 billion, a 26.3 % increase from \$34.82 billion in 1994. The increase was mainly attributed to the growth of imports which was up by 24.4 % from the previous year to reach \$26.54 billion. Exports also went up by 29.45 % to reach \$17.45 billion. The country's trade gap reached a trade deficit of \$9.09 billion.

4.0 POPULATION

As of September 1, 1995, the total population of the Philippines is 68,614,000. This means a 13 % change compared to its population in 1990 (60,559,116) or a yearly increase of 2.6 % . Table 4-1 shows household population by age group and sex, urban and rural.

4.1 AGE STRUCTURE

The Philippines has a relatively young population considering that its population below 15 years old accounts for about 40 percent of the total population (1990 data reported in the Philippine Statistical Yearbook 1996). Those who are within 15-39 years consist 41.38 % of the total population.

In the Philippines, definitions of the youth vary according to the type of services an agency renders, or the nature of the group that recommends the age. For instance, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) considers the youth to be those between 15-21; the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), as those between 7-24; the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as those between 7-18; the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) as those between 15-24; the Department of Health (DOH) as those between 10-24; and the Council for the Welfare of Children defines children as those below 18. The First National Co-operative Youth Congress adopted as its first resolution the age range of the youth to be between 15-30 years of age.

4.2 MARITAL STATUS

Changes in the rate and age of marriage affect the level of fertility and mortality. They also affect labor force participation, urban-rural distribution, school attendance, number of families and other socio-economic phenomena.

Philippine Yearbook 1994 presents the marital status of the population 10 years old and over by sex, age group, region and province for 1990. About 46.58 % of the population, 10 years old and over were single, 48.67 % were married (66.25 % of the married population were between 20-44 years old); 3.84 % were widowed; 0.21 % were divorced or separated; and 0.12 % did not specify their marital status.

There were more married females than males, comprising 24.47 % of population 10 years old and over. There were also more females who were widowed and divorced and separated. For married persons, the sex ratio was 99 males to 100 females.

Table 4-1

HOUSEHOLD POPULATION BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, BY REGION, URBAN - RURAL,
1990

Age group and region	TOTAL			Urban			Rural		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Philippines	60,559,116	30,443,187	30,115,929	29,440,153	14,546,463	14,893,690	31,118,963	15,896,724	15,222,239
Under 1 year	1,817,270	929,641	887,629	842,551	432,237	410,314	974,719	497,404	477,315
1-4	6,649,703	3,412,875	3,236,828	2,991,867	1,541,995	1,449,872	3,657,836	1,870,880	1,786,956
5-9	8,061,008	4,125,409	3,935,599	3,620,722	1,854,549	1,766,173	4,440,286	2,270,860	2,169,426
10-14	7,465,732	3,799,408	3,666,324	3,399,925	1,711,151	1,688,774	4,065,807	2,088,257	1,977,550
15-19	6,640,651	3,320,861	3,319,790	3,254,804	1,555,357	1,699,447	3,385,847	1,765,504	1,620,343
20-24	5,768,324	2,866,206	2,902,118	3,028,003	1,450,959	1,577,044	2,740,321	1,415,247	1,325,074
25-29	4,945,251	2,459,263	2,485,988	2,611,458	1,267,259	1,344,199	2,333,793	1,192,004	1,141,789
30-34	4,201,026	2,110,791	2,090,235	2,234,000	1,103,739	1,130,261	1,967,026	1,007,052	959,974
35-39	3,501,622	1,768,533	1,733,089	1,839,870	919,281	920,589	1,661,752	849,252	812,500
40-44	2,753,843	1,389,855	1,363,988	1,442,630	724,979	717,651	1,311,213	664,876	646,337
45-49	2,221,488	1,113,345	1,108,143	1,082,001	538,312	543,689	1,139,487	575,033	564,454
50-54	1,905,828	944,837	960,991	921,215	450,337	470,878	984,613	494,500	490,113
55-59	1,439,403	705,646	733,757	684,758	328,875	355,883	754,645	376,771	377,874
60-64	1,127,881	547,008	580,873	533,380	252,211	281,169	594,501	294,797	299,704
65-69	807,620	376,777	430,843	372,989	166,602	206,387	434,631	210,175	224,456
70-74	565,339	264,981	300,358	256,677	113,278	143,399	308,662	151,703	156,959
75 and over	687,127	307,751	379,376	323,303	135,342	187,961	363,824	172,409	191,415

4.3 HEALTH

Table 4-2 shows selected human development and human resource indicators for 1993-1995. Life expectancy is at 67.4. Table 4--2 also shows that the per capita energy intake is 1,872 kcals. (1993).

The Philippines follows a Family Planning Program. This program is an integrated non-coercive, community-oriented service network geared towards individual and family welfare. The different Family Planning clinics in the country provided services to 829,425 new acceptors and 3,239,657 current users during 1995.

As to hospital facilities, 1995 records show there are a total of 1,700 hospitals (1,111 private and 589 government). All in all, existing hospitals have a total bed capacity of 80,800 (37,571 private and 43,229 government). These figures mean that bed capacity per 10,000 population is 11.5 (in 1985, the ratio of bed capacity per 10,000 population is 15.5).

Mortality rates or the registered deaths in 1993 show that of the deaths from all causes and for all ages, 10% or 31,953 deaths occurred among those within the age group 15-34 years. In general, mortality rates among the females is very much lower than that among the males (of 31,953, 33% are females and 67% are males), possibly due to more occupational hazards the latter are exposed to.

4.4 LITERACY AND EDUCATION

The literacy rate increased from 95 in 1994 to 95.8 in 1995. Functional literacy rate, on the other hand, increased only very slightly compared to 1994, that is, from 83.8 to 83.9 in 1995.

It is interesting to note that although enrollment figures in pre-school, elementary, secondary and tertiary levels increased from 1992 - 95 (Philippine Statistical Yearbook 1996), the total number of tertiary graduates showed a decreasing trend. Years 1992-93 turned out 355,469 graduates, 1993-94 recorded 319,372 (10.15 % difference) graduates, and 1994-95 graduates totaled 312,667 (2.09 % difference compared to 1993-94 figures). In the elementary level, the cohort survival rate decreased from 69.7 % in 1994 to 67.5 % in 1995. Meanwhile, in the secondary level, the decrease was from 77.2 % in 1994 to 75.9 % in 1995 (See Table 4-2).

Access to Education. Although mechanisms are put in place in schools, universities and colleges for better educational access, there still exists a disparity in access to education between the privileged and marginalized sectors of society (National Youth Development Plan 1994-98). Statistics show that physical

Table 4-2

SELECTED HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES INDICATORS, 1993-95

INDICATORS	Average 1987-92		1993			1994			1995		
	Actual	Plan Estimate	Actual	Plan	Deviation	Actual	Plan Target	Deviation	Actual	Plan Target	Deviation
I. INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT											
Per Capita GNP (in pesos, at constant 1985 Prices)	11,176	11,483	11,151	11,483	(332)	11,458	11,537	(79)	11,805	12,024	(219)
Unemployment Rate	9.8	9.3	9.3	9.3	0.0	9.5	9.1	0	9.5	8.8	1
Jobs Created (000)	810.0	686.0	686.0	686.0	-	650.0	858.0	(208.0)	644.0	972.0	(328.0)
II. HEALTH AND POPULATION											
Life Expectancy (In years) ¹	64.6	66.6		66.6			67.0			67.4	
Infant Mortality Rate ¹ (per 1000 livebirths)	58.4	52.0		52.0			50.5			43.9	
Crude Death Rate ¹ (per 1000 population)	7.3	6.9		6.9			6.8			6.6	
Crude Birth Rate ¹ (per 1000 population)	31.7	31.2		31.2			30.4			29.7	
Maternal Mortality Rate ¹ (per 1000 livebirths)	0.8	0.7		0.7			0.7			0.7	
Population Growth Rate ¹	2.4	2.50		2.50			2.45			2.39	
Total Fertility Rate ¹	4.0	4.0		4.0			3.9			3.8	
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate	41.4	40.0	40.0	40.0	-		40.6			41.1	
Percentage of preschool children moderately and severely underweight ²	14 ³	11.9	8.4	11.9	n.c.	n.d.	7.9		n.d.	7.4	
Percentage of school children moderately and severely underweight ²	13.9 ³	11.9	7.0	11.9	n.c.	n.d.	6.6		n.d.	6.2	

cont'd.

INDICATORS	Average 1987-92	1993		1994		1995	
		Actual	Plan Estimate	Actual	Plan Target	Actual	Plan Target
Per capita energy intake (kcal)	1,753 ¹	1,872	1,872	n.d.	1,892	n.d.	1,913
Prevalence of Anemia on Infants ²	70.4 ³	49.2	67.2 (18.0)	n.d.	47.8	n.d.	46.4
Vitamin A deficiency among preschool children	0.2 ⁴	0.11	0.11	n.d.	0.09	n.d.	0.08
Prevalence of Iodine Deficiency/Goiter ²	3.5 ⁴	6.9	1.9	n.d.	5.9	n.d.	4.9
IV. EDUCATION							
Literacy Rate	89.8	n.d.	92.8	95.0	93.5	95.8	94.3
Functional Literacy Rate	60.5	n.d.	76.5	83.8	78.1	83.9	79.6
Participation Rate	91.4	85.4	85.9 (0.5)	87.1	88.8 (1.7)	91.1	91.7 (0.6)
a. Elementary	54.8	58.0	58.0	59.7	59.6	61.2	61.2
b. Secondary							
Cohort Survival Rate							
a. Grades I-VI	67.9	67.7	71.0 (3.3)	69.7	73.8 (4.1)	67.5	76.5 (9.0)
b. Years I-IV	76.0	76.2	76.9 (0.7)	77.2	78.9 (1.7)	75.9	79.5 (3.6)
Achievement Level (%)							
a. Elementary	55.2	41.8	*	43.6	65.2 (21.5)	45.6	66.9 (21.3)
b. Secondary	n.d.	n.a.	*	38.9	*	40.9	*
Post Secondary Enrollment	330,410	464,736	482,916 (18,180)	498,693	531,739 (33,046)	499,040	585,498 (86,458)
Persons to be given Technical- Vocational Training	n.a.	185,537	149,562	183,435	133,310	184,823	150,000
			35,975		50,125		34,823

¹ No actual data, figures are estimates

² Targets for 1994-95 were revised based on the results of the 1993 National Nutrition Survey

³ Actual 1990 figures

⁴ Actual 1987 figures

1987-92 and 1993-95 average for LE, ILMR, CDR, CER, MMR, FGR, TFR and CFR are average estimates

n.c. not comparable because different standards were used

n.d. no data

n.a. not available

* No plan target

Sources: ILSCB, Department of Health (DOH), Department of Science and Technology - Food and Nutrition Research Institute, Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), and Commission on Higher Education (CHED)

access to education is easier in urban as opposed to rural areas, in Luzon than outside Luzon regions, and for the rich than for the poor and/or indigenous groups. All the municipalities of the National Capital Region (NCR) have a high school. Of the country's more than 1,800 municipalities, 61 do not have a secondary school and 175 do not have a public secondary school. Moreover, there is a classroom shortage of 4,100, according to 1992-93 data.

Budget for Education. The national government budget allotted to the Department of Education, Culture and Sports for 1996 was around P50.4 billion. This is 12 % of the total National Government Budget for 1996, which was around P415.6 billion.

Adult Literacy Programs. 1) Education for All (EFA) - This is part of an international movement aiming to meet the basic learning needs of children and adults. Proclamation No. 480 (1989) was issued to ensure the success of the country's involvement in the EFA. The Philippine Action Plan for EFA for years 1991-2000 was approved in 1991. It is supposed to set the directions for four major program areas, namely early childhood care and development, universalization of quality primary education, eradication of illiteracy, and continuing education. However, the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan 1996-98 reports that this program seem to have lost steam. This is owing to the long inactivity of the National Committee on Education for All (NCEFA), the Committee tasked to provide direction and sustained follow-up action to the program; 2) Technical or Vocational Education Project - This is intended to upgrade the practical skills of students attending formal/technical/vocational education courses at the postsecondary but below college degree level.

Improvement in technical/vocational education were pursued through consultations with industries for occupational or job analysis as the major approach to curriculum design and implementation; 3) Cultural Education - Degree courses in fine arts and architecture are offered in major colleges and universities. Degree courses in music, the most widespread in the performing arts, are offered at a number of Philippine colleges and universities.

4.5 POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF THE YOUTH

The 1987 Philippine Constitution acknowledges the role of the youth in nation-building and provides that the "state shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs." Article 11, Sec. 13 also intends to promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being.

Article VI, Sec. 5 (2) of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides for the selection or election of youth representatives to the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK). The National Secretariat of the SK is the Philippine Council on Youth Affairs (PCYA), is the direct link of the youth to the government. Created through

E.O. 274, PCYA serves to recommend to the Office of the President youth development programs and projects in coordination and consultation with the youth sector and government departments and agencies and the lead agency in administering the SK training program, to conduct studies on youth-related concerns, to review existing youth legislation, policies and programs of the government, to facilitate the coordination of international youth programs in the country, and to set up a consultative mechanism which shall provide a forum for continuing dialogue between the government and the youth sector on the planning and evaluation of youth-related programs and projects.

Both Committees on Youth and Sports Development in the Upper and Lower House have also actively put in place initiatives towards developing and enhancing political participation of the youth.

4.6 LEGAL ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUTH ISSUES

The Philippine Constitution holds that "the state shall promote a just and dynamic social order, that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.

Following are enabling legislation which give flesh to the general constitutional provisions:

4.6.1 Labor Code. The Constitution also provides that the state shall guarantee equal employment opportunities for all. To implement this declaration as to apply to the working youth, the Labor Code provides that "No employer shall discriminate against any person with respect to terms and conditions of employment on account of his age." Article 3 also provides that the state shall afford protection to labor and ensure employment opportunities for all regardless of sex, age, and creed. This policy recognizes that many of our young population are members of the nation's labor force. It also sets as a condition that in no case shall a worker below the age of 18 be engaged in hazardous employment. The minimum employable age set by the same code is 15. This, however, has been amended by R.A. 7610, which allows the employment of children under the age of fifteen under certain conditions.

4.6.2 Republic Act (R.A.) 7610. Although this Act applies only to the youth below 18 years old, it also declares that it is the policy of the state to protect children from all forms of abuse, exploitation, discrimination and other conditions prejudicial to their development. It thus assures that the state will intervene when the parent or guardian of the youths concerned fail to protect them from acts which the law seeks to protect them from.

However, this Act, in effect removed the outright prohibition against the employment of children below 15, as provided by the Labor Code, by reinforcing the provision of the Child and Youth Welfare Code on employable age. In practical terms, the Labor Code provision on minimum employable age is still the best protection for children by declaring outrightly that to permit children below 15 to work is illegal.

4.6.3 Article XIV. Section 1- This declares to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education. Other sections focus on the system of education, and on the curricula.

Section 2 authorizes the State to "establish and maintain a system of free public education in the elementary and high school levels." Specific to the out-of-school youth (OSY), this section sanctions the State to encourage non-formal, informal, and indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning, independent, and OSY study programs, particularly those that respond to community needs.

Section 5, provides that "the State shall assign the highest budgetary priority to education." The same section also states that "the State shall ensure that teaching will attract and retain the rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remunerations and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment."

4.6.4 Education Act of 1982 provides for the establishment and maintenance of an integrated system of education. This means that both public and private institutions will subscribe to the same policies and standards, particularly in meeting the minimum standards of curricular offerings/programs. However, the private sector is given the option to enrich the curricula but not to lower the minimum requirements.

4.6.5 Manpower and Out-Of-School Youth (OSY) Development Act or Republic Act (R.A.) 5462 - This created the National Manpower and Youth Council (NMYC). The Council is "intended to take care of, train, and develop human resources, and to establish and formulate integrated plans, programs, and projects that will ensure efficient and proper allocation, accelerated development and optimum utilization of the nation's manpower and OSY, and thereby develop civic efficiency and strengthen family life."

4.6.6 Magna Carta for Disabled Persons. It covers employment, education, health, accessibility, and political and civil rights. It provides punitive measures on discrimination against disabled persons.

4.7 CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT AND YOUTH ISSUES

As a family, the Filipinos have very strong ties. It is also common to see relatives from both sides (boy's or girl's) either living within the same household or within a family compound.

Marriage is a personal choice of the girl and the boy. However, in the Philippines, when a girl and a boy marry, they are not the only ones who form a bond, the families of both sides develop ties as well. It is also customary for newlyweds to live with the boy's or the girl's parents, at least for a year until they settle down. Ultimately, however, the young couple get off on their own. Moving into a new house signals an important beginning.

A good wife by Filipino standards is one who looks after the best interests of her husband, who gives him emotional and perhaps material support and who manages the household and children efficiently. The husband does not usually concern himself with household matters and does not have much to do with the children until they are in their teens - where upon he is called in to give a hand with discipline. The wife is also the budget officer in the house. The father gives the family budget to the wife and it is up to her to keep the expenses within limits. There are no restrictions on wives working, as long as they do not neglect the duties outlined above. Most wives work also, because they usually find out that the budget given for the family expenses is not sufficient. In the Metro Manila area, most wives have some sort of business on the side and there are many who work as professionals. In the rural areas, wives help in the farm, or help sell the fish caught by fisherfolk husbands, and some do the laundry for other households, etc.

The Filipino husband and father, on the other hand, plays mainly the role of a breadwinner. This is the only duty he is expected to fulfill and his performance in this area is what determines his success or failure as a husband (and a father). It is a proud father who can say he put all his children to school. Education is considered the best gift parents can give their children.

The Filipino father is a ceremonial figurehead.. He is the head of the family, but in many cases, in name only. He is treated like royalty at home -- the children must be quiet when he is asleep, the children take pains not to get in his way or arouse his anger because he works hard all day and needs to rest and to relax. Hence, they do not usually consult him about their problems. As a father he does not usually have much to do with the children's upbringing. That responsibility is designated to the mother.

The children always treat the parents with respect and the debt of gratitude is a lifetime one. They are expected to take care of their parents until their death.

The daughter takes on the role of a "deputy mother" especially when the family is big. As a daughter, a young girl is expected to be demure and not to be too expressively aggressive. Like her mother, she is allowed to choose a profession she wants and she can go out on group dates, as long as she knows foremost, how to take care of household responsibilities. The daughter, like the son, remain dependent on their parents until they marry or at least finish their schooling, which ideally, is at the completion of four or five years of tertiary education.

On the other hand, there are exceptions to this norm. If the girl is born to a poor family, she is compelled to assist her parents by doing part-time work or by engaging in some kind of income-generating activity, even at a very young age.

Again, culturally, boys depend on their parents to send them through college, and since they are not expected much to help in the household work, Filipino boys have a lot of time to spend with friends and outside the home. Boys usually belong to a peer group or "barkada." Like his father, the young man is foreseen to be a head of the family someday and thus, is expected to do well in his studies, so he can in the future find gainful employment. If, on the other hand, the boy happens to belong to a poor family, he is obligated to help his father work to make ends meet. He thus finds a part-time or a full-time job that pays.

5.0 YOUTH IN CO-OPERATIVES

5.1 BRIEF HISTORY OF CO-OPS IN THE PHILIPPINES

The beginnings of co-operatives in the Philippines can be traced back as stemming from two major efforts - that of the government and that of the private sector.

Government Initiatives

Very unlike the co-operative's European origins which tell about people working together to help themselves, the early accounts of Philippine co-operatives are about a government passing laws and establishing organizations that will form co-operatives.

Early attempts with co-operatives by the government can be traced in the 1900s. The series of events are listed below:

1915 - the first co-op law in the Philippines, the Rural Credit Co-op Law (Act 2508), mandated the organization of rural associations.

1926 -The total of 544 rural co-ops founded by the government's promotional efforts, proved to be failures. The reasons for failure are: indigenous leadership was not developed, insufficient capital, lack of co-op education and membership responsibilities, insufficient management, political interference, and even lack of adequate supervision by government.

If this experience of failures did not provoke the farmers into studying their own situation and undertaking their own solution, the government itself was not deterred by that experience. A series of legislative acts and executive orders in fact got the government more and more involved in co-op promotion. Below is an outline of these acts and legal and structural changes adopted by government:

1916 - Amendment of Act 2508: the Rural Credit Co-op Section under the Bureau of Agriculture was created to organize and supervise rural credit associations.

1919 - Act No. 2818 was enacted to make loans available to members of rural credit co-operatives for rice and corn production.

1927 - Co-operative Marketing Law (Act No.3425). The Market and Credit Divisions under the Bureau of Commerce was created to organize and supervise marketing co-operatives among farmers.

1936 - Commonwealth Act No. 116 gave marketing co-operatives access to loans from the Rice and Corn Fund.

1940 - The National Trading Corporation (NTC) was created by Commonwealth Act No. 565, to handle and take charge of all Government activities relating to the formation, organization, and supervision of co-operatives or mutual aid associations.

1941 - The National Co-operatives Administration took over the function of promotion and supervision of all types of co-operatives from NTC.

1945 - Commonwealth Act No. 713 revived the National Co-op Administration (NCA).

1949 - The NCA was converted into National Co-operatives and Small Business Corporation (NCSBC) by Executive Order No.93.

1950 - E.O. No. 364 abolished NCSBC and created in its stead the Co-ops Administrative Office (CAO) under the administrative supervision of the new Department of Commerce and Industry.

1952 -- The Agricultural Credit and Co-op Financing Administration (ACCFA) was created by R.A. No. 821 to organize, supervise and finance agricultural co-ops.

1957 - R.A. No.. 2023 called the Philippine Non-Agricultural Co-op Act, provided a general basic law for non-agricultural co-ops. This law intended to "consolidate, amend and codify" existing laws on non-agricultural co-ops, under the jurisdiction of the CAO as separate from agricultural co-ops which remained under ACCFA's supervision.

1963 - R.A No. 3844, known as the Agricultural Reform Code, reorganized ACCFA into the Agricultural Credit Administration (ACA) charged with the financing, examination and regulation of agricultural co-ops.

1969 - R.A. No. 6038, known as the National Electrification Act, created the National Electrification Administration (NEA) and charged it with the task of promoting, organizing and supervising electric co-ops in the country.

1972 - P.D. 175 - also known as "Emancipation of Tenants," mandated that "No title to the land owned by tenant-farmers under this Decree shall be actually issued to a tenant-farmer unless and until the tenant-farmer has become a full-pledged member of a duly recognized farmers' co-op."

In particular, the duly recognized co-ops envisioned by P.D. 175 are the farmers associations to be organized in the barrio (now barangay) level and to be known as Samahang Nayon (SN).

To the failures that resulted following the implementation of the abovesited laws, NATCCO's then executive officer, R.M. Villamin observes that "the enthusiasm and the knowledge of the originators of the co-operative idea were not matched by the equivalent understanding and initiative of the farmers, who became more the object rather than the subject of the whole co-operative endeavor..."

Furthermore, to all the government's interventions, Villamin comments, "If the series of legal changes adopted by government served to illustrate the vagueness of the whole conceptualization, if at all, of the co-op development programs themselves, one can at least appreciate the persistence of a government convinced that the agricultural sector had a major part to play in the economic development of the country, and that the co-op solution presented the best alternative for such involvement because of its capacity to mobilize the economic resources of the rural areas."

Even then, co-operatives are regarded as vital instruments for the twofold objectives of people's participation and internal economic growth.

Parallel Private Sector Initiatives

While government focused initially on rural agricultural credit and marketing co-operatives, private sector involvement started with credit unions (later referred to, together with consumers co-operatives as nonagricultural co-ops).

An American Minister of the Church of Christ, Rev. Allen Huber, brought the idea of credit unions to Ilocos Sur in 1938. The success of this credit union became known and served as model for other Protestant groups who likewise, started other credit unions. These early credit unions demonstrated that self-help was indeed possible and that capital can be raised from among the members. During the outbreak of World War II, however, these credit unions were dissolved.

In the 1950s, that is, soon after the war, advocates of credit unions promoted co-operatives. It was during this decade when the oldest existing co-operative in the country today, the First Community Credit Union, Inc., was organized by Fr. William Masterson and Atty. Mordino Cua in Cagayan de Oro in 1953.

In the 1960s, the country witnessed a concerted, though disparate, private efforts in co-op promotion nationwide. The Catholic parish priests, bolstered by the Second Vatican Council which sought direct social involvement by the Church, expressed this involvement in terms of organizing credit unions in parishes. Even today, parish-based credit unions abound.

According to a 1964 International Organization (ILO) report in 1964, there were 25 organizations engaged in co-op promotion. Two of these groups from which present co-op organizations trace their origins are the Philippine Credit Union League (PHILCUL) and the Southern Philippines Educational Co-operative Center (SPECC). PHILCUL is now known as the Philippine Federation of Credit Co-operatives, Inc. (PFCCI). SPECC was the first of regional training centers comprising the National Confederation of Co-operatives (NATCCO).

The 1960s was also marked by preoccupation with co-operative education. While the government program was more of an information campaign, the private sector aimed to prepare members for membership responsibility. SPECC, for example, developed a pre-membership seminar consisting of lessons on co-op philosophy, history and structure.

The 1970s were turbulent years for the co-ops initiated by the private sector. Martial law prevailed in the country and the co-op movement risked being taken over by a government-imposed, fully integrated co-operative network. P.D. 175 provided the "integration of the farmers co-op system and other co-op national associations into one apex co-op organization called the Co-operative Union of the Philippines (CUP)."

P.D. 175 and its implementing program clearly did not take into consideration the co-ops which were already existing. But still, this law was to apply to them.

Thereafter, the conflict which followed between the leaders of private co-ops and government officials was somehow inevitable. The private sector at that time, was already a force to reckon with. As a leader of the Federation of Free Farmers Co-operatives, Inc., (FFFCI) states, "a sizable number of co-operatives was already existing at that time, and we felt that co-operatives being essentially a private and voluntary effort, government should not have gone into direct organization of co-ops and instead, supported the private initiatives and helped them expand."

The government came to the point of requiring all co-operatives to become Samahang Nayons (SNs) which was opposed, and for which some leaders were jailed. At that time, Samahang Nayons (some 22,000 of them) were added to the number of co-ops. Unfortunately, many of them failed. Then, it can also be said that although a co-op movement was existing, it was still not very well organized to act as one at an appropriate time.

The experience with the SNs also had positive effects for the whole co-op movement in the country. As a co-op leader from FFFCI says, "We learned a lot of valuable, even expensive lessons...The threat...spurred many co-ops to simply work harder. Much of the strength they have now, evolved from that period of trial."

The 1980s produced much activity that exhibited strength as well as efforts at unity. In 1987-89, at a point in Philippine history when democracy regained its foothold on the government, private sector leaders held consultations with co-operatives regarding a co-op legislation that they thought was more appropriate for them. In 1990, those consultations produced a Co-operative Code of the Philippines - the new law governing co-operatives, and the Co-operative Development Authority - the implementing agency (Please refer to Appendix A - Current Co-op Movement Structure in the Philippines.)

As the co-op movement enters into the decade of the 90s, it wishfully envisions itself as a recognized sector, other than the government and the private sectors... the movement pictures itself as "the co-op sector" with its unique people-oriented principles and practices.

5.2 LABORATORY CO-OPERATIVES

Pioneering Efforts of the Augustinian Sisters

In the Philippines, the Co-operative Education Center (CEC) of the Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation is recognized for its pioneering efforts in the organization and operation of laboratory co-operatives in the Philippines.

It all started in 1969, during the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of La Consolacion College (LCC) in Bacolod City, wherein a Folkschool was given to the community as a token of the LCC. Then, short-term courses for adults and out-of-school youths were given, including one on co-operatives.

Believing that people learn Christian values when they are engaged in co-operatives, the LCC administration thought of including co-operatives in its curriculum. A Co-operatives Program was therefore set up, with the then LCC director,

Sis. Leontina Castillo, O.S.A., being appointed Program Director. To prepare for the job, Sis. Leontina took Co-operative Studies at the Coady International Institute in Canada, in 1972. She supplemented her studies with observations of the different co-operatives in the United States and in Europe. Upon her return to the Philippines, she went on and implemented the Co-operative Program full-scale.

Together with classroom teaching on co-ops, Augustinian schools in the Luzon and Visayas areas have since 1976, organized laboratory co-operatives for savings, consumer co-ops, canteen co-ops, co-op dormitories, and other types of co-operatives. The laboratory co-ops of the Augustinian Sisters, now known as Co-operative Education Center (CEC), are organized either on a class or school level, and have both elementary and high school students as members.

Today, CEC is composed of all schools and community co-operatives that it has organized (32 co-ops in all). It is governed by a Board of Directors whose members are elected from among delegates of member schools and co-operatives.

NATCCO Initiatives

The National Confederation of Co-operatives (NATCCO), on the other hand, traces its first major involvement on the youth development program in 1992. That year, NATCCO, together with member CEC and community-based co-operatives, organized and conducted the First National Co-operative Youth Congress which was held at the Camp of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines in Quezon City.

Gathered for the Congress were 193 youths (49 boys and 144 girls), 13-21 years young, from 28 community-based and 24 school-based co-operatives. From Canada, four youths also attended the Congress, as part of an international youth exchange program sponsored by the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA).

The activity was convened in pursuit of a significant aim -- to prepare the youth for future co-op leadership. The Congress was so designed to increase the level of awareness of the youth participants on community and national problems and issues, for them to appreciate and value the co-operative movement's contributions towards alleviating these problems, and to plan their action towards more active and meaningful involvement in their respective co-operatives.

6.0 INSTITUTIONS DEALING WITH YOUTH ISSUES

6.1 CO-OPERATIVES

To get an idea of the actual number of co-ops that deal with youth issues, it is interesting to look at some figures from the Co-operative Development Authority. Please see Table 6-1.

Table 6-1 shows that as of April, 1997, there are a total of 42,545 registered co-operatives in the Philippines (How many of these are functional, however, remains an unanswered question since there is no complete available data). The multi-purpose agricultural co-ops outnumber all other types of co-ops, since they represent 61.4% of the registered co-ops. Next to the multi-purpose agricultural co-ops are the multi-purpose non-agricultural co-ops (24.3%). Credit co-operatives follow next (6%). Laboratory co-ops, according to CDA records, consist 0.03%. Unfortunately, there is no available CDA data on community-based co-ops with youth programs/projects.

NATCCO Community-Based Co-operatives with Youth Programs

NATCCO data bank records show that in 1995, there are 110 co-operatives within the NATCCO Co-operative System which reported that they implement youth-oriented projects. Of these, 29 are school-based (CEC members), while 81 are community-based. Considering that NATCCO, as a national co-op federation has 1,700 member-co-ops (as of 1996), then there are within NATCCO these primary co-ops (6.5%) which have youth programs.

Below, these primary co-operatives are listed according to NATCCO regional member-organization to which they are directly affiliated, namely: Northern Luzon Co-operative Development Center (NORLU), Bicol Co-operative Development Center (BCDC), Tagalog Co-operative Development Center (TAGCODEC), Visayas Co-operative Development Center (VICTO), MASS-SPECC Co-operative Development Center (MASS-SPECC).

Please note that the 29 members of Co-operative Education Center (CEC), are excluded in the list since they are school-based and therefore, have built-in youth activities and programs.

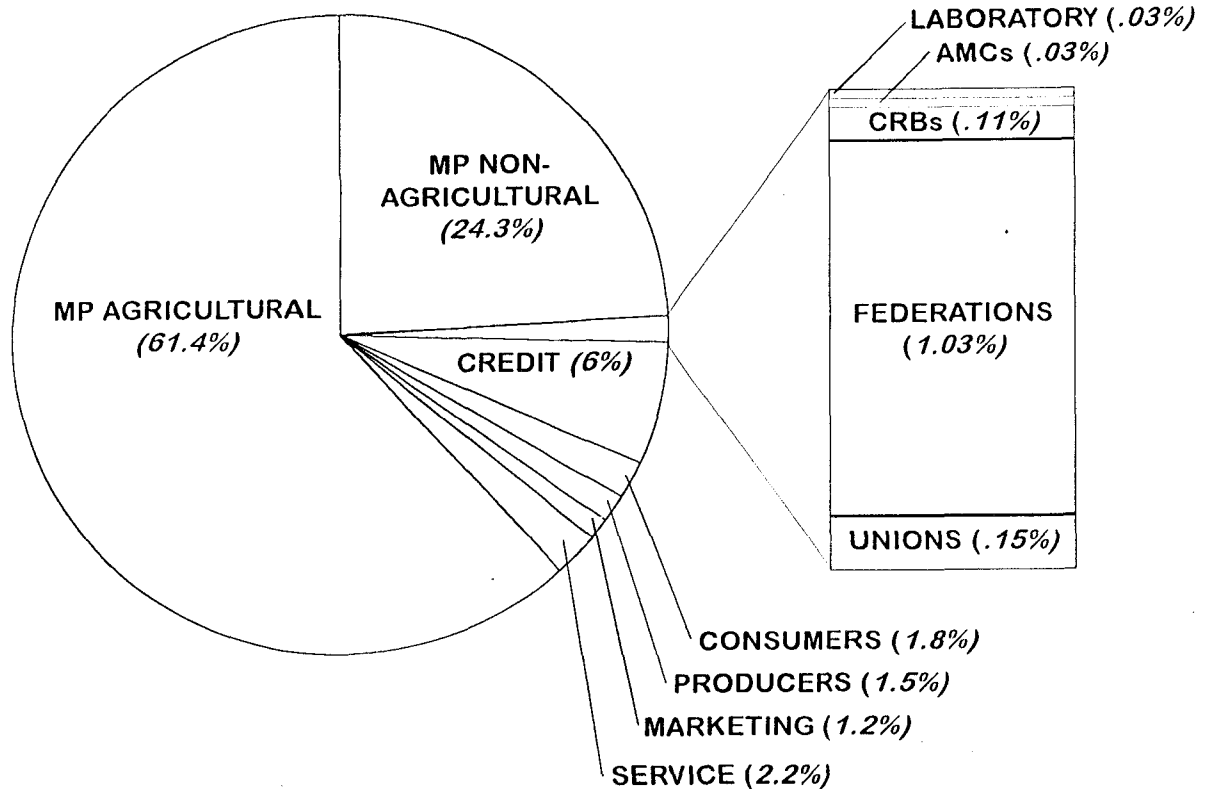
Number of Confirmed/Registered Cooperatives with CDA By Business Activity 1992-1997 (April)

	1988 *	1991	1992	1994	1996	1997
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	April
Credit	2,029		1,531	2,010	2,477	2,611
Consumers	1,034		425	606	727	773
Producers	294		294	477	600	632
Marketing	484		325	430	507	528
Service	260		339	694	884	939
MP Agricultural	674 **		14,685	21,728	25,575	26,133
MP N-Agricultural			3,097	6,400	9,687	10,351
Laboratory				5	12	14
Area Marketing	68		16	13	13	13
Coop						
Coop Rural Bank	31		31	39	46	48
Federations	78		200	368	429	440
Unions	54		52	56	61	63
TOTAL	5,006	9,144 @	20,995	32,826	41,018	42,545

Table 6-1

* = based on the BACOD records, 1988
 ** = simply stated as "multi-purpose"
 @ = breakdown not available

April 1997



NORLU

1. Bad-ayan Buguias Dev't. Multi-Purpose Co-op, Benguet
2. Baguio City Savings and Credit Co-op, Baguio
3. Candon Multi-Purpose Co-op, Ilocos Sur
4. Dinapigui Kankanaey Tribe Multi-Purpose Co-op, Isabela
5. Epiphany Multi-Purpose Co-op, Isabela
6. Fatima Credit Co-op, Ilocos Sur
7. Galimuyod Credit Co-op, Ilocos Sur
8. Hope Grassroots Multi-Purpose Co-op, Nueva Vizcaya
9. Kabayan Multi-Purpose Co-op, Benguet
10. Lamut Grassroots Savings and Dev't. Co-op, Ifugao
11. Naduguan Farmers Multi-Purpose Co-op, Benguet
12. Nueva-Vizcaya Alaly-Kapwa Multi-Purpose Co-op, Nueva Vizcaya
13. Philex Employees Credit Co-op, Benguet
14. Piwong Multi-Purpose Co-op, Ifugao
15. San Nicolas Multi-Purpose Co-op, La Union
16. Santiago Amos Credit and Dev't. Co-op, Isabela
17. Sarrat Namnama Multi-Purpose Co-op, Ilocos Norte
18. Solano Rang-ay Credit Co-op, Nueva Vizcaya
19. St. John Multi-Purpose Co-op, Ilocos Sur
20. St. Vincent Parish Credit Co-op, Nueva Vizcaya
21. Sta. Cruz Multi-Purpose Co-op, Ilocos Sur
22. Sta. Lucia Credit Co-op, Ilocos Sur
23. Sto. Domingo Multi-Purpose Co-op, Ilocos Sur
24. Sudipen Multi-Purpose Co-op, La Union
25. Suyo Multi-Purpose Co-op, Ilocos Sur
26. Tagudin Multi-Purpose Co-op, Ilocos Sur

TAGCODEC

27. Alabat Multi-Purpose Co-op, Quezon
28. Angono Credit & Dev't. Co-op, Rizal
29. Balikatan KB sa Ppananalapi, Inc., Bulacan
30. Botolan Kilusang Bayan for Credit, Zambales
31. Darangan Water Service Dev't. Co-op, Rizal
32. Infanta Credit Co-op, Quezon
33. Looban Sisa Credit Co-op Batangas
34. Mount Carmel Dev't. Co-op, Lucena City
35. Pitogo Credit Co-op, Quezon
36. San Jose Consumers Co-op, Palawan
37. San Luis Dev't. Co-op, Quezon
38. San Narciso Community Co-op Credit Union, Zambales
39. Sto. Rosario Credit Co-op, Bulacan
40. Tagbac Multi-Purpose Co-op, Rizal
41. Tanay Market Vendors & Community Multi-Purpose Co-op,
Rizal

BCDC

42. Baao Parish Multi-Purpose Co-op, Camarines Sur
43. Beriran Samahang Nayon, Inc., Sorsogon
44. Gubat St. Anthony Credir Co-op, Sorsogon
45. St. John development Co-op, Albay

VICTO

46. ATI-NTC Visca Personnel Mullti--Purpose Co-op, Leyte
47. Balamban Development Co-op, Cebu
48. Bugasong Multi-Purpose Co-op, Antique
49. Catmon Community Multi-Purpose Co-op, Cebu
50. Cebu CFI Community Co-op, Cebu
51. Cebu People's Mullet-Purpose Co-op, Cebu City
52. Cordoba Mullet-Purpose Co-op, Cebu
53. Guadalupe Community Mullet--Purpose Co-op, Cebu
54. Hibernante People's Multi-Purpose Co-op, Calbayog City
55. Hilongos Multi-Purpose Co-op, Leyte
56. Lambunao Marketing Co-op, Iloilo
57. Libas Multi-Purpose Co-op, Leyte
58. Maripipi Community Credit Co-op, Biliran
59. Northern Samar Dev't. Workers' Credit Co-op, Samar
60. Palompon Community Multi-Purpose Co-op, Leyte
61. Perpetual Help Credit Co-op Dumaguete City
62. San Remigio Unified Co-operative Cebu
63. Southern Leyte Employees Multi-Purpose Co-op, Leyte
64. Sts. Peter and Paul Multi-Purpose Co-op, Leyte
65. Tanjay Community Co-op, Negros Oriental

MASS-SPECC

66. Balsa sa Kalinaw ni Kristo, Bukidnon
67. Cagayan de Oro Federation of Co-ops, Cagayan de Oro City
68. Community Livelihood Multi-Purpose Co-op, Agusan del Norte
69. Cugman Multi-Purpose Co-op, Cagayan de Oro City
70. Hijo Madaum Development Co-op, Davao del Norte
71. MSU-IIT Employees Multi-Purpose Co-op, Iligan City
72. Misamis Occ. Federation of Co-ops, Ozamis City
73. Nabunturan Integrated Co-op, Davao del Norte
74. Oro Integrated Co-op, Cagayan de Oro City
75. Ozamis City Multi-Purpose Co-op, OOzamis Ciity
76. Paglaum Farmers association, Bukidnon
77. Tangub City Multi-Purpose Co-op Tangub City
78. Toril Community Co-op, Davao City
79. NNCHS Teachers and Employees Co-op, Davao del Norte

CEC

- 80. Bagong Silang 2 Multi-Purpose Co-op, Cavite
- 81. Diffun Multi-Purpose and Development Co-op, Quirino

6.2 GOVERNMENT OFFICES

- 1. Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS)
- 2. Philippines Sports Commission
- 3. Presidential Council on Youth Affairs
- 4. Boy Scouts of the Philippines
- 5. Girl Scouts of the Philippines
- 6. Sangguniang Kabataan
- 7. Department of Social Welfare and Development
- 8. Department of Health
- 9. Department of Labor and Employment
- 10. Technical Education and Skills Development Authority or TESDA (formerly National Manpower and Youth Council)
- 11. Council for the Welfare of Children
- 12. Commission on Human Rights
- 13. Dangerous Drugs Board
- 14. Office of Southern Cultural Communities
- 15. Office of Muslim Affairs
- 16. Office of Northern Cultural Communities

6.3 NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

- 1. National Council for Social Development
- 2. Kaisang Buhay Foundation
- 3. Katipunan ng mga May Kapansanan sa Pilipinas
- 4. Tahanan Outreach Projects and Services
- 5. Kapatiran Kaunlaran Foundation
- 6. Episcopal Commission on Tribal Filipinos
- 7. Citizen's Drug Watch Foundation
- 8. Indigenous Youth Council
- 9. Philippine National Red Cross Youth
- 10. Pag-asa Youth Movement

7.0 PRESENT STATUS OF YOUTH

IN THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

7.1 GOVERNMENT POLICIES /LEGISLATION IN CO-OPS WITH REGARD TO THE ROLE OF THE YOUTH

The Co-operative Code of the Philippines gives a brief definition of the membership of a laboratory co-operative, "a co-operative organized by minors... and must be affiliated with a registered co-operative.." The Code also specifies that the Co-operative Development Authority will issue governing guidelines for such a co-operative.

In 1991, the CDA issued guidelines and "minors" were defined as natural persons, who are Filipino citizens, below 21 years old. Laboratory co-ops may be formed either by students, by out-of-school youth, or by street children. Whatever the nature of membership, the Code rules that a laboratory co-op, an experimental one, must be an affiliate of a registered co-operative. A laboratory co-op of students must affiliate with the particular school's co-op or with any co-op within or nearest its area of operations. A laboratory co-op of other minors will affiliate with a co-operative of their choice. The chosen co-op must be within or near the operating area of the laboratory co-op. The guardian co-op is responsible for the training and value formation of its affiliate laboratory co-op in accordance with the co-op principles.

A laboratory co-op is similarly organized to advance the social and economic well-being of its members, which in this case are the young people. It operates according to a set of bylaws and articles of governance which the members themselves formulate. It has its own organizational structure and its own set of officers. At the same time, a CDA-registered laboratory co-op becomes endowed with a juridical personality that enables it to exercise certain powers and capacities, including the right to sue and be sued, and to enter into contract for the acquisition and sale of property as may be acquired by the laboratory co-operative and upon the approval of its advisers.

7.2 NATIONAL PLAN FOR YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

On March 20, 1993, Pres. Ramos instructed the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) and the Presidential Council for Youth Affairs (PCYA) to formulate a comprehensive National Youth development Plan (NYDP) in consonance with the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan. (MTPDP). The youth plan shall be formulated in consultation with government agencies and non-government organizations that have programs and projects for the youth.

Moreover, the youth themselves would take part in the formulation through their participation in the Technical Working Groups and the youth consultations.

The MTPDP forwards four fundamental goals: alleviation of poverty, generation of more productive employment, promotion of equality and social justice and attainment of sustainable economic growth. These goals are based on the assumption that human resources are vital assets to be utilized for economic and sustainable growth. In the context of the MTPDP, the NYDP is specifically anchored on the human development sector which includes health, education, manpower development and skills training; social welfare and community development; housing; and socio-political and cultural dimensions of development.

The NYDP aims to: 1) draw up a situational analysis of the youth; 2) provide a listing and assessment of services for or available to the youth; 3) identify issues and challenges affecting the youth; 4) provide approaches and strategies towards addressing the problems of the youth;; 5) identify proposed programs and projects for implementation; and 6) establish a monitoring scheme to continually evaluate programs and initiatives for the youth.

The NYDP, as it is written, presents a plan for the period 1994-98. For purposes of discussion, the plan framework further divides the youth into four sub-sectors; 1) in-school youth - belonging to the 15-24 age range who are either attending the formal school system or attending non-school based educational programs under institutions recognized by the State; 2) out-of-school youth - belonging to the 15-24 age range who are not enrolled in any formal or vocational/technical school, not employed or self--employed and are not college or vocational/technical graduates; 3) working youth - belonging to the 15-24 years age group who are either employed, self-employed, under-employed or belong to specific employable job-seeking youth groups both in the formal and informal sectors of the economy; and the special youth - belonging to the 15-24 age group who are marginalized by existing societal forces thereby needing special care, attention and protection.

7.3 NATCCO PROGRAM FOR YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN CO-OPS

In the co-operative movement, a National plan parallel to the NYDP of the government particularly with regard to the involvement of the youth in community-based co-ops is currently non-existent.

In the NATCCO Co-operative System, what is used as basis for immediate interventions to encourage the participation of young co-operators in the movement is the list of resolutions drawn up by the youth participants during the First National Youth Congress. Please refer to Appendix B - First National Co-op Youth Congress Resolutions.

7.4 YOUTH PROJECTS IN COMMUNITY-BASED CO-OPS

Last July, 1997 a survey questionnaire was sent to the 81 NATCCO affiliate community-based co-operatives (i.e., those which informed us in 1995 that they have youth programs). We got responses from 46 (57%) co-operatives. Composed mainly of multi-purpose co-ops (38 of the respondents), the total membership of the 46 co-operatives is 100,868 (58% females and 37% males; others had no sex-dls-aggregated data).

As to youth-focused projects and activities, respondents identified the following: savings mobilization (85%), scholarship program (39%), health care program (13%), sports tournaments (13%), value seminar for the youth, Summer Youth Camp, co-op exposure, poster-making contest, leadership seminar, theater arts/cultural activities, youth co-op volunteers for the general assembly preparation, and micro-business livelihood program.

7.5 ROLE OF THE YOUTH THROUGH CO-OPS IN THE OVERALL NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The co-operative, being 'of-the-people, by-the-people, and for-the-people' organization, sets the youth on a good foundation. In the co-op, they can observe, learn, and exercise thrift, co-operation, volunteerism, collective and participative decision-making, democratic election processes, equitable distribution of resources to members, and other co-op principles and practices.

In turn, the youth as young workers and as co-op members, contribute to the capital build-up of the co-op, making the organization more sustainable. This is exemplified by the 46 co-ops that we surveyed last July, 1997. Members whose ages range from 11-40 years comprise 46% of the total membership and they contributed a total of around P76.5 million (based on the co-ops' 1996 and June, 1997 financial data). The vitality of the youth coupled with their idealism and zest for pursuing challenging tasks and ventures can also be beneficial for the co-op. Some of our respondent co-ops must have realized this that they have elected a number of them as co-op officers. From the 46 respondents, 52% reported that they have young officers (120 committee members whose ages range from 20-35 years) in the different co-op committees (i.e., in the board of directors, audit, education, and election committees). Refer to Table 7-1.

Based on the July, 1997 NATCCO survey on community-based co-ops with projects involving the youth, the 46 respondent co-ops shared the data shown on Table 7-1.

It is interesting to note that a number of the youth (43.3%) are in various elected committees, (i.e., audit, credit, and election committees). Undoubtedly, members of these co-operatives acknowledge the capabilities of their young members to oversee diverse operational transactions.

Table 7-1. Youth Co-op Officers

	Type of Co-operative			No. of Youth
	Multi-Purpose	Credit	Others (Marketing Co-op)	
A. Committee Members				
1. Board of Directors	22	1	—	23
2. Audit Committee	19	—	—	19
3. Credit Committee	9	—	—	9
4. Education Committee	18	—	—	18
5. Election Committee	17	7	—	24
6. Youth Welfare Comm.	1	1	—	2
7. Sports/Health Comm.	—	18	—	—
8. Comm.unspecified	5	—	2	7
B. Chairpersons				
	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	91	27	2	120

Noticeably, only two co-ops reported that they have existing Youth Committee and Sports/Health Committee.

As to leadership in the co-ops, although none of the respondents specified whether there were young chairpersons since the questionnaire we sent did not ask for this in particular, the number of the youth in the board of directors was provided. Data gathered show that there were 23 (19%) board members, indicating that the youths are involved in the policy-making processes of their co-operatives.

Still regarding co-op leadership, there is another study which analyzed the composition of NATCCO primary co-ops' leadership and management. The study revealed that women's participation in the leadership of the co-operatives is growing, by showing the number and percentage of males and females who served as board chairpersons in 1986, 1991, 1992 and 1994 (years in which the data was available). See Table 7-2.

Table 7-2 . Number and Percentage of Male and Female Board Chairpersons

	1991		1993		1994	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	3,839	66.8	1,255	65.2	762	65.0
Female	1,904	33.2	669	34.8	411	35.0
Sex not indicated	159	2.7	50.3	0	0	0
TOTAL	5,902	100	1,929	100	1,173	100

(Ref.: NATCCO Co-op Review, 1997).

The same study on NATCCO primaries number and percentage of males and females who served as managers of co-ops in 1992,1993 and 1994 (Table 7-3).

Table 7-3. Number and Percentage of Male and Female Managers

	1992		1993		1994	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	89	54.9	124	54.1	64	43.0
Female	73	45.1	105	45.9	85	57.0
Total*	162	100	229	100	149	100

* The total also indicates the number of co-op respondents in each of the years.
(Ref.: NATCCO Co-op Review, 1997)

Moreover, the same study also showed that the number of females employed in co-ops are increasing. See Table 7-4, please.

Table 7-4. Number and Percentage of Co-op Personnel by Sex

	1986		1991		1994	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	867	58.3	1,145	41.7	1,217	40.0
Female	619	41.7	2,995	58.3	1,829	60.0
Total	1,486	100	5,140	100	3,046	100

* There were 127 co-op respondents in 1986, 826 in 1991, and 334 in 1994.
(Ref.: NATCCO Co-op Review, 1997)

Getting back to the July, 1997 survey, other data gathered from the 46 co-ops show that they employ 209 youths, with ages ranging from 20-35 years. Thirty-six (17.2%) occupy supervisory/managerial positions, while 173 are performing jobs which are essential for daily operations of the co-ops. Please see Table 7-5.

Table 7-5. Number and Percentage of Youth Employed in Co-operatives

Jobs	No. of Youth Employed	Sub-Totals	Percentage
1. Gen. Manager/CEO		5	2.39
2. Sr. Managers		3	1.3
a. Dep't. Managers	3		
3. Jr. Managers		22	10.52
a. Accountant	3		
b. Loan Officer	3		
c. Project Manager	1		
d. Training Officer	2		
e. Treasurer/Cashier	10		
f. Youth Coordinator	3		
4. Supervisors		6	2.87
a. Canteen/Grocery In-Charge	1		
b. Consumer Store In-Charge	1		
c. Facility Custodian	1		
d. Integrated Farm Dev't. In-Charge	1		
e. Mortuary Aid Fund In-Charge	1		
f. Palay Marketing Operations In-Charge	1		
5. Operational Staff		173	82.8
a. Field Level			
1. Community Org.	2		
2. Collector	9		
b. Office Level			
1. Account Officer	5		
2. Admin. Staff	2		
3. Bookkeeper	14		
4. Clerk	100		
(Accounting, Posting, Sales)			

(Cont'n. on next page)

(Continuation)

Jobs	No. of Youth Employed	Sub-Totals	Percentage
5. Computer Programmer	1		
6. Encoder	9		
7. Project Officer	3		
8. Secretary	4		
9. Teller	8		
10. Training Staff	2		
c. Factory Level			
1. Production Staff	3		
2. Sales Person	1		
3. Truck Helpers	2		
d. Unskilled Labor	2		
1. Utility Staff	8		
TOTAL	=	209	100

If the country were an ideal place to live in, the normal run of the life of a youth would be to graduate from basic education and then pursue higher studies, which may or may not lead to a degree, but which would definitely entail gainful employment. But because of massive poverty existing in the Philippines (poverty incidence was 35.5 % in 1994), family members of all ages have to face the reality of helping make ends meet by looking for employment or by engaging in any income-generating activity. Rural poverty incidence was pegged at 47.1 % (1994). More and more of the Philippines' impoverished youth are abandoning their education to look for jobs which are mostly in the urban centers.

Somehow, the co-operatives provide a job market for the young workers and professionals. NATCCO's primary affiliate-co-ops alone have been growing in terms of asset size and membership over the years, a visible proof that the co-op movement is a significant contributor to the Philippine economy. In 1991, NATCCO affiliates were estimated at P1.69 billion. In 1996, NATCCO Co-op System's total assets were estimated at P8 billion. Individual membership grew from around 700,000 in 1991 to 1,000,000 (1,700 primary co-ops) in 1996.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

The population of the Philippines is generally young. Demographic statistics compel the country's leaders and the co-operative leaders as well, to summon the youth, encourage their involvement and stir them to act towards the attainment of national objectives. It is acknowledged that sustaining the efforts for national development and stability depends much on them.

Consequently, for any development plan that focuses on the youth, the issue of participation and the problems that go with it must be confronted.

This study attempts to give some insights as to how the Philippine society in general, and the co-operatives, in particular, has been preparing the youth sector for their future roles as the country's workers and major decision-makers.

8.1 SOME FINDINGS ON THE FILIPINO YOUTH

8.1.1 Youth Population

- More than 50% of the Philippine population are aged 19 years old and below. Those aged 15-34 years old consist 36 % (Philippine Statistics Yearbook, 1996).
- The females outnumber the males slightly (0.2%).
- There are more youth population in the urban areas compared to the rural areas.
- Figures also indicate that there are more who get married at ages 20 and above compared to those who get married below age 20. Around 66.25% of those who are married fall within 20-44 years old. There are more unmarried males than females and there are more divorced/or separated females than males.

8.1.2 Youth and Education

- Literacy rate increased from 95% in 1994 to 95.8% in 1995. Functional literacy rate increased only slightly within the same years (83.8-83.9%).
- The number of youth attending school, particularly in elementary and secondary levels have been increasing from 1993-1995

-
- The 1994 and 1995 cohort survival rates in the primary and secondary level of education, however, show decreasing figures (Cohort survival rate refers to the percentage of the enrollment of a certain group of students who reached the final year of the required number of years for the level or the course).
 - Quality of basic education lagged behind as shown by assessment of achievement level in both elementary and secondary education (National Elementary Achievement Test results showed only a 43.6% achievement level in 1994 and 1995 showed only a little improvement as NEAT results was 45.6%.

8.1.3 Youth and Health

- Population growth rate of the Philippines is relatively high (2.6%). The government and the Church ought to reconcile differing views on the population issue to ensure success in the implementation of the Family planning Program.
- Hospital care needs upgrading so they can cater not only to the critically ill but also to all who need health assistance, disease prevention and health promotion.
- In general, mortality rates among the females are very much lower than among the males.

8.1.4 Youth and the Economy

- The youths consist a sizable portion of the total labor force.
- Many of the labor force tend to migrate to the urban centers to look for jobs.]
- Unemployment and underemployment rates provide cause for concern. The number of unemployed males are greater than the number of unemployed females.

8.1.5 Youth and Politics

- The Philippine Constitution provides for election of youth representatives to the Philippine Council for Youth Affairs.
- The youth are represented in both Committees on Youth and Sports Development in the Upper and Lower House of Congress.

8.1.5 Youth and Culture

- Filipinos have strong family ties. Children always treat the parents with respect and the debt of gratitude is a lifetime one.
- Youths within the age range of 15-24 years are commonly expected to be in-school.
- Gender stereotyping starts at home. Typical roles of the father and the mother are instilled in the minds of the sons and daughters.

8.1.6 Youth and Co-operatives

- Laboratory co-ops in the Philippines has been existing for nearly three decades. These co-ops are school-based.
- The Co-op Code or Rep. Act 6938 (1990) defines a laboratory co-op and specifies that the Co-op Development Authority will provide governing guidelines for this type of co-ops.
- A national plan for youth development in co-operatives similar to the National Youth Development Plan for 1994-98 prepared by the government is currently non-existent.
- Programs/projects for the youth are being undertaken by a number of community-based co-ops.
- In the community-based co-ops, the youths have been involved in the co-operatives in various capacities, i.e., as staff and officers in the different committees.
- Youth Committees are yet to be institutionalized in community-based co-ops.
- Participation of women in co-ops as personnel and as managers/leaders has been increasing.

8.2 ASSESSMENT

8.2.1. Policies Supportive of the Youth

The Philippine Constitution provides policies and various enabling legislation to promote the protection, welfare, and development of young Filipinos. Among such legislation mentioned earlier are the following:

-
1. Labor Code
 2. Republic Act 7610
 3. Article XIV
 4. Education Act of 1992
 5. Republic Act 5462 or the Manpower and Out-Of-School Youth Development Act
 6. Magna Carta Act for Disabled Persons

Regarding review and formulation of policies focusing on youth concerns, the House Committees on Youth and Sports Development (Upper and Lower House of Congress) and the Sangguniang Kabataan through the Philippine Council for Youth Affairs are structures which were given the legislative and executive functions, respectively. Implementation of set laws are carried out by different government departments and line agencies like Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Department of Labor, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and Commission on Human Rights, among others

Although, indeed there are policies and implementing bodies, the involvement of the youth themselves has to be looked into. The kind of participation exacted of the youth and the roles assigned to them in the processes of policy formulation and in the implementation are areas interesting to investigate.

On the other hand, within the Philippine co-op movement and specifically with regard to encouragement of youth involvement and integration in community-based co-ops, policies are wanting.

Although the Co-op Code (R.A. 6938) has provided for involvement of the youth through the laboratory co-operatives, no other policy deals with promotion of youth participation in community-based co-operatives.

8.2.2 Attempts for an Integrated Co-op Youth Development Plan

On a national level, the National Confederation of Co-operatives, since 1992, has convened two youth congresses consisting of participants from school-based and community-based co-ops from the different regions of the Philippines. Each congress provided a venue for deepening youth involvement in the co-op movement. Each time, the youth were made to realize the importance of their roles as young co-operators. Most recently, during the last day of the 1996 National Youth Congress held in Naga City in the Bicol Region, the young participants also got to meet with their elder counterparts attending the Third NATCCO Co-op Congress/20th General Assembly and were able to communicate their messages as young people who want to make a difference.

The young participants, however, need a lot more support when they go back to their respective co-ops and communities. From their co-ops, they need the guidance of elder co-op leaders or a committee with whom they can collaborate and further think of ways and means by which youth involvement in co-ops can be enhanced.

8.2.3 Issues/Needs

Believing that the young Filipino co-operators can best express what they think and feel their needs are, this paper included the listing of the needs identified by the participants in the Third National Co-op Youth Congress (1996) coordinated by NATCCO. For details, please refer to Appendix D.

The young co-operators identified six major needs: 1) education; 2) socio-economic and civic involvement; 3) funds generation; 4) networking and information dissemination; 5) professional growth; and 6) youth representation in the co-op structure.

Although last in the list, the issue of representation, is a critical issue which ought to be addressed. This is reaffirmed by the 46 community-based co-op survey respondents. Only 2 of the respondent co-ops stated that they have youth committees.

The young co-op members must be supported by elderly but "youth-friendly" co-op managers, board, and members who will give them the opportunity to be heard and to decide on co-op activities and projects which will be beneficial both for the youth and the co-op.

8.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.3.1 General Policy Measures

- a. Increase allocation of budget for social services, particularly for education and health services;
- b. Establish a system wherein government, non-government organizations, an academic institutions can coordinate efforts in addressing the many needs and aspirations of the youth;
- c. Strengthen and promote the working youth's protection and welfare and develop, enhance and upgrade their knowledge, attitudes and skills through programs and projects;

d. Create laws and policies and implement said measures concerning young women workers (i.e., laws against sexual harrassment, discrimination, marginalization and others) so as to ensure their protection and safety;

e. Strengthen the youth's participation in policy formulation/decision-making

8.3.2 Strategies

a. Representation of the youth in the co-op structure. Youth committees may be formed, composed both of the young and the youth-friendly elder members. The team can spearhead the vision-setting, and planning (this includes organizational and situational analysis, strategy formulation and action planning) for co-ops interested in pursuing youth-oriented programs/projects.

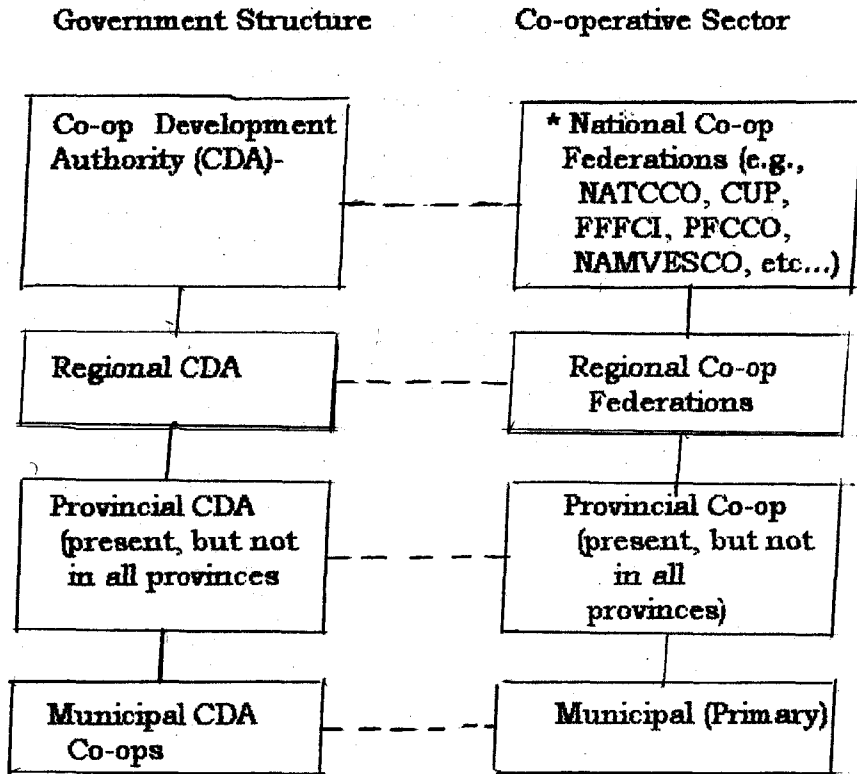
b. Link young people with the more mature members of the co-op. In all levels of the co-op movement (primary, secondary or national level), the youth-friendly co-ops can encourage the participation of the young (members and potential members) in general assemblies, congresses, and other co-op gatherings, where the young can be given venues to express their ideas, listen and learn from the more experienced and mature members, and thus, gain wider and deeper perspective of varied socioeconomic and cultural issues, and better understand and appreciate of the co-op principles and practices.

c. Networking among youth-friendly co-ops and youth-oriented organizations. Since the concept of co-op youth committees is still a novel concept, particularly in many community-based co-ops, it would help if there is a directory of similarly youth-friendly co-ops and organizations to which a youth committee can refer to, just in case they need to consult or collaborate with other organizations regarding certain youth projects.

d. Research and databanking on youth issues/concerns. Research on the situation of the different youth sub-sectors (i.e., in-school, out-of-school, working youth, and special youth) and monitoring ought to be on a continuing basis, so that all agencies concerned can gauge how (un-)responsive youth programs are to the needs of the youth and so decisions and planning can also be adjusted and facilitated. The findings and studies of the Presidential Council on Youth Affairs and other existing government and nongovernment agencies focusing on the youth can be popularized and disseminated to youth-oriented organizations, including co-ops.

e. Media practitioners can help promote youth issues/concerns. A film, for example, like "Minsan Lang Sila Bata" (an effective documentary on the plight of Filipino child laborers) can be produced and shown during a co-op's assembly or meeting and in the process, raise the awareness of the adult members and elder officers and challenge them to seriously think about undertaking programs that address the youth's needs and concerns.

APPENDIX A
Current Co-op Movement Structure in the Philippines
(Based on the Co-operative Code or Republic Act 6938/6939)



- * National Co-op Federations:
- NATCCO - NATCCO - National Confederation of Co-operatives
 - CUP - Co-operative Union of the Philippines
 - FFFCI - Federation of Free Farmers Co-operatives
 - PFCCO - Philippine Federation of Credit Co-operatives
 - NAMVESCO - National Market Vendors Co-operatives

The Co-op Code underscores the 'principle of subsidiarity,' by which is meant that the co-op sector has primacy over the State in initiating and regulating within its ranks the organization of co-operatives, the training of co-operators, the conduct of research and audit of and the extension of support services to co-operatives "with the assistance of the government where necessary"(R.A.6938, Art.2,par.3).

To implement the provisions of the Code and to see to it that co-operatives are properly organized and managed by co-operators and assisted by the government, the Co-operative Development Authority was created by Rep. Act 6939. The functions of the CDA are enumerated in Sec. 3 of the CDA Act.

YOUTH CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS

On the Youth's Involvement in Cooperatives

1. RESOLVED, that the cooperatives be encouraged to give the youth a voice in their respective cooperatives through the formation of a Youth Committee.

RESOLVED further, that the Youth Committee shall serve any or all of the following functions :

- a. advise the Board of Directors on matters concerning the youth;
 - b. conduct membership campaign for the youth including the out-of-school;
 - c. organize youth programs like sports, arts, etc.;
 - d. conduct consciousness raising on the rights and responsibilities of the youth towards himself, the cooperative and the nation; and,
 - e. publish newsletters for information and dissemination.
2. RESOLVED, that cooperatives be encouraged to pursue a continuous education program for the youth to include among others, leadership trainings and rights and responsibilities of the youth.
 3. RESOLVED, that NATCCO be requested to coordinate a youth exposure program to rural cooperatives and leadership training programs.
 4. RESOLVED, that a national cooperative youth newsletter be published with NATCCO and CECI as production coordinator and designated coop youth leaders acting as correspondents.
- RESOLVED further, that the production of the newsletter be financed from subscription fees.
5. RESOLVED, that a national cooperative youth congress be held every two years.

RESOLVED further, that the financing for this youth congress be sourced from registration fees, fund-raising activities sponsored by the youth and counterpart from the cooperatives.

On the Youth's Involvement in the Preservation and Protection of the Environment

1. RESOLVED, that all cooperatives in the country be enjoined to take concrete steps to improve the environmental situation in the country.

RESOLVED further, that the coop's youth committee work closely with the cooperative in planning and implementing an environmental program

2. RESOLVED, that the following be adopted as priority concerns of the cooperative in the pursuit of their environmental agenda :

- a. proper waste disposal
- b. collective action on reforestation
- c. values inculcation and self-discipline
- d. adoption and practice of the environmental slogan : REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE

3. RESOLVED, that an environmental consciousness drive be actively pursued by the cooperative youth.

4. RESOLVED, that all cooperators be encouraged to avoid producing, selling and consuming environmentally harmful products.

5. RESOLVED, that cooperatives be encouraged to support the total commercial log ban.

RESOLVED, that a copy of these resolutions be furnished the following:

- a. NATCCO Board of Directors
- b. CECI Board of Directors
- c. Board of Directors of participating cooperatives
- d. Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)
- e. Canadian Cooperative Association (CCA)
- f. Senate of the Philippines/ Senate Committee on Youth
- g. House of Representatives
- h. Office of the President, Malacanang

National
Confederation of
Cooperatives (NATCCO)

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1109 Quezon City

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**YOUTH INTEGRATION IN COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT
- A SURVEY -**

Target Respondent: Coop Manager

Please return to NATCCO by July 18, 1997

1. General Information

Name of Cooperative _____

Type of Coop (e.g. Credit, Consumers, Multi-Purpose, etc.) _____

Services Offered to Members (Lending, Health Care, etc.) _____

Date Organized _____

Coop Manager's Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Tel. No. _____ Fax No. _____

2. Membership Data

(as of Dec. 1995 or Dec. 1996 - based on most recent data available)

Total No. of Coop Members: as of _____, 19__	No. of Female Members:	No. of Male Members:

No. of Members within different age brackets as of _____, 19__ :

Age Brackets:	Number:
> 0 - 10 years	
> 11 - 20 years	
> 21 - 30 years	
> 31 - 40 years	
> 41 - 50 years	
> 51 - 60 years	
> 61 years and above	

3. Youth-Oriented Programs/Projects:

**Youth programs/projects that the coop undertake
(e.g., Sportsfest, Kiddie Savings Project, etc.):**

Brief program/project description (Use additional sheets if necessary):

Start of program/project:

Are the programs/projects continuing or seasonal, etc.?:

**Other coop services which benefit the youth in the coop
(e.g., Scholarship Program, Health Care, etc):**

4. Youth Equity Contribution/Savings Deposits

(as of Dec 1995 or Dec 1996 - based on most recent data available)

Amount (P) of fixed deposits contributed by youth members as of _____, 19__	Amount (P) of savings deposits generated from youth members as of _____, 19__

5. Youth Participation in the Coop Structure/Decision-making

Youth Members in the Board of Directors (BOD):		Youth Members in Committees (EdCom, EleCom, SupCom, CreCom, Special Committees, etc.):			Youth Among Coop Staff (manager, bookkeeper, project staff, other positions):		
No. of Youth	Age Level	Committee	No. of Youth	Age Level	Position	No. of Youth	Age Level

6. Coops/Youth Issues

Three (3) main issues/or problems which you think the coops face as they attempt to encourage more youth participation in coop development activities:

Recommendations to encourage more youth participation in coop development:



YOUNG COOPERATORS:

Our Needs in the Changing World

Presented to the "Third NATCCO Congress" by delegates of the "Second National Coop Youth Congress"

We are the young men and women—your children, your grandchildren, your peers, your colleagues, your fellow cooperators, your co-workers, the students, and persons with disabilities. We are the participants from all over the country for the "Second National Cooperative Youth Congress" where we are discussing our roles in the cooperative movement.

For us, the "Parable of the Sower" exemplifies our experiences as the young blood in coops. Like seeds, we are full of talent, enthusiasm and idealism. But some of these seeds find themselves on rocky ground so they quickly dry up and die. These seeds are the youth who did not even make it to our Congress because they did not get support from their cooperatives. Other seeds find themselves on shallow soil and grow but only for a limited time. These are the youth who got sporadic support from their lukewarm coops. And still other seeds find themselves on fertile soil. These seeds grow and bear fruit a hundredfold. These are the youth who get constant nurturing from their coops who heed their needs. These are the "YOUTH-FRIENDLY COOPS" who yield a bountiful harvest of capable, young cooperators who thrive and flourish.

We, the youth, are willing to offer our time, effort and resources to our cooperatives. The students among us devote our energy and creativity to coop projects. Young professionals among us offer our best years to the coop movement, believing that this is the best way to contribute to the social upliftment of our people.

We ask the coops here today to provide fertile soil for us to flourish. We hope that you will strive to be "YOUTH-FRIENDLY COOPS" who will address our unique and varying needs.

We have identified six major needs:

- 1 Education
- 2 Socioeconomic-Civic Involvement
- 3 Funds Generation
- 4 Networking and Information Dissemination
- 5 Professional Growth
- 6 Youth Representation in the Coop Structure

1 Education

We will eventually inherit the membership and management of coops. To have successful coops, it is best to teach us—the future members, leaders and employees—coop values while we are still young. Teach us self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity now.

We urge that you give us room for our continuous membership education, leadership and management training, and actual practice of skill so that we can continue the years of hard work you have poured into the movement. Address our priority needs according to our age and areas of interests.

2 Socioeconomic-Civic Involvement

The youth, especially the students among us, are at that stage in life where we are busy defining our values and ambitions. We need to engage in activities where we can actualize honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others. We want to help in our coops' community involvement.

We urge this Congress to provide us the venue for civic, economic and social involvement, like environmental protection, income-generating projects, youth camps, sportsfests, arts and cultural activities. These are venues for us to have a cheerful and collegial atmosphere of seeing the future as opportunities and solutions rather than as problems.

3 Funds Generation

We are full of fresh ideas that we need to express in significant activities where we can sustain our interest and involvement. But we need more than your moral support in this endeavor.

We urge the coops to include the youth agenda in your action planning from which budgets are made. Youth programs and activities will then come as a result of planning, instead of not being able to do anything because there is no fund for them. This is aside from the funds the coops should appropriate from the CETF or other optional fund for sustainable youth projects.

4 *Networking and Information Dissemination*

For us young people in coops, it is important that we interact with each other, like what you do. We share your belief in the importance of communication and alliance-building. However, it is difficult to have productive and meaningful interactions often.

Thus, we urge the primaries and secondaries in the NATCCO coop system to support youth congresses at least once every two years, and to support the publication of a NATCCO coop youth newsletter by way of advertisements and other means.

5 *Professional Growth*

Many young staff, some of whom are here in this Youth Congress, have courageously chosen a career in the coop sector rather than in the corporate world. We are willing participants in the professionalization of the coop management system that enables the cooperative to be competitive in the local economy and, later, in the global market. We bring in our concrete skills and innovations that can allow coops to achieve bigger surplus and to adapt to the rapidly changing world.

We urge coops to promote among the general public, particularly the youth, viable coop career alternatives. And for those young professionals already in their ranks, we exhort coops to recognize their staff's contribution and to match this contribution with a commitment to allow for their professional growth and development, and to provide reasonable compensation. It is important for us that our careers in coops are not dead-end jobs.

6 *Youth Representation in the Coop Structure*

Many coops recognize the youth sector yet fail to hear what the youth need and want. But in order to be heard, somebody must create sounds.

So hear us now. Support us. Because like newly lighted candles, our flames are bright and full of hope. Let the youth help light the way that we will tread together. Do not leave us behind.

We urge the primaries and secondaries to organize youth committees so that young people will have representation in the coops' decision-making bodies and share our actual, concrete experiences as young cooperators.

THE YOUTH'S RELEVANCE

Look at the faces of the young cooperators around you. We would not be here if you had not dedicated yourselves to nurturing the coop movement. We are now your partners in continuing this commitment. We can share more than just our share capital. We are now ready to be mainstreamed in the cooperative system amid a changing world.

We share the sentiments of the participants in the "Third ICA International Cooperative Youth Seminar" held in Manchester, England in 1995 that: **"YOUTH ARE NOT ONLY THE COOPERATORS OF THE FUTURE; WE ARE THE COOPERATORS OF THE PRESENT."**

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