

SOCIAL SCIENCES

118. AN ANALYSIS OF THE SEASONAL MOVEMENTS OF PALAY PRICES AND INTERTEMPORAL PRICE EFFICIENCY

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The study attempted to address the policy issue of how competitive or economically efficient the rice marketing systems are in terms of temporal price efficiency, that is, whether the incentive to carry inventory between two different time periods (from harvest to lean months) adequately covered costs of storage. Moreover, the seasonal price movements at the farm, wholesale, and retail levels are analyzed. Analyses were based on 1970-1995 price data series. Results showed that the seasonal price movements were largely due to the high seasonality of palay production. Between seasonal low and seasonal high price months, monthly seasonal price increase averaged at 3.4 percent, an incentive to induce traders to store excess stocks for the lean months. With the averaged costs of storage of 1.42 percent per month (in this case, it is the cost of working capital), the monthly seasonal price increase was adequate to cover the costs of storage. Although there were some years that the seasonal price increase were more than enough to cover costs of working capital, these were being balanced by other years of very low returns. Thus, there could be a year-to-year offsetting of profits and losses that the trader does assume.

Key words: seasonality, seasonal price increase, storage costs, price behavioral, intertemporal price, palay price, rice marketing

119. URBAN IMPACT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF METRO MANILA RESIDENTS

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Sociologists agree that urbanization affects the quality of life of residents both positively and negatively. Using the survey method, this researcher investigated the impact of urbanization of Metropolitan Manila on the quality of life of its residents. Questionnaires consisting of 39 questions were distributed to 416 PLM students (43% male and 57 female) enrolled in courses like engineering, nursing, physical therapy, business administration, and arts and sciences at the start of the second semester of school year 1999-2000.

Results of the study indicated that 64% of the respondents live in their own houses and that their residential area is adequate (85%), spacious (56%), while 37% answered crowded. Sixty-seven percent (67%) think that their residential area is satisfactory because it is quiet (22%), nice and orderly (33%), and that neighbors are friendly and good (29%). Forty-seven percent (47%) indicated that transportation is adequate and accessible (74%) but traffic is heavy sometimes (58%), therefore, noise and air pollution is a problem (73%). Transportation system is satisfactory (45%). Drinking water is safe (79%) and sufficient (53%), and that they get their drinking water (68%) and bathing/washing water (71%) from the MWSS. They get their electricity from MERALCO (94%) and that it is very adequate (56%). Sewerage is clean and running well (40%) or defective (33%), and garbage is collected daily (45%). Jobs are adequate (52%) from the private sector (42%), which give sufficient income for basic needs and luxury (67%). Hospitals and puericulture centers are very adequate and accessible (59%), medicines are always available (64%); 54% indicated they have their own comfort and bathroom. Members of the family are mostly with education (85%). Leisure is always available and affordable (57%) in the form of megamalls (32%), movies (26%), parks (17%), and videos (17%). Malls and markets are available and accessible (93%), clean and nice (25%) where everything needed is available (35%) at affordable prices (25%). Peace and order is okay (74%), neighbors are friendly (35%), cooperative (22%), but sometimes become "tsismoso/a" (17%). However, 47% indicated that "bisyo" is minimal while 39% indicated that "bisyo" ay nagkalat" Summing up, 57% of the respondents think that life in the city is good and enjoyable; only 9% disagree.

Key words: urban impact, quality of life, Metro Manila residents