

A Quarterly Review of Social Reports and Research on Social Indicators, Social Trends, and the Quality-of-Life.
News Included of Working Group 6 on Social Indicators and Social Reporting of the International Sociological Association.
Newsletter of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies

Editor's Note: Due to production delays, the May 2001 issue was combined with the August issue in this expanded edition.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF CHANGE IN BRITAIN

After Queen Victoria and Edward's passing, Britain underwent vast transformations to arrive at the Twenty First Century. A. H. Halsey and Josephine Webb and their 26 co-authors have ably interpreted these transformations in a sterling volume of indicators, theory, interpretation and summary conclusions. It is the third volume on British social trends. Trends in British Society Since 1900 was published in 1972. A second enlarged version appeared in 1988. Now this third volume, which Halsey terms "the Third Edition," takes the time frame to the end of the century.

Twenty Chapters

The twenty chapters are divided into six topical sections: Demography, Social Reproduction, Economy, Politics, Policy, and Social Order and Social Control. After sketching the chief topics, Kenneth Land reviews the Demography chapters. Abbott Ferriss then reviews the Social Reproduction (Schools-Education-Social Mobility) section. Other chapters may be reviewed in subsequent issues of SINET.

Editors

Josephine Webb is Research Officer, Nuffield College of Oxford University. The principal editor, A. H. Halsey, is Fellow Emeritus, Nuffield College, and Professor of Sociology Emeritus, the University of Oxford. His distinguished career has contributed especially to the field of Sociology of Education. He is co-author of a study of the quality of life of the City of London. His publications include No Discouragement: an Autobiography, Decline of Donnish Dominion, English Ethical Socialism, and Origins and Destinations. He has been honored with five honorary doctorates and several honorary fellowships. He is a fellow in the British Academy and a

A. H. Halsey with Josephine Webb (eds.), Twentieth Century British Social Trends, London: Macmillan Press, Ltd., and New York: St. Martin's Press, Inc. 731pp.

foreign member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Currently, he is preparing a history of British Sociology in the Twentieth Century.

Geographic Base

The delineation of the territory that comprises "Britain" becomes a variable in the hands of the authors. Their treatments are restricted by the geographic coverage of their data, hence England and Wales sometimes are augmented to include North Ireland and Scotland (thus comprising the United Kingdom), and sometimes not. The time span of the treatise, also, varies, relying as it does upon available data. Parliamentary Acts, also, sometimes changed the playing field of the educational system. These limitations aside, the trends are well documented, especially with the advent of the British Social Attitudes Survey, the British Electoral Studies, the General Household Survey, the census and other data sets.

Halsey sought to bring some unity to the analyses by suggesting to authors of the chapters major periods of British development upon which to hang their "trends" in Twentieth Century transformations of British society. Halsey queried them as to the suitability of the following phases:

- World War I and its aftermath, 1915-1922
- World War II and its boom, 1940-1975
- Mrs. Thatcher's governments, 1979-1990

New Labour, 1995-2000

No Common Periods

However, the authors could not find common periods of development. (A rationale for this will be suggested later.) As consequence, each interprets the time phases of the phenomena under scrutiny as the data dictate. One date stands out. The year 1973/74 marks a turning point of the 30-year economic boom into a period of readjustment.

Another major transformation was the retrenchment of the Imperial Victorian

(Continued on next page.)

In this Issue...

SOCIAL REPORTS AND TRENDS:

- One Hundred Years of Change in Britain 1-7
- The Philippines' Social Weather Stations: An Update 8-9

SOCIAL REPORTS AND TRENDS:

- A World-Wide Reproductive Risk Index 10

BREIF REPORTS:

- The Eu-Reporting Project Web Pages 11

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Third Australian QOL Conference..... 11
- SINET World Wide Web Homepage 11
- The International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies 11
- The 2001 ISQOLS Conference and Web Page. 12
- Back Issues of SINET offered to Libraries and Research Institutes..... 11

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SINET

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hegemony over one-fifth of the world to the present, approximately one-thousandth. This was accompanied by a diversification of the largely homogeneous British population to ethnic diversity, a prospect for the Twenty First Century.

The class structure has shifted. In 1900 the vast majority of Britons were elementary schooled proletarians; by 1970 Stevenson's classification divided the employed half and half between white- and blue-collar jobs. By 2000 the balance had been tipped decisively to form a button-pushing majority dominating a minority of the remnants of the former working class. (p. 16)

Upward mobility has enabled millions to move from lower to higher social classes, a trend examined more carefully below.

Halsey catalogues other major transformations, many resting upon technological advances. With enhanced wealth, communication has changed dramatically. Power and authority became more democratic and subsequently more bureaucratic. The reproduction of the population became more ethically diversified and instead of exporting population, Britain began to import people. Finally and most significantly for the quality of life, Britain's system of production of wealth expanded.

DEMOGRAPHY

Part I of the volume consists of three chapters on Demography, each of which will be briefly described.

Demographic Transition

The first chapter in the section on Demography is Population and Family by David Coleman. Coleman is Reader in Demography at the University of Oxford. In the early years of the Century, Britain moved into the first stage of the demographic transition with a falling birth rate. Halsey notes (p. 8) that "Only after World War II did divorce, separation, cohabitation, and lone motherhood begin to rise against the background of a net reproduction rate of less than population replacement." Well into a "second phase" of the demographic transition, Coleman documents that Britain now leads European nations in extramarital and teenage births, and rising divorce. He states (p. 86):

Britain is now exceptional in Western Europe in respect of high teenage births, lone-parent families, and divorce and upward trends in immigration and asylum-seeking... The trends in teenage births suggest that important sections of Britain's population have experienced the sexual revolution in a less responsible or educated fashion than the teenagers on the continent – problems which we appear to share with the English-speaking countries overseas.

Coleman regards Britain's current distinctiveness in European demography as reflecting a disadvantage. The question of why Britain and its former colonies, the "English-speaking countries overseas" referenced by Coleman, have had more difficulty handling the sexual revolution responsibly is one that merits additional careful research by social scientists.

Health

Ray Fitzpatrick and Tarani Chandola are authors of the chapter on Health. Fitzpatrick holds the position of Professor of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Oxford and Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford. Chandola is Prize Research Fellow, Nuffield College, Oxford. The chapter commences with the observation that mortality is virtually the only dimension of health for which there are reliable and consistent data across the Twentieth Century. The authors then chronicle the increases in life expectancy at birth from 45 to 52 years (depending on sex and

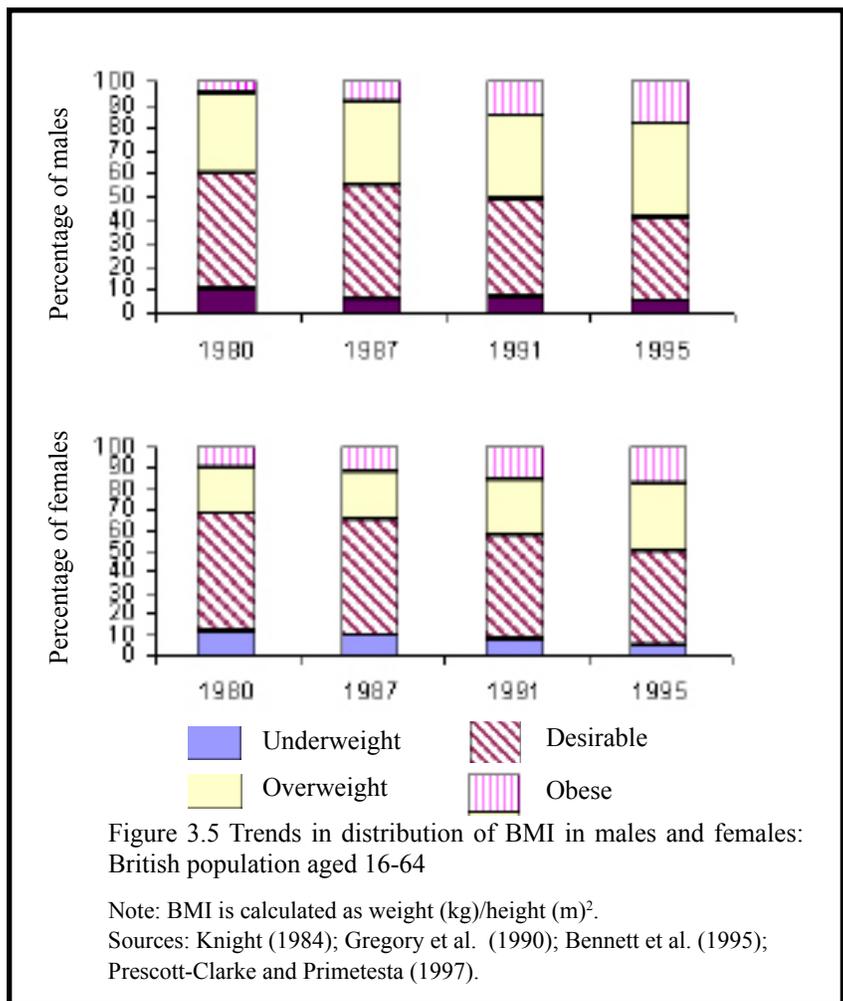
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region) in 1900 to 72 to 79 in the mid-1990s. Figure 3.1 shows in graphical form that these increases in life expectancy were achieved mainly by reductions in infant and child mortality. At the end of the Twentieth Century, it is evident that further reductions in mortality and associated increases in life expectancy relative to 1900 will necessarily come mainly from decreases in mortality in the middle and older ages. In this respect, the condition of health in Britain is similar to that of most developed countries.

Fitzpatrick and Chandola next review trends in the changing pattern of mortality by cause of death (declines across the century in deaths due to infectious diseases, increases due to cardiovascular and cancer diseases) and note difficulties in assessing trends in morbidity and use of health services. They then describe the social patterning of health in Britain by Social Class, unemployment status, ethnicity, and region.

This leads to a discussion of explanations for health trends in Britain. Improvements in nutrition and standard of living across the century are cited as are the rise and then fall in cigarette consumption, the consequences of social inequality, and the role of medicine. But, in Britain, as in the United States and many developed societies, food consumption, especially in terms of the quantity of calories consumed and the consumption of "fast" and "convenience" food, has produced an increase in the prevalence of overweight and obese persons in the population. Figure 3.5 shows that, just over the 15 years from 1980 to 1995, the percentages of males and females in the "desirable weight" category decreased to a minority position in the face of increases in the percentages with excessive Body Mass Indexes (BMI).



The chapter concludes with a discussion of difficulties in assessing the role of medicine in health improvements. Noting that the increasing use of joint replacement surgery has no significant consequences for mortality but nonetheless has transformed the lives of tens of

thousands, Fitzpatrick and Chandola remark (p. 124):

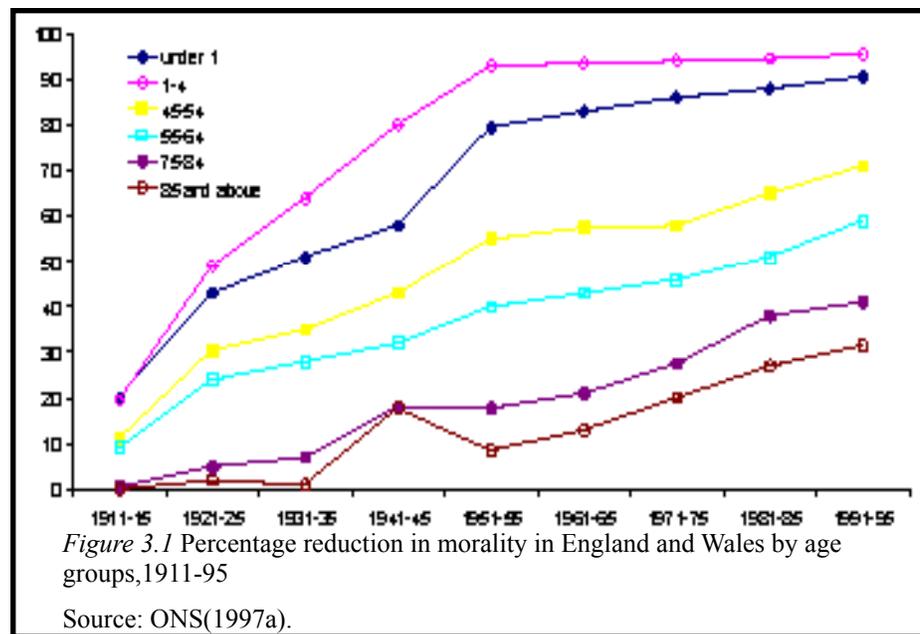
We must, at the end of the century, judge the role of medicine against the criterion of what is increasingly referred to as 'health-related quality of life' as well as mortality.

Surely this is a sentiment that will be shared by quality-of-life researchers.

Immigration and Ethnicity

The third chapter on Demography is Immigration and Ethnicity by Ceri Peach, Alisdair Rogers, Judith Chance and Patricia Daley. Peach is Professor of Social Geography, University of Oxford and Fellow of St. Catherine's College, Oxford. Rogers is College Lecturer in Geography, St. Catherine's and Keble College, Oxford. Chance holds the position of Lecturer in Geography at Oxford Brookes University. Daley is University Lecturer in Geography at the University of Oxford and Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford.

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To fix ideas on immigration, Peach, Rogers, Chance, and Daley note that the population of the United Kingdom grew from 38 to 57 million between 1901 and 1991. Of the 1991 population, 55 million lived in Great Britain itself, including 47 million in England, 5 million in Scotland, and just under 3 million in Wales. Table 4.1 shows that the UK was a net migrant sender in the 1960s and 1970, but became a net receiver in the 1980s and 1990s, as it had been in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s.

A question on ethnicity in Britain was first included in the 1991 census. As defined by the census, the population appeared very homogeneous – 94.5 percent white and 5.5 percent ethnic minority. Peach et al. point out that this picture conceals a much more ethnically heterogeneous white population. They specifically describe the large immigrant Irish minority (which numbered about 840,000 in 1991), the Jewish minority (an estimated 290,000 in the late 1990s), and the Polish minority (on the order of 100,000).

Peach et al. state (p.129) that the “most striking change to occur to the population of Great Britain since the turn of the century has been the growth of its Third World ex-colonial population from negligible numbers at the end of World War II to the 1991 census” when it accounted for the 5.5 percent just noted. As in the case of the United States and other developed countries, the major non-European minority populations in the U.K. all owe their current size and recent growth to the acute shortages of labor experienced as a result of economic growth in recent decades.

The description of the demographics of the non-European minority populations provided by Peach et al. leads to the conclusion that the Chinese and Indian populations have been relatively economically successful. The Pakistanis have been less successful and the Bangladeshis are the most economically disadvantaged. The Black-Caribbean pattern is described as one of economic deprivation but social assimilation. Peach et al. conclude (p. 172) that the

... picture at the end of the century is mixed. Britain has changed from a country which claimed a quarter of the world’s population as its citizens in 1948 to one in which patriality, with its strong

overtones of whiteness, has become the criterion of Britishness. The economic, entrepreneurial and intellectual contribution of the ethnic minorities is undoubted, but suspicions remain on all sides.

In sum, Britain, like several other developed societies in recent years, must learn to peacefully and cooperatively manage an increasingly multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural society.

SCHOOLING

George Smith prepared Chapter 5 on schooling in Britain. He holds the position of University Research Lecturer at the University of Oxford. It is the first chapter in the section labeled “Social Reproduction.” Divided by time, age, geography, tradition, sources of school control and support, as defined by Parliamentary Acts, the school system of Britain defies easy evaluation when viewed across the Twentieth Century. Smith does a notable job of bringing together the vast changes that the Century has brought. Answering such questions that show the changing school establishments, the quality of education, the eventual life course of “leavers” and the like, Smith is able to draw some substantial conclusions about British education. His chapter discusses access to education, resources of schools, and outcomes of education. Curriculum, teacher training, test results, etc., are not covered in this brief study.

The changing population of children by school level in England is presented in

Figure 5.1. Children in England currently comprise 80 percent of British students. Consequently, this gives a good picture of the shifting “demand” for education in Britain. The peak in primary level students came shortly after W.W.II in 1956 and again in 1974-76, preceding the swell in the population of secondary students. Notice that the population of “independent” schools remained fairly constant over the 1964-96 period. “Independent” school students comprise only 6 to 8 percent of pupils in England-only schools.

Denominational Schools

Denominational schools have been supported by the government since about 1902. In the late 1930’s nearly three-fourths of elementary pupils were in Church of England schools. At the secondary level in 1950 the Church of England provided for three in ten students, and Catholic school, one in five. The controversy over state funding has arisen now, especially since Islamic and faiths other than the dominant ones have begun to vie for state support.

Expenditures for schools recently have increased. In the period up to the late 1930’s, the government defrayed about one-half of educational expenditures (England and Wales). The U. K. expenditures on education during the 1920 to 1955 period increased from just over one percent of national income to 3.3 percent. Recent expenditures

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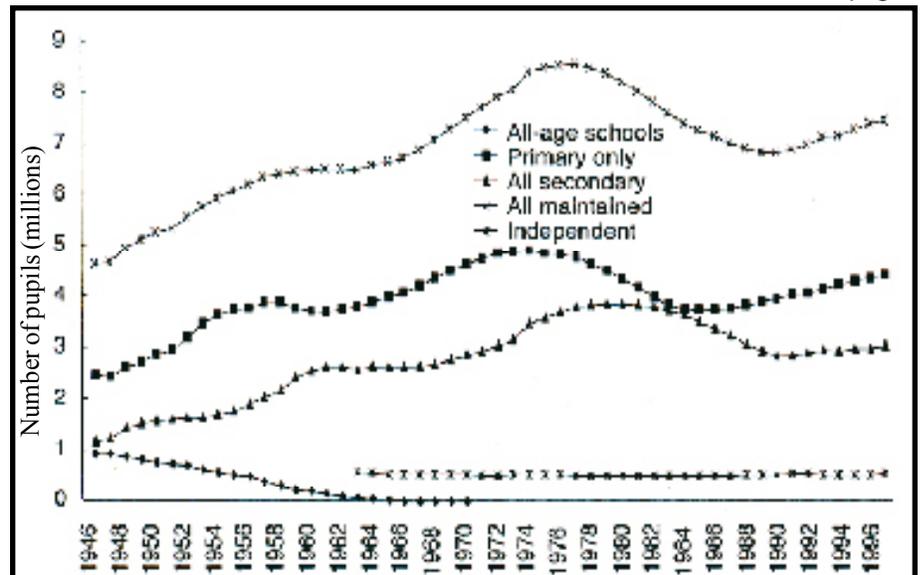


Figure 5.1 Primary, all-age, and secondary maintained school pupils, England only, 1946-97, and independent school pupils (all ages), 1963-97
Source: *Statistics of Education in England*.

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have generally followed this trend, now being about 5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product. Per pupil expenditures rose to 1990-91 and then declined, as illustrated in Figure 5.4.

Pupil/teacher ratios are the only measures Smith offers

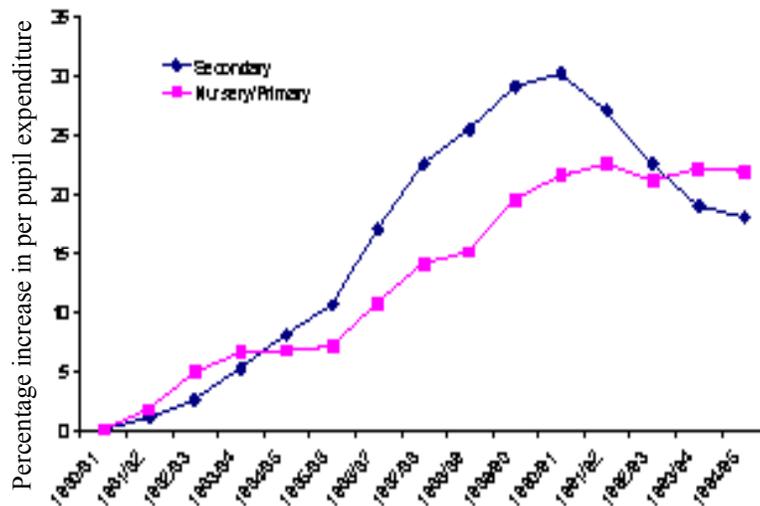


Figure 5.4 Per pupil increase in expenditure by local authorities; primary and secondary education cost index, England and Wales, 1908/81-94/95

Source: CIPFA Education Statistics: Actuals

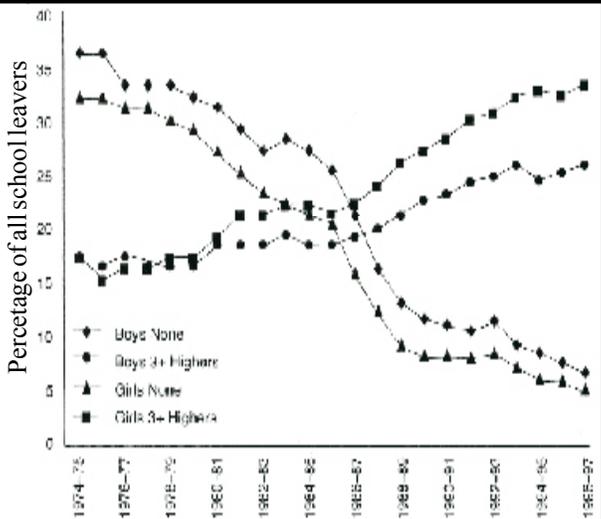


Figure 5.7 Scottish school leavers with no SCE qualifications and those with three or more Higher SCE by gender, 1974/75-96/97

Source: Scottish Education Statistics, Annual Review 3, 1998

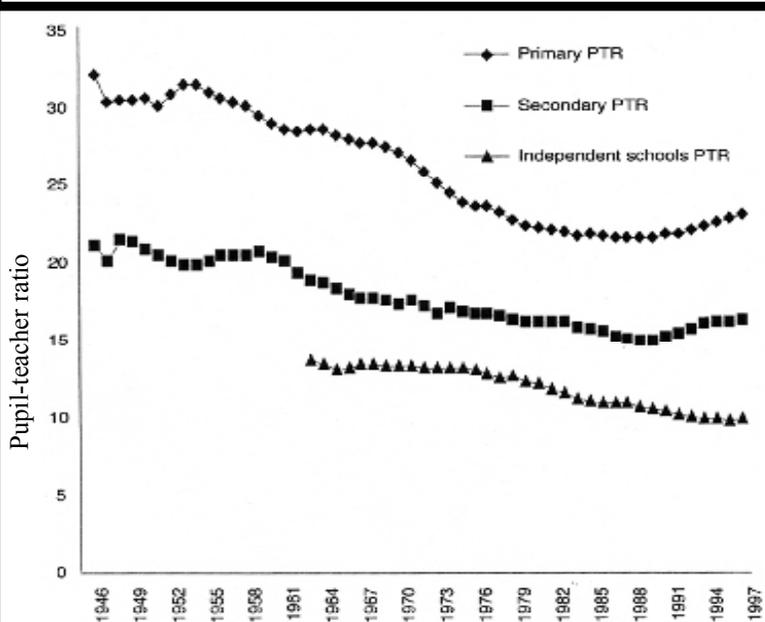


Figure 5.5 Primary, Secondary and independent school pupil-teacher ratios, 1946-96/97, England only

Source: *Statistics of Education in England*

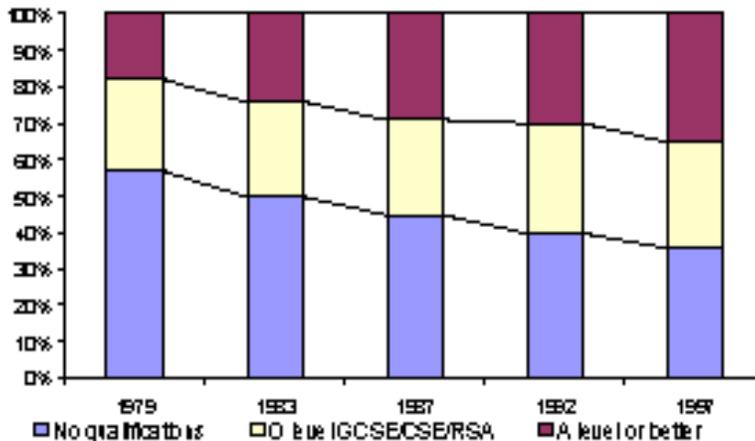


Figure 5.6 Stock of qualifications in the adult population, 1979-97

Source: British General Election Studies, 1979-97

of educational quality. The trend has shown improvement in England-only data; see Figure 5.5.

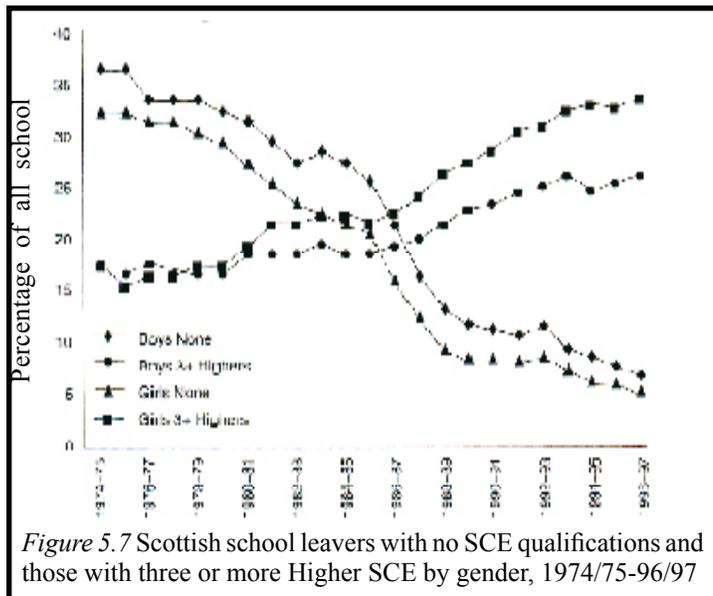
That the adult population is becoming better educated is illustrated in Figure 5.6 for the 1979-97 period. (The qualification levels are not elaborated upon, but evidently A level or better indexes the better educated.) Data are from the British General Election Studies. Figure 5.7 shows that about 1984-85 a transition occurred, school "leavers" with no qualifications declining while those with Scottish Certificates of Education climbed. Note that girls exceed boys in percentage leaving with the SCE.

Continuation in Education and "Leavers"

Continuation of education beyond secondary school has always been a measure of the vigor of the educational system. Maintained secondary schools in England and Wales sent only 6.2 percent of their school "leavers", or about 295,000, to further education in 1950/51, while "direct grant" schools sent 35.6 percent, or 38,000, of theirs. As you can see, the Maintained Secondary Schools bore the brunt of educating the rising generation. Thirty years later, in 1980-81, the rate of continuation of education of the Maintained schools increased to 24.5 percent (169,000 students), while the Independent schools continuation rate increased to 65.7 percent (29,000 students). In short, continuation of education improved for both systems over the period, and the Maintained Secondary class of schools continued to carry the larger population of students.

We have now come full circle. At the start of the century only a small minority of school leavers continued with

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education in any form; the majority were recorded as entering the labour market, or their status was unknown. By its close, only 7 percent were recorded as entering full-time work and a further 10 percent had no recorded full-time activity. More than 70 percent continued in some form off full-time education. (p. 216)

While the general level of education has vastly improved over the century, "the relative chances of people from different social backgrounds of acquiring these qualifications (A level) have remained surprisingly constant." (p. 218)

HIGHER EDUCATION

A. H. Halsey, the editor of the volume, authored the chapter, "Further and Higher Education." His extensive experience in studying the British educational system enables him to view Twentieth Century developments as evolving through periods of growth. It is a stirring story of transformation from an elitist set of institutions serving 26,000 full-time students with an additional part-time and night school students bringing the total to 652,000 at the beginning of the Century. Their number had expanded by December 1996 to 1.8 million studying at nearly 200 institutions.

The restricted growth period of 1900-63 saw relative stability of students (652,000 to 1322,000) in England and Wales until after World War II when the total doubled, approximately. Data for the U. K. beginning with 1970 show the addition of more than a million students, (p. 224). The segmentation geographically and by type of education (university, teacher training, part-time, evening, adult, etc.) render difficult the tracing of the line of development. It is clear, however, that all full time higher education students jumped from 1900 to 1962 by a factor of 8.6, a notable achievement.

The Robbins Report

Propelled by the Robbins Report, student numbers expanded farther in the "Binary Phase, 1964-92." In the 1900's only one young person in eighteen went to higher education full time, but by the 1990's the figure stood at one in three in the U. K. From 1962 to the 1980's significant advances were made in science and technology fields and in the education of women.

Science and technology degrees going to women more than doubled during the period, and the same is true for men. During this period, the numbers of students rose each year. "The stereotyped view of higher education as a three-year residential system of high quality learning for young men has been overturned. The definition moved gradually, and continues to move, towards an American concept of higher education as all post-compulsory or post-secondary schooling..." (p. 234) The educational system increasingly became diversified.

The number of higher education 18-19 year-old students entering higher education increased from under 3 percent before World War II to 19.4 percent in 1990. The year 2000 projection was 32.1 percent, the educational base continuing to widen.

The Robbins Report paid attention to the quality of students and was concerned that quality be maintained. Generally, with the expansion in the number of students, the pool of abilities has not yet been exhausted. A comparison of the academic ability of entering and graduating students from universities and polytechnic institutions shows some improvement over the decade ending 1989 (p. 241).

Class Composition of Students

While the numbers attending higher education from all social classes have increased, the percent of cohorts entering higher education show significant increases for offspring of fathers in "service" occupations but only modest increases in university attendance of "working" class fathers' offspring. "The numbers of entrants to higher education from manual social origins had risen absolutely but not relatively to their numbers in the population. This is cold comfort for those who seek the 'classless society.'" (p. 243)

Halsey also explores higher educational finance and compares the British system with those of other countries.

Halsey ends his study of the higher education with a note of "buoyancy and depression." The buoyancy reflects the expanding numbers and the contribution of British higher education to educating students from foreign lands (35 percent of postgraduates are foreigners). Women constituted 52.5 percent of the H.E. population. What is "depressing" about this picture, I fail to understand.

Despite the difficulties of tracing change over the Century where geographic areas and types of educational institutions have changed, Halsey has put together a scholarly picture of H.E. in Britain. I would have liked to have seen the educational system related to changes in Britain's occupation and industrial structure, but one can't have everything. It would be enlightening to have information on the research activities of British institutions, their contributions and changes over the years. Some institutions have records of the accomplishments of their graduates. One wonders how the institutions compare in the attainments of their graduates (one index of the quality of education as well as student input). These and related topics are not covered.

SOCIAL MOBILITY

The preceding analyses of schooling and higher education have not encouraged us to conclude that British society has

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become a more open society, in which opportunity to rise in social status is open to all. To further pursue this topic Anthony Heath and Clive Payne give us Chapter 7 on Social Mobility. Anthony Heath is Professor of Sociology at University of Oxford and Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford. Clive Payne is Director of the Computing and Research Support Unit, Social Studies Faculty Centre, University of Oxford, and Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford. Together they give us what amounts to a monograph on British social mobility and change, gathering together and comparing results of their study with those of previous investigators.

Inequality of Chances

A 1949 mobility survey showed considerable inequality in chances of the sons moving out of the class position of their fathers' class: "... the general picture so far is of a rather stable social structure, and one in which social status has tended to operate within, so to speak, a closed circuit. Social origins have conditioned educational level, and both have conditioned achieved social status. Marriage has also to a considerable extent taken place within the same closed circuit. (Glass, 1954, p. 21)" (pp.255-256)

The class schema employed by the studies reviewed in this chapter places the highest salaried professional and managers at the top in Class I, and the lower working class, semi-skilled and unskilled workers and agricultural workers in Class VII. The chapter reviews results for men and for women, separately, as derived from cohorts beginning with "Pre-1900" to 1950-59 birth cohorts.

Fluidity Has Increased

The authors present data from recent studies and apply various models and conclude for men that in recent decades "fluidity has increased." "In the case of women, there are also hints of a downward trend [in a model parameter, for which decreases indicate increased mobility] although the changes are smaller and, as we noted earlier, we cannot strictly reject the hypothesis that women's fluidity has remained constant over time." (p. 273) This result is at odds with those of a 1986 study by Goldthorpe and Payne who found that fluidity had remained constant across birth cohorts

Table 7.12 Symmetrical odds ratios: men

	Pre-1900	1900-09	1910-11	1920-29	1930-39	1940-49
1950-59						
Salariat:working class	16.0	10.0	19.0	14.0	10.3	5.6
7.7						
Salariat:petty bourgeoisie	5.5	7.0	6.7	9.4	6.8	4.1
7.3						

Table 7.13 Symmetrical odds ratios: women

	Pre-1900	1900-09	1910-19	1920-29	1930-39	1940-49	
1950-59							
Salariat:working class	-	17.2	15.2	14.0	10.3	5.6	7.7
Salariat:petty bourgeoisie	-	2.1	1.0	9.4	6.8	4.1	7.3
Petty bourgeoisie:							
working class	-	6.5	4.5	8.2	5.8	3.2	4.9

in Britain. Heath and Payne reason that their results supersede those of the 1986 study, which was based upon 1972 data, and conclude that "over the longer time period available to us, there has been a real, albeit small, increase in the openness of British society..." (p. 275) Tables 7.12 and 7.13 show the trends in odds ratios in mobility. The larger the ratio the more unequal the competition. In Table 7.12 three symmetrical odds ratios are presented. Men from Classes I and II are combined and working class others, classes V, VI and VII. The second line shows ratios "between men from the salariat and petty-bourgeois origins to reach the salariat and avoid the petty bourgeoisie themselves;" and the third shows the ratios "between people from petty bourgeois and working class origins to reach the petty bourgeois and avoid the working class." (p. 271) The authors cannot restrain themselves from quoting Gilbert's classic lines from HMS Pinafore:

When I was a lad I served a term

As office boy to an Attorney's firm

I cleaned the windows and I swept the floor

And I polished the handle of the big front door

I polished up that handle so carefulee

That now I am the Ruler of the Queen's Navee!

Comments

What does it all add up to? At the end of their introductory overview chapter, the editors conclude:

It has been an eventual century of

progress and barbarism throughout the world, with paradoxical movements towards both a longer and fuller life and towards unprecedented genocide and slaughter, towards democracy and towards dictatorship. For the aristocrat perhaps a century of dispossession. For the old and the ill perhaps a rather more comfortable 100 years. For the homeless and dispossessed, a time of persistent degradation accentuated by surrounding opulence. For women, the young, and the fit and ordinary citizens, perhaps the greatest century in the history of humankind. (p. 22, emphasis added)

This, we concur, is an apt statement. Of course, as always in social indicators and trends analysis, 'the devil is in the details' of the questions asked and/or not asked. Some musings on this follow.

One wonders what internal impact resulted from the retrenchment of the worldwide British Empire. Surely there were internal consequences. [No references to impact could be found.]

Each chapter appears as a self-contained analysis. Although Halsey invited the contributors to identify common periods of development over the Twentieth Century, the analysts could not agree on a common set of periods of development. Consequently, each analyst developed his own time-sequence. It is understandable that a common set of periods did not emerge, for some developments led and others followed in time. It is as though each chapter is an autonomous steamship floating down the Twentieth Century, independent of all others. In reality, the developments in one sector affected others: developments in

THE PHILIPPINES' SOCIAL WEATHER STATIONS: AN UPDATE

We last reviewed the status of Social Weather Reporting in the Philippines in the August 1998 issue of SINET. Mahar Mangahas, President of the Social Weather Stations (SWS), recently sent a report for the year 2000 and an abstract of a paper on the topic of self-rated poverty in the Philippines. He notes that the SWS turned 15 years of age on August 8, 2000. The SWS also relocated to its own building on Malingap Street on about a year earlier, on August 24, 1999. The 15th birthday was officially celebrated on August 30, 2000 with a public ceremony, among both institutional and personal friends. Guest of honor was press secretary Ricardo 'Dong' Puno, SWS partner in the historic ABS-CBN/SWS day-of-election survey project, or 'exit poll' in the 1998 presidential election

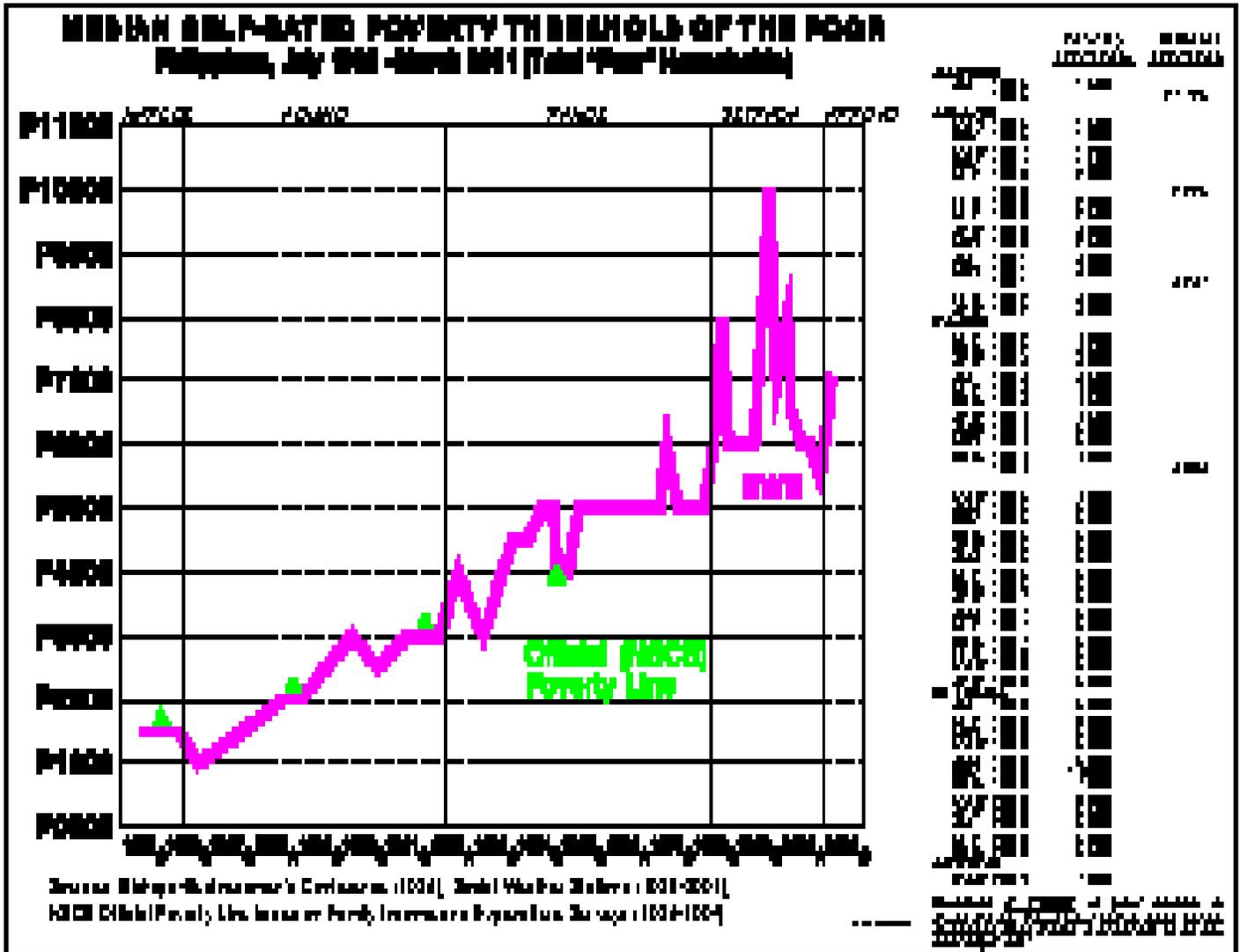
(There also are plans for an ABS-CBN/SWS teamup for 'exit-polling' the 2001 election for senators and for mayors in key cities.)

The prime mission of SWS is to generate reliable statistics about meaningful aspects of the 'social weather', on a steady basis, year-in and year-out, with or without so much publicity. SWS measures both the state of the quality of life and the people's opinions about public issues. Even though the Philippines is committed to democratic principles, particularly the selection of political leaders by popular choice, Mahar cautions that the SWS has faced increased limitations on the freedom to survey in recent years.

Probably many, if not most, Philippine observers are aware that, in the last two quarters of 1999, the level of public satisfaction with the performance of President Estrada declined, though not so much as to become a minority. In the 1st quarter of 2000 it leveled off, and then

in the 2nd quarter it rebounded somewhat, i.e., not quite to the sanguine rates of the President's first twelve months. But fewer, perhaps, are aware that the level of poverty was roughly steady in 1999-2000, which Mahar thinks is a good achievement, considering the very sluggish economy, after the Asian financial crisis, followed by the global oil price crisis. In fact, the SWS self-rated poverty indicator dropped by a welcome 5 points between March and July 2000. Poverty has been a primary focus of the Social Weather Reports, from the very beginning. This is most appropriate, given the relatively high rates of poverty in this struggling democracy.

The following is an abstract of a paper on self-rated poverty in the Philippines presented to the World Bank Workshop on Voices and Choices at a Macro Level, held August 3-5, 2001, in Washington, DC. This abstract is accompanied by two graphs. The first compares trends in self-rated poverty from SWS surveys with



(Continued from previous page.)

official government estimates of poverty incidence in the Philippines. The second compares the median incomes defining the median of SWS survey respondent estimates of the monthly home budget needed in order not to feel poor with the official government poverty line.

In the Philippines, the Social Weather Surveys are a private and independent source of up-to-date social, economic, and political indicators, as well as polls of opinion on issues of public policy. The Social Weather indicators are based on statistically-representative national surveys of households. Among their many topics are poverty, poverty thresholds, and hunger. These conditions are as subjectively expressed by the survey respondents themselves, i.e., as seen from the bottom-up, and not as defined by an institution outside the household. The Social Weather Surveys began on a

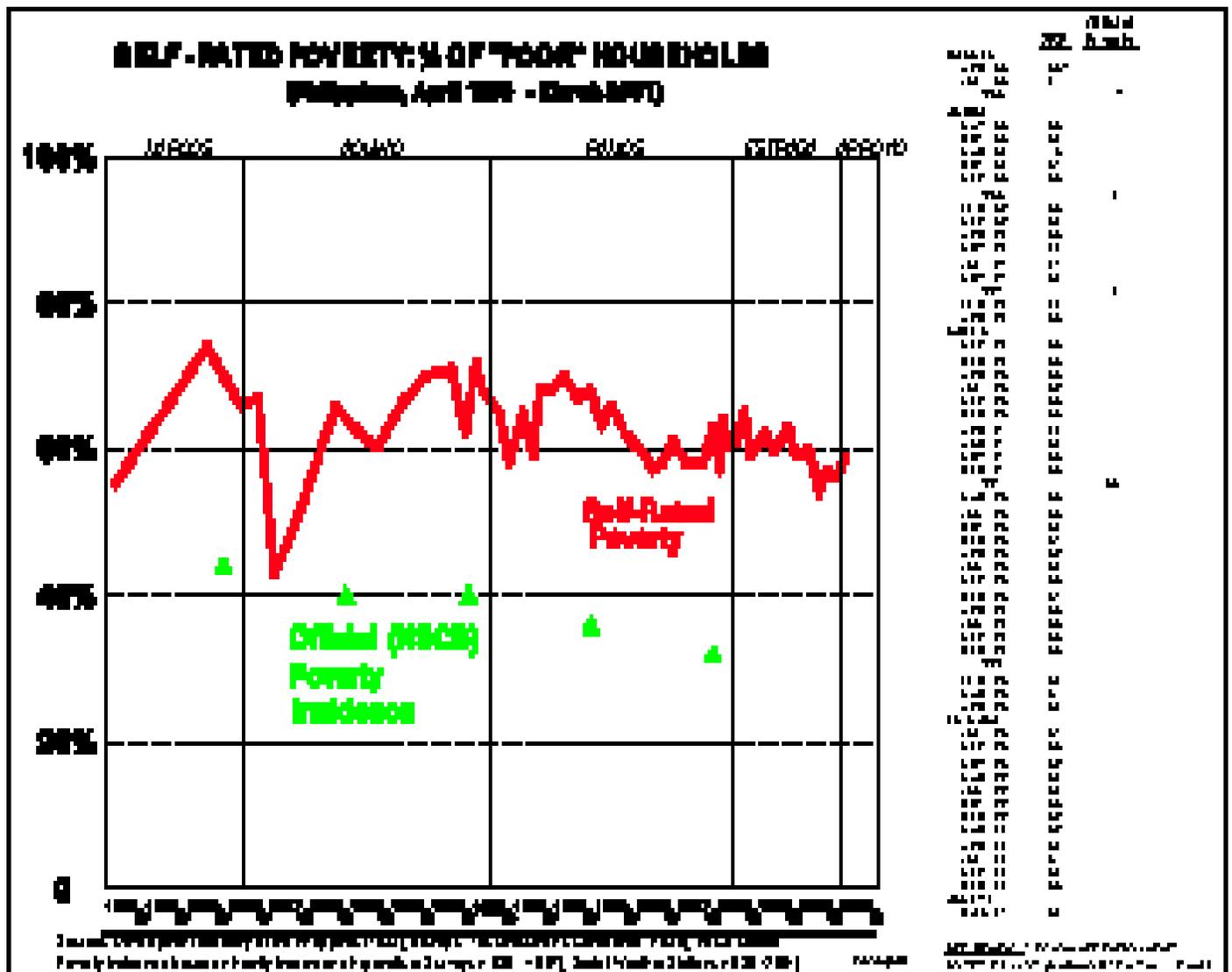
semestral basis in 1986 and have been run quarterly since 1992; they are archived and accessible to public research. The national time series on Self-Rated Poverty (SRP) now has 51 observations. In the survey of December 2000, 56% of household heads rated themselves Poor; among the Poor, the median monthly home budget needed in order not to feel poor was P5,000 (US\$105, March '01); 12.7% of households had experienced hunger at least once in the last three months. Movements in SRP since the mid-1980s have been strongly linked to fluctuations in consumer-price inflation and, to a lesser extent, to unemployment. In contrast, per capita GNP has not been an important determinant of short-run changes in poverty. The most recent trends of Philippine poverty were downward during 1994-97, stable during 1997-99, and then downward again during 2000.

For additional information on the Social Weather Stations and their research program, see the Web site www.sws.org.ph

Comment

SWS continues to perform a valuable service both to the public of the Philippines and the international social science research community. In my opinion, it is of the utmost importance that this organization continue to exist and perform its social measurement and social reporting functions in the most politically open and supportive environment possible.

~ Kenneth C. Land



A WORLD-WIDE REPRODUCTIVE RISK INDEX

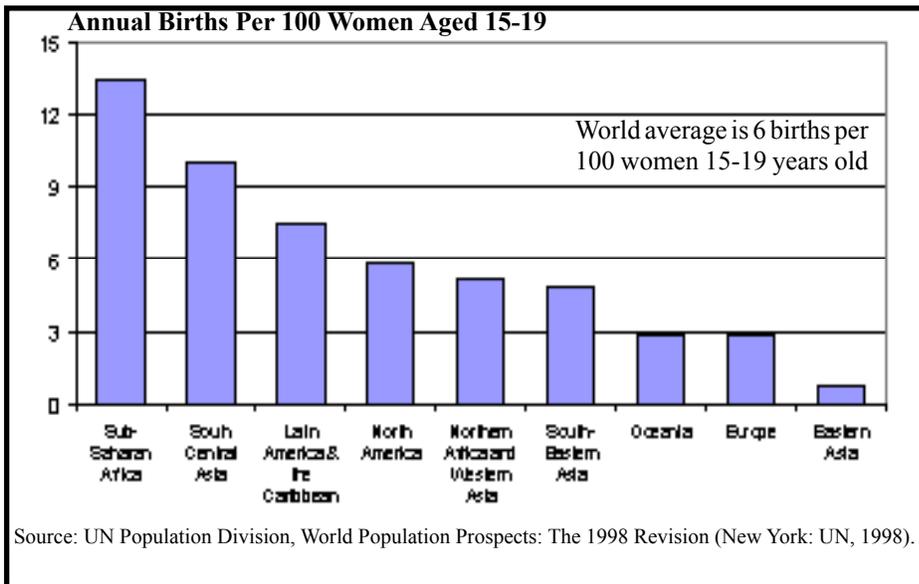
Population Action International has assembled a Reproductive Risk Index for 133 countries, encompassing 95 percent of the world's people. Ten indicators are combined to produce the Index. Students of international quality of life may find RRI useful in revealing sexual and reproductive health risks. The Index shows lowest reproductive risk scores in developed countries. Italy, Sweden, Finland, Singapore and the Netherlands have the lowest. Africa, Ethiopia, Angola, Chad, Afghanistan and Central African Republic have the highest RRI.

Ten Risk Indicators

The ten indicators are combined by transforming the raw data to range from zero to 100. These transformed values are averaged to produce the index, which ranges from 5.3 to 72.3.

Items entering the RRI are:

- annual births per 100 women aged 15-19;
- percent of women using contraception;



Source: UN Population Division, World Population Prospects: The 1998 Revision (New York: UN, 1998).

- abortion policies, rated A through E, and coded: A (available on request)=0; B=10; C=50; D=70; and E (illegal or permitted only to save woman's life) = 80;
- prevalence of anemia among pregnant women, rated in four categories, very high to low, coded: low (less than 20 percent)=10; Medium (20-39 percent) = 30; High (40-59 percent) = 50; and very high (60 percent or more) = 70;
- percent of women receiving prenatal care;
- percent of births assisted by skilled personnel;
- percent of men with HIV/AIDS;
- percent of women with HIV/AIDS;
- average births per woman, the total fertility rate; and
- maternal deaths per 1,000 live births.

Five Classes of RRI

The resulting RRI is divided into five classes, the highest having 60 points or more, including 19 countries. Twenty-five countries are in the very low category with less than 15 points. A map accompanies the wall chart of data showing Africa with most of the high-risk countries, followed by moderate risk areas (30 to 44 points) represented by South America and northern Africa and India.

The wall chart is accompanied by a pamphlet, "A World of Difference: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Risks." It presents detailed discussion of each of the indicators, including measures that may be taken to improve the indicator of health. The accompanying two charts and table illustrate the data presented. For copies of the pamphlet and RRI chart, contact Population Action International, 1300 19th St., NW, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20036, USA; Web address: www.Populationaction.org. The chart and pamphlet do not carry a price, so they apparently are offered gratis.

~ Abbott L. Ferriss

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY AND ABORTION

UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES

Region	Total annual pregnancies (in millions)	Planned pregnancies and births	Pregnancies that end in abortion (percentage of total)	Pregnancies that end in unplanned births (percentage of total)
Worldwide	210	62	22	16
Developed Countries	28	51	36	13
Developing Countries	182	64	20	16
Africa	40	70	12	18
East Asia	40	61	30	9
Rest of Asia	83	66	17	17
Latin America & the Caribbean	18	48	23	29
Eastern Europe	11	37	57	6
Rest of Europe	7	67	21	12
Japan, US, Canada, Australia & New Zealand	10	55	23	22

*Includes stillbirths and spontaneous abortions

**Unplanned births are unwanted or mistimed births.

Source: The Alan Guttmacher Institute. *Sharing Responsibility: Women Society & Abortion Worldwide* (New York and Washington: AGI, 1999).

THIRD AUSTRALIAN QOL CONFERENCE

Bob Cummins has communicated the following announcement. The 3rd Australian Conference on Quality of Life will be held in November 2001 at the Toorak Campus of Deakin University, Melbourne. The conference brochure and registration form can be accessed via the Web site of the Australian Centre on Quality of Life <http://acqol.deakin.edu.au/>. This conference embraces research from a wide range of disciplines that include the social sciences, health sciences, ecology and the environment, economics, and management. Faculty members, research staff, and post-graduate students are welcome to present either a paper or a poster. Contact Pamela De Kort pgkort@deakin.edu.au for registration details.

SINET WORLD WIDE WEB HOMEPAGE

SINET has a homepage entry on the World Wide Web. It is located on the homepage of the Department of Sociology at Duke University and thus can be accessed by clicking on Department Publications on the address of that page, namely, <http://www.soc.duke.edu> or by typing in the full address <http://www.soc.duke.edu/dept/sinet/index.html>. The homepage for SINET contains a description of the Contents of the Current Issue as well as of Previous Issues. In addition, it has Subscription Information, Editorial Information, Issue-Related Links, and a link to the homepage of ISQOLS, the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies. The Issue-Related Links button has links to World Wide Web locations of data for the construction, study, and analysis of social and quality-of-life indicators that have been identified in previous issues of SINET. When you are surfing the Web, surf on in to our homepage.

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR QUALITY- OF-LIFE STUDIES

The International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS) was formed in the mid-1990s. The objectives of ISQOLS are: 1) to stimulate interdisciplinary research in quality-of-life (QOL) studies within the managerial (policy), behavioral, social, medical, and environmental sciences; 2) to provide an organization which all academic, business, nonprofit, and government researchers who are interested in QOL studies can coordinate their efforts to advance the knowledge base and to create positive social change; and 3) to encourage closer cooperation among scholars engaged in QOL research to develop better theory, methods, measures, and intervention programs. The year 2000 membership fees are US\$35 for regular members and \$25 for students or retired persons. Prof. M. JOSEPH SIRGY (Virginia Tech and State University) is Executive Director of ISQOLS. Anyone interested in knowing more about ISQOLS should contact Prof. Sirgy at the central office: International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies, Dept. of Marketing, Pamplin College of Business, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0236; tel.: 540-231-5110; fax: 540-231-3076; e-mail: sirgy@vt.edu. The Society's homepage on the Internet also can be accessed at <http://www.cob.vt.edu/market/isqols/>.

Back Issues of *SINET* offered to Libraries and Research Institutes

A SINET admirer has donated funds to facilitate the delivery of back issues of SINET from Number Zero (Fall 1984) to Number 44 (Fall 1995). If you would like your institutional or research institute library to have a set for free, while they last, send a request with your name and address to Abbott L. Ferriss, 1273 Oxford Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30306; or send an email message aferris@emory.edu.

THE EU-REPORTING PROJECT WEB PAGES

Heinz-Herbert Noll recently sent a note concerning developments in the EuReporting Project. The EuReporting Project was funded by the European Commission for three years beginning in March 1998. Part of this project is the development of a European System of Social Indicators. Detailed information about the EuReporting Project can be found at the following Web site:

http://www.gesis.org/en/social_monitoring/social_indicators/EU_Reporting/index.htm

More specific information on the European System of Social Indicators (EUSI) is available at this website: http://www.gesis.org/en/social_monitoring/social_indicators/EU_Reporting/eusi.htm

The latter site has information on:

- topic-related and/or country-related links to other sites (e.g., statistical offices, research institutes, other data sources, etc.) offering information relevant for social reporting,
- a social indicators/social reporting literature data base,
- the Working-Paper-Series of the project in PDF available for download (click publications),
- information on the conceptual framework of the EUSI (click indicators), and
- time series data for 22 countries (20 European countries + Japan + U.S.A.) and 162 indicators for the life domain "Labour Market and Working Conditions" (the first of 14 life domains finalized so far) (click indicators).

I visited both of these Web sites and found the second one quite useful for obtaining information on the conceptual framework of the EUSI, the domains studied, definitions of the indicators, links to databases, publications and so forth.

For additional information, contact the EUSI coordinator, Dr. Heinz-Herbert Noll, Abteilungsleiter Soziale Indikatoren (Director Social Indicators Department), ZUMA, Postfach 122155, D-68072 Mannheim (Germany), Phone: +49-621-1246-241; Fax: +49-621-1246-182/100

e-mail: noll@zuma-mannheim.de

THE 2001 ISQOLS CONFERENCE AND WEB PAGE

Call for Papers and Program Announcements

Fourth International Society of Quality of Life Studies Conference

29 November to 1 December 2001

Conference Theme: How to Measure Quality of Life in Diverse Populations

The Wyndham Hotel, Washington DC, USA
Conference Program Co-Chairs: Don Rahtz, Joe Sirgy, and Josh Samli

M. Joseph Sirgy, Executive Director of the International Society for Quality of Life Studies, recently has communicated that the 2001 ISQOLS conference World Wide Web Page is up and running. The website location is <http://www.business.wm.edu/isqols>. You also can get to the website by visiting ISQOLS homepage at <http://www.cob.vt.edu/market/isqols> and clicking on the 2001 Conference. The Web Page contains information on details for submission of a paper for the conference, names and addresses of track chairs, and registration information. A hard copy of the call for papers has been printed and mailed to people who are on ISQOLS mailing list. If you have not received your copy in the mail, please let Joe Sirgy know and he will send you one. If anyone would like to know more about the 2001 ISQOLS Conference, please communicate with Joe Sirgy (sirgy@vt.edu), Don Rahtz (dxraht@dogwood.tyler.wm.edu), or Josh Samli (jsamli@unf.edu) as soon as possible.

SINET

Subscription Information

As a service to the world-wide social indicators community, SINET is issued quarterly (February, May, August, November). Subscribers and network participants are invited to report news of their social indicator activity, research, policy development, etc., to the Editor for publication. Deadlines are the 20th of the month prior to each issue.

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