Factors Affecting Home Leaving Behavior among Filipino Adolescents in Eastern Visayas

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Abstract—Leaving the parental home is an important marker in the transition to adulthood not only in Western societies but in the Philippines as well. The timing by which young people leave parental homes, the factors that influence them to leave and the motivations why they leave vary across societies. The process coincides with other life-defining events such as completion of education, entry into the labor market, and marriage. The primary objective of this study is to explore the factors that affect the parental home leaving among Filipino adolescents in Eastern Visayas. Specifically, it aims to (1) describe the characteristics of the youth population using selected variables; (2) describe the characteristics among home leavers; and (3) determine the correlates of leaving parental home of adolescents focusing on the role of individual characteristics of respondents and family characteristics utilizing logistic regression analyses. The data for the analyses were obtained from the Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality (YAFS) 3 study conducted by the University of the Philippines Population Institute and the Demographic Research and Development Foundation, Inc. YAFS3 is the third nationally and regionally representative survey of adolescents of both sexes ages 15–27 years old. Frequency and percentage distributions were determined to describe the characteristics of respondents and home leavers. Pearson correlation coefficients were identified to test the relationships among variables using cross tabulations. This study found that the five correlates, namely, age, sex, residence, education, and work experience, have positive correlations to parental home-leaving. Regression analysis using SPSS software was used to explore the influence of correlates on home leaving. Results showed that as adolescents get older, they are more likely to leave their parental homes. Women are more likely to leave their homes compared to their counterparts. The odds of leaving homes are higher when adolescents reached college level, live in rural areas, and have work experience. All predictors in the final model are significant at p-value .01. Family characteristics such as family structure and number of siblings were not found be significant predictors to home leaving. By understanding home leaving behavior among adolescents, this study hopes to contribute to the existing literature of home leaving and to further the efforts of improving the welfare of Filipino adolescents. Recommendations and suggestions for future research are provided.

Keywords—Home leaving, Filipino youth, Eastern Visayas, transition to adulthood

I. INTRODUCTION

Leaving the family nest is considered an important marker in the transition to adulthood [1]. It is an event where young people move out of their parental homes which results to residential independence from their parents. The factors that influence them to leave and the motivations why they leave vary across societies. The process coincides with other life-defining events such as completion of education, entry into

the labor market, and marriage. For example, a longer stay in the parental home may results in the postponement of other events such as marriage unless the young adult marries and stays in his parent's nest for a longer period.

Home leaving among young adults is an important life cycle for both parents and the children. Psychologically, parents must make some adjustments with fewer children at home or even no children at home if all of them have left the parental homes, thus, an empty nest, especially in the Philippines are where close family ties are very evident and practiced. Children are expected to help their parents in their old age and leaving the parents behind is a difficult task to do. For the children, it may represent a sense of pride as they undergo transition to adulthood and achieve some degree of autonomy from their parents. It may also be beneficial for the family left behind if these children leave homes to work and remit money to their families.

Many studies of paramount importance to adolescents' decisions to leave their parental homes in Western societies have focused on the timing of leaving one's parental home and individual characteristics of adolescents such as gender, social class, ethnicity, religion and race [2], family structure [3] and psychosocial antecedents of adolescent's decisions to leave their parental home [4].

However, only few Philippine studies have been conducted to date on the analysis of leaving parental homes among Filipino adolescents. The research conducted by Berja [5] reveals that females living in the rural areas are more likely to leave their parental homes than males. This validates the result of the earlier study of Raymundo et al., [6] that females are more mobile than males. This finding is also consistent with the predominant urban-ward migration pattern in the Philippines which is selective of female migrants. Young women tend to move to other places to seek for greener pasture as the demand for female workers both local and abroad is increasing. More adolescents ages 20-24 years old experienced living away from home than the 15-19 years old. One possible reason for this is that older youth tend to search for work in other places especially in urban areas. Another reason could be attributed to their quest for studying higher education in places other than their usual place of residence. Adolescents who have higher educational attainment are more likely to have lived away from home than those who only reached elementary level of education. This result tends to agree with another result from the same study that majority of those who only reached elementary level are more likely to have left home.

What are the factors that affect the parental home leaving among Filipino adolescents in Eastern Visayas? To explore this question, the author presents a secondary analysis of experiencing living away from home among Filipino youth ages 15-27 years old using some statistical analyses. This research work attempts to: (1) describe the characteristics of the

youth population using selected variables; (2) describe the characteristics among home leavers; and (3) determine the correlates of leaving parental home of adolescents focusing on the role of individual characteristics of respondents and family characteristics utilizing logistic regression analyses.

II. METHODOLOGY

A. Research Design

This study employed descriptive and correlation design to determine the relationships between the independent and dependent variables. The study is descriptive because it describes the characteristics of the respondents in terms of individual characteristics, namely, age, sex, place of residence, educational attainment, and work status and family characteristics, i.e., family structure and the number of siblings in the family. The correlation design was used to test the relationships of the independent variables to the home leaving event which is the dependent variable.

B. Data

The data for the analyses were obtained from the Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality (YAFS) 3 study conducted by the University of the Philippines Population Institute and the Demographic Research and Development Foundation, Inc. YAFS3 is the third nationally and regionally representative survey of adolescents of both sexes ages 15–27 years old. This data set provides a valuable source of information on several dimensions of young adults' social behavior including parental home leaving.

C. Instrumentation

Questions representing the variables under consideration are the exact questions used in the YAFS questionnaire. For the dependent variable, the following question was asked: "Have you ever lived away from home for a period of three months or more?" It is a dichotomous variable which measures whether or not the respondent lived away from home for the period of three months or more prior to the survey date. "No" response was coded as 0 and "Yes" as 1 which is the concern of this paper. For the independent variables, similar procedure was applied. Reference category for each of the variables is the one which has a code of 0 while categories coded with 1 are the ones which are analyzed. Fig. 1 shows the framework of analysis used in this study.
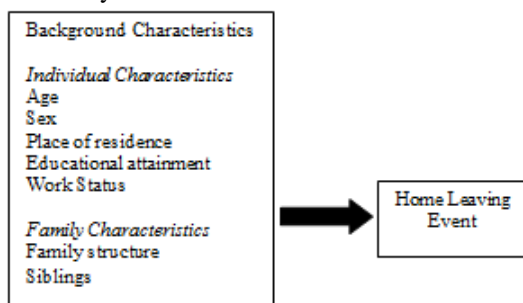

Fig. 1. Framework of analysis

D. Analytical Procedures

Three kinds of analyses were employed: univariate, bivariate, and multivariate analyses. Percentage distribution of young people in each of the characteristics under consideration is employed. This is the simplest form of univariate analysis. It describes the characteristics of youth in Eastern Visayas with selected variables.

The second part of data analysis is bivariate analyses which inform on trends of home leaving. Frequency distributions of those who experienced living away from home has been presented by cross-tabulating the dependent variable by each of the explanatory variables. Chi-square values are used to measure the test of association. The larger the chi-square value, the better. Variables with Chi-square values with corresponding p-values equal to or less than .05 will be considered under multivariate analyses since bivariate relationships are limited in determining the influences of variables under study to home leaving.

The third section presents the multivariate analyses which are presented in two parts. On the first part, binary logistic regression is used to determine the factors associated with home leaving event because the dependent variable is dichotomous (occurrence/non-occurrence of leaving home). These factors are presented as hazard ratios or relative risks. Hazard ratios over 1.0 indicate a higher risk compared to the reference group controlling for the other covariates in the analysis. A hazard ratio less than 1.0 compared to the reference group indicate a lower risk holding all other covariates constant.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Profile of the Respondents

Data shown in Table I show that 60.4% of all adolescents age 15-27 reported to have left their homes in Eastern Visayas, one of the three (3) regions in the Philippines which reported the highest prevalence of home-leavers. All three regions are highly developed and economically prosperous areas of the country. These extremes can be explained using the existing literature on migration: people in rural areas move out to urban areas in search for greener pastures.

Of the 19,720 respondents, 47.6% or 9,381 Filipino adolescents left their parental homes.

TABLE I: PERCENTAGE OF HOME LEAVERS BY REGION

Region	Frequency	N	Percentage
Ilocos	490	1,080	45.4%
Cagayan Valley	165	362	45.6%
Central Luzon	659	1,708	38.6%
Southern Tagalog	1,233	3,204	38.5%
Bicol	647	1,187	54.5%
Western Visayas	639	1,364	46.8%
Central Visayas	900	1,730	52.0%
Eastern Visayas	498	825	60.4%
Western Mindanao	247	492	50.2%
Northern Mindanao	562	967	58.1%
Southern Mindanao	805	1,434	56.1%
Central Mindanao	339	592	57.3%
ARMM	166	391	42.5%
CAR	215	350	61.4%
Caraga	376	606	62.0%
NCR	1,440	3,430	42.0%
Total	9,381	19,720	47.6%

Table II displays the frequency and percentage distributions of respondents by variables under consideration. About 60.4% or 498 young people from Eastern Visayas experienced living away from homes. Half (50.4%) of the respondents belong to

ages 15-19 while 34.5 percent belong to age group 20-24. About 15.2% was 25-27 years old.

There are more females than males (51.2% vs. 48.8%). About 52.9 percent of the Filipino adolescents reached high school level or took vocational courses. A significant proportion of them (27.7%) reached college level of education while 19.4% reached elementary level.

Majority of the respondents (67.8%) live in the rural areas. The majority of Filipino youth are raised by both their biological parents as evidenced by 79.7 percent. The remaining percentage was raised by one parent alone (6.9%), by a parent with another person (4.0%), and by persons other than any of the father or mother (9.5%).

Only a small proportion of youth (2.6%) has no sibling at all compared to those who have one to three siblings (30.5%), four to six siblings (38.0%) and seven to sixteen siblings (28.9%). Majority of the young people have experienced working (62.4%).

TABLE II: PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

Variables	n	%	Variables	n	%
Ever lived away from home			Residence Urban	266	32.2
Yes	498	60.4	Rural	559	67.8
No	327	39.6			
Age			Ever worked		
15-19	415	50.4	Yes	515	62.4
20-24	284	34.5	No	310	37.6
25-27	125	15.2			
Sex			Persons mostly raised R		
Male	403	48.8	Both parents	657	79.7
Female	422	51.2	One parent alone	57	6.9
			One parent with another person	33	4.0
			Other people	78	9.5
Education			Number of siblings		
Elementary	159	19.4	0	22	2.6
High school/ vocational	435	52.9	1-3	251	30.5
			4-6	313	38.0
College or higher	228	27.7	7-16	238	28.9

B. Profile of Home Leavers by Selected Background Characteristics

Table III presents the percentage of respondents who reported that they had ever lived away from home and the Chi-square and p-values of determinants of leaving parental home. Only 37.5 percent of adolescents who belong to the 15-19 age group ever lived away from home compared to 41.7 percent of ages 20-24 who did such. Older youth has the higher proportion of living away from home. Both the Chi-square and the bivariate logistic regression results with their corresponding p-values reveal that age is significantly related to having had an experience of living away from home.

A lower proportion of males (44.1%) is reported to have ever lived away from home while more than half of total respondents is observed among females (55.9%). The figures tell us that there is a higher percentage of female adolescents who live away from home than their counterparts.

Those who have high school or vocational education have reported a much higher level of experiencing living away from home (49.2%). On the other hand, adolescents who only reached elementary have lower proportion of living away from home (18.5%). About 32.3% of adolescents who have reached

college level left their homes. More rural respondents live away from home than urbanites (71.5% vs. 28.5%). There are more adolescents who have experiences working left home than those who did not have work experience at all (72.7% vs. 27.3%).

Majority of Filipino youth leave their parental home when they are raised by both parents (78.4%), by other people other than the father or mother (10.6%), by one parent alone (6.2%), and by one parent with another person (4.8%).

Interestingly, there is no significant association between the number of siblings and leaving parental home. There is a higher percentage of youth who experienced living away from home when they have 4-6 siblings (37.6%) and when they have seven to 16 siblings (30.3%) compared to when respondents have only one to three siblings (29.9%) and no siblings at all (2.2%). The author did not find any existing literature that examines the relationship between the number of siblings and the likelihood of living away from home. However, the results suggest that as the number of siblings increases, the proportion of adolescents living away from home also increases. One possible reason for this is that the presence of many siblings in the family may create an undesirable environment such as misunderstanding among the children which may prompt adolescents to leave their parental home.

The p-values for Chi-square for age, sex, education, residence and work status of young people in Eastern Visayas reveal that these five variables are statistically significant. This means these determinants have significant relationship with leaving away from home. No significant associations were observed between leaving home and the two family characteristics, i.e., family structure and number of siblings.

TABLE III: PERCENTAGE OF HOME LEAVERS BY BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS

Variables	Percentage who left	Chi-square	p-values
Age			
15-19	37.5%		
20-24	41.7%	86.92	.000
25-27	20.8%		
Sex			
Male	44.1%	11.45	.001
Female	55.9%		
Education			
Elementary	18.5%		
High school or vocational	49.2%	14.31	.001
College or higher	32.3%		
Residence			
Urban	28.5%	7.67	.006
Rural	71.5%		
Ever worked			
Yes	72.7%	57.04	.000
No	27.3%		
Family structure			
Both parents	78.4%		
One parent alone	6.2%	5.03	.169
One parent with another person	4.8%		
Other people	10.6%		
Number of siblings			
0	2.2%		
1-3	29.9%	2.46	.651
4-6	37.6%		
7-16	30.3%		

C. Correlations between Home Leaving and Selected Background Characteristics

These seven variables were examined further using correlations matrix to measure the strength of association between home leaving and the independent variables as presented in Table IV. It shows that among the seven (7) variables, the number of siblings (-.044, p>.05) exhibited the weakest relationship to home leaving and it also emerged as the only non-significant variable which reinforced the finding in the cross tabulation (see Table III). Family structure is significant at 0.05 level of significance.

TABLE IV. CORRELATIONS MATRIX BETWEEN HOME LEAVING AND INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

Variables	Pearson R	Significance
Age	-.361**	.000
Sex	-.118**	.001
Education	-.105**	.003
Residence	-.096**	.006
Work	.261**	.000
Family structure	-.069*	.048
Siblings	-.044	.206

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

D. Correlates of Home Leaving Behavior

Variables were tested in the first regression model. Family structure and the number of siblings emerged as insignificant, thus, they were no longer included in the final regression model. The final model (TABLE V) includes all the statistically significant variables in the full model and is the basis of interpreting the net effects of the correlates on leaving parental home. All correlates consistently depict that odds ratios have a very slight change in magnitude or significance level in both the full and final models. Family structure and the number of siblings were dropped in the final analysis since these family characteristics do not appear to be significant in the likelihood of living away from home among Filipino adolescents.

Interestingly, all significant levels of the correlates remain unchanged in the full and final models. This means that the five variables analyzed in this study are highly significant and could be considered as correlates of leaving parental home.

TABLE V. LOGISTIC REGRESSION ESTIMATES PREDICTING THE LIKELIHOOD OF LEAVING HOME OF THE FINAL MODEL

		B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1[a]	Age	-.187	.026	50.593	1	.000	.829
	Sex	.583	.161	13.149	1	.000	1.791
	Education	-.463	.193	5.758	1	.016	.629
	Residence	.459	.171	7.235	1	.007	1.583
	Work	-.742	.175	18.012	1	.000	.476
	Constant	3.821	.493	60.025	1	.000	45.668

a. Variable(s) entered on step 1: Age, Sex, Education, Residence, Work

The logistic regression form of the final model is presented below.

$$\text{Logit} = 45.668 + 1.791\text{Sex} + 1.583\text{Residence} + 0.829\text{Age} + 0.629\text{Education} + 0.476\text{Work}$$

When the logistic regression coefficients are exponentiated, odds ratios will be derived which measure the net effect of each explanatory variable on the odds of leaving parental home. For the quantitative variables, the odds ratio represents the multiplicative effect of a one-unit change in the independent variable, that is, on the odds of leaving the parental home. For qualitative variables, the odds ratio tells us the odds of the considered categories relative to the reference categories. They are also the multiplicative effects of the explanatory variables on the dependent variable in question.

The likelihood of leaving parental home among women is 1.791 times higher than males. This is consistent with the findings of Berja [5] that females are more likely to leave their homes than their counterparts. Opportunities abound for women in urban areas such as in Metro Manila and in other countries. In fact, 72% of total migrants from the Philippines were women workers [7] and many of them are working as household workers, nurses, caregivers, and entertainers.

Those who are living in the rural areas are more likely to leave homes, which is 1.583 higher, than their counterparts. This finding contributes to the existing literature that children migrate from rural communities to study in urban areas. Medina [8] contends that urbanization and industrialization have attracted family members away from homes.

As age of respondents increases by one year, the odds of living away from home increases by 82.9%. In other words, the older the adolescent is, the more likely he or she will leave the parental home. Reasons for moving away from home of the older siblings can be attributed to establishing separate dwellings with families of their own or for some other reasons such as further studies and looking for work. Older siblings are expected to help their families and since they are the ones who have the capacity to work. As Medina [8] pointed out, older siblings make sacrifices for the sake of their younger siblings.

The odds of parental home leaving among respondents who have college education is higher by 62.9% compared to those who did not reach college level. In the Philippines, education is a very important tool for social mobility. With higher educational attainment comes with greater opportunities to land in good paying jobs. Since these opportunities are present in urban areas, college graduates leave their homes in search for greener pastures.

When respondents have experienced working, the odd that they will leave their parental homes is 47.6% higher as compared to those who do not have work experience. Those with work experiences are viewed as better prepared to face challenges outside of parental homes.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Majority of young adolescents in Eastern Visayas have experienced leaving parental homes. Age, sex, education, residence, and work are significant factors affecting their home leaving behavior. As adolescents get older, they are more likely to leave their parental homes. Women are more likely to leave their homes compared to men. The odds of leaving homes are higher when adolescents reached college level, live in rural areas, and have work experience. These results suggest that lack of job opportunities in rural areas pushes young people to move to other areas especially in urban centers where there is an increasing demand for work.

The government must ensure that young people in Eastern Visayas have access to education and job opportunities. The creation of jobs in the local market would deter the so-called "brain drain".

To better capture the dynamics of home leaving behavior among adolescents, a gender differential analysis may be conducted in the future. Likewise, determining the pathways or destinations of home leaving is recommended.

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