



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

and

PCED | Philippine Center for
Economic Development

present a seminar on

Water Policy Reform's Effect on Child Health

by

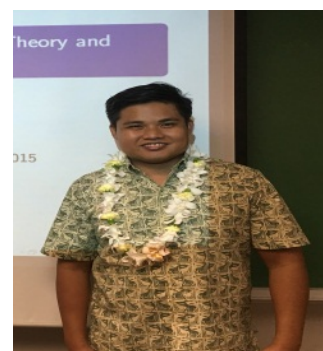
Karl Robert Jandoc, PhD
U.P. School of Economics
26 September 2017, Tuesday
4:00-5:00 p.m. – Rm 303

Abstract:

The privatization of water provision in Metro Manila and some municipalities and cities in Rizal and Cavite remains to be the poster child for successful policy reform in the Philippines. Service efficiency, as measured by several indicators such as population served, number of connections and water availability, has been improved in the years after privatization. While some may argue the equity dimension of these efficiency gains, an overlooked aspect of water policy reform is the health dividend brought about by improved water quality and delivery. The improvement in quality is of greater consequence for infants and children, who are more susceptible to water-borne diseases such as diarrhea. Using data from the Annual Poverty Indicator Survey (APIS) for years 1998 and 2002, we attempt to quantify the effect of water policy reform on child health, especially on the incidence of diarrhea. We employ a difference-in-difference approach to isolate the effects of the reform from other possible confounding factors. We find that due to the reform, the proportion of children five years old and below that contracted diarrhea in 2002 has dramatically been reduced by nearly half of the prevailing proportion in 1998. Considering only the direct cost of treating diarrhea (and not taking into account, for example, the forgone earnings of parents in taking care of the child by staying at home), the lower bound of cost averted is around Php16 million. This result is robust for other age groups (e.g. school aged children) as well as running a placebo test on non-waterborne disease (e.g. asthma, headache and tuberculosis).

About the author:

Karl Jandoc is an Assistant Professor at the UP School of Economics.



Free and open to the public

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