## Education, Agriculture, and Emigration in the Philippines

Helen Libo-on, RSM; Institute Justice Team

In the Philippines, the ministry of educating children is really a challenging one. The parents will tell their children "You must be educated so you can earn a living." When the children experience how hard their parents work tilling their farms, they prefer to have white collar jobs to becoming farmers. So, the main aim now for the youth is to have jobs not in our own country but outside the country, because the Philippines cannot provide the jobs they want.

We hear that many foreigners would love to have Filipino or Filipina nurses, because they care for their patients with love. This is becoming a thing of the past, since more and more Filipino/Filipina nurses want to become nurses as their passports to living abroad. Once they arrive, these nurses often change their jobs! Many migrants become successful in other countries, and most of them are in the U.S.A. Once they establish themselves, they encourage their relatives to go live with them, too.

In the end, nobody is left in our country to till the farms. We were once international leaders in rice and corn production, but not now. We are now eating rice imported from other countries. The government is importing this staple food because that's one way the government can make money. Once the farmland is no longer used for farming, some of it gets turned into big malls and subdivisions for housing.

In the final analysis, is the education ministry not really helping our economy? Where do we go from here?