

Agbon, Adrian D.; Mina, Christian D.

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## School participation of children with disability: The case of San Remigio and Mandaue City, Cebu, Philippines

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**Philippine Institute for Development Studies**  
*Surian sa mga Pag-aaral Pangkaunlaran ng Pilipinas*

## School Participation of Children with Disability: The Case of San Remigio and Mandaue City, Cebu, Philippines

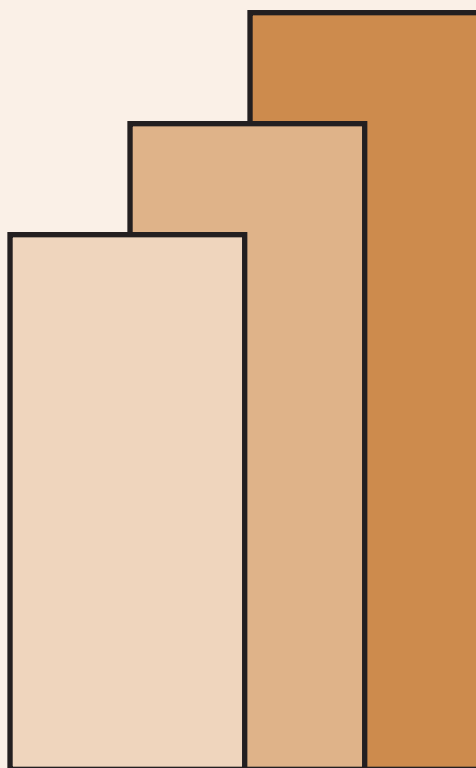
*Adrian D. Agbon and Christian D. Mina*

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For comments, suggestions or further inquiries please contact:

The **Research Information Department**, Philippine Institute for Development Studies

18th Floor, Three Cyberpod Centris – North Tower, EDSA corner Quezon Avenue, 1100 Quezon City, Philippines

Tel Nos: (63-2) 3721291 and 3721292; E-mail: [publications@mail.pids.gov.ph](mailto:publications@mail.pids.gov.ph)

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## **School Participation of Children with Disability: The Case of San Remigio and Mandaue City, Cebu Philippines\***

*Adrian D. Agbon and Christian D. Mina<sup>1</sup>*

“To build a nation, build a school.”

- Amartya Sen, Nobel Prize- winning economist

### **Abstract**

In the Philippines, women and children with disabilities were found to have lower literacy and school participation rates, and generally have lower educational attainment, than male PWDs and non-disabled children. This paper is part of the joint project of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) and the Institute of Developing Economies looked into the school participation of children with disability in Mandaue City and San Remigio, Cebu, Philippines. Using survey data (collected involving PWD enumerators) and key informant interviews with various stakeholders, the study found that school participation among PWD children is generally low in both study sites. Possible reasons for low school participation are: type and severity of impairment, distance of school (especially in rural area, San Remigio), household size and income. Some recommendations include making sure that assistive devices given to PWDs children match their needs, possible learning livelihood and basic health care modules/trainings for parents, explore ways to train more teachers (including the Alternative Learning System) to handle children with disabilities and possible LGU partnerships to provide venues for the ALS. Lastly, pushing for more awareness to make schools not just “child friendly” but also “PWD friendly”.

*Key words: school participation, Person with disability (PWD) children, San Remigio, Mandaue City, Cebu, City, Philippines*

### **I. Introduction**

One of the most important forms of capital investment in any country is education. Unfortunately, not all children will have a chance to go to school. The right to education is one of the most important rights in international human rights law. Education works as a multiplier since it in turn enables people to exercise other human rights. It enhances both economic, social, civil, political and cultural rights. To be educated improves one’s self-esteem and facilitates social mobility. It is therefore essential for every human being (De Beco, 2014). A study by Filmer (2008) argued that low educational outcomes have stronger correlation with having a disability. The study also noted that PWD children aged 6-17 are generally less likely to be in school and, if in school, tend to have lower probability of getting completed than non-PWD children. Progression rates to higher educational levels were also found to be lower among PWD children (WHO, 2011, p. 207). In the Philippines, women and children with disabilities were found to have lower literacy and school participation rates, and generally have lower educational attainment, than male PWDs and non-disabled children, respectively (Reyes, 2015).

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\* This paper will be part of an upcoming Person with Disability (PWD) book.

<sup>1</sup> Supervising Research Specialist and former Supervising Research Specialist, Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS). The usual disclaimer applies. The authors gratefully acknowledge the research assistance of Ronina Asis, Blesila Mondez and Arkin Arboneda.

Moreover, a significant proportion of Filipino children with disabilities were not able to go to school either because of financial challenges faced by households or lack of access to educational facilities (i.e., SPED centers and qualified teachers) (Mori et al., 2015). School buildings, roads and transport system in the Philippines are generally not PWD-friendly, especially for mobility-impaired (Reyes, 2015). Meanwhile, legislation and policies have not been considered as bottlenecks in the Philippine setting. Laws and policies in the Philippines have already been put in place such as the Magna Carta for PWDs, RA 10070 (an act that establishes mechanism for the implementation of various programs and services for PWDs in every province, city and LGU), *Batas Pambansa* 344 (an act enhancing mobility of PWDs), and Plan of Action for the Decade of PWDs for 2003-2012, among others. The problems usually stem from the implementation of these policies and lack of awareness among PWDs and their families about various government support mechanisms such as special education programs for disabled children, trainings, and employment programs.

Understanding the various factors that may influence school participation among children with disabilities, their non-attendance including demographic, economic, household characteristics and others that affect the school participation of children from urban and rural households. Thus, the basic question asked in this paper is: what are the factors affecting the school participation of children with disabilities? This paper is a preliminary attempt to shed light on those issues<sup>2</sup>. This is also significant to policymakers so that they can undertake empirically based interventions to enhance school participation especially for the children with disabilities.

This paper is structured as follows; section II reviews the literature, section III explains the methodology and the data set. Section IV, provides a context of the study areas. while section V discusses the survey results of the sample children with disabilities in Mandaue City and San Remigio, Cebu, Philippines. Section VI presents the concluding remarks.

## **II. Literature Review**

Families invest in their children's education for many reasons, and one of them is the expectation that education will increase the future earnings of the child. Schooling of children constitutes an investment in their human capital and are likely to affect the propensity of parents to send their children to school. Parents of children in many developing economies are expected to have a large say in this schooling decision. They are expected to weigh the future benefits of schooling and the direct immediate costs. From a public policy point, governments invest in education to raise the skill level of the labor force thus increase worker productivity and income for the society as a whole. Attanasio (2015), stressed that many developing economies have experienced fast increases in growth have also experienced increases in human capital. The same author discussed that many children in developing countries are at risk of not developing their full potential. These children are particularly vulnerable because of high incidence and burden of infectious diseases, under nutrition in the prenatal period and early childhood micronutrient deficiency, lack of clean water and limited hygiene and other psychological factors. The damage inflicted is likely to be permanent and delays accumulated in the early years will be difficult if not impossible to fill. With these challenges faced by many families and policymakers in developing economies, analysis of determinants of school participation among children are major concern for policymakers. The literature

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<sup>2</sup> An econometric model of school of participation will be provided in the improved version of this paper.

on determinants of schooling in both developed and developing economies is vast. Traditionally, empirical papers use ordered logit or probit analysis to estimate the determinants of child schooling. Mostly, the dependent variable for the model of school participation is if the child is currently in school (1) and not attending is (0). Huisman and Smits (2009), categorized the independent variables into socio-economic factors, household structure, and educational facilities are factors affecting children to be in school.

In an empirical paper by Lamichhane and Kawatsu (2014) on the disability and determinants of schooling in Bangladesh found out being male demonstrates a negative effect on their school participation. The results obtained by Mabika and Shapiro (2011) contradicts this result in the case of the Democratic Republic of Congo wherein boys were significantly more likely to be enrolled than girls. Having a disability whether severe or not is negatively correlated with school participation. The negative effect of disability suggests that due to the discriminatory behavior and other barriers on family and institutions, children with disabilities are less likely to attend school (Lamichhane & Kawatsu, 2014).

Studies by Lam and Schoeni (1993) and Knight and Sabot (1990) suggest that employment and schooling achievements of parents' increases children's years of education. In the same light, Dreze and Kingdon (1999), explained that parental education has often emerged as a powerful predictor of school attendance among children. Another explanatory variable of interest is the distance of school from residence which is significant and has a negative coefficient in the paper by Siddiqui and Iram (2007) on determinants of school progression in Pakistan. The larger the distance from school, the lower the probability of child's primary and secondary schooling. Walking large distances is a major problem to children with disabilities and in the absence of transportation parents may not be willing to send their children to school.

### **III. Methodology<sup>3</sup>**

To collect information on women and children with disabilities, households with women and children with disabilities were targeted for the study. A household survey was conducted to collect information on the household and individuals living in the household. To complement the earlier study done in Luzon (primarily National Capital Region), Visayas was chosen to be the study site. A city was selected to represent the urban areas and a municipality in the same province was chosen to represent a rural area.

#### **Sampling design**

##### ***Study sites***

The primary objective of the study is to examine the situations of adult women and children with disabilities in Cebu province, specifically in one urban area and one rural area. Around 200 persons with disabilities (PWDs) who are adult women and children in the study areas would be interviewed. Taking into account budget considerations and logistical challenges of tapping PWDs as enumerators, a sample size of 200 has been considered by the project team as reasonably large enough to make meaningful

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<sup>3</sup> Except for the econometric model on school participation rate of children with disabilities, please note that this methodology was also used for the paper on Women with Disabilities in Cebu, Philippines.

inference. In consultation with the PWD focal persons from the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare, Mandaue City was selected as the urban study site while the Municipality of San Remigio was chosen as the rural study site. These local government units (LGUs) serve as the domains of this study. The criteria for selection of the study areas are as follows: (1) distribution of women and children with disabilities; (2) cooperativeness of the local government; (3) availability of PWD enumerators; and, (4) accessibility and safety of the area.

### ***Sampling frame***

The sampling frames used in this study are the PWD lists provided by the Office of the Mayor of San Remigio and the Office of the Social Services of Mandaue City. The municipality of San Remigio has 27 barangays with around 1,289 PWDs, as of 2015. The list of PWDs contains the following information: complete name, address, date of birth, marital status, sex, type of disability, and parents/guardian of the listed PWD. Mandaue City also has 27 barangays but with around 2,889 listed PWDs, as of 2015. The PWD list in Mandaue City contains basic information such as complete name of the PWD, type of disability, date of birth, complete address, sex, and PWD identification number. The PIDS research team also sought the assistance of the Provincial Social Welfare Office in validating the PWDs listed in Mandaue City and San Remigio. The following additional information were asked during the validation visits: employment, livelihood, membership in organization(s), highest educational attainment as well as information on whether the PWD is currently in school or not.

Thus, the study population refers to all adult women and children with disabilities in San Remigio and Mandaue City who are included in the PWD lists, or those who have become beneficiaries of government programs at least once. Ideally, the study population should have been all the adult women and children with disabilities in the said areas, including those who did not receive any assistance from the government. Unfortunately, such registry has not been available. The 2015 Census of Population could have been a good<sup>4</sup> sampling frame but has not been publicly available as of this writing.

### ***Sampling scheme***

The study adopted a (single-stage) stratified random sampling scheme in selecting the sampling units, which are adult women and children with disabilities<sup>5</sup>. The sample size of 200 was equally divided into two study domains; that is, Mandaue City and San Remigio each has a total of 100 samples. In order to ensure enough number of samples of adult women and children with disabilities in the analysis, the sample requirements of 100 were equally divided into adult women and children (that is, 50 adult women and 50 children) per domain. The sample size requirements per type of PWD were further allocated among the four types of impairment considered in this study, namely: mobility, visual, hearing, and development/psycho-social. In order to make sure that each type of impairment (particularly the mobility, visual and hearing) would be well represented, the equal allocation scheme was used instead of proportional allocation. The three major types of impairment—mobility, visual and hearing—had 13 samples each, while the remaining 11 samples were allocated to development and psycho-social disabilities. Thus, there were three stratification variables used in the sampling scheme, namely: study domains (Mandaue City and San Remigio), type of PWD (adult women and children) and type of

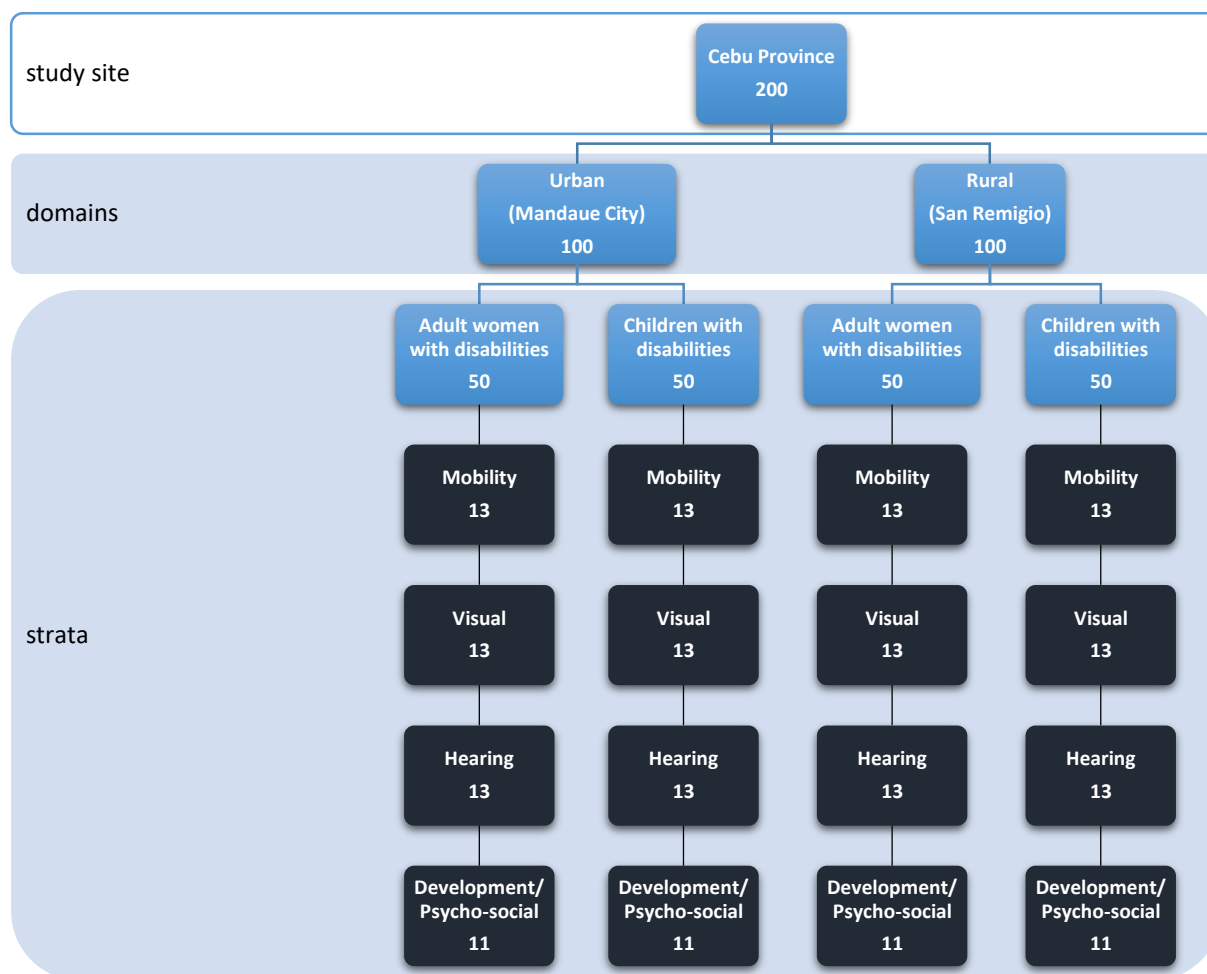
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<sup>4</sup> Both in terms of comprehensiveness and timeliness

<sup>5</sup> Since the study would also conduct a household-level analysis, each PWD sample should represent only one household.

impairment (mobility, visual, hearing, and development/psycho-social), resulting in a total of 8 (= 2 x 4) strata. The figure below shows the number of required samples per stratum by domain.

**Figure 1.** Study domains, strata, and the required sample sizes for each level



Taking into account the required sample size per stratum, sample PWDs were then randomly drawn from the sampling frame. In order to ensure smoother survey operations, particularly because the enumerators of the survey are PWDs as well, samples were drawn only from the clusters of adjacent barangays with the largest number of adult women and children with disabilities. The selected barangays in Mandaue City were Cambaro, Looc, Opao, Paknaan, and Umapad. All these barangays are classified as urban barangays. In San Remigio, the following barangays (which are all rural barangays) were selected: Anapog, Argawanon, Kayam, Lambusan, Lawis, Maño, Tambongon, Toong, and Victoria.

#### IV. Disability statistics in the Philippines and Cebu

In 2010, the total number of households with at least one PWD member<sup>6</sup> in the Philippines was about 1.4 million, accounting for only 1.6 percent of the household population (Table ). A slightly less than 50 percent of all the PWDs in the country were women. Among the geographical regions of the country, CALABARZON registered the highest number of PWD households (~193,000), followed by the National Capital Region (NCR) (with ~167,000) and then Central Luzon (with ~139,000). Across geographical region, there seems to be a gender balance in the distribution of PWDs. Among children with disabilities, more than half of them were at least 9 years old, with aged 9-10 as the largest cohort (Figure 2). The figure also shows that the boys outnumbered the girls in each of the age groups.

**Table 1.** Household Population and Persons with Disability by Sex and Region: Philippines, 2010

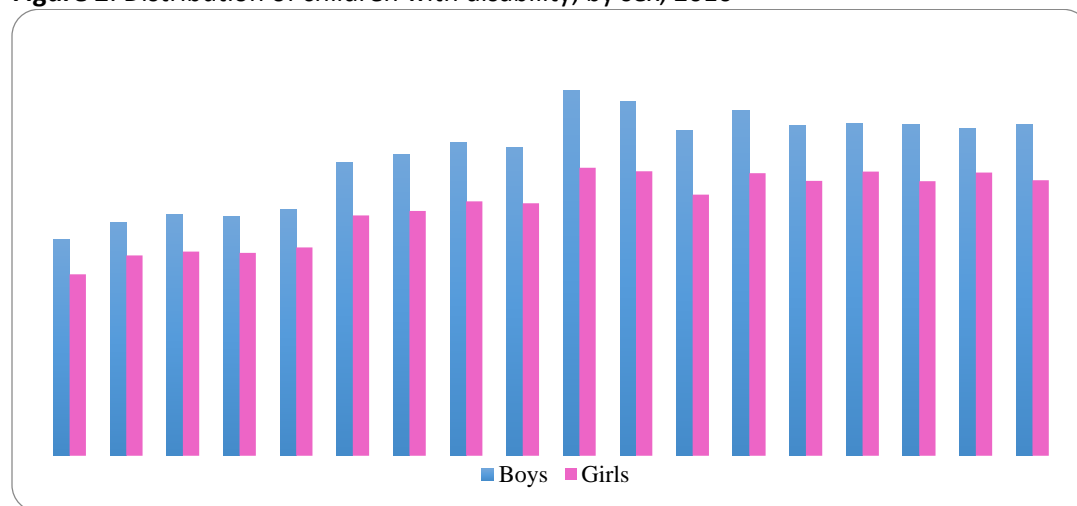
Region	Household Population (In '000)			With Disability ('000)			Proportion of PWDs to the Household Population (In percent)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Philippines	92,098	46,459	45,639	1,443	734	709	1.57	1.58	1.55
/NCR	11,797	5,781	6,015	167	81	86	1.41	1.40	1.43
CAR	1,612	821	791	26	14	13	1.63	1.67	1.59
I - Ilocos Region	4,743	2,392	2,352	78	39	39	1.64	1.61	1.66
II - Cagayan Valley	3,226	1,645	1,581	56	28	27	1.72	1.72	1.73
III - Central Luzon	10,118	5,104	5,014	139	71	68	1.38	1.40	1.36
IVA - CALABARZON	12,583	6,277	6,306	193	95	97	1.53	1.52	1.54
IVB - MMIMAROPA	2,732	1,400	1,332	50	26	24	1.85	1.89	1.80
V - Bicol Region	5,412	2,761	2,651	100	52	48	1.85	1.87	1.83
VI - Western Visayas	7,090	3,598	3,492	138	70	68	1.95	1.94	1.95
VII - Central Visayas	6,785	3,426	3,358	109	55	53	1.60	1.62	1.58
VIII - Eastern Visayas	4,090	2,101	1,989	72	37	35	1.75	1.77	1.74
IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	3,398	1,732	1,666	46	24	22	1.35	1.39	1.31
X - Northern Mindanao	4,285	2,184	2,101	67	35	32	1.56	1.59	1.52
XI - Davao	4,453	2,279	2,174	71	37	34	1.60	1.63	1.56
XII - SOCCSKSARGEN	4,103	2,099	2,004	59	31	28	1.43	1.47	1.38
XII - Caraga	2,425	1,245	1,180	38	20	18	1.58	1.63	1.53
ARMM	3,249	1,615	1,634	35	18	17	1.07	1.11	1.03

Source: 2010 Census of Population and Housing, Philippine Statistics Authority

<sup>6</sup> interchangeably referred to as 'PWD households'



**Figure 2.** Distribution of children with disability, by sex, 2010



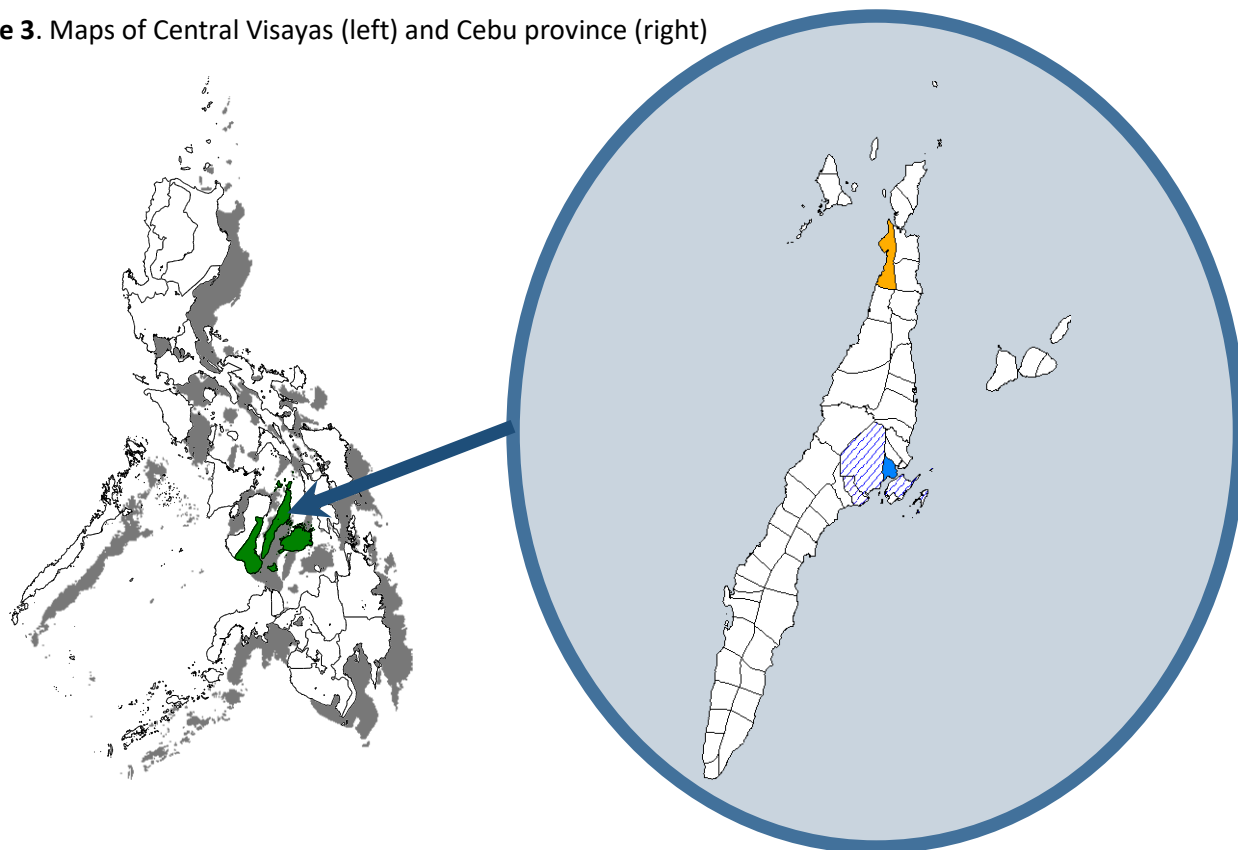
Source: 2010 Census of Population and Housing, Philippine Statistics Authority

### ***The Cebu province***

Cebu is one of the provinces in Central Visayas, also known as Region VII (which is originally composed of four provinces<sup>7</sup>, namely: Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental, and Siquijor). It lies at the center of the Philippine archipelago between the major islands of Luzon (in the north) and Mindanao (in the south) (Figure ). Cebu province is considered as the economic center of Central Visayas. The history of Cebu goes way beyond 439 years ago when the island became a province at the start of the Spanish colonization. Long before that, Cebu was already the center of trade of what is now termed as the southern Philippines; dealing with traders from different parts of Asia, including China, Malaysia, Japan, India, and Burma. Ceboom,” which is an expression of sudden entry of foreign and domestic investments in Cebu after Typhoon Mike (*Ruping*) hit the province in November 1990 became popular description for the province. Cebu’s economy in recent years has remained strong primarily because of the presence of foreign companies that are located in economic zones of the province. Cebu has also remained as a competitive player in the business process outsourcing (BPO), or business process management (BPM) space, as it keeps its eighth rank (for the third time) in the 2015 Tholons International Top 100 Outsourcing Destinations Report. Cebu also ranked eighth in 2013 and 2014<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> By virtue of Executive Order No. 183, a Negros Island Region (NIR) was created.

<sup>8</sup> <http://philnews.ph/2014/01/22/manila-cebu-top-10-tholons-global-outsourcing-destinations/> Accessed on February 9, 2016

**Figure 3.** Maps of Central Visayas (left) and Cebu province (right)

The region has become more urbanized over the past two decades, particularly Cebu, which is considered as the “gateway to southern Philippines” and the “Queen City of the South”. Central Visayas registered 6.8 million in 2010 and Cebu province accounted for 38.5 percent of the total population in the region. The metro cities of Cebu, i.e., Cebu, Mandaue and Lapu-lapu, accounted for 12.7 percent, 4.9 percent and 5.2 percent, respectively. The provinces of Bohol, Negros Oriental and Siquijor, on the other hand, accounted for 18.5 percent, 18.9 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively.

**Table 2.** Population of Region VII in various census years (1995-2010) and percentage share to total population in 2010

	1995	2000	2007	2010	% share (2010)
REGION VII	5,014,588	5,706,953	6,398,628	6,800,180	
Bohol	994,440	1,139,130	1,230,110	1,255,128	18.46
Cebu	1,890,357	2,160,569	2,439,005	2,619,362	38.52
Cebu City	662,299	718,821	798,809	866,171	12.74
Lapu-lapu City	173,744	217,019	292,530	350,467	5.15
Mandaue City	194,745	259,728	318,575	331,320	4.87
Negros Oriental	1,025,247	1,130,088	1,231,904	1,286,666	18.92

Siquijor	73,756	81,598	87,695	91,066	1.34
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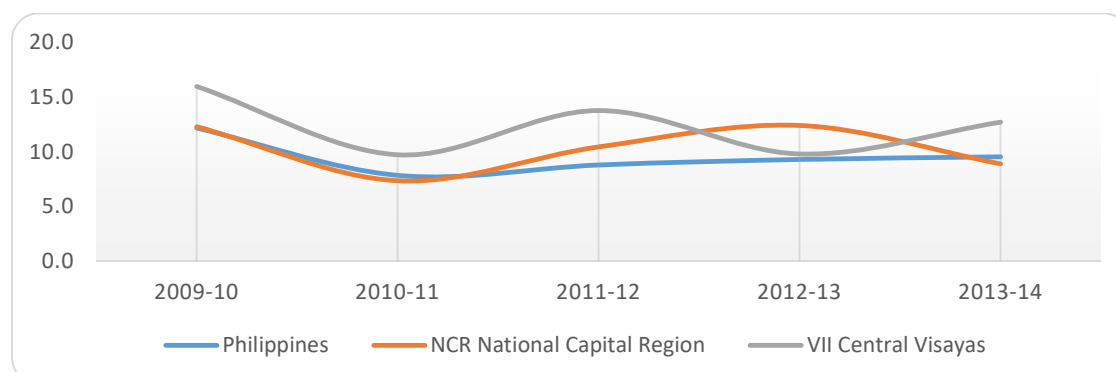
Source: 2010 Census of Population and Housing, Philippine Statistics Authority

Among the regions, Central Visayas largely contributed to the total good and services produced in the country. Essentially, its share to total gross domestic product (GDP) in 2014 was 6.6 percent, which ranked fourth next to NCR (37.0%) and surrounding regions (CALABARZON, 15.9%; Central Luzon, 9.1%). Thus, Central Visayas was considered as the fourth largest contributor to the national economy in 2014. In terms of percentage increase for the period 2010-2014, Central Visayas had posted a growth rate of 54.5 percent, surpassing the national growth of 40.4 percent and the NCR's growth of 45.1 percent. Looking at annual growth rates, it is interesting to note that except for the period 2012-2013, Central Visayas had consistently posted the highest growth in national output from 2009 to 2014 (Figure 4). The average GRDP growth rate of Central Visayas from 2009 to 2014 was 12.4 percent and it was higher than the national average of 9.5 percent and the 10.3 percent posted by the country's capital—the NCR.

**Table 3.** Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) (in million pesos, at constant 2000 prices), 2010 and 2014, by region

	Region	2010	2014	% increase (2010-2014)	% share (2014)
	Philippines	9,003,480	12,642,736	40.4	100
NCR	National Capital Region	3,224,786	4,679,830	45.1	37.02
CAR	Cordillera Administrative	198,504	230,706	16.2	1.82
I	Ilocos	279,787	390,511	39.6	3.09
II	Cagayan Valley	149,564	234,315	56.7	1.85
III	Central Luzon	795,503	1,147,550	44.3	9.08
IV-A	CALABARZON	1,561,506	2,014,890	29.0	15.94
IV-B	MIMAROPA	159,091	212,218	33.4	1.68
V	Bicol	185,857	264,495	42.3	2.09
VI	Western Visayas	350,153	502,800	43.6	3.98
VII	Central Visayas	538,558	831,833	54.5	6.58
VIII	Eastern Visayas	226,366	258,739	14.3	2.05
IX	Zamboanga Peninsula	183,914	257,060	39.8	2.03
X	Northern Mindanao	344,425	485,705	41.0	3.84
XI	Davao Region	375,231	519,069	38.3	4.11
XII	SOCCSKSARGEN	248,312	351,357	41.5	2.78
XIII	Caraga	98,234	155,296	58.1	1.23
ARMM	Muslim Mindanao	83,691	106,362	27.1	0.84

Source: 2015 Philippine Statistical Yearbook, Philippine Statistics Authority

**Figure 5.** GRDP growth rates, Philippines, NCR and Central Visayas, 2009-2014

Source of basic data: 2015 Philippine Statistical Yearbook, Philippine Statistics Authority

Aside from the measures of economic activity in Central Visayas, it is also interesting to take a glimpse of the Human Development Index (HDI) of the provinces within the region. The HDI is a summary measure of achievements in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living<sup>9</sup>. In the Philippines, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) defines human development as the process of increasing people's choices by expanding their human capabilities, functioning and opportunities, and at the same time, raising the level of their achieved well-being in a sustainable manner. Human development, therefore, focuses on people and the satisfaction of their basic needs<sup>10</sup>. Table below shows that among the provinces in Central Visayas, Cebu had the highest HDI<sup>11</sup> values from 2003 to 2009, except in 2006 when Siquijor's HDI figure (0.59) was higher than Cebu's (0.56).

**Table 4.** Human Development Index, Central Visayas, by province, 2003, 2006 and 2009

Province	2003	2006	2009
Bohol	0.43	0.44	0.48
Cebu	0.56	0.56	0.58
Negros Oriental	0.41	0.44	0.50
Siquijor	0.38	0.59	0.47

Source: 2015 Philippine Statistical Yearbook, Philippine Statistics Authority

It is also interesting to look at the poverty situation in Central Visayas. The basic poverty measure that is used officially in the Philippines is the poverty incidence, or the headcount poverty ratio. Poverty incidence is the proportion of families with per capita income less than the per capita poverty threshold, which is the minimum amount required to meet the basic food and non-food needs. Among the provinces in Central Visayas, Cebu had the lowest poverty incidence in 2009 (22.3%) and in 2012 (18.9%) (Table 7). Provinces with the highest poverty incidence were Bohol, in 2009 (with 36.6%), and Negros Oriental, in 2012 (with 43.9%).

<sup>9</sup> As defined in the [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr2015\\_technical\\_notes.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr2015_technical_notes.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> The definition of human development was obtained from PSA through this website <http://nap.psa.gov.ph/hdi/default.asp>

<sup>11</sup> The value of the HDI index can vary between 0 and 1, with HDI close to one indicating greater achievement relative to the maximum attainable on the aggregate of the factors entering the HDI.

**Table 5.** Annual per capita poverty thresholds (PhP) and poverty incidence among families, Central Visayas, by province, 2009 and 2012

Province	2009		2012	
	Poverty threshold (PhP)	Poverty incidence (%)	Poverty threshold (PhP)	Poverty incidence (%)
<i>Central Visayas</i>	16,662	26.0	18,767	25.7
Bohol	16,633	36.6	18,847	30.6
Cebu	17,770	22.3	18,855	18.9
Negros Oriental	13,625	28.0	18,589	43.9
Siquijor	16,469	27.2	18,420	24.0

Source: 2015 Philippine Statistical Yearbook, Philippine Statistics Authority

### Study areas

The study would like to look at the situations of children<sup>12</sup> with disabilities in Cebu province, specifically in one urban area and one rural area. Selection of these two study areas has been done in consultation with the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development (OPSWD) of Cebu. Based on meetings with the PWD focal persons from the OPSWD of Cebu, the study areas for the survey are Mandaue City for the urban area and San Remigio for the rural area. Aside from the distribution of women and children with disabilities, other factors such as the following were also included in the set of criteria for selecting the study area: cooperation from the local PWD focal person; availability of possible PWD enumerators; accessibility and safety of the possible study site. Descriptions of the study areas are discussed in the proceeding sections<sup>13</sup>.

#### Mandaue City

Mandaue city is located on the coastal plains of Cebu province. It is bounded on the north by the municipality of Consolacion, on the east by the Mactan channel, on the southwest by barangay Banilad of Cebu City, on the northwest by barangay Talamban, Cebu City, and on the south by the Cebu North Reclamation. The city became a chartered city on June 21, 1961. It is a highly urbanized city and is home to many industrial and commercial establishments. The city also has two major seaports and is very strategic as it connects to other major cities, namely: Cebu and Lapu-lapu cities<sup>14</sup>.

Mandaue is a first-class city with 27 barangays and a land area of 3,487 hectares (see Figure 5 for the city map). The city's population in 2010 was around 331,320 (Table 7). Mandaue City's total revenue in 2014 was PhP1.35 billion, which was higher than the 2013 figure of PhP1.25 billion. The City also posted an increase in its regular income from PhP977 million in 2012 to PhP1.23 billion in 2014. On the other hand, the total expenditures of the City in 2014 was around PhP995 million, with the local development fund amounted to PhP70.9 million. The biggest expenditure item in 2014 was the maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE), which amounted to PhP675.5 million. This was followed by economic

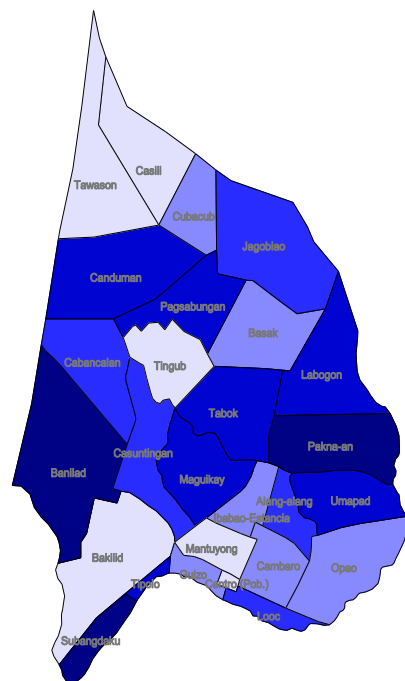
<sup>12</sup> Another discussion paper on the results of the Women PWD will also be published.

<sup>13</sup> Please note that employment data are not available either in the 2010 Census of Population of Housing or in the PWD lists provided by the local social welfare services offices.

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.unep.org/ietc/Portals/136/Other%20documents/Waste%20Management/Waste%20Plastic/WP\\_6\\_WasteQC\\_Mandaue.pdf](http://www.unep.org/ietc/Portals/136/Other%20documents/Waste%20Management/Waste%20Plastic/WP_6_WasteQC_Mandaue.pdf) Accessed on February 16, 2016.

services, which amounted to PhP523.6 million, followed by general public services, with PhP307.9 million. Expenditure on social services and social welfare only amounted to PhP20.4 million. Meanwhile, the City's real property tax accomplishment for 2014 was 83 percent and its total expenditures per capita amounted to PhP3,003.49.

**Figure 6. Map of Mandaue City, Cebu**



**Table 6.** Financial performance indicators, Mandaue City, 2014

Indicator	Year	Value
Income Class		1
Number of Barangays		27
Population (2010, PSA)		331,213
Total Revenue	2013	PhP1,252,610,624.34
Total Revenue	2014	PhP1,359,792,470.75
Revenue Growth	2014	9%
Annual Regular Income	2012	PhP977,049,364.93
Annual Regular Income	2014	PhP1,229,098,709.63
% Annual Regular Income to Total Revenue	2014	90%
Total Expenditures	2014	PhP995,116,743.26
20% Local Development Fund	2014	PhP70,964,190.18
Actual MOOE	2014	PhP675,529,131.87
General Public Services	2014	PhP307,921,078.37
Education, Culture and Sports/Manpower Development	2014	PhP54,912,493.25
Health, Nutrition and Population Control	2014	PhP15,768,717.15

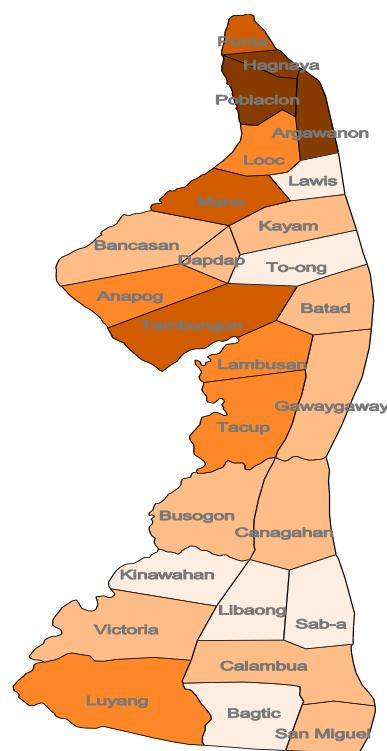
Housing and Community Development	2014	PhP22,766,545.13
Social Services and Social Welfare	2014	PhP20,391,301.42
Social Services Expenditures	2014	PhP113,839,056.95
Economic Services	2014	PhP523,608,778.57
Real Property Tax Accomplishment (RPTAR)	2014	83%
Total Expenditures per Capita	2014	PhP3,003.49

Source: Department of Finance, Bureau of Local Government Finance (<http://blgf.gov.ph/lgu-fiscal-data/#LFD>)

### ***Municipality of San Remigio***

The Municipality of San Remigio is located in the northern part of the province of Cebu (see Figure 6 for municipal map). San Remigio is considerably rural and also a fishing community, with one of the longest coastline facing Tanon Strait between the Island of Negros and Cebu. The Hagnaya port which connects Bantayan Island to the province of Cebu is located in San Remigio. San Remigio is a third-class municipality, has 27 barangays and has a total population of 51,370 (as of 2010).

**Figure 7.** Map of San Remigio, Cebu



In 2014, its total revenue amounted to PhP100.2 million while its total expenditure per capita was estimated to be around PhP2,000.63 (Table 14). Aside from the MOEE, which amounted to PhP60.5 million, other big expenditure items of San Remigio include the following: general public (PhP55.8 million); social services (PhP34.7 million); health, nutrition and population control (PhP13.5 million).

**Table 7.** Financial performance indicators, San Remigio, 2014

Indicator	Year	Value
Income Class		3
Number of Barangays		27
Population (2010, PSA)		51,370
Total Revenue	2013	PhP86,491,519.20
Total Revenue	2014	PhP100,289,793.12
Revenue Growth	2014	16%
Annual Regular Income	2012	PhP71,609,295.15
Annual Regular Income	2014	PhP93,866,934.25
% Annual Regular Income to Total Revenue	2014	94%
Total Expenditures	2014	PhP102,820,597.66
20% Local Development Fund	2014	PhP24,034,662.02
Actual MOOE Amount	2014	PhP60,592,368.56
Actual CO Amount	2014	PhP3,219,933.00
General Public Services	2014	PhP55,837,143.08
Education, Culture and Sports/Manpower Development	2014	PhP4,571,227.17
Health, Nutrition and Population Control	2014	PhP13,560,324.94
Housing and Community Development	2014	PhP12,375,310.00
Social Services and Social Welfare	2014	PhP4,274,062.47
Social Services Expenditures	2014	PhP34,780,924.58
Economic Services	2014	PhP11,024,544.00
Real Property Tax Accomplishment (RPTAR)	2014	5%
Total Expenditures per Capita	2014	PhP2,000.63

Source: Department of Finance, Bureau of Local Government Finance <http://blgf.gov.ph/lgu-fiscal-data/#LFD>.

## V. Education and household characteristics

This section presents the survey results for the sample households with PWD children in Mandaue City and San Remigio. We provide some details about the education of the PWD child, the parents, and immediate elder and younger sibling. A brief discussion on dwelling and asset ownership of the households then we discuss health related information including health facility visited for the past year and average expenses related to health. We also discuss the access to social protection programs and awareness of the Magna Carta Law for PWD. Results from the regression model on school participation of PWD children concludes this section.

Table 8 below shows the distribution of sample children with disabilities in the two study sites, Mandaue City which is considered as urban and San Remigio, the rural study site in this survey. In the urban study site, development/psycho-social impaired (DPSI) children accounted for 27 percent of the total sample households with PWD children. Mobility (MI) and Hearing impaired (HI) children accounted for 25 percent each and 23 percent for the visually impaired (VI) children in Mandaue City. In the rural study site, visually impaired children accounted for 31 percent, 28 percent for mobility impaired children. In the same rural study site, development/psycho-social impaired children accounted for 26 percent while 16 percent are hearing impaired children.

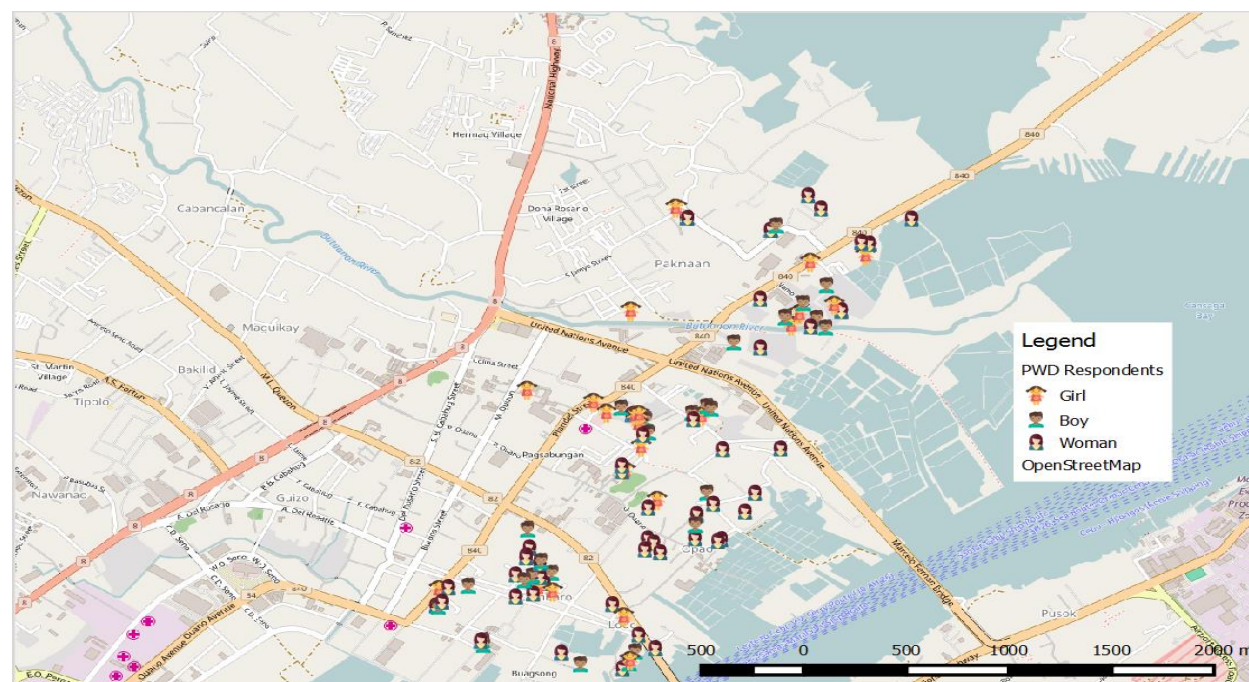


**Table 8.** Distribution of sample children with disabilities in Mandaue City and San Remigio, by type of impairment, 2016

Type of Impairment	Mandaue City		San Remigio		All sites
	n	%	n	%	Total
Mobility	13	25.00	15	28.30	28
Visual	12	23.08	16	30.19	28
Hearing	13	25.00	8	15.09	21
Development/ Psycho-social	14	26.92	14	26.42	28
Total	52	100.00	53	100.00	105

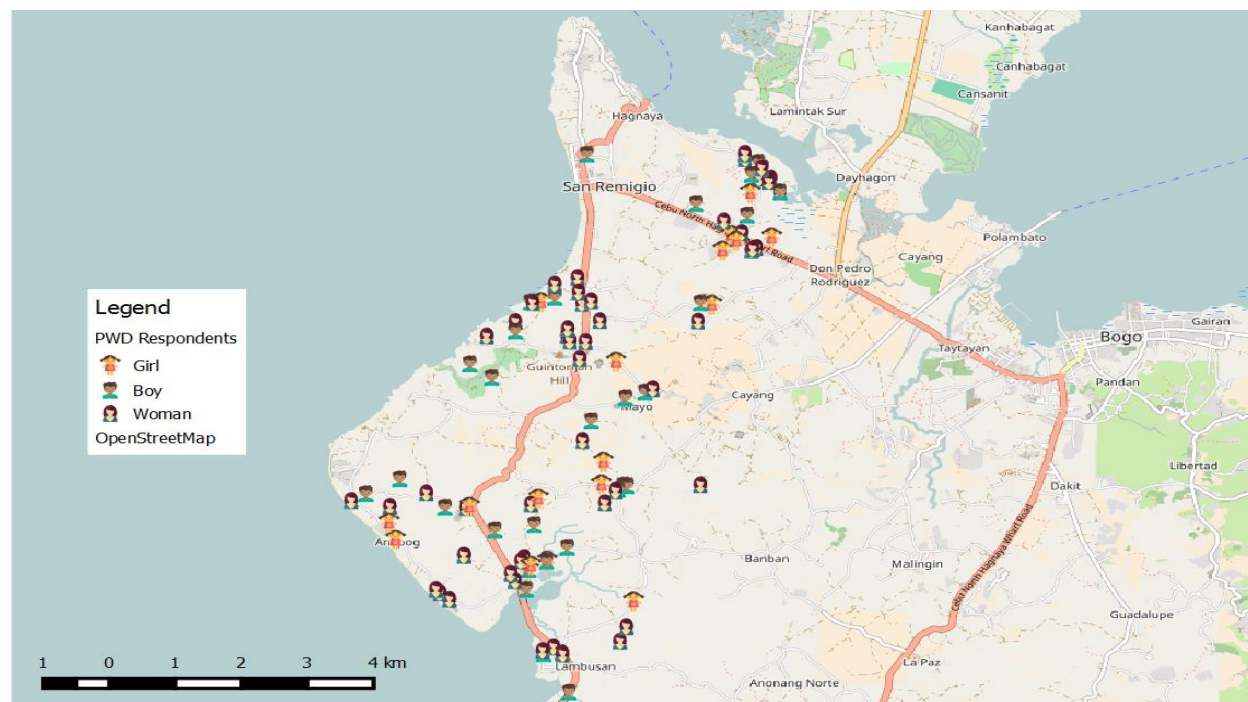
Source: 2016 PWD survey in Cebu, Philippines

**Figure 8.** Women and Children study participants in Mandaue City



Sources: Openstreetmap, PIDS-IDE PWD Survey, 2016

**Figure 9. Women and Children study participants in San Remigio**



Sources: Openstreetmap, PIDS-IDE PWD Survey, 2016

### ***Education of Children with Disability***

Education is critical to expanding the life prospects and opportunities. Children with disabilities' education is a way of socializing and learning the basics in life. Despite its importance, educational outcomes of children with disabilities remain to be relatively low. The table below shows that school participation rates among children with disabilities in both Mandaue City and San Remigio is lower than the for national and regional school participation rates of the non-PWD children. Sample children with disabilities in San Remigio have lower school participation rates compared to the sample PWD children in Mandaue city. Consistent with the national and regional trends, lower school participation rates are observed as age of the child progresses. School participation rate for children with disability is lower than those without disability for all age groups (Table below). In urban Mandaue city, school participation for children with disability is higher (75.1%) than compared to rural San Remigio (64.1%). In Mandaue city, the school participation for age group 16-18 is the lowest at 22 percent compared to other school age group. This is also true to San Remigio, the lowest school participation rate is 14.3 percent for school age group 16-18.

**Table 9.** School Participation Rates for Children with Disabilities

Age group	National	Region 7	Mandaue City	San Remigio
6-11	98.7	97.8	85.0	76.0
12-15	93.7	100.0	88.9	61.1
16-18	62.7	63.3	22.0	14.3
All ages	89.0	90.7	75.1	64.1

Source: 2016 PWD survey in Cebu, Philippines

Looking at the school participation rate among the sample PWD children<sup>15</sup> by age group in both study sites reveal that development/psycho-social impaired children have the lowest school participation (60.71%) compared to other sample children. In Mandaue City, the lowest school participation rate (64.29%) are for development/psycho-social impaired children slightly higher in San Remigio (57.14%). Among the type of impairments, hearing impaired children have the highest school participation in Mandaue City (91.67%). In San Remigio, mobility impaired children have the highest school participation rate (73.33%). It is also interesting to note that visual and hearing impaired children age 3 to 15 in Mandaue city have 100 percent school participation. The drop in school participation rate for age group 16 to 18 can also be observed to all sample children with disability.

**Table 10.** School participation rate of sample children with disability in Mandaue City and San Remigio, by type of impairment, 2016

Age group (years old)	Mandaue City				
	Mobility	Visual	Hearing	Dev/ Psycho	Total
6-11	85.71	100.00	100.00	71.43	85.71
12- 15	75.00	100.00	100.00	80.00	88.89
16- 18	-	25.00	50.00	-	22.22
Total	71.43	75.00	91.67	64.29	75.00
Age group (years old)	San Remigio				
	Mobility	Visual	Hearing	Dev/ Psycho	Total
6-11	83.33	75.00	66.67	75.00	76.00
12- 15	100.00	50.00	66.67	25.00	61.11
16- 18	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	14.29
Total	73.33	62.50	62.50	57.14	64.15
Age group (years old)	All sites				
	Mobility	Visual	Hearing	Dev/ Psycho	Total
6-11	84.62	81.82	85.71	73.33	80.43
12- 15	88.89	70.00	87.50	55.56	75.00
16- 18	0.00	20.00	50.00	0.00	18.75
Total	72.41	67.86	80.00	60.71	69.52

Source: 2016 PWD survey in Cebu, Philippines

We also examine the highest grade attained of the sample children with disability in Mandaue City and San Remigio (Tables 11 & 12 below). Generally, the education among sample children with

<sup>15</sup> Interchangeably use as children with disabilities

disability is delayed with highest grade attained at third year high school for ages 12 to 15 and 16 to 18 years old. Among the 16 to 18-year-old sample children with disability in Mandaue City, the highest grade attained is third year high school for the hearing impaired sample children. For the same age group, there are more visual impaired children who attained at least elementary education. It is also observed that there are sample mobility and hearing impaired children who have no formal education.

**Table 11.** Proportion of sample children with disability in Mandaue City, by type of impairment, by age group and by grade(s) attained, 2016

Age group	Mobility	Visual	Hearing	Dev/ Psycho	Total
<b>3-5 years old</b>					
Day Care	50.00	-	50.00	-	100
Total	66.67	-	33.33	-	100
<b>6-11 years old</b>					
SPED Elem.	-	-	-	100.00	100
Kinder/Prep.	50.00	-	-	50.00	100
Grade 1	100.00	-	-	-	100
Grade 2	-	20.00	60.00	20.00	100
Grade 3	-	50.00	50.00	-	100
Grade 4	80.00	-	-	20.00	100
Grade 5	-	100.00	-	-	100
ALS Elem	-	-	-	100.00	100
Total	33.33	14.29	19.05	33.33	100
<b>12- 15 years old</b>					
No formal educ.	100.00	-	-	-	100
SPED Elem.	-	-	-	100.00	100
Grade 1	-	100.00	-	-	100
Grade 3	100.00	-	-	-	100
Grade 5	33.33	-	33.33	33.33	100
Grade 6	-	50.00	50.00	-	100
1st Year HS	-	-	50.00	50.00	100
2nd Year HS	33.33	33.33	33.33	-	100
3rd Year HS	-	100.00	-	-	100
Total	22.22	22.22	27.78	27.78	100
<b>16- 18 years old</b>					
No formal educ.	50.00	-	50.00	-	100
SPED Elem.	-	33.33	-	66.67	100
Grade 1	-	100.00	-	-	100
Grade 4	-	100.00	-	-	100
Grade 5	-	100.00	-	-	100
2nd Year HS	-	-	100.00	-	100
3rd Year HS	-	-	100.00	-	100
Total	10.00	40.00	30.00	20.00	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26.92</b>	<b>21.15</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>26.92</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: 2016 PWD survey in Cebu, Philippines

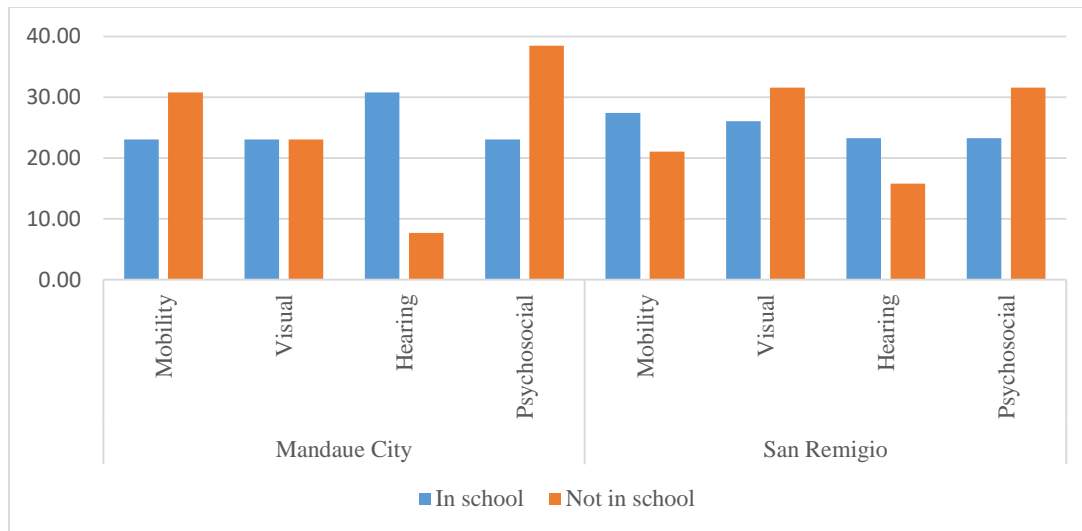
In San Remigio, the highest grade attained was fourth year high school for hearing impaired children age 16 to 18 years old. However, there are also sample mobility, hearing and psycho-social impaired children in the same age bracket who have no formal education. Among the sample PWD children ages 6 to 11, highest grade attained was grade five. There are also sample visual and development/psychosocial impaired children who have no formal education.

**Table 12.** Proportion of sample children with disability in San Remigio, by type of impairment, by age group and by grade(s) attained, 2016

Age Group	Mobility	Visual	Hearing	Dev/ Psycho	Total
<b>3-5 years old</b>					
Day Care	100.00	-	-	-	100
Kinder/Prep	-	50.00	-	50.00	100
Total	33.33	33.33	-	33.33	100
<b>6-11 years old</b>					
No formal educ.	-	66.67	-	33.33	100
SPED Elem.	-	-	50.00	50.00	100
Day Care	-	50.00	-	50.00	100
Kinder/Prep.	-	-	-	100.00	100
Grade 1	50.00	-	-	50.00	100
Grade 2	100.00	-	-	-	100
Grade 3	50.00	50.00	-	-	100
Grade 4	33.33	66.67	-	-	100
Grade 5	25.00	50.00	25.00	-	100
Total	24.00	32.00	12.00	32.00	100
<b>12- 15 years old</b>					
No formal educ.	-	-	25.00	75.00	100
SPED Elem.	-	-	-	100.00	100
Grade 4	100.00	-	-	-	100
Grade 5	-	100.00	-	-	100
Grade 6	-	66.67	33.33	-	100
1st Year HS	25.00	50.00	25.00	-	100
2nd Year HS	100.00	-	-	-	100
Total	27.78	33.33	16.67	22.22	100
<b>16- 18 years old</b>					
No formal educ.	50.00	-	25.00	25.00	100
Grade 2	100.00	-	-	-	100
Grade 5	-	100.00	-	-	100
4th Year HS	-	-	100.00	-	100
Total	42.86	14.29	28.57	14.29	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28.30</b>	<b>30.19</b>	<b>15.09</b>	<b>26.42</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: 2016 PWD survey in Cebu, Philippines

**Figure 10.** Proportion of sample children with disability who are currently in school, by type of impairment, by LGU, 2016

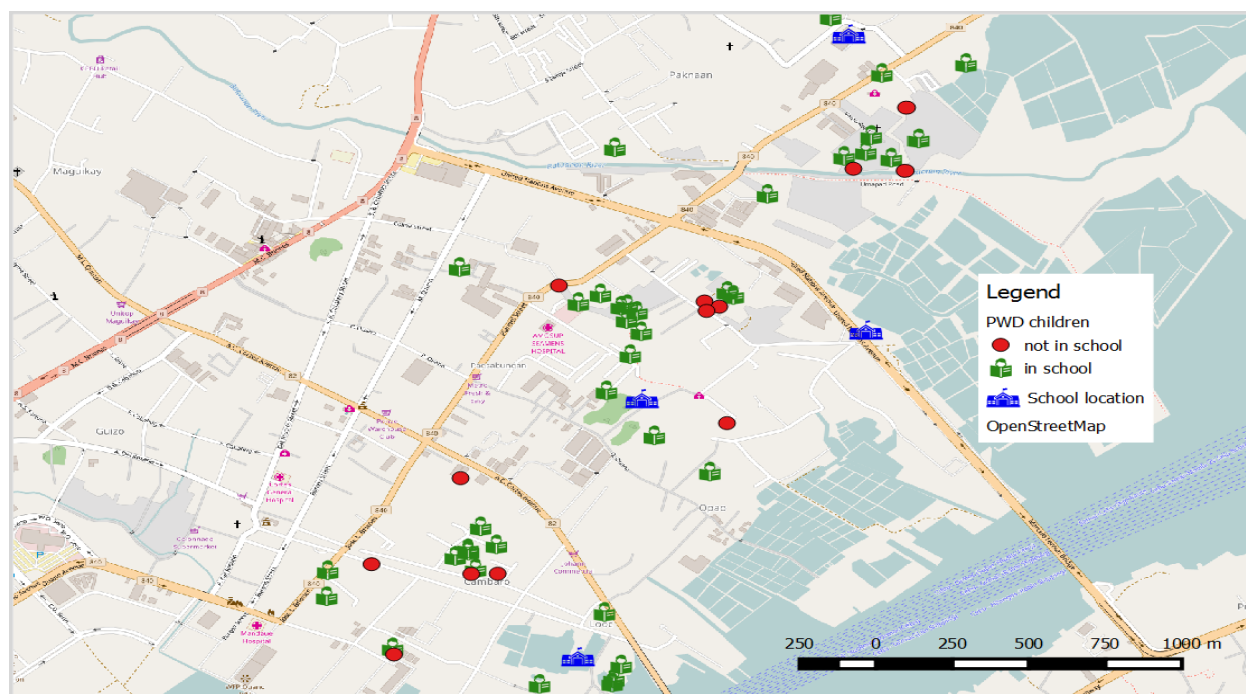


Source of basic data: 2016 PWD survey in Cebu, Philippines

Figure above shows the proportion of sample children with disability who are currently in school and who stop attending school in both study sites. For both study sites, sample psychosocial and development impaired children are those not attending school, 38.46 percent in Mandaue City while 31.58 percent in San Remigio. There is more mobility impaired sample children in Mandaue City who are not attending school (30.77%), than those currently attending school (23.08%). In the same study site, there more hearing impaired children who are currently in school (30.77%) compared to those who not in school (7.69%). In San Remigio, generally there are more mobility and hearing impaired children who are currently in school than those who are not school. For the sample mobility impaired children, 32.35 percent are in school while 21.05 percent are not attending school. For the sample hearing impaired children, more are currently attending school (23.29%) than those who are not attending school (15.79%). Putting in a map those sample children with disability who are in school and those who are not in school are provided in Figures 11 and 12 below.

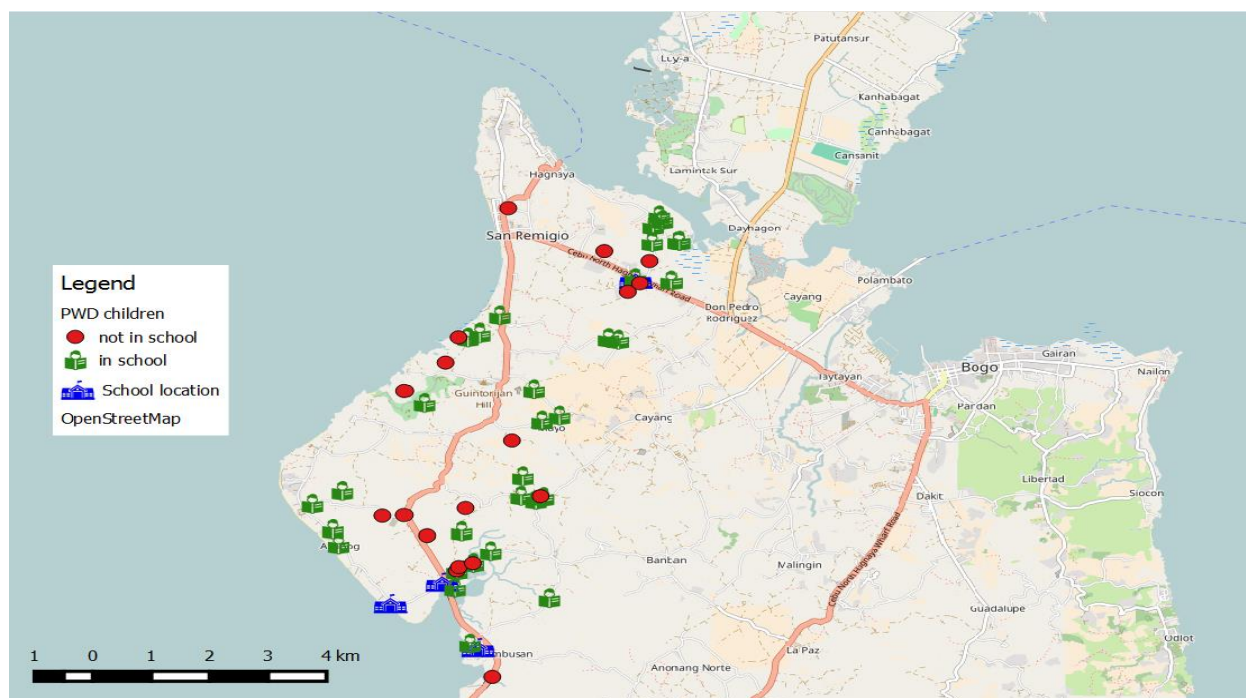


**Figure 11.** PWD children in-school & not attending school in Mandaue City, Cebu, Philippines



Sources: Openstreetmap, PIDS-IDE PWD Survey, 2016

**Figure 12.** PWD children in-school & not attending school in San Remigio, Cebu, Philippines



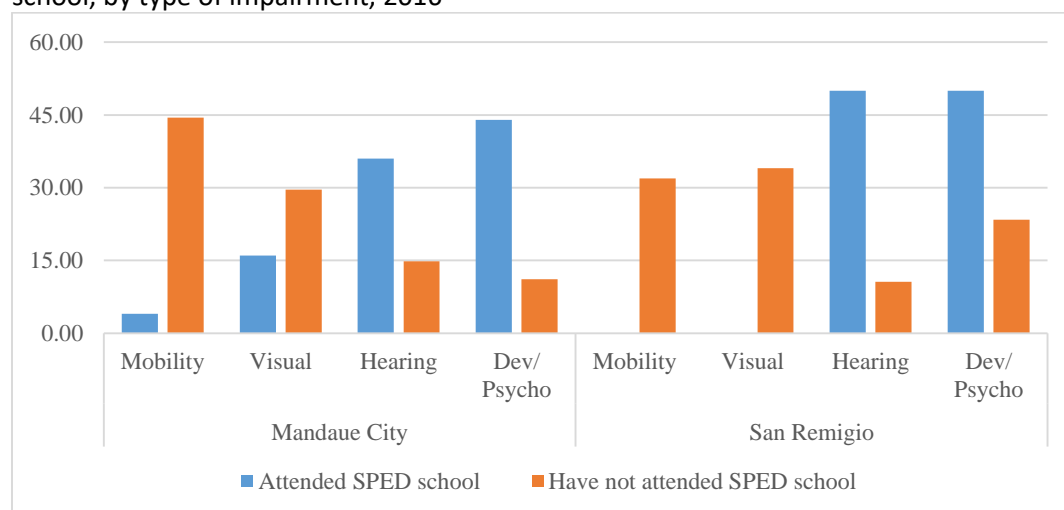
Sources: Openstreetmap, PIDS-IDE PWD Survey, 2016

**Table 13.** Proportion of children with disability whose households are Pantawid beneficiaries, currently in school, 2016

LGU	In school			Not in school		
	Beneficiary	Non beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary	Non beneficiary	Total
Mandaue City						
Mobility	22.22	77.78	100	25.00	75.00	100
Visual	11.11	88.89	100	33.33	66.67	100
Hearing	16.67	83.33	100	-	100.00	100
Psychosocial	11.11	88.89	100	40.00	60.00	100
Total	15.38	84.62	100	30.77	69.23	100
San Remigio						
Mobility	36.36	63.64	100	25.00	75.00	100
Visual	60.00	40.00	100	33.33	66.67	100
Hearing	60.00	40.00	100	-	100.00	100
Psychosocial	62.50	37.50	100	66.67	33.33	100
Total	52.94	47.06	100	36.84	63.16	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34.16</b>	<b>65.84</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>33.81</b>	<b>66.19</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: 2016 PWD survey in Cebu, Philippines

Another point of interest is whether some of the sample households with PWD children are beneficiaries of the Conditional Cash Transfer Program or *Pantawid* beneficiaries of the government. It can be said that in Mandaue City, among all sample children who are in school about 15.38 percent are beneficiaries of Pantawid. On the other hand, 30.77 percent are beneficiary households but the PWD children are not in school. In San Remigio, 52.94 percent of the sample households with PWD children are in school while only 36.84 percent of households with PWD children are not in school. Apparently, for non-beneficiary households, 63.16 percent are not in school in San Remigio and 69.23 percent of the same households in Mandaue City are not in school.

**Figure 13.** Proportion of children with disability in Mandaue City and San Remigio, attended SPED school, by type of impairment, 2016

Source of basic data: 2016 PWD survey in Cebu, Philippines



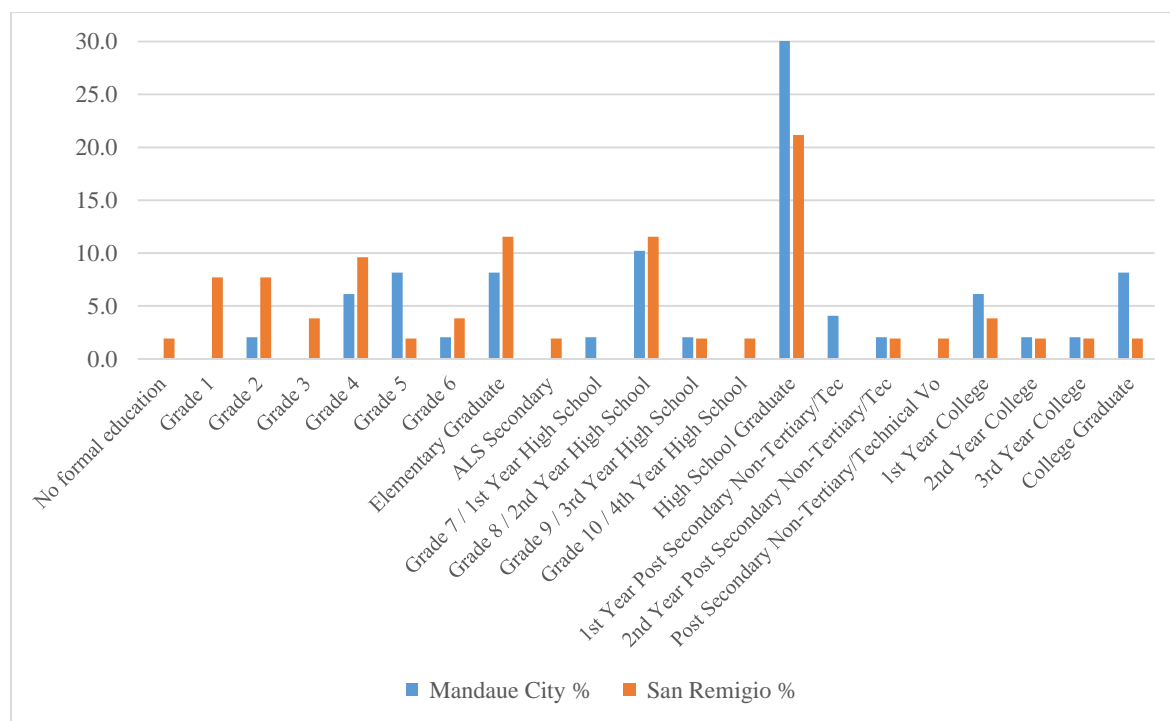
Figure above shows the proportion of children in Mandaue City and San Remigio who have attended Special Education School. In Mandaue City, 44 percent of the sample development/psychosocial impaired children have attended SPED school, followed by hearing impaired children (36%) and 16 percent of the visual impaired children have attended SPED school. The same can be said in San Remigio, sample hearing and development/psychosocial impaired children have attended SPED school. The SPED school in San Remigio is relatively new which was opened in 2014 and still under the local government unit. The SPED school caters mostly to hearing impaired children in the municipality.

### ***Education of the PWD Child's Father and Mother, Immediate elder and Younger sibling***

The level of education of the parents may give us insights on the value of education within the households. Development theorist posits that the more educated the parents, the more likely that children also finished schooling. Thus, we infer that the level of education of parents is likely a determinant in the household's level of income and thus the over-all well-being of the children.

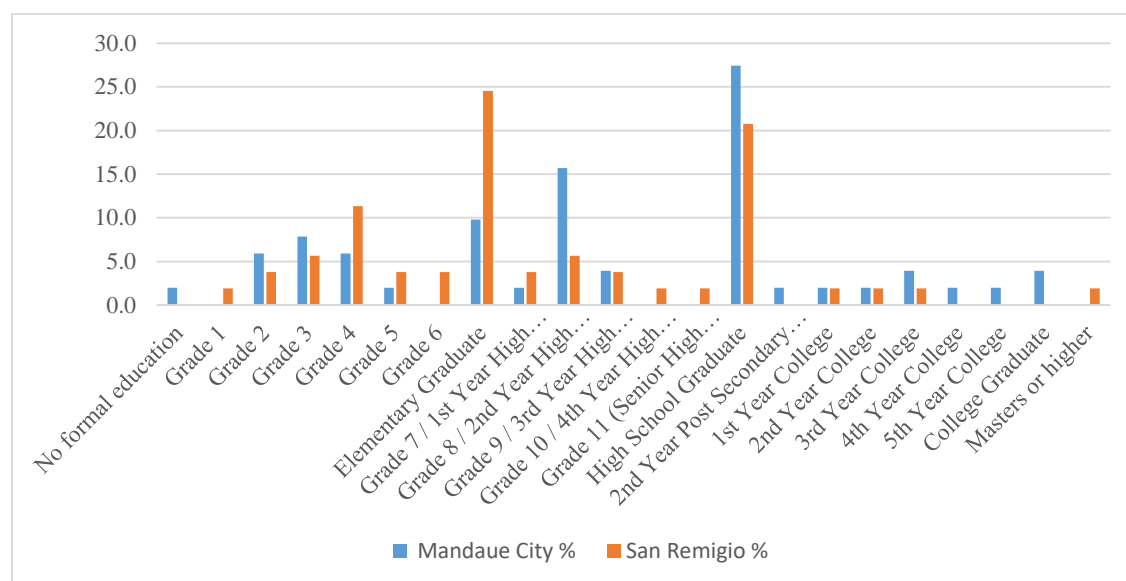
The father of the sample children with disability are mostly high school graduate, 34.7 percent in Mandaue City while 21.2 percent in San Remigio. Notably, 8.2 percent of the fathers of the PWD children in Mandaue City are college graduates. In San Remigio, 11.5 percent are elementary graduates and the same percentage finished second year high school. Mothers' of the sample children with disability also finished high school education, 27.5 percent in Mandaue City while 20.8 percent in San Remigio. However, most of the mothers' of PWD children in San Remigio obtained elementary education (24.5%). About 4 percent of the mothers in Mandaue City obtained a college degree while only one percent San Remigio finished the same degree.

**Figure 14.** Highest grade completed of the sample PWD child's father



Source of basic data: 2016 PWD survey in Cebu, Philippine

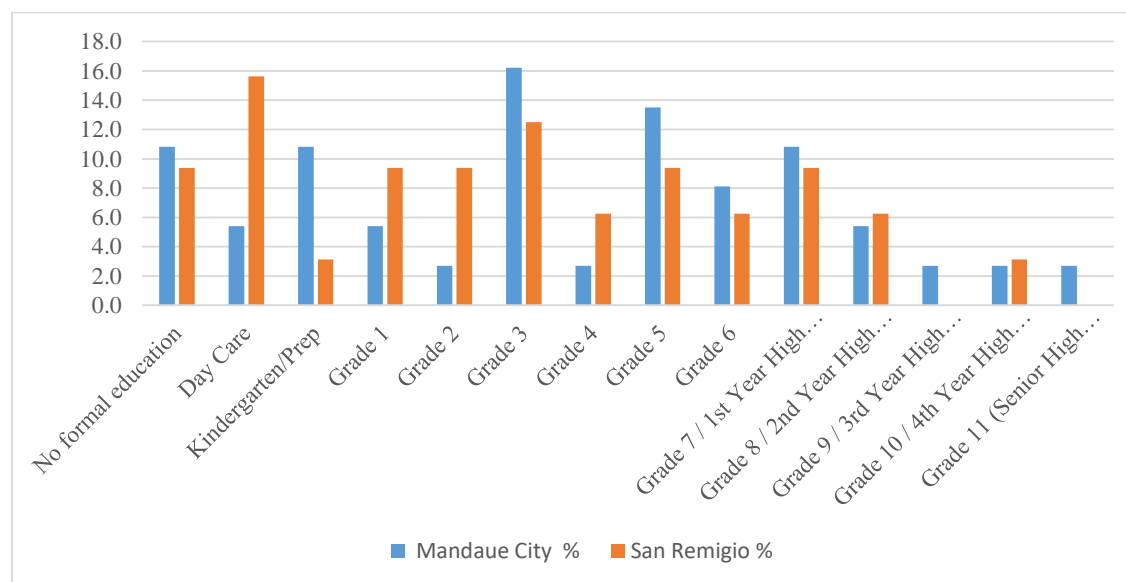
**Figure 15.** Highest grade completed of the sample PWD child's mother



Source of basic data: 2016 PWD survey in Cebu, Philippines

In Mandaue City, most of the younger siblings of the PWD child are in grade three (16%), and about 14 percent are in grade five. About 11 percent are kindergarten and preparatory school, no formal education and first year high school. In San Remigio, most of the younger siblings of the PWD child are still in day care (16%). Some are grade 3 (12.5%).

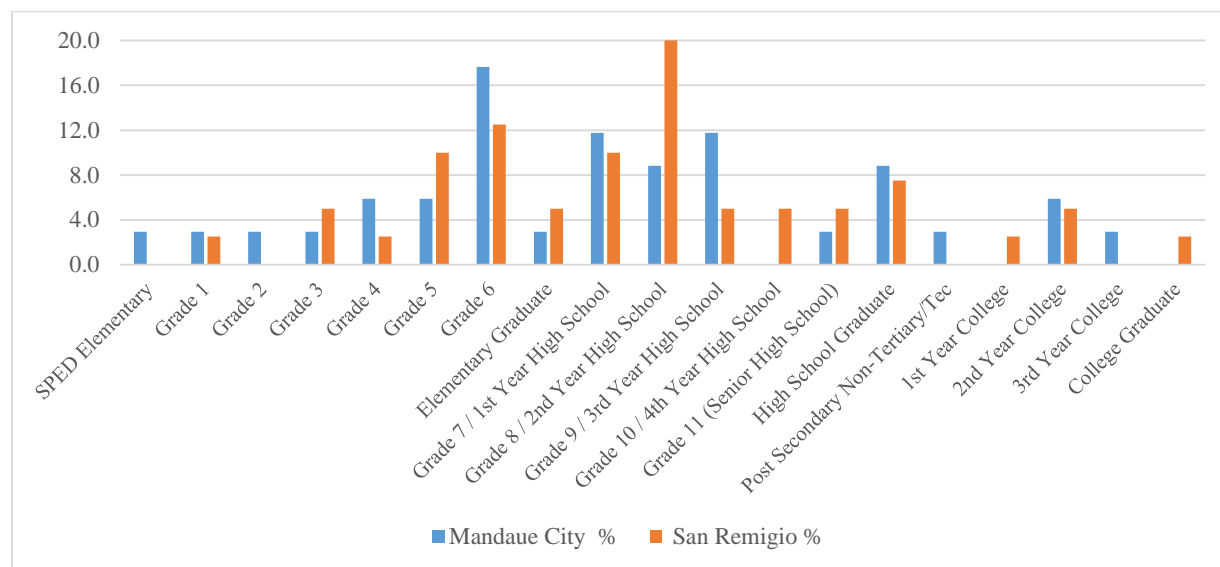
**Figure 16.** Highest grade completed of the sample PWD child's younger sibling



Source of basic data: 2016 PWD survey in Cebu, Philippines

In Mandaue City, PWD child's elder siblings are in grade 6 (17%) while about 20 percent are second year high school in San Remigio. About 12 percent are in first and third year high school in Mandaue City. In San Remigio, 13 percent are grade six and 10 percent are in grade five and first year high school.

**Figure 17.** Highest grade completed of the sample PWD child's elder sibling



Source of basic data: 2016 PWD survey in Cebu, Philippines

### **Household Characteristics**

We shed light on how the households with children disabilities live by describing their income, housing, and assets. Sample households having children with disabilities in our survey sites have lower average income as compared to the average income of households in Cebu (124,466.09 PhP), Mandaue city (109,549.40 PhP) while in San Remigio (58,676.67 PhP).

**Table 14.** Average household income, in Pesos

Philippines	124,366.03
Central Visayas	112,277.45
Cebu	124,466.09
Mandaue City	109,549.40
San Remigio	58,676.67

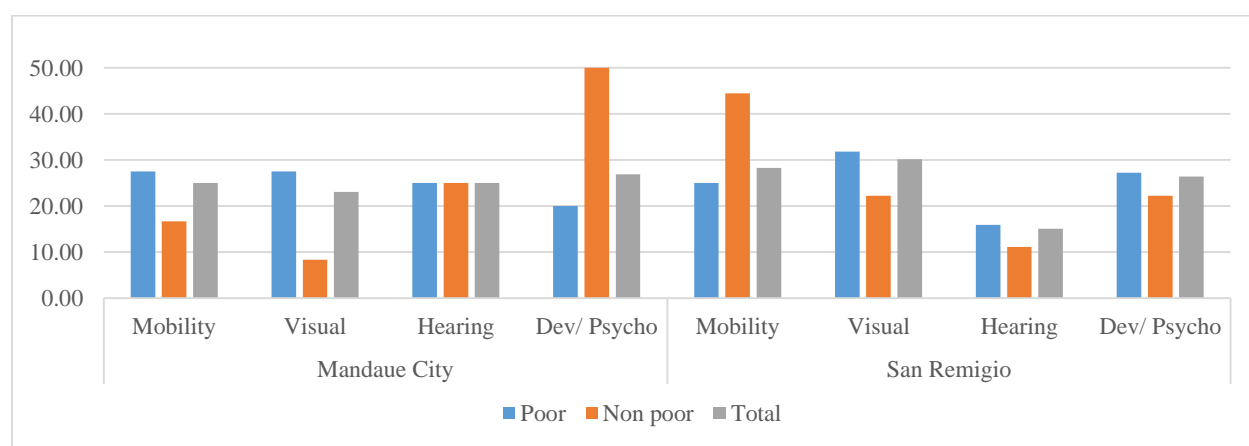
Notes: Figures for the Philippines, Central Visayas and Cebu were obtained from APIS 2014 while Mandaue City and San Remigio figures are from PIDS-IDE PWD survey last June- July 2016.

**Table 15.** Average income of households with children with disability, in Pesos, 2016

Impairment	Mandaue City	San Remigio	Total
Mobility	99,279.16	81,239.27	89,614.93
Visual	67,283.75	59,695.50	62,947.61
Hearing	86,655.84	27,339.05	64,058.97
Dev/Psychosocial	176,572.40	51,245.29	113,908.90
Total	109,549.50	58,676.67	83,870.84

Source: 2016 PWD survey in Cebu, Philippines

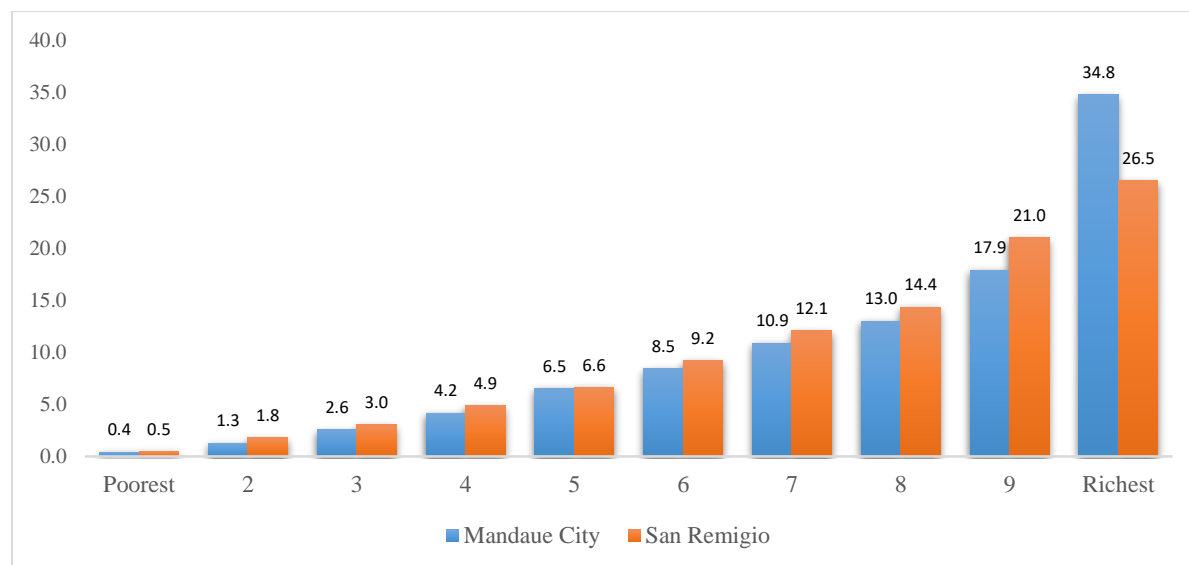
Table 15 above disaggregates the average household income in both study sites. It can be observed that, sample households with Development/ Psycho-social impaired children have the highest average income (176,572 PhP) in Mandaue City. In San Remigio, sample households with Mobility impaired children have the highest average income (81,239.27 PhP). On the other hand, sample households with visual impaired children in Mandaue City have the lowest average income (67,283.75 PhP) and households with hearing impaired children are the lowest in San Remigio (27,339.05 PhP).

**Figure 18.** Proportion of households with PWD children who are poor, by LGU, 2016

Source of basic data: 2016 PWD survey in Cebu, Philippines

Figure 18 above shows the proportion of sample households in both study areas whose income is below the poverty threshold at 22,976.58 pesos for urban and 21,909.43 for rural households. It can be said that in urban Mandaue City, about 50 percent of the sample households with development/psycho-social impaired children are non-poor. About 28 percent of the households with mobility and visual impaired children are considered poor in Mandaue City. In rural San Remigio, about 42 percent of the sample households with mobility impaired children are non-poor. There are more poor in the sample households with visual, hearing, and development/psycho-social impaired children in San Remigio.

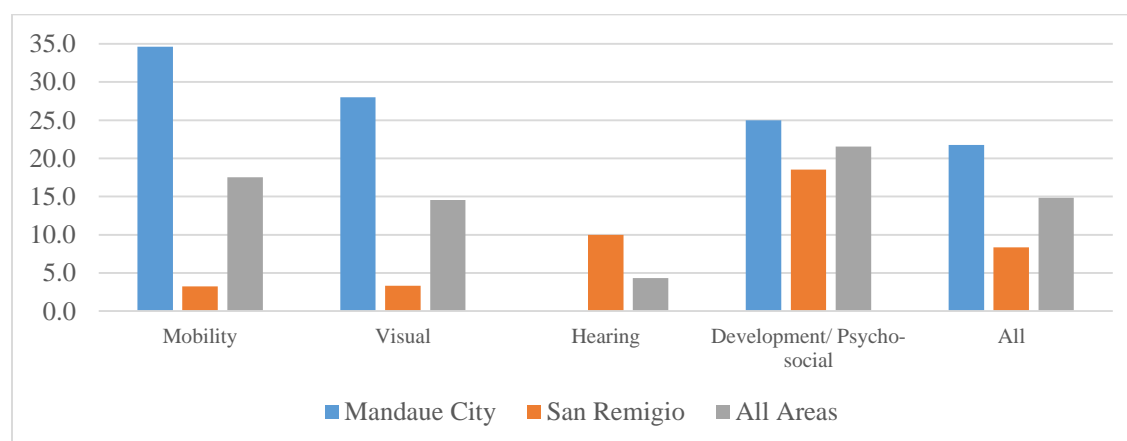
**Figure 19.** Proportion of average total annual income of households with PWD children, by decile, 2016



Source of basic data: 2016 PWD survey in Cebu, Philippines

Figure 19 above indicates that the bottom 10 percent of the sample households with PWD children accounted only for 0.4 and 0.5 percent share as compared to the richest whose share of the total average income is 34.8 percent in Mandaue City and 26.5 percent in San Remigio. The bottom 40 percent of the sample households' share accounted only for 8.4 percent in San Remigio and 10.2 percent in Mandaue City. Over-all, the ratio of the households containing the top 50 percent to the bottom 50 percent of the sample households is 70 percent in Mandaue City and 66.3 percent in San Remigio.

**Figure 20.** Proportion of households living in informal settlement, all areas

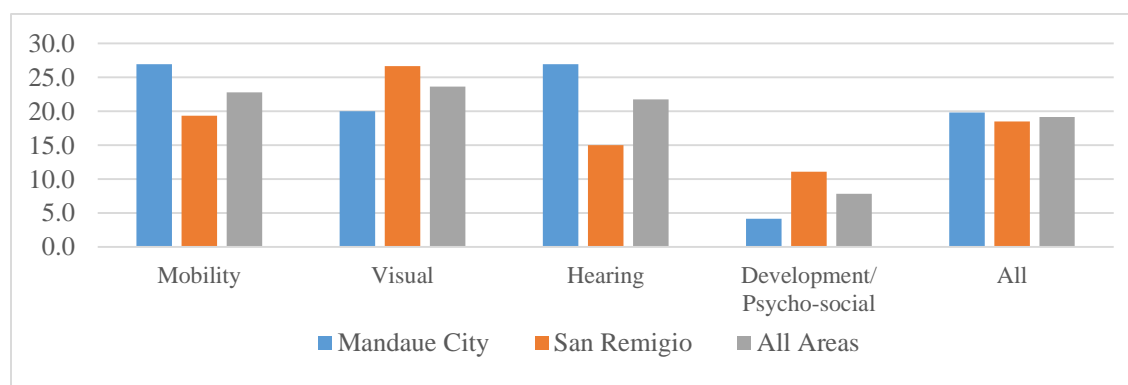


Source of basic data: 2016 PWD survey in Cebu, Philippines

Figure 20 above shows that there more sample households with PWD children in Mandaue City (22%) who can be considered living in informal settlements. In San Remigio, only about seven percent of the sample households are living as informal settlers. Among the different sample households, mobility impaired households in Mandaue City have the highest proportion of sample households (34%) who are considered as informal settlers. In the same study site, about 27 percent of the sample households with visual impaired household are also considered informal settlers and none of the sample households with hearing impaired children are considered informal settlers. In San Remigio, the highest proportion of sample households who are considered informal settlers are those with development/psycho-social impaired children, 18 percent.

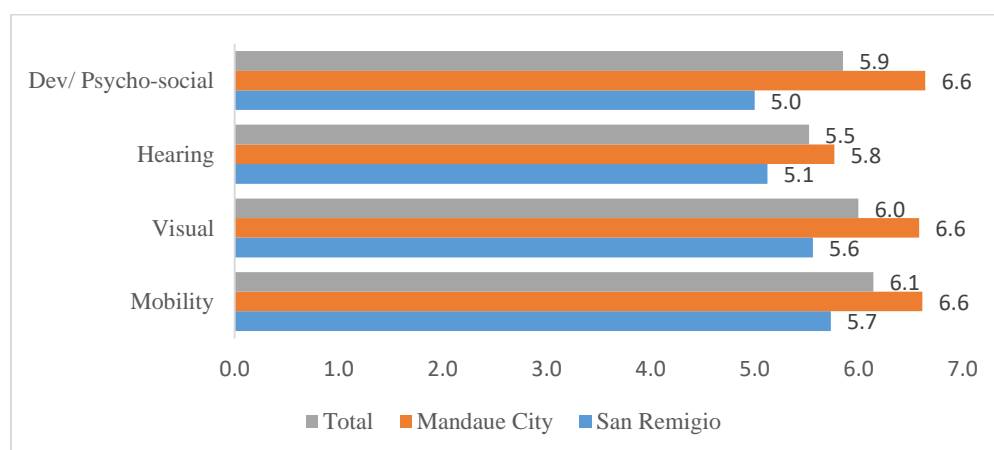
In Mandaue City, households with mobility (27%) and hearing (26%) impaired children live mostly in makeshift housing. While in San Remigio, the makeshift housing is common among households with visually (26%) impaired children. Over-all, it appears that households with development/psycho-social impaired children are better-off in terms of housing materials both in Mandaue City and San Remigio.

**Figure 21.** Proportion of households living in makeshift housing, all areas



Source of basic data: 2016 PWD survey in Cebu, Philippines

**Figure 22.** Average Household Size in Mandaue City and San Remigio

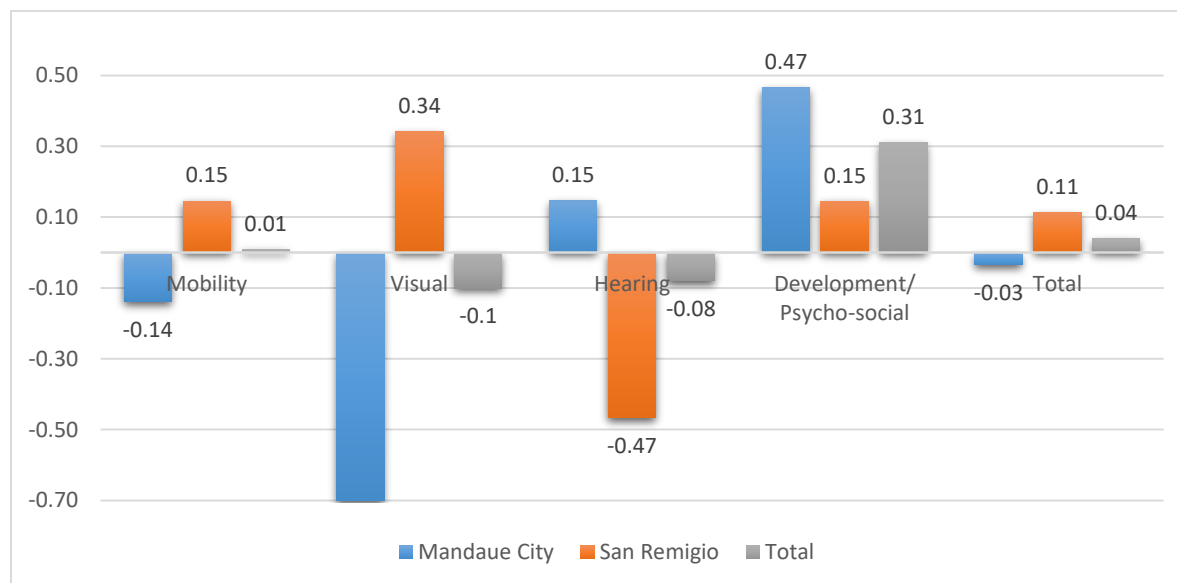


Source of basic data: 2016 PWD survey in Cebu, Philippines

In terms of household size, sample households in Mandaue City have an average of six members in the family compared to households in San Remigio with average of five members. Among the type of households, development/psycho-social, visual, and mobility impaired sample households in Mandaue City have 6.6 members while 5, 5.6, and 5.7 members respectively in San Remigio (figure).

The survey also asked questions with regard to asset ownership of the sample households having children with disability. Having these assets are indicators of household income and economic well-being of the family.

**Figure 23.** Asset index of households with PWD child



Source of basic data: 2016 PWD survey in Cebu, Philippines

## VI. Conclusions and Some Policy Implications

The challenge to keep the PWD children in school remains to be a major issue in many developing countries. The issue of inclusive education that caters to different needs of learners has always been in the agenda of development in the Philippines. Thus, devising ways so that PWD children can attend school regularly until they learn the basic skills needed to maximized their potentials must also be part in any development agenda. Perhaps the provision of a transport or mobile SPED school especially in rural areas where SPED schools are only limited in some central schools will be of great help to families with PWD children. The provision of a such will at least cater to those children with disabilities who do not have access to a SPED school. Pushing for more awareness to make schools not just “child friendly” but also “PWD friendly”. Thus, more programs and activities that increase awareness of the presence of pupils/students with special needs can also implemented in schools where are there are PWD children.

The Department of Education (DepEd) has been doing in service trainings for teachers during summer. It is also suggested that training programs specific to handle pupils/students with special needs shall be incorporated or strengthen as part of the retooling for teachers. With these trainings and

programs, teachers who are handling the mainstream pupils or students can also be tapped to handle special education classes. Another possible realignment is to enhance the Alternative Learning System (ALS) or mobile teacher program of DepEd and putting up more SPED facilities that caters all type of disabilities. Potentially, the LGUs can be tapped for partnership in the provision regular venues for ALS teachers to handle their classes. With all those possible programs, better learning environment for children with disabilities becomes possible.

Another possible program that DepEd and perhaps in partnership with Department of Health (DOH), Department of Social Welfare and Development- Area Vocational Training Center (DSWD-AVRC), and with the help of TESDA is to develop learning modules on basic health care and entrepreneurial skills. These can be provided to PWDs who have acquired basic skills for employment. Added to that is the possibility that these modules can also be designed for parents/guardians of PWD children to enhance their livelihood opportunities.

Advocating and making sure that assistive devices (*wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, canes, crutches, prosthetic devices, orthotic devices, hearing aids, computer or electrical assistive devices, voice recognition programs, screen readers, and screen enlargement applications, automatic page-turners, book holders, and adapted pencil grips*) given to PWDs should match their needs. There are cases wherein some of these assistive devices are not used because it does not suit the needs of the PWD beneficiaries.

Lastly, accessibility to basic facilities, infrastructures and transportation remains a major challenge to persons with disabilities. Status and compliance to Republic Act No. 10070 or the Magna Carta for Disabled Person should be look into. Along this line, regular review should be done by National Council for Disability Affairs.

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