

Presence of Others during the Interview

Josefina Mar¹, Gerardo Sandoval¹, Linda Luz Guerrero¹

¹Social Weather Stations (SWS)

In the Philippines, Social Weather Stations (SWS, www.sws.org.ph), a private, non-stock, non-profit and non-partisan social research institution regularly conducts omnibus national surveys of the general Filipino public. Initially done semi-annually from 1986 and quarterly since 1992, these nationally representative surveys aim to generate pertinent, accurate, timely and credible data on social, political and economic issues of contemporary importance.

In nearly all of its surveys, SWS uses the face-to-face paper and pencil interview mode. Field interviewers receive standard training on fieldwork procedures and questionnaire implementation, and part of the training is how to deal with different types of respondents and strategies on how to conduct the interviews privately and confidentially. Given the household set-up, however, there are instances when other household members may be present during the interview with the randomly selected respondent. In the SWS surveys, such information are also gathered by the interviewer and recorded under the interviewer's report.

Covering the quarterly nationwide surveys of SWS from 2013-2018, this paper examines the time-series results on presence of others during the interview, the specific household members present and whether the presence of others affects the respondent's answer on rating of governance, particularly on satisfaction rating of the Philippine president. Results will also be analyzed by demographic variables such as urban-rural residence, socio-economic class, sex, age and educational attainment of respondents.