

How migration improve the education of migrant's children in Philippines



[Diploma of Migrant's children in Philippines](#)
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Boyet was only 26-years old when he decided to help his family by migrating from the Philippines to Italy, leaving behind his wife and their five children. When Boyet and his wife Dimalanta made this choice together, their hope was to provide a good education for their sons and daughters and help increase their chances for a better life.

Boyet was born in 1951 in a poor city in the Ilocos region of the Philippines. Before marrying he lived on his family's farm, taking care of rice production. When they got married, Boyet and Dimalanta opened a small store, which, for a long time, was their only source of income.

However, it would have been impossible to pay school tuition fees for five children from the income generated by the store alone. Boyet's decision to go to Italy was supported by his brother-in-law and his sister: "They told me if I would go abroad I could send my children to school. They heard about Italy from our neighbors who have a son there. Through his monthly remittances, they bought a small house in two years." Following the same difficult path of many other Filipino men and women, Boyet concluded that migrating would be the best opportunity to alleviate the poverty of his family. "When I left the Philippines I didn't have any plans. I only thought that if I would send money I could put my son and my four daughters through nursing school. I didn't know how long I wanted to stay," he told UN-INSTRAW.

In 1977, Boyet arrived in Rome determined to find a job. After two weeks he found work as a domestic helper and he seemed happy with his occupation. "My employer is a politician. He is a very accommodating and generous person. When I have an economic problem and I need money he always offers me his help."

As he pointed out, he is responsible for almost all the household expenses and fees. "I am still the head of the household. My wife tells me how is it going in our family and she informs me about our kids and their studies. When I come back to the Philippines twice a year, I can see where my earnings go. My wife knows how to save and invest money."

With the income from remittances, Boyet and Dimalanta's five children have been able to focus on their studies and do not have to work. "My one son and my four daughters have now graduated. I always said to them to study very hard because that is the only inheritance I can give them, and they listened to me."

Boyet hopes the remittances that he sends will greatly contribute towards securing better opportunities for his family: "I send sometimes €300, €400 or €500 each month and sometimes also €800. This money is for day-to-day expenses, transportation, food, tuition and hospital fees." He also contributes to helping his community back home by giving donations to poor children.

Both women and men that receive remittances from Italy and migrants that send money back to Philippines choose to invest the majority of these remittances in education, consumer goods, assets or property, although in varying proportions. In this way, remittances play an important role in allowing access to education and raising the opportunity for future employment not necessarily related to agriculture.

This interview was conducted as a part of the UN-INSTRAW/IFAD/FWC research study: "Gender, Remittances and Local Rural Development: The case of Filipino migration to Italy" (UN-INSTRAW, 2008).