

Engels in Manila: The Conditions of the Urban Bottom and the Packaged Food Question.

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Outline

I. Engels in Manila

II. The Urban Bottom (UB)

III. The Packaged Food* Question
**Includes canned and bottled.*

IV. *Versus* the Alienation of UB
populations: New types of
interventions are need it.

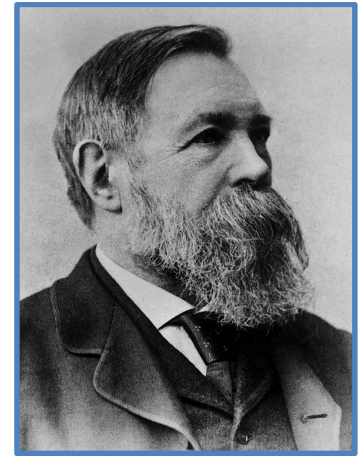
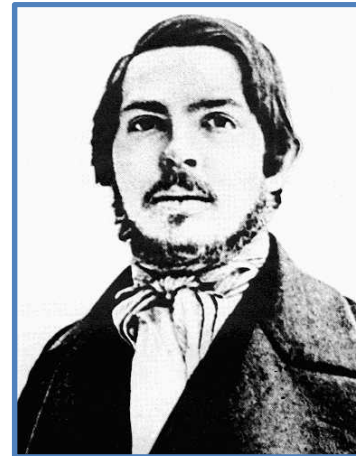
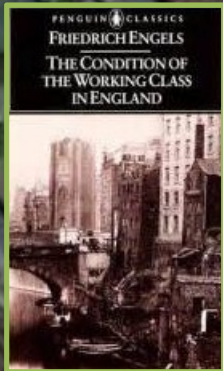
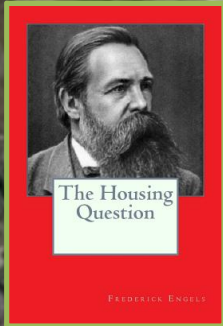


Photo Credit: Author, 2016

Tatalon: 20% population economically depressed

Kaliraya squatter



Kubo and Meralco-line squatters (Tatalon)

San Juan River



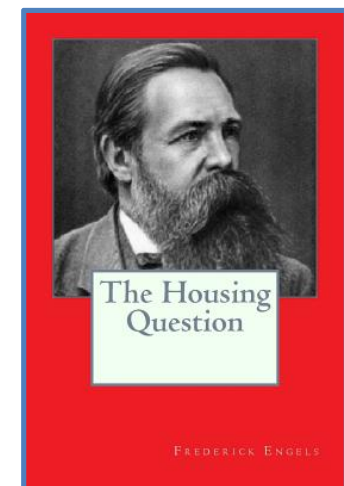
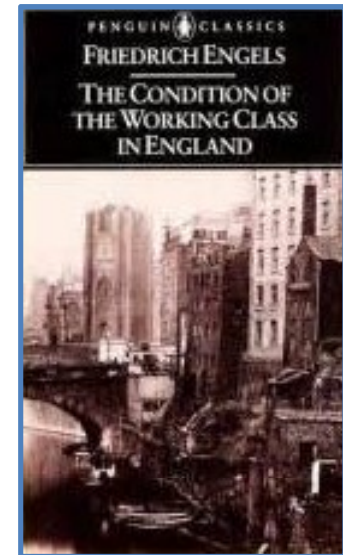
Source: Imagen from Google maps

Engels in Manila

- The Pauper, Lumpen Proletariat, and Proletariat.
- **The slum food question:** Slums in Manchester and London.

*‘The **potatoes** which the workers buy are usually **poor**, the **vegetables wilted**, the **cheese old** and of poor quality, the **bacon rancid**, the **meat lean**, tough, taken from old, often **diseased**, **cattle**, or such as have died a natural death, and not fresh even then, **often half decayed**’
(Engels, 1987 [1845]: 88).*

- **Lack of means of subsistence**, ground for **revolutionary** movements
- **The housing question.** Property rights do not solve the problem and sleeps revolutionary actions.



Engels in Manila

No surprise

- The development of productive forces during the 20th century
- Overcrowded houses, prostitution, illegal activities Insanitation, diseases, fires, floods, etc.
- Level of violence (brutality) and drugs addiction.
- Outsiders' interventions based on religious interests.



Little surprise

- Size of the mega-cities and its health & environmental impact
- Politicians such as Estrada and Duterte
- Human traffic, organs traffic, etc.

Surprise (**Higher intellectual and theoretical curiosity**)

- Few rural immigrants experienced a regular job in a factory.
- The use of electric devices in slums and cheap slum internet services (Piso net, 1 Philippine Peso –PhP- 5 minutes of Internet)
- Indian microfinance specialists in Manila (Mumbai agents)
- **The use and increasing exchange and consumption of affordable Corporate Packaged Food.**

The Packaged Food Question

What is the importance of Corporate Packaged Food (CPF)* in contemporary slums?

How CPF is transforming the social relations of contemporary slum populations?

What are the effects of CPF in the political economy of contemporary Slums?

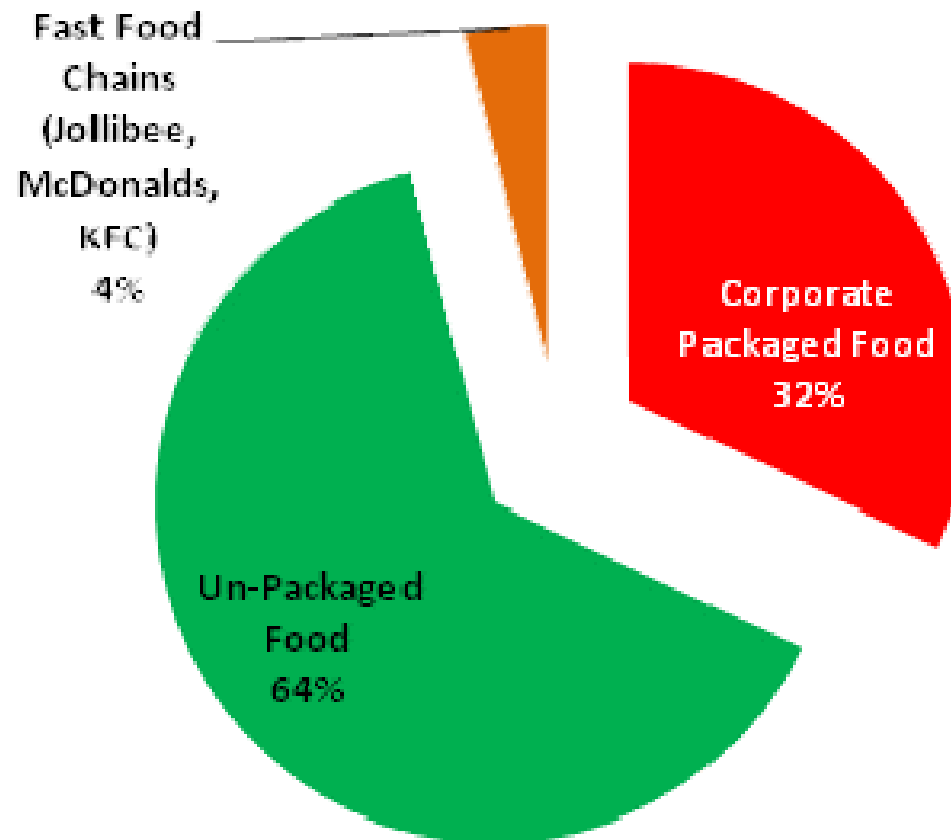
*Noodles
Snacks
Candies
Biscuits

Powder Coffee
Powder &
Liquid Milk
Powder cacao

Soft drinks
Powder juices
Yogurts,
Yakult and
Teas (if available)

Seasonings,
Sauces & Vinegars
Canned food
Packaged meats

Food consumption* in Metro-Manila Slum populations (% of total food intake)



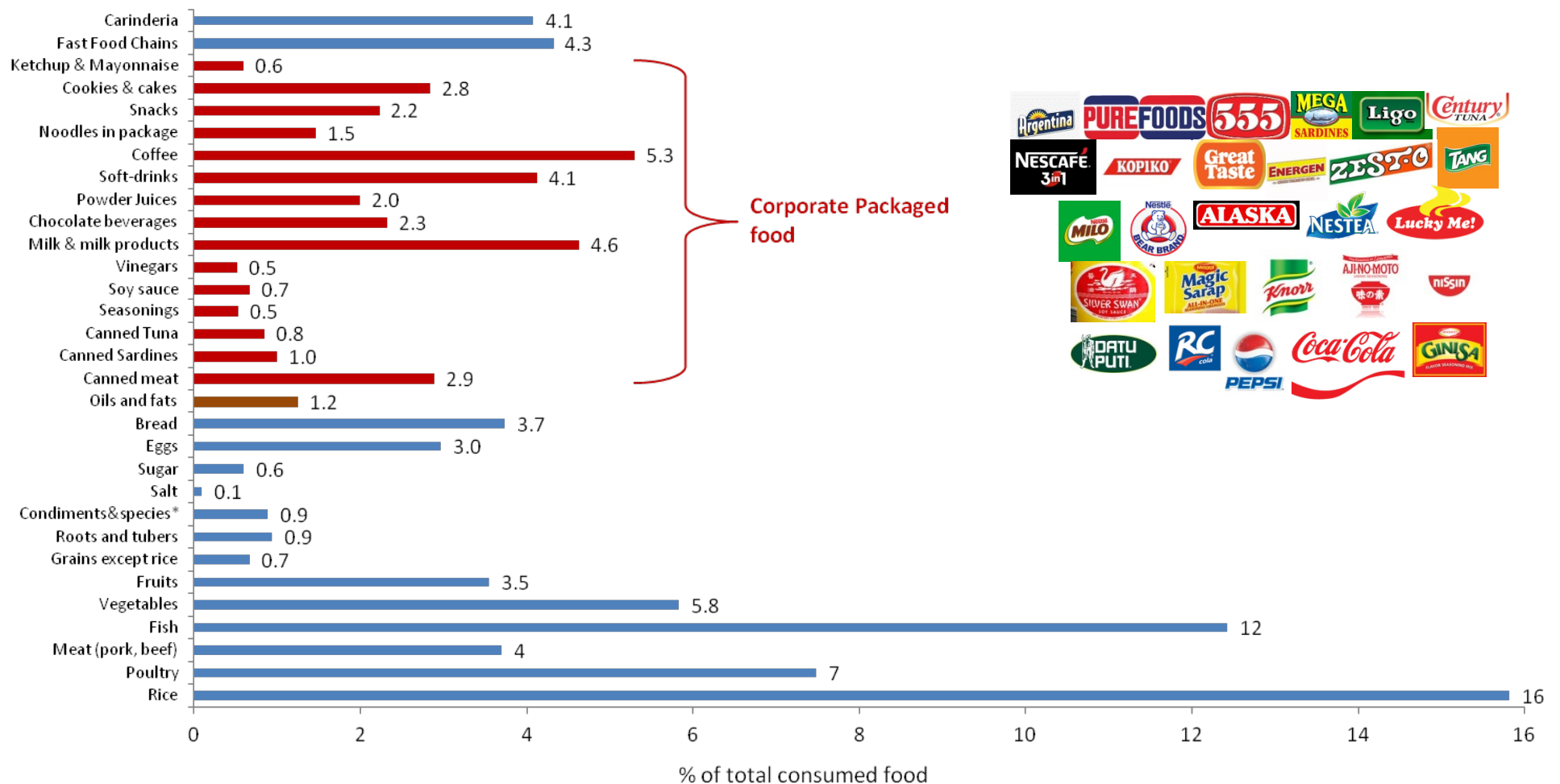
Note* Consumption refers to food intake. It assumes ZERO waste of the obtained food and beverages.
N=31 households in three different slum areas of Metro-Manila

Source: Heriberto Ruiz Tafoya (2017).

The Packaged Food Question

CPF Consumption, Slum Households

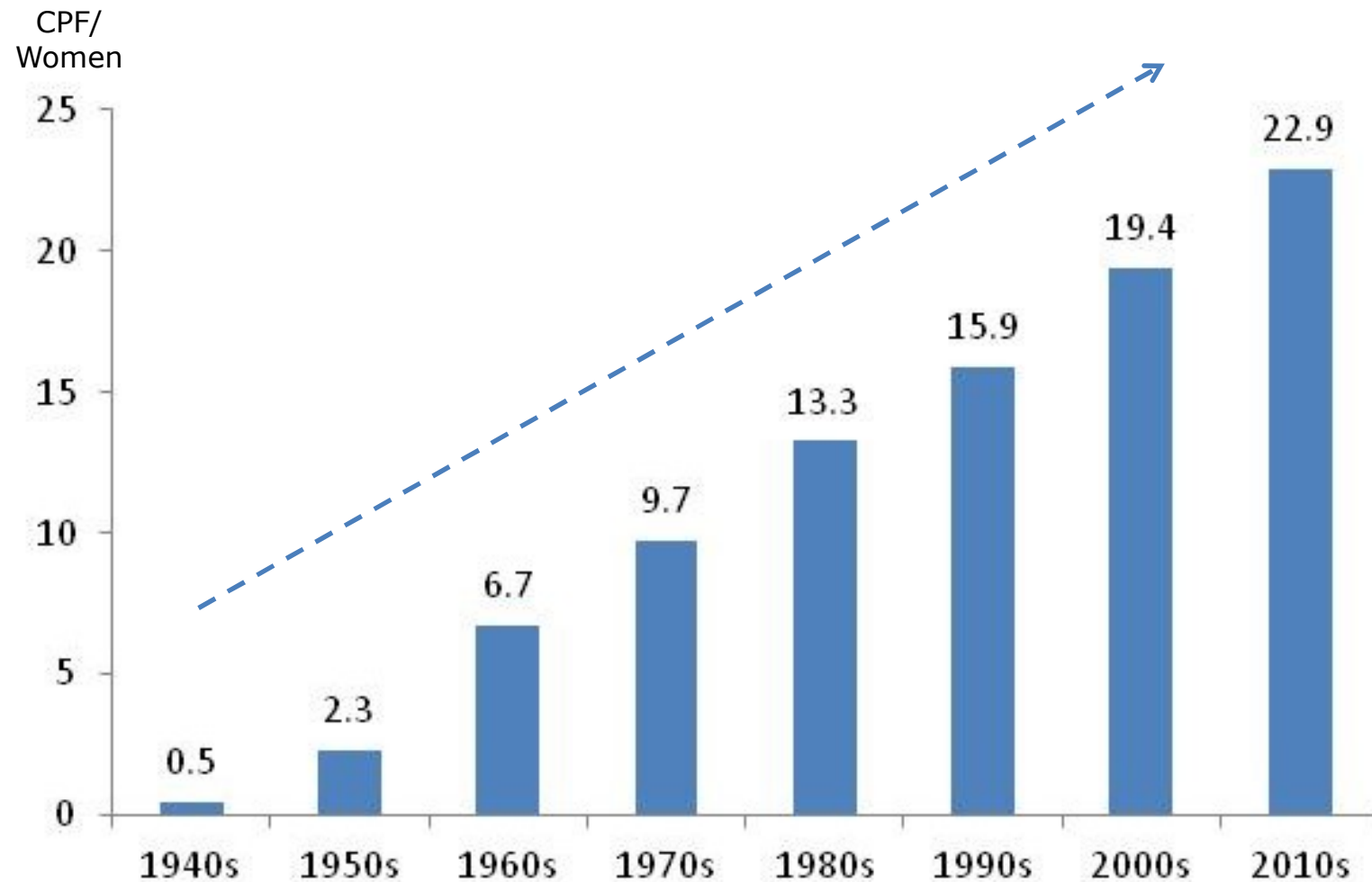
Food consumption* in Metro-Manila Slum populations (% of total food intake)



Heriberto Ruiz Tafoya (2017).

The Packaged Food Question

**Identified CPF per
Slum Woman**

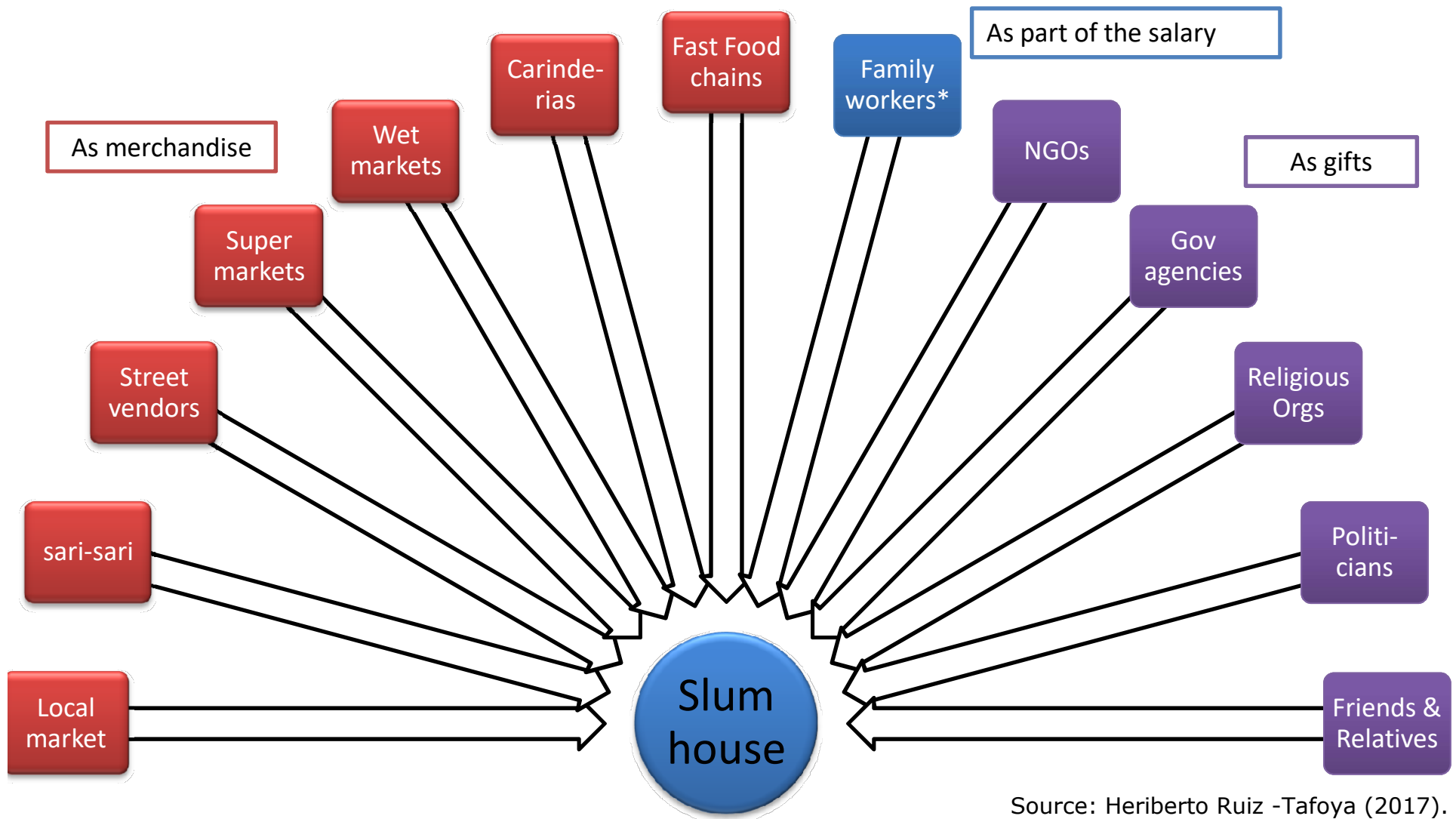


n=61 slum women

Heriberto Ruiz Tafoya (2017).

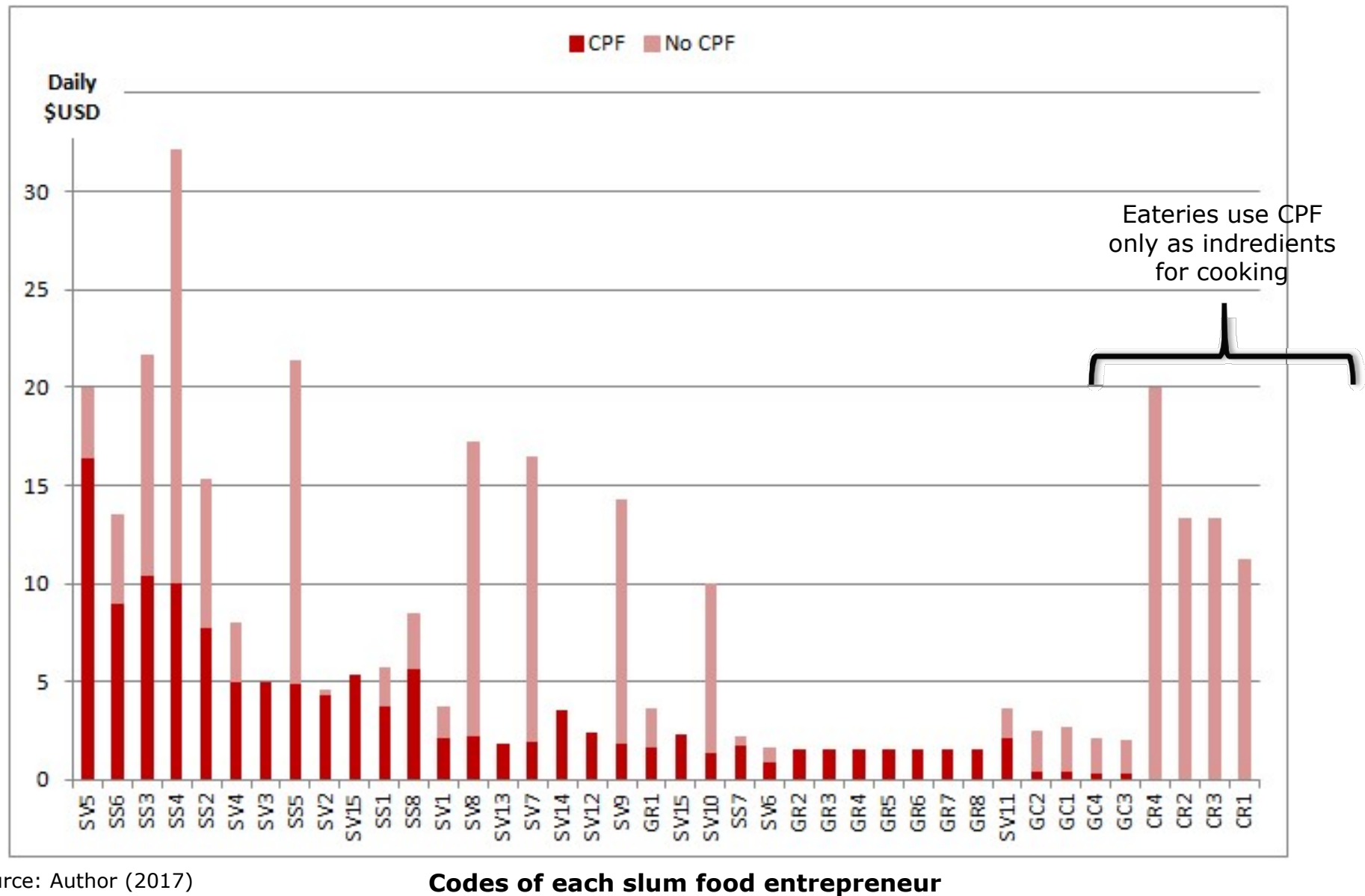
**13 channels
of CPF food**

Channels of Corporate Packaged Food into Slum's households



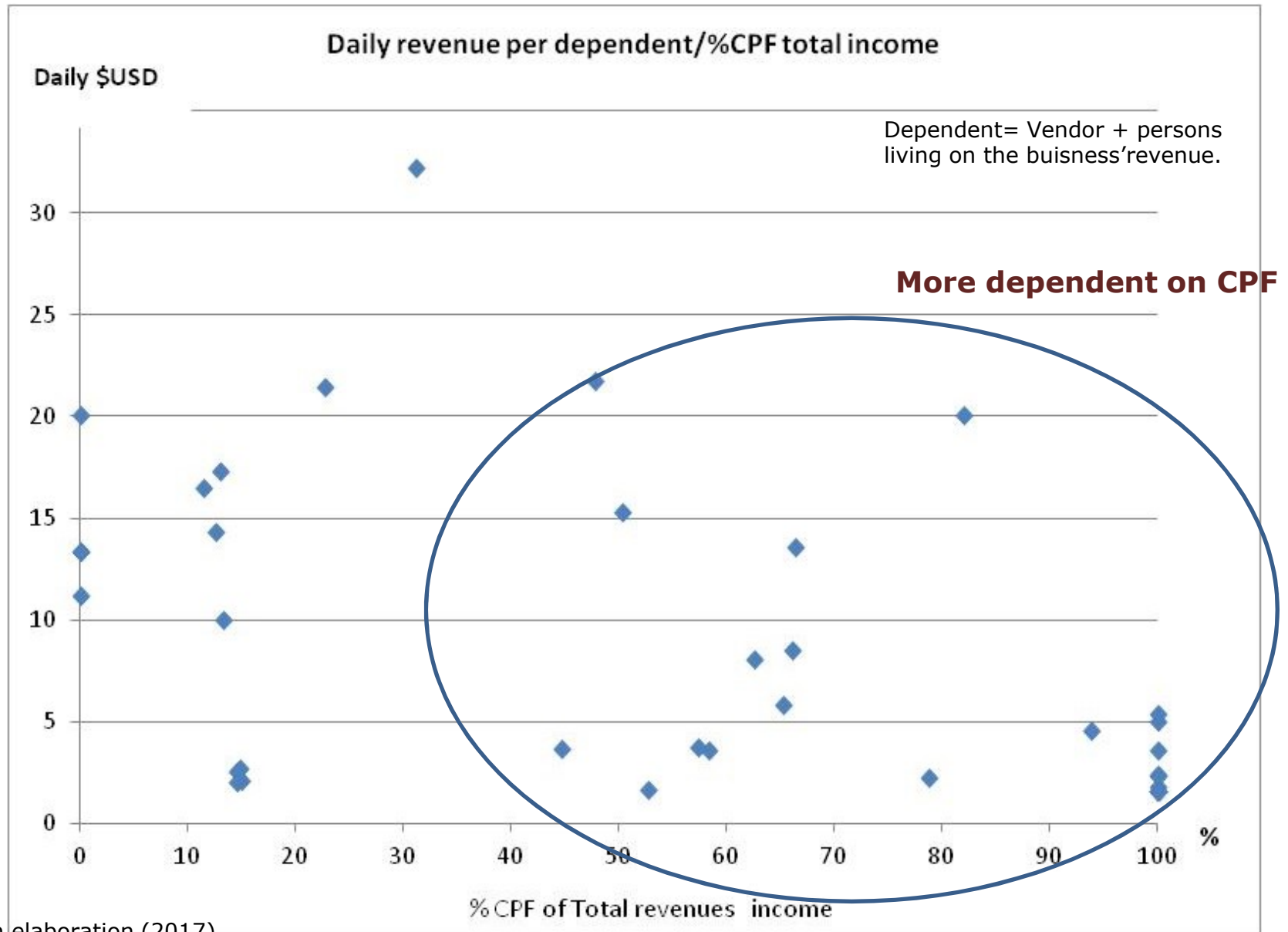
Source: Heriberto Ruiz -Tafoya (2017).

CPF as source of daily revenue (USD)



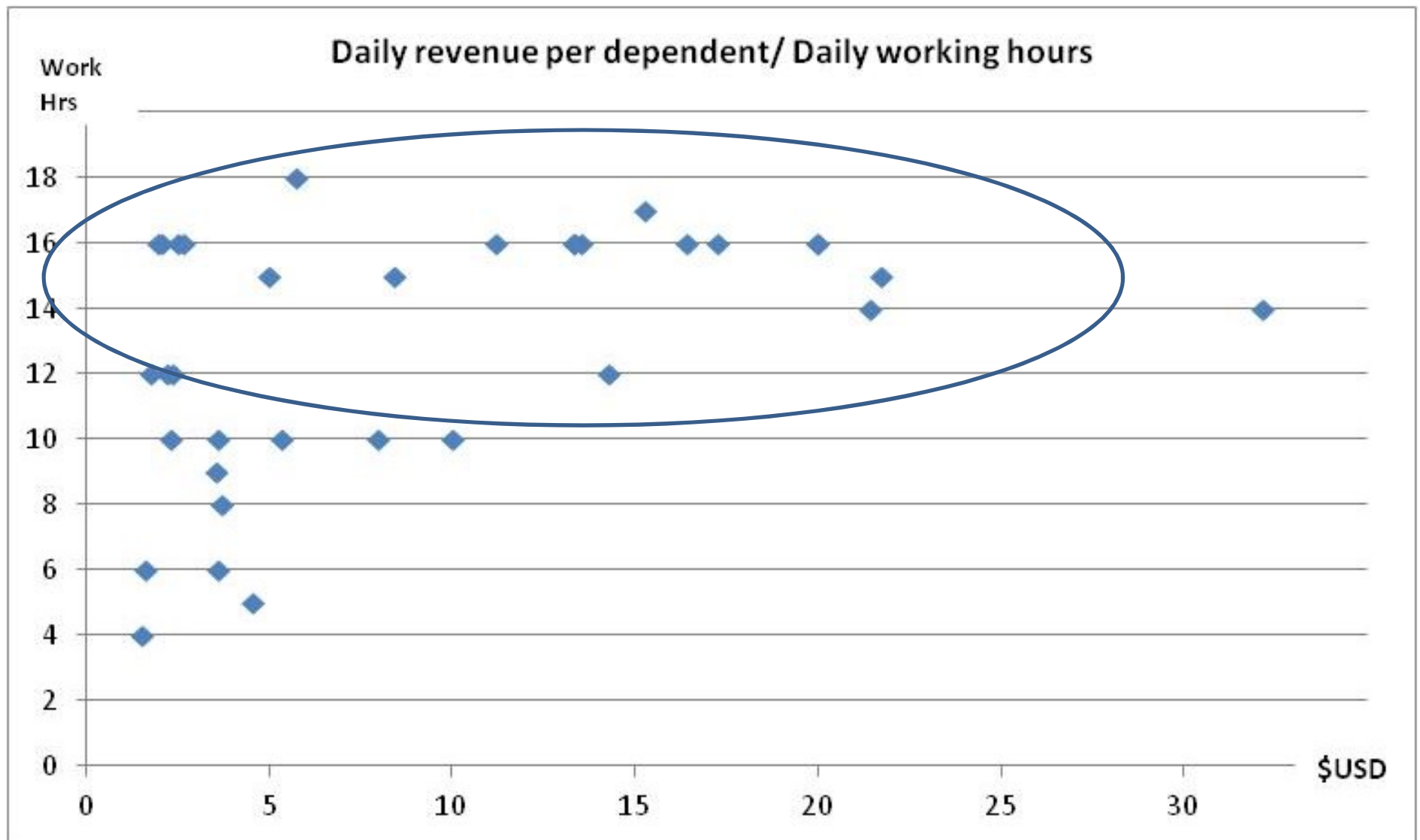
Source: Author (2017)

Dependency on CPF for living



Source: Own elaboration (2017)

Lack of time (and energy)



Effects: Deskilling and Alienation

The **estrangement** and **objectification of oneself as human being**



- Self-serving, self-preparation and deskilling (cause-effect)
- Individualism over collective micro-practices



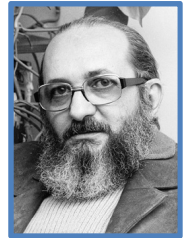
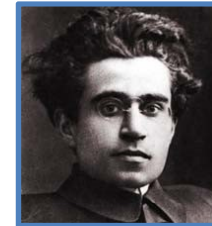
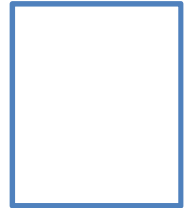
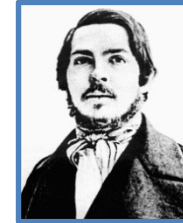
Photos Credit: Author, 2016

Conclusion:
new interventions are need it.

Versus alienation:

Revolutionary movements leaded by the proletariat.
(Yes, but how, where, by who and to whom?)

Construction of the hegemony by the political party and the **intervention** of an **organic Intellectual**: The “**specialists**” and the “**directors**”.



New version(s) of a organic intellectuals, able to:

- Listening rather than leading
- Suggesting rather than directing (except if the slums request it)
- Teaching how to use of technologies (including technologies of packaging, bottling, canning and processing food)
- Connect Urban and Rural or vice versa. (e.g. **Brazil, Cuba, Argentina, Mexico, Philippines**)



Thank you!



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Categories of Labor, Life and Residential Hierarchy

Level	Labor-life hierarchy	Residential hierarchy
Upper	New entrepreneur = new rich	Village
	Upper new intermediate	
Middle	Middle new intermediate = new middle	subdivision
	Lower new intermediate	
	Upper new labor (ex OFW)	low cost housing
Bottom	New labor = new poor	slum
	Lower labor	informal settlement
very bottom	homeless	street

Source: Own Elaboration based on Hideo Aoki, 2016.

UB in Political Economy, main propositions:

1. UB does not pretend to eradicate the Political Economy categories of *Lumpen-Proletariat and Proletariat*.
2. UB refers to the specificity of living -on Time and Space- *in the bottom of a social pyramid*
3. UB *is specific* in the exclusion and marginalization at the bottom (*Below*)
4. UB also avoids the *flaw of naming "poor"* to the whole slum populations.