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Innovative Mechanisms for Political Participation and Motivations for Affiliation Among Student Leaders in Higher Education

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ABSTRACT

The study uncovered the political participation and motivations for affiliation of the student leaders of the Student Organizations at DMMMSU, specifically to (1) determine extent of political participation according to organization; (2) identify motivations for affiliation; (3) correlate political participation and motivation for political affiliation between and among participants and (4) to recommend suggestions to enhance political participation and strengthen motivations for political affiliation among student leaders. The study used the descriptive-survey method and analysis of variance (ANOVA). Such method was employed because it involved description, recording, analysis, and interpretations of existing conditions. In light of the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommended innovative mechanism are offered in the hope that things be done to improve and enhance the situation at hand, **“Project INNOVATIVE MECHANISM: H.E.L.P.”** is recommended.

1. Introduction

Education and politics are inseparable. For both are components of society. At the same time the learners cannot be insulated from political life. Political development through socialization particularly via the school is complex (Lupdag, 2007). Motivation is defined as the process that initiates, guides, and maintains goal-oriented behaviors. Motivation is what causes us to act, whether it is getting a glass of water to reduce thirst or reading a book to gain knowledge. It involves the biological, emotional, social, and cognitive forces that activate behavior. In everyday usage, the term motivation is frequently used to describe why a person does something. (<http://psychology.about.com>).

Affiliation on the other hand is the act of connecting or associating with a person or organization. An example of affiliation is being a member of a community organization. (<http://www.yourdictionary.com>). Student leaders whom refers to the elected student officers of the various student organizations in the university, served as the respondents of this study.

2. Methods

Since the objective of the study was to determine and analyze political participation and political affiliation among student leaders the researcher utilized the descriptive-survey method. Such method was employed because it involved description, recording, analysis, and interpretations of existing conditions. To gather the needed data, the researcher personally administer the questionnaire. The questionnaire was formulated based on the ideas and insights taken from different authorities. The original draft form of questionnaire from the research output of identified authors was refined according to the corrections and suggestions (content validation) of experts in the fields of student affairs and guidance services in the university. A five-point scale was adopted to evaluate the level of political participation of student leaders with the qualitative descriptions and numerical ratings (in number code). A survey questionnaire formulated based on the ideas and insights taken from different authorities and refined according to the corrections and suggestions (content validation) of experts in the fields of student affairs and guidance services in the university. To further elaborate the findings, the data were processed, analyzed, gathered data were tallied, categorized, and subjected to descriptive and inferential statistical analyses. The statistical processing for the frequency, mean and statistical computation for the analysis of variance was processed by a statistician using the SPSS software. Statistical Tests such as Kruskal-Wallis, Mann-Whitney U Test, and Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient are administered through IBM SPSS Statistics v.23.

3. Results

Respondents of the research identified who were belonging to the different campus student organizations. Table 1 shows the distribution of political participation according to organization. Only one student organization is always participating along the identified affairs in the campus which is the CSBO – which is actually expected because it is the overall student body in the institution. Meanwhile plurality of the respondents shows an often political participation along activities initiated by the university through or the campus student body organization itself. These data implies that the respondents are not that active and not always involved along student affairs and identified activities in the campus manifested from their often and occasional extent of political participation.

Table 1. Respondent’s Political Participation According to Organization

Groups	Mean	Description
CSBO	4.80	Always
CCCO	3.25	Occasional
CHI ALPHA PHI	3.74	Often
DORM SLUC	3.95	Often
PACS	3.90	Often
BAND SLUC	3.51	Often
Overall	3.85	Often

Table 2. Respondent’s Motivations for Organizational Political Affiliation

Groups	Mean	Description
CSBO	4.63	Strongly Agree
CCCO	2.85	Moderately Agree
CHI ALPHA PHI	2.02	Disagree
DORM SLUC	3.83	Agree
PACS	2.91	Moderately Agree
BAND SLUC	3.93	Agree
Overall	3.36	Moderately Agree

These data reveals a difference in the motivations for political affiliation among the student leaders in the campus. The CSBO student leaders are consistent to have strongly agreed on the identified items that motivated them in their political affiliations. Meanwhile DORM-SLUC and BAND-SLUC simply both agreed on these motivational factors and items driving them in their political affiliations. On the other hand, CCCO together with PACS have a very close mean of 2.85 and 2.91 moderate agreement on the identified motivations for their political affiliations. Strikingly, CHI ALPHA PHI however disagreed to consider these items as motivations for their political affiliation in an organization. These data confirms the study of previous cited researches and theories on the varied reasons for being affiliated to an organization.

Table 3. Relationship of Political Participation and Motivations for Political Affiliations

Variables	r	p-value	Description
Political Participation and Motivations for Political Affiliation	0.33	0.030	Weak

The computed values shows a weak relationship between the political participation and motivations for political affiliation among the respondent-student leaders in the campus. This is consistent to their responses in tables 3 and 4 having an often political participation and a diverse motivations for political affiliations respectively. This findings imply that these variables

should be made balance for a positive impact and experience among the student leaders.

4. Conclusions

From the findings of the study, the following conclusions were drawn: The student leaders have an identified often extent of political participation. Hence, needs an enrichment and greater level of political participation into the activities of the campus student body organization. There is a significant difference in the political participation among student leaders according to organization. Hence, the routines of political activities should be enriched and be systematically put into program in order to engage the greater involvement. There is a weak positive relationship between the political participation and motivations for political affiliation among student leaders at DMMMSU hence, must be strengthened. The **Innovative Mechanisms for Political Participation and Motivations for Affiliation Among Student Leaders in Higher Education** constructed is SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Result Oriented & Time bound) hence, functionally doable.

5. Recommendations

In light of the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommended innovative mechanism are offered in the hope that things be done to improve and enhance the situation at hand, **“Project INNOVATIVE MECHANISM: H.E.L.P.”** is recommended: **H**andbook or manual for the student leaders according to organization could be drafted. This will further knowledge and serve as guidelines in realizing effective governance, leadership and gain greater involvement of the students along activities. Student leaders and Organization Advisers through the Student Affairs Office may create a committee who will draft it. This is to coordinate an effective and efficient distribution of the plans of activities hence, realizing the university’s thrust. **E**lection mechanism and procedures may be systematized for the greater numbers of students may cast their votes during elections. **L**eadership training-series and seminar-workshops be done. This is to develop understanding and appreciation of the essence of leadership and to enrich the activities in the campus. **P**olitical Convergence must be strengthened to fully generate the involvement of the students along activities initiated by the student body to include: **C**alendar of activities among student body organizations must be properly disseminated through various mass media avenues inside the University effective coordination and mobilization of the political participation of the students. **M**onthly meeting or more often among officers and representatives must be taken into consideration. This is to plan and facilitate the concerns of every organizations hence, include more exciting activities especially putting emphasis on enhancing skills and harmonious relations among students. **F**aculty- Advisers through the Student Affairs Office may create a committee who will supervise the monthly activities of the students.

This is to coordinate an effective and efficient distribution of the plans of activities.

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