

THE EFFECT OF 2019 CORONA VIRUS DISEASE AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES TO THE STUDENTS OF NUEVA ECIJA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

The 2019 Corona Virus Disease (COVID19) Pandemic ruin the lives of many people not only in the Philippines but in the whole wide world. A lot of people died easily, the worse is, their family will no longer recover the body of the victim to give a better funeral. Many were currently at the hospital to cure this life-threatening disease, while businesses get closed and bankrupted. According to the Philippines Statistic Authority, “Unemployment rate in July 2020 was estimated at 10.0 percent. This is higher than the unemployment rate of the same month a year ago placed at 5.4 percent, but lower than the record high 17.7 percent during April 2020. Unemployed Filipinos who are 15 years old and over was estimated at 4.6 million in July 2020, higher by 2.1 million compared to the same period a year ago but lower by 2.7 million from three months ago”. Also, to protect the lives of every Filipinos, the Philippine government through the Inter-Agencies Task Force (IATF) formulated, disseminated, and implemented a lot of policies for the benefits of many. Policies that affects all people, especially the minors or the students. However, the researcher believed that Filipinos are resilient, and will always find a way to be happy and will keep on looking for the brighter side even amid of this pandemic. This study was made to assess and document the effect of COVID19 Pandemic to the 500selected students of Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology (NEUST). One of the universities in Nueva Ecija, Philippines that offers good college education is the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology. (J.Mina, 2019)The outcomes of the present study will be beneficial and valuable to the following: To the students. This research will help the students by understanding their hidden optimism or pessimism on their selves. It can also help them to look at the brighter picture of life even most of them were locked down in their respective houses because most of them were below 21 years old which is mandated by the Inter-Agency Task Force to stay at home. To the Parents. The results of this study will help the parents in strengthening the love, care, and support to each member of the family. To the School. The outcomes of this research can be helpful to the university as well as to the professors, and guidance coordinators

in enhancing the positivity that must be continued and must be spread with others, and to reduce the negativity that affect the respondents due to this pandemic. To the Philippine Government, Churches, Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, as well as Mental Health Association, Inc. and other Non-Government Organizations by helping the students and children to sustain and motivate them more in especially these days. The questionnaires will be used in gathering relevant data. The frequencies, percentage, weighted mean of answers in each question were checked and used to draw a truthful conclusion regarding the effect of pandemic to the students and appropriate recommendations.

KEYWORDS: *Corona Virus, Pandemic, Students, Optimism, CMBT, NEUST*

I. INTRODUCTION

The coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic is the defining global health crisis of our time and the greatest challenge we have faced since World War Two. Since its emergence in Asia late last year, the virus has spread to every continent except Antarctica. But the pandemic is much more than a health crisis, it's also an unprecedented socio-economic crisis. Stressing every one of the countries it touches, it has the potential to create devastating social, economic, and political effects that will leave deep and longstanding scars. (UNDP, 2020).

According to the statistics of the Department of Health, the total COVID19 confirmed cases around the world were almost 4.5 million as of July31, 2020. In the Philippines, there were 220,819 confirmed cases on the same date, and sadly there were 3,558 Filipino people who were now in heaven because of this pandemic. This crisis has a great impact not only on the patient's suffering and their families but also to every human being around the world, its economy, its governments, education, tourism, faith, everything, nobody is exempted. Humanity was so devastated up until now.

However, life must go on amid this threatening disease. According to the United Nations' annual World Happiness Report this 2020, out of 156 countries, the Philippines was at the 52nd place. (Cabico, 2020) This is because Filipino tend to smile the most even, they are problematic, they are like bamboo which only bends in times of typhoon, but do not breakdown. Filipino has always time to smile and be happy.

Everyone was tired of listening to the news about COVID19 Pandemic and its negative effect on mankind. Thus, the researchers wish to study the effect of this pandemic and the government policies to the students of the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology and to know more, and document the reasons why they were still optimistic even in the midst of this pandemic.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study was conducted to determine and document the effect of COVID19 Pandemic and Government Policies to the certain students of the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology.

Specifically, it sought to investigate the following factors:

1. Profile of the respondents
 - 1.1 Age;
 - 1.2 Gender;
 - 1.3 Family Income

2. Factors that affect their lives during a pandemic:
 - 2.1 Family;
 - 2.2 Financial;
 - 2.3 Environment;
 - 2.4 Self;
 - 2.5 Faith;
 - 2.6 Education;
 - 2.7 Government; and
 - 2.8 Government policies

3. Level of happiness and level of being optimistic of the respondents

4. Factors that have the greatest impact on the respondents.

II. METHODOLOGY

The Descriptive Survey Method of research will be used by the researchers in this study. Descriptive research is an appropriate choice when the research aim is to identify characteristics, frequencies, trends, and categories (McCombes, 2019). The study wishes to discover and describe the current profile of the certain students from Hospitality and Tourism Management, of the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology, located at Sumacab, Cabanatuan City, Philippines. This method was also used in assessing the positive effect of COVID19

Pandemic to the respondents in terms of their Family, Finance, Environment, Self, Faith, Education, and Government Policies.

The study involved 500 selected students of the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology. The researchers will use a set of a survey questionnaire to gather pertinent information. The interview will also be used in order to clarify aspects that will not be able to discuss satisfactorily by the questionnaire. The questionnaire was constructed by the researchers through their review of related literature. The distribution of the questionnaires was done via a google survey form. Google survey forms is the most useful way to gather data due to avoidance of physical contact and social distancing which is very important nowadays. After all the data needed were gathered, the frequencies of answers in each question were tallied and their percentage was obtained. The percentage, distribution, weighted mean, median, and mode of their answers were calculated in order to obtain its verbal interpretation.

The hereunder scoring method with its corresponding description was used as a guide in understanding the response to each item.

Table 1 Scoring Method

SCALE	WEIGHT	VERBAL INTERPRETATION
5	4.21 – 5.00	VERY POSITIVE
4	3.41 – 4.20	POSITIVE
3	2.61 – 3.40	NUETRAL
2	1.81 – 2.60	NEGATIVE
1	1.00 – 1.80	VERY NEGATIVE

The data gathered through questionnaires were used only for the study and treated with the utmost confidentiality.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to the result of the survey conducted with the 500 respondents from the selected students of the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology, the results were as follows:

PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS

It was noted that the youngest respondents were 16 years old and the oldest were 31 years old. The majority of the age of the respondents were 20 years old, it represents 164 out of 500 respondents or 32.8% of the total respondents. Their age has a weighted mean of 20.08 years old. The sex of the respondents was dominated by females which is 71.8% and the remaining 28.2% were male. The 40.6% of the respondent answered that their family income during quarantine was P5,001-P10,000, followed by 33.8% who has a family income of 0-P5,000.

Table 2 Factors That Affect the Students during Pandemic

Factors	WM	VI
Family		
I saw the love, support, and importance of my family	4.48	Very Positive
I showed my love, and support to my family	4.47	Very Positive
The relationship between our family strengthened	4.36	Very Positive
Finances		
Our finances increased	2.58	Negative
I learned the importance of budgeting	4.36	Very Positive
My mind started to create ideas to find money that can help me and my family.	4.22	Very Positive
Environment		
My interest in planting trees and ornamental plants increased	3.58	Positive
I appreciate more the importance of pollution-free and good environment now.	4.30	Very Positive
Self		
I gain weight for good	3.59	Positive
I found out my hidden talents because of social media like Tiktok, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter	3.61	Positive
I learned the importance of good health	4.54	Very Positive
Government, Faith, Education		
My faith in God increased	4.80	Very Positive
I am excited about our modular and online class	3.18	Neutral
I still believed in our government	4.58	Very Positive
Government Policies		

Any person below 21 years old shall be required to remain at their residents	3.84	Positive
Mass gathering shall be prohibited	3.89	Positive
Face-to-face or in person classes were regulated	3.18	Neutral
Public Transport shall be suspended	2.88	Neutral
Distribution of Social Amelioration Fund to the marginalize citizens	4.08	Positive

Table 2 represents the collective result of the survey for different factors that affects the respondents. It is noted that there is a “Very Positive” effect concerning the relationship between the respondents and their respective families. They felt the love and they showed their love for each household member during these days of the pandemic. On the other hand, their Finances were became “Negative” according to the computed weighted mean of 2.58, however due to this pandemic, they learned the importance of budgeting, and their mind started to create ideas to find money that can be used in helping their family, both of these have a weighted mean 4.36 and 4.22 having a verbal interpretation of “Very Positive”.

Most of the respondents were interested in planting trees and ornamental plants during these days, and they appreciate the pollution-free environment. These factors have a weighted mean of 3.58 and 4.30 with a verbal interpretation of “Positive” and “Very Positive” respectively.

People from all walks of life should explore the importance of having a regular physical activity. (N.Natividad, 2020) Thus, the selected students from the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology gain weight for good; this factor has a weighted mean of 3.59 and has a verbal interpretation of “Positive”. Furthermore, they discovered their hidden talents through the use of social media like Facebook, Tiktok, Instagram, and Twitter. Most importantly, table 2 shows that the respondents learned the importance of good health having a weighted mean of 4.54 which shows a verbal interpretation of “Very Positive”.

Based on the survey conducted by the researchers, the respondents still believed in the Philippine Government in curing these COVID19 problems, and according to their answers, their Faith in our God Almighty increased because these two have a computed weighted mean of 4.53 and 4.80 respectively and these have a verbal interpretation of “Very Positive”. However, with regards to modular and online education, the computed weighted mean was 3.18 with a verbal interpretation of “Neutral”. However, in the question “What do you prefer, continue education or academic freeze?” the almost 60% of the respondents chose to continue education while the 40% which represents the minorities chose the academic freeze.

In the question “Would you consider yourself happy even in the midst of COVID19 Pandemic?” most of the respondents were neutral about it. However, in question “What is your level of being optimistic in the midst of this COVID19 pandemic?” the computed weighted mean of their answers was 3.42 which has a verbal interpretation of “Positive”.

Based on the factors included in this study such as Family, Finances, Environment, Self, Government, Faith, and Education, and Government Policies, it has a computed weighted mean of 4.12 with a verbal interpretation of “Positive”.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the survey conducted by the researchers, the following conclusions have drawn:

1. The majority of the respondents were female which is composed of 71.8% of the total respondents. It is also concluded that based on their family income, most of the respondents and their family members belong to the below-average income earners or marginalized sector of the society.
2. Based on the factors included in the survey, it was highly noted that most of the students were optimistic, and positive even we are under this pandemic. Also, with regards to the government policies imposed for the protection of the people, it has a weighted mean of 3.57 with a verbal interpretation of “Positive”. From this figure, the researcher concludes that even though it created a big change to them, they still find it positive because the government is imposing this for their benefits and protection.
3. Having a general weighted average of 3.92 with a verbal interpretation of “Positive”, the researchers conclude that the level of optimism, happiness, and positivity of the respondents was high despite this COVID19 pandemic.
4. It is also concluded that Family and Social Media has the greatest impact on the students because these two were their back up during home quarantine.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Money is very hard to earn especially these days; thus, the researchers recommend to find ideas that will make them an entrepreneur like having an online selling business. “Some of the benefits an online business has is that, it is low-cost but effective to draw clients 24/7. Online marketing includes the use of digital and virtual environments to advertise and offer products and services”. (SANTOS, 2020). Reading books, articles, youtube, and other websites can help them to become one. These aforementioned websites will give them information

about cooking, crop making, and many more which they can try and sell with their friends and relatives. Through this, surely, it will increase their income.

2. The family, government, religion, and other non-government organizations may use the television, radio, prints, and social media in spreading the good news to balance the effects, and to lower the source of sadness due to this COVID19 Pandemic. Always bare in mind that the government is doing their very best for the benefits of its people.

3. The researcher recommends to continue being optimistic even the world is very problematic nowadays.

4. Home quarantine can be a source of anxiousness and anxiety; thus, the researchers recommend to continue the support of each household member to one another because Family is the number one factor and has the greatest impact on the life of the respondents. The researchers also recommend to use social media in the right way, use this to spread the positivity in this world full of negative news and issues. Once again, the researchers highly recommend to “*Always look at the brighter side of life. Keep on smiling and never give up*”.

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