



## Social science concepts, social awareness, and leadership performance of student leaders

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### Abstract

The descriptive-correlation study determined the level of basic concepts, social awareness, and leadership performance of students-leaders in the external campuses of the West Visayas States University, Iloilo, Philippines for the school year 2014-2015. The respondents were the one hundred sixty-one (161) selected student leaders and twenty-four (24) advisers of the university and college students' organizations. The researcher made instruments duly validated and pre-tested were employed to measure the social awareness and performance of student leaders. The final rating in a social science subject was used to measure the basic social concepts. The descriptive statistics were the mean and standard deviation, and the inferential statistics were Mann-Whitney test, Krusal Wallis test, and Pearson's  $r$  set at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the present investigation are the following: Generally, the basic social science concepts of the student leaders was very satisfactory, however, when they were classified as to course, those are taking the board courses, had outstanding social concepts. When grouped according to year level, the third and fourth years had outstanding social science concepts. When classified as to organization, those who are involved in the university student council had outstanding social concepts. The social science awareness of the student leaders was very high regardless of sex, course, year level, and organization. There were significant differences in the basic social science concepts of student leaders classified as to sex and organization. There were no significant differences in social awareness of the student leaders when classified as to sex, course, and year level and no significant difference was noted when classified as to organization. There were no significant differences in leadership performance of student leaders classified as to sex, course, organization, and year level. There was no significant relationship existed between performance and social awareness.

**Keywords:** social science concept, social awareness, leadership performance, student leaders

### Introduction

The era of information technology becomes more dominant and its effects and implications to both individuals and world affairs are more far-reaching. The younger generation to be effective and relevant must have a clear understanding of society and its congruent elements. They must understand the challenges of the country and will be provided with greater opportunities to adopt, accept and apply it in their day to day activities to make them globally adept.

Keeping abreast with the concerns of the social relationship in the society needs utmost and urgent attention. These concerns include threat to the customary manners of accomplishing the aims of certain society as well as the survival of a free man in a free society.

Social science are usually concerned with society, human relationship, and social concerns. It is shown to modern men that there are no eternal mysteries, there are no more eternal verities, man is revealed as plastic, variable, and amenable to reshaping, and reshaping is free from authority, prescription, and judgments.

Likewise, it offers a more carefully validated and reliable information and assert that everything in this world has a degree of utility. Further, the knowledge of social sciences helps one to reduce his fears and expands his awareness, therefore valuable to an individual.

Social sciences are involved in he study of society, social relations especially the social organizations and the individual relationships within it. It includes five originals academic disciplines: Cultural anthropology deals with the study of man and its culture. Social psychology is the study

of relationships and institutions. Sociology is the study of human society and institutions and reciprocal influence between individuals and the society. Economics is the study of choice to satisfy their needs and wants despite the scarcity of resources. Political science which focuses on the study of nature and functions of the state and the government.

The academes are the reservoir of culture contributing to social reforms for the maintenance of the economic and political order of the society. In this context, the proficiency of the basic concepts in the field of social sciences among students must be developed as well as social awareness of the society being a member. Moreover, these concepts will enable them to understand and adjust to the diverse and multifarious changes as well as to act accordingly to the needs of the times.

As a member of the society, man has to grow and adopt the novelties and innovations pervading human relationships at home, in school, community, and country and specifically in an organization.

The school as an institution hones almost all leaders regardless of positions occupied, be it elected, appointed, course-related or by choice. In management, a well-informed person, hence knowledge is power.

Student organizations as venues or training grounds for leadership of today's young people. They are developed to ensure that they will exhibit exemplary leadership in delivering their organizational functions.

The essence of teaching social science subjects puts its helm the role of man and its relationship to his fellowmen.

Likewise, human person as the focus of social science is considered the most important resource in modern society. The researcher as a social science mentor, is inspired to find out the relationship of students leaders proficiency in the basic social science concepts, social awareness to their leaderships performance.

Cognitive learning plays a significant role in man’s capacity for complex learning. Concepts and awareness can be part of cognitive process. In the stimuli-response or S-R theory, an organism to make certain response to specific stimuli. After learning has taken place, it is assumed, the stimuli. After learning has taken place, it is assumed, the stimuli elicit these responses more or less automatically.

Learned responses in perceptual learning are not set off automatically by Stimuli but are made by the organism in terms of the meaning of the stimuli. Perceptual learning is insight learning involving change in perception in which the learner comes to know something about the stimulus that she was not aware of before (Zulueta & Maglaya, 2007)<sup>[8]</sup>.

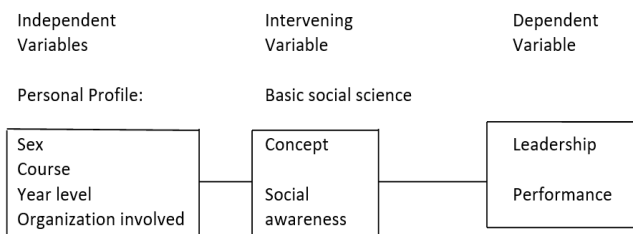
thus study is anchored of Bandura’ science cognitive theory which purposes that people are neither driven by inner forces not automatically shaped and controlled by external stimuli. Human functioning is explained in terms of a model of triadic reciprocal determinism. In this model, he can visualize, as equilateral triangle, behavior, cognitive, and other personal factors and environmental events as interacting determinants of each other.

The theory of Skinner emphasizes the fact that the behavior of the organism operates upon the environment to generate consequences are the availability of food, water, money, praise or some other reward (Zulueta, Maglaya, 2007,)<sup>[8]</sup>. In this study, the students’ leaders not just perform for praise, honor, or grades but also experience the consequences of being trained as future leaders of the country.

Chickering’s (in Dial, 2005) theory points out that the students population will always remain diverse across developmental lines. Leadership programs must remain flexible in order to accommodate students from all levels of development.

Along these theories, the present study is anchored. Are student leaders equipped with social science concepts, social awareness? Will these factors affect their performance? These questions needs answer, thus this investigation.

The paradigm in Figure 1 illustrates the relationship of variables.



**Fig 1:** the leadership performance of student leaders as influenced by their basic social science concepts and social awareness.

**Statement of the problem and hypothesis**

This descriptive- correlation study determined the level of basic social science concepts, social awareness, and leadership performance of students leaders in the external campuses of the West Visayas State University. This was conducted during the school year 2014-2015.

Specifically, it sought answers to the following questions:

1. What is the level of basic social science concepts of the students leaders as an entire group and when classified as to sex, course, year level, and type of organization involved?
2. What is the level of social science awareness of student-leaders as an entire group and when classified as o sex, course, year level, and organization involved?
3. What is the level of leadership performance of student-leaders as an entire group and when classified as to sex, course, year level, and organization involved?
4. Are the significant differences in the level of basic social science concepts of students-leaders classified as to sex, course, year level, and type of organization involved?
5. Are they significant differences in the level of social science awareness of student-leaders classified as to sex, course, year level of social science awareness of students-leaders classified as to sex, course, year level, and organization involved?
6. Are there significant differences in the leadership performance of student leaders classified as to sex, course, year level, and type of organization involved?
7. Is there a significant relationship between leadership performance and basic social science concept; between performance and social awareness?

Based on the given problems, these hypotheses are advanced:

1. There are no significant differences in the level of basic social science concepts of student leaders classified as to sex, course, year level, and type of organization involved.
2. There is no significant differences in the level of social science awareness of student leaders classified as to sex, course, year level, and organization involved.
3. There are no significant differences in the performance of student leaders classified as to sex, course, year level, and organization involved.
4. There is no significant relationship between performance and basic social science concept; between performance and social awareness.

**Delimitation of the Study**

This descriptive-correlation study determined the level of basic social science concept, social awareness, and level of leadership performance of student-leaders in the four external campuses of WVSU, Iloilo. This was conducted during the school year 2014-2015.

The respondents of the study were the one hundred sixty one (161) student-leaders and twenty-four (24) organization advisers of the university and college student council of the campuses of the West Visayas State University. They were classified as to sex, course, year level, and organization involved. The instrument to measure the basic social science concept was based from the rating of their corresponding social science subject. The instruments for social awareness and leadership performance were made by the researcher and were subjected for validation and reliability test.

The statistical tools employed were the mean, standard deviation for descriptive statistics, an Mann- Whitney test, Kruskal- Wallis, and Pearson’s were the inferential statistics set at 0.05 level of significance.

## Review of Related Literature

### Basic Social Science Concepts

Sociology is defined as a scientific study of human social relationships. It contends with a diverse and multifarious factors and institutions in order to be relevant to the needs of the times. It has to grow with a adapt to novelties and innovations pervading human social relations while remaining and interdisciplinary concern of man. It has remained in the background of many disciplines. It has to be continuously responsive in order that it may function adequately. It has even expanded in scope, branching out into the multi- faceted nature of humanity and reality. This is the reason why social problems have become a significant and distinct subdivision of sociology (Jarapa *et al.*, 2000)<sup>[5]</sup>.

### Social Awareness

Social awareness as a term means that someone is familiar with the social constructs and culture around them. A socially aware person might understand certain slang. They might be more familiar with titles or worlds are taboo. A person who is socially aware is far less likely to make embarrassing verbal blunders (Hardison, 2012)<sup>[2]</sup>.

The study of Janiola and Babate (2008)<sup>[4]</sup> described the extent and efficiency of NGO LGU collaboration and its effects in the implementation of the family planning programs in General Santos City as perceived by beneficiaries and services providers.

The following are the key findings of the study. The coverage or extent of the collaborate efforts between LGU and NGO service providers ranges from conducting forums and symposia efforts beneficiaries at the barangay level to doing pre-marriage counseling on the concept of family planning and responsible parenthood. There were significant differences in the perceptions of NGO service providers. LGU officials and beneficiaries in the implementation of the following areas: advocacy, education on RH and family planning management. The regression results of the three areas of collaboration of NGO-LGU showed that both the areas of education on RH and the family planning management have significant effect as perceived by respondents in the implementation of FP programs in General Santos City. However, advocacy is not an indicator variable. The major conclusion of the study describes that women comprise the majority of family planning beneficiaries in the city. The more NGO and LGU are involved with the different programs of FP, the more the beneficiaries are satisfied with their services and the more that FP programs would success.

### Social Issues

According to IBON, Philippines (1988)<sup>[3]</sup> as recorded by UNICEF, the Philippines records one of the highest incidences of infant mortality and malnutrition. It is among the top ten countries with malnourished children aged below five years. DepEd (in Zulueta and Maglaya 2007)<sup>[8]</sup>. Expressed that children's participation and survival in schooling are below the expectations. According to the report of the DOLE in Zulueta and Maglaya (2007)<sup>[8]</sup>, child workers in the country increased from 2.2 million in 1991 to 5.0 million 1994. Sixty percent (60%) of the working children were exposed to hazardous environment, mostly to physical hazards (NSO, 2007). Expert for those who are begging, street children from part of the child laborers. They are mostly into selling and other services. The annual

average increase of prostitute children is 3,266. A more than 100% increase in cases of sexuality abused and exploited children has also been reported. Of these cases, 36% were raped. Child prostitution and pedophilia accounted for 12%. Every year, 11,196 children become victims of the war the government is waging in the countryside (DSWD, 2007).

### Economic Issues

The war on poverty is not yet over as it vowed to do better in implementing programs to reduce poverty. In a wake of a survey, result showed that some 12.1 million Filipino families still feel they are poor. The nationwide survey of the social weather stations (SWS) Survey found that 35% percent of the respondents, equivalent to 12.1 million families said they are poor, the same figures registered during the June 2014 survey. Some 12. Million families claim they are poor despite the P62.6 billion budget or the condition cash transferred (CCT) of the government this year. However, SWS noted that the poverty rate remains three points above the 52 percent average for the 4 quarters of 2013. Forty-three percent of the Filipino families or about 9.3 million households claimed they are "food-poor". Self rated food poverty increased by three points in metro manila (30%) and by five points in the rest of Luzon (37%). Self rated food poverty "hardly changed" in the visayas, down only by a point to 53% but declined by three points to 52% in Mindanao (Kabiling & De Vera, 2015)<sup>[6]</sup>.

### Research Design

This descriptive- correlation study determined the level of social science concept, social awareness, and leadership performance of student leaders in the four external campuses of WVSU, Iloilo. It also ascertained whether or not significant differences exist in the differences among variables classified as to profile. It also looked into whether or not significant relationship exist among variables. This was conducted during the school year 2014-2015.

### Finding

#### Level of basic social science concepts of student leaders

The results of the investigation revealed that the entire group of student leaders had very satisfactory basic social science concept (M=44.1932, SD=.27749).

When the student leaders were classified as to sex, both the male (M=4.1846, SD=.27731) and the female (M=4.2012, SD=.28002) had very satisfactory basic social concepts.

As to course, the student leaders who are taking board courses had outstanding basic social science concepts (M=4.2863, SD=.23648), those who are taking non board courses had very satisfactory social science concepts (M=4.1159, SD=.28723).

As to year level, the first year (M=4.1400, SD=.24142) and the second year (M=3.9938, SD=.35826) Student leaders had very satisfactory basic social science concepts. The third year (M=4.2268, SD=.23480) and the fourth year (M=4.3047, SD. 27797) had outstanding basic social science concepts.

Finally, when classified as to organization involved, those who belong to the University Student Council (M=4.2590, SD=.24030) had outstanding basic social science concepts, and those who belong the College Student Council (M=4.1721, SD=. 28669) had very satisfactory basic social science concepts.

### Level of social awareness of student leaders

According to the result of the study, the entire group of student leaders had very high social awareness (M=4.2966, SD=.49942).

When classified as to sex, both the male (M=4.2774, SD=.56003) and the female (M=4.3147, SD=.43759) had very high social awareness

As to course, those are taking the board (M=4.3263, SD=.40423) and non-board (M=4.2720, SD=.56755) courses had very high social awareness.

As to year level, the first year students (M=4.2680, SD=.49730), the second year (M=4.3322, SD=.53082), the third year (M=4.3232, SD=.46544), the fourth year (M=4.2363, SD=.54086) had very high social awareness.

Finally as to the organization involved, those who belong to the University Student Council (M=4.4579, SD=.38051) those in the College Student Council (M=4.2451, SD=.52276) had very high social awareness.

### Level of leadership performance of student leader

The study showed that the entire group of student leaders had very high leadership performance? (M=4.4895, SD=.39564).

When the student leaders were classified as to sex, both the male (M=4.5086, SD=.39110) and the female (M=4.4716, SD=.40141) had very high leadership performance.

As to course, those who are taking board exam (M=4.4421, SD=.47940) and non board courses (M=4.5289, SD=.30696) had very high leadership performance.

When classified as to year level, the first year (M=4.4200, SD=.38374) the second year (M=4.3809, SD=.43776), the third year (M=4.5800, SD=.34919), and the fourth year (M=4.4451, SD=.41953) had very high leadership performance.

Finally as to organization involved, those who belong to the University Student Council (M=4.4502, SD=.37671) had very high leadership performance.

The data was showed that when the student leaders were classified as to year level, a significant difference existed. The Chi-Square was 21.191 of which the Assymp. Sig. of .000 was less than the set 0.05 of significance.

The findings revealed that when the student leaders were classified as to sex, no significant difference existed. The Z-value was -.058 of which the Assymp. Sig. of .954 was greater than the set 0.05 level of significant

When they were classified as to course, the Z value was -.430 of which the Assymp. Sig. of .667 was greater than the set of 0.05 level of significance.

As to organization involved of significance different was noted. The Z value was -2.325 of which the Assymp. Sig. of .020 less than the set 0.05 level of significance

The investigation revealed that no significance difference existed on the social awareness of student leaders. The Chi-square was .655 of which the Assump. Sig. Of .884 was greater than the set 0.05 level of significance.

The investigation revealed that there was no significant difference in the performance of student leaders classified as to sex. The Z value was-.563 which the Assump Sig. of .573 was greater than the set 0.05 level of significance

When they were classified as to course, no significant differences was noted. The Z value was -.734 of which the Assump. Sig. of .463 was greater than the set 0.05 level of significance.

As to organization involved, the Z value was -1.863 of which the Assump. Sig. of .062 was greater than the set 0.05 level of significance. Thus, no significance difference was noted

The findings revealed that when the student leaders were classified as to year level, no significant difference existed. The Chi Square was 5.935 of which the Assump. Sig. of .115 was greater than the set 0.05 level of significance.

Using the Pearson's the findings revealed that no significance relationship existed between performance and basic social concepts. The r was -.075 of which the two-tailed probability of .343 was greater than the set 0.05 level of significance.

The findings also revealed that a significant relationship was noted between performance and social awareness. The r was -.161 and the two tailed probability .042 was less than the set 0.05 level of significance.

### Conclusion

Based on findings of the study, the following conclusion are drawn:

The social science concepts of the student leaders was generally very satisfactory. These concepts were concepts were based on their rating in social science subject. This had happened because this more theory and a product of diligence and hard work through regular written and oral examinations is the usual classroom routine. Those who excel in social science subjects automatically have better concepts. Those groups with satisfactory basic social science concepts, the first year and second year in particularly have only limited units in social science subjects and these are the same students who are also involved in the college student council.

The social awareness of the student leaders was very high. These students are trained to be future leaders of the country. Their exposure to media, seminar and trainings, and exposure to local or national milieu, would have enriched their social awareness. As a citizen of a country, one has to be knowledgeable of the happenings that beset the surrounding, that leaders should deserve.

The leadership performance was very high. These student leaders sufficient knowledge of leadership skills. They have religiously followed the policies and guidelines of the organization. They used their talents, skills, and attitude to be maximum. They are equipped with leadership strategies. The advisers and the administration have extended their full support that for inspiration and encouragement.

There was a significant difference in basic social science concepts of student leaders when classified as to course. In terms of the choice of course those with higher academic performance has the possibility of passing the entrance examination, thus the changes of becoming a leader is not at par. The basic social science concepts are strengthened in the higher level of education. Thus, it is not surprising that the difference in the basic social science concepts is obvious when they were classified as to year level. The acquisition of basic social science concepts is affected by course and year level.

A significant difference existed in social awareness of student leaders classified as to organization involved. This manifests that handling a university wide organization needs a wider scope of social awareness.

There were no significant differences in the performance of student leaders. The profile of the students does not affect

their performance. The attitude towards performing the tasks as the student leaders is soaring high.

There was no significant relationship between leadership performance and basic social concepts. A leader can perform without considering his concepts in social science. A significant relationship existed between leadership performance and social awareness. Social awareness is life itself, it is a practice, absence of this affects the performance.

### **Recommendation**

#### **Based on the findings and conclusions, these are the recommendation**

The student leaders who are taking board courses, the third year and fourth year, and who belong to the university council ha outstanding social science concepts, there is a need to maintain and sustain such qualities. It is hoped that the next set of leaders would also posses such concepts. Those who not able to achieve the highest level, attending seminars and training along this line might help. The advisers should include in the budget and priorities of concern their attendance for growth and development.

The social awareness was very high. These students should maintain and sustain this status with the guidance of the adviser and support of the administration.

The leadership performance was very high. The advisers should see to it that this level be sustained and be a beneficial legacy to the successors.

The existence of the significant difference in the social concepts was in the course and year level. The conduct of activities of the organization should be at the capacity and interest of those non- board courses and the year level. The advisers should analyze the records of the concerned and pay attention to their needs for the smooth and thorough growth of the organization

A significant difference in social awareness was in the organization where a student leader gets involved. It is but just proper for the adviser and student leaders to work together to avoid or prevent discrimination or superiority complex or leadership conflict. A seminar on value formation or self reflection is needed.

There were no significant differences in the performance of student leaders. In reviewing and revising the guidelines and policies of the candidacy for university and college council, the Office of the Student Affairs should consider the profile of sex, course, organization one is applying for, and year level.

Since social awareness significantly influences leadership performance, the applicants should undergo interviews to be facilitated and conducted by the advisers to make sure that the chosen leaders are the deserving ones.

The OSA, SG advisers, and student government leaders be furnished a copy of the findings for them to be aware of their strengths and weaknesses.

Future researchers can do other researches along this though using other variables in an another venue for comparison and more references.

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