

Problems Encountered by the Freshmen Students in Selected Colleges in the University of Eastern Philippines

Glenda L. Tan-De Guia

Faculty, College of Education, University of Eastern Philippines, Catarman, Northern Samar, Philippines

ABSTRACT

The challenges that college students face in selected colleges at the University of Eastern Philippines were the subject of this study. Its specific goals were to determine the problems faced by freshman students in selected colleges at the University of Eastern Philippines, as well as to determine the profile of the respondents in terms of age, gender, religion, residence, birth order, occupation and educational attainment of parents, financial support, and hobbies; to determine the problems faced by freshman students in selected colleges at the University of Eastern Philippines; to determine if there is a significant difference in the level of problems encountered between male and female college freshmen; and to determine if there are significant differences of problems encountered by the college freshmen in the selected colleges.

The descriptive-correlational technique was used. Because the students engaged came from several institutions, stratified random sampling was employed to determine each college's representations/respondents.

Data was collected by questionnaire and analyzed using frequency counts, percentages, averages, ranking, ANOVA, and multiple regressions.

The majority of the responders were female and in their adolescent years. The majority of respondents were Roman Catholics, and the majority of their parents were farmers. The respondents' monthly family income ranged from P 2,000.00 to P 5,000.00. The majority of the respondents lived in boarding homes while studying, were financially supported by their parents, and received a weekly allowance of P 200.00 to P 400.00. The majority of the respondents read books, periodicals, and journals in their spare time.

As regards to the problems encountered by the college freshmen, majority identified the following statements as the problems they encountered almost often to wit: "teachers are giving so many requirements"; "I am afraid of making mistakes"; "the school does not have better ventilation"; "the school does not have a good garbage disposal system"; "comfort rooms are not properly maintained"; "I am bothered by the changes of weather"; "I need to learn how to spend my money wisely"; "my parents worry about money during enrollment"; "I have less money than my friends"; and "I miss my family during special occasions".

The following comments were deemed also by the majority of the respondents as issues they experienced sometimes, to wit: "I am nervous during examination period"; "I am constantly scared about what people would say"; "I have too many personal problems"; "I miss my parents' love and affection"; "I'm worried about my weight."

No significant differences were found in the problems faced by male and female freshmen. However, significant differences were found in the problems faced by freshmen respondents belonging to one college versus the other colleges included in this study, namely: College of Education, College of Business Administration, College of Arts and Communication.

Keywords: *Problems Encountered, Freshmen Students*

1. INTRODUCTION

Freshmen in college are said to be in a phase of transition from high school to college. For the first time, some of them must leave their parents and familiar surroundings to live in dorms or boarding

homes. Making new friends, teachers, and adapting to the new surroundings are all problems they confront.

Their academic success is further hampered since they must compete with students from various schools who have excelled academically. Many of these students endure financial difficulties as a result of their low-income families, which has an impact on their schoolwork and social lives.

The college years are the most crucial period in a student's life. The majority of students live in dorms away from home. They make new friends and create new relationships. A college student is supposed to make a seamless transition from the days of dolls and lollipops to ladylike methods of adulthood, aside from hurt and other personal and emotional problems in their unique critical period.

The growth from late childhood to adolescent is influenced by the transit phase, during which individuals confront obstacles in their behavior, attitudes toward peers, parents, and society. This frequently affects their personal and social interactions.

2. Objectives of the Study

The main concern of this study is to find out the problems encountered by the freshmen students in selected colleges in the University of Eastern Philippines.

Specifically, this study is directed by the following objectives:

1. know the profile of the college freshmen in selected colleges namely, College of Education, College of Business Administration, and College of Arts and Communication in the terms of gender, religion, residence, birth order, parents' educational attainment and occupation, financial support, and their hobbies;
2. Determine the problems encountered by the freshmen students in selected colleges in the University of Eastern Philippines;
3. Find out if there is a significant difference on the level of problems encountered between male and female college freedom;
4. Find out if there are significant differences of problems encountered by the college freshmen in selected colleges in the University of Eastern Philippines.

3. Methodology

A descriptive survey was used to ascertain the problems encountered but the freshmen students in

selected colleges in the University of Eastern Philippines using questionnaire.

Descriptive method of research as well as correlation which accepts or rejects the given null hypothesis was utilized in the study. These tools were used in finding out and proving the significant relationship between the profile of the freshmen students in terms in term of age, gender, religion, and any type of residence, birth place, parents' educational attainment and occupation. Financial support, their hobbies and the problems they encountered.

4. Findings

Age. 68 percent of the 170 people who responded were 17 years old, 41 percent were 16 years old, and 34 percent were 18 years old.

Gender. The majority of the responders (74.7%) were female college freshman, outnumbering the male students.

Religion. According to the statistics, the University of Eastern Philippines is mostly a Roman Catholic institution.

Residence. 95 percent (55.9%) lived in boarding houses, 60 percent (35.3%) with their parents, and just 15 percent (8.8%) with their guardians. This demonstrates that the majority of students at the University of Eastern Philippines live in boarding houses while attending classes.

Order of Birth The eldest son/daughter or first born accounted for 33.5 percent of the responses, 36.2% for the second kid, and 22.9% for the third or middle child.

Assistance with finances. The parents financially supported 104 or 61.2 percent of the respondents. According to the data, the majority of students are financially dependent on their parents for their education.

Allowance. 66 percent of respondents (36.8%) received a weekly allowance of P200.0-P400.00, 53 percent (31.2%) received P401-P600.00, and seven percent (4.1%) received P800.00 or more. According to the data, the financial assistance obtained by the respondents was insufficient to cover the needs of students, such as food allowance. Other requirements, such as school supplies.

Educational background of parents. The fathers of the respondents were 42 percent college graduates and 35 percent high school grads, according to the data.

This also revealed the mother's educational achievement, with 53 (31.2%) college grads and 42 (24.7%) high school graduates. The majority of the parents of the respondents were college graduates. The fact that the University is close by and accessible to the educational needs of Northern Samar citizens is quite devious.

Income. As stated, 95.9% of respondents had fathers earning between P2,000.00 and P5,000.00 per month, 31.8% had fathers earning between P5,000.00 and P10,000.00, and 1.6% had fathers earning less than P2,000.00.

It should be emphasized that 90 percent of respondents (52.9 percent) had moms with no income, 37 percent (21.8 percent) had an income of P2,001.00-P5,000.00, and one percent (1.6%) had a monthly income of P15,000-P20,000.

In terms of hobbies, 134 or 79 percent of respondents spend their free time reading books, 124 or 73 percent watching TV, and 7 or.04 percent swimming.

Problems Facing College Freshmen

Academic and social issues were separated into categories. Personal, environmental, financial, family, and health considerations are all important. "Some of my teachers are giving so many requirements," "I am anxious during examination period," and "I am terrified to recite in class" were the first three issues raised by respondents in the academic realm. These utterances had a mean of 2.76, 2.49, and 2.19, respectively, and were judged as occurring frequently, occasionally, and occasionally.

Test of Difference

The t-test was used to test the null hypothesis that there is no significant difference in the number of challenges faced by male and female college freedom.

The findings revealed that none of the seven problem categories (academic, social, personal, environment, financial, family, and health) revealed a significant difference in the level of problems experienced by male and female respondents in terms of their problems encountered, implying that male and female college freshmen shared the same problems.

The one-way ANOVA was used to test the null hypothesis that there is no significant variation in the challenges faced by freshman in different colleges.

The study discovered that there was a substantial difference in the problems experienced by respondents from one institution against those from

the other colleges in the survey; out of the seven problems identified, there were significant differences. Personal, environmental, and family issues are all present. While there was no significant difference in academic, social, financial, or health problems experienced by respondents from one institution versus those from the other colleges included in this study.

It was also noted that the personal challenges faced by students in the College of Education differ significantly from those faced by freshmen in the College of Business Administration.

In terms of environmental issues, there was also a considerable disparity between the problems faced by freshmen in the College of Education and the College of Arts and Communication.

There was also a substantial difference between the freshmen in the College of Education and the freshmen in the College of Arts and Communication when it came to family concerns.

The null hypothesis that there is no substantial difference in the challenges faced by freshmen students at the three colleges covered in this study is rejected based on these findings. It may be concluded that the student-respondents at the three colleges had a variety of personal, environmental, and family issues. This finding contradicts Cinco's study, which found no significant differences in the challenges faced by students from one college versus the other colleges studied.

Conclusions

Conclusions and implications were reached based on the findings.

The demographics of the responders revealed that they are mostly female. This means that female college freshman outnumbered male freshmen at this institution.

The majority of the respondents' parents are farmers who make between P2000.00 and P5,000.00 per month, implying that the students are getting school allowance.

The majority of responses are first-born or oldest children. This means that the parents' oldest son or daughter are college siblings. Their college education was prioritized since they believed the eldest would assist after finishing his or her younger siblings' courses.

The gender of the respondents has little bearing on the challenges they face, although there are considerable variances in the problems faced by freshmen when it comes to colleges. This means that freshmen in the College of Education have distinct concerns than those in the Colleges of Business Administration and Arts and Communication in terms of personal, environmental, and family issues.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions of this study the following recommendations are proposed:

1. It is suggested that the Guidance Counselor establish or hold seminars on time management, how to cope with family yearning, as well as seminars on how to stay healthy, budgeting lectures, and assertiveness training, so that college freshman can cope with the challenges they face.
2. More research on student concerns is needed, particularly on the severity of the issues students face.
3. Overall, it is recommended that every college have a full-time Guidance Counselor with the necessary educational qualifications and training in guidance and counseling.

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