Nationalism and Social Advocacy amongst Select Generation Z University Students in Metro Manila

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ABSTRACT

Nationalism and Social Advocacy individually are two of the aspects that build the youth's collective social and political identity. This study focused on identifying the significant relationship between nationalism and social advocacy amongst 35 select Generation Z university students. With the use of the ISSP National Identity Module 2013 Edition and the Social Issues advocacy scale, the levels of nationalism and social advocacy amongst the respondents were defined respectively. Both scales, along with a letter of informed consent, were embedded and distributed using an online survey tool to individuals that fit the inclusion criteria within Metro Manila. The results were analyzed and organized using the Pearson R Correlation test and descriptive statistics per variable, under the SPSS Statistics tool ver. 27, in order to determine the possible relationship between these two variables. The findings show that select university students have a high level of nationalism and social advocacy and a strong positive significant relationship was found between the two variables. In addition to this, the direct relationship between both variables may indicate increased civic engagement, hence the recommendation of studying either variable in the context of political activism amongst the youth, or another field of university students in Metro Manila.

INTRODUCTION

A study by Bonikowski (2016) perceives nationalism as a way of thinking that may be exhibited in daily human behavior, rather than a political ideology. McInroy and Beer (2020) emphasize the fact that social advocacy is of great concern to the youth and could possibly be related to their overall national awareness or feelings towards the country. This research aims to determine the significant relationship between the levels of nationalism and levels of social advocacy amongst Generation Z university students in Metro Manila. The following are the research questions: What is the students' level of nationalism? What is the students' level of social advocacy? Is there a significant relationship between the level of nationalism and social advocacy of the respondents?

METHODOLOGY

The research design that was utilized in this study was correlational quantitative. This research study contained thirty-five respondents from different universities across Metro Manila of ranging socioeconomic status, selected with the use of a non-probability sampling technique, purposive sampling. For the instruments, the ISSP National Identity Module 2013 and the Social Issues Advocacy Scale (SIAS) 2011. An online survey questionnaire was created to distribute the research instrument. Upon data collection and organization, the researchers used descriptive statistics to determine the level of each variable. They used the Pearson Correlation Coefficient as the statistical treatment to identify significant correlation between variables. It is important to note that the researchers have ensured the utmost confidentiality and privacy of their respondents by asking only the necessary information needed for the research.

RESULTS

The results show a high level of respondent nationalism, especially when it came to the instrument theme General View of the Philippines and its Citizens, as it was based on their feeling of national pride. It also shows a high level of respondent social advocacy, revolving around their level of awareness regarding national political matters. The researchers have then discovered that the two variables are directly related to each other given that high levels of nationalism amongst the respondents also corresponded to high levels of social advocacy, implying similar results for low levels for each variable. The researchers concluded that high levels of nationalism amongst the youth may indicate that it is an important factor in the behavior of Generation Z. The results also suggest that because levels of social advocacy are high, the respondents may be actively engaged in civic movements relating to social justice. The data analysis and results of the statistical test show similar results from the scales for nationalism and social advocacy respectively. Hence, the researchers have rejected the null hypothesis and accepted the alternative hypothesis, which states that there is a significant relationship between the level of nationalism and social advocacy of the respondents.

CONCLUSION

It has been emphasized that the youth of today, or Generation Z, are actively engaged in civic participation. Considering that there is a significant relationship between the variables and the respondents have expressed high levels for both, this may indicate that Generation Z university students in Metro Manila are nationalistic beings that are civically engaged in social advocacies. This research was limited to only those taking up a Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS) related course for university, resulting in a total of only 35 respondents. The researchers would like to recommend the exploration of these variables, including a wider range of college courses. In addition to this, the researchers would like to recommend the exploration of the relationship of either variable with political activism considering the observed similarity among the survey questions.

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