

The Impact of Corruption on Filipino Youth from Academia and Police Background and Anti-Corruption Methods

Raul A. Aquino^{1*}
{raul.aquino@lpu.edu.ph¹}

Lyceum of the Philippines (LPU), Manila Campus, Muralla St, Intramuros, Manila, 1002 Metro Manila, Philippines.¹

Abstract. Huge corruption has caused major national institutions such as the judiciary, military, police, schools and other public service providers to fail to perform their functions effectively, fail to perform their duties, and fail to best serve the interests of the people, resulting in many serious societal issues such as poverty, broken discipline, failure of the judicial system, a culture of distrust and impunity. This study aims to determine the impact of corruption on Filipino youth and identify some anti-corruption methods. Both qualitative and quantitative research approaches were used to gather the research data. This study gathered the primary data through a survey of Filipino youths from the academic and police backgrounds of the National Capital Region. The prepared questionnaires focused on the perceived effects of corruption to the Filipino youth and the solutions in fighting corruption. Specifically, the survey identifies the perceived effects of corruption to the respondents and the society in general, the present assessment on government's actions and performance in fighting corruption as well as, the solutions to address the problem of corruption in the Philippines. The results obtained indicate that most respondents are anti-corruption. They are also aware of the negative effects of corruption on them and society. The government must fully support anti-corruption. Some proposed anti-corruption solution is to educate individuals on moral values and political cleansing..

Keywords: Impact of Corruption; Filipino Youth; Academia Background; Police Background; Anti-Corruption Methods.

1 Introduction

Corruption has a great impact on society and youth in a country. National Anti-poverty Commission confirmed that poverty remains a very serious challenge in governance. It was estimated that 21.8 million Filipinos are poor when it comes to income and around 50 to 60 million are considered poor citing various dimensions of poverty [1].

Besides that, corruption also has a significant degree of influence in the academic field. Keegan [2] identified some effects on psychology of fear in the organization created by evil leaders. These are good people are leaving the organization and afraid to speak or no freedom of expressions for a healthy debate due to possible retaliation (losing jobs, non-promotion, isolation from work, losing credibility or a special project, losing face) or to remain silent as a sign of protest. But the most common reason why people remain silent so as not to be

perceived as oppositionist or labeled is negative. This prevents the free flow of ideas towards a healthy conversation to thresh out vital issues and to encourage new ideas in the organizations. Nealaga[3] believes that many teachers in the Philippines are suffering from the delusion, dissatisfaction, and estrangement due to lack of opportunity to shift their work. He called this situation as burnout syndrome teachers which greatly affect the quality of instructions.

Goetsch and Davis [4] noted that internal politics in organization is counter-productive leading to loss of morale, questionable decisions, loss of the best and brightest employees, perpetuation of outdated process, procedures, and technologies, constant work conflict among employees, and loss of quality, competitiveness, and customers. Caillier[5] found out that employees with high commitment to the organization are willing to report wrongdoings or illegal acts in the organization without fear if they believe that they are being supported by their superiors and no retaliation will be taken against them by their organization.

Knox [6] noted that corruption hit the most underprivileged in Bangladesh and only a strong political leadership commitment is needed to make anti-corruption effective. Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon said at the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December 2009 [7] that it is the world's vulnerable who suffer "first and worst" by corruption such as the theft of public money or foreign aid for private gain. The result, he said, is fewer resources to fund the building of infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and roads. Mr. Ban noted, however, that corruption "is not some vast impersonal force" but "the result of personal decisions, most often motivated by greed." Pointing out that "the UN Convention against Corruption is the world's strongest legal instrument to build integrity and fight corruption", he also called on businesses to adopt anti-corruption measures in line with the Convention.

Uslaner and Rothstein [8] posited that corruption is deeply rooted to social and political structure of the state. Countries that provide universal and mass education to their citizens earned trust and confidence leading to loyalty to the state. They also added that countries that are highly involved in corruptions are less likely to spend bigger budget in education.

Resurreccion[9] focused her study on the contributory factors on the prevalence of academic dishonesty committed by the students in selected state higher education institutions in Southern Philippines during the First Semester of Academic Year 2012-2013. Her study showed that trust, one of the values of academic integrity culture as well as faculty and peers exhibit significant influence on students' likelihood of committing academic misconduct providing initial empirical evidence on the determinants to students' likelihood to commit academic misconduct in the Philippines.

Therefore, this study conducts a survey on the Filipino Youth from several selected organizations and institutions in order to determine the impact of corruption on Filipino youth from academia and police background and also identify the possible anti-corruption methods.

2 Methodology

This study utilized a descriptive mix-method through quantitative and qualitative data analysis to determine the impact of corruption on Filipino youth from academia and police background, also identify the anti-corruption methods. The mix-method allows for a more comprehensive finding for better empirical analyses and understanding [10].

Research Design

This study gathers the primary data from both research methods namely quantitative and qualitative. The survey questionnaire is the research instrument that used to gather the primary data in this study with the aim to determine the impact of corruption on Filipino youth from academia and police background and identify the anti-corruption methods.

The study was conducted in selected institutions in the National Capital Region and participated by the Philippine National Police (PNP), City of Malabon University, Lyceum of the Philippines University, Manila, Taguig City University, and University of Caloocan for the quantitative survey.

For qualitative data, it was participated by the Campus Integrity Crusades (CIC), Pamantasan ng Valenzuela, Office of the Ombudsman, Lyceum of the Philippines University, Manila, City of Malabon University, University of Caloocan, and Philippine National Police (PNP).

The academic sector consists of Lyceum of the Philippines University, Manila, City of Malabon University, Taguig City University, and University of Caloocan. For the police sector, it was represented by the Philippine National Police from various districts/units in Metro Manila.

The participants of this study are age between 18-30years old. Table 1 tabulates the total number of participant in both research methods. From total of 992 participants, there are 85.48% of the participant are involved in quantitative survey question and the remaining 14.52% are involved in qualitative research question.

Table 1. Quantitative and Qualitative Data

Mix-Method	Frequency	Percent
Quantitative	848	85.48
Qualitative	144	14.52
Total	992	100.00

Data Collection

This study was conducted from August 2017 until March 31, 2018 and strictly observed all the standard protocols in research undertaking particularly on the ethical aspect. The designed questionnaires were internal checked and validated by three certified researchers in the Research and Innovation Center of the Lyceum of the Philippines University, Manila. The research has also been endorsed and supported by relevant agencies and institutions.

Data Analysis

This study used four-point Likert's scale to interpret the quantitative data were subjected to SPSS analysis at the Office of Research and Innovation Center, Lyceum of the Philippines University, Manila while the qualitative data were treated using the content and textual analysis.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This study aim to determine the impact of corruption on Filipino youth from academia and police background, also identify the anti-corruption methods. The surveys were conducted in two difference approaches to gather the primary data.

What are the perceived effects of corruption to the Filipino Youth respondent-groups and to the society in general?

Effects of Corruption to Respondents

Table 2 described how the Filipino youth respondents were affected by the continuing corruption practices in the country. According to them, they have lost their trust and confidence with the government (3.17, agree), they do not accept corruption but it is already part of the system (3.02, agree), they are already used to it (2.64, agree), and they are ashamed

of being a Filipino (2.60, agree). However, despite of the negative effects of corruption to the Philippines, presently most of the respondents have no plans of migrating to other countries with a group median of 2.32 disagree. Apart from this statistical result, some respondents made the following comments: The person that implementing the law is also part of the corruption; and corruption is everywhere in this country.

Statistical test in Table 2 indicates no significant difference on the assessment of the respondents on the effects of corruption to them. It showed with: I have lost my trust and confidence to the government and system (.000); I don't accept corruption, but it is part of the system (.000); I am ashamed of being a Filipino (.000); and I plan to migrate to other countries for good (.000).

Effects of corruption to the country

Next, the median and interpretation of assessment of the two Filipino youth sectors on the effects of corruption to the Philippines is shown in Table 3. The Filipino youth respondents strongly identified tremendous poverty and abuses (3.35 strongly agree), loss of integrity and national pride (3.31, strongly agree), culture of impunity (3.30, strongly agree), little trust to the government and proliferation of poor ideas and sub-standard services and products with both having a group average median of 3.28 (strongly agree) as the bad effects of corruption practices in the country. Respondents were also convinced that many Filipinos are already used and have accepted corruption as part of the process (3.23, agree) that prevent new ideas and innovation to pursue (3.22, agree). Aside from this data, two respondents made different comments by saying: He/They are willing to fight corruptions/drugs specially the president.

In Table 3, the statistical test has revealed no significant difference on the assessment of the two sectors of Filipino Youth respondents in all identified effects of corruption in the Philippines such as tremendous poverty and abuses in society (.000); loss of integrity and national pride (.000); many Filipinos are doing things with impunity (.000); people have little trust with the government (.000); proliferation of poor ideas and substandard products and services (.000); most Filipinos have accepted it as part of the process (.000); and no new ideas and prevents innovation to prosper (.000).

The obtained results analyses suggest that corruption in the country is a very serious threat to country's national security and development and has greatly damaged the national pride having been labeled as one of the most corrupt countries in the world.

What is the present assessment of the respondents on government's actions and performance in fighting corruption?

Rating of government actions and performance in fighting corruption

Accordingly to Table 4, majority of the respondents from the academe and police agreed that the present government actions is not effective and efficient (2.80); not honest and tolerating corruption (2.78); but also agreed that that is effective and efficient (2.71); and honest and determine (2.62). Checking the answers of the two sectors of Filipino youth respondents, it was found out that the higher positive assessment came from the PNP sector while the lower assessment came from the academic sector. The assessment of the PNP sector only implies of their defense mechanism being one of the institutions of government and indicative of strong support to the present administration who is under strong criticisms from various sectors of society locally and internationally.

In Table 4, the statistical test on the significant difference of assessment of the two sectors of Filipino youth shows no significant difference on the rating with the current government actions and performance in fighting corruption in the country.

Table 2. Median and Interpretation with Test of Significant Difference on the Assessment of the Two Filipino Youth Sectors on the Effects of Corruption to the Respondents

Effects of Corruption to Respondents	Median and Interpretation				Test of Significant Difference				
	Academe	PNP	Average	Interpretation	Mann Whitney U	Wilcoxon	Z	Asymp. Sig. 2 tailed	Result
I have lost my trust and confidence to the government and system	3.35	2.77	3.17	Agree	54797.500	103938.500	-8.389	.000	NSD
I don't accept corruption, but it is part of the system.	3.13	2.81	3.02	Agree	66121.500	115262.500	-4.842	.000	NSD
I am used to it.	2.77	2.45	2.64	Agree	65840.500	114981.500	-4.820	.000	NSD
I am ashamed of being a Filipino.	2.72	2.41	2.60	Agree	67858.000	116999.000	-4.129	.000	NSD
I plan to migrate to other countries for good.	2.43	2.14	2.32	Disagree	68665.000	117806.000	-3.875	.000	NSD

Legend: 3.28- 4:00- Strongly agree; 2.52- 3.27- Agree; 1.76- 2.51- Disagree; 1:00- 1.75- Strongly disagree

Legend: S-Significant; NS- Not Significant at .05 level of significance

Table 3. Median and Interpretation with Test of Significant Difference on Assessment of the Two Filipino Youth Sectors on the Effects of Corruption to the Philippines

Effects of corruption to the country	Median and Interpretation				Test of Significant Difference				
	Academe	PNP	Average	Interpretation	Mann Whitney U	Wilcoxon	Z	Asymp. Sig. 2 tailed	Result
tremendous poverty and abuses in society	3.49	3.09	3.35	Strongly Agree	55632.500	104773.500	-8.331	.000	NSD
loss of integrity and national pride	3.46	3.04	3.31	Strongly Agree	55805.500	104946.500	-8.297	.000	NSD
many Filipinos are doing things with impunity	3.39	3.12	3.30	Strongly Agree	64365.000	117806.000	-3.875	.000	NSD
people have little trust with the government	3.40	3.06	3.28	Strongly Agree	59636.000	108464.000	-7.061	.000	NSD
proliferation of poor ideas and substandard products and services	3.41	3.02	3.28	Strongly Agree	57684.500	106578.500	-7.679	.000	NSD
most Filipinos are accepting it as part of the process	3.33	3.05	3.23	Agree	64060.000	113201.000	-5.677	.000	NSD
no new ideas and prevents innovation	3.36	2.94	3.22	Agree	57437.500	106578.500	-7.778	.000	NSD

Legend: 3.28- 4:00- Strongly agree; 2.52- 3.27- Agree; 1.76- 2.51- Disagree; 1:00- 1.75- Strongly disagree

Legend: S-Significant; NS- Not Significant at .05 level of significance

Table 4. Median and Interpretation with Test of Significant Difference on the Assessment of the Two Filipino Youth Sectors on Government Actions and Performance against Corruption

Rating of government actions and performance in fighting corruption	Median and Interpretation				Test of Significant Difference				
	Academe	PNP	Average	Interpretation	Mann-Whitney U	Wilcoxon	Z	Asymp. Sig. 2 tailed	Result
not effective and not efficient	2.94	2.59	2.80	Agree	65530.500	114671.500	-4.945	.000	NS
not honest and tolerating it	2.95	2.54	2.78	Agree	62704.000	111220.000	-5.676	.000	NS
Effective and efficient	2.56	2.98	2.71	Agree	63490.000	198430.000	-5.531	.000	NS
Honest and determine	2.47	2.89	2.62	Agree	62734.500	197674.500	-5.832	.000	NS

Legend: 3.28- 4:00- Strongly agree; 2.52- 3.27- Agree; 1.76- 2.51- Disagree; 1:00- 1.75- Strongly disagree

Legend: S-Significant; NS- Not Significant at .05 level of significance

Table 5 shows the respondents' qualitative answer on the effectiveness of the government's anti-corruption programs. As seen, 48 or 33.33% of the respondents said that it is effective; 10 or 6.94% said it is just somewhat effective; 55 or 38.19% said it is not effective; 1 or .71% said other answer; and 30 or 20.83% did not put any answer.

Table 5. Summary of the Contents and Context of the Respondent's Qualitative answers On the Effectiveness of Government's Anti-Corruption Programs

Answers	Students/ NYC, & PNP	Office of the Ombudsman	CIC	Total	Percent
Effective	24	16	8	48	33.33
Somewhat Effective	3	7	0	10	6.94
Not Effective	32	16	7	55	38.19
Other answers	1	0	0	1	.71
No answers	22	8	0	30	20.83
Total	82	47	15	144	100.00

Table 6 presents the summary of contents and context of the respondent's answer on why corruption is persistent in the country despite various efforts and programs of the government to stop it. As shown, 40 or 27.77% of the total 144 respondents believed it is because of bad leadership and governance and poor justice system; 31 or 21.53% said because it has become a culture; 16 or 11.11% said because of non-contentment in life and/or love of money; 5 or 3.47% said because it's their personal choice; 7 or 4.86% said because of lack of education; 4 or 2.77% with other answers; and 41 or 28.47% with no answer.

The obtained results only confirmed that the present actions and performance of the government against corruption is not enough resulting to their dissatisfaction and no significant changes in the corruption situation since many of our leaders are protectors and involved in corruption.

Table 6. Summary of the Contents and Context of the Qualitative answers of the Filipino Youth Respondents on why Corruption is so persistent in the Philippines despite various efforts and programs of the government to stop it

Causes	Students, NYC, & PNP	Office of the Ombudsman	CI C	Total	Percent
Bad leadership and governance, and poor justice system	19	13	8	40	27.77
Culture	11	13	7	31	21.53
Non contentment in life/love of money	10	6	0	16	11.11
Personal choice	2	3	0	5	3.47
Lack of education	3	4	0	7	4.86
Others	4	0	0	4	2.77
No answer	33	8	0	41	28.47
Total	82	47	15	144	100.00

What are the suggestions given by the respondents to effectively and efficiently address the problem of corruption in the Philippines?

Summarizing the suggestions and comments of the quantitative respondents to effectively and efficiently address the problem of corruption in the Philippines, data shows that most of the suggestions and comments pointed to the following answers arrange in ranking order:

First, respondents believe that change starts within us. Self-analyses with self-rectification are the first step to become a good person and a citizen of the country. This can be done through better education, practice self-discipline, being honest, and have integrity by not tolerating corruption and wrongdoings, avoiding bad habits such as crab mentality, be a responsible and intelligent voter to elect the right people on the right position.

Second, good leadership and governance that can be best expressed in the form of honesty and transparency in government actions, strict and fair implementation of the law, crafting better laws specifically on anti-political dynasty, election law, and anti-corruption laws, conduct investigations on all government officials and employees and those found involve in abuses and corruption be immediately removed and meted with high penalty as a way of reforming the bureaucracy, increase the salary of government employees, and have sustainable programs on poverty alleviation. All of these are needed by the government to set a good example to the people in order to earn trust and confidence.

Third is political cleansing such as killing all corrupt politicians and changing the government system which is more radical way.

And lastly, people must support the present administration’s action and programs to address the problem of corruption.

Table 7 presents the summary of the contents and context of the qualitative answers of the respondents on the suggestions to effectively and efficiently fight corruption. Education, observe honesty, and have integrity got a total of 34 or 23.61% from the total respondents; political will on the part of the leaders to implement the laws and improve the justice system got 19 or 13.19%; vote wisely with 7 or 4.86%; speak up and have the freedom of information approve with 8 or 5.56%; death penalty with 9 or 6.25%; create more jobs with 3 or 2.08%; support the president with 1 or 0.69%; e-governance, close monitoring and checking of every government offices with 13 or 9.03%; firing of corrupt officials and employees and increase

the penalty with 12 or 8.33%; create an specialize anti-corruption agency with 3 or 2.08%; and no answer with 36 or 25%.

Table 7. Summary of the Contents and Context of Respondent's Qualitative answers on the Suggestions/Recommendations to effectively and efficiently address the issue of corruption in the country

Answers	Students/ NYC, & PNP	Office of the Ombuds man	CI C	Total	Percent
Education, observe honesty, and integrity	10	17	7	34	23.61
Political will on the part of leaders to implement the laws and improve Justice	9	8	2	19	13.19
Vote wisely	5	1	1	7	4.86
Speak up & Freedom of Information	6	2	0	8	5.56
Death penalty	6	2	1	9	6.25
Create more jobs	1	2	0	3	2.08
Support the President	1	0	0	1	0.69
E-Governance, close monitoring & checking	4	6	3	13	9.03
firing of corrupt and increase penalty	10	2	0	12	8.33
Create a separate anti-corruption agency	1	1	1	3	2.08
No answer	29	7	0	36	25
Total	82	47	15	144	100.00

Conclusion

The obtained survey result concluded that most interviewees believe that Filipinos have lost their trust and confidence in the government. They do not accept corruption, but corruption has become a part of the system. They are used to corruption and are ashamed to become Filipinos. However, despite the negative impact of corruption on the Philippines, most respondents currently have no plans to migrate to other countries.

Regarding the impact on Philippine society, most respondents firmly agreed with the immense poverty and abuse, the loss of integrity and national pride, the culture of impunity, the distrust of the government, and the proliferation of bad ideas and unqualified services and products. It is the adverse effect of corruption in the country. Respondents also firmly believe that many Filipinos are already being used and that they accept corruption as part of the process, thereby preventing new ideas and the pursuit of innovation.

Because of bad leadership and passive culture of most Filipinos, weak state institutions, and poor government support and protection, the campaign against corruption in the country were assessed not effective and efficient resulting to a no significant improvement or a status quo situation is sustained or even worsens the corruption situation in the country.

Lastly, most of the suggestions provided by interviewees involved becoming a good person, good leadership and governance, political cleansing and killing of all corrupt leaders, and seeking support for the current government.

Acknowledgments

The authors appreciate the contribution of the participants and unconditional support from the Research and Innovation Center, Lyceum of the Philippines University.

References

- [1] NAPC Secretariat. 2017. Reforming Philippine Anti-Poverty Policy. [Internet]. [Cited 2 April 2020]. Available from: <http://www.napc.gov.ph/sites/default/files/documents/articles/Reforming%20Philippine%20Anti-Poverty%20Policy.pdf>
- [2] Keegan, Sheila M. 2015. *The Psychology of Fear in Organizations*, Kogan Page Limited, Great Britain and United States of America.
- [3] Nealaga, A. 2013. Predictors of Burnout Syndrome of Secondary School Science Teachers in Camarines Sur. *Sed Vitae. Research Journal of Nueva Caceres City of Naga*. 2.
- [4] Goetsch, D. L., and Davis, S. 2013. *Quality Management for Organizational Excellence: Introduction to Total Quality*, 7th Edition.
- [5] Caillier, J. G. 2013. Agency Retaliation against Whistleblowers: Factors Affecting Employee Perceptions. *Public Integrity. A Journal of the American Society for Public Administration*. 15, 1.
- [6] Knox, C. 2009. *Dealing with Sectoral Corruption in Bangladesh: Developing Citizens' involvement*. University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, Public administration and Development published online in Wiley Inter Science.
- [7] Fight corruption, save development. 2009. [Internet]. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. [Cited 2 April 2020]. Available from: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2009/December/fight-corruption-save-development.html?ref=enews111209>
- [8] Uslaner, E. and Rothstein, B. 2016. The Historical Roots of Corruption. *State Building, Economic Inequality, and Mass Education. Comparative Politics*, published quarterly by The City University of New York. 48, 2, 227-241.
- [9] Resurreccion, P. 2012. The Impact of Faculty, Peers and Integrity Culture in the Academe on Academic Misconduct among Filipino Students: An Empirical Study Based on Social Cognitive Theory. [Internet]. [Cited 2 April 2020]. Available from: <https://iit.edu.ph/faculty-staff/article-detail.php?no=122&s=aebbf9f0225e806d167f710220b7b582> March 17, 2016
- [10] Brians, C. L., Willnat, L., Manheim, J. B., and Rich, R. C. 2011. *Empirical Political Analysis: Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods* 8th Edition, Pearson Education Incorporated, USA.