

## PROFILE ASPIRATIONS OF MARITIME STUDENTS IN ONE HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

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### ABSTRACT

In attaining the goals and aspirations towards success, problems might occur in a situation which is already beyond the students' control and looking for the right answer or responding to it is the only way to move on. The study aimed to determine the profile of the students, value orientation and problems of the students in terms of health, family, relationship with others, self-concerns and studies. The descriptive type of research method was used in the study. Results revealed that the maritime students have high level of terminal, instrumental, moral and social values. Maritime students belong to determination category where they try their best to have high/good grades for future employment, to become a ship captain in the future no matter how hard it is and to have their own set of objectives and direction to achieve a better future. The profile aspiration of students in terms of Hibernation is affected by the type of school they graduated and parents' educational attainment while perspiration is affected by year level, type of school and educational attainment of mother.

**Keywords:** Aspiration, maritime students, higher education.

### INTRODUCTION

It is important to recognize that aspirations are multidimensional. Factors directly associated with an individual's aspirations include educational, vocational, and quality of life issues. The word aspiration cannot be simply defined as individual dreams or ambitions. Students' aspirations are derived from a combination of educational goals, vocational endeavors, and perhaps, most importantly, their own sense of self as it relates to what they feel is important elements to success in lifestyles of their choosing (Quaglia, 1989). Learners are encouraged and challenged when teaching strategies or instructional methodologies cater within their sphere of interests and values. It is imperative that a vast knowledge of who the learner is should be given top priority. Value orientation is the reflection of the person's behavior towards the importance of life and things related to his/her success. It is necessary to keep positive values which geared towards the attainment of healthy atmosphere and relationship with other people in the community.

Good health is considered as one of the most valuable assets that anybody could have to fulfill his/her dreams. The health problems of marine students were considered to address some areas where they are suffering from illnesses. Health problems like headaches, not getting enough sleep, trouble with teeth and not having enough outdoor activities would somehow hamper to the achievement of their aspirations. Young people's aspirations to stay at school, and to continue with education once they leave school, have frequently been linked with their experiences of school. In a study of factors leading to under-age school leaving, Brooks et al (1997) have identified the following school-based issues as highly significant like continual experiences of academic failure; schools not responsive to student needs; alienating school environment; poor student/teacher relations; disinterest in education and disruptive behavior.

Alloway's et al (2004) recommended that in the area of student involvement: active engagement of students, which research suggests is a difficult move for schools, where traditional school cultures might doubt students' maturity and capacity to exercise responsibility; encouragement of students to take responsibility for their own learning and behavior, and to be involved in decisions about the learning process. The result of the study will benefit the students, their parents, teachers and the university to yield valuable and significant data about the students which may serve as baseline information for faculty members and school authorities for mapping out of activities/programs that are geared towards the development of the student services. It is the utmost intention of the researchers to provide quality student programs for LIMA and see to it that these students are moving and running towards the direction of the achievement and fulfillment of their aspirations.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study attempted to investigate the profile aspirations of the marine students. Specifically, the study aimed to determine the profile of the respondents in terms of : Year level, number of children in the family, ordinal position, type of school graduated, status as student (part-time-fulltime), monthly income of the family and educational attainment of parents; to identify the category of aspiration does the respondents belong; and to test the relationship between the profile of marine students and their aspirations.

**Ho:** There is no significant relationship between the profile of marine students and their aspirations.

## METHODS

### Research Design

The descriptive type of method was utilized in employing the techniques that includes interviews, observations and questionnaire checklists. This is a correlational study which probed the significant and non significant relationship of students' demographic profile and their aspirations, value orientation and problems.

### Participants

The research subjects of this study are the 30 percent which is 215 of the 716 first year to second year marine transportation and marine engineering students at the Lyceum of the Philippines University during second semester of school year 2008-2009. This study used simple random sampling technique – lottery method. Wherein names of each member of the population are represented by numbers and these numbers are written on different pieces of paper; were placed in a box and mixed well; the pieces of paper were taken one at a time until the total sample size was reached (Garcia, 2003).

### Instrument

The instruments to gather data were adapted from the study conducted by De Guzman (1996) used in his master's thesis. Some modifications were employed to make it more appropriate to the subjects under study. The Lyceum Research Council was also asked to give their comments and suggestions to validate and make the questionnaire more appropriate and suitable to this study. The questionnaire was administered first to the students of College of

Engineering who are not included as respondents of the study. Then the survey questionnaire was edited and revised based from the typographical errors, grammar lapses and confusing questions found and raised by the students during the administration of the questionnaire. Since these questionnaires are already validated from the previous studies, the researchers are confident to use this questionnaire because this was already considered to be valid. Profile checklist. The checklist consist of items to draw the profile of the students on the following: number of children in the family; ordered position; type of school graduated; status as student (part-time-fulltime); educational attainment of parents; and monthly income of the family. The aspiration checklist is composed of 20 items to determine the category of aspiration does the respondents belong. There are four categories under aspiration and these are hibernation, imagination, perspiration and determination.

## Procedures

The researchers secured the list of first year to second year Marine Transportation and Marine Engineering students who are enrolled during the second semester of S.Y. 2008-2009. The researchers personally administered the questionnaire. The raw data were collected from the different research tools. These data were segregated according to the variables considered in the study. The data were tallied and tabulated in preparation for data processing and analysis. Statistical tests were applied to determine frequency of occurrences, weighted means and any significant relationship between the variables being compared.

## Data Analysis

For drawing the students' demographic profile, the frequency count and percentage were used. Weighted mean was used to determine the level of aspiration of the respondents. Eta<sup>2</sup> was used as statistical tool for testing the hypothesis to find the significant relationship between the demographic profile and the aspiration.

In the Aspiration Checklists, the respondents were offered five options. To arrive at a verbal description of each item, the arbitrary numerical guide was followed:

Weight	Range	Verbal Interpretation	
5	4.5 – 5.00	Strongly agree	Very High
4	3.5 – 4.49	Agree	High
3	2.5 – 3.49	Moderately Agree	Moderately High
2	1.5 – 2.49	Disagree	Low
1	1.0 – 1.49	Strongly Disagree	Very Low

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Frequency Distribution of Respondents Based on Their Profile

This study is composed of 26.5 percent or 57 freshmen students and 73.5 percent or 158 sophomore maritime students with a total of 215. Majority of the respondents belong to a family with 3 – 4 number of children which is composed of 103 or 47.9 percent followed by 5 -6 children with 48 or 22.3 percent while respondents with 1 -2 children is composed of 34 or 15.8 percent. However, respondents who belong to a family with 7 – 8 and more than 8 children in the family are composed of 16 or 7.4 percent and 13 or 6 percent respectively. This implies that the number of children in the family of the maritime students in Lyceum of the Philippines University belong to an average size of a Filipino family. Almost one-third of

the respondents or 31.2 percent are the eldest among the children in the family and 54 or 25.1 percent are the youngest among them. However, 47 or 21.9 percent and 38 or 17.7 percent belong to the middle and second ordinal position in the family while only 5 respondents are the only child.

In terms of type of High School attended, 48.8 percent or 105 of them were graduated from government or public high schools while 106 or 49.3 percent which is almost half of the respondents were graduated from private academic institutions. It means that in LIMA, there is an equal opportunity for high school students both from private and public schools to be admitted in the university. Majority of the respondents are full time students which is composed of 88.4 percent or 190 students while only 3.7 percent or 8 respondents are part time or working students. It only shows that their parents or guardians are capable of supporting the college education of their children in a private academic institution like Lyceum of the Philippines University even without asking their children to work outside class hours. Based on the respondents' perceived estimated monthly income of the their parents, there are 31.2 percent or 67 respondents believed that they parents can earn less than P 10,000 a month, followed by 23.7 percent or 51 respondents deemed to have 15,001 – 20,000 family monthly income while 19.5 percent or 42 respondents thought that their parents are capable of generating approximately from 10,000 to 15,000 monthly.

However, 12.1 percent or 26 respondents and 10.2 percent or 22 respondents agreed that their parents can possibly earn from 20,001 to 30,000 and 30,000 and above monthly income respectively. The result of monthly family income is purely based from perception of the respondents and not from the actual data of earnings and income of their parents. But it can still be used as data to determine somehow the economic status of the students. In terms of educational attainment of parents, the father of the respondents majority belong to both high school and college levels with an equal frequency of 84 or both 39.1 percent followed by 16.3 or 35 fathers who have reached elementary while 2.8 percent or 6 have reached graduate studies.

Majority of the mothers' educational attainment belong to college with 91 or 42.3 percent followed by high school level with 74 or 34.4 percent while 14.4 percent or 31 and 4.2 percent or 9 have reached elementary and graduate studies. It is worthy to note that majority of the parents of the respondents have somehow reached or finished college education. Some missing values or information in the profile of the respondents were not anymore included in the table for presentation. These are the students who are not sure with the educational attainment of their parents and the estimated monthly income of the family. Some of them also missed to check the appropriate blank for their status as student, ordinal position and type of high school graduated.

### **Aspiration of Maritime Students**

In terms of aspiration of maritime students in hibernation category, they disagreed that they belong to this group as manifested by the composite mean score of 1.89. They disagreed that they are lacking in a sense of purpose about themselves and rarely experience a sense of accomplishment in anything they do. Maritime students don't prefer to be alone and it is also not true that they have no clear goals at present because according to them, they know what will happen to them in the future. They also believed that they can reach their dreams because of self-confidence. It is worthy to note that they do not belong to this category because they disagreed to all the statement stated in hibernation category. They are not the type of students

who do not think about the future, has no clear goals and puts forth no effort in daily life which a hibernating type of student describes. In terms of imagination, respondents moderately agreed that they belong to this category of aspiration as manifested by the composite mean score of 2.84. All items in this category fall within the same verbal interpretation of “moderately agree”.

According to maritime students, they want people to like them without taking so much effort (WM = 3.34) which is rank number 1. Dreaming to become a ship captain someday, but they don't have the courage to pursue it (WM 3.01) places in rank 2.

Looking forward to obtain high positions in maritime profession in the future but they thought they can't make it because of stiff competition (WM = 2.84) falls in rank number 3. “They are planning to work with shipping companies after graduation without exerting much effort” (WM = 2.52) and “pursuing to finish their studies that they don't need to work hard” (WM = 2.50) which rank number 4 and 5 respectively. Developing the students' commitment to accomplish a certain task within the specified period of time must be strongly acquired by the students (Laguador, 2013) to have a sense of urgency of making things done efficiently and effectively. Maritime students have very little characteristics of ‘imagination’ category who can readily say what they want to be and share their future plans, but who show little of any effort to reach those dreams. Students belong to this category have positive ideas and attitudes about their future, but they don't take the steps in the present that are needed to reach their goals. Data show that maritime students are not merely characterized as being dreamers, disconnected from reality, impractical about real life situations and idle as what imagination category describes.

In terms of perspiration, respondents moderately agreed that they belong to this category of aspiration as manifested by the composite mean score of 2.83 which has 0.01 mean difference from ‘imagination’ category. All items in this category fall within the same verbal interpretation of “moderately agree”. They are fulfilling their duties and responsibilities without feeling stressed (WM = 3.29), used to get along with people but, still don't know how to please them (WM = 2.92), have set their goals for the future but they don't know how to achieve these goals (WM = 2.68), studying lessons very well but don't know how to apply these lessons in the future (WM = 2.67) and training themselves with the skills and knowledge for the future career but don't know the importance of setting goals (WM = 2.59).

Data show that maritime students have also very little significant characteristics of ‘Perspiration’ category which defines someone who works exceptionally hard, always puts forth effort, but lacks any kind of direction or purpose. Maritime students have little attitude of showing up on time, seeming to always be at school, putting forth the effort necessary to get ahead, but lacking any kind of dreams for the future. Thus they are working hard every day, yet seem to be going nowhere. In terms of determination, respondents agreed that they belong to this category of aspiration as manifested by the composite mean score of 4.37. All items in this category fall within the same verbal interpretation of “agree”.

According to the respondents, they try their best to have high/good grades for future employment (WM = 4.49), become a ship captain in the future no matter how hard it is (WM = 4.45), have their own set of objectives and direction to achieve a better future (WM = 4.43), working hard to finish their studies because they know what is waiting for them in the future (WM = 4.34) and they are inspired to be with people who can challenge their knowledge and skills (WM = 4.14).

Maritime students belong to ‘Determination’ category with high aspirations. They have the ability to think about the future and set goals for themselves. They are also inspired in the present to work toward future goals. These students are the hard working, dependable ones that seem to be always moving forward with a sense of purpose. They have a clear intention about what they want to do, who they want to become and they have committed the energy, time and resources to meet their objectives. They have a sense of direction and, even if the direction changes, they are well equipped to meet the challenges of the day and continue to pursue their dreams.

**Table 1. Relationship Between the Profile Variables of Maritime Students and Their Aspirations**

Aspirations Profile Variables	Sig. Values ( $\alpha$ )			
	Hibernation	Imagination	Perspiration	Determination
Year Level	0.617	0.063	<b>0.048</b>	<b>0.043</b>
Number of Children in the Family	0.653	0.155	0.603	0.818
Ordinal Position in the Family	0.595	0.307	0.122	0.647
Type of High School Graduated	<b>0.042</b>	0.157	<b>0.039</b>	0.708
Status of Student	0.776	0.516	0.326	0.878
Estimated Family Monthly Income	0.120	0.602	0.379	0.976
Educational Attainment of Parents:				
Father	<b>0.035</b>	0.660	0.303	0.889
Mother	<b>0.043</b>	0.319	<b>0.040</b>	0.604

*Legend:  $\alpha < 0.05$  Significant;*

*$\alpha > 0.05$  Not Significant*

Table 1 reveals the relationship between profile variables of maritime students and their aspirations. As indicated from the table, the resulted significant values of year level, type of high school graduated, educational attainment of parents were less than 0.05 level of significance, thus the null hypothesis of no significant relationship between the profile variables mentioned the aspirations such as hibernation, perspiration and determination is rejected. This means that there is a relationship exists.

This also implies that the students’ aspiration in terms of hibernation was affected by their type of school they graduated. Majority of maritime students from private academic institution have low aspiration in terms of hibernation compared to those students graduated from government high schools. It means that there are more maritime students from public schools have the tendency to possess the characteristics of hibernating students. The students’ aspiration in terms of hibernation was affected by their parents’ educational attainment. It means that the higher the educational attainment of father and mother, the lower the chance for the children to become a hibernating student. Perspiration was affected by their year level; it implies that freshman students have much higher chance to become part of perspiration category rather than sophomore maritime students. Perspiration was affected by their type of school; it implies that maritime students from government schools have much higher chance to become part of perspiration category rather than from private schools.

Perspiration was affected by their educational attainment of their mother; the higher the educational attainment of mother, the lower the chance of their children to become part of perspiration category. Determination was affected by their year level, it means that the higher the year level of the maritime students, the higher the aspiration of the students in terms of determination. This implies that sophomore students have much higher determination than freshman students.

## **CONCLUSION**

The respondents of the study are mostly senior maritime students, who belong to family with 3 – 4 children, eldest, graduated from public high schools, full time students, majority their parents earn less than P 10,000 a month, mostly their fathers have reached both high school and college levels while the mothers' educational attainment belong to college. Maritime students belong to determination category where they try their best to have high/good grades for future employment, to become a ship captain in the future no matter how hard it is and to have their own set of objectives and direction to achieve a better future. The profile aspiration of students in terms of Hibernation is affected by the type of school they graduated and parents' educational attainment while perspiration is affected by year level, type of school and educational attainment of mother.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Based on the aforementioned conclusions, it is strongly recommended that the Proposed Enhancement of Student Service Program of LIMA be considered in the departmental planning so that the development program towards the attainment of the institutional objectives and be implemented to achieve continuous and maximum customer satisfaction. Maritime students must prepare themselves to the possible adjustments and transformation they needed to adapt in able to follow the right track of achieving better goals and life in the future. They must take all the chances in order to make possible advances. The identified problems of the maritime students must be addressed properly specifically to their parents and family who are the primary concerned to enhance more the values and aspiration of their children. Parents must be aware of the problems being encountered by their children through proper way of communication. Parents must keep their minds and arms open to the conditions of their children.

Trainings, seminars, giving emphasis in the classroom situation of inculcating values to students and conducting follow-up researches regarding the topic understudy are some of the activities recommended for LIMA to reform the educational values of the maritime students into a more significant shape of a true dynamic Lycean. Faculty members may also help the students increase the level of interest towards the program to both minor and major difficulties while completing their studies through providing them insights regarding the graduates' job opportunities (Laguador, 2014). With that, students may aspire higher degree of achievement. The integration of values in all general and professional courses is necessary to provide not only the specific application of skills required but the students can also be equipped with appropriate attitude and behaviour towards work (Dotong, 2014). The community must learn how to accept individual differences of people. They should realize the value of one another in the community in order to achieve peace and harmony. They must also project good example to young individuals like maritime students most especially the leaders of the community who serve as the most transparent models and figures of the

society. The community as well as the environment is the bearer of values, authority and freedom to live life with great sense of honor and aspiration to serve the humanity.

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