

Correlation of Academic Performance and Problems Encountered by Marine Transportation Students

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Abstract - *The study attempted to investigate the problem of the Marine Transportation students in relation to their academic performance. Descriptive type of research method was utilized in the study with 150 surveyed students. Results showed that the students have reported moderately serious problems on studies and self-concerns with the highest means while family, relate to others and health on the lighter side. Students with higher academic performance are those students with high possibility of experiencing health problems, on the other hand, they have also low tendency of experiencing problems on studies and self-concerns. Maritime students must realize the value of their contribution in achieving the vision and mission of the University as well as their future professional roles as seafarers to help them develop positive attitude and behavior towards school activities related to academics.*

Keywords: *Marine Transportation, self-concerns, family, health, behavior*

INTRODUCTION

The result of the academic performance of the college students is one of the measures of their capacity to carry out tasks effectively and efficiently. It provides an overview on how students achieved certain level of knowledge or skills as determined by specific criteria (Laguador, 2013a, 2013b; Bacay et al., 2015; Garcia et al., 2015).

If they are not performing very well in academics as what they are expected to deliver, therefore, there are some factors that hinder or hold them back to perform their tasks and achieve their full potential as future leaders and marine professionals. Problems encountered of the students should be identified to address the challenges that might influence their attitude and behavior towards accomplishing certain responsibilities in school (Lucky et al., 2015; Candava & Orence, 2013; Laguador, 2013c). The low academic performance of the majority of the Marine Transportation students gave birth to this study that investigates to the following areas of their student life where they might encounter problems: family, health, relationship with others, self-concerns and studies.

Family is a factor being considered in looking for problems of the students. It is always necessary for anyone to have a good family relationship in order to sustain and develop a great character towards the attainment of a nation with notable citizens and community. Understanding family problems of

students will help them answer their uncertainties. Knowing the family conditions of the students would somehow help them cope up with the challenges that resist them to present good academic outputs.

Several health issues might also affect the ability of the students to bring their best due to some problems where they cannot resist like drinking alcohol and smoking or sleeplessness that weakens their immune system or due to lack of exercise and outdoor activities. Particular health problems play a major role in limiting the motivation and ability to learn (Basch, 2011). Students must always be in a good healthy condition in order for them to actively participate in various classroom and school activities. From the study of Laguador (2013d), it was found out that most problems on physical health being experienced by many students are computer – related most especially if they are having long class hours in laboratories with computer.

The environment where they belong contributes to the well-being of the students because it enhances or reduces their motivation to study based on the kinds of people that surround them every day. If this community provides positive ambiance and attitude towards their school activities would help them boost the confidence of the students where they get some support from others. Having good relationship with friends, relatives, family and other members of the community is one of the factors being looked into as important aspect that plays a role in the college life of the Marine

Transportation students. Active learning is sustained by an environment that caters to the individual needs of the learners (Velasco et al., 2015; Agena et al., 2015; Mendoza, et al., 2014).

Personal issues or self-concerns might also influence in achieving high academic performance due to some inner sense that they cannot help themselves to make feel even better. Problem on communication is one of the issues faced by most males because they always have reservations when they discuss about personal matters (Laguador & Salazar, 2013). They are afraid of making mistakes because they do not want to fail and get teased by their peers.

Motivation of the students to study is an essential component in attaining positive learning outcomes which is also a measure of fulfilling the objectives of quality instruction as well as the vision and mission of the educational institutions. Difficulty of the students to learn the core courses of the Maritime program will incur a domino effect on their behavior to accomplish their task with commitment and passion for excellence. Having developed the study habits (Laguador, 2013e; Magtibay et al., 2015) will always respond to the needs of the student from mediocrity and decrease the vulnerability to be influenced by negative effects of the environment and fast-changing technology. There are many identifiers that would possibly determine and affect the academic performance of the students (Flores, 2015). Problems of students on their studies were also deemed to be important factor in achieving the students' success of having high grades with acquired skills and competencies in preparation for future employment (Laguador & Orence, 2013; Aguado et al., 2015).

Given the following instances and problems might encounter by the Marine Transportation students, this study explores on the extent of these challenges that contribute to their academic performance in one way or another. Knowing the sources of difficulties will provide baseline information for further improvement and development of knowledge, skills and attitude towards the achievement of student outcomes.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study attempted to investigate the problem of the maritime students. Specifically, the study aimed to determine the academic performance of Marine Transportation students during SY 2015-2016; determine the problems do Marine Transportation students have in terms of health, family, relationship with others, self-concerns and studies; to test the relationship between the academic performance of

Marine Transportation students and their problems encountered.

METHODS

Research Design

The descriptive type of research method was utilized in the study. This is a correlational study which probed the significant and non significant relationship of students' academic performance and their problems encountered.

Participants

The research subjects of this study are the 150 or 30 percent of 495 enrolled second year Marine Transportation students at the Lyceum of the Philippines University during second semester of school year 2015-2016. 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 self-made instrument was used to gather the necessary data. The problem checklist is divided into 5 parts with 5 items each part: health, family, relationship, self-concerns and studies. The instrument was content-validated and tested for reliability to the 30 Engineering students from the same University who are not included in the study. The Cronbach Alpha value of 0.823 was obtained which implies that the instrument was reliable with “Good” internal consistency.

Procedures

The researchers secured the list of second year Marine Transportation students who are enrolled during the second semester of S.Y. 2015-2016. The researchers personally administered the questionnaire. The respondents were requested and asked regarding their willingness to participate in the study and only those who favorably respond in the request were given the questionnaire. They were informed regarding the aims of the study. All gathered data will be treated with strict confidentiality; will be used solely to answer the objective of the research and will never be utilized for other purposes.

Data Analysis

Statistical tests were applied to determine the arithmetic mean, weighted means and any significant

relationship between the variables being compared. For drawing the students' academic performance, arithmetic mean or average as used while weighted mean was used to determine the level of problems encountered by the respondents and Pearson-Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was used as statistical tool for testing the hypothesis to find the significant relationship between the academic performance and the problems encountered.

In Problem Checklist, the respondents were offered 5 options. To arrive at a verbal description of each item, the arbitrary numerical guide was followed: 4.5 – 5.00: Always; Very Serious; 3.5 – 4.49: Often/ Serious; 2.5 – 3.49: Sometimes/Moderately Serious; 1.5 – 2.49: Seldom/ Not Serious; 1.0 – 1.49: Never/Not a problem.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Academic Performance of the Surveyed Student-Respondent

General Weighted Average	F	%
High (1.00 – 1.75)	14	9
Average (1.76-2.50)	60	40
Low (2.51 and below)	76	51
Total	150	100

Majority of the surveyed students comprised of 76 or 51 percent have a general weighted average between 2.51 and below while the students with GWA between 1.76 and 2.50 comprised of 60 or 40 percent and the least group of 14 or 9 percent is the group of students with high GWA from 1.00 to 1.75.

Table 2. Problems Encountered by Marine Transportation Students

Health Problems	WM	VI	Rank
1. I am suffering from severe headache	2.39	Seldom	3
2. I have difficulty in sleeping	2.44	Seldom	2
3. I can't resist smoking cigarettes	1.92	Seldom	5
4. I can't refuse to drink alcohol	2.32	Seldom	4
5. I don't have enough outdoor activities/exercise	2.56	Sometimes	1
Composite Mean	2.32	Seldom	
Problem with Family			
1. Worried about the health problems in the family	3.34	Sometimes	2
2. Parents do not have enough time for me.	2.04	Seldom	5
3. Parents are too strict that they do not allow me to go out with friends.	2.40	Seldom	4
4. Parents expect too much from me	3.39	Sometimes	1
5. Parents do not understand my needs.	2.45	Seldom	3
Composite Mean	2.73	Sometimes	
Problems as they relate to others			
1. I have difficulty in making friends	2.13	Seldom	5
2. I feel shy in talking to people	2.81	Sometimes	1
3. I don't get along in social gathering	2.53	Sometimes	3
4. I was never chosen as a leader	2.44	Seldom	4
5. I feel some people don't like me better	2.58	Sometimes	2
Composite Mean	2.50	Sometimes	
Problems on Self- Concerns			
1. Being nervous when I ask to speak in front	3.54	Often	1
2. Afraid of making mistakes	3.27	Sometimes	2
3. Failing in so many times I try to do	2.74	Sometimes	4
4. Being teased and easily get hurt	2.71	Sometimes	5
5. Too easily influenced by other people	2.79	Sometimes	3
Composite Mean	3.01	Sometimes	
Problems on Studies			
1. Lack of motivation for studying	2.66	Sometimes	5
2. Lack of concentration when doing review of past lessons for exam	3.32	Sometimes	3
3. I'm easily distracted during class discussion.	3.58	Often	2
4. Difficulty in understanding the lesson	2.85	Sometimes	4
5. I have no specific time when to study my lessons	3.67	Often	1
Composite Mean	3.22	Sometimes	

The number one perceived problem on health of Marine Transportation students is not enough outdoor activities and exercise (2.56) because they don't have sufficient time to do this during their spare time in the morning even after class. But this problem is only perceived sometimes and it is just only a moderately serious concern. According to the respondents, it is not that serious problem for them the difficulty in sleeping (2.44), suffering from severe headache (2.39), can't refuse to drink alcohol (2.32) and can't resist smoking cigarettes (1.92). All these items fall under the "Seldom" verbal interpretation. The computed composite mean score of 2.32 shows that Marine Transportation students are not being disturbed seriously by these health problems specified in the study. Even though they encountered these problems rarely, they still do not consider these as significant.

Meanwhile, in terms of problem with the family, it shows that parents of the respondents are expecting too much from them (3.39) which ranks number 1 problem of the students. Sometimes students thought that they are being pressured by their parents for obtaining high or even just good grades in college that may somehow the reason why they think that way. It is followed by "worried about the health problems in the family" (3.34) and parents do not understand their needs (2.45). "Parents are too strict that they do not allow them to go out with friends" (2.40) and "Parents do not have enough time for them" (2.04) are the lowest items rated by the respondents. The computed composite mean score of 2.73 shows that maritime students have moderately serious problem with their family.

They feel shy in talking to people (2.81) is the number 1 problem of the respondents in terms of problems as they relate to others followed by feeling of some people don't like them better (2.58), they don't get along in social gathering (2.53), never chosen as a leader (2.44) and have difficulty in making friends (2.13). The computed composite mean score of 2.50 shows that maritime students have moderately serious problem as they relate to others. It is necessary to keep positive values which geared towards the attainment of healthy atmosphere and relationship with other people in the community (Alcantara et al., 2015).

Maritime students are often being nervous when ask to speak in front (3.54) is their number 1 problem in terms of self – concerns followed by being afraid of making mistakes (3.27), too easily influenced by other people (2.79), and failing in so many times they try to do (2.74) while being teased and easily get hurt (2.71) as the least rated problem of maritime students. The computed composite mean score of 301 shows that

maritime students have moderately serious problems on self-concerns which is rated the highest among the five problems identified in the study.

In terms of problems on studies, data show that having no specific time when to study their lessons (3.67) is the often problem of the Marine Transportation students followed by being easily distracted during class discussion (3.58); lack of concentration when doing review of past lessons for exam (3.32); and difficulty in understanding the lesson (2.85) while lack of motivation for studying (2.66) which is the least rated item by the Marine Transportation students. The computed composite mean score of 3.22 shows that maritime students have moderately serious problems on their studies which is rated the highest among the five problems identified variables in the study.

They consider their problems on studies as moderate wherein some of them believe having that kind of experience or way of life in college is just normal. They have no peer pressure to be stressed on how they should perform academically because what others are doing might as well consider typical based on their standards and norms in the environment. However, Maritime faculty members experienced improper behavior among the students during minor or major examinations and students commit glancing or looking at another student's examination paper (Laguador & Alcantara, 2013) where students consider this as normal part of student life but they need to understand the ethical rules and value of fairness.

Table 3. Relationship Between the Profile Variables of Marine Students and Their Problems Encountered

Problems	r-value	p-value	Remarks
Health	0.628	0.002	Significant
With Family	0.162	0.301	Not Significant
Relate to others	0.019	0.412	Not Significant
Self-concerns	- 0.414	0.033	Significant
Studies	- 0.582	0.011	Significant

Legend: $\alpha < 0.05$ Significant; $\alpha > 0.05$ Not Significant

Table 2 reveals the relationship between the academic performance of Marine Transportation students and their problems encountered. There is a significant positive relationship between academic performance and problem encountered of the students in term of health as denoted by the computed r-value of 0.628 with p-value of 0.002 which is less than the 0.05 level of significance. This signifies that those students with higher academic performance have higher

possibility of encountering health problems. Meanwhile, there is a significant negative relationship between academic performance and problems on self-concerns (-0.414) and studies (-0.582) as denoted by p-values of 0.033 and 0.011, respectively which are less than the 0.05 level of significance. This signifies that those students with lower academic performance have higher possibility of encountering problems on self-concerns and studies while those students with higher academic performance are those with lower tendency of encountering these problems.

However, there is no significant relationship between academic performance and problems encountered with family and problems as relate to others as indicated by the computed p-values of 0.301 and 412, respectively. This implies that students with either low or high academic performance can possibly experience these problems which are considered common for all. They have different levels of concern with regards to family where most people are sensitive on this issue. They can easily be affected when talking about family because this is one of the closest and most important matters for Filipinos. On the other hand, they have diverse experiences as relate to others where everyone could have encountered difficulty in making friends but some of them are not. For others, it doesn't matter if they were not chosen as a leader but some might have feelings of frustration.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Majority of the surveyed students have low GWA followed by average group of respondents which signifies that Marine Transportation students are not grade conscious wherein obtaining an average grade is good enough to pass the courses. The most identified problems by the students are: not enough outdoor activities and exercise, parents of the respondents are expecting too much from them, feel shy in talking to people, afraid of making mistakes and having not developed appropriate study habits. Marine Transportation students with high academic performance have possibility of encountering high problems on health and they have the tendency of having low concerns on self and studies because they might have developed already proper study habits with coping mechanisms on how to face consequences when dealing with people in social gatherings.

The identified problems of the maritime students must be addressed properly specifically to their parents and family that are the primary concerns to make them feel comfortable with their studies without any distraction or worries. 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. On the part of the University, the proper individual or group counselling of the students (Duran et al., 2015) will also help them understand better of their attitude and behavior on how to cope up with their studies and build strong confidence on how they can express their ideas during discussion or in any social gathering. Students may also be given proper orientation on how to keep them healthy and resist from drinking alcohol and using of cigarettes.

Since the university has no direct control or power to supervise the communities where the students are currently living, instead the students should develop their awareness and sensitivity on the negative and positive influence to their personality of the people within the environment. They should know their role in the community as change agent and not the one being influenced by harmful practices. They have to keep on their goals of finishing the college degree with good grades and attributes of remarkable future seafarers.

Keeping the environment as very supportive to the welfare of the students will make the atmosphere of Lyceum International Maritime Academy (LIMA) conducive to learning while enjoying the different activities of the University.

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