



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

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Abstract: Nationalism and Social Advocacy are two 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 respondents' nationalism and social advocacy levels were defined, respectively. Along with a letter of informed consent, both scales 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, 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 political activism amongst the youth or another field of university students in Metro Manila.

Key Words: nationalism; social advocacy; national identity; engagement; activism

1. INTRODUCTION

It is essential to realize that the study of nationalism is more than just a citizen's love for their country. Bonikowski (2016) perceives nationalism as part of daily human behavior rather than a political ideology. The internal sense of nationalism may be related to an individual's sense of advocacy or external action. The research study of McInroy and Beer (2020) emphasizes that social advocacy is of great concern to the youth and could be related to their overall national awareness or feelings towards the country.

Although it is acknowledged that there have been studies in the past which tackled Nationalism and Social Advocacy, there remains to be a limited number of previous research studies that focus on the possible relationship between them amongst Philippine Generation Z University students. This idea considers the development of their maturity amidst different social movements (Schwieger & Ladwig, 2018). A study by Fietzer and Ponterotto (2015) acknowledges a particular need to measure an individual's level of social advocacy given the prevalence of social issues. This need also considers the different factors that may affect it, including nationalism, which emphasizes studying the relationship between these two variables.

This research study aims to determine if there is a significant relationship between

nationalism and the level of social advocacy of select university students in Metro Manila. It acknowledges that there is an urgency for the said discussion. Each variable may be the root of social participation from the youth, which is essential in different social issues in the Philippines. The findings of this research shall contribute to the overall understanding and knowledge of nationalism and social advocacy, should a relationship exist between them.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Nationalism in the Philippines

In a socio-cultural approach of nationalism, it impacts particular exclusionary and individual conducts, which is then regarded as a relevant social identity (Latcheva, 2010). A study by Seton-Watson (2019) examines nationalism in political movements that aim to achieve the "national purpose" and how state policies and relationships influence it. Takagi (2016) defines Philippine nationalism as a factor contributing to breaking free from colonialism, especially under the idea that concept studies lean more towards the state's active role in politics, as one's nation depends on nationalism as a basis for policy-making. Additionally, Reid (2010) states that the Philippines is the model for anti-imperialist



nationalism, observed through the country’s long history of rebelling against its colonizers, especially Spain.

2.2 Social Advocacy in the Philippines

A research study by Barnhardt, Sheets, and Pasquesi (2015) found that those who showed personal advocacies, including nationalism, contributed to building the respondent’s social identity. The Social Issues Advocacy scale further supports this view or definition of social advocacy, given the establishment of advocacy to civic engagement (Nilsson, et al., 2011). In the Philippine context, Ty (2011) states that social advocacy may be used as a framework for society in fighting against social injustices in the Philippines. This study shows that the discussion of this concept in the Philippine context is more inclined towards its general social implications rather than its relationship with other fundamental concepts.

2.3 Nationalism and Social Advocacy

Research analysis by Pyrhonen (2015) partly looked into the relationship between these variables only in the context of right-wing advocacies. While this study was able to involve the variable of Nationalism through a literature review, it did not discuss the manifestations of such in its respondents and establish a quantifiable relationship with social advocacy. Similarly, a research study by Ahmad, Alvi, and Ittefaq (2019) suggests that an individual’s feelings towards a country and its citizens may be associated with their level of civic engagement or social advocacy.

2.4 Synthesis

Nationalism and social advocacy have influenced both individual and collective behavior amongst people. In this research, it is understood that nationalism is an aspect of an identity that influences human behavior. On the other hand, social advocacy refers to the pursuit of social justice in civic engagement. Civic engagement is encouraged by a sense of social advocacies, including nationalism, as it helps build one’s foundation of social identity. Several studies have used the two concepts in different contexts and perspectives to relate nationalism and social advocacy. However, there are rarely any studies grounded on quantifying nationalism and social advocacy in the Philippine context. Overall, these literature and studies have proven that nationalism and social advocacy play vital roles in the attitudes and perspectives across society, thus being significant towards achieving the research objectives.

3. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

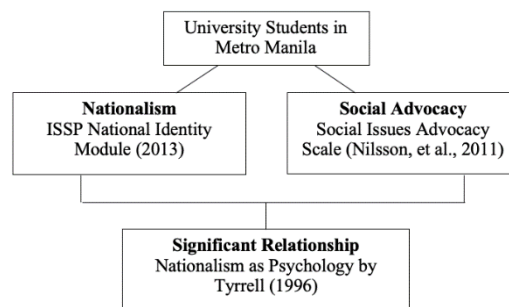


Figure 1. Research Paradigm

The figure presented above represents the research paradigm and conceptual framework of the study. To achieve the study’s goal, the researchers plan to measure the variables Nationalism and Social Advocacy using selected research instruments, namely the National Identity Module and the Social Issues Advocacy Scale, respectively. The data shall be gathered from the respondents to suggest an existing significant relationship between the variables, presumably a direct one, and examine such.

4. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The purpose of this study is to determine and discuss if there is a significant relationship between the level of nationalism and social advocacy of the respondents. Hence, the following research questions.

What is the students’ level of nationalism given the sum of their survey results under the defined research instrument?

What is the students’ level of social advocacy given the sum of their survey results under the defined research instrument?

Is there a significant relationship between the level of nationalism and social advocacy of the respondents?

5. METHODOLOGY

5.1 Research Design

The research design utilized in this study would be correlational. According to Rodriguez-Bailon, et al. (2017), correlational studies are best used in describing socio-cultural aspects as it leads to a deeper understanding of systematic and social complexity.

With this, the researchers believed that this design was most appropriate for the paper, considering the main objective of this study.



Table 1 shows that the respondents came from various Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS) college courses, all of which are above the first-year level and qualify for the inclusion criteria. The most common course amongst the respondents was AB/BA Diplomacy & International Relations, with eight respondents (22.86%) coming from varying year levels.

Table 2
 Demographic Profile: Respondents' Year Level in University

Year Level	Frequency	Percentage
2nd Year	23	65.71
3rd Year	8	22.86
4th Year	4	11.43
Total	35	100

Table 2 Demographic Profile: Respondents' Year Level in University

Table 2 presents the variety of university year levels among the respondents. As shown, the majority of the respondents are 2nd Year university students, with 23 (65.57%) of them being under this category.

Table 3
 Demographic Profile: Respondents' Years of Philippine Citizenship

Years of Citizenship	Frequency	Percentage
18 years	6	17.14
19 years	12	34.29
20 years	9	25.71
21 years	7	20.00
22 years	0	0.00
23 years	1	2.86
Total	35	100

Table 3 Demographic Profile: Respondents' Year of Philippine Citizenship

All respondents have been citizens of the Philippines for more than five years or the inclusion criteria. The shortest time of citizenship years would be 18 years, with six respondents (17.14%).

Table 4
 Descriptive Statistics on Respondents' Level of Nationalism

Properties under Nationalism	Mean	SD
Importance of Philippine Laws	4.51	0.70
General View on the Philippines and its citizens	17.66	3.40
National Pride	12.17	2.65
Strong Patriotic Feelings in the Philippines	10.60	2.46

Note. The data was acquired from the respondents in the middle of the first semester.

Table 4 Descriptive Statistics on Respondents' Level of Nationalism

The data from Table 4 suggests that most of the respondents' feelings of nationalism come from their General View of the Philippines and its citizens (M=17.66, SD=3.40). This result indicates that nationalism may contribute to their overall national identity and perspective.

Table 5
 Descriptive Statistics on Respondents' Level of Social Advocacy

Properties under Social Advocacy	Mean	SD
Political and Social Advocacy	22.43	6.43
Political Awareness	22.46	5.84
Social Issue Awareness	18.09	3.53
Confronting Discrimination	13.49	2.91

Note. The data was acquired from the respondents in the middle of the first semester.

Table 5 Descriptive Statistics on Respondents' Level of Advocacy

The data from Table 5 suggests that one of the strongest factors contributing to the respondents' social advocacy would be Political Awareness (M=22.46, SD=5.84). Considering the definition of social advocacy in the research instrument, the results may imply that high levels of social advocacy may relate to one's awareness and support of social justice.



Table 6

Correlation of the Respondents' Level of Nationalism and Level of Social Advocacy

	Total Nationalism	Total Social Advocacy
Total Nationalism	1	.615*
Total Social Advocacy	.615*	1

* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

Table 6 Correlation of the Respondents' Level of Nationalism and Level of Social Advocacy

Table 6 presents the association between the research variables. As shown, the variables are strongly correlated with each other $r(35)=.615$, $p<.01$. With this, the data suggests that there is a significant strong positive correlation, $r=.615$, $p=0.01$. This result supports the idea that one's personal and political ideologies may indicate a strong relationship with social advocacy and participation.

7. DISCUSSIONS

7.1 Summary and Conclusions

The results show a high level of respondent nationalism, especially when it came to their general view of the Philippines and its citizens, based on their feeling of national pride. It also shows a high level of respondent social advocacy revolving around their awareness of national political matters. The researchers have then discovered that the two variables are directly correlated to each other. High levels of nationalism amongst the respondents also corresponded to high levels of social advocacy.

In the presence of previous correlational studies conducted regarding the relationship of nationalism with other social ideologies, it is surprising that this study may become another indicator that nationalism has a relevant impact on human behavior, especially regarding national purpose (Seton-Watson, 2019). In line with this, the results suggest that nationalism may be an essential factor in the conduct of Generation Z.

Similarly, high levels of social advocacy amongst the respondents may relate to building one's social identity, as Barnhardt, Sheets, and Pasquesi (2015) explained. This idea may support how the respondents exhibited social advocacy through awareness of political issues as university students. The results suggest that because levels of social advocacy are high, the respondents may be actively engaged in civic movements relating to social justice.

The suggested significant relationship between the levels of nationalism and levels of social advocacy amongst the respondents can be supported by a research study by Ahmad, Alvi, & Ittefaq (2019). The study suggests that an individual's

feelings towards a country and its citizens may be associated with their civic engagement or social advocacy level.

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, indicating a significant relationship between the respondents' level of nationalism and social advocacy.

Considering that there may be 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.

7.2 Limitations and Recommendations

A notable limitation of this research would be the chosen sample given the inclusion criteria. 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 acknowledge the lack of generalizability given this criterion and the two-month duration of the research; however, the researchers believe that it remains valid due to related research for the necessary assumptions taken and the results presented.

For those who wish to pursue this topic and extend the research regarding this, the researchers would recommend exploring these variables, including an increased range of college courses. This recommendation may broaden the scope of the research as well as the sample size. In addition to this, the researchers would recommend exploring the relationship of either variable with political activism, considering the observed similarity among the survey questions.

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All for Jesus, in Jesus. Embrace new life, be a gift to others!

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