

A Study of the Likes and Dislikes of Filipino Adolescents

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This study of Catholic and Protestant adolescents, ranging from twelve to sixteen years old studying in the four private high schools in General Santos and South Cotabato, was an attempt to answer three questions as follows:

1. What qualities in adults are liked by adolescents?
2. What qualities are disliked by them?
3. With regard to their "Likes" and "Dislikes," are there significant differences in the choices of Catholic and Protestant boys and girls and in the choices of boys and girls in different age groups?

PROCEDURE

The variables included in this study were age, sex, and religion.

Adolescents enrolled at Magsaysay Memorial College, Southern Is-

land College, Notre Dame College (Boys Department), and Notre Dame College (Girls Department) were studied. Nine hundred eighty-two of these were boys and 1,137 were girls, making a total of 2,119.

One thousand four hundred forty-eight of these respondents were Catholic and 671 were Protestant.

In statistical treatments, to compare age groups, the boys and the girls were classified into younger and older groups.

The main sources of data were the compositions written by the students on "What I Like in Adults" and "What I Dislike in Adults."

The data taken from the compositions were checked against those obtained with the use of the checklists.

The Rank-Difference Coefficient of Correlation was used to determine how closely any two groups

agreed in their choices. The .05 level of significance was used.

The critical ratio was used to determine the significance of the difference between percentages of the two groups choosing each category. The .05 level of significance was used.

FINDINGS

This study presented the following findings:

1. Sixteen qualities were found to be common preferences of the Filipino adolescent boys and girls studied. These qualities were goodness (in terms of being helpful, kind, patient, and loving), independence, ability to get along well with others, values in the world of work, physical attractiveness, materialistic values, refinement, honesty and truthfulness, ideals of family life, ability to maintain discipline, abstinence from vice like gambling, intellectual values, spiritual values, patriotism, dislike of/or freedom from faults and weakness of character, and bravery and courage.

2. Fourteen qualities were found to be common dislikes of this group of adolescents studied. These were unfriendliness, poor family membership, lack of understanding, immodesty (in speech, behavior, and

dress), boastfulness, unspecified badness, being old-fashioned in dress and ways, lack of manners, faults and weakness of character, laxity in discipline, and paucity of intellectual values.

3. Protestant and Catholic boys studied had the same preferred and disliked qualities in adults. The same fact was observed among the girls.

4. Significant differences were found between the boys and girls in their choice of "likes" and "dislikes."

CONCLUSIONS

The aforementioned findings led to the following conclusions:

1. Filipino adolescent boys had common likes and dislikes. So did the girls.

2. Age seemed related to some extent to the likes and dislikes of adolescents.

3. Sex seemed related to the adolescents' likes and dislikes.

4. Religion was not related to qualities liked or disliked by the adolescents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the findings and conclusions of this study, the following recommendations are presented:



1. The aspirations and values of the adolescent boys and girls as reflected in the qualities they liked and disliked in adults should be considered by adults (teachers, counselors, parents, and other adults acting as guides of adolescents) in dealing with adolescents. This information should be made available to teachers and parents so that they will be better prepared to deal with adolescents. This can be done through group discussions among parents and teachers in a Parent-Teacher Association meeting.

2. As a corollary to No. 1, schools could make their guidance program more responsive to the needs and problems of adolescents if teachers and counselors knew adolescents better. Therefore, it is recommended that teachers and guidance counselors should endeavor to know adolescents better. It is also recommended that adolescent psychology be included in the curriculum for the training of teachers and counselors, especially of high school teachers and counselors.

3. Being aware of what adolescents like and dislike in them, adults would know which of their own behavioral tendencies to curb. They would then be able to work more effectively with the adolescents, or even be admired by them,

thereby having the opportunity to influence their development along desirable ways. So adults should continue to learn more about adolescents' "likes" and "dislikes."

4. Because of the apparent lack of concern with intellectual values among a majority of the adolescents, require and free reading should include biographies of admirable subjects whose intellectual pursuits and achievement could inspire adolescents to admire, if not emulate, these.

For further studies, the following recommendations are presented:

1. A study of greater value than this is one made on larger scale. Adolescents in a typical urban, a semi-urban, and a typical rural area should be included in such a study with their "likes" and "dislikes" compared.

2. To minimize subjectivity in the interpretation of the contents of the themes, analysis should be made by two other content analysts aside from the researcher himself.

3. Other factors like socioeconomic status, intelligence, and home environment may be considered in studies similar to the present study to obtain a more comprehensive picture of Filipino adolescents.

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4. Studies on other aspects of Filipino adolescence should be made

to gather more information about Filipino adolescents.

5. A comparative study of Filipino adolescents and adolescents of other countries should be undertaken.