

A Survey of the Attitudes of High School Students in Dumalag, Capiz, and of Their Parents Towards Vocational High School Education *

by

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This study was conducted to survey and analyze the present attitudes of high school students of Dumalag, Capiz, and of their parents toward vocational high school education and to discover whether such attitudes were favorable or unfavorable.

In this survey, the investigator hoped to answer the following questions:

1. Do students and their parents consider vocational high schools a cheaper way to college education than general high schools?
2. What is the choice of a life-work style (preference for blue-

collar or white-color jobs) of high school students and of their parents?

3. Do students and their parents agree that secondary vocational education should be terminal?

4. Do they believe in the idea that vocational education is for the mentally slow (average or poorer) students?

5. Are they of the opinion that vocational education is inferior to general education?

6. What is the general attitude of students and parents of Capiz Regional Vocational High School and Saint Martin Academy toward vocational High School Education?

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7. How do students and parents of the vocational high school compare with students and parents of the general high school in their attitude toward vocational high school education?

8. How do students compare with their parents in their attitude toward vocational high school education?

The results of this study are intended to appraise educators of the present attitudes of students and parents toward vocational high school education so that they will be guided accordingly on how they can enrich their program in their effort to channel the capabilities and talents of the youth in the right and proper directions.

In preparation for the survey, a questionnaire was made by the researcher primarily to elicit the respondents' opinions regarding vocational education. There were four issues presented; namely, (1) the choice of a life-work style, (2) the idea of vocational high school education being terminal, (3-a) the use of vocational high school education as a cheaper step to college education than general high school education, (3-b) the use of training gained from vocational high school education to help a continuing student earn his way through college, and (4) the idea that vocational high school edu-

cation is for the mentally slow students.

The questionnaire were validated by using item analysis. The result showed that all of the items obtained t values significant at the .01 level. Similar items for both the students' and parents' questionnaires were included in the final instrument. There were five items in the first part and fourteen in the second part of the final questionnaire. The students' questionnaire was written in English while that of the parents' was written in the vernacular.

The researcher, then, administered the final instrument to the high school students and parents of the two secondary schools of Dumalag, Capiz — the Capiz Regional Vocational High School (CRVHS) and the Saint Martin Academy (SMA).

Fifty per cent of the total population was included in the sample using the systematic sampling technique. Only questionnaires which were submitted in pairs were included in the study. There were 365 pairs from CRVHS and seventy-four pairs from SMA.

The duly accomplished questionnaires were subjected to a reliability test using the Split-half Method. The r obtained for the whole test using the Spearman-Brown formula was .84 which

showed that the whole questionnaire was highly reliable.

In the treatment of the data, the researcher used the chisquare test to get the trend of opinion of the students and parents of CRVHS and SMA. The t-test was used to compare the attitudes between groups.

It was found out that the students and parents of the two schools were more inclined toward white-collar jobs. The chi-square values obtained were all significant at the .01 level. On the other hand, all of them agreed that vocational subjects should be taught in high school.

On the second issue, the students and parents of CRVHS disagreed that students who plan to go to college should not enroll in vocational high school. The parents of SMA shared the same opinion but the students of SMA were undecided on the issue.

All the four groups expressed their desire for a college education whenever there is an opportunity. They do not agree that vocational high schools should be terminal. Among the professional courses listed, Commerce ranked first in the choice of both parents and students of the two schools.

On the third issue, the four groups were one in the belief that vocational high school education is a cheaper step to college education

than general high school education. All of them also believed that the training gained from vocational education help students earn a living or earn their way through college.

The opinions of respondents on the fourth issue revealed that the students and parents of CRVHS disagreed that vocational high school education is for the mentally slow and is inferior to general high school education. The students and parents of SMA were undecided on this issue.

Generally, the attitude of students and parents of the two schools was favorable toward vocational high school education. The parents of CRVHS, however, proved to have better attitude than the students since the difference between their means was significant at the .05 level as shown by the t-ratio.

The students of SMA did not differ from their parents on their attitude toward vocational education. It was also found out that the parents of CRVHS had a more favorable attitude toward vocational education than the parents of SMA.

Finally, the attitude of students of CRVHS was found to be more favorable toward vocational high school education than the students of SMA.

On the basis of these findings, it could be concluded that the stu-

dents and parents of CRVHS have a more favorable attitude toward vocational education than the students and parents of SMA.

In this connection, the following recommendations are presented:

1. The public should be well-informed of the program of vocational education through a massive information drive.

2. Vocational schools should extend their services to the general public not only in the form of assistance to the community but also in disseminating proper information about vocational education.

3. Vocational schools should exhibit their products in the community in order to encourage young people to pursue vocational courses.

4. Vocational schools should have a placement program for their graduates who wish to work after graduation in order to realize the objective of making vocational high schools terminal.

5. The guidance program of secondary schools must be prepared to help students make appropriate vocational choices.

6. Students must be well-guided in their choice of course in college by being appraised of the needs and the job opportunities in the field.

7. Vocational schools should have enough equipment and competent teachers to produce well-trained workers and not half-baked graduates.

8. Tuition fees of vocational schools should not be increased in order that they can always accommodate the economically disadvantaged; however, aptitude testing must be strictly imposed in order to erase the idea that vocational education is for the mentally slow.

9. For vocational schools to perform their function of providing vocational training and preparing students for work, they should design curricula directly related to their objectives and not attempt to duplicate the program of general secondary education.

10. A study on the role of the NCEE in encouraging students to take up vocational and technical courses is also recommended.

11. Studies on the influence of parents on the choosing of a course by their children are also suggested by the present study.

12. A similar study, on the attitude of high school students and of their parents toward vocational high school education, needs to be conducted in an urban area.