CHAPTER 5

Summary Conclusions and Recommendations

The primary purpose of this study was to determine the influence of perceived parental psychological characteristics on the gender identity of adolescents. This research was focused mainly on five psychological aspects of personality, which are the following: emotional maturity, sense of responsibility, interpersonal relationships, self-confidence and sense of closeness with children. The total sample was nine hundred ninety six (996), distributed proportionately among universities and among programs.

Data obtained from the adolescent respondents answered the following questions:

1. What were the characteristics of the adolescents in terms of
   1.1 Sex
   1.2 Age
   1.3 Assumed Gender identity?

2. How do adolescents perceived parental psychological characteristics as factors influencing gender identity?
2.1 normal identity
   2.1.1 emotional maturity
   2.1.2 sense of responsibility
   2.1.3 interpersonal relationships
   2.1.4 self-confidence
   2.1.5 sense of closeness with other children

2.2 identity conflict
   2.2.1 emotional maturity
   2.2.2 sense of responsibility
   2.2.3 interpersonal relationship
   2.2.4 self-confidence
   2.2.5 sense of closeness with other children?

3. How do adolescents perceived themselves on the selected psychological characteristics as factors influencing gender identity?

3.1 Normal identity
   3.1.1 emotional maturity
   3.1.2 sense of responsibility
   3.1.3 interpersonal relationship
   3.1.4 self-confidence
   3.1.5 sense of closeness with other children
3.2 Identity conflict

3.2.1 emotional maturity
3.2.2 sense of responsibility
3.2.3 interpersonal relationship
3.2.4 self-confidence
3.2.5 sense of closeness with other children.

4. What were the top five identified gender issues bothering adolescents with normal perception on gender identity?

5. What were the top five identified gender issues bothering adolescents with tendency for gender identity conflict?

6. What prototype guidance and counseling programs can be developed to assist male and female adolescents undergoing gender identity conflict?

To be able to answer the questions raised by the researcher, the descriptive method of research was used. The instruments that were used included the following: 1.) Gender Inventory Sheet. It consisted of a list of adjectives, wherein the adolescents will identify them from always/almost true to never/ or almost never true; 2.) A Perception
Questionnaire for parents and for the respondents consisted of 25 items related to selected psychological characteristics; 3.) A Problem Checklist, which is fifteen items of issues/concerns which they will ranked from most to least bothersome for them. There was also a 4.) Structured Interview Form.

Summary of Findings

1. Characteristics of the adolescents

1.1 Sex

The total number of respondents according to sex was three hundred eighty-one (381) male respondents or thirty-eight percent (38%) and six hundred fifteen (615) female respondents or sixty-two percent (61.7%) and the total of which is nine hundred ninety-six (996). There were more females than males because there were more female enrollees especially in the Nursing program.

1.2 Age

The majority of respondents were clustered on the age bracket 16, 17, and 18 years, which is mid-adolescence. There were single respondents, ages 20, 21, 23 and 24 and 25 and upon interview, were shiftees to Nursing and graduates pursuing Nursing as a second degree.
1.3 Assumed Gender identity

Based on the total number of adolescents having tendency for gender identity conflict there were one hundred twenty (120). Out of this, there were seventy-three (73) male adolescents and forty-seven (47) female respondents. There were more male adolescents having tendency for gender identity conflict than female adolescents.

2. Perception on Parents Selected Psychological Characteristics as factors influencing gender identity.

Both the adolescents with normal perception on gender identity and those having tendency for identity conflict described their parents as having emotional maturity, sense of responsibility, good interpersonal relationships, self-confidence and sense of closeness with other children. There was no significant difference on how they perceived their parents.

3. The Adolescents' own Perception Regarding Selected Psychological Characteristics as Factors influencing gender identity.

As to the perceptions of the adolescents on themselves regarding selected psychological characteristics both adolescents who were normal in their perception of gender identity and those with tendency for identity conflict expressed the same beliefs regarding emotional
maturity, sense of responsibility, interpersonal relationships, self-confidence and sense of closeness with children. No significant difference was expressed.

4. Top Five gender Issues Bothering Adolescent Subjects with Normal Identity

The five gender issues bothering adolescents with normal perception on gender identity were the following: parental pressure/demands/expectations, feelings of inferiority, thinking of taking their own lives, unhappy personal life and difficulty keeping relationships with the opposite sex.

5. Top Five Gender Issues bothering Adolescent Subjects with Identity Conflict

The five gender issues bothering adolescents with tendency for identity conflict are the following: parental pressure/demands/expectations, confusion about religious beliefs and practices, feelings of inferiority, needing information about one's true sexuality, feeling left out at home/in school and unhappy personal life.
6. Proposed Prototype Guidance and Counseling Services for Assisting Persons Undergoing Gender Identity Conflict.

The proposed program guide intervention relevant to the needs of adolescents undergoing identity conflict would include services of diagnostic assessment to properly identify the gender disorder and analyze the gender-related problems, intensive individual/group/peer counseling to motivate and engage in the intervention program, follow and referral, to document the client's family history for referrals, and observe the effects of such program, special projects, to educate and recommend the family members in providing positive support for their children undergoing such conflicts.

CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of the foregoing findings the following conclusions were drawn:

1. The perceived parental psychological characteristics do not seem to influence the gender identity of the adolescents.

2. The adolescents having normal perception regarding gender identity have problems on heterosexual relationships, while those with
tendency for identity conflict have concerns regarding their sexuality especially in relation to its religious implications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the afore cited summary of findings and conclusions the following recommendations are earnestly endorsed:

1. The proposed program should be endorsed for implementation to answer these needs of adolescents in relation to personal issues/concerns of their gender identity, the feelings of inferiority, thoughts of taking their own lives and confusion about religious beliefs and practices.

2. Advisers should discuss not only academic concerns but also adolescent problems especially issues dealing with sexual identity.

3. Parents should be given more information by means of symposia, seminar workshops, networking with the school and other civic-oriented group parents’ and teachers organization regarding existing knowledge and awareness of the important and significant roles they perform in the upbringing of responsible adults and the gender identity development of their children.
4. For future research the following are recommended

4.1 Other factors that might influence gender identity development such as influence of peers, absence of a significant parent either a father to the son or a mother to the daughter.

4.2 Perception on the roles of fathers and mothers affecting gender identity conflict.

4.3 The interaction of biological, psychological, and social factors on the shaping of gender identity