

INVOLVEMENT OF UNIFORMED PERSONNEL IN CRIMES: AS PERCEIVED  
BY THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR STUDENTS OF CRIMINOLOGY IN  
DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY-AGUINALDO  
SCHOOL YEAR 1994-1995

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## ABSTRACT

**Title:** INVOLVEMENT OF UNIFORMED PERSONNEL IN CRIMES: AS PERCEIVED BY THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR CRIMINOLOGY STUDENTS OF DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY-AGUINALDO SCHOOL YEAR 1994-1995.

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**Summary:**

This study deals on the phenomenon of involvement of uniformed personnel in crimes and the perceptions of the Junior and Senior Criminology students of De La Salle University-Aguinaldo S.Y. 1994-95, which has caught the attention of the entire Filipino people as the media sensationalized law-enforcers to be member or brains of crime syndicates engaged in criminal activities.

The research was anchored on the hypothesis that the involvement of uniformed personnel in crimes caused negative perceptions among the Junior and Senior Criminology students of De La Salle University-Aguinaldo

and it was lack of material benefits that influenced those involved in the commission of crimes.

This study used simple percentile analysis in a tabular form of presenting the data gathered to establish the present involvement of uniformed personnel in crimes as perceived by the Junior and Senior students of Criminology in De La Salle University-Aguinaldo, S.Y. 1994-95.

The following findings obtained from the data gathered or tabulation of the responses were:

- 1.) Involvement of uniformed personnel in criminal cases tarnished the image of the AFP/PNP before the public. It got the highest rate of responses of agreement of 87%.
- 2.) The negative aspects of Filipino values of "pakikisama", "utang na loob", and "seniority rules" are too strong in the AFP/PNP that their subordinates were prone or inclined to join their peers/predecessors and/or tolerate their criminal activities by not reporting them to the authorities and the students' were indeed affected by which.
- 3.) Poverty drove some uniformed personnel to engage in criminal activities to acquire additional income in an easy way.
- 4.) There were three (3) leading causative factors

arised such as the following:

1. Low salaries/wages or benefits were not granted to the uniformed personnel that is due to them.

2. Slow justice system and impending implementation of due persecution process for the offenders.

3. Lack of discipline within themselves which made them neither overlook nor neglect may it be intentionally or unintentionally their principles.

3.1 Those who are in power tend to abuse the entrusted authority appointed to them.

A modified survey using a two-part questionnaire was conducted among the Third year and Fourth year Criminology students of De La Salle University-Aguinaldo, S.Y. 1994-95 in Dasmariñas, Cavite. The first part of the questionnaire consists of sixteen (16) statements which deals on the perceptions of the Junior and Senior students of Criminology, D.L.S.U.-Aguinaldo towards the involvement of uniformed personnel in crimes; the survey questionnaire also featured its second part, an essay which allowed the respondents to verbalize their ideas and opinions which helped the researchers arrived at the solution posed by Problem 2 and 3.

This research focuses on the causative factors that led to this phenomenon.

Specifically, this study aims to answer the following questions:

1. How does the involvement of uniformed personnel in crimes affects the perceptions of the junior and senior Criminology students of D.L.S.U.-Aginaldo, S.Y. 1994-95?
2. What causative factor led uniformed personnel to be involved in crimes?
3. What are some possible solutions to the involvement of uniformed personnel in crimes as perceived by the Junior and Senior Criminology students of D.L.S.U.-Aginaldo?

From the above questions, the following findings were yielded:

- 1.) About 67% of the respondents strongly agreed that they were affected by the involvement of uniformed personnel in crimes, specifically, manifesting negative perceptions such as diminishing the credibility of the AFP/PNP public image. It got the highest number of agree responses with the percentage of 87%.
- 2.) About 62% (18 out of 29) perceived that having low salary/wages was the leading causative factor that compel uniformed personnel to engage in criminal activities.
- 3.) 43% of the respondents (10 out of 23) suggested that an increase in the salary/wages in order for the uniformed



personnel to cope with the high standards of living and eventually lessen the involvement of uniformed personnel in crimes.

Ranking as the second most suggested solution to lessen the involvement of uniformed personnel was helping the AFP/PNP to improve their image through dismissal of "bad eggs".

**Conclusion:**

In the light of the above findings, the researchers therefore conclude that in the perceptions of the Junior and senior Criminology students of De La Salle University-Aguinaldo, S.Y. 1994-95, the uniformed personnel's (AFP/PNP) public image had deteriorated. Thus, the students recognize the negative aspects of Filipino values of "pakikisama", "utang na loob", and "seniority rules", were too strong in the AFP/PNP that their subordinates were inclined to join their peers or predecessors and/or tolerate their criminal activities by not reporting them to the authorities. Moreover, the students' were mostly affected by these acts as future governing uniformed personnel or officials.

Finally, poverty, indeed emerged as the driving force behind the commission of crimes by the uniformed personnel to acquire additional income in an easy way. Nevertheless, some of the students somehow still believes

that inspite of this (embarrassment), others continue to perform their duties as expected and still proud of being one, and are abiding by the standards of loyalty, competence, ethics and morals as specified in the AFP Code of Ethics. Lastly, others furtherly suggested that people should refrain from sweeping generalization and putting down the morale or self-esteem of these human beings instead, why not try to help uplift the tarnished image of the uniformed personnel through not initiating one's self in bribing these law enforcers and just abide by the rules and regulation implemented by the country (such as observing traffic rules, keeping the peace and order, etc.). To make the long story short, cooperation from both sides, the people and the uniformed personnel for a harmonious relationship, are just what our country needs most.

**Recommendation:**

The researchers were able to identify causative factors which drove some uniformed personnel to be involved in crimes. The researchers forwarded the following recommendations for the benefit of other researchers who would like to undertake the same study.

1.) Increase in the salaries/wages/benefits of uniformed personnel. A decent income of at least P3,000.00

a month for the lowest ranking (PO1) to restore the self-respect of the men in uniform.

2.) Strictly implement laws which will help improve the military/police justice system in order to expedite persecution of the so-called scalawags and so as to restore the public's faith to the uniformed personnel.

3.) The superiors as well as the subordinates should cease tolerating those perpetrating criminal activities participated by their colleagues, promote discipline among the uniformed organizations.

4.) Leadership by example is paramount as well as cooperation from the lowest rank inspector to the highest officials/officers. Instituting good leadership will lessen if not eliminate the graft and corruption which have dampened the "esprit de corps" or group spirits of the uniformed personnel.



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