

**“NO GOD, NO MASTER, NO FEAR!”: PERSONALITY AND PRACTICES
OF SELECTED STUDENT ATHEISTS**

An Undergraduate Thesis

Presented to

The Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts

De La Salle University- Dasmariñas

Dasmariñas, Cavite

In Partial Fulfillment

Of the Requirements for the Degree

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

MILLARES, JENIE LYN M.

REGENCIA, SHEILLA L.

March 2007

ABSTRACT

Name of Institution: De La Salle University - Dasmariñas

Address: Dasmariñas, Cavite

Proponents: Jenie Lyn M. Millares

Sheilla L. Regencia

Funding Source: Parents

Cost: Php 25, 000

Date Started: June 2006

Date Submitted: February

2007

Objective of the Study

A. General

To determine the personality, practices and previous experiences of selected student atheists.

B. Specific

1. What is the demographic profile of selected Atheists' students in terms of:

- a. Age
- b. Sex
- c. Course/Year
- d. family composition
- e. religion of parents
- f. income of parents

2. What is the personality profile of selected atheist students?

3. What are the previous experiences of the selected atheist students that lead them to atheism?

4. How do the respondents practice atheism in their day – to – day experiences?

Scope and Limitation

This study is limited to finding out the personality and practices of selected student atheists. Also, the previous experiences of the respondents will be investigated.

The respondents, who are student atheists, came from one of the universities in Quezon City.

As a case study, it does not attempt to generalize the findings or prove causes of Atheism. The study only generates the insights from the experiences of the selected student atheists.

Methodology

The researchers employed the descriptive case study design. It provides useful insights regarding atheism and those who practice them. Furthermore, the factors that have led people to practice atheism will also be given emphasis. Looking at the interrelationship of the demographic profile, their previous experiences, their

personality, and practices will give a wider understanding on this unique group. Having these in considerations, the study may be intimate and in depth, but the information gathered may only be applicable to this particular group. (It may not be at all applicable to all atheists).

Nine selected atheists from one of the universities in Quezon City were the respondents of the study. The respondents were chosen through purposive sampling. They should first meet the criteria set for them: a student of the said university, and willing to be part of the study. The referral technique will also be used to seek for more respondents.

Two instruments will be used in the study: the standardized personality test entitled “Panukat at Pagkatao” (PUP), which entails of 24 subscales describing the chosen characteristics of a Filipino. And self- made instrument which consist of personal information sheet and researcher-made interview guide questionnaire that will focus on the different factors that affect the respondents in becoming atheists, their previous experiences, and demographic profile. In addition, it will focus on the influence of Atheism on personality and day-to-day experiences of the respondents.

Summary of the Findings

Based on the study conducted by the researchers, the following results were gathered:

1. Most of the respondents’ ages range from 20-25. Four of them were Philosophy students. Their parents are Roman Catholic.

2. All the respondents appear to be very low in the area of being religious as perceived by the Personality test entitled “Panukat ng Ugali at Pagkatao”. Two of the respondents got a high score in the area of stubbornness (tigas ng ulo). Other two appear to be high in the area of Aggression (Palaaway). The test of the respondents have varied scores in all areas.
3. All the nine respondents have raised liberally by their parents, all committed to pragmatic, scientific/logical and existential reasoning that denounce the existence of god. Other consideration on reasons of atheism is the exposure of people on church and religious group that acts contrary to what they believe in.
4. All the respondents confirm that Atheism has no practices. They have a normal life just like the believers; their belief on the non existence of god is just the major difference.

Conclusions

The researchers concluded the following based on the findings of the study:

1. Atheist students have a distinctive personality as perceived by the personality test entitled “Panukat ng Ugali at Pagkatao”. There is an area that is common. They got very low score in the area of being religious.
2. Students have their previous experiences that led them to become atheists. Some have doubts and questions and when the respondents did not find the answers, they find themselves on becoming an atheist.
3. The concept of Atheism is not manifested in the day – to – day experiences of the student atheists. They don’t have any practices. The only thing that is

uncommon is that they don't believe in god. In the morning they eat, they don't pray and proceed to their different activities in school and before they sleep, they clean themselves, don't pray, give thanks and praise the Higher Power.

Recommendations

In this study, the researchers recommend the following:

1. Future similar studies should consider broadening the scope by expanding the source of respondents that would include other population groups such as professionals, businessperson, etc. and using different age brackets.
2. There should be more studies in the field of Psychology to explain Atheism, providing the description of Personality of Atheist.
3. Further studies should be able to either support or reject the result of this study especially in regards to personality of Atheist and factors that led to Atheism, so as to have them justified and be used for future references. This could also help in the establishment of concepts.