

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to determine the political attitudes of grade 1 boys and girls towards government authorities, government system and the laws. This study also aimed to know if there was a difference in the political attitudes of grade 1 children based on their socio-economic status and sex and if there was an interaction effect between these variables. This research also wanted to determine what agent of political socialization contributed most to the formation of political attitudes among children.

The study involved 60 children, 30 boys and 30 girls. The subjects came from three schools chosen beforehand, namely Pulanglupa Elementary School for lower class, St. Joseph's Academy for middle class and Bloomfield Academy for the upper class. Ten boys and ten girls were taken from each school. They were chosen through random selection from a list of all grade 1 children given by the principal or directress of their respective schools.

Each child was tested with the use of instruments made by the researchers. Such instruments indicated whether children hold a positive or negative attitude towards the government authorities, government system and the laws and which agent of political socialization contributed most to the formation of these attitudes. These were presented to the children with the aid of pictures.

Findings showed that children regardless of their sex and socio-economic status had a positive attitude towards the government authorities, government system and the laws. Specifically, among government authorities, they had the most positive attitude towards the fireman, followed by the president, then the policeman and lastly, the mayor. Results also showed that the socio-economic strata of the children affected their political attitudes towards the government authorities and the laws but not towards the government system. Sex only affected the children's attitude towards the laws. There was no interaction effect seen between socio-economic strata and sex in relation to the political attitudes of children.

Among the agents of political socialization that contributed to the formation of political attitudes among children, findings showed that mass media contributed most to the formation of attitudes regardless of sex and socio-economic strata.

