

**ABSTRACT**

**NAME OF INSTITUTION:** De La Salle University – Dasmariñas

**ADDRESS:** Dasmariñas, Cavite

**TITLE:** Motivational Factors of People Involvement in Iglesia Watawat ng Lahi,  
Brgy. Lecheria, Calamba, Laguna

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**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:****A. GENERAL**

The purpose of the study is to determine the motivational factors why people join and stay in a religious sect.

**B. SPECIFIC**

1. To determine the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of age, years of membership, civil status, birthplace, gender, educational attainment and occupation.



2. To know the level of satisfaction experienced by the members in terms of relief from distress, sense of belongingness, sense of well being, and sense of spiritual enhancement.
3. To determine other motivational factors, both intrinsic and extrinsic, which motivates people to join and stay in Iglesia Watawat ng Lahi.

#### SCOPE AND COVERAGE:

The study is focused on the accurate portrayal of the characteristics of a particular religious group and its members.

However, the researchers lack the necessary skills of a trained observer. Some details could have been missed out on the course of observation. The researchers believe that the study could be imperfect, tentative, and subject to future modifications. Nevertheless the thesis could serve as a springboard for future researches.

The results of the study will not be generalized to include other religious denominations.

#### METHODOLOGY:

The study utilized a descriptive method of research which involved collection of data through survey and interview in order to describe the motivational factors of people involvement in Iglesia Watawat ng Lahi.



Thirty respondents with ages ranging from 18-57, residing in the upland part of Brgy. Lecheria, Calamba Laguna were chosen to be the respondents of the study through deliberate or purposive sampling.

#### **MAJOR FINDINGS:**

**1. The demographic profile of the respondents in terms of:**

**a. Personological Variables**

40% of the respondents fall within the age of 28 to 37 years old. The population count of married individuals is 73 % while singles compose 27%. The percentage of female respondents is 53% and males is 47%. The ratio of married respondents living with their family is 77%, those living with relatives is 3%, and those who are separated from their spouses is 20%. Most of the participants of the study have been members for 5 to 9 years, achieving the highest percentage of 47.

The largest number of the respondents has reached secondary level with 43%, followed by tertiary with 33%, 17% for primary, and 7% for vocational.

Majority of the respondents of the study are unemployed, with 43%. Carpenters and students with 17% came next. Factory workers tip the employment scale with 13%. Drivers, teachers and waiters all have equal percentages of 3.



2. What is the level of satisfaction in the following motivational factors experienced by the members?

The level of satisfaction experienced by the respondents in the motivational factors such as, relief from distress (34.2), sense of belongingness (34.13), sense of well-being (38.1), and spiritual enhancement (40.56).

The mean scores of every factor fall under satisfactory level. This shows that the respondents felt a definite relief by their religious experiences, a sense of belongingness achieved through a good communal relationship, a sense of well-being in realizing one's meaning to life through self-acceptance and a sense of spiritual enhancement due to a deeper relationship with God.

Majority of the respondents showed evidences such as having less problems due to membership, gaining spiritual enlightenment, gaining a clearer sense of self-worth, having a reformed attitude towards life, and obtaining new knowledge.

The study also revealed that a major factor that contributed in attaining a sense of well-being is realizing one's meaning to life. Religion contributes to sense of well-being and satisfaction by providing devotees a sense of meaning and purpose in life.

3. What other factors motivated the respondents to join and stay in Iglesia Watawat ng Lahi?



**a. Extrinsic**

21% of the respondents is motivated with advantages they enjoy such as free medical consultation to their “President”, Dr. Parabuac (21%), free house rental (18%), free wedding and christening (11%), and free pre- school education for their children (7%). Other extrinsic motivational factors mentioned are sense of brotherhood among the group’s members (14%), better family relations (7%), and better neighbor relation (7%) after their conversion. Their perceived safety and security with the group (18%) also motivated them to join and stay in the religious sect.

The responses show that socio- economic status is one powerful factor why they stay in their religious group. Most of the respondents are from the class C of the socio-economic ladder. The fact that their membership in Iglesia Watawat ng Lahi gives them benefits like medical assistance and free house rental made them motivated to stay in the said religious group. The respondents depended on the benefits gained from the religious sect to lessen their financial burden or expenses.

**b. Intrinsic**

Among the intrinsic motivational factors, the teaching of Dr. Jose Rizal is the most prominent response having 30%. The



result confirms the study of Yinger (as cited in Roberts, 1995) that a common characteristic observed in these religious sects is their nationalistic orientation. They take pride in their being a Filipino church, whose beginnings are indigenous and founders are Filipinos. Furthermore, they take an active role in our government and in some social issues that affect the nations.

15% of the responses is drawn from influence of parents to join Iglesia Watawat ng Lahi. This confirms Mark Weber's Typology of Motivation (as cited in Laurel, et. al., 1983), Traditional Motivation is one of the governing principles behind religious affiliation of an individual. Many individuals belong to a religious sect because their ancestors, parents or other relatives have belonged to it. There is a tradition in the community or social status group or class to which the individual belongs. Moreover, if a person has been influenced to join by his relatives, conformity with the religious sect's existing norms might occur. (Proshansky and Seidenberg, 1965).

15% said that they experienced attitudinal change after the conversion. This can be explained by similar study conducted by Hire (as Cited in Laurel, 1983), where there were changes in personality, attitude and social behavior as reported by informants. Case histories invariably included a "before and after" statement



describing change in attitude, behavior and often social situations. The changes were generally described in terms of greater capacity for love towards other, a sense of tranquility and joy, and more confidence in their beliefs. Commitment to the religious sect was also seen to be a fact or which sustained changes in the attitudes of an individual.

Contrary to expected results, intrinsic motivational factors are inferior to those of the extrinsic motivational factors. This means that the teachings of Dr. Jose P. Rizal, attitudinal change, and other intrinsic motivators are only secondary reasons why people join and stay in Iglesia Watawat ng Lahi.

#### CONCLUSIONS:

The study arrived at the following conclusions but the following should not be generalized to include other religious denominations.

1. Research results show that people who involve themselves in a religious sect are those who are in their late 20's and 30's and most of whom are married. It is also assumed that the majority of those who are religiously affiliated are unemployed and were not able to finish their studies. The percentage of individuals who still live with their families are significantly high.



2. The mean scores of every motivational factor indicated falls under the satisfactory level. Thus, it shows that no single motivation affects the respondents on a higher level.

3. Results show that the respondents are more driven by external rewards such as shelter, medical assistance, security and safety, and the sense of love through better family and neighbor relations in joining and retaining membership in the group as opposed to the internal drives such as freedom from internal conflicts, sense of meaning in life brought about by the sect's teachings and familial influence to join.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The researchers have outlined the following recommendations for other researchers who may be interested in the future in seeking knowledge on the motivational factors why people join and stay in a religious sect.

1. The researchers would like to advice those who may endeavor future studies similar to this to use “Tagalog” or “Filipino” as a medium in writing and interview. It will help find important data especially during the interview.
2. It would be easy for future researchers to gather data if they have a direct contact to the group. The contact person can easily give information and schedule for conducting the research.





3. Time is very important in this kind of study. If the same group is to be used, it is advisable to conduct an interview right after their assembly, which is held during Sundays.
4. A broad understanding should be observed in conducting similar research for the reason that the topic being studied is a sensitive subject. Respect to other people's opinions and beliefs are highly advised.
5. Having all males or females as respondents to come up with a more in-depth result.
6. More studies are encouraged using people from all ages as respondents for the study.

