

ABSTRACT

Name of Institution : De La Salle University- Dasmariñas
Address : Dasmariñas, Cavite
Title : The Assertiveness Level and Religious
Maturity of the Filipina Sisters of the
Daughters of St. Francis de Sales
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OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

A. General Objective

This study aimed to determine the assertiveness level and the religious maturity of the Filipina sisters from the Daughters of St. Francis de Sales (DSFS).

B. Specific Objectives

1. To find out the demographic profile of the respondents:
 - a. Age
 - b. Stage in formation
 - c. years of stay in the convent

- d. Place of initial formation
2. To find out the assertiveness level of the respondents in terms of human and social dimension
3. To find out the religious maturity of the respondents in terms of human/emotional and religious maturity
4. To find out if there is a significant relationship between the assertiveness level and religious maturity of the respondents

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

This study focused on the 23 Filipina sisters of the Daughters of St. Francis de Sales, whose age range from 31 to 55 years old, both with temporary and perpetual vows, and are assigned in different communities in the Philippines particularly in Las Piñas, Cavite, and Pangasinan.

METHODOLOGY

This study used the descriptive-correlational design to describe the relationship among the variables in this study.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- 1.) The results of this study are based on the demographic profile of the respondents. Some of the respondents are in their middle adulthood whose ages are from 40 to 49 years old. Sisters of the

DSFS, who are in their middle adulthood, display some masculine traits. In terms of stages in formation, the number of junior sisters is declining because of the vocation's pressing demands and expectations. In terms of stay in the convent, many of the respondents stayed in the convent for long years to follow the will of God for them. Lastly, in terms of their place of initial formation, most of them had their initial formation in the Philippines. Oftentimes, the behavior of the aspiring sisters is affected by their transferring from one place to another.

- 2.) The results of the level of assertiveness on the Modified Rathus Assertiveness Schedule Test of the respondents are average; while several of them are indicated as low. This showed that several of them are not assertive because of the value of respect that have acquired in the family. Most of the non-assertive sisters are perpetually professed sisters. This showed that their spiritual formation somehow helped them to become spiritual persons following the values of Jesus which is obedience.
- 3.) The results on the Test of Religious Maturity of the respondents showed an average level of maturity while there were some who exhibited high. The formation that the sisters have in the convent has helped them to be mature in all aspect of their life.

4.) There was a significant relationship between the assertiveness level and religious maturity of the Filipina sisters only that the computed r is weak. The r is 0.31. The null hypothesis, which states that there is no significant relationship between the assertiveness level and religious maturity of the Filipina sisters of St. Francis de Sales was accepted because of the computed r is below 0.39.

CONCLUSION

It has been found out that the sisters, who are in their middle adulthood, are assertive, because they act as leaders and pillars of their congregation. Many young women are afraid to commit themselves to the religious life. The scarcity of vocation to the religious life, because of the many choices or options that the world offer, affects the longevity of the sisters in the convent. The congregation offers the formation of the candidates in their respective country to help them become stable in their identity as DSFS sisters.

The assertiveness level of the respondents as measured by the Modified Rathus Assertiveness Schedule is average. This implies that the respondents are average in their assertiveness.

The religious maturity of the respondents as measured by the questionnaire designed by the researcher is average. This is suggestive of the respondents' mature orientation.

The researcher concluded that the more assertive the person is the more mature he/she is. This coincides with the concept of Dr. Montgomery (1995) about maturity. According to him, a mature person takes a stand without burning bridges. Likewise, he/she may feel angry or resentful, but he/she seeks a diplomatic channel of communication instead of just lashing out.

Statistical analysis revealed a weak significant relationship between the assertiveness level and religious maturity of the Filipina sisters of the DSFS. The null hypothesis, which states that there is no significant relationship between the assertiveness level and religious maturity of the respondents, was accepted.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and conclusions, the researcher arrived at the following recommendations:

- 1.) That this study must be replicated and must include all the DSFS Filipina sisters in mission areas for the benefit of the congregation.

2.) That the religious sisters must have a clear idea about assertiveness. It will help them enhance their honesty, develop their openness, and encourage a dialogue, a tool to express oneself and good interpersonal relationship among themselves.

3.) That the updating sessions and the modular classes be included in the Program. Such inclusion may help the women in the vocation become integrative beings and effective followers of Christ.

4.) That the future researchers could also have replicated this research about the assertiveness level and psychological maturity of the sisters to know if there is a significant relationship between the assertiveness level and psychological maturity and must study other congregations as their respondents to achieve significant results.