LIFE SATISFACTION AND CAREER PLANS OF RETIRABLE PUBLIC SCHOOLTEACHERS IN DASMARIÑAS CITY

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MA. EDERMA L. DOLENDO

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ABSTRACT

Title of the Research: LIFE SATISFACTION AND CAREER

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Author : MA. EDERMA L. DOLENDO

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This study integrated the quantitative and qualitative research methods to find out the life satisfaction and career plans of retirable public school teachers in Dasmariñas City. To find the life satisfaction of the respondents, the study utilized a self-constructed questionnaire which was validated by three experts in the field. Test-retest was also conducted to test the reliability of the instrument. The study covered the 100% or the 182 retirable public school teachers aged 55-65 as of December 2010, in thirty (30) public schools in Dasmariñas City. To identify the career plans of the respondents, a structured interview was conducted to 30% of the total respondents or 55 respondents. Convenience sampling was used in selecting the respondents to be interviewed.

Findings from the study showed that majority of the retirable teachers are female, married, and have been in the service for 26-30 years. Generally, the retirable teacher-respondents are very satisfied in the Self, Family Relationship, Social Relationship, Career, and Perceived Health domains. However, they are only somewhat satisfied in terms of Financial Security. Subsequently, the results

of the study show that the respondents' career plans when they retire are to be more active in religious activities, join voluntary or charity work, join community organizations, put up a family business, work from home, work in less demanding job, and work in a job with fewer responsibilities.

The study concluded that the retirable teacher-respondents are very satisfied with life especially in Self, Family Relationship, Social Relationship, Career, and Perceived Health domains. Optimism and their ability to handle problems contribute to the satisfaction of the respondents. The retirable teacher-respondents expect their families to support them during retirement and their belief in this aspect makes them very satisfied with their family relationship. They also find satisfaction in the accomplishment of their jobs and they perceive themselves as generally healthy. However, they are not financially secure to face the next chapter of their lives – the retirement. Furthermore, it can be concluded from the study that retirement, for these retirable teacher-respondents, is not simply stopping from work, only reduced or changed employment. Retirement for them is an opportunity to make further contribution to the church and community. It is also the time to engage in leisure activities, spend time with their families, pursue their passion, and even venture into business.

This study thereby recommends that retirement planning and financial seminars be done three (3) years before the retirement of teachers. Adoption of the proposed retirement program is also recommended.

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