

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

Chapter III

Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations

This study was conducted to gain some valuable information regarding the peer group influence on academic achievement. We centered our research on the theory of leadership. This theory states that in a group, a leader is found who directly influences the other members in a particular undertaking. Therefore, the objective of this study was to test this theory on academic peer group of DLSU students. We further wanted to find out where the influence of the leader lies - in soft subjects or in hard subjects. Hence questions pertaining to hard were included. In effect, an instrument has been devised which we think is comprehensive and descriptive enough to reflect the influence of the leader on the members in academic achievement. Because the leader could not be administered to the whole population of DLSU students, it was important to stratify the sample population by randomization done by classes. Before the instrument was administered we expected that the leader influences members more on soft subjects because more students find it easier to study them. Also there are more work given like group papers and reports thus strengthening the interaction among the group members.

The significant results in the chi square revealed that the leader significantly influences the members on soft subjects. Therefore we accept the alternative hypothesis stating that the leader's academic performance in soft subject affects the academic performance of the individual group members in soft subjects. The gathered data clearly shows that no matter what the general orientation of the leader is, their influence is



felt by the group members. It can therefore be concluded that whatever the academic orientation of the leader is, the influence will be felt towards that particular subject. As can be seen from the z-scores the leader exerts influence on both hard and soft subjects.

In cases where a different academic leader stands out in different subjects, we could say that the same findings holds true; since leadership is felt by his members in these subjects, as the other individual member feels the influence of other academic leaders in other subjects.

It is hoped that with these findings, students can be motivated to study harder by having group sessions more often with their peers. Specially freshmen who are new to the school have group dynamics which would have the whole peer group together during the sessions. It is hoped that this will serve as a foundation for further research so that more data could be gathered on the group's influence on academic achievement. Through this, students can be made to work harder and not be contented with just passing grades.

Further research could still be done by focusing on one particular peer group. In effect, a case study could be made. In this way the traits of the group are observed. Also interviews should be conducted to gain more insight to the peer group. However, doing this particular research would not be very effective in De La Salle University because students are already overtested. Also they are very touchy with regards to interviewing them especially when asked about their friends. Therefore, another research setting may prove to be more interesting and will probably give more data with regards to peer groups.

