AN EVALUATION OF THE COMMUNICATION SKILLS OF PRIVATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS IN CAVITE: TOWARDS THE ENHANCEMENT OF COMMUNICATION SKILLS

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ABSTRACT

Title of the Research: AN EVALUATION OF THE COMMUNICATION

SKILLS OF PRIVATE SCHOOL

ADMINISTRATORS IN CAVITE: TOWARDS

ENHANCEMENT OF COMMUNICATION SKILLS

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This study employed the descriptive method that assessed the communication effectiveness of the administrators in selected recognized private schools in the Division of Cavite. The conceptual framework was adapted from the theory of Hunt and Grunig (1984) which explains the value of public relation and communication to the organization. The workflow was adopted in the Input-Process-Output model of McCoy (2005) explaining how demographic variables affect the communication effectiveness of a leader. This study evaluated the effectiveness of communication skills employed by the private schools administrators in the selected administrative areas such as: conducting meetings; explaining policies; decision-making; initiating changes; motivating employees; resolving conflicts; and disciplining employees towads the enhancement of their communication skills. It utilized the researcher-designed questionnaire as main tool for gathering data and

was substantiated by a face-to-face interview the questions of which were related to the questions in written questionnaire. A triangulation approach was also used to analyze the existing condition of communication and triangulated the three findings from the survey, face-to-face interview, and the previous study that served as bases in the making of proposed communication cues of the researcher.

The 884 respondents were the primary sources of information in this study. These comprised 15 school directors, 31 principals, 744 full-time teachers, and 94 staff. A multi-stage sampling was applied to determine the possible respondents for this study. It underwent three stages of the process: the first was the identification of private schools in Cavite; second, classification of schools with recognition and permit; and the last stage was the identification of qualified respondents.

Based on the findings of this study, it showed that administrators of private schools in the Division of Cavite are Effective in their communication skills. It also revealed that among the 7 administrative areas where communication skills are needed, conducting meeting obtained the highest evaluation and initiating changes was the lowest. It also revealed that administrators did not give emphasis on the other communication skills such as listening, reading, and gesturing skills.

The findings of this study conclude that conducting meeting is the best administrative area where administrators have employed their effective

communication skills. It also implies that conducting meeting is the primary administrative job of leaders because it is a routinary task and part of their daily itinerary of work. On the other hand, initiating changes seems to be the difficulty of administrators. This implies that recognized private schools in Cavite have already established systems in all educative aspects of school operations aligned to the standard set by the Department of Education. Another fact to consider is the hierarchical and autocratic system governing the privately owned schools.

It also concludes that feedback and feedforward system of communication was not properly observed in the different administrative areas in the schools. Administrators did not give emphasis on other communication skills needed in dealing with the stakeholders such as listening, reading, and gesturing skills.

This research work thereby recommends that the administrators should take concrete steps to utilize the strengths and improve the weaknesses and undesirable practices based on the feedback and findings. They should improve their communication skills and give emphasis on skills particularly the reading, listening, and gesturing skills by attending seminars, workshops or even benchmarking with their colleagues. Proper orientation and workshops should be conducted on feedforward and feedback system and should be observed in the different administrative areas. Trial

implementation of the proposed communication cues could enhance more the administrator's effective communication skills.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
TITLE PAGE	1
ABSTRACT	2
APPROVAL SHEET	6
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	7
TABLE OF CONTENTS	10
LIST OF TABLES	13
LIST OF FIGURES	15
CHAPTER	
1 THE PROBLEM AND ITS BACKGROUND	
Introduction	16
Conceptual Framework	21
Statement of the Problem	24
Hypotheses	25
Scope and Delimitation of the Study	26
Significance of the Study	27
Definition of Terms	29
2 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	
Conceptual Literature	32
Research Literature	53
Synthesis	57

3 M	IETHODOLOGY		
	Research Design	59	
	Population and Sampling	60	
	Respondents of the Study	63	
	Research Instrument	64	
	Validation of Research Instrument	65	
	Data Gathering Procedure	67	
	Statistical Treatment and Analysis of data	67	
4 PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, AND INTERPRETATION			
	OF DATA		
	Problem No. 1	70	
	Problem No. 2	80	
	Problem No. 3	138	
	Problem No. 4	147	
	Problem No. 5	150	
5.	SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDAT	TIONS	
	Summary	164	
	Findings	165	
	Conclusions	174	
	Recommendations	175	

REFERENCES	177
APPENDICES	
A Letter of Request for Division Superintendent	182
B Endorsement Letter from the Division Office	183
C Letter of Request for School Administrators	184
D Letter of Request for School Board Member	185
E Letter to the Respondents	186
F The Instrument	187
G List of Expected Participants and Percentage	211
Of Participation	
H List of Private Scools in the Division of Cavite	214
I Curriculum Vitae	225

LIST OF TABLES

		PAGE
TΑ	ABLE	
1	Number of Schools and the School Participants	62
2	Percentage of Respondents Participation	64
3	Profile of the Group of Respondents According to Age	71
4	Profile of the Group of Respondents According to	74
	Educational Attainment	
5	Profile of the Group of Respondents According to Years	77
	of Experience in the Position	
6	Level of Effectiveness of Administrators' Communication	n 82
	Skills in Conducting Meetings as Perceived by the	
	Respondents	
7	Level of Effectiveness of Administrators' Communication	n 89
	Skills in Explaining Policies as Perceived by the	
	Respondents	
8	Level of Effectiveness of Administrators' Communication	n 96
	Skills in Decision-Making as Perceived by the	
	Respondents	
9	Level of Effectiveness of Administrators' Communication	ո 104
	Skills in Initiating Changes as Perceived by the	
	Respondents	
10	Level of Effectiveness of Administrators' Communication	n 112

Skills in Motivating Employees as Perceived by the	
Respondents	
11 Level of Effectiveness of Administrators' Communication	122
Skills in Resolving Conflicts as Perceived by the	
Respondents	
12 Level of Effectiveness of Administrators' Communication	129
Skills in Disciplining Employees as Perceived by the	
Respondents	
13 Summary of Level of Effectiveness of Administrators'	136
Communication Skills as Perceived by the Respondents	
14 Differences in the Evaluation of Respondents in	140
Administrators' Level of Communication Effectiveness	
When Grouped According to Age	
15 Differences in the Evaluation of Respondents in	143
Administrators' Level of Communication Effectiveness	
When Grouped According to Educational Attainment	
16 Differences in the Evaluation of Respondents in	145
Administrators' Communication Effectiveness when	
Grouped According to Years of experience in the position	
17 Differences in the Over-All Evaluation of the	148
Respondents in the Level of Communication Effectiveness	

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE		PAGE
1	An Evaluation of the Communication Skills of	22
	Private Schools Administrators in Cavite: Towards	
	Enhancement of Communication Skills	
2	Communication Process Model	36
3	Hunt – Grunig Communication Model	44
4	Principals Communication to Stakeholders	49