

Factors influencing students' membership on fraternities and sororities in UM Digos College

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine the level of factors influencing student membership on fraternities and sororities in UM Digos College. The descriptive method was used to establish the significant relationship in the factors influencing student membership in fraternities and sororities in UM Digos College. Descriptive statistics and Pearson (r) were the analysis measures to arrive at the findings and conclusion. As a result, the peer pressure factor that influences the students is high. The curiosity factor that influences the students is high, and the sense of belongingness factor is also high. Lastly, the difference in the factors influencing students' membership in fraternities and sororities when analyzed according to age is not significant, to gender is also not significant, and there is a significant difference according to program.

Keywords: *fraternity, sorority, Pearson r, UM Digos College*

INTRODUCTION

A fraternity is defined as a group of people united in a relationship with common interests, activity, and purpose. Fraternity and sorority in colleges is a kind of student society formed for social purposes. Members are initiated by invitation and occasionally by a period of trial known as hazing. Fraternities and sororities came from the Latin words *frater* and *soror*, meaning "brother and "sister," respectively. Fraternity membership allows college men to partake in many community services and philanthropic activities that can further their educational experience. According to Fox News, Bucknell University in Pennsylvania Greek members perform around 22,000 hours of community service per year while raising \$100,000 for philanthropic and charitable causes.

Fraternities and sororities form the largest network of volunteers in the United States, and members volunteer approximately 10 million hours of community service each year. This volunteer work provides invaluable experience outside of the traditional classroom setting. Much like many other activities, joining a fraternity can have a negative impact on students who are unprepared for the responsibility. Studies show that fraternity brothers drink more heavily than their non-Greek peers (Blake, 2007). Fraternities in this present era are social organizations of men in different schools, colleges, and universities in the Philippines having common purpose, interests, and activities. A person usually joins a fraternity to be recognized and be a part of something. The idea of having some "buddy" gives a feeling of confidence and security.

In the Philippines, most of those who join fraternities are middle-class students seeking protection. Others come from the provinces and seek out fraternities that group them among ethnic or regional lines. In some Universities, one joins to be part of an "elite" group of a particular department, division, and/or course of study. Before one can join a certain fraternity, he must undergo a series of tasks approved by that group. These tasks test one's integrity and endurance to prove his determination to be a member. Usually, these initiations are physical and mental practices. Here at the University of Mindanao Digos College, many students find that membership in a fraternity gives them opportunities to develop valuable skills they have not been able to find elsewhere.

For this reason, the researchers embark on this study to know what fraternities are, how they recruit members, what the pledge period is like, and the danger of hazing, and what fraternity life is. This study also uses to determine the factors

influencing students' membership in fraternities and sororities involvement in the students' behavior here at the University of Mindanao Digos College.

METHOD

The method of research used in this research work was the descriptive method which is a general procedure employed in studies that have for their chief purpose on the description of phenomena in contrast to ascertaining what has caused them or what their value and significance are, restricted to status studies including simple surveys, description of the change, as historical studies and growth studies. The descriptive method, particularly the normative survey, is most appropriate for investigating current normal conditions.

This study's respondents were the selected Criminology, Information Technology, Nursing, Technical, Business Administration and Teachers Education students of UM Digos College of the Second Semester of Schoolyear 2014-2015, and they were randomly selected, students.

Table 1. *The Profile of the Respondents*

Profile	<i>f</i>	%
AGE		
12 – 15	0	0.00
16 – 19	30	50.00
20 – 23	20	33.33
24 – 30	10	16.67
SEX		
Male	20	33.33
Female	40	66.67
PROGRAM		
Criminology	15	35.0
Information Technology	10	16.67
Nursing	5	8.33
Technical	10	16.67
Business Administration	10	16.67
Teacher Education	10	16.67
TOTAL	60	100.0

The researchers used a self-made questionnaire to gather the data needed. The questionnaire is consisting of two parts. The first part determines the profile of the respondents. This includes their age, gender/sex, and course. The second part

is the factors that influenced students in joining fraternities and sororities. It will consist of fifteen (15) items. The method used in this research work is the questionnaire method. This method is very useful in conducting researchers and a convenient way of gathering information from a target population. The questionnaire consists of different questions related to the research subject, which then answers the needed information. The percentage distribution was used to determine fraternity and sorority's effects on the students as the respondents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Factor influencing students membership on fraternities and sororities in UM Digos College

Table 2 shows the factors influencing students to join a fraternity and sorority in UM Digos College. It was shown that students obtained a high mean rating of 3.97. This means that most of them perceived that they had joined fraternity and sorority because of peer pressure, curiosity, and a sense of belongingness.

Peer Pressure. This indicator obtained a mean value of 3.94, which was described as high. This descriptive equivalent was derived from the following items: the involvement of students in fraternities and sororities does help them in their different subject areas, and this has a mean of 3.55, which is described as high. Moreover, fraternities membership helps the students gown into better people, which is a mean of 3.95, which was described as high. Thus, in this study, it is conclusive that peer pressure as one of the factors that affect student's membership in fraternities and sororities is considered as high. This result is related to the study of Leigh (2006), who stated that states that have a law against hazing consent of the victim couldn't be used as a defense in a civil suit. Even if someone agrees to participate in a potentially hazardous action, it may not be true consent when considering the peer pressure and desire to belong to the group.

Curiosity. This indicator obtained a mean value of 3.95, which was described as high. Thus, in this study, it is conclusive that curiosity as one of the factors affecting students' membership in fraternities and sororities is considered high.

Sense of Belongingness. This indicator obtained a mean value of 3.97, which was verbally described as high. Thus, it is conclusive that the sense of belongingness as one factor affecting students' membership in fraternities and sororities is considered high. This result relates to the study of Foubert, Brossi, and Brannon

(2011), which states that people like to associate with people like themselves; to a large degree, people would join those organizations to kind of fit in. College students might join fraternities, sororities, or other groups to feel they belong, to be a part of a large acceptance group. Joining such an organization has advantages, such as developing networking and long-term friendships.

Table 2. *Level of Students Involvement in Fraternities and Sororities in UMDC*

INDICATORS	Mean	Description
Peer Pressure	3.94	High
Curiosity	3.95	High
Sense of Belongingness	3.97	High
OVERAL	3.95	High

Test of Difference on the Level of Student Involvement to Fraternities and Sororities in UMDC

Table 3 shows the difference in the factors influencing students' membership in fraternities and sororities when analyzed according to age, gender, and program. It was revealed that there is statistical evidence showing a significant difference in the said factors in terms of the program, $t(60) = 3.831$, $p=0.005$. On the other hand, the other two group profiles showed no difference and are considered no statistical significance of the difference.

Table 3. *Test of difference on the factors influencing students' membership in fraternities and sororities when analyzed according to age, gender, and program*

Independent	Dependent	F-Value	P-Value	Remarks
Age	Factors Influencing Students Involvement in Fraternities and Sororities	1.564	0.218	Not Significant
Gender	Factors Influencing Students Involvement in Fraternities and Sororities	2.106	0.152	Not Significant
Program	Factors Influencing Students Involvement in Fraternities and Sororities	3.837	0.00588	Significant

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It was described by this study that the profile of the respondents with regards to respondent's age most of them belong to 16-19 age groups. Regarding sex, the

majority of the respondents were female, and for the program, criminology is the majority. Moreover, the factors influencing student's membership in fraternities and sororities were described as high. Lastly, it was found that only programs showed statistical evidence of a difference in the level of the factors influencing student involvement in fraternities and sororities. Meanwhile, the other two groups were found to be no significant difference.

Thus, the researchers would like to recommend that students, especially those enrolled in Criminology, must avoid engaging themselves in persons and situations that would lead them to enter the sororities and fraternities. Moreover, students must have full awareness of the consequences they might face in joining said organizations because not all the time fraternities and sororities could have positive effects. Lastly, students should know how to deal with their societal reactions and coordination, especially in the school community and with their peers. They got the knowledge of what is fraternities and sororities. Parents must give their full-time guidance to their children, especially to moral and societal engagement. Children must always feel the essence and presence of belongingness first in their family to not find it to another.

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