
Political Awareness and Civic Consciousness in Fostering Community Engagement of HUMSS Students

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ABSTRACT: Assessing students' understanding of political ideas and other key political topics may aid in the development of an engaged citizenry. The research pursued to measure the extent to which selected students actively participate in civic activities and initiatives within their school, local community, or broader society. The researcher utilized total population sampling for the study and utilized descriptive-correlational research and used a researcher-made questionnaire. The population for the study consists of two hundred ninety-two (292) grade 12 humanities and social sciences (HUMSS) students at Crecencia Drucila Lopez Senior High School for the academic year 2023-2024. The respondents were aware of political awareness in terms of political institutions, political issues, political leaders, public policies, and political processes. In addition, the respondents acknowledged that they were conscious of their civic consciousness variables. The respondents also showed that they were engaged in community engagement. Moreover, it was revealed that there is a highly positive significant relationship between the respondent's awareness on political awareness, and civic consciousness and their perception on their community engagement. This means that if one is aware of the political matters, it contributes to their participation in the community. The result could serve as a guide to schools to come up with different ways to boost individuals' awareness of the affairs in the country to lead in active participation in community driven initiative that may affect change.

KEYWORDS: Political awareness, civic consciousness, community engagement HUMSS students

I. INTRODUCTION

Politics is the mobilization of support for a position, decision, or action whereby "people act together through institutionalized procedures to resolve differences, to conciliate different interests and values, and to make public policies in the pursuit of common purposes (Leftwich, 2014). Politics refers to the activities, procedures, and debates that enable societies to govern themselves, make collective decisions, and address public issues. It refers to how politicians develop and influence public policies and governance structures within established frameworks and procedures. Political awareness and engagement are vital for sustaining a democratic society. Over the past few years, the level of political involvement among some citizens has shifted considerably. The social and economic environment where the youth encounter may suggest the decline of their political awareness. (Valdivieso, 2014) Political awareness is significantly imperative for a democratic society to be built on accountability, transparency, and good governance. Every democracy, therefore, needs citizens' participation to ensure its further development and survival. (Badaru, K. A. & Adu, E. O., 2021). The study of political awareness is needed for any democratic political construction that respects human rights and fundamental liberties (Althubetat and Jarrar, 2013). The good news is that the Philippine Constitution is currently included in all school curriculum at all educational levels, as required by Art XIV, Sec. 3 (1). The curriculum covers fundamental rights and privileges, basic government principles (including branches), and Philippine political procedures and processes. Individuals need to keep themselves informed about political issues, functions of political institutions, and more importantly their political rights and their role as political participants (Kuo Tsu, 2016). Civic engagement involves a desire to improve the civic life of our communities and develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and motivation needed to do so. This covers both paid and unpaid political activism, environmental activism, and community and national service. The involvement of citizens in the democratic governance of their country would give the political leaders a sense of responsibility and also become accountable. This enables the government to understand its citizens' needs and aspirations while the active involvement of citizens in partisan politics compels the government to fulfil its constitutional role. (Badaru, K. A. & Adu, E. O., 2021). Fostering political awareness among students is an important component of education because it allows them to understand the goals and difficulties of their country's political landscape, while also acknowledging that elected politicians determine governmental policies and regulations. Students must grasp how historical

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events have shaped international, national, and local relationships among societies, individuals, and nations. According to Rahman

II. METHODOLOGY

The study employed a descriptive-correlational method. This method of research was utilized to identify if there is a significant relationship between the respondent's level of political awareness and civic engagement.

According to McBurney and White (2009), descriptive correlational design is used in research studies that aim to provide static pictures of situations as well as establish the relationship between different variables. Thus, the researcher aimed to investigate the existence of a significant relationship between respondents' political awareness—comprising knowledge of public policies, political leaders, processes, institutions, and issues—their civic consciousness involving social connections, civic skills, actions, and duties, and their civic engagement, which encompasses forms, levels, and core values. On the other hand, the researcher utilized total population sampling for the study. This was the sampling technique used for it helped the researcher utilize the research instrument among the target respondents. The population for the study consists of two hundred ninety-two (292) humanities and social sciences (HUMSS) students at Crecencia Drucila Lopez Senior High School for the academic year 2023-2024. Total population sampling is a probability sampling method wherein the target population's elements are divided into distinct groups or strata where within each stratum the elements are like each other with respect to select characteristics of importance to the survey. (Parsons, 2017) The study utilized a researcher-made questionnaire to assess respondents' political awareness, civic consciousness, and civic engagement. This tool evaluated knowledge of public policies, political leaders, processes, institutions, and issues; social connections, civic skills, actions, and duties; and various forms, levels, and core values of civic engagement. After being reviewed and enhanced based on feedback from a panel of examiners and social science experts, the questionnaire was validated for content. It also passed internal consistency checks using Cronbach's alpha before distribution, ensuring reliability in measuring the same variables consistently (Lavrakas, 2008). Once the researcher-made instrument was approved for distribution by the adviser, the researcher obtained authorization from the Schools Division Superintendent of San Pablo City and the school principal. Following approval, the researcher informed the teachers about the questionnaires to be administered to the students. The questionnaire was distributed to the respondents via Google Forms. It took about a week to gather all the required responses. The questionnaire aimed to measure the respondents' political awareness and civic engagement. The participation of the respondents was crucial to the success of the study and the collection of data.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Part 1. RESPONDENTS PROFILE

Table 1. Distribution of the Respondents in terms of Gender

Gender Profile	Frequency	Percentage
Male	121	41.0
Female	171	59.0
TOTAL	292	100.0

Table 1 showed that majority of the respondents are female which is composed of one hundred seventy-one (171) or 59% of the population, while 41% or one hundred twenty-one (121) were males. The result suggests that most of the Humanities and Social Sciences learners are women.

Table 2. Distribution of the Respondents in terms of Family Income

Family Income	Frequency	Percentage
Below 50,000	277	95
50,000-200,000	6	2
200,001 above	9	3
TOTAL	292	100.0

Table 2 depicts that the majority of respondents have a family income of Below 50,000 with a frequency of 277 or ninety-five percent (95%) of the population. Followed by those that earn a family income of 50,000 - 200,000 with a frequency of 6 or two percent (2%) and lastly, 200,001 above with a frequency of 9 or three (3) percent of the total population. It shows that the majority of the respondents belong to the lower income bracket.

Table 3. Distribution of the Respondents in terms of Parents' Educational Attainment

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Parents Educational Attainment	Father		Mother	
	F	%	F	%
College Graduate	26	9	43	15
College undergraduate	28	10	34	12
Highschool graduate	129	44	134	46
Highschool undergraduate	28	10	41	14
Elementary graduate	45	15	28	10
Elementary undergraduate	36	12	12	4
Total	292	100	292	100

Table 3 showed that in terms of their parent's educational attainment first with their fathers are mostly Highschool graduate with a frequency of one hundred and twenty-nine 129 or forty-four percent (44%) of the total population, in contrast the lowest frequency is that of who are College Graduate with a frequency of twenty-six equivalent to nine-percent (9%) of the total respondents.

The data also shows that in terms of mothers' educational attainment, the highest frequency of respondents is Highschool graduate with a total of one hundred and thirty-four, a total of forty-six percent (46%), whereas the lowest frequency is Elementary undergraduate for a total of 12 equivalent to four percent (4%). It depicts that the parents of the respondents are literate.

Children's political awareness and civic engagement are highly influenced by their parents' educational attainment. This is supported by the notion of Campbell (2006), that children from more educated families were more likely to participate in school political activities and classroom discussions about political and social issues, which further boosted their political engagement.

Part II. RESPONDENTS PERCEIVE LEVEL OF POLITICAL AWARENESS

Table 4. Respondents' Perception on Political Awareness as to Political Institutions

	Indicators	Mean	SD	VI
1.	I am well informed that there are three branches of government of the republic of the Philippines—executive, legislative, and judicial—are each given an equal amount of authority under its presidential form of government.	3.34	0.62	<i>Aware</i>
2.	I know that the Philippine Congress has the authority and ability to enact, amend, and repeal laws.	3.24	0.61	<i>Aware</i>
3.	I am aware that it is within the jurisdiction of the judicial branch to resolve disputes about legally demandable and enforceable rights.	3.13	0.64	<i>Aware</i>
4.	I am familiar that the President and Vice President, who are chosen by the people's vote and in office for six years each, are part of the Executive branch.	3.41	0.62	<i>Aware</i>
5.	I learned that the Judicial branch is made up of a Supreme Court and lower courts.	3.11	0.67	<i>Aware</i>
6.	I am aware that provincial, city, municipality, and barangay (village) divisions exist within the Philippines. Each level has its own local government officials.	3.37	0.64	<i>Aware</i>
7.	I know that the President is authorized by the constitution to name members of his Cabinet.	3.24	0.67	<i>Aware</i>
8.	I am aware that the Legislative branch is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives.	3.22	0.63	<i>Aware</i>
	Overall	3.26	0.46	<i>Aware</i>

Legend: 3.50-4.00 (Highly Aware), 2.50-3.49 (Aware), 1.50-2.49 (Slightly Aware), 1.00-1.49 (Not Aware)

Table 6 presents the respondents' perception on political awareness as to political institutions. The study findings indicate a high level of awareness among the respondents regarding the structure and function of the three branches of the government in the Philippines. The respondents demonstrated consistent awareness across various aspects of the government. Specifically, they exhibited a strong understanding of the equal authority of the three branches, the legislative branch power to enact law, and the judicial branch role of resolving dispute. Additionally, respondents display familiarity with the executive branch including the roles of the President and Vice President this may be due to the regular occurrence every 6 and 3 years of National and Mid-Term

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elections.

In addition, the respondents were also aware that the Judicial branch is made up of a Supreme Court and lower courts because of the recent cases that involves that judiciary like the case concerning the constitutionality of the Total Divorce bill if passed into law. While awareness regarding the composition of the judicial branch and the existence of local government division is slightly lower. Respondents still demonstrate moderate to high level of awareness in these areas.

Overall, the findings suggests that the respondents possess a solid understanding of the Philippine government structure and functions.

Remarkably, all the statements were rated as “Aware”. This revealed that most respondents are versed in Political Institutions attributed to the fact the subject matter is included in the curriculum of the Department of Education from the Primary up to Senior High School level. Hence, it is imperative for the students to cultivate an acute awareness of the political intricacies that permeate their immediate environment (Rahman et al., 2018).

Table 5. Respondents' Perception on Political Awareness as to Political Issues

	Indicators	Mean	SD	VI
1.	I understand that maintaining the quality of education particularly considering the K-12 program's implementation is essential.	3.41	0.57	<i>Aware</i>
2.	I am aware that the implementation of the Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) Modernization Program has caused a stir in the transport sector that affected many across the sectors of society.	3.21	0.61	<i>Aware</i>
3.	I believe that there are efforts to improve human rights conditions in the Philippines.	3.35	0.62	<i>Aware</i>
4.	I am knowledgeable that aside from reports of killings, there have also been reports of journalists being harassed regularly.	3.13	0.72	<i>Aware</i>
5.	I realize that in the past, there have been issues with handling the nation's health crises, administering vaccinations, and striking a balance between public health initiatives and financial considerations.	3.16	0.60	<i>Aware</i>
6.	I want to learn more about how to address concerns like unemployment, poverty, and economic recovery proved challenging in the whole country.	3.33	0.55	<i>Aware</i>
7.	I am concerned with the ongoing energy crisis in the country due to its possible effect on my daily living.	3.25	0.56	<i>Aware</i>
8.	I believe in the importance of addressing human rights issues, such as those about political dissent, journalistic freedom, and extrajudicial killings.	3.31	0.60	<i>Aware</i>
	Overall	3.27	0.43	<i>Aware</i>

Legend: 3.50-4.00 (Highly Aware), 2.50-3.49 (Aware), 1.50-2.49 (Slightly Aware), 1.00-1.49 (Not Aware)

The survey results indicate that the respondents have a generally high level of awareness and concern regarding various socio-economic and political issues in the Philippines specifically, they recognize the importance of maintaining the quality of education amidst the implementation of the k-12 program, acknowledging its significance with a mean score of 3.41 and a standard deviation of 0.57. The respondents are also aware of the impact of the public utility vehicle modernization program on the transport sector demonstrating their awareness of broader societal implications with a mean score of 3.21 and a standard deviation of 0.62.

They also recognize the challenges surrounding issues such as journalist harassment, health crisis management, unemployment,

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poverty, economic recovery and the ongoing energy crisis highlight their awareness of complex socio- economic and political realities.

The respondents emphasize the importance of addressing human rights issues including political dissent, journalistic freedom and extra judicial killing, underscoring their commitment to upholding fundamental rights and freedom. Overall, it reveals a widespread awareness and concern among respondent regarding various critical issues facing the Philippines, indicating a desire for positive change and societal improvement.

This reveals that respondents understand that maintaining the quality of education particularly considering the K-12 programs implementation is essential since it affects the length and quality of the delivery of educational services that may influence socio-economic conditions of the respondents. Also, the respondents are knowledgeable that aside from reports of killings, there have been reports of journalists being harassed on a regular basis mainly because of the subject being a regular topic from mainstream and other various form of media available to the public. In general, the respondents are informed and knowledgeable about the day-to-day affairs of society.

Table 6. Respondents' Perception on Political Awareness as to Political Leaders

	Indicators	Mean	SD	VI
1.	I know that political leaders are in charge of implementing government policies, rules, and regulations into action.	3.41	0.58	<i>Aware</i>
2.	I am mindful that political leaders hold key positions in government and play a vital part in developing public policies, making decisions, and working toward their people' interests.	3.29	0.61	<i>Aware</i>
3.	I am aware that individual residents are often accommodated and supported by political leaders, who address their concerns and assist them in accessing government services.	3.21	0.56	<i>Aware</i>
4.	I recognize that public leaders are involved in the allocation of resources, including funding decisions for government programs and services.	3.21	0.60	<i>Aware</i>
5.	I believe that political leaders speak on behalf of the people they represent.	3.17	0.63	<i>Aware</i>
6.	I know that Ferdinand "Bongbong" Romualdez Marcos Jr. is the 17th President of the Philippines.	3.29	0.64	<i>Aware</i>
7.	I understand that political leaders at the local or regional level, such as mayors and governors are in charge of local government and administration.	3.22	0.63	<i>Aware</i>
8.	I am conscious of the role-played public leaders in shaping society such as policy formulation and program implementation.	3.16	0.60	<i>Aware</i>
	Overall	3.25	0.44	<i>Aware</i>

Legend: 3.50-4.00 (Highly Aware), 2.50-3.49 (Aware), 1.50-2.49 (Slightly Aware), 1.00-1.49 (Not Aware)

Table 8 reveals that the respondents possess a strong awareness of the roles and responsibilities of political leaders in the Philippines. Specifically, respondents understand that political leaders are responsible for implementing government policies, rules, and regulations. They are mindful of the crucial position political leaders hold in developing public policies, making decisions, and working toward the interest of the people and in shaping society such as policy formulation and program implementation like infrastructure projects, livelihood programs, and health caravans.

Additionally, respondents are aware that political leaders often accommodate and support individual residents, addressing

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their concerns and assisting them in accessing government services supported by a mean score of 3.21 and a standard deviation of 0.56. They recognize the involvement of public leaders in resource allocation including funding, and decisions for government programs and services, reflected in a mean score of 3.21 and standard deviation of 0.60.

Furthermore, respondents believe that political leaders represent the people they serve gaining a mean score of 3.17 and a standard deviation of 0.63. and know that Ferdinand E. Marcos Jr. is the 17th president of the Republic of the Philippines. They also understand the role of local and regional leaders such as mayors, governors, in local government and administration and are conscious of the broader societal impact of public leaders in policy formulation and program implementation with a mean score of 3.16 and a standard deviation of 0.60.

Overall, the respondent demonstrates a comprehensive awareness of the significant role political leaders play in governance and public service. This also implies that the respondents are aware of the basic function and responsibilities that political leaders have as part of their duty as civil servants.

Table 7. Respondents' Perception on Political Awareness as to Political Policies

	Indicators	Mean	SD	VI
1.	I understand that public policies consist of a wide range of government rules, regulations, decisions by the courts, and local ordinances.	3.28	0.56	<i>Aware</i>
2.	I am aware that public policies are reviewed regularly to determine their effectiveness and impact on the desired results.	3.12	0.60	<i>Aware</i>
3.	I know that research, analysis, recommendations from experts, and meetings with stakeholders are all employed for developing public policies.	3.19	0.65	<i>Aware</i>
4.	I realize that public policies have significance for societal growth and for the resolution of numerous issues that governments and communities encounter.	3.21	0.61	<i>Aware</i>
5.	I recognize that effective policies may improve people's lives, generate economic growth, protect the environment, and promote social well-being.	3.23	0.60	<i>Aware</i>
6.	I believe that anti-corruption measures have the goal of promoting transparency and preventing corruption in agencies of government	3.25	0.62	<i>Aware</i>
7.	I agree that by expanding the K-12 program and improving the curriculum, the standard of education is being raised.	3.28	0.57	<i>Aware</i>
8.	I believe that crime prevention and law enforcement are two aspects of peace and order programs that aim to preserve law and order in the country.	3.26	0.63	<i>Aware</i>
	Overall	3.23	0.44	<i>Aware</i>

Legend: 3.50-4.00 (Highly Aware), 2.50-3.49 (Aware), 1.50-2.49 (Slightly Aware), 1.00-1.49 (Not Aware)

The findings in Table 7 indicated that the respondents recognize the concept that public policies consist of a range of rules and regulations put in place by authorities at tiers (local, and national). These regulations may pertain to sectors, like healthcare, education, transportation, environmental conservation, taxation, and other areas. Its' purpose is to influence conduct, tackle concerns, and oversee engagements within society.

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They are also aware that these policies are reviewed regularly to determine their effectiveness and impact on the desired results. This may be since every election cycle, the program and platforms that is being raised by candidates is always concerned about the improvement of the quality of education and the streamlining of the bureaucracy for improved delivery of government services.

The results also revealed that the respondents acknowledged that local ordinances are legal instruments that carry the force of law within a specific locality. They are created by local legislative bodies and are enforceable within the boundaries of that municipality or local government while unlike national laws, which are created by higher levels of government, local ordinances are crafted and passed by local authorities.

Overall, the respondents displayed a high awareness of the role of public policies in governance which aims to improve residents' quality of life, safeguard health and safety support organized growth, and uphold adherence to rules and guidelines all in harmony, with wider state and national directives. Banik (2023) states that awareness of policies involves understanding regulations, being informed about specific policies, and having the tools to act following or influencing these policies. Thus, public acceptance and understanding of policies are key factors in successful policy implementation (Wiranti, 2024).

Table 8. Respondents' Perception on Political Awareness as to Political Policies

	Indicators	Mean	SD	VI
1.	I am well informed that the elections in the Philippines are held under a multi-party system, in which a number of political parties compete.	3.19	0.62	<i>Aware</i>
2.	I am aware that together, the Senate and the House of Representatives enact laws and policies.	3.25	0.67	<i>Aware</i>
3.	I am informed that provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays are governed by elected governors, mayors, and other local officials. They oversee policymaking and local administration.	3.29	0.64	<i>Aware</i>
4.	I am knowledgeable that multitudes of advocacy groups and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) contribute to social justice, public policy, and government accountability.	3.14	0.68	<i>Aware</i>
5.	I understand that the Ombudsman guarantees government accountability by looking into complaints against public servants.	3.03	0.65	<i>Aware</i>
6.	I am familiar to the fact that automated voting innovations have been used in the Philippines to simplify and speed up the electoral process.	3.09	0.67	<i>Aware</i>
7.	I know that the financial transactions and government spending are overseen by the	2.99	0.64	<i>Aware</i>
8.	Commission on Audit (COA). I am conscious of the process that before being signed into law, proposed bills go through a number of readings, discussions, and committee evaluations.	3.09	0.63	<i>Aware</i>
	Overall	3.13	0.47	<i>Aware</i>

Legend: 3.50-4.00 (Highly Aware), 2.50-3.49 (Aware), 1.50-2.49 (Slightly Aware), 1.00-1.49 (Not Aware)

Table 8 presents that the respondents are well- informed about public processes in the country, which highlights the structure and

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responsibilities of the government. They are aware of the decentralized nature of governance where elected officials play pivotal roles in policymaking, local administration, and community development. Moreover, they acknowledge that the Senate and the House of Representatives together enact laws and policies demonstrate knowledge of the structure and function of a bicameral legislature and its role in democratic governance, and its impact on the country.

In general, the respondents have an awareness of the essence of public processes that contribute to the development and well-being of the communities in the country. Awareness about public processes is essential for promoting informed decision-making, enhancing public trust in governance, and influencing policy outcomes. Individuals with higher political awareness are more likely to meaningfully engage in political debates, contribute to policy discussions, and hold well-reasoned preferences about social policies.

Therefore, initiatives aimed at promoting political awareness among the public can lead to a more informed and engaged citizenry, ultimately strengthening democratic processes and governance. This is supported by notions that individuals with higher political awareness are more likely to engage in informed decision-making regarding social policies (Jordan, 2017). Additionally, politically aware individuals are more responsive to heightened policy debates, indicating their significant role in shaping public opinion on complex issues such as healthcare (Claassen & Highton, 2006).

Part III. RESPONDENTS' LEVEL OF CIVIC CONSCIOUSNESS

Table 9. Respondents Perception on Civic Action

	Indicators	Mean	SD	VI
1.	I participate in community-driven projects such as farmers' markets, locally-owned businesses, and community gardens.	2.68	0.88	<i>Conscious</i>
2.	I engage in respectful talks with people to exchange opinions and establish common ground on important issues.	3.17	0.70	<i>Conscious</i>
3.	I support companies and products that reflect one's principles, such as ecologically friendly businesses or those that encourage fair labor practices.	2.98	0.71	<i>Conscious</i>
4.	I utilize social media platforms to raise awareness of various social and political concerns and to encourage others to take action.	3.04	0.70	<i>Conscious</i>
5.	I participate in political workshops, seminars, or discussions to obtain a better understanding of current events and social issues.	2.64	0.89	<i>Conscious</i>

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6.	I volunteer, plan and lead clean-up events in order to solve environmental issues including pollution and waste management.	2.71	0.83	<i>Conscious</i>
7.	I believe that to preserve the environment and advance sustainable lifestyles, civic associations and private citizens must participate in activities such as tree planting and conservation initiatives.	3.10	0.74	<i>Conscious</i>
8.	I take part and intend to be part of organizations that prepare relief operations, help impacted communities, and join in rehabilitation efforts during natural disasters.	2.80	0.80	<i>Conscious</i>
Overall		2.89	0.56	<i>Conscious</i>

Legend: 3.50-4.00 (Highly Conscious), 2.50-3.49 (Conscious), 1.50-2.49 (Slightly Conscious), 1.00-1.49 (Not Conscious)

Table 9 shows that the respondents engage in respectful talks with people to exchange opinions and establish common ground on important issues. By engaging respectfully, they can build trust and create a collaborative atmosphere where diverse perspectives contribute to finding comprehensive solutions.

They also show awareness on the power of social media as a platform for amplifying voices and fostering collective action on important societal issues and values the importance of collective action and individual responsibility in addressing environmental challenges and promoting sustainable lifestyles within communities. In addition, they understand and display awareness on advocating for the support of businesses that prioritize ethical and sustainable practices, thereby contributing to positive societal and environmental outcomes through economic choices.

Overall, the results suggest that respondents are ready to engage with people on discourses, political workshops, seminars, or discussions to obtain a better understanding of current events and social issues which is evident due to the rise of participation of the youth and the population at large on advocacies that they believed on and activities that may be of benefit to the community.

Civic action, which involves a cycle of research, action, and reflection on personally relevant issues, has been identified as a powerful tool for developing students' civic competence (LeCompte et al., 2020). Through civic action projects, students not only acquire civic knowledge but also actively engage in civic actions, thereby enhancing their civic commitment and self-efficacy (Ballard et al., 2016). This approach fosters the development of critical citizens capable of conducting research, evaluating information, planning, and acting, and reflecting on their civic engagement (Hart, 2019).

Table 10. Respondents Perception on Civic Duty

	Indicators	Mean	SD	VI
1.	I volunteer significant time and effort for a cause or organization regularly, showing an ongoing dedication to making a difference.	2.77	0.79	<i>Conscious</i>
2.	I actively promote civic involvement and responsible citizenship by raising	2.75	0.79	<i>Conscious</i>

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	awareness and educating others.			
3.	I frequently participate in and support a variety of charitable and community-based organizations	2.71	0.81	<i>Conscious</i>
4.	I purchase from local businesses to promote economic growth and stability in the community.	2.92	0.73	<i>Conscious</i>
5.	I join in nonprofit organizations that address specific social concerns by offering services and advocating for positive change.	2.65	0.92	<i>Conscious</i>
6.	I involve myself in social, political, and economic discourse in public.	2.73	0.87	<i>Conscious</i>
7.	I volunteer time and energy for community service endeavors including health campaigns, clean-up efforts, and educational programs.	2.78	0.80	<i>Conscious</i>
8.	I honor and value the Philippines' rich cultural diversity.	3.20	0.72	<i>Conscious</i>
Overall		2.82	0.58	<i>Conscious</i>

Legend: 3.50-4.00 (Highly Conscious), 2.50-3.49 (Conscious), 1.50-2.49 (Slightly Conscious), 1.00-1.49 (Not Conscious)

In general, it is revealed that most respondents are conscious of what civic duty is and it is not only about a sense of obligation but also about contributing to the well-being of society as a whole. (Weinschenk & Dawes, 2017).

This also presents the respondents honor and value of the Philippines' rich cultural diversity that is manifested by the so-called "Filipino pride" that is exhibited from within and outside the country by citizens that contribute on the fields of entertainment, employment, governance, research and education etc.

It is also revealed that the respondents also join in nonprofit organizations that address specific social concerns by offering services and advocating for positive change, maybe due to the increase of awareness on various advocacies and the innate human desire to be involved. Demonstrating responsible citizenship through ethical behavior, respect for diversity, and a commitment to contributing positively to the well-being of the community can promote responsible citizenship.

Encouraging young people to understand and execute their civic responsibilities, including active participation in the community and voting, is essential for cultivating a culture of civic engagement and responsibility (Razak et al., 2023).

The respondents also understand the importance of performing civic duty such as participating in discourse which enhances civic education by increasing awareness of rights, responsibilities, and the functioning of government. It empowers individuals with knowledge to make informed decisions and actively contribute to society.

Civic education has been identified as a key factor in and political engagement. Studies have indicated that civic duty is a strong motivator for individuals to participate in political activities, including voting (Galais & Blais, 2014).

Table 11. Respondents Perception on Civic Skills

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	Indicators	Mean	SD	VI
1.	I educate individuals about civic rights and duties, as well as the importance of democratic participation.	2.81	0.82	<i>Conscious</i>
2.	I engage in courteous and friendly conversations with individuals of various backgrounds and beliefs	3.06	0.72	<i>Conscious</i>
3.	I participate in efforts to unify community members around a common cause to bring about positive change.	2.92	0.74	<i>Conscious</i>
4.	I critically analyze information, evaluates sources of information, and makes informed decisions on civic issues such as voting.	2.97	0.73	<i>Conscious</i>
5.	I campaign for causes, promotes awareness, and encourages support for community projects through online platforms and social media.	2.85	0.84	<i>Conscious</i>
6.	I believe that it is essential to understand the legal system as well as our civic duties and rights.	3.13	0.74	<i>Conscious</i>
7.	I effectively use online platforms to mobilize support, communicate information, and engage with a wider audience in the age of technology, digital literacy is essential.	3.03	0.67	<i>Conscious</i>
8.	I develop and utilize conflict resolution skills to better able to resolve conflicts peacefully and come up with solutions that benefit everyone involved.	2.97	0.74	<i>Conscious</i>
	Overall	2.97	0.56	<i>Conscious</i>

Legend: 3.50-4.00 (Highly Conscious), 2.50-3.49 (Conscious), 1.50-2.49 (Slightly Conscious), 1.00-1.49 (Not Conscious)

Table 11 shows that the respondents are aware of the significance to educate individuals about civic rights and duties, as well as the importance of democratic participation given that it is a regular topic of discourse in the community reasonably by concerned influencers and leaders. Civic skills are crucial for fostering critical thinking, which in turn facilitates collective action and engagement in civic life (Owen & Irion-Groth, 2022). Furthermore, the development of civic skills is fundamental for enhancing civic knowledge, self- efficacy, community consciousness, and ultimately promoting civic engagement among youth (Lamb, 2023).

On the other hand, the respondents also believe that it is essential to understand the legal system as well as our civic duties and rights due to the concerns of violations on civil liberties supposedly perpetuated by state agents considered as extra-judicial killings and by non-state actors that was magnified and elevated to national consciousness by the media as per remarks of political leaders and supporters alike.

In addition, they have a strong understanding that having a grasp of skills enables people and groups to make the most of online platforms for activities, like civic engagement, communication and mobilization. By honing these abilities individuals can actively participate in shaping conversations impacting policy choices and promoting societal transformations in their local areas and, beyond.

Overall, the respondents' perception revealed that they are aware of the significant role civic skills play in the development of a community. This also revealed that the respondents have the capacity to be involved in public engagement, conversation, and cooperation. Civic skills are often linked to qualities that contribute to being a responsible and active member of the community. (Haduong et al., 2023)

Table 12. Respondents Perception on Social Connections

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	Indicators	Mean	SD	VI
1.	I join in organizations that concentrate on common interests and hobbies, creating connections among like-minded individuals.	2.86	0.84	<i>Conscious</i>
2.	I participate in volunteer activities that encourage understanding and mutual support among community members	2.81	0.83	<i>Conscious</i>
3.	I take part in activities that allow individuals of various ages and backgrounds to interact and bond through common experiences.	2.85	0.75	<i>Conscious</i>
4.	I volunteer in community service projects such as neighborhood clean-ups and fundraising events.	2.78	0.89	<i>Conscious</i>
5.	I engage in community celebrations and occasions that bring people together and promote shared traditions.	2.95	0.78	<i>Conscious</i>
6.	I study community-based groups and NGOs (non-governmental groups) that address a range of social issues, such as poverty reduction, education, and health, are frequently formed as a result of social connection.	2.73	0.87	<i>Conscious</i>
7.	I join debate clubs, community outreach initiatives, and student organizations that offer forums for fostering interpersonal relationships.	2.54	0.91	<i>Conscious</i>
8.	I believe that young people's connections to society result in the creation of several groups devoted to social justice, human rights, and environmental issues.	3.08	0.69	<i>Conscious</i>
	Overall	2.83	0.64	<i>Conscious</i>

Legend: 3.50-4.00 (Highly Conscious), 2.50-3.49 (Conscious), 1.50-2.49 (Slightly Conscious), 1.00-1.49 (Not Conscious)

The study findings indicate that the respondents have an awareness regarding social connections in society. This further presents that they believe that young people's connections to society result in the creation of several groups devoted to social justice, human rights, and environmental issues as evidenced by the establishment of youth formation organizations on the school, district, division, up to the national level with an aim of soliciting youth participation in governance and policy formulation. By channeling their energy, creativity, and passion into collective action, young individuals continue to shape discourse, challenge injustices, and advocate for a more equitable and sustainable world. Social connectedness is highlighted as a significant factor in civic development, with studies suggesting that strong social connections can lead to increased civic engagement and a sense of belonging within communities (Oosterhoff et al., 2021).

The results also show that the respondents engage in events that bring individuals of ages and backgrounds together to connect and build relationships, through shared experiences like participating in community festivities attending gatherings and supporting community organizations and nonprofits focused on addressing various social issues like poverty alleviation, education and healthcare that helps in fostering a sense of unity and belonging among community members. Such groups often come into existence due to the importance of connections

In general, the respondents put importance on establishing and maintaining social connections and its implications on

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affecting societal change. This sense of belonging and connectedness is further enhanced through active civic engagement within peer communities, which promotes self-reflection, identity formation, and agency capabilities (Sagiv et al., 2022).

Part IV. RESPONDENTS LEVEL OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Table 13. Respondents' Community Engagement in terms of Levels

	Indicators	Mean	SD	VI
1.	I make sure that I am updated with the latest projects and activities of our community.	3.02	0.76	<i>Engaged</i>
2.	I assist in the planning and creation of services, programs, and policies that have an impact on the community at large.	2.62	0.86	<i>Engaged</i>
3.	I participate on efforts to unify community members around a common cause in order to bring about positive change.	2.77	0.78	<i>Engaged</i>
4.	I ensure that I critically analyzes information, evaluates sources of information, to come up with informed decisions.	2.92	0.73	<i>Engaged</i>
5.	I actively join on campaigns for causes, promotes awareness, and encourages support for community projects through by sharing information on online platforms and social media.	2.71	0.80	<i>Engaged</i>
6.	I believe that to ensure an effective community project, all stakeholders must be consulted.	3.03	0.72	<i>Engaged</i>
7.	I maximize and effectively use online platforms to mobilize support, communicate information, and engage with a wider audience for a community engagement.	2.92	0.76	<i>Engaged</i>
8.	I alongside members of the community are active contributors for community engagement serving as volunteers.	2.78	0.78	<i>Engaged</i>
Overall		2.85	0.59	<i>Engaged</i>

Legend: 3.50-4.00 (Highly Engaged), 2.50-3.49 (Engaged), 1.50-2.49 (Fairly Engaged), 1.00-1.49 (Not Engaged)

Table 13 presents the respondents' community engagement as to levels. It is revealed that the respondents make sure to be updated with the latest projects and activities of our community. This is an indication that the respondents acknowledge that being involved in the community is essential for fostering a sense of belonging, promoting active citizenship, and contributing to the collective well-being. Their engagement reflects an understanding that staying informed and participating in community initiatives helps to strengthen social bonds, support local development, and address common challenges effectively.

They also believe that to ensure an effective community project, all stakeholders must be consulted and that assisting in the planning and creation of services, programs, and policies that have an impact on the community at large is crucial. This is an evident indication that the respondents recognize the importance of inclusive participation and collaborative decision-making in fostering community development and ensuring that initiatives are responsive to the needs and aspirations of all members of the community. In addition, the respondents recognizes the effective use online platforms to mobilize support, communicate information, and engage with a wider audience for a community engagement. According to Lovejoy, K., & Saxton,

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G. D. (2012), individuals can use social media to raise awareness and mobilize support for community projects by sharing information, engaging with others, and calling for action. Individuals can play a significant role in increasing awareness and mobilizing support for a variety of community projects by taking part in online campaigns and sharing information on social media. Remarkably, all the statements were rated as engaged. This revealed that most respondents are well-versed in the concept of community engagement in terms of levels which shows that the respondents believe that participation from formulation to implementation of community activities are essential to maintaining consensus.

Table 14. Respondents' Community Engagement in terms of Core Values

	Statements	Mean	SD	VI
1.	I believe and uphold the principles and values of human rights.	3.34	0.67	<i>Engaged</i>
2.	I engage in courteous and friendly conversations with individuals about human rights and duties, as well as the importance of democratic participation.	3.17	0.69	<i>Engaged</i>
3.	I participate in efforts to unify community members around a common cause to bring about positive change and social equity.	3.02	0.79	<i>Engaged</i>
4.	I am aware of the importance of active participation on the development and success of the community.	3.21	0.74	<i>Engaged</i>
5.	I raise awareness through one-on-one conversations and social media to assist in the formation and empowerment of people for a just and equitable society.	3.00	0.75	<i>Engaged</i>
6.	I agree that everyone should care about gender equality.	3.38	0.69	<i>Engaged</i>
7.	I partake in activities that advance and strengthen our individual and collective human rights, such as seminars, workshops and others.	3.07	0.79	<i>Engaged</i>
8.	In my opinion, all can be a contributor to the community's development	3.28	0.70	<i>Engaged</i>
	Overall	3.19	0.55	<i>Engaged</i>

Legend: 3.50-4.00 (*Highly Engaged*), 2.50-3.49 (*Engaged*), 1.50-2.49 (*Fairly Engaged*), 1.00-1.49 (*Not Engaged*)

Table 14 presents the respondent's perceptions of their community engagement in terms of core values.

It demonstrates that the respondents are dedicated to upholding human rights principles and values. This exhibits their unwavering commitment to promoting justice, equality, and dignity for all. Their active participation in human rights advocacy demonstrates their commitment to establishing a just and inclusive society in which everyone's rights are protected and valued. This commitment demonstrates their awareness and proactive approach to human rights issues within their community and beyond.

In addition, they also recognize that everyone should care about gender equality. This may be due to the recognition that gender equality is fundamental to achieving social justice, fostering economic development, and enhancing the overall well-being of society.

The results indicate that respondents prioritize values and efforts that contribute to the collective good, underscoring their belief in community-oriented initiatives. This suggests that the respondents place importance on activities that benefit the broader

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community rather than individual interests.

Additionally, the findings highlight the significant influence of core values on shaping attitudes and behaviors towards participation in various community activities. This implies that the respondents recognize the role of fundamental beliefs in guiding their decisions and actions within their community.

This is supported by statement according to Machado (2023) and Key & Lewis (2018), effective community engagement hinges on principles like collaboration, respect, relationship building, and participatory leadership. These principles are essential for fostering meaningful connections and enhancing community involvement. They emphasize the importance of working together, showing respect, building strong relationships, and involving community members in decision-making processes to achieve successful community engagement initiatives.

Table 15. Respondents' Community Engagement in terms of Forms

	Indicators	Mean	SD	VI
1.	I volunteer my time and effort to help with urgent needs in the community like neighborhood clean-ups, food service at shelters, and tutoring.	2.93	0.75	<i>Engaged</i>
2.	I participate in youth-formation activities in the school and the community.	2.86	0.81	<i>Engaged</i>
3.	I join in educational activities at the school that raises public awareness on various social issues and advocacies.	2.86	0.79	<i>Engaged</i>
4.	I continuously improve myself to become a better member of the community by honing my knowledge and skills.	3.18	0.64	<i>Engaged</i>
5.	I explore problem areas within my community for which cooperative solutions might be offered.	2.88	0.77	<i>Engaged</i>
6.	I am a member or interested in being a member of community organizations such as youth groups, civic associations, sports leagues, church choirs, etc.	2.93	0.83	<i>Engaged</i>
7.	I develop collaborative relationships with others to bring about constructive changes and jointly address societal issues.	2.97	0.74	<i>Engaged</i>
8.	I use my abilities to the benefit of the community.	3.10	0.70	<i>Engaged</i>
	Overall	2.97	0.57	<i>Engaged</i>

Legend: 3.50-4.00 (Highly Engaged), 2.50-3.49 (Engaged), 1.50-2.49 (Fairly Engaged), 1.00-1.49 (Not Engaged)

It was found that the respondents thought that to become a better member of the community, one needed to constantly hone their knowledge and abilities. This demonstrates their unwavering dedication to self-improvement and development to make a more meaningful contribution to their community. Engaging in the community involves inclusive participation that respects values, strategies, and actions for authentic partnerships among individuals sharing geographic proximity, special interests, or similar situations (Goforth et al., 2021).

The respondents' understanding of the value of lifelong learning and skill development in their capacity as community members is demonstrated by this statement. It implies that they believe that in order to meaningfully contribute and more successfully address the needs of the community, personal growth is essential.

Furthermore, the participants are actively involved in youth-development initiatives in their communities and schools.

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This suggests that the participants understand the dual role that taking part in educational initiatives and youth-formation activities plays. They realize that in addition to helping people grow personally and as a community, these initiatives are essential in raising public awareness and encouraging support for social causes.

Generally, the respondents' community engagement as to forms had an overall mean of 3.25, a standard deviation of 0.44, and an interpretation of "Engaged". This suggests that the respondents know active participation in community driven initiative is imperative to affect change.

Part V. TESTS OF CORRELATIONS BETWEEN THE INDEPENDENT AND DEPENDENT VARIABLES OF THE STUDY.

Table 16. Correlations between Political Awareness and Community Engagement

Political Awareness	Community Engagement		
	Levels	Core Values	Forms
<i>Political institutions</i>	0.185**	0.322***	0.189**
<i>Political issues</i>	0.228***	0.338***	0.190**
<i>Political leaders</i>	0.298***	0.460***	0.230***
<i>Public policies</i>	0.325***	0.494***	0.328***
<i>Political processes</i>	0.348***	0.404***	0.294***

Note. * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$

Table 16 indicates that the variables evaluated have a highly significant relationship and suggests that the respondents' level of political awareness influences the level of their community engagement across various dimensions.

The results revealed that people who are politically aware are more inclined to take part in community events. This includes participating in public debates, going to community forums, and voting in elections. People are more likely to participate actively in democratic processes and ensure that their voices are heard, and their interests are represented when they have an extensive knowledge of political processes and issues.

In addition, this shows that engagement in community and social initiatives can be started by political awareness. Those with an understanding of politics are better able to plan and take part in activities such as neighborhood clean-ups, and local fundraising initiatives. These efforts effectively address local needs while fostering stronger community ties.

It may also infer that the more an individual is aware of different political matters in the country such as reports of killings, reports of journalists being harassed on a regular basis, and other issues, it may lead to an increase to their participation in different educational activities at the school that raises public awareness on various social issues and advocacies.

Moreover, the findings suggest that higher political awareness is generally associated with greater community engagement particularly in terms of core values and active participation in various forms and levels.

This is supported by the findings in the study of Calawa et al. (2023) in which it showed that participants engage and participate in national and local socio-political issues present in their community. The researchers found that students start to take part in participating when they gain awareness of the issues. However, without awareness they do not engage, because they do not understand the significance of their participation in the issues.

Individuals are more likely to be civically engaged and participate in community activities if they are aware of the political elements such as institutions, issues that are prevalent, the leaders that guides them, policies that are being and to be implemented and the processes involved therein. Helping students to orient in time, understand their own and other peoples' identities, develop moral judgement, and give tools for political action (Karlsson 2004: 27-30, Jensen 1997, Rösen 2005) they may be able to contribute to the overall well-being of their communities.

Further, these results support the notion that being politically aware and participating in politics are essential determinants of a society's democratic survival. (Badaru, K. A. & Adu, E. O. 2021). A democratic system's stability and existence rely on citizens' informed and active participation.

Table 17. Correlations between Civic Consciousness and Community Engagement

Civic Consciousness	Community Engagement		
	Levels	Core Values	Forms
<i>Civic action</i>	0.690***	0.547***	0.676***
<i>Civic duty</i>	0.728***	0.482***	0.680***
<i>Civic skills</i>	0.663***	0.508***	0.588***
<i>Social connections</i>	0.721***	0.408***	0.657***

Note. * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$

Table 17 indicates that the variables evaluated have a highly significant relationship and suggests that the respondents' level of civic consciousness affects the level of their community engagement.

The results imply that civically conscious people are more likely to participate in and engage in community activities. This civic consciousness includes a responsibility to address social, political, and economic issues that impact their community as well as a broad awareness of these issues. People are encouraged to engage in various forms of engagement and make positive contributions to their community when they are aware of the opportunities and challenges that exist there. This can involve helping out at neighborhood organizations, attending meetings, promoting policy changes, or just keeping up with current events in the community at large.

The results also revealed that civically conscious people improve their knowledge and abilities as well as the general harmony and well-being of their community. Active engagement contributes to the development of stronger, more resilient communities where a variety of viewpoints are respected and heard and where group efforts result in significant advancements. According to Althubet & Jarrar (2013), the degree of awareness of individuals in any community affects the development of the state.

In addition, it may be inferred that the more an individual conscious of topics such as the importance of understanding the legal system as well as our civic duties and rights engaging in respectful talks with people to exchange opinions and establish common ground on important issues, it may lead to and increase on community engagement promoting their supported causes and initiatives in the process.

Research indicates that critical consciousness, which involves an awareness of systemic inequalities and a commitment to social justice, is essential for promoting civic development (Mirra & Garcia, 2017). This critical consciousness is linked to civic engagement, as individuals who are aware of societal dynamics and power relationships are more likely to participate in activities that aim to bring about social change (Sagiv et al., 2022).

Such consciousness may foster empowerment, which can increase political participation (Ostrander et al, 2015) fulfilling their obligation to society. The consciousness develops and grows into active involvement in the occurrences in the polity to influence and be influenced by the decisions thereof for the growth and development of the society.

Moreover, the finding suggests as supported by the study of Belay & Tefera, (2022) the results indicate that all the specific indirect effects from parental civic socialization, school civic experience and social media influenced civic engagement via perceived competence for civic action. It means the mediating effect of perceived competence for civic action in the relationship between parental civic socialization, school civic experience and social media use and civic engagement was found to be significant.

In conclusion, it is revealed that individuals participate in their communities more actively as they grow in civic consciousness. Their increased civic consciousness as a result of this engagement feeds a positive cycle of informed and involved citizenship.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusion were made:

- There is a significant relationship between the respondents' political awareness and community engagement.
- There is a significant relationship between the respondents' civic consciousness and community engagement.

Therefore, the null hypotheses posited in the study is not supported.

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SYNOPSIS:

The study focuses on assessing the political understanding and civic engagement of grade 12 Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS) students at Crecencia Drucila Lopez Senior High School during the academic year 2023-2024. The research employed total population sampling, involving

292 students. It utilized descriptive-correlational research methods and a researcher-made questionnaire to measure students' awareness of political ideas, institutions, leaders, policies, and processes.

Key findings indicate that the respondents demonstrated a strong awareness of political matters and civic consciousness. They actively engaged in community initiatives, reflecting a positive correlation between political awareness, civic consciousness, and community engagement. This suggests that students who are more politically aware are more likely to participate actively in community-driven initiatives, potentially influencing societal change.

The results provide valuable insights for educational institutions aiming to enhance students' awareness of national affairs, thereby fostering increased participation in community activities and initiatives.