

# National Pride of the Filipino Youth

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**Abstract** - *The main purpose of this study was to know how proud the youth are of being a Filipino. Socio-demographic characteristics also play a role in determining the national pride of Filipino youth. The level of pride similarly varied among domain-specific aspects. We used a structured survey questionnaire adopted and modified from the International Social Survey Programme from their National Identity study. For this study, a four-stage sampling was observed to get the sample. Sports was the top source of the Filipino youth's national pride, among the 12 domain-specific aspects. However, Politics and Democracy got the lowest level of national pride. Differences among sexes significantly varied in the aspect of Sports, Economy and Social Security, and Environment. Pride in Arts and Literature, Sports, Armed Forces, and History differ among religions. The difference in Educational Attainment affects the level of national pride of the youth in the aspect of Fair and Equal Treatment in All Groups. Moreover, the socio-demographic characteristics play a role in determining the national pride of the Filipino youth. The study used quantitative research approach, specifically descriptive. A self-administered survey was distributed to 400 randomly selected youth respondents of 15 – 29 years old in the National Capital Region, Philippines.*

**Keywords:** *national pride, domain-specific pride, socio-demographic characteristics, Filipino, youth, Polytechnic University of the Philippines.*

## INTRODUCTION

Human beings are naturally born as a social creature. Someone depends on somebody in order for them to live, and survive. Their survival depends on another human's efforts. We develop and learn about the world around us through the filter of other people. Our connections to others are key to not only our survival, but also to our happiness and the success of our lives [1]. We live in extremely complex and interdependent societies, where people band together in groups for joint help and protection.

Therefore, there is an association between man and other human beings around them. There is a connection between man and the society. An individual belongs to a family, to a circle of friends, to a certain group who share common interests, and even Therefore, there is an association between man and other human beings around them. There is a connection between man and the society. An individual belongs to a family, to a circle of friends, to a certain group who share common interests, and even to the community itself [2]. This primary group bears

the major responsibility to connect to society. Its first duty is to the social group, to society and humanity. Such groups include families, friendships, associations, tribes, clans, states, nations. The opera members of these groups work together to help each other. In addition, since the group enhances the members' chances of survival, group survival means personal survival. The individual benefits by supporting the group, because the group gives back by supporting the individual [3].

As a member of social groups, members follow a certain standards or rules in order for them to stay longer in the group. A member of a group must follow the principles of the group and succeeding or failing to meet the standards, rules, and goals of one's group or society determines how well an individual forms relationships with other members of the group, this according to a study by Lewis [4]. Living up to one's own internalized set of standards—or failing to live up to them—is the basis of complex emotions. The so-

called self-conscious emotions, such as guilt, pride, and shame.

National pride serves as an important tool in determining the development of the country. Ezhar Tamam [5] stated two reasons why national pride is significant. He said that national pride is a binding force that endorses better relationships among the individuals coming from different cultures, races, and religions. The other reason is national pride can serve as a boundary to cultural imperialism threats within the current borderless world.

The Philippines considers the youth as the most valued resource. It was declared in 1995, in accordance with the Republic Act No. 8044 also known as the “Youth in Nation-Building Act”, that the state should establish the National Youth Commission and the National Comprehensive and Coordinated Program on Youth Development. It also states that the state declares that “youth” is an important period of an individual’s life for growth and development from the beginning of his teenage years to the climax of maturity, independent, and responsible adult. The state defines youth as a significant sector of the population from the age of fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years.

There have been National Pride and National Identity studies outside the country that were conducted about 5, 10 and 20 years ago. Studies took a heterogeneous sample to yield data and cross-analysed them among cultures and nations. In the Philippines, although there was an existing study about National Pride, it was made for the International Social Survey Programme because the Philippines was one of the participating countries. Moreover, the National Pride study in the country was not focused on the sector of the youth. We have decided to dig deeper and see the level of national pride of the youth, since there are only a few presented studies showing the national pride of the youth in particular. The National Capital Region has a youth population size of 3,516,319, and they play a huge role in economic, political and societal decision making in the country.

### **Concept and Sources of National Pride**

National pride serves as an important factor in determining the development of the country. Tamam [5] said that it is a binding force that endorses better relationships. It also acts as a boundary to cultural imperialism threats. National pride requires admiration and interest—the feeling that any has some portion of an accomplishment or an admirable

characteristic [6]. Moreover, national pride is the positive indicator that the people feel to their nation. Equally, pride and self-esteem are what a person has in him that concerns for his nation and a person derive pride and self-esteem from his national identity [7].

According to International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) [8], the sources of national pride were (a) Sports, the most common source of national pride. Next were (b) Arts and Literature, (c) History, and (d) Science and Technology. These four aspects mentioned got a high level of pride among countries. Aspects, which got a lower level of national pride, were: (d) Democracy, (e) the Economy, the (f) Military, (g) Global Political Influence, (h) the Social Welfare System, and (g) Fair and Equal Treatment. Domain-specific aspects also assist identifying the general level of national pride, and by detecting the elements that are objects of particular pride in each country [9].

Based on the study “World Opinion: National Pride in Comparative Perspective 1995/96 and 2003/04” by Smith and Kim [14], under the general pride items, a great number of the them (75%) stated that they prefer to be a citizen of their nation. Moreover, 48% feels that their nation is way much better than most other nations. A third of the selected sample believes that citizens must support their nation even when it is not in the right principle. On the other hand, 28% agree that the world would be much better if other nations were more like their nation.

### **National Pride in the Philippines**

The Philippines was among the 24 countries to be the subjects of the ISSP study. Even though the country had been under the colony of Spain, Japan and America (which are categorized as First World countries) for so many years, the citizens’ pride united the Filipinos together. In the year 2003, the Philippines was one of the participant countries of the study of the ISSP, which was conducted by the Social Weather Stations (SWS). In the given sources of national pride, 85% of Filipinos were proud of achievement in sports (versus the 81% average of all participating countries). Regarding history, 85% of the Filipinos were proud (versus the 80% average). 80% were proud in the achievement in arts and literature (against 79% average), 67% in scientific and technological achievements (against 77% average), 48% in economic achievement (versus 53% average), 58% in the armed forces (alongside to 56% average),

55% were proud at how the democracy works (to 54% average), 53% in fair and equal treatment of all groups (versus 46% average), 46% were proud of the social security system (same as the average) and 37% were proud in the political influence of the country (against 47% average) [10].

From the data, we can say that the numbers on domain-specific pride were healthy. The Philippines placed 9th on the world average ranking in 5 of the ten domain-specific aspects of national pride. However, the Philippines got a lower level of pride in the aspects of Democracy, Economy, Scientific and Technology and Political Influence, while the level of pride in Social Security System was as same as the average score of the participating countries.

During the late 90's, the Social Weather Station conducted a small youth study with a different result, contradicting the opinion of the majority. The survey showed that the 69% of youth were "very proud", and 24% were "rather proud" of their nation [11]. This SWS small youth study brought inspiration to look further what the Filipino youth today has to say about national pride. By evaluating the socio-demographic profile of the youth, we have determined its influence on their level of national pride.

Differences in National Pride among sex is visible in a study conducted by the ISSP. The men and women of the world takes equal pride on their nation's science and technology achievements, its sports, its economy, but men are less proud than women of their country's art and literature. On the other hand, the ISSP and found out that gender has statistically significant relationship in only 10 of 33 countries on general national pride and 15 of 34 countries on domain-specific national pride. Thus, men usually express more national pride than women do (in 9 of 10 cases and 13 of 15 cases respectively on general and domain-specific national pride).

National pride can have a religious difference, but it is when talking about certain countries like Israel or India. These two countries consider themselves that they belong to their holy place, or motherland, resulting to greater national pride. This is a version of national pride, which is strengthened by the adherence to a native religion [12]. More importantly, valuing one's religiosity and spirituality has been linked with the experience of positive emotions and positive emotions also have active contribution to an individual's well-being [13]. In this study, we decided

to see if there are religious difference in the National Pride of the Filipino youth.

As per the result of the study of Smith & Kim [14], Out of all the countries, those with less than a high-school education have the most pride and almost always the college educated have the least. Some of this relationship is due to the lower education of the earlier respondents, but even with age differences controlled, the less educated have significantly more general national pride in 31 out of 33 countries.

This study is significant for providing knowledge about the National Pride of Filipino youth in National Capital Region, Philippines. With the youth, the primary participants of this study, this will help the Filipino youth to understand their role in shaping the national pride of the Philippines. The study will help them assess their stand about national pride and will give them the chance to speak out their opinion, specifically their level of national pride. This is also significant to the Filipino community, for them to have awareness and knowledge of the pride of the youth on Philippines' different aspects. Seeing the opinion of the youth is a help to the Filipino community, so that they can hear what the youth has to say. It is significant for them in a way that the Filipino community may assess and reflect their own level of national pride and national attachment based on the national pride of the Filipino youth. It is also important to the Philippine government because would shed light on the different aspects of national pride, which will aid the government to give more attention to the aspects that lacks concern according to the opinion of the Filipino youth. This will be a complete and comprehensive glance of how the youth sees itself in the society in terms of national attachment and pride, which in turn will help the government to conduct more studies and implement actions not only for the youth but also to the society in general.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The following are the objectives of the study: (1) To describe the socio-demographic characteristics of the Filipino youth in the National Capital Region; (2) To know the Level of General National Pride of the Filipino Youth; (3) To measure the level of National Pride of the Filipino Youth in the domain-specific aspects; (4) To determine the difference between the level of national pride in domain-specific aspects of the Respondents among their socio-demographic

characteristics; and lastly, (5) To determine the difference between the level of general national pride of the Filipino youth among their socio-demographic characteristics.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

To measure the national pride of the Filipino youth in domain-specific aspects, we adopted and modified some of the questions in the ISSP National Identity III's instrument [instead of treating it separately (e.g. Politics and Democracy)]. The aspect of Environment was added as a new domain-specific of pride.

Survey was the method for this study. The survey entails questions on the socio-demographic profile of the respondents and to measure the level of their national pride in domain-specific aspects. The questionnaire was the tool in measuring the data. We surveyed the respondents in the form of self-administered questionnaire wherein the respondents answer the questionnaire by themselves, with the guidance of the researchers.

The study adopted some parts of the questionnaire formulated by the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) for a study of National Identity across and among nations.

A pre-test was conducted on September 14-19, 2015 to develop the survey questionnaire. The respondents filled out the survey for about 15 minutes each. The pre-test took place at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Sta. Mesa, Manila and 30 (15 to 29 years old) respondents from were purposively picked to answer the pre-test questionnaire. From the data gathered from the pre-test, the researchers made several editing prior to the suggestions and comments of the respondent in terms of wording and format.

Experts in the field of Public Opinion Research, Governance, and Youth validated and reviewed the questionnaire used in this study namely, Antonio G. M. La Viña, JSD, Dean of the Ateneo School of Government, Dr. Robin Espinoza of the National Youth Commission, and Dr. Mahar Mangahas, President of the Social Weather Stations.

Furthermore, as suggested by the National Youth Commission, the questionnaire used was bilingual. In this way, the youth respondents would better understand the survey. Every after an English sentence/phrase is a Filipino translation in parentheses and in italic font.

The survey was conducted in the National Capital Region (NCR). There were seventeen (17) cities and one municipality in NCR. We considered these cities/municipality as clusters. In each cluster (city/municipality), we chose a barangay randomly to represent that city/municipality. The National Capital Region has a youth population size of 3,516,319 (aged 15-29). We used a 95 percent confidence level. Overall, there would be 400 Filipino youth from the National Capital Region to participate in the study. There were no refusals in the data gathering process.

The analysis began with descriptive statistics of the respondents' socio-demographic characteristics and national pride on domain-specific aspects (Science and Technological achievements, achievements in Arts and Literature, achievements in Sports, Economy and Social Security, Fair and Equal Treatment of All Groups in the Society, Politics and Democracy, Armed Forces, History, and Environment.). Then, Spearman's Rank correlation coefficient was used to identify and test the strength of a relationship between two sets of data, which is their socio-demographic characteristics and their level of national pride.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Table 1: The Respondents' Level of National Pride in Domain-Specific Aspects**

Statements	Mean	Description
Science and Technological Achievements	3.36	Somewhat Proud
Arts and literature	3.47	Somewhat Proud
Achievements in sports.	3.64	Very Proud
Economy and social security	2.79	Somewhat Proud
Fair and equal treatment of all groups in the society	2.64	Somewhat Proud
Politics and democracy	2.44	Not Proud At All
Armed Forces	2.94	Somewhat Proud
History	3.49	Somewhat Proud
Environment	3.14	Somewhat Proud
<b>Overall Mean</b>	<b>3.10</b>	<b>Somewhat Proud</b>

*Note: How proud are you of the Philippines in each of the following specific aspects? Rate the level of your pride by encircling the number that corresponds to your answer. This was asked to 400 respondents aging from 15 – 29 years old of the National Capital Region, Philippines in the year 2015. The level of significance is  $p < 0.05$ .*

The data reveals the level of national pride of the Filipino youth in Domain-Specific Aspects. Respondents were very proud in the achievement of the Philippines in sports. However, the respondents

were not proud at all regarding the Philippines's politics and democracy. Moreover, the respondents were somewhat proud of the Philippines' Science and Technological achievements, arts and literature, economy and social security, fair and equal treatment of all groups in the society in the Philippines, Armed Forces, History, and Environment.

A study by Evans and Kelley [6] states that in sporting achievements, substantial majorities feel proud or very proud of sport in all the country groups in the survey. The results of the Philippines' pride in sports are in parallel with several east-central European nations, and West Germany toward the bottom. A finding from the analysis tells that citizens of smaller nations are prouder of their country's sporting achievements, about 9 points higher than citizens of large nations. Sports got the highest pride among all the aspects, with an overall mean of 3.47. This is because the country excels in various sports and competes internationally. Some remarkable athletes are, Manny Pacquiao (Boxing) and Paeng Nepomuceno (Bowling) were named as "Athlete of the Century" by the Philippine Sportswriters Association, "Greatest Filipino Athlete of All-Time" by the Philippine Congress, "World Bowler of the Year" for 1984, 1985 and 1992 by World Bowling Writers in the field of Bowling [15]. The Philippines also excels in international basketball represented by Gilas Pilipinas and other teams represented by Filipinos.

Arts and Literature came in second with 93.5% indicating that it made them proud of their country. Furthermore, it is 20% greater than the world average. This is followed by History, which shows that most of the respondents are proud, versus the world average of 71%. In the aspect of Science and Technology, 4 out of 5 said that they are proud with the achievements of the country in the said aspect, which likewise is 20% greater than the world average. In the aspect of Environment, 77.6% are proud. In addition, three-fifth of the youth are reported to be proud in the aspect of Armed Forces (versus 45% world average). 6 out of 10 are proud in the aspect of Economy and Social Security of the country (against 41% world average).

Noticeably lower are in the aspects of Fair and Equal Treatment of All Groups, which is only five out of 10 respondents are proud (versus the world average of 39%) and in the aspect of Politics and Democracy, 46% of the respondents are proud, against the 44% world average.

**Table 2: Difference between the Respondents' sex and the level of National Pride**

Domain-Specific Aspects	Sex	Mean	P-value	Remarks
Sports	Male	3.58	<0.001	Significant
	Female	3.37		
Economy and Social Security	Male	2.46	0.004	Significant
	Female	2.66		
Environment	Male	2.27	0.043	Significant
	Female	2.44		

*Note: Differences in sex in relation to their National Pride in Domain-Specific Aspects. There were 400 respondents aging from 15 – 29 years old of the National Capital Region, Philippines in the year 2015. The level of significance is  $p < 0.05$ .*

The data exhibits the t-test done among the sex of the respondents and their level of national pride in domain-specific aspects. The male respondents got a higher level of pride in sports than the female, since the computed p-value is less than the level of significance ( $<0.001 < 0.05$ ). Same case happened in the aspect of economy and social security, wherein the female are more proud in the aspect of economy and social security rather than the male (0.004 p-value  $< 0.05$  level of significance). Females also appear to be more proud of the environment rather than the males [14] stated that gender has a weak relationship with national pride, appearing statistically significant associations in 15 of 34 countries on domain-specific national pride. When relationships are statistically significant, men usually express more national pride than women do (in nine of 10 cases and 13 of 15 cases respectively in general and domain-specific national pride).

Four out of nine domain-specific aspects have a significant relationship with the religion of the respondents—notably, Arts and Literature, Sports, Armed Forces and History. Islam respondents come out to have the highest level of national pride among other religions regarding Arts and literature while those who claim to have no religion have the least (= 2.00). Religion and literature spring from the same fundamental sources. The power of art in religious values leads to create an environment to have a better understanding of one's religious practices. They both make a constant appeal to life [16]. On the other hand, respondents with no religion show the least pride in Sports and Armed Forces, as well as in History.

**Table 3: Difference between the Respondents' religious affiliation and the level of National Pride**

Indicators	Religion	Mean	P-value	Remarks
Arts and Literature	Roman Catholic	3.48	0.001	Significant
	Iglesia ni Cristo	3.41		
	Born Again Christian	3.52		
	Islam	4.00		
	Others	3.21		
	None	2.00		
	Sports	Roman Catholic		
Iglesia ni Cristo		3.45		
Born Again Christian		3.61		
Islam		3.67		
Others		3.43		
None		1.67		
Armed Forces		Roman Catholic	2.95	0.038
	Iglesia ni Cristo	3.18		
	Born Again Christian	2.86		
	Islam	3.00		
	Others	2.86		
	None	1.33		
	History	Roman Catholic	3.52	
Iglesia ni Cristo		3.68		
Born Again Christian		3.32		
Islam		3.67		
Others		3.21		
None		2.33		

*Note: Differences in religious affiliation in relation to their National Pride in Domain-Specific Aspects. There were 400 respondents aging from 15 – 29 years old of the National Capital Region, Philippines in the year 2015. The level of significance is  $p < 0.05$ .*

Religion and literature spring from the same fundamental sources. The same forces also form them. They both make a constant appeal to life [16]. The power of art in religious values leads to create an environment to have a better understanding of one's religious practices. Adverse impacts to the relationship between religion and art in all religions with different degrees of intensity in different words, the art has existed in various religions [17].

Eitzen and Sage [18] being cited, they proposed that religious values are integral in sports. In this sense, "sport embodies religious values including character development, hard work, and perseverance,

and, like religion, it promotes and inculcates these qualities and behaviors," [19].

It is also a remarkable discovery that there is not one authentic Philippine date in history until 1521, the year when the Spaniards arrived in the Philippines, bringing Christianity [20]. This shows how history co-existed with religion in the Philippines. As the friars taught the Filipinos Christianity, they also embedded in us to save memorable dates and give value to history.

**Table 4: Difference between the Respondents' educational attainment and the level of National Pride**

Indicators	Educational Attainment	Mean	P-value	Remarks
Fair and Equal Treatment in All Groups of the Society	Elementary	2.84	0.013	Significant
	High School	2.58		
	College	2.59		
	Technical/Vocational	2.13		

*Note: Differences in educational attainment in relation to their National Pride in the aspect of Fair and Equal Treatment in all groups of the society. There were 400 respondents aging from 15 – 29 years old of the National Capital Region, Philippines in the year 2015. The level of significance is  $p < 0.05$  [21]*

The results indicate that the educational attainment of the respondents has no significant relationship between their levels of national pride in specific aspects. However, it is noticeable that the aspect "Fair and Equal Treatment in All Groups of the Society" got a P-value of 0.013 (lesser than the level of significance, which is 0.05). Therefore the respondents with highest educational attainment of elementary level has the highest national pride regarding fair and equal treatment in all the groups of the society. Also, the respondents with the highest educational attainment of technical/vocational got the lowest level of pride in fair and equal treatment.

## CONCLUSIONS

This study indicates that the top indicator of National Pride of the Filipino youth is Sports. However, the respondents were not proud at all regarding the Philippines's politics and democracy. A study by Evans and Kelley [6] states that in sporting achievements, substantial majorities feel proud or

very proud of sport in all the country groups in the survey. The results of the Philippines' pride in sports are in parallel with several east-central European nations, and West Germany toward the bottom. A finding from the analysis tells that citizens of smaller nations are prouder of their country's sporting achievements, about 9 points higher than citizens of large nations. Sports got the highest pride among all the aspects, which is because the country excels in various sports and competes internationally.

There were three indicators marked having significant difference between sexes—these were sports, economy and social security, and environment. Sex Differences in the level of National Pride is variable and small. The men and women of the world takes equal pride in their nation's science and technology achievements, its sports, its economy, but men are less proud than women of their country's art and literature.

On the other hand, Smith and Kim [14] found out that gender has statistically significant relationship in only 10 of 33 countries on general national pride and 15 of 34 countries on domain-specific national pride. Thus, men usually express more national pride than women do (in 9 of 10 cases and 13 of 15 cases respectively in general and domain-specific national pride).

In religion, the stated number of the result on the four indicators, arts and literature, sports, armed forces, and history, were observed having a significant difference between the religion of the respondent and the level of the National Pride. While only one indicator (Fair and Equal Treatment in All Groups of the Society) resulted to have a significant difference between the said variables among nine indicators. National pride can have a religious difference and considering themselves that they belong to a holy place or motherland results to greater national pride [12]. Since the major religion in the Philippines is Roman Catholic, the Philippines proudly boasts to be the only Christian nation in Asia with 57% as of 2010 Census of Housing and Population [21].

In educational attainment, only one indicator (Fair and Equal Treatment in All Groups of the Society) resulted to have a significant difference between the said variables. Smith and Kim [14] discovered that less education is strongly related to greater general national pride. Out of all the countries, those with less than a high-school

education have the most pride and almost always the college educated have the least. The less educated have significantly more general national pride in 31 out of 33 countries.

Economy and social security, fair and equal treatment in all groups of the society, politics and democracy and environment have significant differences between the monthly household income of the respondent and their level of the National Pride.

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