

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION

This part of the research is a presentation of the summary of the findings of the research, the implications drawn from the concluded findings, and lastly the recommendations made from the implications.

6.1 Summary of Findings

This research has sought to answer the following research questions: firstly, to what extent is the influence of attitude, subjective norms and perceived behavioral control in forming the intent to support the War on Drugs strategies of Philippines?; secondly, to what extent is the relationship of Political trust to the attitude and to the intent to support the strategies of War on Drugs?; and lastly, to what extent is the intention to support from the citizens to the enforcement of the War on Drugs Strategies of Philippines? Towards the pursuance of these research questions, the study adopted a modified version of the Ajzen's Theory of Planned Behavior by and combining it with the Spectrum of

Public Participation developed by the International Association of Public Participation.

The research sought to answer four hypotheses. The first hypothesis states that Attitude positively affects the intent to support the War on Drugs. The second hypothesis states that Subjective Norm positively affects the intent to support the War on Drugs Strategies. The third one states that Perceived Behavioral control positively affects the intent to support the War on Drugs strategies and the last one states that Political trust positively affects the attitude towards the intent to support War on Drugs strategies.

In answer to the first research question, it is concluded that what influences the intention of the students to support the Philippine Drug War are their Attitude towards supporting it, and their Perceived Control over their intention to support it. These are based on the results which revealed that Attitude has a large impact over intention as evidenced by a regression weight of 0.735, significant at a p value of less than 0.0001 and an effect

size of 1.212. For the third hypothesis, under the first research question, Perceived behavioral control is also revealed to have a small but significant impact to intention as evidenced by a regression weight of 0.218, significant at a p value of 0.0001 and an effect size of 0.128.

The second hypothesis, which is not supported by the research, was revealed that Subjective Norm has no impact to the intention formation as evidenced by a regression weight of 0.034, not significant at a p value of 0.365 and a miniscule effect of 0.004 effect size. In other words, this means that despite the support of the people surrounding the students, this does not motivate, nor influence the students to support the Anti-Drug Efforts of the Philippine government.

In answer to the second research question, under the fourth hypothesis, Political Trust was revealed to have a large impact to the Attitude of the Student towards the behavior of supporting the Philippine Drug War. This is evidenced by the 0.904 regression weight of Attitude and Trust, significant at a p

value of <0.0001 and an effect size of 4.485. It means that the greater the trust of the students towards the institutions which has authority over the Philippine Drug War (President, Police Officers, Legal System, and Policy Makers), the more positive their attitude will be.

Finally, on the extent of support which is the last research question, there were originally twelve specified actions that were chosen, however only ten gained a majority approval. On every level, one or more actions were revealed to have the majority's intention of partaking. This reports that the students admitted a willingness to participate in supporting the Philippine Drug War not only on an Informed, and Consultative Levels, but also on an Involved, Collaborative, and Empowering Levels. These ten steps are identified to be the following: (1) Inform myself, my peers, my family members, and the members of my social circle about the War on Drugs from the information gathered from the news, newspapers, and from the statements of policy-makers, (2) Inform others through the use of social media and other mechanisms of information dissemination, (3) Ask for Pamphlets,

Brochures, and leaflets about the progress of War on Drugs, (4) Watch the news and to keep an update on the War on Drugs efforts of the police, (5) Attend seminars about War on drugs: efforts and strategies, 6. Participate in answering surveys and polls about the Drug Agency's performance in the enforcement of War on Drugs strategies, (7) Attend forums about the enforcement of War on Drugs strategies (Citizens, PDEA, and Police), (8) Write a feedback and suggestions to the implementing agency to improve, enhance, and make changes to the strategies on the War on drugs, (9) Coordinate with the implementing agencies in any possible collaborative effort to support the campaign against illegal drugs (10) Participate in a citizen-led effort to examine the strategies in the conduct of War on Drugs. The first four (1-4) are categorized to be in the inform level of the spectrum of public participation, while the next two are under the consult level (5-6), one action is under the involve level (7), two are under the collaborate level (8-9), and the last one is under the empower level (10).

6.2 Implications

6.2.1 Implications to Theory

Understanding the results revealed by the research, it can be highlighted that Attitude is a crucial determining variable in predicting the intention of the students to support the Philippine Drug War Strategies. This is supported by the argument that Attitudes are important as they may translate into actions and behaviors (Crawley, 2009) which could reinforce the theoretical ties of Attitude and Behavioral Intentions. Furthermore, the influence of Attitude to Behavioral Intention revealed in this research is also in synch with the results of the study of Pierce et. al (2014) which stressed out that attitude is important to society's acceptance of new policies and that cultivating positive attitude would, on a great extent, aid the formation of society's acceptance of a policy (Pierce et. al, 2014).

On one hand, Subjective Norm surprisingly emerged to have no impact on Behavioral Intention to support. Although, the Philippine Drug is empirically proven to be popularly supported,

this popularity has not influenced the students' intention to support the Anti-Drug Campaign. Several studies have investigated the influence of public opinion to people's policy judgments (Furth-Matzkin and Sunstein, 2018) and although individuals fall towards conforming to public opinion, some researches have argued that individuals may also have a tendency to show reactance (Furth-Matzkin and Sunstein, 2018; Brehm and Brehm, 1981). Furthermore, another notable research argued that counter-conformity towards the social influence from the people surrounding the individuals may be accounted from having a strong moral basis of attitude (Hornsey et al., 2003) which reinforces the insignificant effect of subjective norm in this research.

Finally, the construct of Perceived Behavioral Control came out to become a significant predictor variable with medium effect on intention. This implies that the students would support the War on Drugs Strategies of the Duterte Administration on their own volition, and the intention to support would decrease as students feel that their control over their decision to support

declines. The decline of control may be attributed to the toxic discourse on social media platforms, the possible perceived limitations of being a student, and even perhaps the orientation of the university and the self-efficacy of the students to organize themselves. The difficulty of expressing support or dissent can be attributed to the ‘toxicity of the national discourse’ that can most especially be found on social media platforms regarding the issues surrounding Duterte’s war on drugs, this toxicity has said to have ‘stifled even the most rabid opposition who challenge the official narrative’ (Bautista, 2017: 6).

Although there are scarce literature that have taken precedence to establish the policy support model using the Theory of Planned Behavior of Ajzen, it is considered a breakthrough that the TPB model was extended to policy sciences as it could potentially aid policy interventions. Hence, the study introduces a model that would fill the gap of modified TPB model in governmental sciences.

6.2.2 Implications to Practice

Attitude emerged to be the strongest predictor of ‘intention support’ and it is mediated by the strong association to Political Trust. Thus, changing public attitudes towards the War, re-establishing and strengthening trust in political institutions, and sustaining positive attitude towards the campaign against illegal drugs are all important for the continuity of the Philippine Drug War Strategies.

Also, Perceived Behavioral Control emerged to have an impact on the intention to support the Anti-Drug efforts. Consequently, an increase on the facilitative conditions and environment for citizen involvement and student empowerment must be highlighted. Students must be provided with a better platform to be involved, get consulted, and even to collaborate with the government to foster greater intentions for support. The local communities must be mobilized to aid rehabilitation and treatment-focused efforts to partner with the enforcement-heavy Anti-Drug Campaign.

In addition, specified actions were also identified in this study to aid the government in identifying the efforts that needs to be capitalized. All the ten identified efforts from the four levels of public participation are valuable information of what students are willing to do on their end provided that a platform and avenue would be provided on the end of the government or any organization/agency.

6.3 Recommendations

6.3.1 Recommendations for future research

Several points must be stressed out regarding how the research was carried out. These points refer to the limitations that must mean that the results be understood with caution and prudence. First point being that the research had employed a self-reported questionnaire survey which could potentially mean that self-reports might have emerged from personal biases and answers might not have been truthful nor sincere. Second point, the sample size may be considered small and Cochran's formula for sample size measurement is recommended for researches with

a target population characterized to have a great variability. Third point, the chosen universities were chosen based solely on the performance and future researches may frame in the university's orientation as a potential variable. Fourth point, the research made use of simple linear regression hence the possible interconnectedness of the independent variables must also be considered for future researches. Last point, it was from the researcher's own conceptualization that the constructs of the Theory of Planned Behavior and Political Trust and the interplay of the Spectrum of Public Participation were tested hence it should be considered as a novice attempt for model construction. Also, there is a potential for an inter-island comparative results by assessing the case of Luzon and Mindanao.

6.4.2 Recommendation for Policy makers/government agencies

Consequent to the implications of the research results, several recommendations that could have potential value are

proposed for the government and for the sustainability of the Anti-Drug Campaign.

Firstly, information drive and dissemination focused on addressing the controversies and allegations surrounding the Philippine Drug War must be regularized. Seminars, workshops, and citizen-participated opportunities must be maximized. Engagements partnering with universities to keep students informed and involved must also be frequented.

Secondly, strengthening of efforts in facilitating a peaceful discourse to examine the Drug campaign could be helpful. It could clear out the controversies surrounding the Drug War and could potentially solicit strategic improvements to further the Ant-Drug efforts.

Thirdly, clear monitoring of the progress of the Drug War to ensure that it meets its objective without sacrificing the liberty and rights of the citizens. Thus, efforts of rebuilding the trust of the citizens to the political institutions and actors must be

prioritized. Citizen-engagement and open forums must be conducted periodically.

This chapter has presented the summary of the findings that the research was able to gather, the implications of the results, and lastly the recommendations for the future researchers and for the policy makers and government agencies.