

CHAPTER IV

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH SETTING

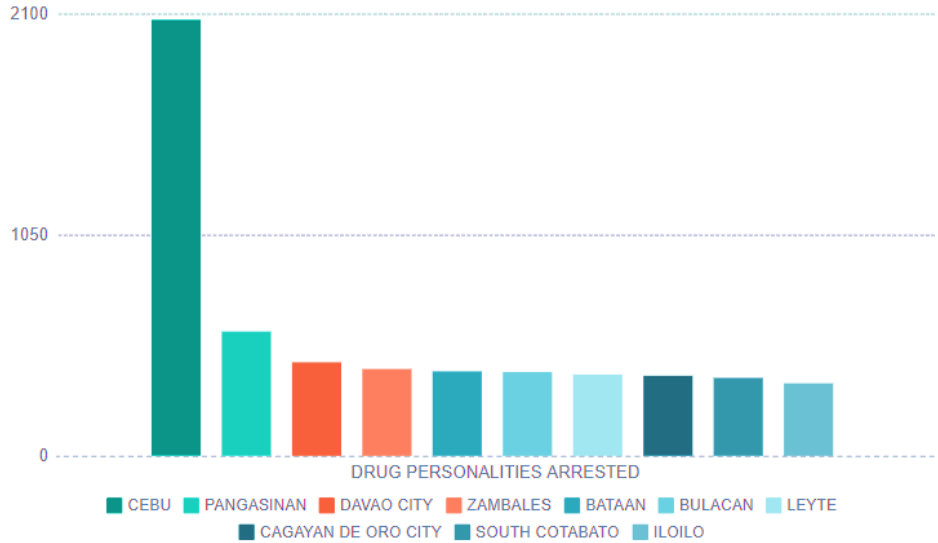
This chapter presents an elaboration of the research setting, why it was chosen, and its geo-spatial characteristics. Also, descriptions of the particular universities where the actual conduct of the survey was done are also provided in this chapter.

4.1 Research Setting

The research was conducted in Cebu City, Philippines known to be the Queen City of the South. In a speech of President Duterte in the Philippine Councilors' League 10th National Congress, the president revealed that Cebu has the highest drug rate in the country and which according to him has reached 'epidemic proportions'. (Mayol et. al, 2017). Further an ABS-CBN report, one of the TV networks in the Philippines, was cited in the report of Mayol et. al (2017), stating that drug abuse in Cebu is at 60 to 70 percent. It is reflected in Figure 4.1 below that Cebu has the highest number of drug personalities apprehended by the government authorities.

Figure 4.1

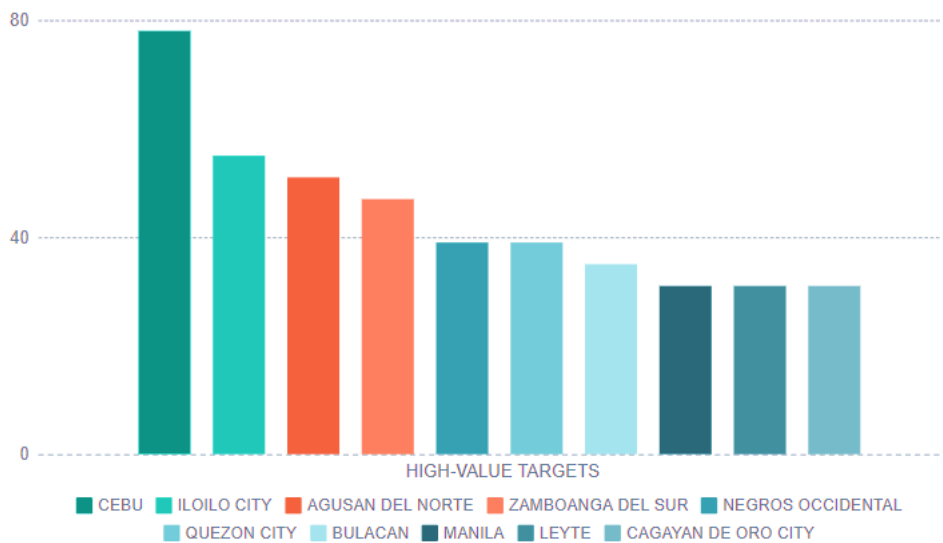
Top ten cities/provinces with the highest Drug Personalities



Source: Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Data on Drugs (January - August 2016)

Cebu is also listed as the top city with the most number of high-value targets arrested. This is as evidenced by the figure below indicating the top ten cities and provinces with the highest number of high-value targets.

Figure 4.2
 Top ten cities/provinces with the highest number of high-value targets

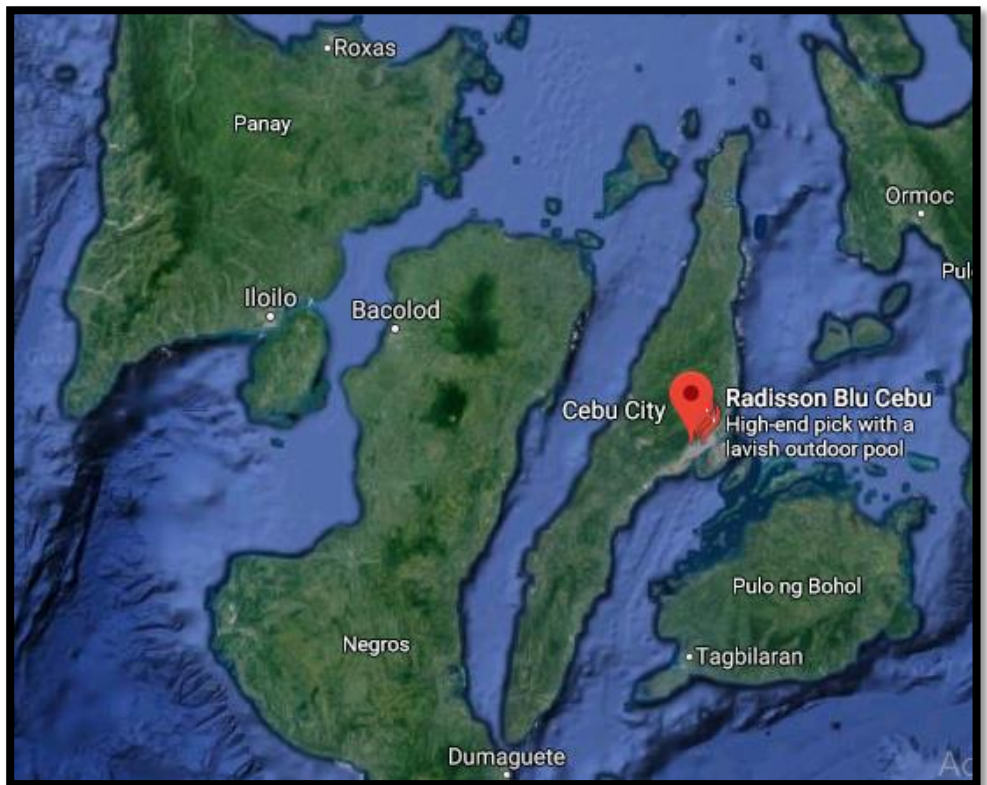


Source: Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Data on Drugs (January - August 2016)

The strategic geographical location of Cebu could possibly be one of the reasons linked towards the drug trade and illicit drug activities in the city (Mayol et. al, 2017). As according to an interview with the Director of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in Central Visayas (PDEA-7), it was mentioned that the location of Cebu has made it a transshipment port of illegal drugs because it has access to almost all the ports in the Philippines, most importantly in Mindanao and Visayas

(Mayol et. al, 2017). This is why there is an intense focus of War on Drugs in Cebu. Thus, Cebu province, particularly its capital Cebu City, was the chosen locale for the research. A map of Cebu City is shown in Figure 4.3.

Figure 4.3
Map of Cebu City



Source: Google maps

The reasons on why the Cebu City, Philippines is chosen among all the others are because firstly, the research would like to gather responses from politically engaged individuals. Urban areas or metro cities like, Cebu City same as the other metro cities in the world are seen be incubators of activism and social movement. This being the case, it can be extracted that urban city settlers are more politically engaged. There are various general characteristics that pave way for urban areas to be politically active and engaged; Income inequality is more noticeable (Schoene, 2015 ;Sassen, 2006; Anthony & Crenshaw, 2014); There are greater resource levels in cities such as bigger and denser populations (Schoene, 2015; Conover et al., 2013); and finally according to Schoene (2015), the cities are the settlements of political institutions that are targeted by social and political movements. Schoene (2015) concluded that contemporary activism in 20 countries of the European Union is explained by urban status and resource levels, with the citizens who are have grievances as the supporting element that ignites political and social movements. The study of Schoene (2015) reinforced the

importance of the urban cities such as Cebu City as suitable research settings as these cities house politically engaged residents which have a level of familiarity to social movements and are generally confident to express political disagreements through varying dimensions of political activism. This is also reinforced by the statement that Southeast cities become the site, the repository and the very identity of political agency, engendering creative and dynamic politics that breathe life into urban spaces (Bunnell and Goh, 2013: 831). But more importantly, in a statement of President Duterte on March of 2017, Cebu is identified to be the highest drug-penetrated province in the Philippines (Mayol et. al, March 9, 2017). This means that it can be a safe assumption that the citizens of Cebu are more than aware of the intensity of the War on Drugs implementation in their City as well as the severity of the drug problem that the War on Drugs seek to address. Specifically, the research settings chosen for the study are three of the universities in Cebu City; University of San Jose Recoletos, University of San Carlos, and Cebu Normal University. Added to this is the

University of the Philippines- Cebu. These universities are among the top universities in Cebu from the data provided by the Commission on Higher Education.

4.2 University of San Carlos

The Official website of University of San Carlos (USC) categorized USC as a Catholic educational institution. It is under the administration and management of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) missionaries since the year 1935 and became a university in the year 1948. It is considered to one of the biggest universities in Cebu City and is ranked 5th in the nationwide ranking with the most number of Centers of Excellence and Centers of Development from the Commission of Higher Education. The university is the only university to be ranked and cited by International Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) around Visayas and Mindanao with an estimation of around 20,000 students.

Figure 4.4
Location of University of San Carlos

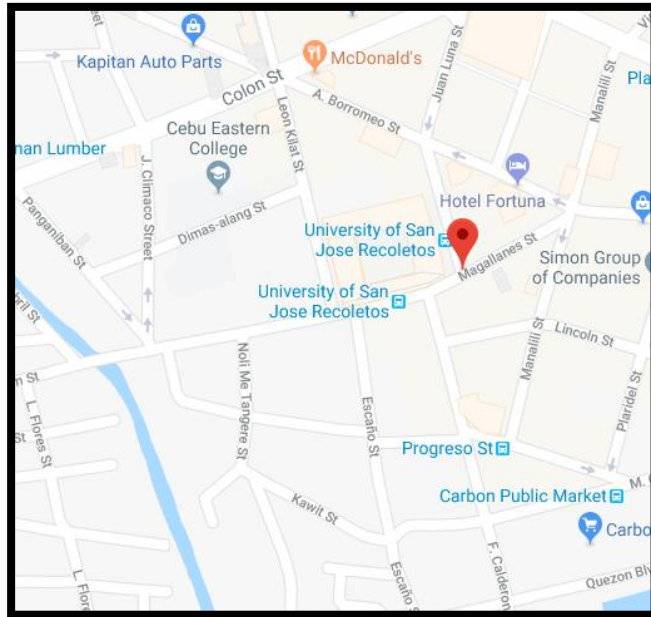


Source: Google Map

4.3 University of San Jose Recoletos

The University of San Jose Recoletos is founded in the year 1947, offering more than 180 programs in 12 colleges and departments (Official Website, usjr.com). USJR received a total of five centers of excellence and development from the Commission of Higher Education and it has an estimation of around 20,000 students. The map of the exact location of UP-Cebu is shown in Figure 4.5.

Figure 4.5
Location of University of San Jose Recoletos

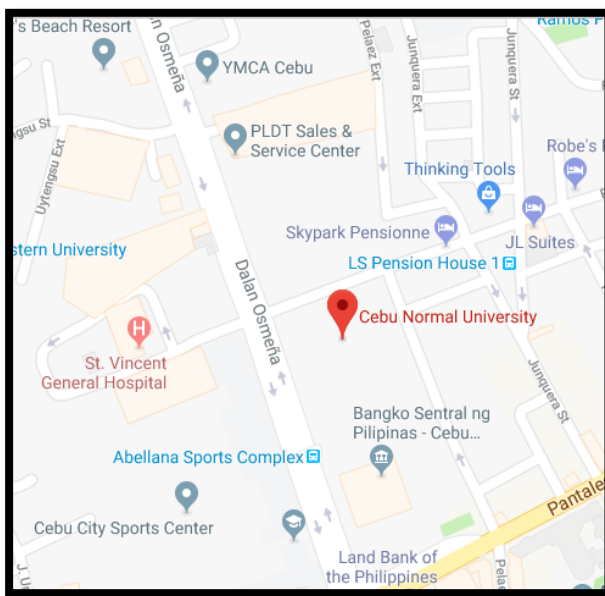


Source: Google Map

4.4 Cebu Normal University (CNU)

The Official website of Cebu Normal University (CNU) indicated that CNU was established in the year 1902 as a provincial normal school and a component of the Philippine Normal School. In the year 1998, CNU became a university and one of the oldest in Cebu. The CNU has three campuses, the main campus in Osmeña Boulevard, Cebu City and two extension campuses in Medellin and Balamban.

Figure 4.6
Location of Cebu Normal University

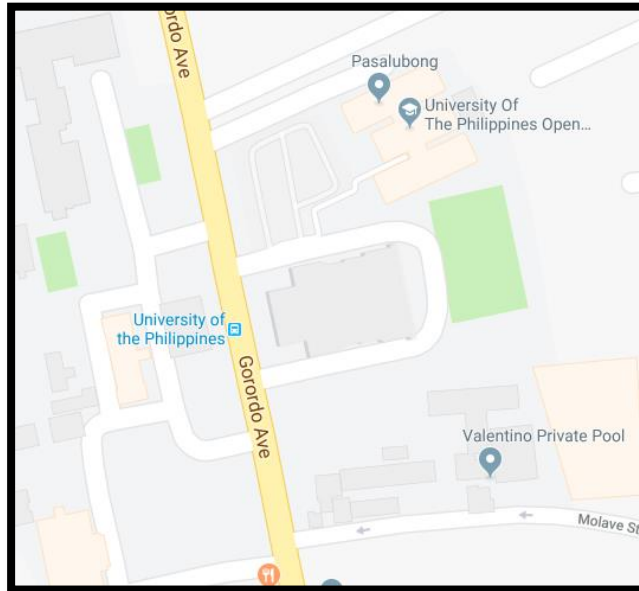


Source: Google Map

4.5 University of the Philippines-Cebu

The University of the Philippines-Cebu is a public research university that is considered the youngest constituent university of the University of the Philippines. Ten years after the founding of UP in the year 1908, UP- Cebu was founded on May 3, 1918. It's campus is located in Cebu City. A map is illustrated in Figure 4.7.

Figure 4.7
Location of University of the Philippines- Cebu



Source: Google Map

The chapter provided an elaboration of the research setting including descriptions of the universities chosen for the actual survey of the research. The next chapter will present the results that were gathered in this study.