Disentangling the Relationship Between FRATERNITIES and VIOLENCE in School Campuses Jimmy R. Soria*

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INTRODUCTION

A culture of PEACE in every school is necessary in the attainment of academic excellence.



Culture of peace as translated by the UNITED NATIONS includes

VALUES

ATTITUDES

BEHAVIOR

that respect for

LIFE, DIGNITY and HUMAN RIGHTS



OBJECTIVES

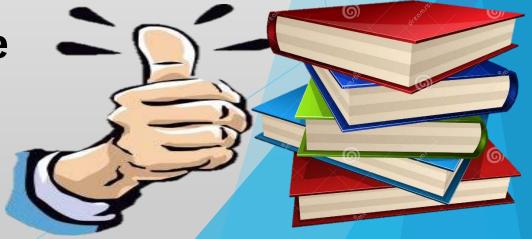
TRACED the causes of the pervasive upsurge of violence among fraternity members in school campuses

DETERMINED some policies and doctrines that would help in the resolution of conflicts in which conflicts typically result to violence

IDENTIFIED workable practices that were carried out to eradicate the practice of all forms of violence among fraternities in school campuses







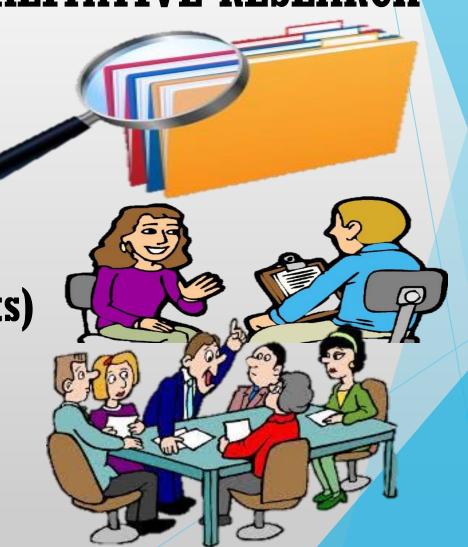
METHODOLOGY

DESCRIPTIVE DESIGN INVOLVING QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

 documentary and content analysis

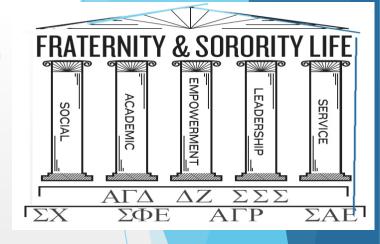
 in – depth interviews to informants (participants)

focus group discussions



FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

☐ Causes of Upsurge of Violence by Fraternities in School Campuses



1. EXPRESSION OF WILL identical to ANGER REVENCE JEALOUSY REPRISAL INTUITIVE IMBALANCE PSYCHOLOGICAL MALA and purely an indication of SUPERIORITY In an interview with one member, he recalled his experience one time during the course of an initiation: "I would exact much stiffer punishment to a plebe than what I experienced when I was the one undergoing the initiation rite. I was swayed by the style of rigorous penalty for some obvious reasons and I was too annoyed to do the same inflicting severe punishment to them (plebes)."

2. CHRONIC ALCOHOLISM

One informant revealed: "I don't have the courage to participate in the initiation rites of the plebes. Since I was designated as Initiation Master, I need to do my responsibility. I take several shots of wine prior to the start of the initiation rites and thereafter unusual, I felt I am no longer in my usual self."

3. DOMINANCE

One fraternal alumna quipped: "It is competition! We need to launch our organization as the best among the best. That is establishing identity for our fraternity so as to be known in the campus. Others? They are just there to show off their arrogance and haughtiness."

4. MISCOMMUNICATION

A teacher and adviser of fraternity explained: "Sometimes, we do not understand other groups. There are times that we wanted to extend alliance with them but they interpreted it in a different way..... as if we are provoking them."

- ☐ Suggested Ways of Managing Conflicts among Fraternity Members to End-up Violence
- 1. Conflict management should then be part of school's curriculum

One parent who is a member of a fraternity articulated her call

"The school should consider the issue on conflict more seriously within their curriculum as our children spend most of their time in the campus and such issue of conflict is rather more prevalent there."

2. Maintain open communication among students

One fraternal alumnus reasoned out: "I would like to see in the future the meeting of minds of fraternities in school campuses so as to establish openness among them. So, issues resulting to conflict is first and foremost avoided."

- 4. Comprehensive review of the RA 8049 (Anti-Hazing Law)
- 5. Designating distinct roles and functions to organization

ORGANIZATI

6. Good confrontation technique

A peace advocate who is an alumnus of a fraternity recommended: "Conflicting fraternal organizations can be resolved in a face to face situation which involves negotiation, bargaining, mediation, settlement and application of integrative decision making method based on the premise that a "win-win" solution can resolve the issue of both parties. "

- ☐ Workable (Best) Practices in Ending Violence
 Between and Among Fraternities
- 1. Recognition and accreditation of fraternities for REGISTER accountability and regulatory purposes

One alumnae shared her experience: "In the university where I came from, recognition and accreditation of fraternities were asked and required to operate as a regular school organizations".

2. Developed partnerships and collaborations among fraternities.

A student and fraternity leader of a big university in the north proudly shared his experience: "We have a confederation of 12 fraternities in the campus which we named it PROFRAT. With the partnership and collaboration, we were able to attain a peaceful environment and a zero campus violence rate".

3. Engaged fraternal organizations and their members in various school activities

A professor and an adviser of a fraternity said:

"While they were drawn to find better ways to keep themselves busy in the school, more than anything else, they looked for activities that would complement their studies,extra-curricular activities that are academic in nature. With a comfortable environment and a lot of activities, learning made more easy, successful, and productive."

4. Taught students about the common type of violence and its implications

A parent who is an alumnae of a fraternal organization in a university she graduated revealed: "School administrators broadened their view regarding policy orientation by educating the students the risk brought about by violence to foster a safe, healthy and civil campus environment.

CONCLUSIONS

- 1. Nowadays, the concept of the fraternity have gone HORRENDOUS, OVERPOWERING and ENCOMPASSING as it has gone to a precarious existence having brought the impasse on school campuses with their predisposition to commit violence.
- 2. The Anti-Hazing Law that addresses the concerns of fraternities in the country DID NOT STOP VIOLENCE. Hazing as provided in the law is not prohibited but merely regulated.
- 3. RECOGNITION AND ACCREDITATION of fraternities for accountability and regulatory purposes in their engagement in various school activities are the most practical way and best workable solutions in ending campus violence.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. School administrators and even the general public should ACCEPT fraternities and sororities as organizations in a collegial atmosphere where young people explore great ideas and make lifelong friendships.
- 2. School administrators should **ENHANCE** their policies to recognize and accredit fraternities and sororities and fit in them with other mandated organizations in campuses.
- 3. Provisions of Republic Act No. 8049 or the Anti-Hazing Law should be **REVIEWED** so as to restrain the commission of violence among members of fraternities.
- 4. Similar research on fraternities/sororities is to **BE CONDUCTED** to enhance studies of this distinctive type of organization.

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Thank you!