Leadership Style of Political Student Leaders in NEUST-SIC

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Abstract- This study focused on identifying the Leadership Style of the political Student Leaders in Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology San Isidro Campus. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used wherein the respondents of the study include 71 political student leaders who are members of the following political organizations; Campus Student Council (CSC), College Confederation (Confed), and Classroom Officers (CO). Gathered data were treated using frequency, percentage, and chi-square. Results show that majority of the male and female student leaders were between 16 – 20 years old, got an average grade between 1.51 – 1.75, mostly from the College of Information Technology (CICT), and members of Classroom Officers. The study identified that both male and female student leaders have a democratic type of leadership. Furthermore, the demographic profile of the respondents which includes their Age, Average Grade, College/Department they belonged, and their Political Organizations has no relation with the type of leadership style they possessed. It is recommended that an assessment on leadership style in Non-Political Organizations be conducted to plan training and seminars for leadership improvement.

Index Terms- Leadership Style, Political Student Leaders, Authoritative, Democratic, Laissez-Faire

I. INTRODUCTION

Leadership is a science of supervising people which includes the art of motivation and persuading people to work on a common goal of an organization or a team. It is of vital importance that every student leader should have the opportunity to lead decisions for the benefit of other students. Enhance effective communications among the members and display healthy interpersonal skills is also vital in leadership. Leadership is important for student leaders to carry on the task of being a leader and at the same time be a responsible student inside the classroom. Balancing between being a leader and a student is crucial for one to achieve academic success.

In a blog article of Novisurvey by Elizabeth (2015), it was emphasized that in order to improve your success, understanding one leadership style is vital. When one is aware of the leadership style, he/she possessed, then that person can have a clear idea of their own strengths, as well as weaknesses. It is therefore significant to understand own leadership style to serve and accomplish the task better. The Advantages of Knowing the Leadership Style can greatly improve communication skills with your subordinates. Communication is one of the most critical tools of success in leadership. When you understand what type of approach to leadership you use, you can then work on improving your communication. Another one is to learn how to motivate and inspire others. Lastly, one will be able to handle challenges more effectively. Challenges arise in every work environment. They are par for the course. How a person handles those challenges can have a huge impact on their success, the success of the team and the success of the entire institution. By understanding the leadership style, one can currently handle the challenges and make any necessary modifications in order to improve their approach.

Kurt Lewins (1939, 2021) as cited by Biznews (2021) identified three (3) leadership styles; Authoritarian, Democratic, and Laizzes-Faire. The Authoritarian Style is very directive and the leader clearly in control by giving orders and decisions made. In this manner, the work is done repeatedly, ignoring changes and creativity. Members with this kind of leadership style were most of the time act like a robot wherein inputs are not allowed. However, there are instances when being authoritative is a must and effective especially in an emergency situation when decisions are needed quickly and with authority. Further, this leadership style is also effective when the focal person knows the system or is the most knowledgeable and experienced among the group. It is also important when there is a need to emphasize who is in-charge. It is also appropriate when the group has a low accomplishment as compared with other groups. Downsides of this leadership style may result in misunderstanding views and opinions which may result in poor decisions. In using this style, it is important to give respect to everyone to avoid conflict and unwanted clashes of emotions. Being consistent is also needed to command respect from the team members.

Democratic leadership also known as participative or participatory leadership style. Rather than giving directions the leader participates in decision making of the group as a source of ideas. The leader in this style normally guides and facilitates its members. In a democratic leadership style, most of the decisions were created by the majority rule rather than by the leader alone. Collaboration is the core of this style that consider the outlook in life of every member (Medallo, E.D., & Constantino, J., 2020). This style can be

considered as a portal in producing more concepts and creative ideas. Because the members under this leadership style are heard, decisions may in most cases are effective. In this style, the members have the freedom to express themselves without the fear of being blocked and shamed. In return, they feel more committed to accomplish a project, thus influencing a positive atmosphere to the whole group. However, decisions made with this group takes a lot of time. Most especially when members of the group are not motivated or competent.

Laissez-Faire leadership style is a French word that means "Allow to do". Also known as "do nothing" approach, this leadership style used a hands-off style, wherein decisions were made without guidance and support from the leader. Other refer to this style as a delegative approach. This style is highly effective if the members are highly skilled and motivated. If given proper direction and resources from the beginning can complete the project with minimal involvement of the leader.

Identifying the leadership style of student leaders will provide the member of NEUST-SIC administration to come up with trainings that will further develop their leadership style. It may eventually produce positive results for the good of the entire group and the entire student stakeholders as well.

This study was primarily designed to determine the Leadership Style of Student Leaders of Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology, San Isidro Campus.

Specifically, this study seeks to provide answers to the following objectives:

1. To determine the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of:
   a. Age
   b. Average Grade
 c. College/Department
         d. Political Organization
2. To identify the Leadership Style, of the respondents as to:
   a. Authoritative
   b. Democratic
   c. Laizzes-Faire

3. To determine if there is a significant relationship between the respondents' leadership style to the following:
         a. Age
         b. Average Grade
         c. College/Department
         d. Political Organization

II.   METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study applied the descriptive method of research and made use of Total Population Sampling. It is a type of purposive sampling technique that study or examine the entire population that have a characteristics similar with one another.

Respondents of the Study

The respondents of the study were the Political Student Leaders of Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology San Isidro Campus. It is composed of three groups, mainly; Campus Student Council (CSC), College Confederation (Confed), and Classroom Officers. Campus Student Council is made up of the following positions: Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor, Business Manager, PRO, and 8 Representatives. College Confederation is made up of the following positions: Governor, Vice-governor, Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor, Business Manager, PRO, and a Representative. Classroom Officers has the following positions: President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor, Business Manager, PRO, Muse, and Escort. There were a total of 71 voluntary respondents from the three political organizations.

Questionnaire

The questionnaire which is composed of two parts was used to gather data. The first part is the profile of the respondents while the second part contained the questions to assess the leadership style of the respondents.

In terms of profile, the instrument asked for the respondents' Age, Average Grade, College or Department they belonged, and their Political Organization. Respondents need to put a check mark that best describe their leadership characteristics.

The second part of the instrument is the Leadership Style Questionnaire. It is composed of 18 questions and provides three categories of leadership style (authoritative, Democratic, and Laissez-Faire) which are determined by a participant's cumulative score. Additional descriptions of each style are also included in the questionnaire that provides further insight into each style. By comparing the score, one can determine which style is most dominant and least dominant.

RANGE	DESCRIPTION

26 - 30	Very High Range
21 - 25	High Range
16 - 20	Moderate Range
11 - 15	Low Range
6 - 10	Very Low Range

In the instrument, the statements were grouped according to the following:

STYLE	ITEM NUMBER
Authoritarian	6, 3, 5, 2, 4, 1
Democratic	11, 7, 12, 8, 10, 9
Laissez-Faire	15, 13, 18, 17, 14, 16

The sum with the highest score corresponds to the leadership style of the respondents. Combination of styles is also possible if they have the same score for each of the style.

Data Gathering

The researchers asked permission from the Office of Campus Director and Office of Student Affairs for the approval before conducting the survey and sought consent from the chairman of the Campus Student Council. The questionnaire was distributed to the student leaders of the three political organizations in NEUST-SIC. The researcher made sure that all data gathered were handled with highest confidentiality. The researcher also gathered data from internet sources, articles, and books.

Statistical Treatment of Data
The information was collected and statistically handled using frequency, percentage, and chi-square to identify the significant relationship between leadership style of the respondents and their demographic profile (Bejer, 2019).
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III.   RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1. Distribution of NEUST-SIC Student Leaders in terms of Age

	Male		Female		Total	
Age	**f**	**%**	**f**	**%**	**f**	**%**
11--15	5	7.04	8	11.27	13	18.31
16--20	23	32.39	10	14.08	33	46.48
21--25	15	21.13	7	9.86	22	30.99
26--30	1	1.41	2	2.82	3	4.23
Total	44	61.97	27	38.03	71	100.00

Table 1 shows the distribution of Student Leaders in terms of age. It can be noted from the table that majority of male and female student leaders' age is between 16 – 20 with 32.39% and 14.08% respectively. It is followed by 15 male student leaders whose age is between 21 to 25 with 21.13 % and 8 female student leaders whose age is between 11 to 15. It can also be gleaned from the table that there are more male student leaders than female student leaders. Students during this age of adolescence needs proper guidance for better future, a good company of friends, some good gadgets and a good support especially from family and teachers. In this case, their leadership style is still being develop by socialization from their peers.

Table 2. Distribution of NEUST-SIC Student Leaders in terms of their Average Grade

	Male		Female		Total	
Age	**f**	**%**	**f**	**%**	**f**	**%**
1.00 - 1.50	4	5.63	5	7.04	9	12.68
1.51 - 2.00	28	39.44	17	23.94	45	63.38
2.00 - 2.50	9	12.68	2	2.82	11	15.49
2.51 - 3.00	3	4.23	3	4.23	6	8.45
Total	44	61.97	27	38.03	71	100.00

Table 2 shows the distribution of student leaders in terms of their average grade. It can be seen from the table that majority of both make and female students' average grade is between 1.51 and 2.00 with 39.44% and 23.94% respectively. This finding shows that most student leaders are academically competent for obtaining a high average grade. Most students view high grades as a form of success thus making them feel more confident in their day to day life at school. It is also a common notion for student leaders to have a high grade so that they can be a role model for other students which is important during election and in gaining their trust.

Table 3. Distribution of NEUST-SIC Student Leaders in terms of College/Department

	Male		Female		Total	
Age	f	%	f	%	f	%
CoEd	14	19.72	4	5.63	18	25.35
CICT	19	26.76	12	16.90	31	43.66
CMBT	4	5.63	3	4.23	7	9.86
LHS	7	9.86	8	11.27	15	21.13
Total	44	61.97	27	38.03	71	100.00

Table 3 shows the distribution of student leaders in terms of their respective colleges/department they belonged. It can be seen from the table that the greatest number of male and female student leaders are from the College of Information and Communication Technology with 26.76% and 16.90%. it is then followed by male student leaders from the college of education with 19.72% and female student leaders from laboratory high school with 11.27%. It can also be noted from the table that there are only 4 male student leaders and 3 female student leaders from the college of management and business technology. This finding is not surprising knowing that the two colleges (CoEd and CICT) have the greatest number of students in NEUST-SIC. Thus, they it is expected that most of the student leaders will be coming from them.

Table 4. Distribution of NEUST-SIC Student Leaders in terms of their Political Organization

	Male		Female		Total	
Age	f	%	f	%	f	%
Campus Student Council	8	11.27	2	2.82	10	14.08
College Confederation	12	16.90	6	8.45	18	25.35
Classroom Officer	24	33.80	19	26.76	43	60.56
Total	44	61.97	27	38.03	71	100.00

Table 4 shows the distribution of student leaders in terms of their political organization they belonged. It can be noted most of the respondents are members of the classroom officers. Considering the number of sections in NEUST-SIC, it is not surprising that most of the respondents will be coming from this group. These classroom officers are the closest representative of students to the higher council in expressing their grievances. It is then followed by the college confederation with 12 respondents. Officers from the college confederations covers the entire students of a particular college they represent. Further, the college confederations have a direct link to the Campus Student Council which in turn oversee the entire students' political organization of NEUST-SIC.

Table 5. Distribution of NEUST-SIC Student Leaders in terms of their Leadership Style

	Male		Female		Total	
Age	f	%	f	%	f	%
Authoritarian	3	4.23	3	4.23	6	8.45
Democratic	30	42.25	21	29.58	51	71.83
Laissez-Faire	6	8.45	1	1.41	7	9.86
Authoritarian/Democratic	3	4.23	4	5.63	7	9.86
Total	42	59.15	29	40.85	71	100.00

Table 5 shows the distribution of student leaders in terms of their leadership style. It can be noted from the table that most student leaders both male and female, have a democratic leadership style. According to Northouse (2009), leaders of this trait treat their members as fully capable of doing work on their own. They work with group members, try hard to treat everyone fairly, and not to be above others. Their main goal is to help group members reach personal goals. Communication is interactional between leader and members. On the contrary, it is also alarming that 9.86% of the student leaders falls in Laissez-Faire style. Leaders of this style do not try to control members and do not try to nurture and guide members either. Instead, leaders of this type engage in minimal influence and have a "hands-off" approach. This style is only appropriate if you're subordinates are competent to do the work on their own.

Table 6. Chi-Square Analysis on the Relationship of Leadership Style to Age

Age Range	Leadership Style				Row Totals
	Authoritarian	Democratic	Laissez-Faire	Authoritarian/Democratic	
11--15	1 (1.01) [0.00]	9 (8.62) [0.02]	1 (1.18) [0.03]	1 (1.18) [0.03]	12
16--20	3 (2.37) [0.17]	21 (20.11) [0.04]	2 (2.76) [0.21]	2 (2.76) [0.21]	28
21--25	1 (2.11) [0.59]	18 (17.96) [0.00]	3 (2.46) [0.12]	3 (2.46) [0.12]	25
26--30	1 (0.51) [0.48]	3 (4.31) [0.40]	1 (0.59) [0.28]	1 (0.59) [0.28]	6
	chi-square statistics is 2.9616				
	p-value is .965798				
Total	6	51.00	7	7.00	71

Table 6 shows the chi-square analysis on the relationship of leadership style to age. The chi-square statistics is 2.9616 while the p-value is .965798. The finding shows that the result is not significant at p<.05. This implies that the age of student leaders has nothing to do with their leadership style. In this study, it shows that age has no bearing on the leadership style of NEUST-SIC student leaders.

Table 7. Chi-Square Analysis on the Relationship of Leadership Style to Average Grade

Average Grade	Leadership Style				Row Totals
	Authoritarian	Democratic	Laissez-Faire	Authoritarian/Democratic	
1.00 – 1.50	1 (0.76) [0.08]	6 (6.46) [0.03]	1 (0.89) [0.01]	1 (0.89) [0.01]	9
1.51 – 2.00	2 (3.60) [0.85]	36 (32.32) [0.42]	3 (4.44) [0.47]	4 (4.44) [0.04]	45
2.00 – 2.50	2 (0.93) [1.23]	6 (7.90) [0.46]	2 (1.08) [0.77]	1 (1.08) [0.01]	11
2.51 – 3.00	1 (0.51) [0.48]	3 (4.31) [0.40]	1 (0.50) [0.28]	1 (0.59) [0.28]	6
	chi-square statistics is 5.8293				
	p-value is .756876				
Total	6	51.00	7	7.00	71

Table 7 shows the chi-square analysis on the relationship of leadership style to the average grade. The chi-square statistic is 5.8293 and the p-value is .756876. The finding shows that the result is not significant at p<.05. This implies that the student leaders' average grade does not define the leadership style they possessed. Students' leadership style can be based on their experiences in handling people and on the kind of people they handle. It is also be based on the situation where they are in now. This finding negates the work of Boonla, D. & Treputtharat, 2013, which shows that the grade of the students has a direct relationship to their leadership style.

Table 8. Chi-Square Analysis on the Relationship of Leadership Style to their respective Colleges/Department

College /Department	Leadership Style				Row Totals
	Authoritarian	Democratic	Laissez-Faire	Authoritarian/Democratic	
CoEd	1(1.52) [0.18]	15 (13.18) [0.25]	1 (1.52) [0.81]	1 (1.77) [0.34]	18
CICT	3 (2.62) [0.06]	22 (22.70) [0.02]	3 (2.62) [0.06]	3 (3.06) [0.00]	31
CMBT	1 (0.59) [0.28]	4 (5.13) [0.25}	2 (0.59) [0.28]	1 (0.69) [0.14]	7
Lab. H.S.	1 (1.27) [0.06]	11 (10.99) [0.00]	1 (1.27) [0.05]	2 (1.48) [0.18]	15
	chi-square statistics is 2.3264				
	p-value is .985195				

Total	6	51.00	7	7.00	71

Table 8 shows the chi-square analysis on the relationship of leadership style to their respective College/Department they belonged. The chi-square statistic is 2.3264 while the p-value is .985195. This shows that the result is not significant. It indicates that the leadership of NEUST-SIC student leaders is not related to the college/department they belonged. However, it can be noted also that most of the student leaders whether in the college of education or in the college of information and communication technology has a democratic style of leadership.

Table 9. Chi-Square Analysis on the Relationship of Leadership Style to their respective Political Organization

Political Organizations	Leadership Style				
	Authoritarian	**Democratic**	**Laissez-Faire**	**Authoritarian/Democratic**	**Row Totals**
CSC	1 (1.13) [0.01]	7 (7.18) [0.00]	1 (0.99) [0.00]	1 (0.70) [0.21]	10
Confed	2 (2.03) [0.00]	13 (12.93) [0.00]	1 (1 77) [0.34]	2 (1.27) [0.42]	18
Class Officers	5 (4.85) [0.00]	31 (30.89) [0.00]	5 (4.24) [0.14]	2 (3.03) [0.35]	43
	chi-square statistic is 1.3963				
	p-value is .966081				
Total	8	51.00	7	5	71

Table 9 shows the chi-square analysis on the relationship of leadership style to their respective political organization. The chi-square statistic is 2.3264 while the p-value is .985195. It shows that the result is not significant at $p<.05$. It implies that their respective political organization they belonged has no relationship with their leadership style. Whether one belonged to campus student council or in college confederation has nothing with the leadership style of student leaders.

IV. CONCLUSION

1. Majority of the student leaders' age is between 16 to 20 years old, has an average grade of 1.51 – 2.00, belonging to college of information and communication technology, and is currently serving as a member of the classroom officers.
2. Most student leaders both male and female, have a democratic leadership style.
3. The demographic profile of the respondents which include their age, average grade, college/department they belonged, and their political organization has no significant relationship with their leadership style.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Conduct studies on the leadership style to the student leaders of non-political organizations of NEUST-SIC as well as to the other student leaders in other campuses of NEUST.
2. A future research activity may also cover the other higher positions in the university like the members of the administration of the different campuses of NEUST.
3. Aside from authoritative, democratic, and laissez-faire, it is recommended that transformation leadership style be included in the conduct of the study.

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