

# THE WVSU-Lambunao Campus College Freshmen: Who, What, and Why

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**Abstract-** This action research was conducted here at WVSU-LC during the school year 2013-2014. The subjects of the study were the selected college freshmen who were taking courses leading to bachelor's degree in Education, Criminology, Hotel and Restaurant Management, Information Technology, Industrial Technology, and Foods Technology. The data gathering instrument was a duly-validated researcher made questionnaire jointly prepared by the guidance counselor and the researcher. The data was collected by requesting college freshmen to fill up the questionnaire during enrollment period. After the data have completed, the questionnaire was forwarded to the researcher for tabulation. Frequencies, percentages, and means were the statistical tools. The findings revealed that there were two hundred eighty two (282) randomly selected college freshmen for school year 2013-2014. The largest group were enrolled in criminology, followed by those taking education courses, and the smallest group were those in food technology. The mean age was 18.29 years, mostly females, majority were residents of Lambunao and nearby municipalities. Their high school average grades ranged from 77.76 to 86.27, and their WVSU-CAT scores showed that 12% 114.54 the highest, and 18% belongs to the lowest of 97.31. Few of them have already attended college education and decided to transfer to WVSU-LC. Both parents of the majority of these freshmen were still alive, attended elementary education or not all, mostly farmers, laborers, drivers and carpenters and the mothers were plain housewives. More than 90% of these students enrolled at WVSU-LC at their own choice. The most common reasons were 1) they believe that WVSU-LC provides quality education, 2) the cost of education is much lower, 3) develop skills needed for earning a living, 4) near their homes, and 5) were relevant to job opportunities. Some students indicated that their parents choose the school for them, and the most reasons is that the only capacity could tackle. Majority were supported by their parents, uncles and aunts, elder siblings and grandparents. Scholarships were enjoyed by few, most of them were barangay scholars, SK, CHED, DOST, Lambunao Foundations, some worked as school boy/girl, and 9 as student assistant. If tuition fees will be increased by P50.00 by next semester 82.68% indicated that they still enroll, while 9.42 indicated that they will stop due to financial difficulties and 7.90% answered that they will transfer to other schools that charge lower tuition fee rates.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The idea of knowing the kind of students who come and enroll at WVSU-Lambunao Campus, Lambunao, Iloilo have

significant impact on their learning, therefore the knowledge on the part of administration in providing their needs is essential Gines et al. (1998).

The present study would enable the instructors at WVSU-LC to know their students better and promote a more harmonious relationship between the faculty and the students. In the same manner, policy-making on the part of the administration would be more relevant to the needs and capacities of the students Alajar (1994).

Through this study, the student's reason for enrolling in WVSU-LC is revealed and would be the bases for planning and decision-making.

This action research which would be conducted here in WVSU-LC during the school year 2013-2014. The subjects were the selected college freshmen who were taking courses leading to a bachelor's degree in Education, Criminology, Hotel and Restaurant Management, Information Technology, Industrial Technology, and Food Technology. The data gathering instrument was a researcher made and duly validated questionnaire which was jointly prepared by the Guidance Counselor and the researcher. Data was collected by requesting college freshmen to fill up the questionnaire during the enrollment period. After all freshmen have completed the questionnaires, these would be forwarded by the Guidance Counselor to the researcher for the tabulation of the data. Frequencies, percentages, and means were the statistical tools to be used in this study.

## II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study was conducted with the following objectives:

1 To draw a profile of the SY 2013-2014 college freshmen of WVSU-LC in terms of:

1.1 courses,

1.2 age,

1.3 gender,

1.4 place of origin/hometown,

1.5 high school GPA,

1.6 high school average grade, GPA grade point average

1.7 parent's educational attainment, and

- 1.8 parent's occupation/source of income,
2. To find out the students reasons for enrolling at WVSU-LC.
3. To find out the students reasons for enrolling in the courses they have enrolled in.

### III. FRAMEWORK

This study was conducted in WVSU-LC during the SY 2013-2014. The subjects/respondents were the randomly selected college freshmen during the same school year, who were taking courses leading to a bachelor's degree in Education, Criminology, Hotel and Restaurant Management, Information Technology, Industrial Technology and Foods Technology.

The research instrument was a researcher made and duly validated questionnaire which was jointly prepared by the Guidance Counselor and the researcher.

Upon presentation of the credentials required for admission to WVSU-LC and with the instructions from the Guidance Counselor, the respondents were requested to fill up the questionnaires by supplying the needed data asked for. Selected college freshmen who were taking courses leading to a bachelor's degree were included in the study. After completing the questionnaires; these were turned over by the Guidance Counselor to the Researcher for tabulation, presentation and interpretation.

Frequencies, percentages, and means were the statistical tools to be used in the study.

### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

There were two hundred eighty two (282) randomly selected freshmen for SY 2013-2014 at WVSU-LC. They were enrolled the different courses leading to a bachelor's degree in criminology, elementary and secondary education, food technology, hotel and restaurant management, technical teacher education, industrial technology, and information technology. The largest group was of these freshmen enrolled in criminology. This was followed by those taking education courses and the smallest groups are those in food technology.

The mean age of these college freshmen was 18.29 years. They were mostly females. Majority of whom were residents of the Municipality of Lambunao and other municipalities nearby. Most of them graduated from national high schools which are also located in Lambunao and the neighboring municipalities. Their high school average grade ranged from 77.76 to 86.27 with a mean of 83.48. Further, their WVSU CAT results showed that 12% within 114.54 which is the highest and 18% belongs to the lowest 97.31.

Few of them have already attended college previously in other institutions and have decided to transfer to WVSU-LC.

Both parents of the majority of the freshmen were still alive, although there were some, comprising 14.21% of them, who had already lost one or both of their parents. Majority of the respondent's fathers have attained only elementary education or none at all. The same level of education was attained by 48.96% of their mothers. Relative to the educational attainment and

occupation of their fathers who were mostly farmers, laborers, drivers, and carpenters. Their mothers were mostly housewives, although some worked as vendors, teachers, farmers, and businesswomen. More than 90% of the freshmen indicated that they enrolled at WVSU-LC at their own choice. The most common reasons were that 1) they believe that WVSU-LC provides quality education, 2) the cost of education in WVSU-LC is much lower than in other schools, 3) they agreed that WVSU-LC develops skills needed for earning a living, 4) WVSU-LC is near their home, and 5) they observe that courses offered at WVSU-LC are relevant to available job opportunities.

Some of the freshmen who indicated that their enrollment in WVSU-LC was not their own choice revealed that their parents chose the school for them. The parent's reason were mostly that 1) that WVSU-LC provides quality education, 2) the cost of education in WVSU-LC is much lower than in other school, 3) the course that they have chosen was that they considered to be the best choice among the courses offered in WVSU and, 4) the course is the only one which their intellectual capacity could tackle. Majority of the freshmen were supported financially by their parents. Some of them received support from their uncles and aunts, elder siblings and grandparents.

Scholarships were enjoyed by only 34 of these freshmen, most of whom were barangay scholars, while the rest were scholars of the municipal council, the Congressional Scholars, Sangguniang Kabataan, TESDA, CHED, DOST, Lambunao Foundations, and other benevolent Lambunaoons.

While others were enjoying scholarships and support of their parents and family, there were some less fortunate students who were only working their way through college. To support their studies, there were 25 freshmen who worked as school boy/girl, 9 who were serving as student assistants, and 7 who worked in private offices or establishments.

If the rate of the tuition fee would be increased by P50/unit by the next semester, 82.68% of the freshmen indicated that they will still enroll in WVSU-LC. While 9.42% indicated that they would stop studying due to financial difficulties the remaining 7.90% answered that they would transfer to other schools that charge lower tuition fee rate.

### V. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. For the school year 2013-2014, more freshmen were enrolled in criminology course than in education course. They mostly came from national high schools in Lambunao and the nearby municipalities. The males were outnumbered by females. For most of the freshmen, both had very low educational attainment which explains why they mostly came from low income families, their fathers being mere farmers, laborers, drivers, and fishermen and carpenters while their mothers were plain housewives.

2. Although several of them were enjoying scholarships and others worked to support their studies, majority of these freshmen were dependent on their parents for their education and since these parents were not engaged in high-earning jobs, the freshmen for SY 2012-2013 were mostly financially handicapped.

3. Being enrolled in WVSU-LC was more of their own choice than that of their parents, but no matter who choose it that they enroll in this college, the reasons were obvious: 1) they liked the kind of instruction the WVSU-LC gives, and 2) the economic reason that at WVSU-Lambunao Campus, they pay a lower tuition fee rate than what they would pay in other schools or colleges. This goes to show that both the student and their parents believed that at WVSU-LC, education is made cheaper without sacrificing the quality of instruction that they get.

4) Generally, the freshmen liked the course they have enrolled in. For those who felt otherwise, enrolling in the course was the best thing that they could do. There was no other choice for them, partly because they were financially handicapped.

5) While there were indications that some freshmen would leave WVSU-LC when tuition fee rate is increased, majority of them were willing to pay an additional tuition fee of P 50.00/unit by the next semester despite their financial handicaps.

REFERENCES

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Questionnaire for the Students (First Year Only)

I Profile of Students

- 1.1. Course: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.2. Age: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.3. Sex: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.4. Place of Origin/Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.5. Type of High School Graduated: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.6. Location of High School Graduated: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.7. High School Grade Point Average: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.8. Parent's Occupation/Income: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.9. Government Support in High School: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.0. Health Support in High School: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.1. Hobbies and Interest in High School: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.2. Indigenous Tribe: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.3. Indigenous Scholarship: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.4. WVSU CAT Score: \_\_\_\_\_

2. To find out the sources of funds of their education: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do have social support from relatives, friends, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

4. To find out the students reasons for enrolling at WVSU-LC: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Reason for choosing the course: \_\_\_\_\_

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Researcher