

**VALUES AND MORAL REASONING OF TEENAGE STUDENTS
AT HOLY NAME UNIVERSITY IN BOHOL**

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by

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ABSTRACT

This study determined the values and moral reasoning of the teenage students of Holy Name University, High School Department. Specifically, it identified the values and moral reasoning of the students towards their family, peers, school, society and the Church. It also assessed the students' level of conscience and moral reasoning as reflected by their values. Moreover, the study evaluated the current Christian Living Education (CLE) syllabi as to how the values and the formation of moral conscience were addressed. Based on the findings, improvements were proposed for the enrichment of CLE at Holy Name University, High School Department.

In the gathering of data, the study utilized a self-constructed questionnaire, and interview schedule for some faculty members. A focus group discussion with some high school students at Holy name University was also conducted to validate the data generated through the questionnaire.

The study revealed five prevalent values in general common to both male and female respondents, namely: family, health, faith, love and justice. Respect for the elders came out as the most important Filipino value. Concerning the respondents' prevalent decisions towards different moral issues, the research showed that 100% of the male and female respondents considered respect for the elders as right and important. Regarding abortion, pornography, and use of prohibited drugs - as evinced by the 100% rating - are considered absolutely wrong. Majority of the respondents had shown correct judgment as regards the morality of some issues. On the level of moral reasoning or conscience, most of the respondents belonged to the instinctual level, that is, the stage based on fear, punishment and approval; and only very few had reached the third level which is characterized by concern and commitment for the welfare of others.

It is noteworthy that what the respondents perceived to be important are not aligned with the competencies in the CL syllabi.

On the basis of findings, it can be concluded that there is a need to strengthen the values of the students ,from cultural/behavioral values to absolute moral values. . Since most of the students are still in the first level of moral reasoning, there is also a need to redirect their attitudes towards higher values. In view of this, the curricular program has to be revised. Methods and strategies to be applied should facilitate the development of a more mature faith, upright character and deeper sense of moral responsibility.

Lastly, since values are not only taught but also caught, there is urgency for all members of the society most especially those in learning institutions to collaborate for the values and character formation of the youth.