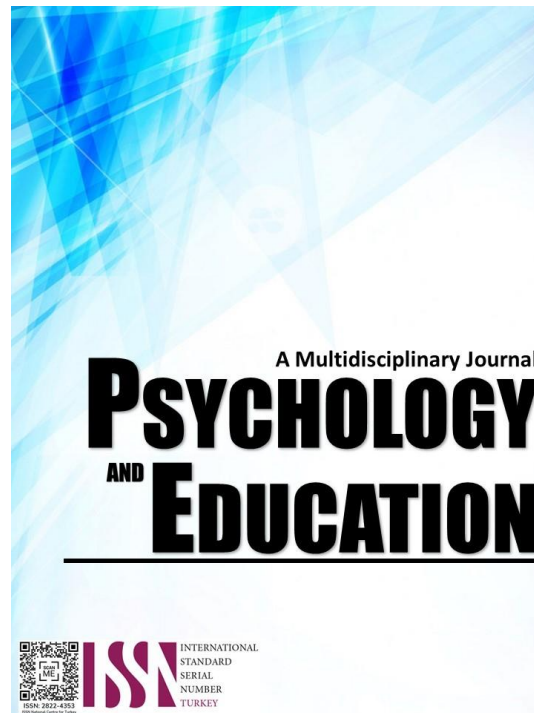


**ADMINISTRATORS, TEACHERS, AND BARANGAY
OFFICIALS ON FEDERALISM FORM OF
GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN AND CHALLENGES TO
EDUCATION: INPUTS FOR STRATEGIC ACTION
PLAN FOR ADVOCACY IMPLEMENTATION**



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Administrators, Teachers, and Barangay Officials on Federalism Form of Government Campaign and Challenges to Education: Inputs for Strategic Action Plan for Advocacy Implementation

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Abstract

This study attempted to determine the awareness and readiness of the school administrators, teachers, and barangay officials of the National Capital Region on the federalism campaign during the School Year 2020-2021 which served as inputs for proposed policy recommendations. The descriptive method of research with the survey questionnaire was used in the study. One hundred thirty-three (103) barangay officials, public school teachers, and school administrators from the National Capital Region served as respondents. The statistical tools used to treat the data were the weighted mean, one-way ANOVA, Pearson's product – moment correlation coefficient, and correlated t test. Based on the results, the three groups of respondents were aware to some extent on the campaign of the federalism form of government. Moreover, there was no significant difference on their perceptions as regards to federalism. Meanwhile, their level of readiness in terms of the proposed shift of government system from unitary to federal as far as education in the National Capital Region is concerned was found to be moderately weak which also showed no significant difference among their responses. On the other hand, there was a significant moderate relationship between the respondents' awareness on the federal form of government and their readiness in the reforms of the federalism form of government and in the distribution of powers of federal government and federal regions. Furthermore, the barangay officials, teachers, and administrators cited challenges posed by the federalism form of government on education.

Keywords: *federalism, education, perceptions*

Introduction

One of President Duterte's election campaign pledge was to create a federal government and a new or amended Constitution in order to give the provinces a voice. The overconcentration of authority in Manila, according to President Duterte and the pro-federalism movement, is ineffective and detrimental to the nation in the long run (Malaya, 2017). Through Memorandum Circular No. 52, dated October 31, 2018, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Federalism (IATF) was created to strengthen the push for federalism. The policy provides that the task force is to coordinate and reconcile all programs, projects, and activities towards federalism and reforming the 1987 Constitution. This authorizes the body to manage the public dissemination campaign and communication strategy on federalism. All government offices, including government-owned and controlled corporations and national or local educational institutions, are enjoined to coordinate with the task force before initiating any activity related to federalism or constitutional reform. The order also underlines that the public information, education, and communication campaign is to ensure that the government's charter change initiatives are effective, efficient, and uniform (Ranada, 2018).

The federal option is currently being considered by certain academics, lawmakers, and professionals as the next step in Philippine governance. The adoption of the federal system is a topic of discussion not only in the Philippines but also in other Asian nations. Some claimed that federalism follows devolution in a logical progression. In the Philippines, proponents of federalism think that because the federal system's structure allows for fragmentation while simultaneously advancing the country's interests, it would be able to address the geographic challenges and distinctions brought on by cultural variety in government. Additionally, it is asserted that the federal system will hasten the nation's development and put an end to the internal strife caused by separatist groups in Mindanao (Moscare, 2018).

In 2019, it was believed by Batalla (2019) that federalism would finally unleash the growth potentials of the country's different regions through greater and enhanced decision-making powers of local authorities. He argued that the principal obstacle faced by the Philippines from achieving inclusive growth and development is the massive concentration of economic resources and political power in the national government.

However, recent surveys tell a different story through data analysis and statistics. Despite the many

advantages and benefits of federalism as stated by its supporters, it is not widely accepted by the people according to latest survey of the Social Weather Stations (SWS) on the 2018 first quarter. The SWS survey, which transpired from March 23 to March 27, 2018, found that 25 percent of Filipino individuals overall claimed to be familiar with the federal system of government, but 75 percent only learnt about it then. Despite the low extent of awareness, the study indicated that 37 percent of respondents support the federal system of government, with 14 percent strongly supporting it and 23 percent somewhat supporting it. On the other hand, 29 percent of respondents disapprove of the federal system of government, with 16 percent expressing a mild disapproval and 17 percent expressing a strong disapproval, while 34 percent are unsure of their position (Roxas, June 28, 2018).

In this light, the study would unbundle the reforms of federalism and weed out grapevines from facts through the perspective of barangay officials. It will be able to contribute to the public's understanding of federalism and the reforms of the transition from democratic form of government to a federal republic envisioned to incrementally achieve different aspects of the federal reform movement. The study also highlighted the viewpoint of the school teachers, school administrators, and barangay officials on their take to the proposed change of government system. It will give an assessment on the campaign and education of Inter-Agency Task Force on Federalism (IATF) on raising the public's awareness and support to federalism. As front liners of the government, the insights of the barangay officials were as good as how they are communicating and promoting programs of the government to the community. School teachers and administrators are also an ideal fit and in the right position to assess the effect of this campaign on the educational system.

Research Questions

This study determined the awareness and readiness of the school administrators, teachers, and barangay officials on the federalism campaign through constitutional reform and its challenges to education during the school year 2020-2021 at the National Capital Region which served as inputs for a proposed policy formulations and recommendations. More specifically, it sought answers to the following questions:

1. What is the extent of awareness on the campaign on the federal form of government as perceived by the

school administrators, teachers, and barangay officials on the following aspects?

1.1 Reforms of federal form of government from the unitary system;

1.2 Federal-presidential type of government;

1.3 Federal government structure and federal regions;

1.4 Distribution of powers of federal government and federal regions; and

1.5 Sources of funding and wealth distribution?

2. Are there significant differences in the perceptions of the three groups of respondents on their extent of awareness of federal form of government on the aforementioned aspects?

3. What is the level of readiness on the federal form of government of the school administrators, teachers, and barangay officials on the aforementioned aspects?

4. Are there significant differences in the perceptions of the three groups of respondents on their level of readiness of federal form of government on the aforementioned aspects?

5. Is there a significant relationship between the extent of awareness and level of readiness of the three groups of respondents on federal form of government on the aforementioned aspects?

6. What are the challenges posed by the federal form of government on education as cited by some interviewed members of the three groups of respondents?

7. What policy recommendations can be proposed based on the results of the study?

Literature Review

Federalism, according to the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (2018), is the idea or practice of using federal principles to distribute authority among member entities and shared institutions. In contrast to unitary states, federal political regimes contain non-centralized, frequently constitutional, divisions of sovereignty between at least two levels, giving each level the last say and the ability to exercise self-government in certain circumstances. As a result, two authorities have political obligations to citizens or are responsible for protecting their rights. The center normally has authority over defense and foreign policy, but member units may also play international responsibilities. The power split between the member unit and center might vary. The central decision-making bodies may also include the decision-making bodies of the member units. Recent political pushback against specific examples of federalism, as well as empirical results regarding the necessary and legal basis for stability and citizen confidence in federal

political orders, have sparked a great deal of philosophical interest.

Likewise, Aquilino Pimentel, Jr., former senator and the principal author of the 1991 Local Government Code, in his book *Federalizing the Philippines: A Primer* (2nd Ed., 2016), said that Federalism in the Philippines would a.) speed up development of the entire nation by establishing, among other things, as many centers of finance and development in the archipelago instead of only one, Metro Manila, as is true in the present unitary system of government of the Republic; and b.) help dissipate the causes of the insurgency throughout the land, particularly, the centuries-old Moro rebellions.

Similarly, Tayao & Hofmeister (2016) remarked that Fiscal decentralization reforms (to revenue sharing schemes, grants to local governments to include poverty and performance) etc. that may be tucked-in in designing fiscal federalism. After all, it's all about income inequality. LGU reforms especially at the barangay level include amalgamation and possible conversion of barangays into administrative units. These can be considered as part of the rationalization of the various tiers of local governments as political units, considering that the nature of the states under a federal set up.

Fleming & Levy (2014), in the book *NOMOS LV: Federalism and Subsidiarity*, however, argued that dual federalism strengthens democracy. This argument assumes that participatory democracy, in some form, is the only true or ideal understanding of democracy. Because this assumption supports state power, it restricts what states can do in the name of democracy. Those who are serious about democracy would allow the national government to correct state abuses of democratic norms because no such limit would be effective without a national institution to enforce it.

Meanwhile, Viray (2017) conducted the study on "Federalism: Issues, Risks and Disadvantage," which discussed the readiness of the country for federalism. He examined the profile of political leaders, briefly discussed turncoatism, the Filipino mind sets, and the socio/cultural dimensions of which are great factors affecting the readiness of the society. He also discussed the possible risks to encounter in federalism. In contrast with the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan's (PDP Laban) banner of constitutional restrictions on political dynasties, he said that local political clans might increase their influence and power under federalism.

The shift to federalism may significantly alter the

governance of basic education – historically one of the government's most centralized functions according to Dir. Elvin Ivan Y. Uy of Philippine Business for Social Progress and Dr. Dina Joana S. Ocampo (2016) of UP Diliman, College of Education in their study: *Basic Education and Federalism: Implications and Options for the National Capital Region*. The study discussed the implications of federalism to basic education in NCR and presents options and considerations for policymakers. The same looked at basic education governance based on current laws and policies, provided basic education governance models from several nations with a federal system, examined how the NCR federated region may operate and relate to its federal counterpart in the areas of curriculum standards and supervision, teacher standards and hiring guidelines, and planning, data management, and resource provision, and thought about how strengthening federalism compares to shifting to federalism.

Furthermore, based on Halberstam & Remiann's (2014) definition of federation, in the study *Comparative Perspectives on Law and Justice: Federalism and Legal Unification, A Comparative Empirical Investigation of Twenty Systems*, as a compound polity with multiple levels of government each with constitutionally grounded claims to some degree of organizational autonomy and direct legal authority over its citizens.

Lastly, Glenda B. Lagonoy from the University of Bohol – College of Law, school year 2021 to 2022, conducted a study entitled, "Change in the System of Government: Is the Philippines ready?" Said study looks briefly in understanding Federalism – pros and cons, how it addresses the woes of the Filipinos, and the country's readiness to make the shift. The author conducted random interviews to Filipinos in all walks of life, crowd-sourcing via social media platforms, and researched on articles in relation to Federalism. The insights collected manifests how Filipinos crave for a better Philippines.

Methodology

This study used the combination of qualitative and quantitative descriptive method of research. This method focuses on collecting, analyzing, and interpreting the gathered quantitative and qualitative data. This type of research best describes the way things were. Thus, it develops a more complete understanding of the research problem by obtaining different but complementary data. According to Leavy



(2017), qualitative and quantitative or mixed method involves collecting and integrating quantitative and qualitative data in a single project and therefore may result in a more comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon under investigation. Specifically, quantitative method was used to determine the extent of awareness and level of readiness of the respondents in terms of the proposed shift of government system from unitary to federal form of government while qualitative method was used to find out the challenges posed by federalism to education. The results of the qualitative method are also utilized to validate the findings of the quantitative method as basis for the policy recommendations.

Participants of the Study

The respondents were school teachers, school administrators, and barangay officials of the National Capital Region. According to the Local Government Code of 1991 or R.A. 7160, is made up of the Punong Barangay, Sangguniang Barangay members or Kagawad, the Chairman of the Sangguniang Kabataan, the barangay secretary, and the treasurer.

Instruments of the Study

The data gathering instruments used in this study were the questionnaire checklist and the unstructured interview prepared by the researcher, who had his advisor check it and was validated by key personnel of the Graduate School of Marikina Polytechnic College (MPC), the regional management of the Department of the Interior and Local Government – National Capital Region (DILG-NCR), and the Department of Education – National Capital Region (DepEd). It is adapted from Labitag (2017), however, it was modified by the researcher to suit the present study in determining the awareness and readiness of the proposed shift of government system from unitary to federal government in National Capital Region. It is administered through existing Google Sheet monitoring and evaluation templates of DILG-NCR and research questionnaires from the Department’s national programs such as the Citizens Satisfaction Index System (CSIS), Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS), and others. An unstructured interview was also conducted to sample respondents from 3 school administrators, 3 public school teachers, and 7 barangay officials through the use of online teleconferencing platform to adjust in the current situation brought upon by the global disease outbreak and to validate the data gathered from the respondents of the study.

Procedure

The researcher first sought the permission from the Department of the Interior and Local Government – National Capital Region and Department of Education – National Capital Region, for proper protocol in the distribution of questionnaires to the respondents. After the request was granted, the researcher asked for the indorsement of the administration of the questionnaires to the school administrators, teachers, and barangay officials. The researcher coordinated with public and private schools and barangays in all the 17 highly urbanized cities and municipality of Metro Manila to ensure retrieval of accomplished questionnaires. The researcher also conducted a series of unstructured interviews with the respondents for a clearer understanding behind their perceptions.

Ethical Considerations

The researcher himself explained and gave the informed consent to each participant before the conduct of the study. He ensured them that the information would be used with utmost confidentiality and within the purpose of the study only.

Results and Discussion

Extent of Awareness on the Federal Form of Government in the Draft Constitution of President Duterte’s Consultative Committee (Con-Com) as Perceived by the School Administrators, Teachers, and Barangay Official Respondents

Table 1. *Extent of Awareness on the Federal Form of Government Under the Draft Constitution of President Duterte’s Consultative Committee as Perceived by School Administrators, Teachers, and Barangay Official Respondents*

Extent of Awareness on the following indicators:	Barangay Officials			Teachers			School Administrators		
	WM	s	VI	WM	s	VI	WM	s	VI
Reforms of the federal form of government from the unitary system	3.15	0.61	SE	2.99	0.69	SE	3.13	0.70	SE
Federal-presidential type of government	3.08	0.65	SE	3.05	0.80	SE	3.14	0.72	SE
Federal government structure and federal regions	3.03	0.65	SE	2.99	0.78	SE	3.11	0.81	SE
Distribution of powers of federal government and federal regions	3.10	0.60	SE	3.04	0.76	SE	3.11	0.74	SE
Sources of funding and wealth distribution in the federal form of government	3.04	0.57	SE	2.93	0.88	SE	3.08	0.69	SE
Overall Weighted Means	3.08	0.62	SE	3.00	0.78	SE	3.11	0.72	SE



The data in the table show that all the indicators on the awareness on the federal form of government in the draft Constitution of President Duterte’s Consultative Committee were all perceived by the school administrators, teachers, and barangay official respondents as Some Extent only as evidenced by their respective overall weighted means of 3.08, 3.00, and 3.11, respectively. The findings imply that the three groups of respondents are not well-aware of the federal form of government. The data could further manifest that there is certainly a need to conduct a campaign using better and varied strategies in order to reach the Filipino people.

Significant Differences in the Perceptions of the Three Groups of Respondents on their Extent of Awareness of the Federal Form of Government on the Five Aspects

Table 2. Analysis of Variance of the Three Groups of Respondents’ Perceptions on the Extent of Awareness on the Reforms of Federal Form of Government from the Unitary System

Source of Variation	df	SS	MS	F _{computed} Value	F _{critical} Value (α=5%)	Decision	Interpretation
Between Groups	2	1.53	0.77	1.72	3.03	Fail to Reject the H ₀	Not Significant
Within Groups	287	128.13	0.45				

As noticed in the table, the computed F value between and within groups of 1.72 is less than the critical F value of 3.03 with 2 and 287 degrees of freedoms, respectively. Therefore, the statistical decision is not to reject the null hypothesis. At 5% level of significance, this supports that there are no significant differences in the perceptions of the three groups of respondents on the extent of awareness of the campaign on the federal form of government with respect to reforms. This finding is a clear indication that the three groups of respondents have a common view that they know very little about the campaign on reforms introduced by a federal form of government. It could also imply that the respondents were very honest in manifesting their opinions that they were not aware of the campaign on the federal form of government.

Table 3. Analysis of Variance of the Three Groups of Respondents’ Perceptions on the Extent of Awareness as to Federal-Presidential Type of Government

Source of Variation	df	SS	MS	F _{computed} Value	F _{critical} Value (α=5%)	Decision	Interpretation
Between Groups	2	0.42	0.21	0.40	3.03	Fail to Reject the H ₀	Not Significant
Within Groups	287	151.25	0.53				

A perusal of the table shows that the computed F value between and within groups is 0.40 which is lower than the critical F value of 3.03. Thus, the statistical decision is not to reject the null hypothesis. At 5% level of significance, this shows that there are no significant differences in the perceptions of the three groups of respondents on the extent of awareness on federal form of government with respect to federal-presidential type of government. This finding indicates that the respondents have a similar experience regarding the campaign as to federal-presidential type of government which means that they were not aware that there was a campaign that went on during the Duterte administration. This observation projects the need to have a better strategy in campaigning about the federal-presidential type of government.

Table 4. Analysis of Variance of the Three Groups of Respondents’ Perceptions on the Extent of Awareness as to Government Structure and Federal Regions

Source of Variation	df	SS	MS	F _{computed} Value	F _{critical} Value (α=5%)	Decision	Interpretation
Between Groups	2	0.70	0.35	0.63	3.03	Fail to Reject the H ₀	Not Significant
Within Groups	287	160.80	0.56				

The table shows that the computed F value between and within groups is 0.63 which is below the critical F value of 3.03. At 5% significance level, the statistical decision is not to reject the null hypothesis. So, this means that there are no significant differences in the perceptions of the three groups of respondents on the extent of awareness of the federal form of government with respect to government structure and federal regions.

Table 5. Analysis of Variance of Three Groups of Respondents’ Perceptions on the Extent of Awareness as to Distribution of Powers of Federal Government and Federal Regions

Source of Variation	df	SS	MS	F _{computed} Value	F _{critical} Value (α=5%)	Decision	Interpretation
Between Groups	2	0.28	0.14	0.29	3.03	Fail to Reject the H ₀	Not Significant
Within Groups	287	141.73	0.49				

It can be seen in the table that the computed F value of 0.29 between and within groups is smaller than the critical F value of 3.03. So, at 5% significance level,



this leads to the decision that the null hypothesis cannot be rejected. This means that there are no significant differences in the perceptions of the three groups of respondents on the extent of awareness of the federal form of government with respect to distribution of powers of federal government and federal regions. This finding manifest that the respondents do not know much that a campaign was done regarding the federal form of government as regards the distribution of powers in the federal government and in the federal regions.

Table 6. Analysis of Variance of Three Groups of Respondents' Perceptions on the Extent of Awareness as to Sources of Funding and Wealth Distribution

Source of Variation	df	SS	MS	F _{computed} Value	F _{critical} Value (α=5%)	Decision	Interpretation
Between Groups	2	1.13	0.57	1.08	3.03	Fail to Reject the H ₀	Not Significant
Within Groups	287	150.81	0.53				

As reflected in the table, the computed F value of 1.08 between and within groups is less than the critical F value of 3.03. Hence, the statistical decision is not to reject the null hypothesis. At 5% level of significance, this indicates that there are no significant differences in the perceptions of the three groups of respondents on the extent of awareness of the federal form of government with respect to sources of funding and wealth distribution. This finding clearly manifests that the respondents shared similar views of not being so aware of the campaign on federalism in terms of sources of funding and wealth distribution.

Table 7. Summary of the Analysis of Variance of the Three Groups of Respondents' Perceptions on the Extent of Awareness of Federal Form of Government

Awareness regarding the	F _{computed} Value	F _{Critical} Value	Decision	Interpretation
Reforms of the federal form of government from the unitary system	1.72	3.03	Fail to Reject the H ₀ .	Not Significant
Federal-presidential type of government	0.40	3.03	Fail to Reject the H ₀ .	Not Significant
Federal government structure and federal regions	0.63	3.03	Fail to Reject the H ₀ .	Not Significant
Distribution of powers of federal government and federal regions	0.29	3.03	Fail to Reject the H ₀ .	Not Significant
Sources of funding and wealth distribution in the federal form of government	1.08	3.03	Fail to Reject the H ₀ .	Not Significant

As reflected in the table, the perceptions of the

barangay officials, teachers, and school administrator respondents on the extent of awareness on the federal form of government in terms of reforms of the federal form of government from the unitary system; federal-presidential type of government; federal government structure and federal regions; distribution of powers of federal government and federal regions; and sources of funding and wealth distribution in the federal form of government do not show significant differences with the respective computed F values of 1.72, 0.40, 0.63, 0.29, and 1.08 between and within groups which are all lower than the critical F value of 3.03. This concludes that the respondents' perceptions do not differ significantly on their awareness on the federal form of government under the draft constitution of President Duterte's consultative committee.

Level of Readiness on the Federal Form of Government as Perceived by the School Administrators, Teachers, and Barangay Officials on the Aforementioned Aspects

Table 8. Level of Readiness on the Federal Form of Government as Perceived by the School Administrators, Teachers, and Barangay Official Respondents

Level of Readiness on the following indicators:	Barangay Officials			Teachers			School Administrators		
	WM	s	VI	WM	s	VI	WM	s	VI
Reforms of the federal form of government from the unitary system	2.73	0.62	M	2.63	0.80	M	2.96	0.76	M
Federal-presidential type of government	2.74	0.63	M	2.65	0.83	M	2.93	0.71	M
Federal government structure and federal regions	2.76	0.64	M	2.64	0.82	M	2.92	0.72	M
Distribution of powers of federal government and federal regions	2.70	0.66	M	2.62	0.86	M	2.92	0.69	M
Sources of funding and wealth distribution in the federal form of government	2.74	0.62	M	2.59	0.83	M	2.97	0.74	M
Overall Weighted Means	2.73	0.63	M	2.63	0.83	M	2.94	0.72	M

The data in table 12 show that all the indicators on the readiness on the federal form of government in the draft Constitution of President Duterte's Consultative Committee were all perceived by the school administrators, teachers, and barangay official respondents as to Moderate only as evidenced by their respective overall weighted means of 2.73, 2.63, and 2.94. The findings imply that the three groups of respondents are moderately ready to a form of government that they are not well-aware or know little about. The data could further manifest that there is certainly a need to conduct a campaign using better and varied strategies in order to reach the Filipino people.



Table 9. Analysis of Variance of Three Groups of Respondents' Perceptions on the Level of Readiness as to Reforms of Government from the Unitary System

Source of Variation	Df	SS	MS	F _{computed} Value	F _{critical} Value (α=5%)	Decision	Interpretation
Between Groups	2	5.28	2.64	2.78	3.03	Fail to Reject the H ₀	Not Significant
Within Groups	287	272.77	0.95				

As noticed in the table, the computed F value between and within groups of 2.78 is less than the critical F value of 3.03 with 2 and 287 degrees of freedoms respectively. Therefore, the statistical decision is not to reject the null hypothesis. At 5% level of significance, this supports that there are no significant differences in the perceptions of the three groups of respondents on the level of readiness as to the form of government from unitary system to federal government. This finding is a clear indication that the three groups of respondents have a common view with regard to the level of readiness in the transition of government system. It could also imply that the current awareness of the respondents on the form of government from unitary system to federal government is also a factor in their opinion.

Table 10. Analysis of Variance of Three Groups of Respondents' Perceptions on the Level of Readiness as to Federal-Presidential Type of Government

Source of Variation	df	SS	MS	F _{computed} Value	F _{critical} Value (α=5%)	Decision	Interpretation
Between Groups	2	3.99	2.00	2.68	3.03	Fail to Reject the H ₀	Not Significant
Within Groups	287	213.53	0.74				

A perusal of the table shows that the computed F value between and within groups is 2.68 which is lower than the critical F value of 3.03. Thus, the statistical decision is not to reject the null hypothesis. At 5% level of significance, consequently, this shows that there are no significant differences in the perceptions of the three groups of respondents on the level of readiness on federal form of government with respect to federal-presidential type of government. This finding indicates that the respondents have a similar experience regarding the campaign as to federal-presidential type of government which means that their perception implies that we are moderately ready to transition from a presidential system into a federal-presidential type of government from. This observation projects the need to have a better strategy in campaigning about the federal-presidential type of government.

Table 11. Analysis of Variance of Three Groups of Respondents' Perceptions on the Level of Readiness as to Government Structure and Federal Regions

Source of Variation	df	SS	MS	F _{computed} Value	F _{critical} Value (α=5%)	Decision	Interpretation
Between Groups	2	3.84	1.92	2.73	3.03	Fail to Reject the H ₀	Not Significant
Within Groups	287	201.68	0.70				

The table shows that the computed F value between and within groups is 0.63 which is below the critical F value of 2.73. At 5% significance level, the statistical decision is not to reject the null hypothesis. So, this means that there are no significant differences in the perceptions of the three groups of respondents on the level of readiness of the federal form of government with respect to government structure and federal regions.

Table 12. Analysis of Variance of Three Groups of Respondents' Perceptions on the Level of Readiness as to Distribution of Powers of Federal Government and Federal Regions

Source of Variation	df	SS	MS	F _{computed} Value	F _{critical} Value (α=5%)	Decision	Interpretation
Between Groups	2	4.67	2.34	2.75	3.03	Fail to Reject the H ₀	Not Significant
Within Groups	287	243.93	0.85				

It can be seen in the table that the computed F value of 2.75 between and within groups is smaller than the critical F value of 3.03. So, at 5% significance level, this leads to the decision that the null hypothesis cannot be rejected. This means that there are no significant differences in the perceptions of the three groups of respondents on the level of readiness of the federal form of government with respect to distribution of powers of federal government and federal regions. This finding manifest that the respondents think that the nation is moderately prepared to shift the distribution of powers from central government or the unitary state to federal government and in the federal regions.



Table 13. Analysis of Variance of Three Groups of Respondents' Perceptions on the Level of Readiness as to Sources of Funding and Wealth Distribution

Source of Variation	df	SS	MS	F _{computed} Value	F _{critical} Value (α=5%)	Decision	Interpretation
Between Groups	2	5.98	2.99	2.80	3.03	Fail to Reject the H ₀	Not Significant
Within Groups	287	253.26	1.07				

As reflected in the table, the computed F value of 2.80 between and within groups is less than the critical F value of 3.03. Hence, the statistical decision is not to reject the null hypothesis. At 5% level of significance, this indicates that there are no significant differences in the perceptions of the three groups of respondents on the level of readiness of the federal form of government with respect to sources of funding and wealth distribution. This finding clearly manifests that the respondents shared similar views of level of readiness in terms of sources of funding and wealth distribution.

Table 14. Summary of the Analysis of Variance of the Three Groups of Respondents' Perceptions on the Level of Readiness of Federal Form of Government

Readiness in terms of the	F _{computed} Value	F _{critical} Value	Decision	Interpretation
Reforms of the federal form of government from the unitary system	2.78	3.03	Fail to Reject the H ₀	Not Significant
Federal-presidential type of government	2.68	3.03	Fail to Reject the H ₀	Not Significant
Federal government structure and federal regions	2.73	3.03	Fail to Reject the H ₀	Not Significant
Distribution of powers of federal government and federal regions	2.75	3.03	Fail to Reject the H ₀	Not Significant
Sources of funding and wealth distribution in the federal form of government	2.80	3.03	Fail to Reject the H ₀	Not Significant

As reflected in the table, the perceptions of the barangay officials, teachers, and school administrator respondents on the extent of awareness on the federal form of government in terms of reforms of the federal form of government from the unitary system; federal-presidential type of government; federal government structure and federal regions; distribution of powers of federal government and federal regions; and sources of funding and wealth distribution in the federal form of government do not show significant differences with the respective computed F values of 2.78, 2.68, 2.73, 2.75, and 2.80 between and within groups which are all lower than the critical F value of 3.03. This concludes that the respondents' perceptions do not differ significantly on their level of readiness on the federal form of government under the draft constitution of President Duterte's consultative committee.

Significant Difference between the Awareness and Readiness of the Three Groups of Respondents on Federal Form of Government

Table 15. Test of Relationship between the Extent of Awareness and Level of Readiness as to Reforms of Federal Form of Government from the Unitary System

Awareness in the reforms of the federal form of government from the unitary system and ...	Pearson r	Strength of Relationship	t _{comp} Value	t _{critical} Value	Decision	Int
a. Readiness in the reforms of the federal form of government	0.42	Moderate	7.85	1.97	Reject the H ₀ .	Sig.
b. Readiness in the transition to a federal-presidential type of government	0.41	Moderate	7.63	1.97	Reject the H ₀ .	Sig.
c. Readiness in the transition into a federal government structure and federal regions	0.44	Moderate	8.32	1.97	Reject the H ₀ .	Sig.
d. Readiness in the distribution of powers of federal government and federal regions	0.42	Moderate	7.85	1.97	Reject the H ₀ .	Sig.
e. Readiness in the sources of funding and wealth distribution of the proposed federal form of government	0.43	Moderate	8.08	1.97	Reject the H ₀ .	Sig.

As reflected in the table, the computed Pearson r's between the extent of awareness and the level of readiness as to reforms of federal form of government from the unitary system, indicate positive moderate (0.42, 0.41, 0.44, 0.42, 0.43) correlation with substantial relationship. The critical t value with 288 degrees of freedom is 1.97, and test or computed t values of 7.85, 7.63, 8.32, 7.85, and 8.08. For the computed t values are higher than the critical t value, then the statistical decision is to reject the null hypothesis. At 5% level of significance, this supports that there is a significant relationship between the two variables. This concludes that there is evidence to show that the higher the extent of awareness in the reforms of the federal form of government from the unitary system is, the higher the level of the readiness on the federal form of government is.

In the unstructured interview conducted by the researcher to verify the results of the quantitative data, one public school administrator respondent said that "understanding the nuances of federalism, its impact and how beneficial it is to the Philippines, will make an ordinary Juan vote for the shift."



Table 16. *Test of Relationship between the Extent of Awareness and Level of Readiness as to Federal- Presidential Type of Government*

Awareness in the federal-presidential type of government and ...	Pearson r	Strength of Relationship	t _{comp} Value	t _{critical} Value	Decision	Int
a. Readiness in the reforms of the federal form of government	0.41	Moderate	7.63	1.97	Reject the Ho.	Sig.
b. Readiness in the transition to a federal-presidential type of government	0.38	Weak	6.97	1.97	Reject the Ho.	Sig.
c. Readiness in the transition into a federal government structure and federal regions	0.39	Weak	7.19	1.97	Reject the Ho.	Sig.
d. Readiness in the distribution of powers of federal government and federal regions	0.42	Moderate	7.85	1.97	Reject the Ho.	Sig.
e. Readiness in the sources of funding and wealth distribution of the proposed federal form of government	0.37	Weak	6.76	1.97	Reject the Ho.	Sig.

As evidently seen in the table, the computed Pearson r’s between the extent of awareness and the level of readiness as to federal-presidential type of government, indicate positive moderate (0.41, 0.42) correlation with substantial relationship, and positive weak (0.38, 0.39,0.37) correlation with definite but small relationship. As the computed t values of 7.63, 6.97, 7.19, 7.85, and 6.76 are above the critical t value of 1.97, then the statistical decision is to reject the null hypothesis. At 5% level of significance, this means that there is a significant relationship between the two variables. This concludes that there is little evidence to show that the higher the level of the awareness in the federal-presidential type of government, the higher the level of the readiness on the federal form of government.

Table 17. *Test of Relationship between the Extent of Awareness and Level of Readiness as to Federal Government Structure and Federal Regions*

Awareness in the federal government structure and federal regions and ...	Pearson r	Strength of Relationship	t _{comp} Value	t _{critical} Value	Decision	Int
a. Readiness in the reforms of the federal form of government	0.41	Moderate	7.63	1.97	Reject the Ho.	Sig.
b. Readiness in the transition to a federal-presidential type of government	0.37	Weak	6.76	1.97	Reject the Ho.	Sig.
c. Readiness in the transition into a federal government structure and federal regions	0.37	Weak	6.76	1.97	Reject the Ho.	Sig.
d. Readiness in the distribution of powers of federal government and federal regions	0.39	Weak	7.19	1.97	Reject the Ho.	Sig.
e. Readiness in the sources of funding and wealth distribution of the proposed federal form of government	0.37	Weak	6.76	1.97	Reject the Ho.	Sig.

The table reveals that the computed Pearson r’s between the extent of awareness and the level of readiness as to federal government structure and federal regions indicate positive moderate (0.41) correlation with substantial relationship, and positive weak (0.37, 0.37, 0.39, 0.37) correlation with definite

but small relationship. Since the computed t values of 7.63, 6.76, 6.76, 7.19, and 6.76 are greater than the critical t value of 1.97, then the statistical decision is to reject the null hypothesis. At 5% level of significance, this shows that there is a significant relationship between the two variables. This concludes that there is little evidence to show that the higher the level of the awareness in the federal government structure and federal regions, the higher the level of the readiness on the federal form of government.

Table 18. *Test of Relationship between the Extent of Awareness and Level of Readiness as to Distribution of Powers of Federal Government and Federal Regions*

Awareness in the distribution of powers of federal government and federal regions and ...	Pearson r	Strength of Relationship	t _{comp} Value	t _{critical} Value	Decision	Int
Readiness in the reforms of the federal form of government	0.36	Weak	6.55	1.97	Reject the Ho.	Sig.
Readiness in the transition to a federal-presidential type of government	0.33	Weak	5.93	1.97	Reject the Ho.	Sig.
Readiness in the transition into a federal government structure and federal regions	0.34	Weak	6.14	1.97	Reject the Ho.	Sig.
Readiness in the distribution of powers of federal government and federal regions	0.36	Weak	6.55	1.97	Reject the Ho.	Sig.
Readiness in the sources of funding and wealth distribution of the proposed federal form of government	0.34	Weak	6.14	1.97	Reject the Ho.	Sig.

As presented in the table, the computed Pearson r’s between the extent of awareness and the level of readiness as to distribution of powers of federal government and federal regions, indicate positive weak (0.36, 0.33, 0.34, 0.36, 0.34) correlation with definite but small relationship. As the computed t values of 6.55, 5.93, 6.14, 6.55, and 6.14 are more than the critical t value of 1.97, then the statistical decision is to reject the null hypothesis. At 5% level of significance, this supports that there is a significant relationship between the two variables. This concludes that there is little evidence to show that the higher the level of the awareness in the distribution of powers of federal government and federal regions, the higher the level of the readiness on the federal form of government.

Table 19. *Test of Relationship between the Extent of Awareness and Level of Readiness as to Sources of Funding and Wealth Distribution*

<i>Awareness in the sources of funding and wealth distribution in the federal form of government and</i>	<i>Pearson r</i>	<i>Strength of Relationship</i>	<i>t_{comp} Value</i>	<i>critical Value</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Int</i>
Readiness in the reforms of the federal form of government	0.36	Weak	6.55	1.97	Reject the Ho.	Sig.
Readiness in the transition to a federal-presidential type of government	0.35	Weak	6.34	1.97	Reject the Ho.	Sig.
Readiness in the transition into a federal government structure and federal regions	0.35	Weak	6.34	1.97	Reject the Ho.	Sig.
Readiness in the distribution of powers of federal government and federal regions	0.38	Weak	6.97	1.97	Reject the Ho.	Sig.
Readiness in the sources of funding and wealth distribution of the proposed federal form of government	0.37	Weak	6.76	1.97	Reject the Ho.	Sig.

Based on the data in the table, the computed Pearson r 's between the extent of awareness and the level of readiness as to sources of funding and wealth distribution, indicate positive weak (0.36, 0.35, 0.35, 0.38, 0.37) correlation with definite but small relationship. Since the computed t values of 6.55, 6.34, 6.34, 6.97, and 6.76 are above the critical t value of 1.97, then the statistical decision is to reject the null hypothesis. At 5% level of significance, this suggests that there is a significant relationship between the two variables. This concludes that there is little evidence to show that the higher the level of the awareness in the sources of funding and wealth distribution, the higher the level of the readiness on the federal form of government.

Challenges Posed by the Federal Form of Government on Education

Hereunder are the key points of the unstructured interview conducted:

School Administrators

A school administrator responded, "Healthy competition among federal states can further set apart the Philippines' archipelagic geography. It may pave way rivalries and promote regionalism which some scholars say is already an existing challenge in terms of the country's unity. Possible diversification may further hinder sub-national patterns of development and present inter-country differences which may manifest in terms of education."

"Following the birth pains that marked the launching of the K to 12 program meant to align the Philippines with the global 12-year basic education cycle, kapag nagbago na namang ang government system to federal regions, isa na namang malaking pagbabago sa curriculum, magpo-produce na naman ng learning

materials, marami uling babaguhin."

Another school administrator responder challenged the proposal with the following questions: "Who gets what power and why?" and "Who gets what (resources) and why?" The responder also underscored the importance of determining if a power is exclusive to either the central or local government or shared between them.

"Where does the responsibility of the Federal government end and where does the responsibility of the state, regional, and local government begin? The importance of determining if the power is exclusive to either the central or local government or shared between them should be underscored. It would be a great challenge to draw a clear line in the amended Constitution or through laws and issuances to avoid ambiguities, conflict, and confusion in terms of education," the responder emphasized.

"Giving more power in education to the local government could mean creating more responsive curricula that are modified according to the needs and history of each region. It could lead to more awareness about one's local history and culture and a stronger sense of identity. On the other hand, it could also develop more ethnicity than national character among citizens and could raise the issue of having no national standard, which could affect global competitiveness," the responder added.

Based on the responses, the awareness of the school administrator respondents is to some extent only because they sought clarification regarding the federal government structure and the federal regions and distribution of powers of federal government and federal regions indicators. The answers to the interview question fully support and verify the findings of this study to which the extent of awareness of school administrators on the said indicators are to some extent only.

Public School Teachers

A teacher responder briefly stated during an online unstructured interview, "Mahirap ipaliwanag sa mga tao ang mga advantage ng paglilipat ng sistema ng pamahalaan at kung bakit papalitan pa." The responder added, "Dahil nga ang Pilipinas ay binubuo ng maraming rehiyon maaring ang isang posibleng hamon o pagsubok nito sa edukasyon ay pagdating sa usaping kultura, relihiyon at ibang sa iba't-ibang pagkakakilanlan."

Another teacher responder answered utilizing the chat feature of the teleconferencing platform, "Simula nang gamitin ang K-12 curriculum, ang kalidad ng edukasyon ay pababa na ng pababa, kung papalitan

ang sistema ng pamamahala, marapat na baguhin din ang pro-students laws na nagtuturo sa mga bata na maging tamad at mahina. Mass promotion is not a solution but a bigger problem that may explode in the future.”

“Malaki ang magiging epekto nito sa pagbabago sa edukasyon, ang K-12 implementation ay halos ‘di pa masyadong matugunan ang mga pagkukulang dahil kulang pa sa kamalayan ng impormasyon ang iba lalo na ang mga nasa probinsya o malalayong lugar. Marami pang kailangan matugunan lalong-lalo na sa mga guro, paaralan, kagamitan, maging mga aklat at iba. Tapos magkakaroon na naman ng pagbabago sa pamamahala?”

Based on the responses, the awareness of the public school teacher respondents is to some extent only because they sought clarification regarding the reforms of the federal form of government from the unitary system indicator. The answers to the interview question fully support and verify the findings of this study to which the extent of awareness of school administrators on the said indicators are to some extent only.

Barangay Officials

One barangay official responded, “Nasa mga kamay ng mga nanunungkulan ang mga bagbabago ng sistema patungkol sa edukasyon. Maraming mababago lalo na sa mga gawain na ibibigay sa amin na hindi naman dapat namin ginagawa. Hindi ko masabi dahil hindi ganon kalawak ang aking kaalaman tungkol sa Federalismo.”

Another responder briefly answered, “Wala akong nakikitang malaking problema pagdating sa pagpapatupad ng edukasyon sa bansa sa pamamagitan ng pagpapalit ng uri ng pamahalaan mula sa Republika patungong Pederalismong pamamahala.”

Another responder gave a brief response, “The will of the politicians, bayan o sarili, whether the people in the opposition will recognize the will of the administration or will it be against theirs. There will never be a good or better governance without constructive criticism to help our leaders. Instead, I see destruction of the government itself, because of these opposing leaders of the administration, which chose to be literally an opposition to the progress of our country.”

“No idea, may pagbabago kaya sa edukasyon kung nasa Federalismong pamamahala na ang bansa?” a barangay official responded.

Another barangay official responder gave his thoughts on the unstructured interview question, “Malaking hamon po na ipaalam sa mga Pilipino ang paglilipat ng sistema ng pamahalaan na nangagailangan ng matinding pag-aaral at kaalaman ng bawat Pilipino para maipunawa sa bawat tao ang kahalagahan ng paglilipat gobyerno na ikalulugod at ikaginhawa ng mamamayan.”

One barangay official responded, “There is a more pressing issue right now instead of this transition of government system. The Duterte Government should put more action and planning with regards to the current pandemic. Many Filipinos are dying and our health care system can no longer accommodate it.”

Lastly, a member of the Sangguniang Barangay answered, “Malaki ang magiging epekto nito sa pagbabago sa edukasyon, ang K-12 implementation ay halos d pa masyadong matugunan ang mga pagkukulang dahil kulang pa sa kamalayan ng impormasyon ang iba lalo n ang mga nasa probinsya o malalyong lugar. Marami pang kailangan matugunan lalong lalo na sa mga guro, paaralan, kagamitan maging mga aklat at iba. Tapos magkakaroon na naman ng pagbabago sa pamamahala?”

Concluding and assessing the responses of all seven barangay official respondents, the points evidently reflect that the awareness is to some extent only. One response even points out that the interviewee has no idea about the proposed shift of government at all. Responses and points of discussion in terms of the proposed shift of government system are clearly to some extent only.

Table 20. *Validation of the Extent of Awareness and Level of Readiness of the Three Groups of Respondents Based on the Results of the Quantitative Research and the Assessment of the Unstructured Interviews Conducted*

Respondents	Table 6 and 13		Unstructured Interview	
	Extent of Awareness	Level of Readiness	Extent of Awareness	Level of Readiness
School Administrators	SE	M	SE	M
Public School Teachers	SE	M	SE	M
Barangay Officials	SE	M	SE	M

The findings of the assessment of the unstructured interviews conducted from samples of the three groups of respondents verifies the results of the quantitative research through the administration of survey questionnaire. The extent of awareness of school administrators, public school teachers, and barangay



officials is to some extent only, while the level of readiness of said respondents is moderate based on both the survey questionnaires and the conduct of unstructured interviews. The comparative result further verifies the findings of this research.

Policy Recommendations Derived from the Perceptions on Continuing the Federalism Campaign during the Time of Pandemic through the Online Platform

After conducting the study, the researcher was able to identify the awareness and readiness of the three groups of respondents and the results is a determining factor for the following recommendations: (a) Findings imply that the three groups of respondents are not well-aware of the proposed federal form of government hence the issuance of Regional Memorandum from the Department of the Interior and Local Government – National Capital Region (DILG-NCR) through the Center of the Advancement for Local Governance (CALG) – Public Education on Good Governance, Development, and Citizenship Facility to ensure the region-wide continuation of the Capacity Development (CapDev) interventions and Information Advocacy Campaign for Federalism and Constitutional Reform; (b) It is concluded that there is little evidence to show that the higher the level of the awareness in the federal government structure and federal regions, the higher the level of the readiness on the federal form of government hence the Draft Memorandum Circular in Strengthening and Continuing Information Advocacy Campaign for Federalism and Constitutional Reform to unceasingly educate the public and disseminate information of the proposed form of government system; and (c) Policy Recommendation and Strategic Operational Advocacy for Federalism and Constitutional Reform (2023-2027) to gauge the readiness of the local government units and educational institutions based on the findings which imply that the three groups of respondents are moderately ready to a form of government that they are not well-aware or know little about. The data could further manifest that there is certainly a need to conduct a campaign using better and varied strategies in order to reach the Filipino people.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the study, the conclusions derived are the following: (1) Amidst millions of funding, series of activities conducted under the term of President Duterte's administration, policies crafted,

and massive federalism campaign, the barangays and public schools in National Capital Region are able to understand the concepts of the proposed constitutional reform up to some extent only. (2) The evaluation of the three groups of respondents on their perception on the federalism campaign do not vary from each other. (3) The higher the level of the awareness in the federal government structure and federal regions, the higher the level of the readiness on the federal form of government.

Based on the findings and conclusions drawn, the following are recommended: (1) The government needs to reinvent and strategize the information, education, and communication campaign of the proposed shift of government system. The main argument of federalism is to empower and spur development to lower levels of government, particularly the regional level, thus the tagline "Gobyerno para sa Tao" of the constitutional reform. The barangays and educational institutions will be able to reecho the concepts of federalism if they are well-informed and fully aware. (2) Future researchers may consider connecting the Federalism campaign on the signing of Executive Order (EO) No. 138 by President Rodrigo R. Duterte on June 1, 2021, which signaled the full devolution of basic services and facilities from the national government to local government units (LGUs) starting year 2022, including the increased share of LGUs in all national taxes and revenues.

(3) The result of this study is significant not only in relation to the Federalism campaign in the Philippines, but to all programs, projects, and activities of the government that needs to be communicated and understood by the public. National government agencies (NGAs) should tap and forge partnerships with the academe to educate the public in relation to government thrusts that will impact the communities. (4) Future researchers should conduct parallel studies in other educational institutions to validate the findings of this research.

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