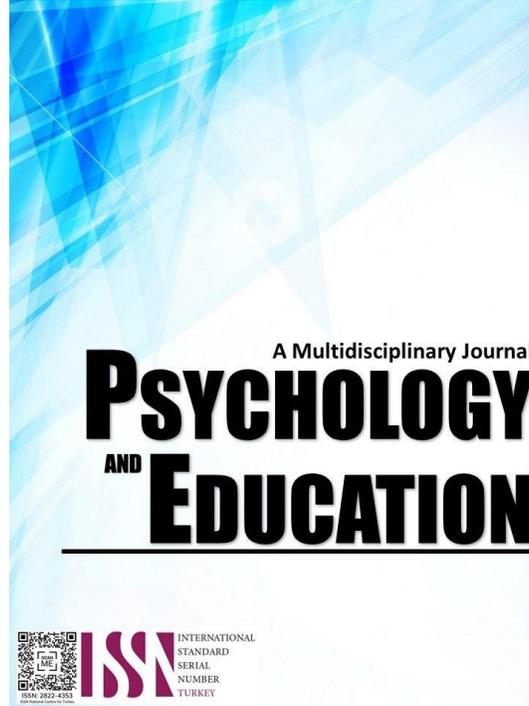


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The Roles of Political Dynasties in Shaping Electoral Behavior

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Abstract

The study examined the role of political dynasties in shaping the electoral behavior of residents of one Barangay in Sariaya, Quezon. In particular, it focuses on how political dynasties shape residents' electoral behavior in terms of trustworthiness, governance effectiveness, and legacy. In this study, a quantitative approach was applied, specifically the use of a descriptive survey and a descriptive-comparative research design. Data were gathered through a self-constructed survey checklist, which was completed by 100 registered voters in the barangay. The frequency and percentage were used to determine the demographic profile of the respondents. The result revealed that residents in one of the Barangays in Sariaya, Quezon, viewed political dynasty positively, with an "Agree" response across all sub-variables, especially on the legacy, which received the highest weighted arithmetic mean of 3.25. Additionally, the study used the Kruskal-Wallis H test and found that respondents' perceptions of the role of political dynasties in their electoral behavior differed significantly across age and income groups. However, the Mann-Whitney U test revealed no significant differences when grouped by sex or educational attainment. The researchers created the voter empowerment guide after analyzing how political dynasties shape electoral behavior, particularly in terms of trust, effectiveness in governance, and legacy. Thus, the researchers recommended that the barangay's residents become informed voters in the presence of political dynasties, enabling them not only to critically assess the legacy and impact of politicians from dynastic families but also to understand the implications of their long-term governance. By supporting transparency and accountability in local governance, this voter empowerment guide can ensure that voters make informed decisions.

Keywords: *electoral behavior, legacy, local government, political dynasty*

Introduction

Political dynasties have long existed, in which a concentration of political power is within a particular political family. This creates challenges for democratic institutions by providing equal opportunity for new leadership. These dynasties raise concerns about a fair electoral process because of the dominance of candidates from the same political families, leaving voters with limited choices. This monopolization of power across different political positions hinders opportunities for new political leaders to emerge. It hinders a fair electoral process and worsens governance issues, including the stagnation of human development and violence. As a result, voters may feel that their voting choices have already been determined, limiting their ability to make more thoughtful decisions or to choose candidates based on their credentials, qualifications, leadership skills, and suitability for effective governance. Thus, voting might become a formality, with voters selecting candidates based on their political power or family fame rather than their qualifications and leadership skills.

As Mukti and Rodyah (2020) stated, political dynasties establish a solid power structure to sustain their dominance. Additionally, Narag (2024) stated that political dynasties dominate because these political families are their only options; that is why voters continue to vote for them, as other alternatives are either unavailable or overlooked. However, Pepa (2024) argued that nepotism, corruption, and inequality undermine democratic foundations because dynastic leaders are often more driven to safeguard their families' interests than the general welfare. These political dynasties have risen rapidly and can be seen hindering people's ability to move and vote within the community, as the community has little say in the electoral process (Agung, 2022). As a result, many believed that election outcomes are predetermined by the power of political families rather than by the public's choice. This can manipulate the electoral process and the voting preferences of the public by prioritizing financial incentives over informed decision-making or by voting fairly, considering the governing capabilities of the candidates. For that reason, the cycle of political dynasties continues, limiting the public's ability to vote freely and fairly.

Despite legal provisions to promote fair elections, political dynasties are still growing. Article II, Section 26 of the 1987 Constitution specifically states that "the State shall guarantee equal access to opportunities for public service and prohibit political dynasties as may be defined by law." However, political dynasties are permitted to continue because no legislation would support their abolition. According to Dapilos (2024), 85% of governors, 66.67% of mayors, and 75% of representatives are considered dynastic, and they outperform non-dynastic candidates. Also, Ballerda et al. (2024) stated that at least 71 of the 82 provincial governments in the Philippines, or 87%, are being led by a political dynasty member. For instance, similar situations have been observed in Indonesia, where the presence of political dynasties at the local level is a major concern, as public participation and leadership stagnation are hampered by elite control. Principled and effective governance has faded, which leads to nepotism, collusion, and corruption (Amalia & Darwis, 2025). This exposes a system in which political influence is passed down through families, raising the question of how this can affect democratic representation.

Political dynasties remain a significant challenge in a democratic government. This hold on political power creates an unequal political landscape in which name, influence, and wealth give dynastic candidates an advantage over non-dynastic candidates. It can limit electoral competition and shape public voting preferences. Political families can influence voters' decisions on whether to vote for a candidate, either through their political lineage or through their governing capabilities or merit. Understanding these dynamics of political dynasties is essential to promote informed voting decisions and a fair electoral process.

Research Questions

This study generally aimed to determine the role of political dynasties in shaping electoral behavior. Specifically, it sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the demographic profile of respondents in terms of:
 - 1.1. age;
 - 1.2. sex;
 - 1.3. educational attainment; and
 - 1.4. income status?
2. What is the demographic profile of learner respondents in terms of:
 - 2.1 trustworthiness;
 - 2.2 effectiveness in governance;
 - 2.3 legacy?
3. Is there a significant difference on the roles of political dynasties in shaping the electoral behavior of the respondents when they are grouped according to their demographic profile?
4. Based on the findings, what possible output can the researchers propose to address the role of political dynasties in shaping electoral behavior?

Literature Review

Political Dynasty

A political dynasty is a situation in which powerful families dominate various government positions. From one generation to the next, these political families have a heritage of controlling their public seats and political influence. Members may be related by marriage or blood, or may be siblings, or may span many generations (Capalaran, 2021). A political dynasty is a continuous cycle of power concentration within influential families, potentially impacting political competition and governance.

Political dynasty supports a cycle in which voters support dynastic candidates because they will become economically secure, rather than making an informed decision when voting, thereby strengthening the power of political elites (Cruz et al., 2020). Furthermore, as stated by Arugay and Baquisal (2023), attacks on civil society and authoritarian actions can make voters less interested, while political families have less opposition because people are struggling to push and advocate for new leaders due to limited freedom.

Moreover, Borja et al. (2024) argue that political families disempower citizens by making them feel that their votes do not matter, thereby strengthening the power of political elites and leading to voter disengagement and reduced democratic participation due to inequality. According to Tenullo et al. (2024), dynastic politicians in the United States can concentrate the benefits of material resources in their wards, such as improved provision and fewer assaults or robberies, while producing spatial inequality. These political dynasties create a cycle where political families maintain their power, reduce political competition, and weaken the democratic process.

To sum up, a political dynasty concentrates power and controls positions in government by passing roles from one generation to the next, often prioritizing lineage over capabilities. The domination of political families is sustained by patronage networks and economic influence that shape voters' preferences in securing positions. Voters make less informed electoral choices, which strengthens the control of these dynastic families. In addition, political dynasties make it difficult for new leaders to emerge due to hindrances to opposition. Furthermore, these political dynasties promote consolidation of power within the dynastic family and restrict diversity in governance.

Age

Age remains one of the factors shaping an individual's political preferences, as younger voters are likely to advocate for change and reform, whereas older voters tend to show loyalty to established political families. These political dynasties often rely on the electoral support of older generations. Also, age plays a role in an individual's access to political information, which shapes voting preferences. While younger voters are more engaged on social media, where they encounter diverse viewpoints and movements that challenge political families, older voters typically rely on traditional media, including television and newspapers, which often highlight the positive aspects of political dynasties (Kulachai et al., 2023). Moreover, generational identities shape voting preferences: younger voters are most likely to challenge the established power, while older voters typically support political continuity. Young voters are less likely to support the longstanding family-based political leadership (Stockemer & Sundström, 2023). In 21 democratic countries, youths are less supportive and loyal to political dynasties and are more likely to support new leadership or political groups, which

explains why younger voters have questions and doubts about candidates from political dynasties (Rekker, 2024).

Younger voters, in general, support reform-driven and progressive candidates because they are unconvinced of dynastic leadership and want political change, while older voters often lean toward and remain loyal to political families that are already established because of their trust and familiarity with their governance (Cambridge University Press, 2021). In contrast, young voters exposed to parents who support political dynasties are likely to adopt similar views (Willoughby et al., 2021). In places dominated by political dynasties, older generations influence their family's voting decisions, encouraging younger voters to also support the established political families, which sustains them, although most younger generations push for reform (Trachtman et al., 2023).

To sum up, the political preferences of individuals are greatly influenced by their age. Younger voters usually advocate for change and reform, while older voters support longstanding political families. Political information sources can also influence these preferences, and older individuals often rely on traditional media, which often presents the favorable side of political dynasties, whereas younger voters are more exposed to social media, where there is a wide range of perspectives on political dynasties. Generational identity influences voting behavior: younger voters challenge the established power of political families, while older voters prioritize stability and continuity. However, young individuals raised in households that support political dynasties are more likely to adopt these views. In places where political dynasties dominate, older generations shape the preferences of younger voters, maintaining the power and influence of political families despite the youth's push for reform.

Sex

Sex is a critical determinant in the voting preferences of an individual. Male voters tend to support political dynasties because they view them as a symbol of continuity and stability. In contrast, female voters are more skeptical, and they often link these dynasties to issues like nepotism and corruption. Compared with male voters, female voters are less likely to favor inherited political leadership (Gazette, 2018). Additionally, a male-led political dynasty may gain greater support from male voters, while female voters may favor non-dynastic candidates who challenge traditional political norms (Van Der Pas et al., 2022). The difference between the support of male and female voters for political families depends on the country and situation, just like in some places, female voters do not like to support dynastic politicians and choose to support reformist candidates, while in other places, loyalty and support of female voters to political families are always there (Kenawas, 2023).

As stated by Cascio and Shenhav (2020), because voting behavior has evolved over the past years, female voters have historically been more progressive, often supporting political dynasties and viewing them as sources of experience and trustworthiness. In contrast, male voters are resistant to political dynasties unless the ideological belief of the political candidate aligns with their views.

Sex-based voting preferences continuously shape modern elections. Females tend to support dynastic candidates who give more focus on social welfare, while males support candidates who focus on economic policies (Kulachai et al., 2023). Additionally, female voters often endorse reform-driven candidates, and men support political families who promise economic stability and continuity (Kamarck, 2024).

To sum up, the choices of voters are powerfully shaped by their sex, which affects how they view both political and non-political dynasties. There is no denying that men and women have distinct preferences about who should be in power. However, because males value economic stability more than females do, females tend to vote in favor of social problems. In essence, voting preferences based on sex still affect election results. Furthermore, because males and females have distinct tastes, voters' decisions are more complicated when it comes to political dynasties.

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment refers to the most years of formal education a person has received. It can influence voters' electoral behavior and the candidates they choose to vote for. In addition, voters with higher educational attainment feel a greater sense of responsibility to participate in elections, resulting in higher voter turnout. Educated individuals are more aware of the possible consequences of governance decisions, which motivates them to engage in elections and make informed decisions (Hansen & Tyner, 2021).

Voters with higher education do not support media personalities but are more supportive of and willing to vote for politicians from political dynasties. This suggests that education influences decision-making and voter rationality, as an educated individual assesses candidates based on their policymaking skills rather than media influence and popularity (David & Pascual, 2020). Additionally, people who went to college are more politically aware and involved, which strengthens their ability to critically evaluate the campaign commitments and political information of the dynastic politicians, allowing them to make informed voting decisions (Kim, 2023).

In regions governed by political dynasties, the allocation of resources to human development, such as education, is limited. In Rizal Province, Philippines, there are areas led by dynastic mayors who invest less in education and social welfare, and this lack can contribute to lower educational attainment among residents, potentially hindering their electoral participation and their ability to evaluate candidates critically (Villanueva, 2022). In countries where political dynasties dominate access to information and resources, there is less investment in public goods like education, which reduces citizens' ability to question or oppose their power. However, in countries with higher levels of education, the harmful impact of political dynasties is weaker (Mendoza et al. 2022)

To sum up, in areas where political dynasties predominate, educational attainment significantly shapes electoral behavior. Higher-educated people are more inclined to evaluate applicants critically. Based on their ability to make policy rather than on media influence, they may still support political dynasties because of their experience in governance. However, underinvestment in education by dynastic politicians can limit voters' ability to make an informed electoral choice, thereby perpetuating the domination of political dynasties. Expansion of access to education is essential to foster politically aware individuals who can challenge political dynasties. Also, strengthening educational opportunities can empower voters to free themselves from loyalties to political dynasties and make rational, informed decisions when voting.

Income Status

Income status is the financial position of a household based on its wages, earnings, and other sources of income. It is used as a key measure of socioeconomic status. Political dynasties influence citizens' income status, as these dynasties often control political, social, and economic power, leading to the division of status among various groups in society (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2020). Dynastic politics in Chicago, USA, influence which neighborhoods will receive service from the government which can reinforce spatial inequalities based on the income of the citizens, showing how economic status can affect communities through the power of dynastic politicians (Tenullo et al., 2024)

Political dynasties indeed shape the voters when they are grouped according to their income status. Given that dynastic families hold wealth and power, lower-income individuals or families maintain trust in them, as they are the ones who continuously influence them. Consequently, voters are not only affected by their electoral decisions but also by the living conditions that dictate their status in life. Therefore, dynastic families' influence is robust and shapes people's knowledge, specifically in voting decisions based on who they are and the status they hold (Ascencio & Malik, 2024).

However, as stated by Ternullo et al. (2016), since there are many people who consider themselves of lower income, they are automatically influenced and held in power by dynastic families that can perceive each individual as unequal, which makes it easy for dynastic families to ask for a favor to vote for them. All in all, the characteristics of the politicians within the family, particularly regarding the income status of voters, are considered abusive because they use their power and authority to govern while people are being stepped on (Kulachai et al., 2025).

To sum up, income status determined people's living conditions under the political dynasty. Knowing that this concentration of power and authority within dynastic families creates division among social classes, citizens or voters in lower classes are deeply affected and influenced. Basically, it shows that people are viewed as lower-class based on their living conditions. With that, people's perception of voting is continually influenced by dynastic families, who are easy to ask for favors and are seen as more than lower or weaker individuals compared to their standard of living.

Trustworthiness

Trustworthiness is a leadership approach used by politicians at different levels, as well as by any other servant, both public and private, seeking to establish credibility in a governance position. They must be careful to demonstrate to the public that they are not just knowledgeable but also kind, responsible, reliable, relatable, and morally compatible with shared ideals. They must also demonstrate their integrity in their interactions with other people. Regardless of government performance, politicians must have trustworthiness toward the people they lead (Weinberg, 2023). These ensure continued public support and confidence across generations, thereby reinforcing the foundation of political dynasties.

Political dynasties often have significant social and cultural impact, enhancing their political standing and increasing loyalty among supporters (Puansah et al., 2024). In France, the institutional and civic condition has an important role in determining whether the trust to political dynasties evolves into wider confidence in democratic institutions or instead deepens the clientelist dependence, which shows how the quality of governance and civic participation can constrain or sustain the influence of political dynasties over time (Gonthier et al., 2023).

Therefore, there are good reasons for a politician to want to be trusted. It is not only to enhance the politician's competency but also to foster a stronger connection with people, with a clear motive and impactful governance. Being seen as trustworthy is an advantage for politicians to govern effectively (Valgarðsson et al., 2024).

However, when the same people within the family repeatedly occupy leadership positions, the trust of citizens remains in their hands, as they want to demonstrate their effectiveness in governance and their excellent abilities as political leaders. Thereby, due to no other options and familiarity with political families, this strengthened their trust and faith in political families. This trust could lead to steady voter support (Manila Bulletin, 2024). Consequently, it becomes more difficult for new candidates or aspiring leaders to win because of this cycle of trust in political dynasties.

To sum up, trustworthiness is a valuable asset in politics, especially in political dynasties, since it also serves as their power to get the support from voters. When trustworthiness is not built or worked with the citizens, it cannot strengthen governance by political dynasties. In support, trustworthiness is essential and, at the same time, very challenging to obtain, but as long as political dynasties sought to strengthen their authority, they worked to build citizens' trust in order to also hold influence over future generations.

Effectiveness in Governance

Effectiveness in governance refers to the efficient management of government when led by political families. Effectiveness in governance proposed transparency, accountability, inclusiveness, and equity to improve effective and good governance under the authority of political families who have power in governance. It is thought that putting strong public governance into practice can increase the benefits of regional autonomy. These can better align their leadership to support local government growth. When local governments distribute and manage public resources effectively and efficiently, governance at the subnational level can be called "effective."

To address the collective concerns of their citizens (Villanueva, 2020). Despite this, the effectiveness of governance suffers as members of political families are elected based on their connections with or admiration for their family name rather than their abilities or performance; this practically reduces the effectiveness of governance (Mendoza et al., 2022). Puansah et al. (2024) reveal that political families in Africa and Indonesia that do not promote fair, transparent, or merit-based leadership often provide lower-quality public services to their citizens over time. Members of the family occupying significant positions will uphold the dynasty and protect one another (Novilia and Purnama, 2024). Thus, prioritizing people will therefore prove difficult because family interests arise along the way.

However, one of the main factors in the failure of dynasties is the inability to establish efficient governance (Adebiyi & Moruf, 2022). This illustrates how certain families hold an imbalance of power as a result of personal ties, financial influence, and political tradition. Suppose political families or dynasties continue to grow and expand. In that case, it is expected that those outside these dynastic families do not have access to political opportunities, which would be unfavorable and harmful to the democratic system and to the effectiveness of governance (Puansah et al., 2024). Overall, political dynasties can limit opportunities for others to achieve more effective governance, leading to stagnation, a lack of innovation, and a decision-making environment that benefits few rather than many.

In sum, effectiveness in governance is also vital, especially when it is under the authority of political dynasties or political families. As political dynasties expand in local government, it becomes essential for these leaders to demonstrate their ability to govern effectively. Moreover, these political dynasties emphasize effective governance to build a strong foundation and community support, mainly to ensure that, in the next generation of their family in politics, they are also considered effective leaders, despite limiting opportunities for non-family members.

Legacy

Legacy is a concrete policy achievement, such as programs or reforms that last even after a leader leaves the office. Also, it can be a feeling, idea, or memory that people can still recall about the leader, even though they are no longer in the position, and that continues to influence others in the future. It is a lasting imprint an individual leaves on the world, including achievements and their influence on society. These are not only remembered but they are also continued by the next generations (Kitt, 2023).

This political approach can have a positive impact, particularly when the values and traditions inherited are good and the legacy of dynastic families promotes loyalty among voters, as they tend to trust candidates from well-known political families because they are already familiar with the style of their governance (Santiniaman, 2023). Political dynasties in Indonesia frequently leave powerful legacies because their enduring networks and influence continue to shape local politics even after changes in leadership, making transformation challenging in the absence of significant political shifts (Puansah et al., 2024).

Legacy provides both positive and negative impacts, as it gives familiarity but also creates a concern when it comes to elitism (Mustaqim, 2022). It promotes political monopolies in which authority remains in the hands of a few, hindering democratic competition and inclusiveness. This concentration of power reinforces elitism, limiting the introduction of new ideas that are essential for a dynamic political landscape (The Economist, 2022). In support, while legacy in governance provides stability, it can also restrict opportunities for new leadership as well as political monopolies. Elite control over political resources and nepotism hinders inclusiveness and democratic competition (The Guardian, 2024).

To sum up, the legacy of political dynasties provides stability and experience, which influences voters to back candidates from a well-established political family. These dynasties benefit from inherited economic resources, political traditions, and extensive networks, which allow them to sustain their influence across generations. While this legacy of political dynasty has positive effects, particularly when strong governance traditions and values are upheld, promoting voter loyalty to these political families, it can also limit democratic competition and inclusivity, as well as encourage political monopolies. The concentration of power among a few fosters elitism, hindering opportunities for new leadership and the presentation of fresh ideas.

Methodology

Research Design

This study employed quantitative methodology, specifically descriptive-comparative and descriptive-survey research design. This study used a descriptive survey approach to precisely describe the perceptions of respondents about how political dynasties shape electoral behavior. According to Sirisilla (2023), research employing a descriptive survey design gathers data through questionnaires

completed by participants or administered by interviewers.

Furthermore, this study employed a descriptive-comparative research design to determine whether respondents' perceptions of the role of political dynasties in their electoral behavior varied significantly across demographic categories. Descriptive-comparative research, as defined by the Formplus Blog (2020), examines two unmanipulated attributes to evaluate differences without establishing a correlation.

The study was conducted in a single barangay to obtain a contextualized, focused understanding of how political dynasties can influence the electoral behavior of voters in a shared social, economic, and political environment. Also, it allows for gathering more reliable data, a manageable study implementation, and insights that are meaningful, reflecting local governance and voters' attitudes at the local level.

By analyzing survey data, the researcher will be able to examine how respondents view political dynasties and their role in shaping electoral behavior, and determine whether respondents' views differ by demographic profile. These findings will also help the researchers develop sound conclusions, recommendations, and voter empowerment materials to address the issue identified.

Respondents

There are 3028 registered voters in one of the Barangays in Sariaya, Quezon. To determine the total number of respondents, the researchers employed a quota sampling technique.

As a non-probability sampling method, quota sampling involves the researcher using these features to generate subgroups (quotas) and then selecting participants to meet the quota, without random selection. According to Adeoye (2023), a sample size of 100-200 is enough for quota sampling as it ensures proper representation of subgroups while remaining practical. This enabled the researchers to select a sample based on specific characteristics, resulting in a well-distributed sample. Therefore, the researchers used quota sampling and selected 100 respondents from the total population. However, because quota sampling is a non-probability technique, the results of this study may not be as broadly applicable outside the chosen barangay, as the sample may not accurately reflect all registered voters in the broader community or localities.

Instrument

The researchers used a self-made survey checklist questionnaire to gather the information needed for this study. Relevant research on the main topic of the survey was used to generate both sections of the questionnaire. Information about the demographic profile of the respondents—including age, sex, level of education, and income—was gathered in the first section, while details about respondents' opinions on how political dynasties influence electoral behavior in terms of trustworthiness, effectiveness in governance, and legacy were gathered in the second section. There are 30 statements in total, with 10 in each sub-component. The respondents were guided by the rating scale value of “4” for Strongly Agree, “3” for Agree, “2” for Disagree, and “1” for Strongly Disagree.

The researchers presented the instrument to their research adviser and sought approval. Following that, the researchers seek assistance from three field experts to review the content of each statement and ensure its alignment with the objectives and variables, and from one language editor to check the grammar consistency of the tool. Afterward, the researchers considered all of the comments, suggestions, and recommendations given by the validators.

To ensure that the instrument was reliable, the data gathered by the researchers were subjected to reliability analysis using Cronbach's Alpha. The computed Cronbach's Alpha coefficient was 0.93, which indicated an excellent level of internal consistency among the items on the instrument. This means it is highly reliable and consistent when it comes to measuring the perception of the respondents about the influence of political dynasties on electoral behavior.

Procedure

To ensure the validity and consistency of the data gathered, the researchers adhered to several guidelines. Additionally, these measures were implemented to ensure that ethical standards were consistently considered throughout the study. Before beginning the study, the researchers obtained permission from the barangay captain of Barangay Bucal, Sariaya, Quezon. The validated questionnaires were distributed to the registered voters of the barangay upon approval.

To gather the needed information, the researchers utilized a printed survey. The researchers requested that participants complete the study after obtaining their informed consent, which ensured the confidentiality of their answers. To make sure they could give meaningful answers, the researchers gave them enough time. A variety of statistical techniques were used to determine, interpret, and analyze the gathered data.

Ethical Considerations

Strict ethical guidelines were followed in the study to protect the participants. Respondents were free to discontinue participation at any moment without incurring any penalties. Data was securely saved, kept anonymous, and utilized exclusively for scholarly research. In order to secure personal data, the study conformed with the Data Privacy Act of 2012.



Results

This section presents the data obtained using a research instrument. Tables presenting their interpretations help readers better grasp the value of the gathered information.

Table 1. *Demographic Profile of the Respondents in terms of Age*

<i>Descriptors</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
18-22yrs old (Gen Z)	12	12
23-38yrs old (Millennials)	31	31
39-54yrs old (Gen X)	22	22
55-73yrs old (Baby Boomer)	22	22

Table 1 presents the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of age. Most respondents are 23-38 years old, or millennials, accounting for 31% of respondents. This suggests that when politicians from political dynasties are in power, adult respondents are the most likely to vote. Because they believe that dynastic families continue to reign and that it may be more difficult for them to think of new leaders or candidates, this age group has greater support for politicians from political dynasties. This is supported by a study by Cambridge University Press (2021), which found that older voters remain loyal to the governance of political dynasties because they believe that family members already have knowledge of governance.

However, the lowest number of respondents came from the 18-27 age group (Gen Z), representing 12% of respondents. This suggests that younger voters perceive the situation differently from older voters, who do not support the governance of dynastic families because there are no changes in governance. That is why they are unconvinced of the leadership of dynastic families. This is supported by the study of Kulachai et al. (2023), which explains that younger voters are more likely to push for change and reform, making them less supportive of traditional political dynasties.

Table 2. *Profile of the Respondents in terms of Sex*

<i>Descriptors</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Male	45	45
Female	55	55
Total	100	100

Table 2 presents the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of sex. The majority of the respondents were female, representing 55% of the respondents. The data collected shows that female respondents are more participative in one of the Barangays in Sariaya, Quezon. Females are now more likely to support and favor the continuation of political dynasties as time goes on. Previously, they were in favor of the presence of politicians from dynastic families. Still, now, unless their qualifications match the opinions of male voters, they are against the continuation of dynastic families.

This is aligned with the study of Cascio and Shenhav (2020), wherein female respondents nowadays support the continuation and existence of political dynasties, as it is more exposed to experience and bring trust and stability under their governance, while male voters are gradually losing support to the political dynasties because dynastic families are now less attracted to the male voters. There is a consequence for them in supporting politicians from political dynasties, as their governance mentality should align with the views of male voters to secure their support.

Table 3. *Demographic Profile of the Respondents in terms of Educational Attainment*

<i>Descriptors</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Elementary Graduate	19	19
High School Graduate	57	57
College Graduate	21	21
Postgraduate	3	3

Table 3 presents the demographic profile of the respondents by educational attainment; 57% are high school graduates, making them the majority. The data explicitly shows that most of the residents in one of the Barangays in Sariaya, Quezon, have only attained high school. It can affect how they understand political dynasties, specifically when it comes to voting for a dynastic politician, depending only on the familiarity or popularity of the candidate, not on their qualifications and goals. This is supported by the study of Villanueva (2022), who emphasizes that in places where there an existence of political dynasties exist, there are low investments in education and social welfare, which can contribute to the lower educational attainment of the residents and may hinder their political engagements as well as their ability to critically evaluate the candidates based on their qualifications as a leader not just by evaluating them based on their popularity or name recall.

However, graduates from postgraduate programs make up the smallest percentage of responders (3%). This suggests that only a small portion of respondents from the barangay have attained a higher level of education, which can affect their engagement and political awareness. This can pose a challenge to fostering informed voting decisions, particularly in places where political dynasties exist. It is supported by the study by Hansen and Tyner (2021), which states that higher levels of education are associated with more informed voting decisions and greater political participation.

Table 4. Demographic Profile of the Respondents in terms of Income Status

Descriptors	Frequency	Percentage
Below ₱10,957 (Poor)	57	57
₱10,957 - ₱21,914 (Low Income but not Poor)	31	31
₱21,914 - ₱43,828 (Lower Middle Income)	9	9
₱43,828 - ₱76,669 (Middle Income)	3	3

Table 4 represents the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of their income status. The majority of respondents earn below ₱10,957 per month, representing 57% of respondents. It shows that poor residents in one of the Barangays in Sariaya, Quezon, are more active in the electoral process. This is a result of how they view voting as a way to improve their current situations by electing a political leader who can address their needs and assist them with their problems. This aligns with the study by Ternullo et al. (2024), which argued that people with low income can be easily influenced by political dynasties because they need support from these dynastic politicians. That is why they are their primary targets to gain support and maintain their power.

However, the lowest number of respondents is those who earn ₱ 43,828-₱76,669 monthly, representing 3% of respondents, while the group who earn ₱ 76,669-₱131,484 had no respondents. This result suggests that the barangay is dominated by low-income respondents, which can affect political choices, particularly regarding political dynasties. This aligns with the study by Ascencio and Malik (2024), which suggests that political dynasties are likely to exist in areas with low numbers of middle-income or upper-middle-income residents.

Perception of the Respondents on the Role of Political Dynasties in Shaping Electoral Behavior

Table 5. Perception of the Respondents on the Role of Political Dynasties in Shaping Electoral Behavior in terms of Trustworthiness

Indicators	WAM	Verbal Interpretation
I trust politicians from political dynasties because...		
I can see accountability among them.	3.22	Agree
they make decisions that the majority will benefit.	3.21	Agree
they demonstrate ethical behavior in governance.	3.19	Agree
they invest in long-term governance rather than short-term political gains.	3.15	Agree
they demonstrate consistency in leadership.	3.11	Agree
I feel more secure since they were already exposed to the leadership of their family.	3.08	Agree
they are fair and honest in their actions.	3.07	Agree
they are transparent in government transactions.	3.01	Agree
they are less likely to abuse their powers	2.88	Agree
they are consistent in fulfilling campaign promises.	2.79	Agree
Average Weighted Arithmetic Mean	3.07	Agree

Legend. 3.26 – 4.00 (Strongly Agree), 2.51 – 3.25 (Agree), 1.76 – 2.50 (Disagree), 1.00 – 1.75 (Strongly Disagree).

Table 5 on the next page presents respondents' perceptions of the role of political dynasties in shaping electoral behavior in terms of trustworthiness. The table shows the average weighted arithmetic mean of 3.07, which is verbally interpreted as “Agree.” This finding indicates that the people in one of the Barangays in Sariaya, Quezon, trust the current political dynasty because of their capable and trustworthy leadership.

In general, the findings indicate that the respondents agreed on the role of political dynasties in shaping election behavior in terms of trustworthiness. This suggests that voters in one of the Barangays in Sariaya, Quezon, trust the governance of the existing political dynasty because of its honesty and transparency. This is supported by a study by Manila Bulletin (2024), which suggests that political dynasties can shape voter trust by sustaining it, leading voters to support them and maintain their power.

Table 6. Perception of the Respondents on the Role of Political Dynasties in Shaping Electoral Behavior in terms of Effectiveness in Governance

Indicators	WAM	Verbal Interpretation
I consider politicians from political dynasties effective because...		
they promote stability and continuity in governance.	3.26	Strongly Agree
they can provide better protection for the people they serve.	3.21	Agree
they are responsive to the needs of the community.	3.19	Agree
they prioritize public welfare rather than family interests.	3.18	Agree
they demonstrate strong crisis management skills.	3.17	Agree
they have functional infrastructure projects.	3.15	Agree
they can effectively implement policies.	3.15	Agree
economic growth is sustained in the areas of their influence.	3.13	Agree
there is an improvement in public services under their governance.	3.08	Agree
good public governance is effectively implemented under their governance.	3.01	Agree
Average Weighted Arithmetic Mean	3.15	Agree

Legend. 3.26 – 4.00 (Strongly Agree), 2.51 – 3.25 (Agree), 1.76 – 2.50 (Disagree), 1.00 – 1.75 (Strongly Disagree).



Table 6 presents the perception of the respondents on the role of political dynasties in shaping electoral behavior in terms of effectiveness in governance. It was revealed on the table that it has an average weighted arithmetic mean of 3.15, which is verbally interpreted as “Agree.” This indicates that the respondents view the governance of political dynasties as effective because of their excellent performance. This result aligns with the study by Puansah et al. (2024), which emphasizes that political dynasties demonstrate transparency, accountability, inclusiveness, and equity, which can contribute to effective governance.

The data explicitly show that statement four, “I consider politicians from political dynasties effective because they promote stability and continuity in governance,” achieved the highest weighted arithmetic mean of 3.26, indicating “Strongly Agree” in the verbal interpretation. It suggests that respondents firmly believe that dynastic politicians exhibit continuity in their governance, for example, in carrying out projects and programs that benefit the community. Furthermore, respondents also believe that dynastic politicians exhibit continuity in their governance, which can also be supported by the study of Valgarðsson et al. (2024), which suggests that dynastic politicians will be able to consistently implement these programs and projects that the community will benefit if they demonstrate transparency, accountability, inclusiveness, and equity.

Table 7. Perception of the Respondents on the Role of Political Dynasties in Shaping Electoral Behavior in Terms of Legacy

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>WAM</i>	<i>Verbal Interpretation</i>
I support politicians from political dynasties because...		
their family has established a strong reputation in governance.	3.43	Strongly Agree
I consider the accomplishments of their predecessor when voting.	3.36	Strongly Agree
their policies align with their successful predecessors.	3.35	Strongly Agree
they will inherit the skills and competencies of their predecessors.	3.29	Agree
they are familiar with the processes of governance due to the experience of their family in politics.	3.28	Agree
they are more likely to continue the programs started by their families.	3.20	Agree
they uphold the principles and values established by their predecessors.	3.19	Agree
coming from a family dedicated to public service makes them more committed to serving the people.	3.19	Agree
past contributions of a political family create my sense of loyalty towards their successors.	3.13	Agree
A political family’s name affects how I consider politicians’ capabilities.	3.04	Agree
Average Weighted Arithmetic Mean	3.25	Agree

Legend. 3.26 – 4.00 (Strongly Agree), 2.51 – 3.25 (Agree), 1.76 – 2.50 (Disagree), 1.00 – 1.75 (Strongly Disagree).

Table 7 presents respondents' perceptions of the role of political dynasties in shaping electoral behavior through legacy. The table revealed an average weighted arithmetic mean of 3.25, with a verbal interpretation of “Agree.” This result suggests that the existing political dynasty in one of the Barangays in Sariaya, Quezon, shapes voters' electoral behavior, specifically that the legacy of the dynastic family provides stability and the continuation of power in governance. This is supported by a study by The Guardian (2024), which suggests that voters link the legacy of dynastic politicians to their own experience, leading them to support candidates from political dynasties.

The data explicitly show that statement one, “I support politicians from political dynasties because their family has established a strong reputation in governance,” had the highest weighted arithmetic mean of 3.43, which corresponds to the verbal interpretation “Strongly Agree.” This suggests that the respondents remain loyal to politicians from political dynasties because of their stability and longstanding presence in governance, which build their support. This is supported by the study by Santianaman (2023), which suggests that the legacy of political families fosters loyalty and promotes support among voters because of their familiar style of governance.

The data also show that statement two, “I support politicians from political dynasties because I consider the accomplishments of their predecessor when voting,” had the second-highest weighted arithmetic mean of 3.36, which corresponds to the verbal interpretation “Strongly Agree.” This suggests that respondents also acknowledge the achievements of a dynastic candidate's predecessor before voting for them. This is aligned with the study of Mustaqim (2022), who explained that the legacy of dynastic families, such as their memories and achievements, can last and can still influence the voters even though they are no longer in office.

Lastly, it shows that statement three, “I support politicians from political dynasties because their policies align with their successful predecessors,” had the third-highest weighted arithmetic mean of 3.35, which was verbally interpreted as “Strongly Agree.” This result suggests that respondents support dynastic politicians because the policies they implement are similar to or related to those of their predecessors. This aligns with the study by Kitt (2023), which states that policies that continue to influence others beyond the term of the leader who implemented them are considered a sustained legacy that supports voters.

Significant Difference on the Role of Political Dynasties in Shaping Electoral Behavior of the Respondents When Grouped into Demographic Profile Variables

Table 8 presents the results of the study on how political dynasties shape the electoral behavior of respondents by age, sex, educational attainment, and income status. The table determined three variables: trustworthiness, effectiveness in governance, and legacy. A statistical test was used to determine whether the differences in responses were significant, with a 0.05 level of significance. This meant that if the p-value was below 0.05, the difference was considered statistically significant.



Table 8. Significant Difference on the Role of Political Dynasties in Shaping Electoral Behavior of the Respondents when Grouped According to Age, Sex, Educational Attainment, and Income Status

Variable	H statistic	p-value	Decision	Interpretation
Age				
Trustworthiness	12.473	0.014*	Reject H_o	Significant
Effectiveness in Governance	17.251	0.002*	Reject H_o	Significant
Legacy	13.465	0.009*	Reject H_o	Significant
Educational Attainment				
Trustworthiness	3.505	0.320	Accept H_o	Not Significant
Effectiveness in Governance	5.545	0.136	Accept H_o	Not Significant
Legacy	4.831	0.185	Accept H_o	Not Significant
Income Status				
Trustworthiness	7.290	0.063	Accept H_o	Not Significant
Effectiveness in Governance	10.509	0.015*	Reject H_o	Significant
Legacy	4.744	0.192	Accept H_o	Not Significant
	U statistic	p-value	Decision	Interpretation
Sex				
Trustworthiness	1,233.500	0.978	Accept H_o	Not Significant
Effectiveness in Governance	1,213.000	0.867	Accept H_o	Not Significant
Legacy	1,154.000	0.561	Accept H_o	Not Significant

When the respondents were grouped by age, the variable with the highest H statistic was “Effectiveness in Governance,” with a value of 17.251 and a p-value of 0.002, the lowest among the examined variables. This further shows that the obtained result is below the alpha level of 0.05, indicating sufficient statistical support for the hypothesis when respondents are grouped by age. On the other hand, the lowest H statistic corresponds to the variable “Trustworthiness,” which yielded a p-value of 0.014, the highest. This provides strong evidence against the null hypothesis. The data explicitly show a significant difference in the role of political dynasties in shaping electoral behavior across age groups. This means that respondents across all age groups view political dynasties differently—they may favor their continued existence, while younger voters may oppose their influence. This aligns with the study by Cambridge University Press (2021), suggesting that younger voters support progressive, reform-driven candidates, showing their distrust of political dynasties, while older voters maintain their loyalty to political dynasties because of the trust built over time.

When the respondents were grouped by educational attainment, the variable with the highest H statistic was 5.545. In contrast, the variable with the lowest p-value was “Effectiveness in Governance” (0.136), while “trustworthiness” had the lowest score (3.505) and the highest p-value (0.320). This suggests strong proof supporting the null hypothesis. The results show that there are no significant differences in the data regarding the role of political dynasties in their electoral behavior, as voters, regardless of educational level, hold complex views on the efficiency of governance by dynastic politicians. As explained by Kim (2023), even though voters are educated and can easily critique the governance of politicians from political dynasties, they cannot easily establish a basis for analyzing the role of political families, specifically in terms of effective governance.

When the respondents were grouped according to income status, the variable that gained the highest H statistic was “Effectiveness in Governance,” which obtained 10.509 with its corresponding p-value of 0.015, which is the lowest among the variables, while the variable of “Legacy,” which obtained 4.744, had the lowest H statistic and the highest p-value, 0.19. This suggests that the p-value result is higher than the alpha level of 0.05. This indicates that there is a significant difference in the role of political dynasties on the electoral behavior of respondents when they are grouped according to their income status on the variable “Legacy” because, regardless of their income status or how much they earn, voters have similar views on the legacy of these political dynasties as a reason whether to continue supporting them or not. This is supported by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (2020), which emphasized that, regardless of voters' income levels, the legacy of political dynasties is not necessarily shaped by them.

When the respondents were grouped by income status, the variable with the highest U-statistic was “Trustworthiness,” with a value of 1,233.500 and a p-value of 0.978, the highest among the examined variables. On the other hand, the variable with the lowest U-statistic is “Legacy,” which yielded 1,154.000 and the lowest p-value of 0.561. This suggests strong proof supporting the null hypothesis. Since females are already capable of running political families in the modern era, the obtained result is higher than the alpha level, which, given an alpha level of 0.05, indicates that, according to the data, there is no significant difference in the role of political dynasties on the electoral behavior of respondents when grouped by sex.

This is supported by the study by Cascio and Shenhav (2020), which argues that voter behavior has evolved over the years; female voters are now becoming more supportive of political dynasties because they view them as experienced, while male voters are increasingly resisting political dynasties unless they share similar views and ideologies. This shows that sex is becoming a less influential factor that can shape electoral behavior.

Conclusions

After analyzing the data, the current researchers concluded that the majority of respondents, aged 23-38, had completed high school. Furthermore, the majority of responders are female and fall within the ₱10,957 income bracket. Among all the variables, respondents' perceptions of the role of political dynasties in shaping their electoral behavior in terms of trustworthiness, effectiveness in governance, and legacy in one Barangay in Sariaya, Quezon, were positive. When respondents are categorized by age and income level, there are significant differences in their perceptions of the role of political dynasties in their election behavior. However, when respondents were categorized by sex and level of education, no significant difference was found. The voter empowerment guide developed by the researchers helps voters in one of the Barangays in Sariaya, Quezon, become informed voters who can critically assess dynastic candidates based on their performance. In light of these findings, the study recommends that good governance reforms be implemented to ensure equitable elections and reduce the power of dynastic politicians. Moreover, this transformation could include steps to reduce dynastic influence in local government and to raise voters' knowledge, voice, and well-informed decision-making to assess who will bring effective governance.

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