#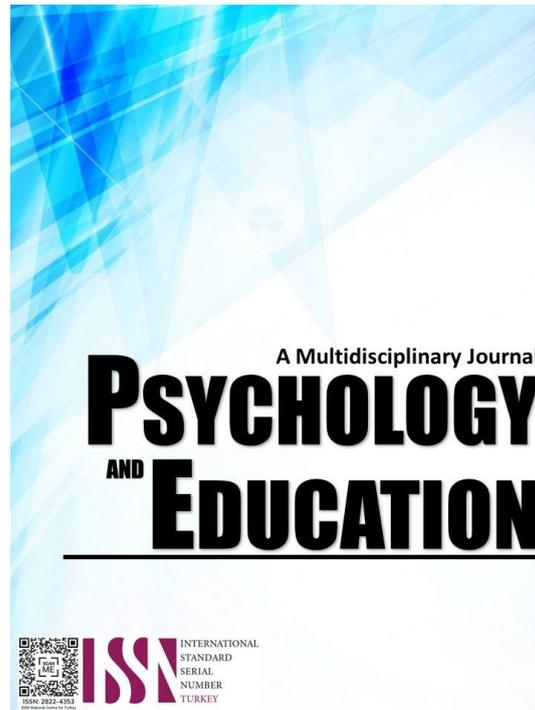 TUGON RISCIAN: STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC OF RIZAL NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL SUPREME STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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TUGON RISCIAN: Student Leadership and Management Through the COVID-19 Pandemic of Rizal National Science High School Supreme Student Government

John King C. Antiporda*
For affiliations and correspondence, see the last page.

Abstract

Leadership plays a major role in being the stronghold of a functional and governing community. In schools, student leaders learn, initiate, and act as one that unites the school community, by bridging the school administration and student body, by delegating themselves the tasks to uphold and represent the school, and by adapting to changes to be able to progress as an efficient whole. The TUGON RISCIAN utilized the descriptive method research in determining the level of acceptability in terms of competence, relevance, and organization. It also measured the level of effectiveness of the Rizal National Science High School Supreme Student Government Leadership and Management in times of pandemic. The SSG conducted evaluations using Google forms so that each participant could be made to reflect their grade level appropriately for students and council leaders who had firsthand experience with online distance learning because of the COVID-19 pandemic quarantine procedures. Competence, relevance, and organization that were evaluated by the students with overall mean values of 4.50, 4.42 and 4.37 which interpreted as Highly Acceptable. For the effectiveness of leadership and management the mean value of 4.41 interpreted as Highly Acceptable as perceived by the students as highly effective as it embodied the mission of cultivating proactive scholars in serving the community with excellence.

Keywords: *management, leadership, excellence, student leaders, proactive scholars*

Introduction

Leadership has long been conflated with attributes such as being decisive, assertive, strong and brave. Leaders who do not display these traits are seen to lack gravitas and disregarded as weak-willed (Blake-Beard et al., 2020). Whilst over the past decades, the scholarly and practitioner debate has included previously excluded attributes, such as compassion and sympathy (Adler & Osland, 2016; Gerzema & D'Antonio, 2013), the traditional view of how a leader should act, still shapes people's expectations of a leader, particularly in times of crisis. The construct of student leadership is relatively new with few studies exclusively focusing on theories pertaining to student leadership (Adams & Velarde, 2018; Komives & Dugan, 2014; Wagner, 2016).

Consequently, a growing body of youth leadership research has been accumulating over the past decade (Murphy & Reichard, 2018; Redmond, 2016; Szoko, 2020). Student leadership draws upon a growing body of knowledge, youth leadership, providing students an opportunity to act as leaders to their peers within the context of formal education. This study seeks to expand our understanding of student leadership beyond post-secondary education and into the k- to-12 setting, specifically with high school student leaders.

As distributed leadership has garnered more attention by scholars and practitioners, the importance of group dynamics and social constructs has increased in importance. Woods (2016) suggests power dynamics amongst group members often impact distributed leadership practices. As educational leaders have grown to provide leadership opportunities for students, several concerns arise. First, there is a gap in research pertaining to our understanding of students' perceptions of leadership, as far as how they see, interpret and experience it. Speaking to this point is a growing body of literature highlighting adults' perspectives of why student leadership is important (Bapasola, 2018; Skendall et al., 2016; Tian et al., 2016; Whitehall et al.,2018).

The model has two goals: 1) enhance student learning and development by building upon their "self-knowledge" and "leadership competence" and 2) facilitate positive change within the institution or community in an effort to allow a given institution to function effectively and humanely (Komives, 2016). As the pandemic spread, concerns about student leadership started to affect how projects, programs, and activities were designed and carried out in various schools. In order to continue offering high-quality services through student leadership and management, the RNSHS SSG considers ways to develop a platform that can support these various activities. This includes introducing webinars, online seminars, and training. It also makes the best use of technological resources.

The formation and creation of TUGON RISCIAN

were made possible by the support of the entire RNSHS community. As part of school-community cooperation, TUGON RISCIAN helped those in need, particularly during pandemics and their effects, including those affected by typhoons and volcanic eruptions. It also established a community pantry and showed other student leaders that there are numerous ways to support students and the community even when there is a pandemic. Lastly, schools must enhance student learning and development by enhancing their "self-knowledge" and "leadership competence," as well as promote constructive change within the organization or society, in an effort to make a specific institution operate efficiently and humanely.

Research Questions

This study investigates the student leadership and management through the COVID-19 pandemic of Rizal National Science High School Supreme Student Government. Specifically, it sought to answer the following research questions:

1. What is the level of acceptability of the Rizal National Science High School Supreme Student Government Administration for the school year 2021 - 2022 in leadership and management in the new normal in terms of:
    1.1. competence;
    1.2. relevance; and
    1.3. organization?
2. What is the level of effectiveness of the Rizal National Science High School Supreme Student Government Administration for the school year 2021 - 2022 in leadership and management in the new normal?
3. What other projects and programs would you like to be implemented in the future academic years by the Rizal National Science High School Supreme Student Government?

Literature Review

TUGON RISCIAN is a collective approach by which our student leaders create initiatives, programs, and projects that can help students sustain and maintain student leadership and management in the face of the pandemic and online as part of the strategic planning process and to ascertain the competence of leadership and management as embodied its mission of cultivating proactive scholars in serving the community as role models and with high excellence service, relevancy, and effectiveness.

This school year, a variety of webinars, online seminars, training sessions, and symposiums were introduced. These events support students in developing their knowledge of their talents and skills, strengthening their individual capabilities, growing personally, developing an understanding of the various issues and events that occurred during this pandemic, and spreading urgently needed awareness of mental health issues.

Student leaders might start coaching customized online lessons to assist individuals who are still having trouble studying in the online environment. This will open a communication channel with pupils requiring assistance and further instruction. This can happen on the weekends or whenever it works with the timetable. Because the school's clubs will be functioning once more, it is crucial to take use of this opportunity to improve student unity by organizing events, projects, and meetings together. This might be a source of extracurricular activities for students so they can still pursue interests outside of their studies. Additionally, it's critical to keep holding informative webinars and conversations so that students can participate and gain knowledge from them.

The researcher developed a set of researcher-made questionnaire-checklist to evaluate the level of acceptability in terms of competence, relevance, and organization and the level of effectiveness of the RNSHS SSG S.Y. 2022-2023 in Leadership and Management in the time of Pandemic and New Normal with various projects, programs, and activities.

Methodology

Participants and/or other Sources of Data and Information

This research was participated by the students of Rizal National Science High School. Students from grade 7 to 12 for the school year 2021-2022 first-handedly experienced the online distance learning, caused by the quarantine measures of the Covid-19 pandemic. A total of 210 students became the respondents of the study. Thirty five (35) per year level was selected utilizing purposive sampling. The school's Supreme Student Government (SSG) is composed of students from each grade level, in which evaluation of each participant can be made appropriately for both student leaders representing their grade level accordingly along with the executive committee of the SSG.

Data Gathering Methods

The researchers utilized a quantitative, descriptive research method focusing on the level of acceptability of the RNSHS SSG 2021 - 2022 Leadership and Management in the New Normal as perceived by the student body in terms of competence, relevance, organization and level of effectiveness of the RNSHS SSG 2022 - 2022 Leadership and Management in the New Normal. Google Forms was utilized in collecting the answers of the respondents. Thus, a focus group discussion will determine the future programs and projects of the RNSHS SSG that the student body wants to implement.

Result and Discussion

The following results were obtained from the given data collecting instrument. This section presents the relevant findings to the leadership assessment of RNSHS SSG during the academic year 2021-2022.

Table 1. *Level of Acceptability of the RNSHS SSG S.Y. 2021 - 2022 Leadership and Management in the New Normal in Terms of Competence*

	Mean	Standard Deviation	VI
The RNSHS SSG 2020 - 2021 embodied its mission "Cultivating proactive scholars in serving the community with excellence."	4.50	0.75	HA
The RNSHS SSG 2020 - 2021 served the student body actively.	4.55	0.73	HA
The RNSHS SSG 2020 - 2021 has been a good representation of being a Rizaleño Scholars.	4.68	0.68	HA

The presented information shows that the competence of the RNSHS SSG, as perceived by the students, is highly acceptable. For each factor of competence, the RNSHS SSG gained a 4.50 and above mean which can be interpreted as highly acceptable. The standard deviations show the minimal dispersion of the students' evaluation ranging from below 1.00, which shows the data as consistent and significant. Students highly regarded the student council as a good representation of being a Rizaleño scholar.

Table 2. *Level of Acceptability of the RNSHS SSG S.Y. 2021 - 2022 Leadership and Management in the New Normal in Terms of Relevance*

	Mean	Standard Deviation	VI
The projects and programs of the RNSHS SSG 2020 - 2021 were timely.	4.54	0.80	HA
The projects and programs of the RNSHS SSG 2020 - 2021 catered the needs and interests of the student body.	4.42	0.76	HA
The projects and programs of the RNSHS SSG 2020 - 2021 were anchored with the Department of Education's four core values, namely: Maka-Diyos, Maka-tao, Makakalikasan, at Makabansa.	4.56	0.71	HA

The presented information shows that the relevance of the RNSHS SSG, as perceived by the students, is highly acceptable. For each factor of relevance to leadership and management in the new normal, the RNSHS SSG gained a mean ranging from 4.42 and above which can be interpreted as highly acceptable. The standard deviations show the minimal dispersion of the students' evaluation ranging from below 1.00, which shows the data as consistent and significant. Students highly regarded the student council for its projects and programs being related to the DepEd's core values, namely: Maka-Diyos, Maka-Tao, Maka-Bansa, and MakaKalikasan.

Table 3. *Level of Acceptability of the RNSHS SSG S.Y. 2021 - 2022 Leadership and Management in the New Normal in Terms of Organization*

	Mean	Standard Deviation	VI
The RNSHS SSG 2020 - 2021 Leadership and Management in the New Normal has been organized and systematic.	4.41	0.73	HA
The RNSHS SSG 2020 - 2021 projects and programs in the New Normal have been executed smoothly.	4.37	0.81	HA
The RNSHS SSG 2020 - 2021 was able to carry out the right flow of information from the school administration to the student body.	4.56	0.80	HA

The presented information shows that the organization of the RNSHS SSG, as perceived by the students, is highly acceptable. For each factor of organization, the RNSHS SSG gained a 4.37 and above mean which is within the range for it to be interpreted as highly acceptable. The standard deviations show the minimal dispersion of the students' evaluation ranging from below 1.00, which shows the data as consistent and significant. Students highly regarded the student council for its organization in carrying out the right flow of information from the school administration to the student body.

Table 4. *Level of Effectiveness of the RNSHS SSG S.Y. 2021 – 2022 Leadership and Management in the New Normal*

	Mean	Standard Deviation	VI
The RNSHS SSG 2020 - 2021 embodied its mission "Cultivating proactive scholars in serving the community with excellence."	4.41	0.64	HA

The presented information shows the overall effectiveness of the RNSHS SSG during the new normal setup. The student body gained a mean rating

of 4.41, highly effective, and standard deviation of 0.64, which shows consistency and reliability of the data collected from the participants. The students perceived the leadership and management of the student council as highly effective as it embodied the mission of cultivating proactive scholars in serving the community with excellence.

Action Plan

	ACTIVITIES	February, 2022	March, 2022	April, 2022	May, 2022	June, 2022
I.	Identify the research topic	→				
II.	Formulate research questions		→			
III.	Formulate research strategy, research design, and select methods			→		
IV.	Construct and validate data collection material				→	
V.	Collect and analyze data					→
VI.	Finalize the research study					→

Plans for Dissemination and Utilization

	DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES	July, 2022	August, 2022	September, 2022
I.	Presentation of Output	→		
II.	Planning for General Plan of Action		→	
III.	Partnership with other Stakeholders/ Community/ LGU			→

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Affiliations and Corresponding Information

John King C. Antiporda
Rizal National Science High School
Department of Education - Philippines