

YOUTH IN NATION-BUILDING ACT: POLICY DEVELOPMENT AS INFLUENCED BY THE YOUNG THROUGH THE KABATAAN PARTY-LIST

Darryl Louise Sarmiento and Louie Benedict Ignacio, MA
Political Science Area, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

ABSTRACT

Youth policy serves as a tool in promoting greater participation of young people on the issues of society and government. The Kabataan Party-list is a youth in the Philippine Congress that continuously gives primacy to the promotion of holistic development and genuine youth empowerment. It supports youth and student led organization working for social and political change.

Utilizing interviews and group discussions, this study focuses on how the Kabataan Party-list is giving the youth a chance to be involved in the government processes; and how in turn, the youth actively participate in governance to shape the policies affecting them. With the use of Typology of Youth Policy Regime, this study evaluates the connection among policies, participation, and youth movements.

Keywords: *Youth Movements, Youth Activist, Youth in Nation Building, Policy Development, Youth Participation, Kabataan Party-list, & Youth Policy*

INTRODUCTION

Youth policy is an important instrument in promoting greater participation of young people in determining the direction of development in their societies. The creation of youth policies made by the youth in every country depends on the needs of the youth and is the necessary rule to a certain situation. Identification of the current situation on the needs of the youth which includes their existing policies and programs that directly and indirectly affect them is an essential prerequisite to effective formulation and implementation of policy in which the youth can play a positive and active role. Moreover, empowering the young more and increasing their participation in the government mean that there is an acceptance of their purposeful plans for society. If young people know how to participate in politics and if they are given more opportunities to be politically active then they can contribute to the idea of peace-building and development of the country.

The problem comes in when young people do not normally view themselves as a group that can influence policy. This is even made worse when adults do not view them as central to their work. Furthermore, youth participation in public policy is neither an established field of practice nor a subject of study, although it has promise in both realms (Schuster 2010). Aside from youth movements there are good examples of municipal agencies that involve the youth and their political slogans in public policy. Young people to organize around policy issues that affects them and to collaborate with adults in intergenerational policy partnerships (Zeilig & Ansell 2008, Schuster 2010). With the help of youth movements and municipal agencies, the idea and view of young people that they cannot influence policy for the society and for them can be diminished.

Kabataan Party-list is the only youth party-list group in the Philippine Congress today which is composed of a large network of energized and pro-active young people from fifteen (15) to thirty (30)

years old who represent diverse interests, backgrounds and social status, tied by a common vision of a better future for the youth and for the nation. The party-list remains at the forefront of youth and students' campaigns, the defense and recognition of human rights, civil liberties, and the protection and conservation of national patrimony. It continues to give primacy to the promotion of holistic development and genuine youth empowerment. It also supports youth and student-led organizations working for social, political, economic, cultural and environmental justice in the Philippines, and enjoins youth from all walks of life to foster active participation in nation-building, good governance and social change.

The purpose of the study is to know and understand more the relationship between the young people, youth movements and youth policies and how they affect one another. Specifically, this study will analyze and present (1) how youth movements such as Kabataan Party-list influence the creation of youth policy in the Philippines and the/ effects of youth policy on the Kabataan Party-list, (2) how young people's participation in government affects the development of youth policy in the country and how in turn (3) how youth participation to resulted the creation and formulation of goals and objectives of youth movements in the Philippines.

The study will contribute to the idea and understanding on how the participation of young Filipino people in the society and government affects and influence the policy development in the country and the importance of youth movements such as Kabataan Party-list in the engagement of young Filipino in the government and influencing policies.

Theoretical Background

Theoretical Framework

This study utilized the typologies of policy regimes by Wallace and Bendit (2009). The typologies of youth policy regimes used in this study that served a useful tool for understanding youth policies and societies in comparative perspectives. The typology is also a useful heuristic device in understanding the historical and cultural developments that arise out of institutional variations such as the role of civil society in the form of youth movements and the development of the welfare of the state.

Typology of youth policy regimes distinguished three general organizing principles of classification these are:

- ? The dominant concept of youth and the aims of the intervention and problems associated with young people.
- ? Target group, including which group are the focus of youth policies and which sub-groups of youth are most targeted.
- ? The organization of the youth as a field of social policy.

This study utilized the relevant principles of this theory to relate the concept of participation of youth and their aims in influencing the development of policy. The focus and target groups of youth policies that affect the creation of youth movements. The participation of young people in the

government. And the organization of the youth in the creation of goals and objectives of youth movements as a field of social policy, in which affects the creation of youth policy.

Literature Review

Youth Policy/ Policies

Good youth policy is what we must do if we are to survive as a civil society and good youth policy is what you would do for your own child (Sherrod 2005). An effective policy for the youth is also an effective instrument to guide the growth of young people. Moreover, a well-founded person is what is good for society.

Youth policies are policies that are only limited to a specific group or group of young people (Bonet 2011). The purpose of creating youth policies nowadays is to promote and protect the well being of young people, their rights in the community or society and in politics. It is also a big factor that the young people can contribute and influence on the policy making and development in the country.

In other countries like the United Kingdom, there have been many shifts in government policy towards young offenders in the past 20 decades. Indeed, so frequent have these shifts been that it is often hard to keep track of what the general history of youth justice looks like (Newburn 1998). These shifts in the policies toward the young people only mean that the government focuses more on identifying the necessary needs of youth.

In creating youth policy, it should not be biased or only limited to a specific group of young people because creating policies for a limited to a specific group tend to discriminate. The current top down nature of e-governance has been criticized for focusing on communicating policy to young people, being government/ decision-maker focused, and limiting the degree to which young people are able to contribute to agenda setting or decision making (Lewis 2005 & Collin 2008).

Young people already participate in public policy. There are individuals who organize around policy issues, adults involving them in the proceedings of public agencies, and youths and adults collaborating in intergenerational partnerships (Shuster 2010). Involvement of young people in the development of policy and their collaboration with the adults in the society creates a big impact on the creation of public policy.

Participation of young people and their involvement and knowledge in the development of policy will lead to a more effective policy for society. There is a need for more knowledge of youth participation in public policy at the local level. If there were more knowledge of youth participation in public policy as a subject of study, it would contribute its growth as a field of practice (Schuster 2010). Effective youth policies reflect an overarching vision that is about changing lives. A vision that addresses a range of risks and protective factors that simultaneously support discrete program which builds coherent pathways to success that recognizes youth's growth in families and communities (Yohalem et al. 2006).

Youth Participation in Politics

We cannot maintain a democratic society without the adequate and appropriate participation of citizens. If societies do not support youth's development into citizenship, they will not flourish as citizens and our liberty will be threatened (Sherrod 2005). In a democratic country like the Philippines, participation of citizens is very important in the continuous development of the country. If young people do not know how to properly and actively participate in politics they as citizens will just be a burden to the society and government. Moreover, youth participation in community development and civic life is increasingly seen as an important condition for democratic renewal of young people (Campbell et al. 2009).

It is important to educate young people about issues of civics so that they will function as productive and effective citizens. Youth need to understand how their government works, how they can legitimately influence it, when it is important to take action to change things for the better and how to do so (Sherrod 2005). If the youth knows how to legitimately influence the government, they can actively participate in the development of the country to promote and influence policies that are beneficial for them. The youth needs to make a practical contribution to the efforts of peace building and development (Ankomah 2005).

The future of the country depends on how well we listen to the youth, learn from them, dialogue with them and engage in cooperative activities with them (Boulding 2005). Through the active participation of young people and through youth movements, this idea is not impossible.

There are forces limiting youth participation at the municipal level. For example, it is difficult to promote participation when community agencies view young people as passive recipients of services rather than as competent citizens, when schools lack quality curricula to prepare them for civic leadership, and when adults treat them as inferior and disregarded their potential because of their age. These portrayals do not describe the municipalities in the present study. Nonetheless, the dominant view of young people as being withdrawn or disengaged lowers expectations about youth participation instead of raising them (Schuster 2010). The view on young people's civic participation sometimes lead to an idea whether the young people's participation in the government resulted to whether a good or harmful effect in the society and government.

Young people are given more opportunities to be politically active through organizing events and rallies (Russell 2008). Instead of being indulged as the future leaders, youth became active critics of the government and this is because of their political activism (Zeilig & Ansell 2008). When students are given opportunities to participate in political activities they express themselves with subversive styles that tends to weaken the political system and government (Fairweather 2006, Zeilig & Ansell 2008). On the other hand, youth's involvement in their local government and participation in rallies and events. Young people should participate because it draws on their expertise and improves institutional decisions of municipalities (Schuster, 2010). The idea of being politically active of the youth and being a part of rallies resulted whether a good or harmful effect in the society and the government but this idea should be confronted.

Young people should participate in public policy at the local level. They should advice the mayor and city municipal members, participate in public proceedings, and serve on the boards of community

agencies. They should identify their own policy issues, plan their own programs, and organize their own action groups. They should view democracy as a process in which they can engage, policy as a way to achieve their goals, and the municipality as a vehicle for their action (Schuster 2010).

For youth to thrive (or live up their full potential), society must support the rights of young people to develop their abilities to the fullest extent (Sherrod 2005). Influencing policies gives the youth a role and place in identifying their own issues. Whereas, youth policies affects the youth in a way that these policies protects the young people and give them rights to actively participate in the community and politics.

H1: The participation of young people through youth movements in the government affects the development of policies in the local and national level.

Youth Movements

Youth are a marginalized and powerless group in society (Mwongeli 2009). The common youth perception of being marginalized needs to be confronted (Arnold 2009). Through youth movements the idea of youth being marginalized and a powerless group in society will be put to an end.

Youth movement offers a distinct approach in which young people represent their interests, set priorities on issues, advocates their positions, and participate in the institutions and decisions that affects their lives. They are not a municipal body and required no public decision for their creation but have become a mechanism for involvement nonetheless they are also seen to improve service delivery by responding to the youth's specific needs and concerns (Campbell, Gibbs, Maimane, Nair & Sibiyi 2009, Schuster 2010). Youth movements are the representatives of the youth in the society and the government. These represent the youth as a powerful group in society and use their ideologies in the creation of youth policies.

Youth movements are the ones that take action to make the youth's goals and objectives a reality in the society and across the world (2009). The creation of youth movements helps the young people to bring up their voice in the government and represent them as a group with goals and objectives in the country. They are movements that already gained in scale and public prominence that creates relationship between the youth and the government to which they became more closely linked to the government processes (Cupers 2008) and help them engage in cooperative activities with them which is beneficial for the state.

Creation of youth movements is now a big factor in society and should focus more on promoting policies that are beneficial for the youth. From 'government' to 'governance' and the emergence of new partnerships that traverse old boundaries between public, private and voluntary sectors, government leaders and managers need to involve ever more people, communities and organizations in the production and implementation of public policy (Collin 2008). Through youth movements, the youth are able to participate in government and politics which is a big factor in the society and help them influence policies and programs that are beneficial for the youth.

The unity of the young people causes the creation of youth movements that are affected by the policy that are subject to the youth. The main role of youth movements is to represent the young people

in the government, present the youth's plans of policy, in this way, youth movements affects the creation of youth policy.

H2: Youth policy positively correlates with youth movements.

H3: Youth participation has a positive effect on the creation, goals and objectives of youth movements.

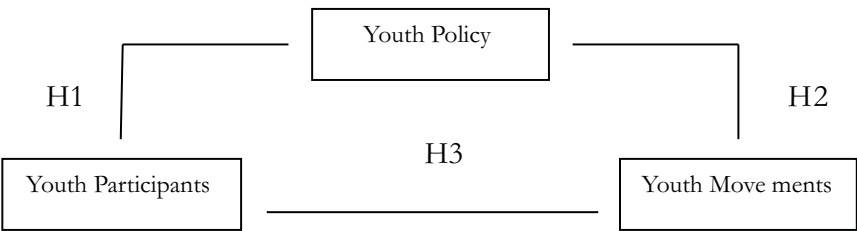


Figure 1: *Conceptual Framework*

METHOD

This study utilized a qualitative approach to present how the young people influence the policy development in the country. Through the use of a descriptive method and using techniques such as interview, focus group discussion (FGD) and secondary analysis of data the study was able to present how youth policy, youth movements and the participation of young people in the society and government relates, affects and influence each other.

“To discover how political institutions operate, how important decision are made and how political power is attained we are likely to ask those individuals who have access to this level of information, those who referred to as political elites” (Harrison 2001). To be able to gather more specific data or information, the researcher conducted an elite interview with the leader/head of a youth movements which is Kabataan Party-list. With the use of an elite interview, the key informants contributed differently to the study to discover how they create youth policy, how young people's participation influence its development and how youth policies influence the creation of their movements. Interview with student council presidents William Barry Codera and Florante Galura were done to take a different view on how the Kabataan Party-list represent the youth in the government. Then, the researcher conducted a focus group discussion of five to seven active members of these youth movements. This method (FGD) involves bringing together small groups of carefully selected individuals for an in-depth discussion of some topic and in order to learn how people think about that topic (Manheim 2008). The focus group interview at the Kabataan Party-list headquarter is chosen because it allowed the researcher for an in-depth discussion and get a more realistic view on how young people actively participate and influence on the development of policy/policies through these youth movements and how youth policies affects their participation in the government.

“In order to answer a political research question, it may be more appropriate to analyze data which already exist, rather than collect new information” (Harrison 2001). The third technique used in the study is the secondary analysis of data. Using the content and background of the Republic Act No.

8004 “Youth in Nation-Building Act”, the researcher was able to analyze and discover how the young people's participation in government influenced its creation and development. Analyzing the historical background of a youth movement, the study presented how youth movements are influence by the youth's participation in government in forming their objectives and their influence in the creation and development of a policy.

With the use of typology of youth policy regimes and its three classification principles that explain the concept of youth and their aims of the intervention associated with young people, the study determine the possible reasons or motivations of the members of a youth movements in influencing the policy development. Another principle is the target group that distinguish the focus of youth policies that influences the creation of youth movements and limits or increase youth participation. Through the leaders/ heads of youth movement and its history, the third principle which is organization of youth as a field of social policy determined reasons of youth movements in formulating policies and being a tool of the youth in promoting their ideas in the creation and development of polices.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Youth Policy, Youth Participation, and Youth Movements affect and influence each other in different forms. Rep. Raymond “Mong” Palatino, a Kabataan Party-list (youth movement) leader has ideas and perspectives on how an organization shapes a policy and the active participation of the young people. Whereas, five (5) youth activists namely, Jhon Paul Macatiag, Lucas Buendia, Mark Oliva, Michael Beltran, and Miguel Cruz who are member of the Kabataan Party-list and also affiliated in other activist groups have their own point of views and opinions on how they should participate in government, how they should influence the policy development in the country, and in what ways they are affected by the policies in the country; student leaders, William Barry Codera and Florante Galura who have a their view on how the Kabataan represent the youth sector in the society and government. A policy, especially the Youth in Nation Building Act has its own legal declaration of a youth organization and active participation of youth in nation building while there are also policies that influence the participation of the youth in government and the creation of youth organizations.

Youth Policies

Effects of Youth Policies on the Active Participation of Young People

The Youth in Nation-Building Act provides and recognizes youth in its responsibility to enable and fulfill their role in nation-building. To promote and protect the social well-being of the young people until they realize their potential for improving the quality of life. Inculcate in them the idea of patriotism, nationalism and dignity of a person and adherence to truth and justice; encourage the youth to be involved in character building and development activities for civic-efficiency, trade and participation in structures for policy-making and program implementation for socio-economic development. And mobilize the youth's abilities, talents, skills and redirecting their creativity, and hope for the freedom of the Filipino people from injustice.

This echoes Section 13, Article II of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines, which provides that the state recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their

physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. And shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

As stated in the review of related literature, the purpose of creating youth policies is to promote and protect the well-being of young people, their rights in the society and in politics. There may be some policies that directly affect the youth in their active participation in the government. For instance, according to Rep. Raymond Palatino, the Youth in Nation-Building Act which states the role of the youth in society is one of the reasons for the stand of Kabataan Party-list to not limit the youth on the issues of society because the youth are across all sectors.

Kabataan Party-list members observed that all the policies have implications on the youth since generally, the young is a transient sector. However, for some youth activist there is no policy but the current situation of the society that pushes them to strive for their right to actively participate in the government and be a part of the solutions on the problems not just on the youth but the whole society. Since those who form part of civil society as well as those who are actively involved in social movements demand an economic development through policies that benefits the majority of the Filipino people (Ty 2009).

Young activists involve themselves in rallies as part of their freedom of expression. They do this protest act with or without the restriction of policies since youth activists think that the government is giving the youth an illusion through policies that they have a political space but if we think deeply, it is very limited.

The policies of the government do not just serves as an inspiration for some youth activist but it also strengthens their anger to fight and correct the policies made by the government. The consequence of this assumptions is paradoxical; young people are seen as acting irresponsibly, whilst at the same time their active participation in determining what counts as responsible behavior is denied to them (Smith 2008).

The contradict opinions of a Party-list representative with the party-list member could be because of their status in the political arena. Since the congressman is working inside the government, he believes some process in the government. Whereas, the party-list members who are activist, always perceive the government as unsatisfactorily because tend to only see the flaws in the government.

Effects of Youth Policies on Youth Movements

Section 3c, Section 4a and 4b of the Youth in Nation-Building Act provide that the youth organizations shall refer to those organizations whose membership are composed by the youth sector. On the other hand, youth serving organizations refer to those organizations or institutions that focus on youth-oriented and youth-related programs, projects and activities. The Youth in Nation-Building Act requires and plays an important role to those youth serving organization such as Kabataan Party-list whose main agenda focuses on the youth. Under this act, the party-list is being reviewed and evaluated with regard to their programs and activities.

Rep. Raymond Palatino stated that the party-list law is the only policy that set the basis of Kabataan Party-list in their creation since there are no particular laws or policies that stops, restricts or

have a big impact on the Kabataan Party-list. But there are other policies like the Youth in Nation-building Act and Sangguniang Kabataan Law that the party-list fights for.

Unlike the Kabataan Party-list, there are youth organizations which do not recognize the eligibility of policies that allows or restricts their creation. Lucas Buendia stated that the current situation of the country is enough reason for the youth to ask and take part in those situations. He furthered that there are many youth organization which do not really have the consciousness of legal requirements that they think they need to recognize themselves as an organization. This statement supports the belief of MacWilliams (2006) that youth organizations hold more allure than other opposition groups do. Young having the determination to form a group without boundaries for a good cause could be the possible reason why they are more consistent as to compare to other political or societal groups.

The different stands of Rep. Raymond Palatino as to compare with youth activists on how policies affect the creation of their party-list/movement is because Rep. Palatino is on a structured government, in which policies should be observed. Whereas, youth activists on a non-structured field wherein taking into consideration the policies that govern them are negligible.

Youth Participation

There is already a long history of youth struggle in the country. A part of this is by being involved in the circulation of government, expressing their decent opinions, mobilizing the youth through symposium and forums, and by having a seat/representative in the Congress. Through these they are able to fight for the youth.

The problem is on the whole framework of the government in policy-making, according to Mark Oliva, an activist.

For a long time, youth activists believe that there had been no good and intelligent policy for the youth or for the interest of the Filipino people because of the problem in policy-making of the government that protects the interest of the ruling class and of the rich. Student leaders also think that nothing has changed the country's direction of youth policies because the youth is still barred on what they think is right because people in the government are still part of the so called traditional politician. Politicians whose goals are far from empowering the new generations of youth to come up with new policy ideas.

Influence of Youth Participation on Policy Development

Youth activists believe that they influence the policy-making in their own known way. Through formal and informal education, participants should be engage in the formation of individual and social transformation, community empowerment, and promote just power relations in the society at large and in the country in general (Ty 2009). Kabataan Party-list members conduct education summits, forums, and campaign on community schools in which the young could address the kind of policy they need. This strengthens the policy considering that it is from the perception of the young who are directly affected by that policy. This can also be resulted to the empowerment of the young and their community.

Portrayals of young people and their actions have often descended to the level of caricature. This has not just been the case in terms of public and media depictions, but it also has crucially influenced policy practice development within the youth justice system (Smith 2008). Youth activists said that protest actions happen because of the lack of involvement given by the government to them. There was no consultation during the policy formulation and development and through rallies which manifest that they are against some policy. They are also able to affect the policy-making and development in the country. Student leaders believe that protest action is related to what the youth can at least do since most of the young people are now educated through social media. This statement strengthens the argument of Faas (2007) that the different prioritization of agenda at the government level and in school curricula is an important factor that affects the political knowledge of, and interest in, a country, specifically among the new generation.

Through youth movements such as Kabataan Party-list, young people are able to influence policy development in the country. Although in different ways that could be subversive on the part of the government, they are still able to influence the policy with an idea that it will be beneficial to all.

Influence of Youth Participation on Youth Movement

The Kabataan Party-list was created to awaken the people's sentiments about the country's situation, according to Rep. Raymond Palatino. Moreover, it was created because of the active participation of the youth to advocate change in the society and government.

As said by the members of Kabataan Party-list, the movement was created by the founding organizations like League of Filipino Students, Karatula, and Anak Bayan whose membership are mostly the young. Contributions of different chapters from different schools led to the Kabataan Party-list's existing core agenda which includes the youth agenda. The Kabataan Party-list, although created by young people from different aspects of life their endeavor to make a change in the country has a focus, which is youth for the youth and youth for the country.

By targeting menace youth activists creates 'others' of marginalized groups of young people who are perceived as dangerous and in need of greater control (France 2008). According to Miguel Cruz, they participate in youth movements' rallies and protest because of the poor situation of society. The concrete situation that they see gives them the motivation to be an activist and be a part of Kabataan Party-list. With this, those activists are perceived as risky and dangerous individuals in need of greater control.

Youth activists believe that youth movements have political power that still exist up to the present because what they are fighting for is still relevant. They are also still driven by the young people's ideology. Kabataan Party-list is considered as an activist group because of their determined members' ideology to volunteer their time and efforts with a passion to serve their country. They go where they are most needed in order to achieve the change they want to see in the country.

Youth Movement

Influence of Youth Movement on Youth Policy-making and Development

The Kabataan Party-list members see the possibility to maximize the so-called democracy offered by the government. For the youth to participate in politics and the Kabataan Party-list to run in the parliament. In this way, they are able to see and be intelligent on their actions to organize more to be with other young people for the cause of change which prioritizes an important society through laws.

The Kabataan Party-list passed bills in the Congress like the HB807 - Anti-No Permit No Exam Policy, to protect deserving student from prematurely halting their studies due to their understandable inability to pay school fees on time. Moreover, HB1963 - SK Strengthening Reform Bill, was instituted to come up with uniform procedure for releasing, reviewing SK budgets and to empower the Katipunan ng Kabataan as the basic unit and consultative body of the SK. Furthermore, HB3397 - Free Sped Bill wants to institutionalize a comprehensive measure to guarantee free and appropriate education for Filipino children and youth with special needs so as to ensure their full development as human beings and as citizens of the Republic. HB5512 - Gender Education, to introduce a curricular reform in the educational system by integrating an age-appropriate education on sexual orientation and gender orientation, and on gender rights, equality and welfare in all public and private institutions. HB5417, to educate elementary and high school students on good governance, ethics and accountability in public service. HB2355 - NSTP Reform Bill, to foster nationalism and social consciousness among our youth without having to train them in the ways of the military, which is inherently prone to abuses. HB4337 - Alternative Classes Bill, to institutionalize to all secondary and tertiary educational institutions throughout the country and encourage students to participate in the conduct of alternative classes. HB4842 - Students Rights Bill, to instigate the cultivation of a free studentry whose welfare and interests are protected and advanced. As a representative body of the youth, Rep. Raymond Palatino believes that the party-list should be supported by the citizens especially the youth, and the citizens should always be the basis of the resolutions and measure to pass laws in the Congress.

According to Yohalem (2006), building a coherent message on youth's policy is challenging because there is no clear discernible legislative agenda for them. Rather, there are multitude of individuals and organizations with different agendas whose sending mixed messages about what is best for the youth. By conducting “Konsultasyong Kabataan” in some communities, universities and schools, the party-list unite the youth in major issues. While there are youth movements investing in civic education to encourage lifelong civic involvement and creating avenues for youth to share their perspectives, there are other institutions that creates youth councils or other advisory bodies designed to create meaningful roles for youth in shaping policies that affects them (Yohalem 2006).

Even though the party-list has a seat in the Congress, youth activists are doubtful that the bills they created will not be passed. Because they perceive that the present problem of Kabataan Party-list is their limitations in the Congress, which is ruled by the elite class. These limitations gave them distrust on passing an effective bill/policy. The reason for this statement could be because they do not believe and trust in some government processes and also perceive themselves below the elite class who are anti-government.

Effects of Youth Movement on Youth Participation

According to Kabataan Party-list Rep. Raymond Palatino, the Kabataan Party-list proved that not all young people who join politics can be easily corrupted and that they can represent the youth in Congress.

He also insisted that there are two major contributions of Kabataan Party-list. They are the first youth group that represent the youth in the Congress to articulate the aspirations of young people. Second, since the Kabataan Party-list is also active outside the Congress, the party-list has proven that the young people must be active in politics and all its aspects. For instance, participating in the parliament of the streets and being active in organizing forums/consultations in schools and communities. These activities affect the image of youth in politics and the policy making process in the country.

The recognition of young people as social and political actors requires us, in turn, to place them at the centre of the policy development process. Interventions need to be based on principles of engagement and participation, whereby young people encouraged to gain a sense of responsibility (Smith 2008). The Kabataan Party-list recognizes and gives the young people a chance to be involved inside and outside the government. A chance to be involve in the policy-making process and development. Moreover, this involvement gives them a responsibility to be concerned on the country's situation, which could either result to a good or bad effect..

Student leaders have a different view on how the Kabataan Party-list represents the young people in the government. Barry Codera said that sometimes the problem with some activist groups is that there is a doubt if they are truly sympathizing with what the youth if fighting. To bring out the voice of the young people or they are just sympathizing with the youth because of their hidden agendas. Although, the Kabataan Party-list represent the youth sector in a certain way with certain means but not in everything that the young people needs because they cannot address all the needs of the young people. Still, they are doing something about it especially with youth policies in the country like the Youth in Nation-Building Act and Sangguniang Kabataan Law. These laws focused only on the youth and their intervention with the different institutions inside and outside the government. Moreover, the dominant concept of youth on their intervention is to influence the policy formulation and development in a way that it will be beneficial for the whole society. To established an organization/movement in order to address and represent the youth's problems. The Kabataan Party-list as a representative body of the youth in the Congress serves as a tool by which the young people are able to practice the country's democracy by being involved in the government processes and by being politically active in the formulation and development of policies.

DISCUSSION

Youth movements in the Philippines such as the Kabataan Party-list encourages the young people to actively participate in the government to have their own voice in society, and to influence the policy development in the country. The Kabataan Party-list's position in the Congress is a way to legally formulate and develop policies that promote and protect the welfare and rights of the young people. Policies created in the country especially about the youth do not have a direct effect on the Party-list too. There are however some existing policies that the Party-list fight for because these influence their agenda

and goals as a party-list. These include the Youth in Nation Building Act, Sangguniang Kabataan Law, and K to 12 Program.

Since the 1960's, the youth are already active in the government. Given that the youth has the right to participate in the government, they are capable of organizing rallies which is their way to show what they want and what they need. The young people have their own way to promote their agenda as a group too. The Youth in Nation Building Act for one gave them the legal rights to participate in the government, but it is not just the only policy the pushed them to be in the government.

The active participation of the Filipino youth activist in the society and government in many forms like rallies is their expression on what they think is good for the society. At some point it is seen as a reason why they are viewed as an activist. But it is one way of strongly influencing the policy development in the country. Youth movement such as the Kabataan Party-list is important in the engagement of young people in the government and in influencing policies. It gave them a chance to be represented in the Congress, to be a voice inside the government, and to have the opportunity to formulate and develop policies which they think is beneficial for the whole society.

Despite the Philippines' history of young people who struggle to change the government system. And laws which protect the right of every person's freedom of speech and right to actively participate in politics. The youth is still fighting what they think is right and reasonable for the country. Furthermore, this suggests that current laws toward the youth shall be strengthened by the Legislative Department and shall be properly implement by the Executive Department. Policy-makers should properly address the youth's political and economical needs. Also, policy-makers may have to craft an alternative laws to laws made before that are currently not practical to the youths present situation.

Moreover, the youth shall not only be always protesting against the government. But they should also be in a positive collaboration with them. Such measures may be more consistent and positive, especially if their acts are bounded by laws. These acts may intent to promote genuine and positive development in the country.

Acknowledgement

"I would like to thank the members of Kabataan Party-list: Jhon Paul Macatiag, Lucas Buendia, Mark Oliva, Michael Beltran, Miguel Cruz, and Kristel Anne Perlas for being a part of the focus group discussion (fgd), the representative of Kabataan Party-list, Rep. Raymond "Mong" Palatino for the elite interview. And Student Council Presidents, William Barry Codera & Florante Galura."

REFERENCES

- Ankomah, B. (2005). Mano River Youth from Warriors to Peace Builders. *New African*, (437), 40-43.
- Arnold, M. (2009). 'Who is My Friend, Who is My Enemy'? Youth and Statebuilding in Timor-Leste. *International Peacekeeping*, Vol. 16(3), 379–392.
- Bassani, C. (2007). Five Dimensions of Social Capital Theory as they Pertain to Youth Studies. *Journal of Youth Studies*, Vol. 10(1), 17-34.
- Bonet, S. (2011). Educating Muslim American Youth in a Post-9/11 Era: A Critical Review of Policy and Practice. *High School Journal*, Vol. 95(1), 46-55.

- Boulding, E. (2001). World Security and the Future from the Junior High Perspective. *Peace & Change*, Vol. 7(4), 65.
- Campbell, C. (2009). Youth participation in the fight against AIDS in South Africa: from policy to practice. *Journal of Youth Studies*, Vol. 12(1), 93-109. 16
- Collin, P. (2008). The internet, youth participation policies, and the development of young people's political identities in Australia. *Journal of Youth Studies*, Vol. 11(5), 527-542.
- Cupers, K. (2008). Governing through nature: camps and youth movements in interwar Germany and the United States. *Cultural Geographies*, Vol. 15, 173-205.
- Faas, D. (2007). Youth, Europe and the Nation: The Political Knowledge, Interests and Identities of the New Generation of European Youth. *Journal of Youth Studies*, Vol. 10(2), 161-181.
- Fairweather, I. (2006). Heritage, Identity and Youth in Postcolonial Namibia. *Journal of Southern African Studies*, Vol. 32(4), 729-736.
- France, A. (2008). Risk factor analysis and the youth question. *Journal of Youth Studies*, Vol. 11(1), 1-15.
- Harrison, L. (2001). Political Research: An Introduction. *London and New York: Routledge*, 105-121; 123-38.
- MacWilliams, B. (2006). A Student Preaches Individuality and Hope. *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Vol. 52(27), 1.
- Manheim, J. (2008). Empirical Political Analysis: Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods. 7th Ed. *New York: Pearson Longman*, 332-354.
- Mwongeli, M. (2009). Youth Perspectives on their Empowerment in Sub-saharan Africa: The Case of Kenya. *Midwestern Political Science Association*, 1, 35.
- Newburn, T. (1998) Tackling Youth Crime and Reforming Youth Justice: the Origins and Nature of 'New Labour' Policy. *Policy Studies*, Vol. 19(3/4), 199.
- Richards-Schuster, K; Checkoway, B. (2009). Youth participation in public policy at the local level: New lessons from Michigan municipalities. *National Civic Review*, Vol. 98(4), 26-30.
- Russell, L. (2008). Liberian Youth Perspectives on the U.S. Presidential Elections. *Youth Media Reporter*, Vol. 2(1-6), 235-237.
- Sherrod, L. (2005). Ensuring Liberty by Promoting Youth Development. *Human Development*, Vol. 48(6), 376-381.
- Smith, R. (2009). Childhood, Agency and Youth Justice. *Children & Society*, Vol. 23(4), 252-264.
- Ty, R. (2009). Youth and Adult Education for Social Change in the Philippines: Linking Education with NGOs, Social Movements and Civil Society. *Human Rights Education in Asia Pacific*, 111 136.
- Wallace, C, Bendit, R. (2009). Youth Policies in Europe: Towards a Classification of Different Tendencies in Youth Policies in the European Union. *Perspectives on European Politics and Society*, Vol. 10(3), 441-458.
- Yohalem, N. (2006). Supporting older youth: What's policy got to do with it? *New Directions for Youth Development*, Vol. 2006(111), 117-129.
- Zeilig, L., Ansell, N. (2008). Spaces and Scales of African Student Activism: Senegalese and Zimbabwean University Students at the Intersection of Campus, Nation and Globe. *Antipode*, Vol. 40(1), 31-54. (2009). International Youth Assembly at the U.N. *New York Amsterdam News*, Vol. 100(35), 8.