

Going Beyond the Paralysis of Our Time

Our present social and political condition is still immersed in challenging realities confronting issues of poverty, economic problems, and difficulty in material survival as we battle the aftermath of the pandemic and an unstable political climate that brings a lot of pressure on so many people around us. These topics are given a careful analysis of the contributors in our most recent issue of **PUP SDR Journal 2022, Volume 14**.

As I invite our readers to indulge in evaluating the richness of our scholarly works in this particular journal issue, I also hope that they will find pragmatic applications of the learnings that they can extract from the variety of works of our very own Filipino scholars and researchers. Some say that our nation may suffer from epistemic paralysis due to the weight of socio-political crises that we encounter at present, not to mention the adversity that we all go through in addressing our material needs. However, the spirit of scholarship is not paralyzed, and it is best observed in the active research culture of our Filipino scholars here and abroad.

The manuscript authored by **E. San Juan Jr.**, is a thorough exposition of the reasons behind why the neocolonial nature of education is used as a mechanism of subordination and control. The study opens with a description of the socio-political setting of our country and the material sufferings of its people in the aftermath of the pandemic. The author's narrative in this study is a systematic exposition of the real motives behind why the education system in the Philippines is structured as a vehicle of passivity and oppression. This work is his noble contribution to the possibilities of cultivating a mass-based and scientific educational system in the future.

Mark Anthony M. Quintos examines the prevalence of suicide ideation and attempts among Filipino undergraduate students before and during the pandemic. It also looks for the significant relationships between their socio-economic characteristics and their suicide-related behaviors. This topic is timely and intriguing as we try to understand and map out the behavior patterns of our youth, necessary in forming a viable solution to a social concern of this nature.

Mary Jane Najarila highlights the mitigating response strategies of the leaders from several municipalities during the COVID-19 pandemic. This paper gives serious attention to analyzing objectively the politics of the pandemic as it also tries to expose the efficiency of pandemic responses of the mayors in different localities as they face the challenges of bearing serious responsibilities being the head of the municipality. Strategies of survival are being scrutinized by the author carefully in this research material.

Geraldine Santos, Aimee Rose Arguelles Manda, Ma. Jeanette A. De Guzman and Cynthia P. Equiza explore the anxiety level of mothers in a work-from-home setup during the pandemic. They also highlight other emerging issues about how anxiety affects the daily mode of living of the respondents. This study contributes to a deeper understanding of the difficulties that parents have to go through to manage the demands of maintaining

a good family dynamic alongside the need to earn a living. It is timely and helpful as well in drafting policies and mitigation responses to address this type of domestic and social concern.

Zaila C. Decin, Adrian R. Guinto, Arianne Nicole S. Nachor, and Diane April B. The label present an informational narrative in relation to measuring the quality of life of non-permanent teachers and their coping strategies during the pandemic. This study is an important exposition of the survival mechanisms developed by our teachers who happen to be part of a workforce with no stable income flow during the pandemic. The behavioral pattern that is analyzed deeply in this scholarly work is helpful to people who are also immersed in the same situation.

John Mark S. Distor and Henmar C. Cardíño explore the use of the Burden Bearing Model in the field of Filipino Psychology. Using thematic analysis, the researchers feature relevant themes extracted from more than twenty-seven articles based on different experiences, research, and books centering on applications and approaches used in clinical psychology, industrial psychology, and educational psychology to mention a few. This study contributes to an in-depth understanding behavioral patterns of Filipinos, especially since its major claim is realistic in assessing that every individual has their own story of encountering different burdens of life.

Alyssa Manalo Teodoro brings into light the negative experiences suffered by the children during the quarantine period of the pandemic, which resulted in intensified sexual abuse and other forms of physical and psychological suffering. The author uses a radical piece of children's literature published during the pandemic as a way of exposing the truth behind the reality of children's abuses and the traumatic home atmosphere that they suffered from during the quarantine period. This study shows that literature is not only a powerful tool that an author uses to bring delight to its readers, but also a realistic reflection of actual events in our society as it mirrors the tragic experiences of children in the most inconvenient time of their lives- the pandemic.

Fr. Jaime D. Del Rosario, O.M.I., contributes a philosophical piece in this journal issue that pictures the social reality of a problematic relationship between Filipino people in terms of ethnicity and religious beliefs. Using the philosophy of Levinas, he focuses on discussing our ethical responsibility to one another as people, bringing into light the problematic interactions among Christians, Muslims, and indigenous Filipinos. The author believes that this issue of disparity can be solved if we begin to realize that we have an ethical duty to be respectful in our co-existence. This study serves as an aspirational work on the possibility of embracing a non-violent type of existence through the formation of a shared community in our social spheres, where everyone will blend in with the spirit of compassion and charitable care for others.

Fritz Galero and Agnes Sunga present a timely analysis of the issue of jurisprudence using a feminist approach. Using a case study approach, this study presents a comparative examination of two landmark cases decided by the Philippine Supreme Court, which were sourced from the Supreme Court Reports Annotated (SCRA). The scholarship of this

research adds to the strength of the recent development in the philosophy of emotion, having its narrative that the judicial process involves an emotional aspect in its discretion of the law. It also shows that public emotion is influential in the way jurisprudence is being carried out and that the latter carries a normative element in the solution of legal cases.

Artchil B. Fernandez contributes to this scholarly compendium a political paper as he tackles the reality behind the high performance and trust ratings of President Rodrigo Duterte during his term in office. He interrogates the Filipino political attitude in addressing socio-political issues in the Philippines, centering his analysis mostly on the application of Putnam's concept of social capital. The study also explores the broader connection between populism and social capital in relation to the high trust ratings of the said presidential figure.

We are happy indeed to present to you substantial and timely issues addressed in the pages of the **PUP Social Sciences and Development Review 2022** Issue!

An Editor's Note
GERLIE CASPE-OGATIS