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Enrolment and Admission Policy of the University of Eastern Philippines: A Perspective of a Freshman Students from College of Arts and Communication

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Abstract

This study aimed at determined the perspective of the freshmen student from college art and Communications on the enrolment process of the University of Eastern Philippines. Specifically, the study aimed to: document the profile of the respondents, the enrollment policy of the university together with their challenges and recommendations. Further, this study made used of descriptive research, the respondent data were gathered through a questioner among twelve freshman student in every program in the college of art and communication.

The Study revealed that most of the respondent are majority aware for only one admission policy, the respondents top challenge encountered was the slow office transaction, too many processes to follow and requirement to comply, do not have comfortable waiting area where respondent experienced delayed responses from admission office and they are not admitted to the program according to their preference of choice, then the admission office lack of computer, man power with knowledge in information technologies.

The top one recommendation of the respondents is to have an online admission system to lessen the backer or padreno system, additional man power in the admission office, open more section to the respondents' program of their preference, additional ICT experts to address online transaction, strict implementation and to have conducive facilities in the admission office.

Keywords: Enrolment and Admission Policy, Challenges and Perspective.

Introduction

Education has a strong positive impact in the modern world, obtaining a university degree is considered an essential requirement for many aspects of everyday life e.g., working, social status, value and even to become more marriageable in some cultures. Higher education on both individual and socio-economic have a positive outcome on the individual level have a higher effect on both income opportunities and job quality, on an aggregate level, higher education generally has positive impact on economic growth and institutional Development Accordingly, the inclusivity of the University admission is an important educational policy.

Open enrolment policy, a policy in 2018 is implemented in line with the free higher educational law according to the commission on the higher education, an Open enrollment policy enables student to enroll in a specific school without having admission test or admission process and its affect the private school where experience decline in enrolment.

As a result, to free higher education the number of enrollees in State Universities and colleges increase, the competition in

admitting in State Universities and Colleges was also increase due to some wealthy student who their parents can afford to pay tuition in the private colleges are also applied in State Universities and Colleges where the poor student is getting hard to be admit in the due to limited slot and that the quality of education remains inaccessible to poor student in the State Universities and colleges.

Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994 and by virtue of Commission En banc Resolution No. 944-2017 dated December 18, 2017, in connection with the new curriculum in the State colleges and universities the following is the guidelines of the commission of the higher education when it come who are qualified to admit in the higher education institutions. All Grade 12 graduates beginning Academic Year 2017-2018 are eligible to enter college regardless of the track or strand taken in the Senior High School. 2. No Grade 12 student or graduate shall be denied acceptance in applying for college entrance examinations in the higher education institutions 3. Current Grade 12 students who were previously disallowed to take the

college entrance examinations shall be given a chance by the Higher education institution to take the entrance examinations. In the exercise of the HEI's academic freedom, the applicant Grade 12 graduates may enroll in any higher education program subject to the admission requirements of the admitting higher education institution.

University of the Eastern Philippines is a university located in Catarman, Northern Samar, since it is the only university in the province getting admitted in the university is difficult because of the tough competition among all student applicant from different Senior high schools in the province, As an intern in the office of the director for admission the researcher see the student applicant hopeless to be admitted in the university some are countless going back and forth in the admission office for update on the status in their application and the Backer System is critical in the university, thus the condition in admission waiting area expose under the sun plus the volume of the student applicant coming in, furthermore some students were anxious because other programs were already closed and they did not even receive any update from their application, hence this study is relevant because "first impression last" if we failed to delivered the good services in the first place sometimes whatever program we implemented their mindset is already field their firsthand experience, in RA 11032 or the ease government of the doing business, all government transaction must be fast and no hustle if possible. In Addition, the Office of the Director for Admission have a slow transaction process and the University due to lack of facilities like computers, printers, small rooms, and lack of manpower, hence, the class of population is oversize and the suggested number of students were not followed for CMO requirements for insufficient professor to cater them to the needs of the students.

This study is aims to get a shared experience form the freshmen who have the firsthand experience in the admission process and ask their recommendation in order to have an improvement to the enrollment and admission policy in the university.

Objectives of the Study

Generally, this study aimed to determine the enrollment and admission policy in the University of the Eastern Philippines Specifically, this study aimed to

1. Document the socio demographic profile of the respondent in term;
- i). Age;
- ii). Sex;
- iii). Civil status;
- iv). Degree program;
- v). Family income; and
- vi). Weekly allowance.

2. Find out enrolment and admission policies of the university of the Eastern Philippines;
3. Determine the challenges encountered by the student applicant in the admission process of the University of the Eastern Philippines;
4. Draw the recommendations from the respondents for effectivity of the enrolment and admission policies of the University of the Eastern Philippines.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in the University of Eastern Philippines (UEP) Specifically in College of Arts and Communication the study used descriptive-survey research

design. It is the most appropriate method and design for this study because it allowed the researcher to gain knowledge from respondents in the actual survey.

The total number of freshmen in the College of Art and Communication school year 2023-2024 is 1722. The researcher used sloven formula in choosing the respondents from the College. A total number 95 freshmen student from the College of Art and Communication, University of Eastern Philippines served as the respondents of the study, The researcher selected 12 respondents per degree program in the College of Arts and Communication.

The data was tabulated and treated statistically using frequency counts, percentages and ranking.

Results and Discussions

Profile of the Respondents

Age

The data in Table 1.1 show the distribution of the respondents' profile according to age category. Data show that out of the 96 total respondents, ninety-four or 97.92 percent were 18-30 years old, one was 31-40 or 1.04 percent and also one of the respondent age 41-50 years old or 1.04 percent. Further revealed that in the College of Arts and Communication the majority of the freshmen or 97.92 percent were 18-30 years old as they start their Higher Education.

Table 1.1: Age of the respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
18-30	94	97.92
31-40	1	1.04
41-50	1	1.04
Total	96	100%

Sex

Table 1.2 presents the sex of the freshman students from college of Arts and Communications.

Data shows that of the ninety-six 96 total respondents fifty-three or 55.21 percent were males and forty-three or 44.79 percent were females.

Based on the result, majority of the respondents are males as it describes that the male freshmen in the College of Art and Communication are eager to pursue higher education than females or at that time the respondents when conducted the survey male respondents are more available than females.

Table 1.2: Sex of the Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	53	55.21
Female	43	44.79
Total	96	100%

Civil Status

Table 1.3 presents data on the civil status of the respondents. The table shows that out of the 96 total respondents, 94 or 97.92 percent were single and 2 or 2.08 percent of them were married

Therefore, the data indicates that pursuing in higher education while they did not have yet many responsibilities, as they have a higher rate of success in your academic endeavors

Table 1.3: Civil Status of the Respondents

Civil Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	94	97.92
Married	2	2.08
Total	96	100%

Program

Table 1.4 presents the data of the respondents according to their degree program.

Program is defined as a course that are part of an accredited course of study to a college degree whose satisfaction provides college credit. Course time frame of a college program covers a continuous period such as a semester or quarter rather than seminar format.

The data show that the ninety-six 96 respondents, twelve (12) students every program or 12.5 percent of the total respondents namely Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration, Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Bachelor of Science in Community Development, Bachelor of Arts in English Language, Bachelor of Arts in Literature, Bachelor of Science in Development Communication and Bachelor of Science in Criminology.

The data indicate that the degree programs in the College of Arts and Communication caught up the respondent's interest in their field of expertise.

A student, for example prefers to enroll in a certain course because of his interest, skills, or expertise, however, with the occurrence of social demands and trends.

Table 1.4: Degree Program of the Respondents

Program	Frequency	Percentage
AB English	12	12.5
AB Literature	12	12.5
AB Political Science	12	12.5
AB Sociology	12	12.5
AB Development Communication	12	12.5
BS Community Development	12	12.5
BS Criminology	12	12.5
BS Public Administration	12	12.5
Total	96	100%

Family Income

Table 1.5 presents the distribution of respondents according to their family income.

Family income is a measurement of economic position of individuals who are considered to be part of one familial unit. Income is broadly inclusive of wages, pensions, investment, governmental assistance or benefits, rent earnings and any other sources of finances.

The data show that out the 96 total respondents, twenty or 20.83 percent earned below P1000 a month, sixteen or 16.67 percent earned P1001-5000 a month, twenty-one or 21.88 percent earned P5001-10,000 a month, eight or 8.33 percent earned 10,001-15,000 a month, ten or 10.42 percent earned 15,000-20000 a month, six or 6.25 percent earned 20001-25000 month, five or 5.21 percent earned 25,001-30000 a month, four or 4.17 percent earned 30001-35000 a month, one or 1.04 percent earned 35,001-40000, two or 2.08 percent earned 40001-50000, three or 3.13 percent earned 50000 above per month.

Table 1.5: Family Income of the Respondents

Family Income	Frequency	Percentage
Php. 1,000 Below	20	20.83
Php 1,001-5,000	16	16.67
Php 5001-10,000	21	21.88
Php 10,001-15,000	8	8.33
Php 15,001-20,000	10	10.42
Php 20,001-25,000	6	6.25
Php 25,001-30,000	5	5.21
Php 30,001-35,000	4	4.17
Php 35,001-40,000	1	1.04
Php 40,001-45,000	2	2.08
50,000 Above	3	3.13
Total	96	100%

Weekly Allowance

Table 1.6 presents the data of the respondents accounting to their weekly allowance.

Weekly Allowance or student weekly allowance is a weekly payment that can help with your living expenses while they are studying.

The data shows that out of ninety-six 96 respondents, fifty-two or 54.17 percent received P500 below a week, sixteen or 16.67 percent received 5001-1000 a week, fifteen or 15.63 percent received 1,001-1500 a week, four or 4.17 percent received 1501-2000 a week, one or 1.04 percent received 2001-2500 a week and two or 2.08 percent received 4501-5000 a week, five or 5.21 percent did not answer disclose their allowance per week

Therefore, majority of the respondents received P500 below every week as their allowance show that P500 below as allowance is enough to the student who local resident in the Brgy. Within in University of Eastern Philippines. on the other hand, student came from other municipality or outside the province 500 pesos allowance per week is not sufficient considering their food consummation and school project expenses.

Table 1.6: Weekly Allowance of the Respondents

Weekly Allowance	Frequency	Percentage
Php 500 Below	52	54.16%
Php 501-1,000	16	16.6%
Php 1,001-1,500	15	15.62%
Php 1,501-2,000	4	4.16%
Php 2,001-2,500	1	1.04%
Php 2,501-3,000	1	1.04%
Php 4,501-5,000	2	2.08%
Respondent do not disclose their allowance	5	5.208
Total	96	100%

University Admission policy and its process the respondents are familiar with

Table 2 presents the University of Eastern Philippines admission and enrollment policies.

The table shows that there were of thirteen (13) admission policies. The data indicated that the majority of the freshman students in the College of Arts and Communication have only one familiar admission policy in the University. It shows that when the time they are applying in the University of the Eastern Philippines they do not know much the policy

governing the admission process resulting for some inconvenience.

On the other hand, the freshmen on the College of Arts and Communication have less knowledge of the admission policies before they apply in the university maybe because of poor of dissemination of information or the respondents do not have the intention to learn the policy where they want to apply because for them it is not important to know the policies for regular enrollment and admission.

Table 2: University Admission Policy and its process the respondent is familiar with

University of the Eastern Philippines Admission Policy	Frequency	Rank
Entrance examination for incoming student shall be conducted	76	1
For graduating senior high school student, whose schools are within the vicinity of Northern Samar, they shall submit their applications through their Senior High Coordinator	53	2
For Applicant who will not qualify on his/her course preference, the document shall be sent back to the office of Director for Admission immediately. This will give office of the director for admission an ample to distribute the applications on the applicants succeeding course preferences	50	3
All applications will be recorded by the Office of the director for Admission and be distributed to the academic colleges based on the course preferences of the applicants	37	4
The admission committee shall reach out with the applicant (via text, phone call, or email, or email) to confirm his/her interest to enroll in the program	33	5
The transferee and shiftee application shall be submitted to the Office of the Director for Admission	32	6.5
No application will be considered beyond the admission deadline	32	6.5
For graduating senior high school student, whose schools are found outside the province, they shall submit their application through private mail couriers i.e LBC, J&T, JRS, Entrego, and Ninja Van among others	31	8
Upon determination of qualified applicant to look for other universities	29	9.5
No applications shall be treated for evaluation unless endorsed by the ODFA	29	9.5
Each Admission committee per requirement specified by the degree program	27	11
It shall only be the Office of the Director of Admission sole authority as regards posting (print or online) of the successfully admitted applicants.	22	12
The Office of the Director for Admission will be temporarily housed at the conference room of the Office of the Student Affairs	15	13

*Multiple responses

Challenges Encountered by the student applicants in the admission process in the University of the Eastern Philippines Table 3 presents the challenges encountered by the respondents in the admission process in the University of the Eastern Philippines.

The data showed that the top challenge encountered by the respondent was the slow transaction in the admission office.

Therefore, they consume a lot of their time and resources in the transaction process itself, it is because respondent lack of awareness regarding the Admission and Enrollment Policy.

Table 3: Challenges encountered by the student applicants in the admission process in the university of the Eastern Philippines

Challenges	Frequency	Rank
Too slow transaction to the admission office	67	1
Too many processes to follow	53	2
Too many requirements to comply	50	3
The admission process is slow and no comfortable waiting are	49	4
Experiencing a delayed of response from the admission office	44	5
Admitted in a program not according to the 1 st preference	39	6
Lack of man power	37	7
No other platform for information dissemination	29	8
The employee officers do not give a clear instruction on the process	26	9
The employee in the admission office do not apply professionalism	24	10

*Multiple responses

Recommendation of the respondent with regard the Enrollment and Admission Process of the University of the Eastern Philippines

The data revealed that the top recommendation from the respondents is to have an Online System in admission process for its convenience and smooth experience in the process, to limit the backer or padreno system and to add additional manpower in the admission office to cater more applicant at once, to hire an ICT expert to venture their service across social media platform and to have a conducive office for admission its denotes that college of arts and communication freshmen recommends that university of the eastern Philippines should ventures on the advancement of technology such as using Online admission system for the convenience of the applicants and transparency and will disseminated information across social media platform.

Table 4: Recommendation of the respondents with regard the enrollment and admission process of the university of the Philippines

Recommendation	Frequency	Rank
Using online System admission process	67	1
Padrino System	49	2
Additional man power in admission office	48	3
Open more section to the program of their preference	45	4
Additional computer in the admission office	38	5
Additional ICT expert to address concern in Online transaction	31	6.5
Stric implementation of the enrollment and policy	31	6.5
Provide conducive office for admission	30	8

*Multiple responses

Conclusion

The socio-demographic profile of the respondents conclude that students belong to low income earner families. Students from low-income households often face significant challenges

that can affect their academic performance, psychological well-being, and overall educational experience.

The finding that most respondents were only aware of the entrance examination as an admission policy is significant and reveals several issues. It highlights a potential communication gap between the institution and prospective students regarding the full range of admission requirements.

Addressing the top challenge of slow transactions in an admission office requires a multi-faceted approach, combining technology, process improvements, and staff training. By streamlining and automating repetitive tasks, the office can reduce wait times and improve the overall student experience.

The top recommendation is to implement an online admission system to combat the "padrino system" of favoritism and nepotism, ensuring a more merit-based selection process. An online system can create a transparent and fair application process, where hiring is based on qualifications and eligibility rather than political connections, which would also help to improve the quality of public service.

Recommendations

- i). The topmost problem in the implementation of admission policy is the slow process. Hence, it is recommended that the UEP may come-up with online enrolment process to fast-track the enrolment process and colleges may strictly implement admission policies through monitoring and evaluation by the offices who are assigned to this task.
- ii). The University of Eastern Philippines including the College of Arts and Communication has its existing various school policies. So, the College may continue to strengthen their implementation of these policies.
- iii). Majority of the parents' of the respondents are low-income earners. Hence, it is recommended that the University of Eastern Philippines may come-up a project/program along part-time job or job bridging for the students for their additional allowance
- iv). The recommendations given by the respondents to improve the admission policy may be given attention by the University administration to have quality enrollment services
- v). Similar study be conducted to include other students from different colleges.

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