

Influence of College Student Association on Students' Leadership Attributes

Yannan He

School of Adamson University, Philippines

*123391005@qq.com

Abstract

This paper aims to explore the influence of student associations on the leadership development of college students from the dimensions of community atmosphere, community activities, community culture and community quality. In this study, a quantitative - comparative - relevant research design was used to determine the attributes of leadership from the indicators of leading by example, sharing inspiring vision, challenging status quo, benefiting others and inspiring others through an online questionnaire survey of 405 students . The results show that college students' associations have a significant role in promoting the leadership development of college students.

Keywords

College Student Association; Leadership Attributes; Influence.

1. Introduction

With the intensification of international competition and the deepening of globalization, leadership education has become one of the hot research topics around the world, and has become an innovation and breakthrough point for universities all over the world to improve the quality of talent training and cultivate future social elites and leading talents in various industries. As research shows, college students not only need professional knowledge and skills, but also need flexible skills such as teamwork ability, communication ability, critical thinking ability and creative problem solving ability, which are the embodiment of college students' leadership (Tao Siliang 2011). College student associations, known as students' "second classroom", undertake the task of cultivating students' morality and comprehensive quality and ability, and are an indispensable channel for students to understand the society, increase their ability and improve their ability. College associations have the educational function of improving students' comprehensive quality, enhancing students' social adaptability, and promoting students' growth and success (Meng QinGen 2011). College student associations, as an important part of the second classroom in colleges and universities, are practical carriers to promote college students to broaden their horizons and improve their comprehensive quality, and have a significant impact on college students' moral cognition, political attitude, role adaptation, personality development and socialization development (Ba XueBing 2018). In view of this, this study analyzes the influence attributes of college communities on college students' leadership from four dimensions: community atmosphere, community activities, community culture and community quality.

As for the research on the dimensions of college students' leadership structure, scholars have conducted special research on it from various angles, so they have reached different constituent elements and have not yet reached a relatively consistent conclusion. Kuzes and Posner have adapted the Student Leadership Practices Inventory (SLPI) to the view that college leadership is like any other group. It holds that college students' leadership is composed of five dimensions:

setting an example, sharing a vision, challenging the process, making people do and inspiring people. This paper uses the above five dimensions for reference to define college students' leadership characteristics.

This study identifies the influence of student associations on the leadership attributes of college students. From the perspective of putting forward the leadership training model of college students, it is necessary to clarify the development status of college communities and college students' leadership as well as the relationship between them, so the following questions are set:

- 1) What is assessment of the respondents' students on the status of college associations with regard to;
- 2) What is the assessment of the respondents of their manifested leadership attributes with regard to;
- 3) Are there a significant relationship between the college student association status and the assessed student leadership attributes?

2. Research Method

This study adopts a quantitative and relative research design, a combination of self-made questionnaire and adapted questionnaire. The questionnaire on leadership attributes adopts the Student Leadership Practice Behavior Scale translated by Dr. Tao Siliang, which has been widely practiced and applied in colleges and universities. A total of 405 students, accounting for 5% of the total population, participated in the questionnaire survey. In quantitative research design, data is structured in the digital form of closed questions and responses (Creswell &, adopt Creswell, 2018).

3. Summary of Findings

3.1. Assessment of the Respondents on the Status of College Associations

The overall assessment of the current status of the student association "Very Satisfactory". The details showed that Rated very Satisfactory are as follows :Student Association Culture , which ranked 1 followed by Student Association Activity, which ranked 2nd,ranked 3rd was Student Association Quality. The last rated with Satisfactory rating was Student Association Atmosphere. See the table1:

Table 1. Respondents' Assessment of the Status of College Association

Status	Mean	SD	Adj. Des	Int	Rank
Student Association Atmosphere	3.45	0.56	Agree	Satisfactory	4
Student Association Culture	3.62	0.31	Strongly Agree	Very satisfactory	1
Student Association Activities	3.58	0.67	Agree	Very Satisfactory	2
Student Association Quality	3.52	0.49	Strongly Agree	Very Satisfactory	3
Overall Mean	3.55	0.40	Strongly Agree	Very Satisfactory	

3.2. Respondents' Assessment of their Manifested Leadership Attributes.

The leadership attributes that were assessed with Highly manifested results are ; ranked 1.Inspiring others, the is followed by Enabling others, next in rank was; setting by examples,the attributes on Challenging status quo and jointly inspiring vision were rated 3rd and 4th respectively, though Manifested. See the table2:

Table 2. Respondents' Assessment of Their Manifested Leadership Attributes

Leadership Attributes	Mean	SD	Adj.Des	Interpretation	Rank
Setting by Examples	3.51	0.54	Always	Highly Manifested	3
Jointly Inspiring Vision	3.48	0.49	Often	Manifested	5
Challenging status Quo	3.49	0.36	Often	Manifested	4
Enabling others	3.52	0.47	Always	Highly Manifested	2
Inspiring People	3.59	0.32	Always	Highly Manifested	1
Overall Mean	3.51	0.35	Often	Highly Manifested	

3.3. Relationship between the Assessed Current Status of Student Association and the Leadership Attributes.

the correlation between the status of current college student association was significant. It yield a mild to high and positive correlation. Indicating that current status of student association yield a moderate to very high, direct and strong correlative association. See the table 3.

Table 3. Relationship Between the Assessed Current Status of Student Association and the Leadership Attributes

Current Student Association Status	Statistical Treatment	Leadership Attributes				
		Setting Examples	Jointly Inspiring vision	Challenging Status Quo	Enabling Others	Inspiring People
Student Association Atmosphere	<i>Pearson r</i>	0.585**	0.892**	0.603**	0.656**	0.698**
	<i>sig.</i>	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	<i>Decision Ho</i>	Reject	Reject	Reject	Reject	Reject
	<i>Interpret</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>
Student Association Activity	<i>Pearson r</i>	0.888**	0.745**	0.691**	0.774**	0.780**
	<i>sig.</i>	0.003	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000
	<i>Decision Ho</i>	Reject	Reject	Reject	Reject	Reject
	<i>Interpret</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>
Student Association Culture	<i>Pearson r</i>	0.835**	0.732**	0.789**	0.818**	0.869**
	<i>sig.</i>	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	<i>Decision Ho</i>	Reject	Reject	Reject	Reject	Reject
	<i>Interpret</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>
Student Association Quality	<i>Pearson r</i>	0.644**	0.529**	0.654**	0.673**	0.785**
	<i>sig.</i>	0.002	0.004	0.000	0.000	0.000
	<i>Decision Ho</i>	Reject	Reject	Reject	Reject	Reject
	<i>Interpret</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>

4. Conclusion

1) In essence it can be deduced that respondents assessment of the status of the current student association meets the student requirement for college involvement. The student association atmosphere, activities, culture and quality dimensions very satisfactorily identify the purpose to become associated with.

2) Generally, the leadership attributes indicators carry a high sense of student identity that is highly manifested.

3) It can be inferred that the student association profiles bear no burden in the manifested student leadership attributes, although the type of association affiliated with indicates necessary strength from other associations, except with sports group.

4) that social learning theory espouses the dynamic interaction among individuals reflects the correlated constructs between the current status of student associations and the leadership attributes. It provides continuous interaction of individuals, behavior, and environment created among the college student association.

5. Recommendation

1) There is a need to motivation, development, and improve the mechanism of school climate to get more sense of security and belongingness.

2) It is suggested for the association to set a scientific and promotion channel for titles to reduce overemphasizing the difference. Create a good office atmosphere.

3) It is suggested to optimize the campus environment for equal exposure of all student association and enhance the true feeling of unity, service to the true recipients.

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