



AGNES S. REYES & JUDITH R. GARCIA

Voting Behavior of Teachers in North Philippines and its Implication to Education

ABSTRACT: *The Philippines, in its form, is a democratic and a republican state with Presidential in form. Thus, with its being democratic, it is in the people where sovereignty resides. It is in their hands that people signifying intentions to occupy elected positions are to be instituted to do such. While good governance is the process by which institutions conduct the affairs of the government as they manage the resources of the public in order to guarantee the realization of human rights. The study endeavored to describe and analyze the elements that determine and influence the teachers' decision to vote for particular candidates in the Philippine 2013 midterm election, through the use of quantitative and qualitative research methods. Survey questionnaires were administered to a sample composing twenty percent of the total number of teachers per school. The study revealed that teachers' choice did not match with the voters' choice in the 2013 midterm election for Senators and party list. The result posts a great challenge to education as an agent of socio-political transformation. It implies that education must help people fully understand the political condition of the country; and teachers are tasked to engage themselves seriously in shaping political consciousness and attitudes among their clients.*

KEY WORD: *Voting Behavior; Teachers; Midterm Election; Senators and Party List; Socio-Political Transformation.*

IKHTISAR: *"Tindakan Pemberian Suara Guru-guru di Filipina Utara dan Implikasinya terhadap Pendidikan". Filipina, dalam kenyataannya, adalah negara demokratis dan republik dengan bentuk Presidensial. Dengan menjadi negara demokratis, maka kedaulatan berada di tangan rakyat. Di tangan rakyat pula mereka yang ingin menduduki posisi wakil rakyat dipilih dan harus terus dilembagakan. Sementara itu pemerintah yang baik adalah proses dimana lembaga melakukan urusan pemerintahan karena mereka mengelola sumber daya publik untuk menjamin realisasi hak asasi manusia. Studi ini berusaha untuk menggambarkan dan menganalisis unsur-unsur yang menentukan dan mempengaruhi keputusan para guru dalam memilih calon wakil mereka dalam pemilihan umum daerah di Filipina tahun 2013, melalui penggunaan metode penelitian kuantitatif dan kualitatif. Kuesioner survei diberikan kepada sampel yang terdiri atas 20% dari jumlah guru per sekolah. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pilihan guru tidak sejalan dengan pilihan masyarakat pemberi suara dalam pemilihan umum daerah tahun 2013 untuk memilih Senator dan daftar calon partai politik. Hasil kajian ini merupakan tantangan besar bagi dunia pendidikan sebagai agen transformasi sosial-politik. Ini menyiratkan bahwa pendidikan harus membantu masyarakat memahami kondisi politik negara; dan para guru bertugas melibatkan diri secara serius dalam membentuk kesadaran dan sikap politik peserta didik mereka.*

KATA KUNCI: *Tindakan Pemberian Suara; Guru-guru; Pemilihan Umum Daerah; Senator dan Daftar Partai; Transformasi Sosial-Politik.*

About the Authors: Prof. Dr. Agnes S. Reyes and Prof. Dr. Judith R. Garcia are the Lecturers at the PNU (Philippine Normal University) in North Luzon, Aurora, Alicia, Isabela, the Philippines. For academic interests, the authors are able to be contacted via e-mail at: cardona.rs@pnu.edu.ph

How to cite this article? Reyes, Agnes S. & Judith R. Garcia. (2015). "Voting Behavior of Teachers in North Philippines and its Implication to Education" in *SUSURGALUR: Jurnal Kajian Sejarah & Pendidikan Sejarah*, Vol.3(2), September, pp.205-216. Bandung, Indonesia: Minda Masagi Press and UBD Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, ISSN 2302-5808.

Chronicle of the article: Accepted (July 31, 2015); Revised (August 30, 2015); and Published (September 30, 2015).

INTRODUCTION

The Philippines, in its form, is a democratic and a republican state with Presidential in form. Thus, with its being democratic, it is in the people where sovereignty resides, as stated in the Article II, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution (*cf* Zaide, 1994; and Zaide & Zaide, 2005). It is in their hands that people signifying intentions to occupy elected positions are to be instituted to do such.

Comparable with other countries in the world, Philippines is similar with the United States of America that exercises democratic form of government. Participation is central to liberal democracy and it could be via voting in elections. This allows the public to have control over their public officials and policies through a process of competition, in which leaders can be placed or turned out of the office. Furthermore, voting and elections are important structure in which people are given a say in the staffing and direction of government (O'Neil, 2012).

Good governance is the process by which institutions conduct the affairs of the government as they manage the resources of the public in order to guarantee the realization of human rights. In UNESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)'s definition, governance describes the process of decision-making and the process by which the decisions are implemented or not implemented. On the other hand, good citizenship is clearly manifested by responsibly performing installed tasks to help and improve the country's social and moral state.

According to Teresita Baltazar of the Good Citizenship Movement, good governance is not enough. Citizens must take personal responsibility for their actions and live by the Filipino values, which are enshrined in the Philippine Constitution.¹

¹See, for example, <http://www.ched.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/CMO-No.26-s2005.pdf> [accessed in North Luzon, the Philippines: 17 July 2015].

As a constitutional mandate, those who may wish to serve and take part in good governance must comply with the requirements in relation to the minimum qualifications to hold public office; subject themselves to the schedules of the Commission on Elections regarding filing of candidacy, campaign period, assumption to office, and term limits; and prepare themselves to fulfill their duties as per required by the public office that they will occupy.

In elections, majority is plurality. All that, a candidate has to get is the highest number of votes in order to be declared the winner without necessarily getting more than 50% of the votes cast. Consequently, the will of the majority may not be thwarted directly or indirectly (CNPL, 2007). This majority do not necessarily, however, comprise the pool of academically and politically educated ones.

That is, the real scenario in the Philippine setting based from the studies conducted by C.N. Ericta & F.C. Varona (2003) whose revealed that of 49 million projected voters in 2004, about two thirds (66%) or 33 million have completed some elementary or high school education; 15 percent are college undergraduates; and only 7 percent are college degree holders (Ericta & Varona, 2003). In addition, there are about 1.6 million voters who have no education.

The above mentioned data were based from the results of the surveys conducted by the National Statistics Office, such as 2000 Census of Population and Housing; and 2000 Family Income and Expenditure Survey and Labor Force Summary (cited in Ericta & Fabian, 2009). However, in this present study, all respondents are professional teachers from all levels, who are academically prepared and politically aware citizens.

Some factors that may affect the voter's preference are related to their socio-economic status, which includes a person's age, education, income level,

religion, occupation, and geographical location (Bianco & Canon, 2010). When looking at the causes of vote choice as a complex decision, Vasile Puscas (2010) stressed out, synonymously with R.A. Bongcac (2000), that the relationship between the candidates and voters cannot be neglected (Bongcac, 2000; and Puscas, 2010). She summed up that candidates, issues, and parties are three factors that dominates voting, specifically these pertains to party affiliation, position on political issues, and personality are the primary factors that influence voting behavior (Puscas, 2010).

The IPER (Institute for Political and Electoral Reform) conducted a study in December 1995; and it was completed in October 1996 to deeply analyze the Filipino electorates in relation to their behaviors in voting. Results identified four determinants in which a Filipino voter chooses a candidate. Primarily, it was based on candidate's popularity. Secondly, they rely on endorsement of traditional networks and organization, which includes the family, church, and ward leaders. Third factor is the characteristic that can be of benefit to the voter. The last is the party program (cited in <http://www.iper.org.ph>, 17/7/2015).

These were proven true in the 1998 elections, when Jose de Venecia who used showbiz personalities to endorsed him, in addition to the endorsement done by the Jesus is Lord Movement to his candidacy, competed against his closest rival in the presidential post, a showbiz personality himself, Joseph Ejercito Estrada, who was also endorsed by the Iglesia ni Cristo. As a result, overwhelmingly Joseph Ejercito Estrada won but events, which unfolded in 2001, caused the IPER to decide to do an update of their 1995 study, because Joseph Ejercito Estrada then was ousted and was replaced by then Vice President, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (<http://www.iper.org.ph>, 17/7/2015).

It was in July 2003, when the

institute did another study which then used quantitative and qualitative techniques. The quantitative instrument – the survey – is the focus not only on the demographic characteristics of the Filipino electorate, but also on the more abstract aspects of voter's attitudes, opinions and interests. The qualitative technique required the in-depth interviews of key informants – candidates, campaign managers, ward leaders, precinct watchers, COMELEC (Commission on Elections) Officials, citizen's watchdogs, etc to validate the quantitative aspect of the research and more to gain insights and deeper understanding of voter's behavior (<http://www.iper.org.ph>, 17/7/2015).

Results of the 1995 study showed that popularity, because of the candidates' status of being an artist, and/or endorsed by an artist (actor/actress), having lots of campaign posters, delivering of good speeches during rallies, and house to house campaigns, are the voters' topmost priorities. Endorsements made by families or relatives, church, organizations, and traditional networks are second priorities. Characteristics that can be of benefit to the voter marked third while the candidates' party program as among the least factor considered by the voter (<http://www.iper.org.ph>, 17/7/2015).

In 2003, an update research was conducted, still by the IPER, and a remarkable change in the voters' choices became evident. Popularity, which formerly ranked first fall in the third rank, while the benefit factors which ranked third in 1995 ranked first in 2003. Endorsement of traditional networks and organizations became the least factor, while the use of political machinery, a new identified factor, turned out to be the second in rank (<http://www.iper.org.ph>, 17/7/2015).

Exactly the same determinants were used by R.J. Barrete (2013) in assessing how Filipino voters choose in

preparation then for the 2013 elections, time parallel to the conduct of this study. His targets were the senatorial position, similar to this present study, although party list was not included. He cited that based from the study conducted by the Asia Institute of Management Policy Center, 80% of the senators belong to political dynasties, that is they have relatives elected in local or national positions, and others served in the military or the police forces and even in the field of journalism (Barrete, 2013).

This proves that popularity has been the game in electing officials in the government. Second factors are the pressing issues concerning Philippine politics, such as RH (Reproductive Health), divorce, death penalty, same sex marriage, anti-political measures, etc. were taken as bases for established organizations and networks in endorsing candidates whom they think they share the same values and principles. This has been proven by the Purple Vote Campaign for those who advocated the Reproductive Health Law, while the White Vote Movement supported those who opposed. Third factor is the personal characteristics of the candidate (De Leon & De Leon Jr., 1997).

Personally campaigning and communicating with the voters are perceived as genuine public service, which concerns the masses. As supported by the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the existence of many parties may cause confusion, but party programs define which vision, philosophy, and ideology are the final bases of the people to vote for a candidate (cited in Zaide, 1994; and Zaide & Zaide, 2005).

Another study, which concentrated in the selection of a candidate in the presidential position, was conducted by R.A. Bongcac (2000). He tried to identify the significant characteristics that the electorates desire for a president. Also, he considered it important to identify

existing significant relationships of the respondents' demographic profiles with the political and extrapolitical factors. It was revealed in his findings that the electorates formed a consensus as to the characteristics that they desire (Bongcac, 2000).

They believed that the presidential position is not sexually egalitarian, because it is a male role, contrary to G. McElroy & M. Marsh (2009)'s findings that gender does not play a big role in the candidate's success or voter decision making in Ireland (*cf* Bongcac, 2000; and McElroy & Marsh, 2009). It was made clear that the electoral reforms and prudence in voting cause them not to be persuaded easily by any political or extrapolitical factors. In addition, the age, sex, and demographic origin of the respondents relate significantly with their voting behaviors.

Kakuba Sultan Juma (2012) considered the electorates of Uganda in his investigation. He found out that voters in Uganda reward the incumbent president for fulfilling their demands. That is, factors such as discovery of oil and creation of new districts, infrastructural development among others will be central in influencing the choice of the electorates across their regions (Juma, 2012). This is consistent with the IPER (Institute for Political and Electoral Reform)'s result that people based their choices in the benefit that voters get from the candidates (<http://www.iper.org.ph>, 17/7/2015).

The IPER study though comprehensive did not look into variation in the voting behavior of different sectors (<http://www.iper.org.ph>, 17/7/2015). The teacher sector, particularly, is an interesting sector to look at. Apart from directly managing the polling precincts, teachers, next to parents, are agents of political socialization. They influence the political knowledge and attitudes of students.

The power of teachers and educators to shape students political attitude and

consciousness makes an investigation of the teachers' voting behavior an interesting research topic. Their voting behavior reveals a lot about their civic and political consciousness, which will inevitably have an impact on their students.

How do our teachers vote? Is their voting similar to how the majority vote? The Philippine election in May 2013 was used as an avenue to seek answers to such questions. Hopefully insights drawn from the study can be used to improve the civic and political education of teachers (Yeban *et al.*, 2013).

This study sought to answer the following questions: (1) Who are the senatorial candidates voted by the teacher-respondents during the 2013 midterm election?; (2) Is there a significant difference between teachers choice and voters choice in the 2013 midterm election?; (3) Why did the teacher-respondents choose those senatorial candidates?; (4) Who are the party lists chosen by the teacher-respondents during the 2013 midterm election?; (5) Why did the teacher-respondents choose that party list?; (6) What are the sources of information for choosing a party list?; and (7) What are the implications of the voting behavior of teachers to education?

METHOD

Research Design. The descriptive survey method was employed to gather and examine the voting behavior of teachers in the 2013 midterm election. This method was used when a researcher intend to gather relatively limited data from a relatively large number of population (Sevilla *et al.*, 2004).

Respondents and Sampling Technique. The respondents of the study were teachers of North Philippine, who have cast their votes during the May 2013 midterm election and engaged in teaching profession. They were randomly selected. Twenty percent (20%) of the total population per school

were included as respondents of the study, with a total of 370.

Instrument Used. Firstly, *Questionnaire*. This was utilized to generate a general understanding of the teachers' voting behavior. The responses were quantified through the statistical packages of the social sciences.

Secondly, *Focus Group Discussion and Interview*. These were conducted to validate the written and verbal responses and to gain deeper understanding of teachers' voting behavior. This was also to ensure high quality and richer data, which were not captured and included in the questionnaire.

Data Gathering Procedure. The distribution and retrieval of the questionnaire were conducted during the semestral break of October 2013, and during Saturdays of the school year 2013-2014.

The focus group discussion and interview for the teachers of PNU (Philippine Normal University) was done during school days and Saturdays for the graduate students and teachers.

Statistical Tool. To determine the teachers' voting choice, the frequency distribution and percentage were utilized. The data gathered through the focus group discussion and interview were presented in qualitative description.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Survey Result of Senatorial Election. The table 1 shows the list of senators who belonged to the Top 12 in the 2013 senatorial race. Results show that based from the frequency of votes obtained, a big demarcation is recorded with the scores obtained by Grace Poe (f = 246; % = 76.64), being rank 1; and Chiz Escudero (f = 213; % = 66.36) as rank 2. It wasn't a close fight for these candidates.

Same situation can be observed with the rest of the candidates. It is also remarkable that Dick Gordon's vote (f =

Table 1:
 Survey Result of the Winning Senatorial Candidates

Candidates	Frequency of Votes	Percent	Rank
Grace Poe	246	76.64	1
Chiz Escudero	213	66.36	2
Nancy Binay	199	61.99	3
Allan Peter Cayetano	187	58.26	4
Cynthia Villar	181	56.39	5
Loren Legarda	177	55.14	6
Jack Enrile	166	51.71	7
Bam Aquino	160	49.84	8
Sonny Angara	144	44.86	9
Antonio Trillanes	127	39.59	10
Koko Pimentel	111	34.58	11
Dick Gordon	107	33.33	12

Table 2:
 List of Officially Elected Senators and the Teachers' Choice

Elected Senators	Teacher's Choice
1. Grace Poe	1. Grace Poe
2. Loren Legarda	2. Chiz Escudero
3. Francis Chiz Escudero	3. Nancy Binay
4. Allan Peter Cayetano	4. Allan Peter Cayetano
5. Nancy Binay	5. Cynthia Villar
6. Edgardo Sonny Angara	6. Loren Legarda
7. Benigno Bam Aquino	7. Jack Enrile #
8. Koko Pimentel	8. Bam Aquino
9. Antonio Trillanes	9. Edgardo Sonny Angara
10. Cynthia Villar	10. Antonio Trillanes
11. JV Ejercito *	11. Koko Pimentel
12. Gregorio Honasan *	12. Richard Gordon #

107; % = 33.33), who garnered the 12th slot is seemingly far from Grace Poe's which shows that whoever is popular in the heart of the voters garners the highest frequency of votes. In this context, Western, as cited also in H. Yeban *et al.* (2013), argues that elections are won and lost not primarily on issues in the values and emotions of the electors (Yeban *et al.*, 2013). See table 1.

Table 2 presents the list of senators, which were elected and proclaimed as official winners by the Commission on Elections; and the teachers' choice in North Luzon during the May 2013 National Elections. It can be noted that of the 12 winning senators, 10 were supported by the teachers in the region. Consistent with the result of

the national canvassing, Grace Poe emerged as the number 1 teacher's pet and Nancy Binay who ranked 5 in the final tally of the Commission on Election ranked 3 in the North Luzon area.

Also, Jack Enrile is ranked 7 in the region though unfortunately he didn't make it to the top 12 in the final official tally. In addition, Richard Gordon who failed to win in the election was favorably chosen by the teachers, while J.V. Ejercito and Gregorio Honasan were winners in the final list, but were not chosen by the majority of teachers in the region. See table 2.

Reasons for Choice of Senatorial Candidates. Based on the research results, reasons for choice of senatorial candidates are based on as follows:

First, Family Affiliation. Politicians, by virtue of the influence and credibility that they had established in the minds of the people, would always project an image that younger generations can possibly continue the advocacies that they once started. The case of Grace Poe is an illustration of an unfinished and unfulfilled promise of his late father, Fernando Poe Jr.

His death paved the way for more people to realize that Fernando Poe should have been a good leader and hence his name, perceived to be untarnished, when it was used by Grace Poe became very beneficial like in the case of Cynthia Villar, whose husband was a statesman and once a presidential aspirant; Nancy Binay, the vice president's daughter; Jack Enrile, a former senate president's son; Sonny Angara, son of a former senator; and Bam Aquino, a cousin of the incumbent President. The familiarity of their surnames in Philippine politics paved the way for most people to elect them in the senate.²

It can be easier understood that teachers too rely on the popularity of a candidates' family in choosing whom to support during the polls. In this context, F.M. Zulueta (2002) believes that election in the Philippines is a battle only of the country's elite families (Zulueta, 2002). However, the review conducted by the United States Library of Congress stresses that the wealthiest class' rivalry is mostly for the national positions, while families of lesser wealth compete for local positions.

Second, Young, New, and Promising. Having new faces in the senate is like trying to taste novel dishes as products of experimentation. Respondents firmly believed in the capacity of Grace Poe, Nancy Binay, and Bam Aquino in the senate; hence, the high percentage of

votes obtained. They are believed to be promising and idealistic similar to Chiz Escudero who, though not a first timer in the senate, still adheres to his being a principled man (interview with Respondent A, 9/10/2013).

Third, Performance and Accomplishments in the Government.

Chiz Escudero, Loren Legarda, Antonio Trillanes, and Richard Gordon aren't newbies in the senate; hence, they have proven their worth already as legislators. This is consistent with J.R. Garcia (2014) which supports that this may serve as a good reason for the respondents to vote for a candidate (Garcia, 2014).

However, it must be noted that Grace Poe, who once worked in the MTRCB (Movie and Television Review and Classification Board) and Bam Aquino who became an active advocate of the youth were adjudged with good performances as shown in the results of votes that they obtained in the survey. With these as premises, it can be concluded that the voters appreciated their performances positively.

Fourth, Endorsements. According to J.R. Garcia (2014), endorsement made in favor of a candidate plays a vital role in his candidacy (Garcia, 2014). This, according to the LWV (League of Women Voters) in 2010, is a way to show their "stamp approval" to the candidate. Endorsement may be made by the administration politicians, church, and other influential networks (LWV, 2010).

Strongly, the incumbent president's endorsement of the nine winning senatorial candidates was well noticed and valued by the voters. Also, it is apparent that all, in exception to Chiz Escudero, the winning candidates among the teachers were supported by the Iglesia ni Cristo group.

Fifth, Political Advertisements. Slogans, posters, radio, and TV (Television) advertisements are means to access the candidates' platforms in the government. It allows the voters to be

²See "Politics of the Philippines". Available online at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_the_Philippines [accessed in Manila, Philippines: August 17, 2015].

more acquainted with their candidates. Though, well regulated by the COMELEC (Commission on Election), Grace Poe, Chiz Ecsudero, Nancy Binay, Cynthia Villar, and Loren Legarda were among those whose political ads were played with longer durations in the radios and television; and these became very much beneficial on their candidacy.

Sixth, Family's Origin. Majority of the voter-respondents are from Cagayan Valley; hence, it can be easily understood that of the senatoriables, Nancy Binay, whose ancestor hailed from Isabela Povice and Jack Enrile who comes from Cagayan Province were mostly benefited. This proves that voters want to be represented in the senate by prominent individuals of their blood or whom they are closely acquainted.

Seventh, Prioritized Sectoral Representation. Kakuba Sultan Juma (2012) and results of the IPER (Institute for Political and Electoral Reform) study consistently supports the claim that voters reward candidates with their votes because their demands were fulfilled (Juma, 2012; and <http://www.iper.org.ph>, 17/7/2015).

This widely supports the claim of the youth sector represented by Bam Aquino as per result of the conducted survey. In addition, many voters are likewise looking for candidates, who can freely express their objections and discontentment in the government; hence, Antonio Trillanes was chosen. Finally, Richard Gordon who was identified with the improvement of Subic in Zambales and modernization of the Philippine National Red Cross obtained a remarkable vote from the teacher-respondents.

The Party List Election Survey Result. The first thirty (30) party list along with the percentage of votes they obtained from the teacher-respondents is shown in the table 3. The teacher-respondents were very much supportive of the LPGMA (Liquified Petroleum Gas Marketers Association) party list as

reflected in the table. With 30.37% share of the total votes casted for the party list, it is clearly evident that the party list (i.e. Act Teacher and a Teacher, 3rd and 4th in the ranking, respectively) intended for teachers were not their dominant choice. Also, the party lists Teachers' Dignity Coalition, Ating Guro, and Ang Guro obtained only very minimal support from the respondents.

It can be further observed that ANAC-IP (National Coalition of Indigenous People), LPGMA, and 1BAP (*Barangay Ating Paunlarin* or Serving the Barangays Movement) party list, which candidates are from Isabela Province obtained remarkably higher percentages of vote compared to others in the list. This supports W. Bianco & D. Canon (2010)'s study where it was cited that some factors that may affect the voters' preference include geographical location (Bianco & Canon, 2010). See table 3.

Table 4 presents the reasons ticked by the respondents in choosing the party list, which they will support. Noticeably, the track record and the credibility of the group became their prime consideration. It matters when they understand the intention of the group as they aspire for a seat in the Congress. Also, the respondents revealed their desire that their group, teachers, be represented accordingly in the legislation of laws in the Congress. It is worth noting that the respondents properly screened and identified the party, which they are going to vote since they did not decide to choose the popular ones and the one which came to mind first.

Varied sources of information regarding the platforms and backgrounds of the party list aspirants are reflected in table 5. Voters did give much attention to paid political advertisements in the television. This is a worthwhile avenue, though costly for the voters to scrutinize the platforms of the aspirants. A candidate being mentioned in the news for whatever

Table 3:
 Chosen Party List and the Percentage of Obtained Votes

Party List	Percentage
LPGMA (Liquified Petroleum Gas Marketers Association)	30.37
ANAC-IP (National Coalition of Indigenous People)	20
ACT (Alliance of Concerned Teachers) Teacher	17.04
A TEACHER (Advocacy for Teacher Empowerment through Action, Cooperation and Harmony towards Educational Reforms)	16.30
<i>1BAP (Barangay Ating Paunlarin or Serving the Barangays Movement)</i>	1.85
AMA (<i>Aagapay sa Matatanda</i> or Serves the Elderly)	1.11
ADING (Advance community Development in New Generation)	1.11
<i>Kabataan</i> (A Youth Group)	.74
AKBAYAN (Left Pluralist National Political Party)	.74
COOP NATCO (Cooperative National Confederation of Cooperatives)	.74
ABC (Alliance for <i>Barangay</i> Concerns)	.74
ABAKADA (Organization of Teachers and Non-Academic Personnel)	.74
TDC (Teachers' Dignity Coalition)	.74
<i>Bayan Muna</i> (Nation First)	.74
<i>Ating Guro</i> (Teachers Organization)	.74
SAGIP (Social Amelioration and Genuine Intervention on Poverty)	.74
ABS (Arts, Business, and Science Professionals)	.37
ABA (Alliance of groups that represent the rural poor, the urban poor, and the traditional natural family)	.37
AAMOVER (A Action Moral and Values Recovery Reform Philippines)	.37
DIWA (Democratic Independent Worker's Association)	.37
ABONO (Promotes agribusiness and entrepreneurial association)	.37
NATIONALISTA (Fosters Filipino Nationalism)	.37
AGHAM (Association of Science Professionals, Science Journalists, Advocates, and Enthusiasts)	.37
FIRM 24K (Friends of Imelda Romualdez Marcos, Members are from the Marginalized Sectors of the Society)	.37
<i>Kalinga</i> (Represents the Urban Poor)	.37
<i>Butil</i> (Farmers Party)	.37
UNA (United Nationalist Alliance)	.37
SC (Senior Citizen)	.37
<i>KATRIBU</i> (Indigenous Peoples Sectoral Party)	.37
Total	100

circumstance likewise favored the voters' familiarity of the group.

In this present generation, the social media has an obvious role in election campaigns. Many voters can have access to the internet where they can possibly gather varied information as bases in choosing a candidate. Social institutions, such as the school, the church, and the like contribute,

though maybe to a small extent to the familiarity of candidates. It can be deduced that the voters did not rely solely on his own personal knowledge as basis in deciding whom to vote.

To be voted upon as Party List means that the representatives will occupy seats in Congress, depending upon the percentage of votes they obtained. To be in Congress, the vast majority of the

Table 4:
 Reasons for Choosing the Party List Ranked According to Importance

Reasons	Rank
I considered the track record of the party list.	1
I choose the party list that I knew was credible.	2
I want the teacher sector represented in Congress.	3
I liked the list of laws that my chosen party list plans to pass.	4
I share and support the political beliefs of the party list.	5
The party list was suggested to me by a family member or a friend.	6
I choose the party list that was most visible.	7
I personally benefitted from the party list's program represented in Congress.	8
I want other sectors to be represented in Congress.	9
The nominees of the party list were people I personally know.	10
I am returning the favor extended to me by the party list of my choice.	11
I voted for the one that came to my mind first.	12
I chose what I perceived to be popular.	13

Table 5:
 Voters' Sources of Information on the Party List They Voted

Sources	Percentage	Rank
Political Advertisements in Television.	16.97	1
News.	13.66	2
Social Media.	11.86	3
Family Members.	11.45	4
Personal Encounter with the Party List.	10.62	5
Newspapers.	9.24	6
School.	8.55	7
Friend.	8.41	8
Colleagues.	7.86	9
Church.	.97	10
Flyers.	.28	11
Personal Knowledge.	.14	12
Total	100	

Table 6:
 Voters' Expectation on the Party List

Expectations	Percentage
P = Pass/legislate laws for the sector they are representing.	42.44
H = Help the needy.	13.17
P = Protect the right of the people.	9.76
I = Increase teacher's salary.	6.83
H = Honestly serve the people.	6.83
F = Fulfill their promises.	6.83
B = Be the voice of the people (i.e. Indigenous People).	5.85
U = Upgrade the country's economy.	3.90
I = Introduce change.	2.93
S = Support the old-aged.	1.46
Total	100

respondents expected them to pass and/or legislate laws for the benefit of the group they are representing. They have to be the voice of the people especially those treated as marginalized, such as the Indigenous People. It cannot be denied that the teacher-respondents expected the Party Lists to at least work for the increase in the salary, compensations and fringe benefits. See table 6.

The above mentioned result presented the following scenario for the choice of party list in Northern Luzon by the teacher-respondents: *First*, primary consideration in choosing a party list is the credible track record that it can present to the electorates, specifically the one which highlights the formulated laws in support to the advocacy that it laid for the people. *Second*, party list must act as the teacher sector's voice in the congress. Furthermore, they represent and be able to speak on behalf of the people more so the marginalized and indigenous people in the passage of laws. *Third*, the party list are elected as a way to recompense debt of gratitude.

Implications to Education. Based on the data gathered, the findings of this study revealed that teachers' choice does not match with the majority of the voters' choice in the Philippine 2013 midterm election for senators and party list. The result posed a great challenge to education as an avenue of social transformation.

It behooves that education should equip individuals the skill to understand the political condition of the country so that graduate of Teacher Education Institutions, the teachers, shall be able to engage themselves seriously in shaping political consciousness and attitudes to the young learners. Education is expected to cause positive changes along this line.

CONCLUSION

The following conclusions were drawn from the findings. The teachers' voting choice is not consistent with the

voters' choice during the Philippine May 2013 midterm election. The teachers preference were based from the candidates family affiliation, worthy accomplishments, chronological age and stature, endorsement from different institutions and from political leaders, sectoral representation, and mode of advertisement. The findings pose a great challenge to education as an agent of socio-political transformation.

Based from the findings the following recommendations are given. The TEIs (Teacher Education Institutions) extension programs must include Civic Education for parents particularly in connection with their proper discharge of duties and responsibilities as voting members of the population.

The TEIs should include Civic Education in the General Education courses as part of the in-service training. Civic Education should be part of the general curriculum or an elective subject in the K-12 curriculum, so that the students will be basically capacitated for socio-political transformation.³

References

- Barrete, R.J. (2013). "How the Filipino Electorate Chooses its Leaders" in *The Philippine Online Chronicles*. Available online also at: www.thepoc.net [accessed in Manila, Philippines: July 17, 2015].
- Bianco, W. & D. Canon. (2010) *American Politics Today*. New York and London: W.W. Norton and Company.
- Bongcac, R.A. (2000). *Voting Behavior and Factors in the Election of a Philippine President: Their Relation to Voter-Related Variables*. Manila: PNU [Philippine Normal University] Press.
- CNPL [Chief's Notes on Political Law]. (2007). *Bar Operations Commission*. Manila: Center for Legal Education and Research, Arellano University School of Law.

³**Statement:** We, hereby, declare that this paper is our original work and not product of plagiarism in any books or journal that have being published. The citation is stated and shown in the References. This paper is never also being submitted and published by other scholarly journal.

- De Leon, H.S. & H.M. De Leon Jr. (1997). *The Law on Public Offices and Election Law*. Manila: Rex Book Store, 3rd edition.
- Ericta, C. & E. Fabian. (2009). "A Documentation of the Philippines' Family Income and Expenditure Survey". Available online at: <http://dirp3.pids.gov.ph/ris/dps/pidsdps0918.pdf> [accessed in Manila, Philippines: August 17, 2015].
- Ericta, C.N. & F.C. Varona. (2003). "Profile of Philippine Voters". Paper presented in the PSA Annual Conference at Sulu Hotel, Quezon City, Philippines, on November 12.
- Garcia, J.R. (2014). "Voter's Choice: Evaluating Political Alternatives of Alicia, Isabela". *Unpublished Master's Thesis*. Manila: Philippine Normal University.
<http://www.ched.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/CMO-No.26-s2005.pdf> [accessed in North Luzon, the Philippines: 17 July 2015].
<http://www.iper.org.ph> [accessed in Manila, Philippines: July 17, 2015].
- Interview with Respondent A, one of the teachers of PNU (Philippine Normal University) in Manila, Philippines, on 9 October 2013.
- Juma, Kakuba Sultan. (2012). "Voting Behavior in Uganda Since 1996: An Investigation into the Factors Likely to Determine Voters' Choices in the 2011 Elections". *Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis*. Uganda: Islamic University in Uganda.
- LWV [League of Women Voters]. (2010). "How to Judge a Candidate". Available online at: www.smarter.org [accessed in Manila, Philippines: July 17, 2015].
- McElroy, G. & M. Marsh. (2009). "Candidate, Gender, and Voter Choice: Analysis from a Multimember Preferential Voting System" in *Political Research Quarterly*. Philippines: University of Utah. Available online also at: <http://prq.sagepub.com> [accessed in Manila, Philippines: July 17, 2015].
- O'Neil, P. (2012). *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. USA [United States of America]: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.
- Puscas, Vasile. (2010). *Managing Global Interdependencies*. Cluj-Napoca, Philippines: Eikon Publication.
- Sevilla, C. et al. (2004). *Research Method*. Manila: Rex Book Store.
- Yeban, H. et al. (2013). *Teachers' Voting Behavior*. Manila: PNU [Philippine Normal University] Press.
- Zaide, G.F. & S.M. Zaide. (2005). *History of Asian Nations*. Quezon City: All Nations Publishing Co., Inc., 7th edition.
- Zaide, S.M. (1994). *The Philippines: A Unique Nation*. Manila: All-Nations Publishing Co., Inc.
- Zulueta, F.M. (2002). *General Sociology*. Mandaluyong City: Academic Publishing Corporation, revised edition.