

Breaking the Political Vices: Transformative Glimmer in Philippine Representation from the Public Educators' Publicness Vistas

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Abstract

This study went through the recent development on how representative process should be in a country where the democratization trajectory was never examined from the ordinary citizens' view within the seven-decade republicanism. Data were extracted from 334 basic educators out of 2,036 population. Slovin's formula was utilized to determine the sample size. Moreover, the quantitative data were analyzed by employing descriptive analysis of 4-point scale researcher-made questionnaires, bearing an internal consistency of 0.905 and 0.910 Chronbach's Alpha reliability. Indicators emphasized the supposed roles of representatives in a substantive democracy. The results showed that the respondents' sophistication degree on their concept of democratic representation was very high with an overall mean of 3.35 (SD=.66), and a high degree sophistication in their consciousness of democratic representation with a mean of 3.01 (SD=.74). Data showed that the respondents' idea of representative system transcends procedural representation where representatives make decisions beyond the cavil of the represented. It is concluded that notwithstanding their political passivity, the respondents' bulk of responses around the publicness scenario delineates a mechanism for a more democratic Philippines.

Keywords: *Citizens' Participation, Democratization, Governance, Liberal Democracy, Representative System.*

Introduction

For several decades, the lone trust mechanism in an electoral representative system had perennially disclosed habitual representatives' political vices in governance. The notion of putting trust on any politician adapted in many representative systems no longer holds water to yield doubtless outcomes in the service to the people. Politics is a clash of various interests

for which top political actors do not vacillate, resorting to a moral means to ascend or stay in power. Thus trusting politicians in countless instances had been observed to result in total disillusionment – a common occurrence in a less democratic electoral representation in many developing states like the Philippines. Absence of an apparent sign for a more democratic transformation behind

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electoral representation over a long period of time in a developing state merits direct attention. This would necessarily challenge the complacency of concerned individuals to investigate what plays behind people's mind on matters of representative-represented involvements. Representation is a contractual reality that entails continuous reciprocity of the parties bound by mutual trust. However, constant observation shows intensifying degree of skepticism towards the established electoral democracy (Bactol & Coronacion, 2020; Coffe & Michels, 2014; Coleman & Wright 2008).

Electoral representation in most developing countries continued to be in question. Its waning integrity had been constantly discursive in the past few decades in many decolonized states where eventual modifications thereof had been introduced (Aragones & Sanchez, 2009; Breuer, 2007). The Philippines on the other hand, like other developing countries, remained unperturbed by the transformative changes occurring in other states. While the opposing powers therein between strategic political leaders and the constituents moving for democratization pointed out by Fukuyama (2015) persist. This phenomenon was seemingly unnoticed by majority of the ordinary people in the country.

Many authors in politics underwent dialectic analyses governing political representations and its resulting failures. Yet, no bottom-up study conducted delving on the views of ordinary Filipinos utilizing a sample to discover current understanding on how representation should work as democratically contemplated. The studies of Miranda (2016) and Ronas (2016) went only through the

democratization process interpreting political phenomena in the subject. While the tri-media were particular on the programmatic platforms of the politicians, other studies concentrated on assessing the effectiveness of the public officials, such as their performance on the delivery of public goods.

Unlike usual concentrations, the present quantitative study traversed across the ordinary public educators' understanding on how representation should be. The qualitative study on the public educators' perceptions on representation by Bactol and Coronacion (2020) was instrumental to this end. In line with the country's democratic development, the study aimed to discover respondents' ruminations having been immersed in Philippine representation as ordinary Filipinos. Conceptualized indicators were intended to unravel the expected roles of both the representatives and the represented in governance. Public school teachers are dynamic repositories of knowledge not only on things within the realms of their teaching enthrallment. Despite electioneering prohibitions, they are uplifting citizens' participation in civic and political activities. As paragons of good citizenship, they are effective socializers for nation-building, state-building and governance. Hence, their inner views matter the most for political enlightenment and progressive outlooks necessary for a more people-oriented system of representation in the country.

Literature Review

The term democracy pertains to a variety of radical to moderate regimes (Schmidt, 2002). One of them is representative democracy – a regime whose

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genus shares the so-called Linconian democratic trademark reflecting a varied degree of democratic practices. These are manifested by barometers of democratic political performance of political productivity outcome such as measures of the political process and policy results . . . (Schmidt, 2002).

In this regime, elected public officials manage governmental affairs contemplating the ideals or the practical spirit of the social contract in a representative-represented system (Bactol & Coronacion, 2020). Such regime contemplates the best interest of the represented individuals; they being upon whom the sovereign power is vested (Nachura, 2015). This type of democracy by representation was traced on the second democratic transformation (Hug, 2009).

Democracy underwent waves of transformation in the process of its appreciation and has yet to transform further (Fukuyama, 2015). In the first half of the 20th century, the UN officials conceived democracy as a governmental system with its laws and institutions reflecting the people's will and power. Later, democratization was viewed as a gradual process that fosters a more participatory, less authoritarian society (Fukuyama, 2015). With the institutionalization of representation in democratic process, the expectations of the people from a state that acclimated representative democracy externalized how democracy through their representatives should work. This was further implied by the people's willingness and strong approval to sustain democracy and democratic institutions (Tormey, 2014). Democracy would persist as long as political institutions are democratic inasmuch as a majority can change the status quo . . . and the social

context cannot turn the principles of political freedom and equality into mere formalities (Munck, 2014).

Freedom [itself] is power dependent on preventing or prevailing over conditions of domineering entities (Hamilton, 2018). It happens by ensuring power, control, and self-control over certain dimensions, *e.g.*, “*the power to determine social and economic environment via meaningful control over one's economic and political representatives . . .*” (Hamilton, 2018, p. 9). Regardless as to who exercises the imposition, the nature of power remains a tension emanating, among others interests (Ronen, 2013). Same tension over groups of individuals along the lengthy struggle for true democracy where both rule of law and accountability are the alternating means for constraining the government to consider the broader public (Fukuyama, 2015).

People's freedom as power in normal situations is never a simplistic matter of definite individual control over a lot of domains. Everyone's freedom is determined to a remarkable extent by a collection of variables to execute with these groups' nature and power and their respective representatives (Hamilton, 2018). Any government could only stick to its mandate to protect the legitimate voice of the people in their struggle for better democracy (Fukuyama, 2015). True democracy, being the people's will, is the ultimate goal (Accetti et al., 2016).

Representative democracy in many countries earned heavy criticisms over failures to guaranty citizens' interests (Mackin, 2005). The lower class in the countries of both North and South was barely

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and ineffectively participating in representative democracy (Fukuyama, 2015).

With the traditional elitist struggle for power, ordinary citizens such as in the Philippines are limited to performing their participatory role during regular elections alone (Ronas, 2016). Thereafter, they are relegated as observers in the game of politics (Biegelbauer & Hansen, 2011) under the controlling politicians (Dunn, 2018).

The grassroots are not well-organized, more so poorly served by the politicians who are only interested in their votes while declaring themselves as representatives of the people's interests (Bactol & Coronacion, 2020). Existing legitimacy crisis vis-à-vis the institutions before the sight of the marginalized and the increasing number of middle class people have been documented thoroughly. More particularly, participatory research in twenty-three countries showed that the recent 'consultations with the poor' report, prepared for the World Development Report 2001, concludes a governance crisis where marginalized people were excluded (Pimbert & Wakeford, 2001).

The problems encountered in representative democracy can be traced to its conceptualization associated with representation in the performance (Urbinati, 2011). Schmidt (2002) noted differences in degree of performance rather than differences of democracy. As regards performance, representative democracy was exhausted for many grounds worth investigating. Most of these are within the shared representative-represented responsibility needing

continuous reconstruction in the process (Tormey, 2015). On this note, Hamilton (2018) emphasized reinvention, strengthening, and/or modification for improvement thereof. Same reason challenged political practitioners and scholars to move along with their analysis and findings (Coffe & Michels, 2014).

Existing researches discovered a dwindling degree of satisfaction with the representative democracy, institutions and processes associated fundamentally with the principle governing elected individuals as representatives (Coffe & Michels, 2014; Kaase & Newton, 1995; Mackin, 2005; Miranda, 2016). These resulted in the so-called declining trust in representatives (Fukuyama, 2015; Mackin, 2005). Thus, increasing levels of skepticism towards institutions of representative democracy became inspirational towards interest augmentation for alternative choices of decision-making among scholars and political practitioners (Coffe & Michels, 2014; Vigoda, 2002; Woodford & Preston, 2013).

Indubitably, representatives/institutions themselves can make wise decisions. This is not absolute though (Junaenah, 2015). At times, the government transgresses the individuals' rights (Fukuyama, 2015).

Moreover, it is miserly to centralize bargaining via common representatives (Hirst, 2013) and representative democracy is a source of inefficiency (Acemoglu et al., 2011; Crain, 2002). These may not necessarily reach the crisis point in democracy. Nonetheless, there were sufficient reasons calling for attention and

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situations considering actions to mend political trust and satisfaction beneficial to the constituents (Coffe & Michels, 2002).

Hamilton (2014) also stressed that power is integral to freedom. Specifically power [via political representation] and freedom can be acquired on the condition that the existing patterns of representation handle power relations to control domination in establishing priorities such as the interests and needs. In many representative democracies, this power is manipulated by the representatives (Urbinati, 2011). However, undeniably citizens too have the power. They can decide on policy proposals and politicians can assume the role of policy implementation (Fournier, 2011; Aragonés & Sanchez, 2009). Consistent to this, Hamilton (2014), proposed an institutional renovation for representative democracy reinvention relative to freedom as power through representation.

Under the democratization process, certain undertakings with typical underpinning adopted specific modifications enhancing representative democracy. These include negotiatory mechanisms giving voice to interdependent actors with further considerations of the minority in particular countries (Hart & Kleiboer, 1995). Some of these representative democratic transformatory enhancements are: 1) Deliberative and inclusionary processes (DIPs) where deliberation is an essential component for all decision-making in democratic societies. It adopted citizens' active participation, empowerment, and other mechanisms promoting governance (Pimbert & Wakeford, 2001); 2) Adoption of the typology for the assessment and evaluations

of the accountability strength of what is referred to as institutions of direct democracy (IDD). These are for categorization/classification of the constitutional provisions under the direct democracy in 18 Latin American presidential democracies (Breuer, 2007); 3) Switzerland's mixed direct-indirect democracy viewed to co-exist well (Lutz, 2006); 4) The Orcamento Participativo (OP) which allowed both rich and poor citizens' active participation in the local governance. It is best known and most successful local management experiment based on participatory democracy in Porto Alegre, Brazilian state capital of Rio Grande del Sul (Aragones & Sanchez, 2009).

Meanwhile, in the Philippines, its 1987 constitution provides insignificant mechanisms for active people's participation such as initiative and referendum. The not-self-executing initiative is for constitutional amendments only (Sec. 2, Art. XVII), while referendum is just for the adoption of the country's new name, a national anthem, or a national seal (Sec. 2, Art. XVI). Both can only be exercised for a very limited purpose. With the emergence of the publicness principle (Jarvis, 2011), the evolving people's participative consciousness can be observed prompting the entire sovereignty empowerment in the realm of national and local politics (Bactol & Coronacion, 2020).

Theoretical/Conceptual Framework

Representation in its publicness scenario is conceptualized to mean representation as public concern for a government. It is derived from Jarvis' (2011) meaning of publicness – ethic of sharing and public good . . ." (Jarvis, 2011). Thus, its

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applicability when people manifest representative's mandates. They are being in reciprocal relations therewith under the social contract theory.

The social contract infers peoples' participation: sharing concerns via publicness . . . (Bactol & Coronacion, 2020, p. 13). It is basically rooted on the government-constituents' reciprocity (Locke, 1823). The contract is not an absolute guarantee for an ideal democracy; it is vulnerable to powerful entities. The constituents are not bereft of good ideas about representative democracy. Beyond the electoral process, anyone could partake in enhancing the existing representative system viewed through the publicness scenario expounded in Figure 1 hereunder.

Figure 1
The Paradigm of the Study

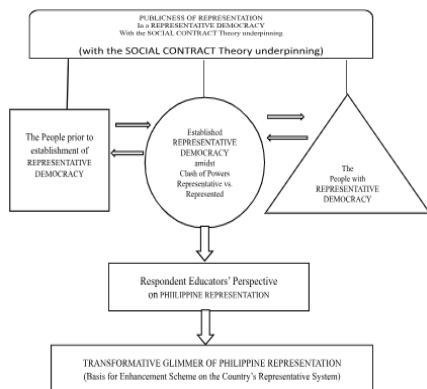


Figure 1 presents six variable shapes interconnected by lines/arrows. The top-most semi-rectangle contains the idea of publicness of representation with the social contract theory underpinning exemplified by the shapes having reciprocal relationships:

1. The square represents the public equal-sided structure before the establishment of representative democracy in which people have equal freedom/power to establish a government regardless of their status.
2. The circle portrays representative democracy's capability for infinite innovations/ modifications.
3. The triangle represents the recent unitary government's hierarchical public structure inclusive of all people.
4. The two pairs of opposing arrows suggest a two-way process relationship: a) between square and circle (people's freedom to establish democratic government that returns the value of freedom) and b) between circle and triangle (mutual protection in a representative democracy).

The smaller rectangle underneath the circle represents the respondent educators' perspective on democratic representation; under which, the bigger rectangle bears the basis for a representative system enhancement scheme.

Research Questions

This study aimed to disclose the public school teacher-respondents' magnitude of democratic representative sophistication in a political subdivision. Specifically, it sought to answer the questions:

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1. What is their degree of sophistication on their concept of representation?
2. What is their degree of sophistication on consciousness of democratic representation?
3. What suitable enhancement scheme on the country's representative system can be designed based on the findings?

Methodology

Research Design

Survey design was employed in this study. Survey intends to provide a numeric description of trends, attitudes, or opinions of a population such as in representative democracy. Moreover, survey research is a popular research approach in political science. Survey questionnaires are administrable to large numbers of people whereby results can be appreciated by precise statistical measurements.

Usefulness and benefits for conducting surveys lies in the fact that it is efficient and further enhances understanding political issues. This study concerns democratic representation sustained by a large population. Through survey, the data were collected from a larger number of public educators, thereby generalizability came next to be a good point in conducting surveys beneficial to this disquisition. Anent to this, survey is regarded as “the only means available for developing a representative picture of the attitudes and characteristics of a large population” (Shutt, 2012, p. 231).

Sampling Procedure

Stratified Random method was used considering that the teachers come from different schools (strata). The total sample size of 334 from a population of 2036 was proportionately distributed to the 62 schools. To determine the respondents per school, simple random method was utilized. A set of random numbers was generated using a table. The units having those numbers were included in the sample. Subsequently, questionnaires were administered to the identified respondents.

Research Instruments

A researcher-made survey questionnaire was used to gather the intended data. It was tailored following the strict guidelines for writing survey questions and was constituted with the standard compliance of the requirements (Schutt, 2012). It concentrated on two major parts constituting respondents' democratic representation perspectives: first on their concept of representation and second on their consciousness on democratic representation.

The respondents' responses were expressed in degrees of agreement or disagreement following a 4-point Likert scale. This scale was adopted to determine the type of response the teacher-respondents were inclined to without leaving them undecided in between.

The questionnaires underwent a dry run to uncover peculiar defects thereof. It was conducted outside the research locale through a group of teachers having similar sample criteria of the study. The responses were subjected to Chronbach's Alpha measure. For

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purposes of higher reliability and improved workability, some statements with lower measure were excluded from the actual survey.

Data Collection Procedure

With prior arrangement made, the survey took place within one month following exemplified sampling steps. Administering of questionnaires to the respondents commenced with the set of respondent criteria being followed. The researcher personally conducted the data gathering process. It followed the office schedule while properly observing the timeliness of the research. The researcher personally retrieved the accomplished questionnaires immediately after the allowed time frame.

Data Analysis

The data were statistically analyzed using descriptive measures, such as frequency counts, Percentage, and weighted mean. The weighted means were interpreted based on the descriptions of the scales in the questionnaire. Analysis on the degree of sophistication on the publicness of democratic representation utilized the weighted mean which was based on the scale employed in the questionnaire. The same was interpreted following the matrix:

Table 1

Degree of Sophistication on the Concept of Representation

Scale	Weighted Mean Range	Description	Interpretation
4	3.50 – 4.00	Strongly Agree	Very high degree of sophistication
3	2.50 – 3.49	Agree	High degree of sophistication
2	1.50 – 2.49	Disagree	Low degree of sophistication
1	1.00 – 1.49	Strongly Agree	Very low degree of sophistication

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Table 2

Degree of Sophistication on Consciousness of Democratic Representation

Scale	Weighted Mean Range	Description	Interpretation
4	3.50 – 4.00	Strongly Agree	Very high degree of sophistication
3	2.50 – 3.49	Agree	High degree of sophistication
2	1.50 – 2.49	Disagree	Low degree of sophistication
1	1.00 – 1.49	Strongly Agree	Very low degree of sophistication

Ethical Considerations

This paper is mainly concerned with enhancing the Philippine representative system by going through the public-school teachers' sophistication in matters of the country's democratic representation. Its objective is not beyond the bounds of a true democracy where people's rights are well recognized. Notwithstanding, the current administration's political tolerance, anonymity, and confidentiality are assured among the respondents. Thus, adhering to the Data Privacy Act of the Philippines, maximized precautions involving ethical matters are observed. All information obtained should only be for studying purposes and producing further knowledge intended to improve the democratic landscape.

Results and Discussion

Sophistication on Respondents' Concept of Representation

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Table 3
Respondents' Concepts of Representation

Indicators A	Mean	SD	Interpretatio
1) Political representation in a representative democracy means "elected public official representing the interests and will of the people."	3.59	0.56	SA
2) Political representation in a representative democracy means active decision making and participation of the elected public official only.	2.85	0.99	A
3) Political representation in a representative democracy entails active involvement thereto of the constituents or ordinary citizens not only during elections.	3.60	0.56	SA
4) Political representation is a process where elected public officials acts as trustee and the group of constituents is the trustor.	3.46	0.60	SA
5) In political representation elected public officials may be viewed as agents and the group of people is the principal.	3.40	0.61	SA
6) Representation is a term that consists only of promises made by electoral candidates.	2.52	0.98	A
7) Representation means doing exactly what has been promised by elected official during electoral campaign and the entirety of his/her term of office.	3.30	0.73	A
8) Representation means "elected public official doing good for the people during his/her term of office."	3.48	0.68	SA
9) Representation is a reality that only comes out before or during election.	2.85	0.84	A
10) Representation is a reality that takes place between elected public official and the people before and during the whole term of the said elected public official.	3.28	0.64	SA
11) Representation means responsiveness of the elected public officials to all the people they serve.	3.54	0.58	SA
12) Representation means good relations between elected public officials and the people regardless of the latter's status in life.	3.58	0.59	SA
13) Representation means commitment of the elected public officials to the welfare of everyone in the community and society.	3.63	0.58	SA
16) Representation means attentiveness of the elected public officials to their personal interests and that of the people.	2.58	0.93	A
17) Representation means attentiveness of the elected public officials to what they believe is good for the people.	3.33	0.72	A
18) There is good representation when elected public officials make themselves visibly and regularly available to the public.	3.58	0.57	SA
19) There is good representation when elected public officials do something actual to gain knowledge about the priorities of the people they are serving.	3.59	0.54	SA
20) There is good representation when elected public officials are available either through direct or indirect contact to the public.	3.53	0.59	SA
21) There is good representation if elected public officials could only inform the public about their plan of actions as well as the results of their previous actions and decisions.	3.16	0.77	A
22) There is good representation when there is a "two-way" relations between elected public officials and the people.	3.63	0.51	SA
23) There is good representation when constituents could speak in a formal and regular meeting with their elected public officials about the former's priorities.	3.51	0.55	SA
24) There is good representation if people can be part of the regular decision making of the government.	3.56	0.53	SA
25) Representation is a respectful and transparent "give and take" between elected public officials and the constituents.	3.60	0.53	SA
Overall Mean/Standard Deviation	3.35	0.66	SA
Indicators B	Mean	SD	Interpretatio
14) Representation means attentiveness of the elected public officials to their own interests only.	2.09	1.08	A
15) Representation means attentiveness of the elected public officials to the interests of the constituents who voted for them only during elections.	2.38	1.08	A
Overall Mean/Standard Deviation	2.24	1.08	A

Legend A:	Mean Range:	Interpretation:	Legend B:	Mean Range:	Interpretation:
3.26 – 4.00	3.26 – 4.00	Strongly Agree (SA)	3.26 – 4.00	3.26 – 4.00	Strongly Disagree (SD)
2.51 – 3.25	2.51 – 3.25	Agree (A)	2.51 – 3.25	2.51 – 3.25	Disagree (D)
1.76 – 2.50	1.76 – 2.50	Disagree (D)	1.76 – 2.50	1.76 – 2.50	Agree (A)
1.00 – 1.75	1.00 – 1.75	Strongly Disagree (SD)	1.00 – 1.75	1.00 – 1.75	Strongly Agree (SA)

In these findings, the respondents generally had a strong agreement on the different concepts of representation. These are manifested by the overall mean of 3.35 (SA) in Indicators A and overall mean of 2.24 (A) under Indicators B. Respondents had the strongest agreement, that is a) representation is a commitment of the elected public officials to the welfare of everyone in the community and society; b) there is good representation when there is a two-way relations between elected public official and the people; c) political representation in a representative democracy entails active involvement thereto of the constituents or ordinary citizens not only during elections;

All this entails active reciprocity with equal representative represented participatory set-up in a democratic process which was never observed in the entire

history of Philippine representation. Hence, the challenge encountered traced upon its conceptualization associated with representation performance (Urbinati, 2011). This is as Schmidt (2002) noted about differences in degree of performance rather than differences in kind of democracy. The problems are mostly within the shared representative-represented responsibility needing progressive reconstruction in the process (Tormey, 2015).

The four highest indicators also implied the respondents' higher sophistication of democratic representation understanding. The indicator "commitment to everyone's welfare" ultimately demands that representatives should set aside their advantageous interest over the represented.

In a representative system, public officials are elected to manage governmental affairs contemplating ideally the practical spirit of the social contract (Bactol & Coronacion, 2020). Such is a regime where the best interest of the represented is paramount, considering them being at the seat of sovereign power (Nachura, 2015).

This highest indicator is strongly highlighted by the other three indicators, *i.e.*, "two-way relations", "active constituents' post-electoral involvements" and "respectful, transparent representative-represented 'give and take'." These indicators asserted that representative democracy, to be indeed democratic, demands constituents' post-electoral participation. These indicators counter the country's constituent electoral participation alone (Ronas, 2016).

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Thereafter, they being relegated as spectators in the game of politics (Biegelbauer & Hansen, 2011) under the politicians' rule (Dunn, 2018).

Same responses further acknowledged a representation that mirrors democracy in the first half of the 20th century, *i.e.*, manifesting a system where laws and institutions reflect the people's will and power. However, the same are evocative of democratic development in its gradual process that fosters a more participatory, less authoritarian society (Fukuyama, 2015). With the institutionalization of democratic representation process in the country already happening, the respondents' expectations run identical with that of the people from other states that acclimated to representative democracy. Hence, the needful implication on how democracy through the respective representatives should work (Tormey, 2014). Further implication shows respondents' willingness and strong approval to help sustain democracy and democratic institutions (Tormey, 2014).

Moreover, the results were sustained by the political vices indicators, disagreed by the respondents in Table 1 (indicators B) which were inversely interpreted as having been negatively stated in opposition to the real democratic import. The respondents disagreed that: a) representation means attentiveness of the elected public officials to their own interests only (mean = 2.09); and b) representation means attentiveness of the elected public officials to the interests of the constituents who voted for them only during elections (mean = 2.38). Their disagreement on these concepts implies total awareness of practices that should be eliminated from the

public office evidenced by the 4 highest indicators.

This means participatory governance and eventual altering of previous barometer manifestations of democratic political performance of political productivity outcome, *i.e.*, measures of the political process and policy results . . . (Abels, 2007; Schmidt, 2002). Thus, it sets forth the type of democracy by representation traced on the second democratic transformation (Hug, 2009) showing transformative signals in the transformation process (Fukuyama, 2015).

These findings present conventional understanding on recent conceptual development of representation and how should it work. Aside from the recognition of its rectifiable defects, there is this assertion of power to claim responsibility originating from the respondents themselves. Nevertheless, with the very high sophistication of understanding on the given subject, it was revealed that teacher-respondents were repositories of political knowledge. This was indicated by their degree of sophistication magnified by the findings presented next.

Sophistication on the Respondents' Consciousness of Democratic Representation

Table 2 shows the findings on the sophistication degree of the respondents' consciousness of representation. It enumerates 20 specific concepts about representation under Indicators A and B. Each of which has a degree of agreement or disagreement manifested by the weighted

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means. To ensure the respondents' ultimate consciousness in answering the questionnaire, nine out of 20 indicators were negatively stated (Indicators B). Moreover, two out of these nine indicators were similarly stated. All these nine negatively stated indicators shown under Indicators B were interpreted inversely.

strongly agreed, states that “representation is not all about who is wealthy and powerful politicians; it is all about the welfare of the people who must be given the opportunity to express their concern freely, legally, regularly and without fear either directly or through any available means of communication.”

Table 4

Respondents' Consciousness of Representation

Indicators A	Mean	SD	Interpretation
1) Incumbent representative-elected-public officials are very close to their constituents and/or the people they serve.	2.94	0.75	A
3) Incumbent representative-elected-public officials give importance to their constituents and/or the people they serve.	3.23	0.69	A
5) Incumbent representative-elected-public officials reach out to the people they are serving.	3.17	0.70	A
7) Elections of representative public officials are true reflections of the will of the people.	2.99	0.76	A
9) Representative elected public officials in the past and the present are one with the people who elected them.	2.90	0.69	A
11) Representative elected public officials in the past and the present are freely chosen by the constituents.	3.02	0.70	A
13) People have no choice but to vote the lesser evil candidates occupying the office of an elected public official.	2.60	0.90	A
14) People have the freedom of choice to vote the lesser evil candidates occupying the office of elected public official.	3.09	0.70	A
15) People are far distant away from the elected public officials and so there is a need to assert to get involve in the representative process from the electoral process and at all levels thereof.	2.88	0.75	A
18) Elected public officials are wealthy and powerful while most constituents are poor and powerless thus the latter may remain passive.	2.71	0.97	A
19) Representation is not all about who is wealthy and powerful politicians, it is all about the welfare of the people who must be given the opportunity to express their concern freely, legally, regularly and without fear either directly or through any available means of communication.	3.61	0.57	SA
Overall Mean/Standard Deviation	3.01	0.74	A
Indicators B			
2) Incumbent representative-elected-public officials are not close to their constituents and/or the people they serve.	2.48	0.82	A
4) Incumbent representative-elected-public officials do not give importance to their constituents and/or the people they serve.	2.23	0.84	A
6) Incumbent representative-elected-public officials do not reach out to the people they are serving.	2.22	0.86	A
8) Elections of representative public officials do not show the free expressions and approval of the people.	2.40	0.83	A
10) Representative elected public officials in the past and the present are not one with the people who elected them.	2.48	0.82	A
12) Representative elected public officials in the past and the present are not freely chosen by the constituents.	2.39	0.84	A
16) People are not far distant away from the elected public officials and so it is useless to assert involvement since they seem to be always involved.	2.43	0.81	A
17) Elected public officials are the sole responsible for governance, people have to have no say and involvement therein.	2.35	0.93	A
18) Elected public officials are the sole responsible for governance and people have indeed to have no say and involvement therein.	2.29	0.89	A
Overall Mean/Standard Deviation	2.37	0.85	A

Legend A:	Legend B:
Mean Range	Mean Range
3.26 – 4.00	3.26 – 4.00
2.51 – 3.25	2.51 – 3.25
1.76 – 2.50	1.76 – 2.50
1.00 – 1.75	1.00 – 1.75
Interpretation	Interpretation
Strongly Agree (SA)	Strongly Disagree (SD)
Agree (A)	Disagree (D)
Disagree (D)	Agree (A)
Strongly Disagree (SD)	Strongly Agree (SA)

The results present the respondents' agreement on all indicators except for the 20th which had been strongly agreed at 3.6 mean. These were substantiated by the overall mean of 3.01 in Indicators A and 2.37 under Indicators B. With the 11 affirmative indicators (Indicators A), notably there are nine concepts (Indicators B) in which the respondents agreed as inversely interpreted. Significantly, indicator 20, which was

Other indicators significantly agreed by the respondents were 14 and 11 (Indicators A) having the weighted means of 3.09 and 3.02 respectively. On the one hand, indicator 14 states that “People have the freedom to vote for lesser evil candidates occupying the office of elected public official.” On the other hand, indicator 11 states that “Representatives elected public officials in the past and the present are freely chosen by the constituents.” Moreover, indicators under Indicators B which were significantly agreed were 6, 4 and 18; each of which obtained weighted means of 2.22, 2.23 and 2.29 respectively. Indicator six declares that “Incumbent representative-elected-public officials do not reach out to the people they are serving.” Meanwhile, indicator four says that “Incumbent representative-elected-public officials do not give importance to their constituents and/or the people they serve.” And indicator 18 states that “Elected public officials are the sole responsible for governance and people have indeed to have no say and involvement therein.”

The overall result manifested the respondents' high degree of sophistication of consciousness on democratic representation.

All indicators presented ideas in which agreement thereto made by the respondents are in themselves cognizant of a

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more democratic representation. Moreover, the way indicators were crafted combining both negative and affirmative statements tested the respondents' political consciousness while answering the questionnaire. Hence, the result indicated the respondents' conscious understanding about how democratic representation should effectively operate at a certain level in a democratic state. It recognizes the fact that democracy pertains to a variety of radical to moderate regimes (Schmidt, 2002). This includes Philippine representative democracy where Linconian trademarks can be reflected and anticipated in varied degrees of democratic practices. This is manifested by the essential nature of statements embodied by the indicators especially those significantly agreed as shown by the highest means thereof.

Ultimately, the overall result demonstrated the respondents' deeper comprehension of a supposed existing democratic representation in the country. This is significantly substantiated by the indicators having the highest means. First, indicator 20 gets the strong agreement and more conscious recognition that representation is not all about who are wealthy and powerful politicians. Rather, it is all about the welfare of the people who must be given the opportunity to express their concern freely, legally, regularly and without fear either directly or through any available means of communication. It is a factual declaration that Philippine representation was and is still controlled by the rich and domineering politicians before and after their elections to the public office. It is further their understanding that representation should serve the people's welfare which can be enhanced via post-electoral participation. It is

thus suggestive of an active people's participatory governance. The same indicator with a very high degree of consciousness sophistication perceived the social contract inferring peoples' participation: sharing concerns via Jarvis' (2011) publicness and partaking actively in decision and policy making (Bactol & Coronacion, 2020, p. 13). Such a contract basically rooted on the government-constituents' reciprocity (Locke, 1823) which should be post-electorally sustained.

Second point out indicators 14 and 11 with highly sophisticated respective means while having similar import. Indicator 14 stressed on people's freedom of choice on voting the lesser evil candidates and indicator 11 highlights having elected public officials freely by the constituents. Both indicators are particular with the electoral representation wherein respondents consciously acknowledged free electoral participation. These two indicators factually highlighted that electoral participation is the only participation they have had freely. Hence, the only and limited power of the people integral to their [participative] freedom (Hamilton, 2018) revolving around the limited electoral participation constantly controlled by political officials.

Freedom [itself] is power dependent on preventing or prevailing over conditions by domineering entities (Hamilton, 2018) such as by Philippine representatives. It transpires by ensuring power and control over certain dimensions. Significantly, "the power to determine social and economic environment via meaningful control over one's economic and political entities . . ." (Hamilton, 2018, p. 9). Regardless as to who

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exercises the imposition, the nature of power remains a tension emanating from interests (Ronen, 2013) among others. Same tension in opposing groups of individuals struggling for true democracy where both rule of law and accountability are the alternating means for constraining the government to consider the broader public (Fukuyama, 2015).

People's freedom as power is in normal situations never a simplistic matter of definite individual control over a lot of domains. Everyone's freedom is determined to a remarkable extent by a collection of variables to execute with these groups' nature and power and their respective representatives (Hamilton 2018). Any government could only cling to its mandate to protect the legitimate voice of the people in their struggle for better democracy (Fukuyama, 2015). True democracy being the ultimate objective of the people's will (Accetti et al., 2016).

Third are the interconnected indicators 6, 4 and 18. Indicator six is concerned with representative-elected-public officials not reaching out to the people; indicator four highlights representative-elected-public officials not giving importance to constituents, and indicator 18 points out holding elected public officials as sole responsible for governance. These indicators are expressive of the public officials' denial of their sacrosanct mandated duty to their constituents on a certain circumstantial level as representatives. Thus, the relevance with respondents' strong agreement on indicator 20 highly demands for active post-electoral participation to promote people's interests through better governance.

Meanwhile, the indicators with lowest means did not significantly negate the overall findings on the respondents' sophistication of consciousness on the Philippine representative system. Notably, indicators 13, 2, and 10 manifested a certain degree of agreement from the respondents: a) that people have no choice but to vote the lesser evil candidates; b) that incumbent public officials are not close to the people they serve; and c) that elected public officials in the past/present are not one with the people who elected them. All these imply that they are however the least concern among the indicators. Such are usual observations overtime which constituents can hardly change since the representative system was adopted. As educators, the respondents could only believe that these negative practices, inherent to human nature of the representatives, are within tolerance from people that have yet to be empowered; hence, resounding back to respondents' highest agreement on indicator 20: an indispensable means to curb usual, negative practices inclusive of indicators 13, 2 and 10 and other similar indicators.

Essentially, the consciousness of representation sophistication is expressive of developmental transformative representation from the respondents' power integral with their democratic freedom (Hamilton, 2018). Specifically, power via political representation and freedom acquired conditionally that the existing patterns of representation handle power relations to control domination in establishing priorities such as the interests and needs. In many representative democracies, this power is (2011) such as the present Philippine situation. However, notwithstanding its regime nature, democracy would persist as

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long as political institutions are democratic. Inasmuch as a majority can change the status quo . . . the social context cannot turn the principles of political freedom and equality into mere formalities (Munck, 2014).

Data reflect how respondent-educators portray the power to decide on policy proposals while politicians can assume the role of policy implementation (Fournier, 2011; Aragonés & Sanchez, 2009).

Indubitably, representatives or institutions themselves can make wise decisions, but this is not absolute though (Junaenah, 2015). At times the government violates individuals' rights (Fukuyama, 2015). It is also less possible to centralize bargaining through common representatives (Hirst, 2013). Furthermore, representative democracy is a fount of inefficiency (Acemoglu et al., 2011; Crain, 2002). These may not necessarily reach the crisis point in democracy. However, these were sufficient reasons calling for attention as well as resulting situations considering actions promoting political trust and satisfaction beneficial to the constituents (Coffe & Michels, 2014).

Existing studies discovered diminishing satisfaction with the representative democracy institutions and processes associated fundamentally with the principle governing elected individuals as representatives to people (Coffe & Michels, 2014; Kaase & Newton, 1995; Mackin, 2005; Miranda, 2016). Consistently, Hamilton (2014) designed institutional refurbishing for reinventing representative democracy harmonious with his narrative on "freedom as

power through representation." Later, Hamilton (2017) emphasized reinvention, strengthening, and/or modification for improvement thereof. Same reasons challenged political practitioners and scholars to pursue their analysis and findings (Coffe & Michels, 2014).

All these resulted in the so-called questionable trust in representatives (Fukuyama, 2015; Mackin, 2005). Increasing levels of skepticism towards institutions of representative democracy became inspirational to expansion of interest for alternative ways and means of decision-making among scholars and political practitioners (Coffe & Michels 2014; Vigoda, 2002; Woodford & Preston, 2013). By all means, that was an awakening from the persistent disadvantages of a more restricted electoral representation (Pettit, 2015).

Such a situation coerced particular electoral representative states to enhance their representative systems. Certain undertakings with typical underpinning adopted modifications for a more democratic end. These include negotiatory mechanisms to give voice to interdependent actors with further considerations of the minority in particular countries (Hart & Kleiboer, 1995). Some of these enhancements of representative democracy were: 1) Deliberative and inclusionary processes (DIPs) (Pimbert & Wakeford, 2001); 2) Adoption of the typology or a scheme for the assessment and evaluations of the accountability strength referred to as institutions of direct democracy (IDD) (Breuer, 2007); 3) Switzerland's combined direct and indirect democracy where both are viewed to co-exist well (Lutz, 2006); 4) The

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Orcamento Participativo, referred to as OP allowing both rich and poor citizens' participation in local governance (Aragones & Sanchez, 2009).

Being on the same page of the democratization struggle, the Philippines can undergo tasks for addressing similar problems. However, its 1987 constitution provides insignificant mechanisms for active people's participation. The not-self-executing initiative is for constitutional amendments only (Sec. 2, Art. XVII), while referendum is just for the adoption of the country's new name, a national anthem, or a national seal (Sec. 2, Art. XVI). Both can only be exercised in a very limited fashion for a very limited purpose. With the emergence of the publicness principle (Jarvis, 2011), the evolving people's participative consciousness could prompt the sovereign people empowerment in national and local politics (Bactol & Coronacion, 2020). It came from an apparent demand that the governed, whose ends had always been restricted by a somehow authoritarian representative system, should be open for governance. Like the people in other states whose more democratic objectives were served, the

Therefore, these findings on representation accentuated by a high degree of consciousness on representation are expressive of Developmental Transformative Mechanisms indispensable to reinvent the country's procedural representative system. It will embody mechanisms that embrace transformation from the existent representative system by which peoples' democratic participation is confined by electoral stigma. It involves representee's role in representation from passiveness to

teacher-respondents are also aware. They are highly conscious of this phenomenon as revealed by the entire data in Table 2, consistently supportive of the findings in Table 1. Henceforth, the dawning changes in the political dynamics for a more friendly Philippine representative system.

Conclusion

The magnitude of democratic representative sophistication determined by aggregates of data disclosed more enlightened political participative respondents. First, it was deduced that the public school teachers as respondents had a very high sophisticated degree of understanding on democratic representation in its publicness scenario based on the first set of data. Second, this was magnified by the subsequent set of data whereby respondents' high degree of sophistication of consciousness on democratic representation was revealed. Significant agreement to the concepts embodied in the entire sets of data made by the respondents are in themselves highly cognizant of a more democratic representation. Such a circumstance of democratization is thus constitutive of a developmental transformative process activeness participation in act and potentiality for substantive democracy realization. This behoves reciprocal representative-represented political actions where the usual clash of interests succumb to a more enlightened majority.

Developmental transformative – a convention produced by a sample, representative of a wider population of mentors, merits meaningful consideration. It is an externalization of their naturally developed consciousness in line with the profession they have always been constantly

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immersed into. As teachers, their minds were habitually attuned to the continuous learning process they subjected their students and themselves to outdo countless failures and vices. They have always been used to dedicate themselves as a gateway for students' transformative ends. Normal causation of their teaching activity could

have absorbed their conscious being. Eventually, they found this practical applicability of an ordinary citizens' deeply conscious mind on the country's representative system that can be truly democratized, inspired by their transformative glimmer of representation in the country

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