Police Self-Image: A Galatea Effect

Rondina, Leo Carlo

University of Mindanao

2018

Police Self-Image: A Galatea Effect

Leo Carlo B. Rondina, MS Crim
Faculty, College of Criminal Justice Education
University of Mindanao

INTRODUCTION

"Galatea effect" is a self-fulfillment prophecy. Once a person believe in himself that he possess something, he will have it. Nowadays, the policeman has a bad image to the community. The media is one contributor of this image as they highlighted the bad image of policemen (Stewart, 2013). Police organization is visible to public, thus, they are often criticized by any mistakes made by their personnel (Holdaway, 1979). Although these images could not affect the performance of the police (Schaefer, et al. 1979) but its effect need to be considered. With these images, the community came up with a speculations based on the report given by media practitioners without any further investigation of the real situation.

Despite all improvement of police service delivery and communication, there are still persistent problems within the police-community relationship that remains unresolved. There are still changes in the police culture which include a renewed emphasis on ethics and integrity issues (Carter, 2004). Black minority, racial and ethnic groups have been observed to receive unequal treatment from the police (Gabbidon, Higgins, & Potter, 2011; Weitzer, Tuch and Skogan 2008, Hadar, & Snortum, 1975) whereas whites (American) received better treatment. It also revealed that wealthy received preferential treatment from the police (Dowler, Zawilski, 2007). These perceptions affect the relationship of the police and the community.

Police image can be determined through the perception of the community. It includes perceptions of friendliness and fairness of the police (Woral, 1999). A good police interaction to the community has also a positive impact (Wunsch and Hohl, 2009). This aspect is very important in order to gain support from the community.

This study seeks to determine the image of the policemen as perceived by themselves. This self-image is important to determine the policemen's relationship with the community. Since police organization sets an ethical standard to their personnel, this study determines whether this image is present to the policemen.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the study is to determine image of the policemen as perceived by themselves since most of the study select the community as respondents to measure the police image. It sought to determine the profile of the respondent; police image construct through exploratory factor analysis; what are the dimensions of police image; what are the factor that determine the self-image of the police and whether the police image has a relationship to age, sex, rank and length of service.

METHOD

The respondents of the study were the police personnel assign in Davao City who are in main stream or in operation and other support units who have involvement to the community activities such as; Internal Affairs; Public Safety Battalion and others. Universal sampling was used involving active members assigned in their respected units. The researcher ensured the confidentiality of the identity of respondents. The research instruments were distributed to the police units. It was retrieved after few days upon its completion. Out of 700 questionnaires that had distributed, 503 were retrieved.

The gathering of data was conducted through survey questionnaire. The 60 items question were formulated based on the literature gathered. The questionnaire had two parts; the profile of the respondent and the 5-point likert type scale. Through Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) latent construct variable were identified. This was used to determine the construct image of police image. EFA is used for refining measures, evaluating contract validity and testing hypothesis. It was also used to determine the underlying structure of correlation (Fabrigar & Wergener, 2011). Standard coefficient 0.6 in EFA was used. Other employ 0.7 but to retain latent constructs 0.6 was used.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Base on the data gathered, most of the respondent were male, 377 (75%) with ages from 21 to 30 years old. Three hundred eigthy (76%) of them with the rank of Police Officer. Two hundred forty one (48%) are below 5 years in service

Table 2.
Demographic distribution of respondents

Sex	f	%
Male	377	75

	f	%
Female	126	25
Total	503	100
Age	f	%
21-30	247	49
31-40	162	32
41-56	94	19
Total	503	100
Rank	f	%
Police Officer	380	76
Senior Police Officer	98	19
Inspector	19	4
Superintendent	6	1
Total	503	100
Years in service	f	%
Below 5 years	241	48
5-10 years	112	22
11-20 years	89	18
above 20 years	61	12
Total	503	100

The measure of determining adequacy of sample using the Kaiser Meyer Olkin test signifies a pattern of correlation which provide reliable factor. Tamayo (2011) stated that KMO coefficient must be greater than 0.50, KMO values between 0.5 to 0.7 are mediocre, 0.7 to 0.8 are considered good, 0.8 to 0.9 are great and 0.93 above are considered as superb. The sample is adequate given a coefficient value higher than 0.5 (KMO>-=0.98), while the test for sphericity determines construct distance and relationships found to be statistically significant ($\chi^2 = 32140, p < 0.05$) .

Table 2.
Measures of Sphericity & Sampling Adequacy

Measure	value
KMO Sampling Adequacy	0.98
Bartlett's test of sphericity	
Chi-square	32140***

Thus, the exploratory factor analysis was pursued. There were four dimensions that were extracted as self-image constructs. These are professionalism, obedience, moral, and the justice and fairness constructs. These are the self-images that were found to reveal statistical relationships from the 60 item of character traits of the policemen that were enumerated in the code of conduct of the men in uniform.

Table 3
Professionalism Dimension

Indicators	$\dot{x}$
Assess themselves away from patronizing individuals such as businessman, politician or a relative in the conduct of their duties	0.68
Stand to be corrected by others	0.67
Able to perform duties despite any pressure from higher rank	0.66
Work what they talk	0.65
Do not use dirty tactics in accomplishing mission	0.65
Do not give consideration to relative, families of higher rank or personalities known to violate law	0.65
Set aside personal feeling in performing duties	0.64
Consider the welfare of other person other than oneself	0.63
Humble to admit mistakes	0.63
Knows the fundamental laws relatively to their job	0.62
Can stand on truth without hesitation	0.62
Perform various chores in the office other than designated function	0.62
Do not ask financial assistance from the complainant in order to respond immediately	0.61

It was observed that in terms of professionalism, the police officer has high self-image in the knowledge of fundamental law. The Philippine National Police is the primary law enforcement agency in the country. Basically it is primary responsible in implementing the law of the land (Klockars,1985) . As law enforcers, it is expected of them to be knowledgeable on the law simply because it is their job and profession. On the other hand, giving a consideration on the violator of law gain low score among all indicators. Giving a consideration to law violators is a matter of discretion on the part of police officer but police discretion cannot be invoked in criminal process (Goldstein, 1960). This act will result to favoritism, injustice or unfair treatment especially to those who are law-abiding citizen. As professional, police must uphold the law regardless of whoever is the violator. "No one is above the law" and the law must be implemented without favor or fear (PNP Manual, 2010) or else it will affect the entire image of PNP to the community.

Table 4
Obedience Dimension

Indicators	$\dot{x}$
respect the rights of individual	0.7
perform their duties professionally	0.66
follow the rules and procedure set by the PNP	0.6

Respecting the rights of individual is the primary indicator of obedience for the police officer. It indicates that the police officer upholds the democracy (Marenin, 2004) wherein the power of the government is vested on the people and with that they must respect the rights of the individual. The performance of duty and follow rules set by PNP is secondary indicator of obedience. The result of the study supports the fundamental theory of Police Service which is the "Home Rule Theory". Under this theory, the policemen is regarded as the servant of the community who depend on the efficiency of their function to respond to the express needs of the people (Castillo and Guerrero, 2013) and a civil servant whose primary duty is the preservation of public peace and security.

Table 5
Morality Dimension

Indicators	$\dot{x}$
set as a good example to the community	0.71
spent time with family in going to church during day off	0.68
faithful to a lawfully wedded wife	0.66
respect the sanctity of marriage	0.65
observe high standard of morality	0.63
respect the rights of the women at all times	0.62

The parameter of morality of the policemen is in the treatment of women. Respecting the rights of women at all times reflects a very high self-image. Policemen respect women because they symbolize their mother (Daily News, 2010) and thus, they are even very respectful to their wife. An authoritative police who arrest criminals who has a masculine figure is seen doing household chores (Starrels, 1994) because of their respect to women. On the other hand, spending time going to church and being faithful to lawfully wedded wife obtain low scores among the indicators. Because of the nature of their job, instead of going to church they tend to go to recreation places, such as mall for their family bonding. Having an affair with other women is a common notion to men in uniform that includes policemen in general. Police officers accept this fact and they believed that that image is attached to their uniform and their chosen profession. They just live with it, for as long as they are faithful to their wife (Jihua, 2011), there will no problem.

Table 6
Justice and Fairness Dimension

Indicators	$\dot{x}$
arrest criminal with the use of appropriate force	
treat criminal as a human during arrest	
apply the maximum tolerance at times they needed to extend	
patient to a crown	

In terms of justice and fairness, the treatment of criminals is the parameter of the police officer. Treatment of criminal during the arrest indicates high self-image. Under the Criminal Justice System (CJS), the accused is presumed innocent unless proven guilty (Pennington, 2003) by the court and the government must utilize all the machinery to uphold this principle. Since the police or the law enforcement is the pillar of CJS whose primary duty is the enforcement of the law and dealing with criminal (Bittner, 1990), the observance of the above principle primarily relies on them.

Table 7
Model fit and Goodness-of-fit

-2 Log Likelihood	Chi-Square	df	p-value
213.54			
198.59	14.95	9	0.09

Goodness-of-Fit	
Chi-Square	df
126.5962997	159
110.3159513	159

A parametric estimation was employed using ordinal regression, a variant of nonlinear regression which is based on proportional odds model which turn the ordinal scale into the binary cut-off points. The number of cut-off points is always being one less than the number of categories.

2LL is statistically significant, $X_2 > 4$; $p < 0.1$. This means that the assumption that factors/predictors have coefficients which are not equal to zero. It proves that chosen predictors affect the self-image of the policemen.

Table 8
Estimate of coefficients of self-image using ordinal regression

Threshold	Estimate	Std. Error	Wald
Very poor self-image	-6.20***	1.20	26.82
Poor self-image	-5.60***	1.16	23.37
Average self-image	-4.64***	1.13	16.84

High self-image	-1.52	1.11	1.88
Sex			
[Male]		0.21	0.05
Age			
[21-30 years old]	0.97**	0.42	5.31
[31-40 years old]	0.95***	0.37	6.65
Ranking			
[Police officer]	-1.78	1.17	2.31
[Senior police officer]	-1.83	1.14	2.57
[Inspector]	-1.92	1.22	2.47
Years in service			
[below 5 years]	-0.55	0.51	1.14
[5-10 years]	-0.74	0.50	2.22
[11-20 years]	-0.50	0.37	1.81

Estimates reveal that of the levels of self-image, most of the respondents had high self-image. A simulation of the characteristics of the respondents reveal one variable from the four chosen demographic variables to significantly influence improvement in the self-image. The age of the respondent statistically improves self-image. Policemen with ages from 21 to 40 years old tend to have high to very high self-image.

Based on the result, it shows that the "Galatea Effect" of policemen in Davao Region is high. The findings of the study contradict with the study of Yim and Schafer (2009) in which police has less self image to the community.

Concluding remarks

The study was able to extract latent constructs of self-image of policemen. Generally, policemen in Davao Region strongly adhere to virtues, values of obedience, professionalism, morality and justice and fairness.

Moreover, their sense of good service stem from their strict observance of obedience to the chain of command. Thus, good police force is a result of quality police leadership.

It is also good to know that younger members of the force exemplify deep respect to their uniform. With that, values formation will make significant impact among younger members of the men in uniform. These young idealistic men will later on assume leadership with accountability, professionalism and respect.

Finally, the study was able to prove the galatea effect among policemen in Davao City who are expected to show virtues and values of good citizenship and at the same time they are the peace and order officers of the state.

RECOMMENDATION

Since this respondent of the study are the policemen, it is recommended to conduct another study on the perception of the community on the police image to determine the congruence or the resonance of the findings of this study.

REFERENCES:

Bittner, E. (1990). *Aspects of police work* (p. 30). Boston: Northeastern University Press.

Carter, D., (2004). Police and the Community (7th ed.). USA: Prentice Hall Publishing

Castillo, R, Guerrero, B., (2013). Philippine Organization and Administration with Police Operational Planning. Philippnes: KATHA Publishing Co. Inc

Dowler, K., Zawilski, V. (2007). Public perceptions of police misconduct and discrimination: Examining the impact of media consumption. Journal of Criminal Justice. (35) 193-203

Fabrigar, L. R., & Wegener, D. T. (2011). *Exploratory factor analysis*. Oxford University Press.

Gabbidon, S. L., Higgins, G. E., & Potter, H. (2011). Race, gender, and the perception of recently experiencing unfair treatment by the police: Exploratory results from an all-black sample. *Criminal justice review*, *36*(1), 5-21.

Goldstein, J. (1960). Police discretion not to invoke the criminal process: Low-visibilitydecisions in the administration of justice. *Yale Law Journal*, 543-594.

Holdaway, S. (Ed.). (1979). *The British Police*. London: Edward Arnold.

Jihua, L. I. U. (2011). The Defining of Couple's Faithful Obligations and Its Remedy Methods on Breaching. *Journal of China Women's University*, *3*, 003.

Kelling, G. L. (1978). Police field services and crime: The presumed effects of a capacity. *Crime & Delinquency*, *24*(2), 173-184.

Klockars, C. B. (1985). *The idea of police* (p. 43). Beverly Hills, California: Sage Publications.

Marenin, O. (2004). Police Training for Democracy 1. *Police practice and Research*, *5*(2), 107-123.

Ordinal Regression. University of Strathclyde. Retrieve July 29, 2014 from http://www.strath.ac.uk/aer/materials/5furtherquantitativeresearchdesignandanalysis/unit6/ordinalregression/

Pennington, K. (2003). Innocent until proven guilty: The origins of a legal maxim. *Jurist*, *63*, 106.

Philippine National Police. Ethical Doctrine Manual

Schaefer, R., VANDERBOK, W., Wisnoski, E., International Assoc of Chiefs of Police, & United States of America. (1979). Television Police Shows and Attitudes Toward the Police. *Journal of Police Science and Administration*, *7*(1), 104-113

Stewart, C., (2013). The Enemy Is Among Us: Media Images of Police in South During the Transition From Apartheid to Democracy. International Criminal Justice Review.

Tamayo, A. M. (2011). Psychographic measure of service quality of fastfood chain in Davao City. *African Journal of Marketing Management*, *3*(9), 219-225.

Weitzer, R., Tuch, S, and Skogan W, (2008). Police-community relation in a majority-Black city. Journall in Research in crime and delinquency. (45) 398-428

Woral, J., (1999). Public perceptions of police efficacy and image: The "fuzziness" ofsupport for the police. Journal on Criminal Justice. (24) 47-66

Wunsch, D., & Hohl, K, (2009). Evidencing a 'Good Practice Model' of Police Communication: The Impact of Local Policing Newsletters on Public Confidence. Oxford: Oxford University Press