

ROTC PARTICIPATION AS A FACTOR IN DISCIPLINE AND SOCIAL BEHAVIOR AMONG CRIMINOLOGY STUDENTS AT BESTLINK COLLEGE OF THE PHILIPPINES

ABSTRACT

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The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), implemented under the National Service Training Program, aims to develop discipline, leadership, and civic responsibility among college students in the Philippines. For Criminology students, these qualities are essential in preparing for future careers in law enforcement and public service. Despite ROTC's structured training environment, limited empirical studies have examined its measurable impact on discipline and social behavior among criminology students at the institutional level. This study addresses that gap by investigating the influence of ROTC participation on discipline and social behavior among Criminology students at Bestlink College of the Philippines. A descriptive quantitative research design was employed. The respondents were composed of fifty (50) participants, including thirty-five (35) ROTC cadets, ten (10) ROTC officers, and five (5) ROTC instructors during the academic year 2025–2026. Data were collected through a validated survey questionnaire after formal approval and informed consent were secured. The gathered data were analyzed using frequency, percentage, weighted mean, and Welch's ANOVA to determine significant differences among respondent groups. The findings revealed that ROTC participation was Highly Effective in developing discipline, particularly in adherence to rules and regulations (composite mean = 3.36) and time management and punctuality (3.32). Respect for authority and leadership was rated as Effective, indicating a positive contribution to accountability and hierarchical awareness. Welch's ANOVA showed a statistically significant difference in assessments among cadets, officers, and instructors ($p < .001$). The primary challenges identified were limited opportunities to practice leadership skills and difficulty in consistently following ROTC rules. Overall, the study confirms that ROTC participation significantly supports discipline and social behavior development among Criminology students. However, enhanced leadership opportunities and clearer implementation strategies are recommended. Future research may explore long-term behavioral outcomes and comparative institutional studies to further strengthen ROTC program effectiveness.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

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