

FEASIBILITY OF A SCHOOL NEWSPAPER IN PHILIPPINE
NATIONAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND USING
BRAILLE SYSTEM

THESIS

KIMBERLY DOLOT
KATRINA KEITH Y. USI

College of Arts and Sciences
CAVITE STATE UNIVERSITY
Indang, Cavite

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**KIMBERLY DOLOT
KATRINA KEITH Y. USI**

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ABSTRACT

DOLOT, KIMBERLY and USI, KATRINA KEITH Y. *Feasibility of a School Newspaper in Philippine National School for the Blind using Braille System.* Undergraduate Thesis. Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. Cavite State University, Indang, Cavite. June 2019. Adviser: Ms. Lisette D. Mendoza.

The study was conducted from October 2018 to February 2019 at Philippine National School for the Blind. Generally, it aimed to determine the feasibility of a school newspaper in PNSB using Braille system.

Specifically, it was conducted to determine the factors to be considered in using Braille system for a school newspaper; the capability of PNSB to establish a school newspaper in terms of Braille as a writing system, budget, manpower, and resources; the preference of PNSB students, academic and non-academic employees in establishing a school newspaper in terms of content, frequency and manner of distribution, and language; and the perception of PNSB students, academic and non-academic employees in establishing a school newspaper using Braille system.

Qualitative data were gathered through in-depth interviews with staff of the Bureau of Learning Resources – Braille Production Unit, Resources for the Blind, Inc., and Philippine National School for the Blind.

Quantitative design was also used in the study, where the researchers personally administered the survey to measure the preference and perception of the entire PNSB high school students, academic and non-academic employees. The data were computed using frequency and percentage distribution, while the perception was interpreted using Likert Scale, mean, and standard deviation.

Based on the findings, Philippine National School for the Blind still needs to conduct an in-depth and systematic planning for the establishment of a publication, particularly in the allocation of fund and for the inclusion of journalism practice as part of their program. Aside from these, PNSB is capable in terms of Braille as a writing system and resources in establishing a school newspaper.

For the preference of the respondents, the results of the survey showed that PNSB community preferred editorial section the most and desired to read all kinds of articles on their school newspaper. They also favored to have a copy of the school newspaper every month which will be delivered in their respective classrooms and faculty offices, in a size of 11"x11.5" or embosser paper, and with the use of Unified English Braille.

Additionally, the respondents strongly agreed that a school newspaper will serve as a mode of information dissemination for the school, an outlet for student suggestions, and a teaching tool for aspiring journalists.

Thus, the researchers recommend that PNSB should discuss the results to the entire PNSB community since their involvement is one of the influencing elements toward the fulfilment of the goal. The study is also suggested to individuals under the Journalism program in Cavite State University, to other educational institutions and non-profitable organizations for the blind, as well as to future researchers.

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Kimberly Dolot
Katrina Keith Y. Usi

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INTRODUCTION

In promotion of the Filipino youth's intellectual, creative and linguistic ability as well as to train their values and ethics, the Campus Journalism Act of 1991 or Republic Act No. 7079 has been promulgated. Through the campus newspaper, not only the writer's freedom of expression is discovered and sharpened, it can also serve as a tool for reading comprehension and information dissemination.

School publication, as Maluntac (2016) stated, is a central key to acquaint the parents, the academic and non-academic employees, as well as the students, for the activities going on, accomplishments, and projects of the school as a whole. However, an individual who is visually-impaired is protected from some of this deluge.

Having a loss of vision often requires students to do things in different ways and sometimes learning opportunities are fewer. Development in areas such as academic and mobility skills, interpersonal communication skills, and life skills may take more time and