

# A FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF THE MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING FILIPINO GRADUATES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN PHILIPPINES

Novelyn T. Barcena  
University of Northern Philippines  
novelynbarcena@yahoo.com.ph  
09175682116

## ABSTRACT

This research aimed to follow-up graduates of the Master of Arts in Teaching Filipino of the University of Northern Philippines School Year 1999-2014. It also looked into the profile of the graduates before and after finishing the degree in terms of place of employment, employment status and academic rank; their achievements; and their recommendations on improving the Graduate Studies along curriculum and policies, resources, and program processes. The researcher made use of the descriptive research design with the use of a survey questionnaire adapted by Avila (2015).

Based on the findings, the following conclusions have been drawn: (1) most of the MATFil graduates School Year 1999-2014 are presently employed in public sector as DepEd high school teachers and instructors in State Universities and Colleges; most of the graduates got a permanent status after finishing the degree; and some of the graduates had an administrative position; (2) most of the MATFil graduates became successful in their own field especially in teaching, while others became speakers/ trainers and textbook/coursebook writers; (3) the recommendations of the graduates on improving the Graduate School along curriculum and policies, resources, and program processes will be helpful for the betterment of the school.

The following recommendations are presented by the researcher: (1) Teachers, especially those who are teaching Filipino subjects are encourage to pursue their masters and doctoral degrees at the Graduate Studies of the University of Northern Philippines to enhance more their knowledge and skills. Finishing the degree will be of great help for them to be promoted; (2) Professors and graduate students are also encouraged to attend seminars or conferences on trends and up-to-date teaching strategies; (3) School administrators should look into consideration the recommendations of the graduates on improving the Graduate Studies along curriculum and policies, resources, and program processes; and (4) Similar study may also be conducted to follow-up graduates of the different programs of the Graduate Studies of the University of Northern Philippines.

Keywords: follow-up, graduates, Graduate Studies, University of Northern Philippines

## Introduction

As stated by Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can change the world". Said statement is indeed a proof that education is very important in one's life. The main function of education is to acquire knowledge and information in all aspects of life. Further, it also serves as instrument in shaping one's mind and character of every individual for them to be good and responsible citizens in the eyes of God and man, respectively.

Our society needs to have a strong foundation and high quality of education for us to attain progress and development of our country. One of the rights of a child is the right to education. As Mandela said, "Without education, your children can never really meet the challenges they will face. So, it's very important to give children education and explain that they should play a role for their country." Therefore, education serves as the weapon of every individual to fight all the challenges and obstacles he/she may encounter in life.

The University of Northern Philippines is a global university anchored on excellence. Its mission is to produce globally competitive and pro-active professionals through excellent instruction, research, extension and production. Recently, the Graduate Studies of the University of Northern Philippines has been awarded Level III Accreditation Status by the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities (AACUP). This only implies that the Graduate Studies is one of the best institutions in the entire country.

The Master of Arts in Teaching Filipino (MATFil) is one of the programs of the Graduate Studies of the University of

Northern Philippines. It aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of Filipino teachers in order to upgrade their competence and effectiveness. Hence, the program is expected to produce effective and efficient Filipino teachers who can help individuals develop their potentials to the fullest in order to cope with the demands of the constantly changing society.

The program has the following objectives: (1) Lilinangin ang kasanayan at kaalaman sa paggamit ng Filipino sa pakikipagtalastasang pasalita at pasulat na angkop sa sitwasyon at pangangailangan;(2) Lilinangin ang kasanayan sa pag-unawa, pagpapakahulugan, pagsusuri at pagbibigay-halaga sa mga kaisipan, paksang naririnig at nababasa;(3) Lilinangin ang kakayahan at kasanayan sa pagkilala at paglikha ng iba't ibang uri ng panitikan sa layuning mapayaman at higit na mapaunlad ang larangang ito sa sining at kulturang Filipino;(4) Pauunlarin ang mga kaalaman at kasanayan sa pagsasaling-wika, paggawa ng pananaliksik at paglikha ng mga kagamitang pampagtuturo;(5) Magkakaroon ng kamalayan sa mga nagaganap na pagbabago sa ating edukasyon at magkaroon ng partisipasyon tungo sa ikauunlad nito;(6) Palalalimin ang pag-unawa tungkol sa mga paraan ng pagbibigay-buhay ng mga saloobin, pagnanasa at paniniwala sa pamamagitan ng pag-aaral ng panitikan bilang produkto ng lipunan at kasaysayan;(7) Mauunawaan ang pangangailangan ng bawat mag-aaral kung paano sila makapag-isip; and (8) Makadarama nang mabibisang paraan upang matanto ang mga kahalagahan ng edukasyon sa buhay ng bawat nilalang at makapagaplano ng palatuntunan na maaaring gawing sanayan ng mga mag-aaral.

The MAT-Fil program used to be offered at the Graduate School which was a separate academic unit. However, with vertical articulation the program is now offered under the College of Teacher Education- Graduate Studies.

### **Statement of the Problem**

This study attempted to follow-up the Master of Arts in Teaching Filipino (MATFil) graduates of the University of Northern Philippines School Year 1999-2014.

Specifically, this study sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the MATFil graduates before and after finishing the degree in terms of:
  - a. Place of employment
  - b. Employment status
  - c. Academic rank?
2. What are the achievements of the MATFil graduates?
3. What are the recommendations of the MATFil graduates on improving the Graduate Studies along:
  - a. Curriculum and policies
  - b. Resources
  - c. Program processes

### **Theoretical Framework**

The researcher tried to scout and look for numerous related literature and studies which provided her with a wider understanding of the research.

On Follow-up studies

Sheltzer and Stone (1981) as cited by Avila (2015) defines follow-up as the procedure conducted to determine whether

individuals are developing in their placement. The student is helped both to understand what is required in the situation and to evaluate personal development within the situation with regard to short- and long-range objectives.

The objectives of follow-up studies are: (1) to determine the extent of progress made by former students in their adjustment to the outside world; (2) to assist individuals further to solve their problems of vocational, educational, and social adjustments by giving them some pertinent advice; (3) to gather data that may be useful for determining what opportunities the school may have for rendering continuous service to its graduates and other school-learners; (4) to gather information from former students concerning their experiences which maybe of help in the improvement, not only of the guidance services, but also of the total educational pattern of the school; (5) to develop a continuous cooperative relationship between the employers and the schools; and (6) to gather data which may be useful to the evaluation of the guidance as well a the educational program of the school. (Aquino and Alviar, 1981).

On the other hand, the study conducted by Retuta (1994), he found out that the graduates of the Institute of Social Work (1987-1992) of the university of Northern Philippines have no government examination; few of them only took the board for Social Workers Licensure Examination; most of the graduates who are working got a minimum wage; the average waiting time for employment of the graduates was six months and a half; graduates who are working have a permanent or temporary status in government or private sector; most of them

got their work through applying while only few got their work through a referral or recommendation. The respondents concluded that their professional subjects are moderately relevant to their work.

Similar study was also conducted by Cabande (1981), she found out that most of the graduates have work; and the reasons why there are still no work of the graduates were: no civil service eligibility, disliking of the available jobs, the place of work is too far from their place, low salary and the work is not good for their health.

## Methodology

The researcher made use of the descriptive research design with the use of a survey questionnaire adapted by Avila (2015) in gathering the data needed for the investigation.

## Statistical Treatment

To translate the data in their meaningful form, the following statistical tools were used: frequency count and percentage to describe the personal and professional profile of the graduates; mean to assess the curriculum and policies, resources and program processes of the Graduate Studies; and rank to identify the recommendations of the graduates on improving the Graduate Studies.

## Findings

Based on the data collected, analyzed and interpreted, the following salient findings are hereby presented:

### 1. Profile of the MATFil graduates before and after finishing the degree.

#### A. Place of employment

Out of 39 MATFil graduates, 35 (89.74) worked in public sector before finishing the degree while there were only 4 (10.26) who worked in private sector. After finishing the degree, a total of 36 (92.30) worked in public sector.

#### B. Employment status

A total of 21 (53.84) graduates got a permanent status; 8 (20.51) as contractual; 3 (7.70) as temporary; and 7 (17.95) as part time. However, after finishing the degree, a total of 24 (61.53) graduates got a permanent status; 8 (20.51) as temporary; 7 (17.95) as contractual; and 0 as part time.

#### C. Item/Academic rank

Out of 39 graduates, before finishing the course, there were 14 (35.89) has an academic rank as Teacher I; 11 (28.20) as Instructor I; 6 (15.39) as Teacher III; 5 (12.83) as Teacher II; 2 (5.13) as Instructor II; and 1 (2.56) as Instructor III. After finishing the degree, 1 (2.56) became Head, Education Supervisor, Associate Professor III, Associate Professor I and Assistant Professor IV, respectively.

### 2. Achievements of the MATFil Graduates

Findings show that most of the graduates are presently

employed in public schools of Ilocos Sur as highschool teachers and in State Universities and Colleges as instructors. However, 2 of them are working abroad.

It can also be concluded that the graduates are successful in their own field of specialization. There were also graduates who have administrative position; as speakers/trainers; and as textbook/coursebook writers.

### 3. Recommendations of the MATFil graduates on improving the Graduate Studies.

#### a. Curriculum and policies

Item no. 3 (Academic policies should be strictly implemented) ranked 1; Item no.2 (Academic policies should be discussed thoroughly) ranked 2; and Item no. 1 ranked 3 (Subjects offering must be reviewed to cater the needs of the students)

#### b. Resources

Item no. 1 (Comfort rooms must be clean) ranked 1; Item no. 3 (More classrooms for the graduate school) ranked 2; and Item no. 2 (There must be enough teaching resources and facilities) ranked 3.

#### c. Program processes

Based on the result, item no. 3 which says "There is a need for challenging subject matter/activities in order to meet the goals of the

program", ranked no. 1; Item no. 1 (An open communication must establish between the teacher-student to discuss on the needs and matters affecting their course) placed second; and Item no. 2 (Teaching strategies are suitable to the needs of the students) ranked third.

## Conclusions

Based on the foregoing findings, the following conclusions have been drawn.

1. Most of the MATFil graduates School Year 1999-2014 are presently employed in public sector as DepEd high school teachers and instructors in State Universities and Colleges; most of the graduates got a permanent status after finishing the degree; and some of the graduates had an administrative position.
2. Most of the MATFil graduates became successful in their own field especially in teaching, while others became speakers/ trainers and textbook/coursebook writers.
3. The recommendations of the graduates on improving the Graduate School along curriculum and policies, resources, and program processes will be helpful for the betterment of the school.

## Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions, the following recommendations are presented by the researcher:

1. Teachers, especially those who are teaching Filipino subjects are encourage to pursue their masters and doctoral degrees at the Graduate Studies of the University of Northern Philippines to enhance more their knowledge and skills. Finishing the degree will be of great help for them to be promoted.
2. Professors and graduate students are also encouraged to attend seminars or conferences on trends and up-to-date teaching strategies.
3. School administrators should look into consideration the recommendations of the graduates on improving the Graduate Studies along curriculum and policies, resources, and program processes.
4. Similar study may also be conducted to follow-up graduates of the different programs of the Graduate Studies of the University of Northern Philippines.

## REFERENCES

### Books

Carreon, Marga B. et.al. 2007. *Komunikasyon sa Akademikong Filipino*. Quezon City: Mutya Publishing House, Inc.

Urbano, Perla C. et.al. 2008. *Sining ng Komunikasyong Pang-akademiko*. Bulacan:TCS Publishing House.

### Unpublished Thesis

Retuta, Celestina A. 1994. *A Follow-up Study of Bachelor of Science in Social Work Graduates of the University of Northern Philippines 1987-1992*. (Unpublished thesis, University of Northern Philippines, Vigan City)

Canbande, Dyesebel N. 1981. *A Follow-up Study of the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Graduates of Bulacan National Agriculture College*. (Unpublished thesis, University of Santo Tomas, Manila).