

Attitude and Behavioral Control: Factors behind Popular Support to Duterte's Drug War

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ABSTRACT

Surveys and polls in the Philippines reveal that there is wide support for President Duterte's Drug War. This study investigates why Filipinos support President Duterte's Drug War Strategy. This paper advances the Theory of Planned Behavior by testing the extent to which Attitude, Subjective Norm, and Perceived Behavioral Control affect the intention of a young Filipino to support the Drug War strategy. A self-reported questionnaire survey was conducted to 197 Filipinos enrolled in four universities in Cebu City, Philippines. Linear Regression analysis and Structural Equation Modelling were employed in analyzing the gathered data with the aid of SPSS and Smart PLS. The results of the study reveal that Attitude and Perceived Behavioral Control are the main factors behind the youth's support to President Duterte's Drug War. This implies that strategic intervention in transforming people's attitudes and facilitating the ease in showing support to the activities linked to the drug war are key foci to sustain if not increase, people's support to the drug war policy.

Keywords: Attitude, perceived behavioral control, Philippine Drug War, public support

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INTRODUCTION

The Philippines has been beset by the menacing problem of the illicit drug trade and abuse. In 2015, the Philippine Dangerous Drug Board estimated a total of 1.8 million drug users comprising 1.8% of the total population of the 100.98 million Filipinos (2015 estimates). On the 13th of July 2017, in an interview with CNN Philippines of

the then-chairman of the Dangerous Drug Board, Dionisio Santiago, argued that there were around 3 million drug users in the Philippines (Cabato, 2017).

Project Double Barrel is introduced to address the argued severity of illegal drug use in the Philippines. It has two components: Project Tokhang, which is a strategy that gives a unique distinction to the Philippine Drug War, and the strategy targeting high-value targets. The Project *Tokhang* or “Knock and Plead” was a strategy adopted from Davao City, the hometown of Rodrigo R. Duterte, the current president of the Philippines (McKirby, 2016). The second component of the Project Double Barrel is the strategy targeting high-value targets. High-value targets are those in government positions and government services who were reportedly involved in the illegal drug trade.

Since its implementation, drug operations under President Duterte’s Drug War has received numerous criticisms. Kine (2016) stressed out that President Duterte linked the killings of these alleged drug-offenders as the evidence of the success of the Philippine Drug Campaign. Several scholars have described the turn of events after the launching of the President Duterte’s War on Drugs to be ‘a spectacle of violence’ (Reyes, 2016), a ‘campaign of repression and executions’ (Chapman & Babor, 2017), and quixotic (Bautista, 2017). In a Pulse Asia Survey (September 2017), it was indicated that 73% of Filipinos believed that Extrajudicial killings occurred in the conduct of President Duterte’s War on Drugs.

However, despite condemnations from the international community and the human rights groups, the Drug War continued. One factor that is to be accounted for the policy’s furtherance is the strong support from the public. A Pulse Asia survey in September 2017 revealed that all respondents reported a 100 percent level of awareness about the War on Drugs of Duterte and 88 percent of them were supportive of President Duterte’s War on Drugs. The same level of support was obtained across all geographic areas of the Philippines and in all socio-economic classes (Pulse Asia Survey, 2017). It is worth noting that a policy alone could not possibly achieve the intended impacts desired, as it would require ‘a large number of people in different situations making decisions and taking actions in concert with policy objectives’ (Schneider & Ingram, 1990).

The Philippine War on Drugs, for one, could have been short-lived had it not garnered a wide acceptance and support from the Filipino masses as reflected in the satisfaction ratings of President Duterte. On another poll conducted by Pew Research Center gauging the support of the Filipinos to Duterte’s drug war, it was revealed that 78% of Filipinos supported the Philippine Drug War and approved of how President Duterte was handling the issue and 62% believed that the anti-drug campaign was making progress (Aquino, 2017). Also, the majority of the Filipinos from different social classes, 86%, attested that the operations of the Drug campaign were conducted in an orderly manner (Pulse Asia Survey,

2017). Even though it cannot be denied that the Drug War has grown to become a very controversial and divisive topic that discourses on the social media have become toxic (Bautista, 2017) and very reactive, numerous scholars emphasized that the wide support enjoyed by President Duterte, in the Philippines and abroad (Tigno, 2018) had provided a 'popular legitimatization' of President Duterte's Anti-Drug Campaign (Gaspar, 2016). This vigorous support for the President has been analyzed in various analytical techniques; Discursive Institutional Analysis (Teehankee, 2016), the violent strong man rule of Duterte, and how he established an 'illiberal populist law and order narrative' (Thompson, 2016a).

Scholarly inquiries range from articles asking about 'How Duterte is as a president' (Holmes & Thompson, 2017), how he made a narrative to incite support (Barrera, 2017), how he became a divisive figure (Tigno, 2018), and on how he was waging a quixotic war (Bautista, 2017). Albeit the existence of literature analyzing the Philippine Drug War, to date, no existing study has looked into an individual-level of analysis to investigate what drives the Filipino citizens to support the Philippine Drug War.

Research and polls focus only on narrow questions such as public perceptions on the Drug War but a deeper analysis of the factors behind public support are yet to be developed. This emboldens the gap of re-emphasizing the importance of public support to policy but also the factors that form this support. This study emerged to identify the factors that have a strong

predictive association with the intention of supporting the Drug War Strategies of the Philippine Government. Specifically, the research delves into the individual's intention of supporting the Philippine War on Drugs and the factors behind this behavior. The research modified the Theory of Planned Behavior by Ajzen (1991) to analyze public support in a deeper psychological lens.

METHODS

The study is a quantitative explanatory study, advancing the Theory of Planned Behavior to analyze the factors behind the strong public support to President Duterte's Drug War Strategies in the Philippines. A survey was conducted and the instrument was carefully crafted from a pre-testing that was conducted. The data gathering was conducted from December 2017 to January 2018. A total of 194 responses were gathered from university students enrolled in one of the top four universities in Cebu City, Philippines. The gathered data were analyzed using IBM SPSS (Version 21) and SMART PLS (Version 3). Model Fitness Analysis provided by SMART PLS (Version 3) was used to evaluate the fitness of the model and regression analysis was employed to identify the extent of association of Political Trust and Attitude and of Attitude, Subjective Norm, and Perceived Behavioral Control to Behavioral Intention.

The research locale of the study was Cebu City, Philippines. Cebu City was identified by the President Duterte, in a

speech he made in the Philippine Councilors' League 10th National Congress, to be the top city with the highest drug rate in the country. An interview with the Director of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in Central Visayas (PDEA-7) explained that the location of Cebu had made it a transshipment port of illegal drugs because it had access to almost all the ports in the Philippines, most importantly in Mindanao and Visayas (Mayol et al., 2017). Hence, there is an intensified effort on drug enforcement in Cebu.

The respondents of the study were a purposive-convenience sample of 194 university students enrolled in one of the four top universities in Cebu City (Rankings based on the number of the Center of Excellence and Center of Developments Programs). All 194 students were enrolled in the Bachelor Program of Political Science in their respective universities for the second semester of Academic Year 2017-2018. The main reason behind the choice of respondents is that political awareness and knowledge of the Drug War are vital as the perception and intentions of the students must come from an informed understanding of the Drug War issue.

Limitations of the study include the number of respondents and the administrative restrictions to the conduct of random sampling based on university policies. The number of respondents is relatively small as there were only two-year levels in all universities, and in all programs in the Philippines due to the K + 12 educational reform. Also, the study employed a self-reported survey which means the social

desirability element, or how the respondents want to be perceived based on their answers, is a potential threat to the conclusions made.

Hypotheses

In this research, three variables that are associated with the intention-formation to support the Drug War: the attitudes of the students, subjective norm, and their perceived control towards supporting the Drug War. The attitude of the students is also theorized to be associated with the trust of the students to the political actors that are linked to the Philippine Drug War. An elaboration of how every construct is operationally defined and utilized in this research is presented below.

The dependent variable in this research is Behavioral Intent. It is the best predictor of actual use or actual performance of a particular behavior as individuals are expected to act and behave in accordance with their intention (Otieno et al., 2016; Pierce et al., 2014). It is hypothesized that the more favorable the attitudes of the students to the War on Drugs strategies, and the stronger the social influence to the behavior of supporting the Drug War strategies, and the greater the perceived control and ease of the students in supporting the Drug War, the more likely will a student form intentions of supporting the Drug War.

Attitude is defined to be a construct determined by beliefs about the outcomes of behavior and the evaluation of these outcomes; this evaluation refers to the perceived positive and negative consequences in the performance of the

behavior (Ajzen & Klobas, 2013; Otieno et al., 2016). In this study, Attitude is measured by determining whether the student find it favorable or unfavorable to support the Drug War Strategies. To be favorable indicates that the student is amenable to not only the Drug War but also to the outcome of supporting the Drug War.

Hypothesis 1: Attitude positively affects the intent to support the 'War on Drugs' strategies

The second TPB predictor is Subjective Norm. Subjective Norm is a construct generated from the beliefs about how others feel the individual should behave (Normative beliefs) and the motivation of the individual to comply with his/her perceived expectations from others as this produces social pressure to intentionally perform the behavior (Otieno et al., 2016). In this study, subjective norm refers to the influence of families, friends, and significant others to a person's intention of supporting the Drug War.

Hypothesis 2: Subjective norm positively affects the intent to support the 'War on Drugs' strategies.

The third construct is Perceived Behavioral Control has two components emerging from an individual's control beliefs (Ajzen, 1991). These components are Self-Efficacy, the confidence of an individual in his/her ability to perform the intended behavior; and Controllability, the individual's control over his/her performance, or non-performance of the behavior (Ajzen & Klobas, 2013; Ceder

& Chowdhury, 2013). Ceder and Chowdhury (2013) argued that the relationship between intention and behavior was strengthened when an individual had a high level of control. However, when control beliefs are weak, the individual is less likely to have the intention of performing the behavior. In this study, Perceived Behavioral Control refers to the students' perception of ease or difficulty in intending to support the War on Drugs Strategies.

Hypothesis 3: Perceived Behavioral control positively affects the intent to support the 'War on Drugs' strategies.

The added construct is Political trust. Political Trust is defined as a basic evaluative orientation toward the government founded on how well the government is operating according to people's normative expectations (Halapuu et al., 2013). In this research, it specifically refers to the trust of the students to the actors/institutions that are involved in the Philippine Drug War; the President, the police officers, the policymakers, and the legal system. Political trust is theorized to influence the attitude of the students. The more positive the political trust, the more positive the attitude of the students.

Hypothesis 4: Political trust positively affects the attitude towards the intent to support the 'War on Drugs' strategies.

Through the construction and employment of these hypotheses, the research aims to contribute to the field of behavioral public administration and policy studies illustrated in the proposed research model in Figure 1.

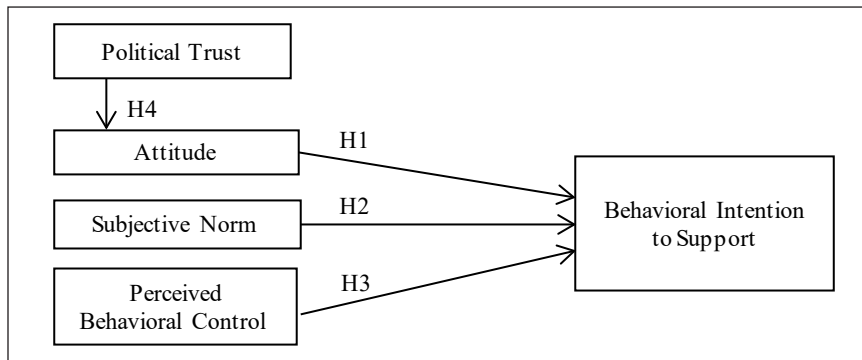


Figure 1. Proposed model

RESULTS

In brief, the age of the majority of the respondents rests between 18 and 20, and the majority of the respondents were females. Twenty (20) percent were enrolled in the University of San Carlos, 26 percent were enrolled in the University of the Philippines –Cebu, 25 percent were from the University of San Jose Recoletos, and 29 percent were from Cebu Normal University. All students were enrolled in the Bachelor Program of Political Science at their respective universities.

Several inner model measurements were tested to ensure that the indicators used for the analysis are strong and consistent as the measures. Table 1 shows empirical evidence of the indicator items' loadings and the constructs' AVE, Composite Reliability values, Rho Values, and Cronbach's Alpha values.

As presented in Table 1, item loadings of the indicators range from 0.661 to 0.945, which ensures good indicator reliability of all indicators used for the analysis. With regards to the Convergent Validity of the indicator items, the Average Variance

Extracted or AVE was presented. To confirm that convergent validity is established or that the indicators of every construct are related and coherent, an AVE of 0.50 or greater must be achieved (Chin, 1998; Höck & Ringle, 2006). Composite Reliability levels were also presented to confirm the internal consistency of the indicator items. Good composite reliability levels must be 0.70 or greater (Gefen et al., 2000), and as presented in the table, the CR levels of the indicator items range from 0.898 to 0.969, which are considerably high.

The Dillon-Goldstein Rho, argued to be a better indicator than Cronbach's alpha (Chin, 1998; Mikolajczak et al., 2014), is also provided in Table 2. It can be observed that all Rho alpha levels are above 0.7 which indicate good composite reliability and unidimensionality (Ravand & Baghaei, 2016). Looking into Cronbach's Alpha, it is shown in the table that all indicator items have very high-reliability levels ranging from .846 to .958 and these high values reflect their validity and reliability. As evidenced by the values presented above, it is argued that the indicators used are strong, reliable, and fit for measuring the constructs.

Table 1
Measurement model

	Items	Loadings ^a	AVE ^b	CR ^c	Rho_A ^d	Cron A ^e
Trust	T2	0.944	0.84	0.94	0.91	.90
	T3	0.922				
	T4	0.874				
ATT	A1	0.939	0.89	0.97	0.96	.96
	A2	0.945				
	A3	0.945				
	A4	0.945				
SUB.N.	SN1	0.678	0.67	0.89	0.96	.85
	SN2	0.824				
	SN3	0.889				
	SN4	0.878				
PBC	PB1	0.885	0.69	0.90	0.88	.85
	PB2	0.857				
	PB3	0.661				
	PB4	0.901				
INT	INT1	0.917	0.89	0.97	0.99	.96
	INT2	0.956				
	INT3	0.94				
	INT4	0.955				

Item removed: Indicator item is below 0.5= TRU1

- a. All Item Loadings > 0.5 indicate Indicator Reliability (Hulland, 1999).
- b. All Average Variance Extracted (AVE) > 0.5 indicate Convergent Reliability (Bagozzi & Yi, 1988; Fornell & Larcker, 1981)
- c. All Composite Reliability (CR) > 0.7 indicate Internal Consistency (Gefen et al., 2000)
- d. All Rho_A > 0.7 indicate composite reliability and unidimensionality (Ravand & Baghaei, 2016).
- e. All Cronbach's Alpha > .7 indicate Indicator Reliability (Nunnally, 1978)

To test the model's fitness, the Smart PLS Version 3 model fitness analysis was conducted. The main indicators for a well-fitted and well-structured model are the following: a Standardized Root Mean Square Residual (SRMR) of less than 0.10 or 0.08 (Hu & Bentler, 1998) and an NFI of 0.90 (Lohmöller, 1989). It can be seen in Table 2 below that with an SRMR of 0.088 and an NFI of 0.838, the model failed to meet the criteria values of a good-fitting model.

Table 2
Model fit analysis results

	Saturated Model
SRMR	0.088
NFI	0.838

Although the model failed to pass the fit indices, it is still important to assess the regression weights or path coefficients of the variables corresponding to the hypotheses of the research. The assessment of the hypothesis relationships is indicated

by standardized regression weights/ path coefficients of at least 0.100, which should be significant (p-value) at a level of 0.05 (Henseler et al., 2009). The effect size must also be evaluated to know how meaningful the effect is if there is any.

As presented in Table 3, three of the four hypotheses were supported by the data and the findings of the research. The data revealed that among the three variables that are theoretically hypothesized to influence Behavioral Intention (B. Intention), only subjective norm has no impact on the behavioral intention with a regression weight of 0.034, with a p-value of 0.365 (Not Significant). This means that Hypothesis 2 is refuted. There are existing scholarly works that provide explanations on why the students' intentions of supporting the Drug War strategies are not influenced by the students' social circle. Several studies have investigated the influence of public opinion to people's policy judgments (Furth-Matzkin & Sunstein, 2018), and although individuals fall towards conforming to public opinion, some researches have argued that individuals may tend to show reactance (Brehm & Brehm, 1981; Furth-Matzkin & Sunstein, 2018). Furthermore, another

notable research argued that counter-conformity towards the social influence from the people surrounding the individuals might be accounted for from having a strong moral basis of attitude (Hornsey et al., 2003) which reinforces the insignificant effect of the subjective norm in this research.

Attitude, on the other hand, is observed to have a strong impact on behavioral intention. This is evidenced by its high regression weight of 0.735, significant at less than 0.001 level, resonating the argument that Attitudes are important as they may translate into actions and behaviors (Crawley, 2009) which could reinforce the theoretical ties of Attitude and Behavioral Intentions. Furthermore, the influence of Attitude to Behavioral Intention revealed in this research is also in synch with the results of the study of Pierce et al. (2014) which stressed out that attitude was important to society's acceptance of new policies and that cultivating positive attitude would, on a great extent, aided the formation of society's acceptance of a policy (Pierce et al., 2014). Similarly, Cordano and Frieze (2000), in their study on pollution reduction preferences of environmental managers in US companies, found a strong relationship

Table 3
Hypotheses test

Hypothesis relationship	Standardized regression weights	Hypothesis supported?	p-value
Attitude -> Intention	0.735	Yes	<0.001**
Subjective Norm -> intention	0.034	No	0.365
Perceived Behavioral Control -> Intention	0.218	Yes	<0.001**
Trust -> Attitude	0.904	Yes	<0.001**

between attitude and behavioral intent; many environmental managers had positive attitudes about pollution prevention, thus, favoring pollution prevention activities. Dunlap et al. (2000) and Fielding et al. (2008) also linked positive attitude towards environmental activism, may it be motivation to enter environmental groups and/or self-identity as an environmental activist, and motivating the individual to engage in environmental activism. Along the same line, during the anti-drug efforts of U.S.A. in the Latin America, in the Belizean context, the people show favorable attitude in supporting drug war as well as strong drug education, and even increasing criminal sanctions and the size of the police force (Wiegand & Bennet, 1993).

Perceived Behavioral Control also has an impact as it projects a 0.218 regression weight at a p-value of less than 0.001. This implies that the greater the ease of supporting the drug war on the perspective of the students, the greater their intention of supporting the Anti-Drug campaign.

Political Trust is reported to have a strong influence on Attitude as evidenced by a regression weight of 0.904, significant at less than 0.001. This implies that the more positive the trust of the students to the political actors linked to the Drug War, the more positive the attitude of the students would be towards supporting the Drug War. The same pattern is observed in the study of Finkel (1985) where voting for national elections was both caused and affected by the voter's "external" political efficacy or the belief that authorities or a regime were

responsive to their attempts to influence the system. Balch (1974) closely linked this belief to feelings of trust to the authorities. Additionally, low-level political trust in institutions permeates (legal) permissive attitude and 'lenient attitude' (Dalton, 2004 as cited by Marien & Hooghe, 2011) towards law-breaking behavior (Marien & Hooghe, 2011).

This means that only Hypotheses 1, 3, and 4 are supported by the findings of the research. This implies that Attitude and Perceived Behavioral Control positively influences behavioral intention while Political Trust has a positive association with Attitude. With this, it is now consequential to assess the effect size of the predictor variables (Attitude, Subjective Norm, and Perceived Behavioral Control) to explaining the endogenous variables (behavioral intention/intention to support).

Finally, the Regression Square which is also known to be the coefficient of determination emerged to have the following values: for behavioral intention, it is revealed to have a regression square of 0.933 which means that the variables in this research account for 93 percent of the variance while the remaining 7 percent can be explained by other variables. Attitude having hypothesized to have a relationship with Political Trust emerged to have a regression square of 0.817 which translates that 81.7 percent of the variance of Attitude is accounted from Political Trust while the remaining 18.3 percent can be explained by other variables.

DISCUSSION

The discussion tackles attitude and the influence of political trust by unpacking the drug menace portrayal and the support given to it, which includes to whom such support is given to. This is to understand the positive attitude of the youth vis-a-vis the broader public's support to Duterte's war on drugs.

Firstly, the public acquiescence to extrajudicial killings has become a concern since this could be misinterpreted as a public mandate for killings (Lamchek, 2017). Although survey says that 73 percent of the Filipinos believed that extrajudicial killings exist, 88 percent indicated their support to the drug war (Pulse Asia Survey, 2017) but 71 percent, in a different survey, believed that drug suspects should be captured alive (Social Weather Station, 2016).

The ambivalence of the Filipino populace as shown in the surveys implies an attempt to balance moral values by affirmations of the value of life (Lamchek, 2017) while at the same time addressing 'latent anxieties' (Curato, 2016b). Latent anxiety refers to the unheard shared distress among communities that have become mundane but still worrisome (Curato, 2016b). In this sense, the community has always been aware of the drug menace. The drug war addresses this 'latent anxiety' by materializing the actions that the community was unable to do.

Quimpo (2017) noted that this latent anxiety of broad popular concern was blown out of proportion. He explained it through securitization, the creation of a 'dangerous other' (Curato, 2016b) that was

at the moment the most pressing threat to the national security and the society (Crick, 2012; Emmers, 2003; Linnemann, 2012; Quimpo, 2017) over and above poverty, social disparities, corruption, insurgency, among others. The construction of this 'dangerous other' reach up to locating the Philippines into the brink of becoming as 'narco-state' (Aruguay, 2017; Curato & Ong, 2018; Gaspar, 2016; Hernandez, 2017; Thompson, 2016b) which warrants an urgent move from the government. Despite criticisms, Duterte successfully securitized illegal drugs (Quimpo, 2017) and still enjoyed the astounding public satisfaction rate of his administration vis-à-vis garnering 78 percent satisfaction on his drug war (Social Weather Station, 2018).

Secondly, political trust is evident to have a strong influence on attitude. This is because Filipino citizens considered the police and the courts as unreliable and corrupt (Coronel, 2016; Johnson & Fernquest, 2018). Taub (2016) and David (2016) argued that the demand for a leader to have the will for decisive action to provide security arose from the people's frustrations to the government's inability to providing basic security and in the weaknesses of the justice system. Consequently, the Filipinos diverted their trust due to their frustrations to the court systems that were described to be only catering to the elite (Maboloc, 2018). This low-level political trust in institutions permeates permissive and lenient attitude (Dalton, 2004 as cited by Marien & Hooghe, 2011) towards law-breaking behavior (Marien & Hooghe, 2011). Another factor is

that Duterte's ascension to national power is explained through populism (Curato, 2016b, 2016a; Holmes, 2017; Johnson & Fernquest, 2018; McCoy, 2017a, 2017b; Thompson, 2016a) or through "bossism" or as a local strongman (Quimpo, 2017). He is infamous for propelling relative peace and economic prosperity to Davao City which is his exhibit of being the 'man of action' (Quimpo, 2017) that the Filipinos deserve. He has capitalized this image which is further burnished by his disdain towards political and business elites (Malakunas, 2016). Tan (2016) expanded this image through Duterte's "*tatay*" (father) charisma that was strong and firm and only wanted to protect his children. A sign in Davao City which says: "Rody Duterte. The "People's last hope" reverberates to the whole Philippine archipelago (Johnson & Fernquest, 2018). Hence, Duterte and his policies manage to hold support from the people.

On the other hand, the Perceived Behavioral Control of the respondents, albeit significant, is little, which is consistent with the study of Lichtenstein et al. (1990) on behavioral prediction on voting. Perceived Behavioral Control has little, nonetheless significant, the effect on predicting behavioral intent on voting. Voters with high perceived control expressed high intentions of doing so but had low expectations of doing the actual voting. In terms of organizational Information Security Policies (ISP), Aurigemma and Panko's (2012) examination of ISP models shows a significant contribution of employees' Perceived Behavioral Control and/or

self-efficacy to their behavioral intent of complying with ISPs.

The youth, favored by their zeitgeist, shows positive results on Perceived Behavioral Control which is significant yet limited. This is elaborated through their restricted, if not non-existent, involvement in the policy. There are two explanations why spaces for community participation in rehabilitating drug offenders are narrow for the populace. This is because, first, drug users are antagonized as threats to the survival of the Philippines' posterity (Quimpo, 2017), however, the dangers they posed did not warrant the sustained attention of the state. Drug users are always associated with crimes and violence (Blendon, 1998; Wiegand & Bennet, 1993), and that they are "undependable" (Curato, 2016b) in doing their assigned works. Drug suspects are collectively labeled as *adik* (drug addicts), not human beings (Bautista, 2017), good for nothing, criminals, rapists, and murderers. They are found dead on streets and roadsides with cardboard signs on them and sometimes wrapped with masking tape (Simangan, 2017). Written on these cardboards are the distinction of 'us' and 'them' (the dangerous other) which traps Filipinos into moral dilemmas (Simangan, 2017). But the dominant idea floated by the state - drug addict is a threat and not human - limits active participation of the populace for possible rehabilitation of drug suspects.

Moreover, discussion in public and even social media platforms are polarized. Attempts to correct erroneous choices presented by the administration did not

have a promising change in the masses' perception. Because of this, supporters of the drug war were called 'blind supporters' and/or 'dutertards' (a derogatory term that refers to Duterte supporters); and that their silence makes them accomplices of the on-going slaughter of their fellow Filipinos. This only shows that subjective norms have a little and insignificant effect on people's support of the drug war. Instead, the public showed reactance and retaliated those who call out and express opinions about Duterte and the drug war and tag them as 'yellowtards' (a derogatory term associated to Liberal Party supporters), 'intellectual elitists', and 'biased human rights supporters' who are detached from the realities of poor Filipinos (Simangan, 2017).

The state's inability to create a policy that incorporates community participation made interventions and solutions 'privatized' - "it was a problem resolved among neighbors, sometimes the local parish, sometimes NGOs and sometimes the barangay captain. The recurring problem itself was never solved with finality" (Curato, 2016b, p. 100). It is difficult to find space for participation in helping to rehabilitate drug abusers since the policy of the administration is narrowed to policemen and other authorities (Johnson & Fernquest, 2018). Moreover, the government has shown reluctance to helping drug suspects saying that *shabu* (methamphetamine) addicts cannot be rehabilitated (Barrera, 2017).

The Philippines is caught flatfooted by the drug war; it has less than 50 accredited rehabilitation facilities, and scarce drug

counselors and doctors to assess patients (Cousins, 2016; Hechanova et al., 2018). Also, the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act focuses less on enforcement of law and order and more on preventing drug use and rehabilitating drug dependents; however, while drug use is considered as a health problem but the government seems less than ready and willing (Cousins, 2016). Surrendered have been forced to take dance classes - Zumba - forced exercise, forced labor, and forced marching or released without help, evidence-based treatment for surrendered was lacking (Cousins, 2016; Hechanova et al., 2018).

Moreover, there is a prevailing stigma of drug users and seeking treatment. Hechanova et al. (2018) noted that the reluctance of opening up to strangers feared that seeing professionals might misinterpret them of being crazy, and the fear of tarnishing the name of the family were barriers to possible community-based interventions; thus, advises for these drug users come from family, friends, and other trusted persons.

With the limited avenues for participation, students still believe that the Drug War is fair and justified, bringing the discussion on how the factors are interlinked together. On Attitude, students support the drug war because they believe that the aims of the drug war are 'good', and this links back to hypothesis 1 positing that a strong positive attitude can form behavioral intentions, in this case, support towards the drug war strategies. This is also reinforced by the significant but low effect of the

variable perceived behavioral control. This signifies that despite a perceived difficulty of showing support to the drug war, there remains to be a positive attitude from the respondents indicating that the intention to support is mainly driven by what individuals believe to be good and fair (Attitude) and not necessarily, by what is easy. This could be because the drug war strategies are mainly government-led and since Political Trust is high, especially to the President, this could be an argued link on why Attitude towards supporting the drug war remains positive despite not being able to participate fully. Further, due to a strong moral basis of attitude, as evidenced by attitude's large and significant effect on people's intentions of supporting the drug war, it is argued that individuals experience counter-conformity towards the social influence of the people surrounding them. This has been purported in the study of Hornsey et al., (2003) explaining the link between attitude and subjective norm.

Considering the cases laid above, with all the complexities of information,

rhetoric, counter-claims, present conditions and moral values weighed together, the respondents feel the ease of supporting the drug war since it has become one of the most pressing social issues that the country faces. Nevertheless, the respondents - being political science students - affording them the needed faculties to go beyond presented realities - have control over their intentions of supporting to avoid bestowing whimsical support to the drug war.

CONCLUSION

Primarily, the study sought to investigate the extent of the relationship between Attitude and Political Trust, and between Attitude, Subjective Norm, Perceived Behavioral Control, and the Behavioral Intention of supporting the strategies of the Philippine Drug War. It also aims to identify the extent of the support that the students would willingly partake to aid the enforcement of the Philippine War on Drugs. Based on the results revealed in the preceding discussions, this research proposes the Public Support Model, as illustrated in Figure 2.

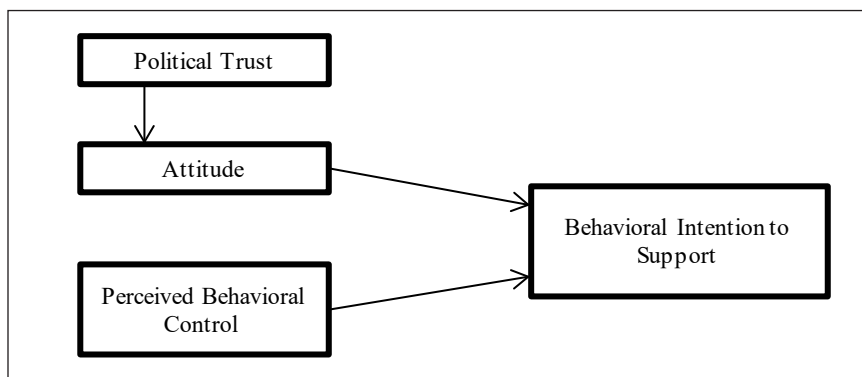


Figure 2. Public support model

The conclusion shows that what influences the students' intention of supporting the Philippine Drug War is their Attitude towards supporting it, and their Perceived Control over their intention to support it. These are based on the results showing that Attitude and Perceived Behavioral Control are crucial factors for the formation of the students' intentions in supporting the campaign of the Philippine Drug War. In general, Subjective Norm revealed to have no impact on the intention formation. In other words, despite the support of the people surrounding the students, this does not motivate, nor influence the students to support the Anti-Drug Efforts of the Philippine government. Attitude, however, is a strong predictor of intention, and this is combined with the small predictive effect of the variable, Perceived behavioral control. This result means that the more positive the attitude of the students towards the strategies enforced in the Philippine Drug War, and the higher their control over their decision to support it, leads to increased inclination of the students to support the War on Drugs Strategies of the Duterte Administration.

Also, since Attitude revealed to be strongly associated with Political Trust, this signifies that the higher the trust of the students towards the institutions which has authority over the Philippine Drug War (President, Police Officers, Legal System, and Policy Makers), the more positive their attitude will be as evidenced by the strong relationship between Political Trust and

Attitude. This implies that changing public attitudes towards the War, re-establishing and strengthening trust in political institutions, and sustaining positive attitude towards the campaign against illegal drugs are all important for the continuity of the Philippine Drug War Strategies.

Additionally, since Perceived Behavioral Control emerged to have a small but existing impact on the intention of supporting the Anti-Drug efforts it is therefore imperative to look into the conditions that facilitate the show of support of people to the policy. The more facilitating the conditions are, participation in community-based drug programs, for instance, the more support people would give to the Drug War policy.

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