

earlier portion of our study the local community seems to be a good place to begin, since the chances of effective participation for the individual citizen is at the moment, greater on the local level than on the national level. Besides, the ordinary man can hardly be expected to take a more active interest in the formation of decisions at the national level without first experiencing active participation in decision-making in his own local community.

In time, given more sustained practice in group participation in barangay decision-making, it is reasonable to predict that there will also be a reorientation in the perceptions of the individual of the barangay.

In all probability a new set of beliefs, attitudes, norms, perceptions and the like will develop, supportive and loyal, but at the same time eager to assume the part of an active participant in the national decision-making process, thus making possible a truly participatory democracy.

## COMMENTS

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It seems to me that this paper presented two striking realities. First, Barangay citizens appear to be subjected to forces emanating from larger community. For instance, Prof. Adorable mentioned that the role of the barangay is supportive rather than demand-oriented. Also, the barangay is an instrument for the President to communicate with the people. Again from the larger community to the individual. It operates in an environment that is "authoritarian," to use the term of Prof. Adorable. Second, expectations of the people differ from those of the larger units. While it is true that the barangay projects are based on national programs, there are also variations of these projects from barangay to barangay.

## OPEN FORUM

Participant: Page 8 reports that the study chose respondents who cannot say no to the regime because they are the ones who profit from the enterprise. I doubt the validity of the study's findings based on the very nature of the respondents chosen. Second, the paper should be able to distinguish between political participation and political manipulation.

Adorable: In my paper, I defined two forms of political participation. One is psychological and the other substantial. What I said in my paper is that citizen

participation in the barangay is mainly psychological. If you would like to call it "political manipulation", you may do so. But the psychological type of participation (at least from the authorities that I cited) is also considered as political participation.

Participant: I think the study failed to include the youth when the youth are active participants in barangay activities. I would like to call your attention to page 27, first paragraph, item no. 2: "Hence it can be said that activities (in the barangay) are supportive and not demand-oriented."

Adorable: What I mean is that there is quite a big gap between what is and what should be. It might be that the people are not really aware of the purpose for which the barangay was created. You will note that in the PD creating the barangay it is supposed to be a forum for consultation of the people on national issues by the national government. The aim of the barangay is to extricate the masses from the gallery of concerns. Thus, it should not be limited to community development concerns but also as a vehicle for political consultation.

Participant: I believe that studies like this should not be limited to the analysis of what types of citizen participation or the existence or non-existence of these types in barangays. The study should include an examination of reasons for non-participation and manipulated participation of barangay members in barangay activities.

Ubaldo: It seems that the students here are confusing supportive participation with manipulated participation. I think the findings of the author are correct. That is why she is recommending that barangays should participate in decision-making at the national level. If you have sentiments you can lobby at the IBP. I am sure the President will be happy to see you there.

Participant: I do not agree with the optimism of the author that the barangays can strengthen participative democracy because based on her findings, barangays are basically supportive of the political system. Then it will cultivate the value of apathy, etc., and not the values that are necessary for fostering participative democracy.