



**UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM LAGUNA
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

R&DC HOLDS SERIES OF FACULTY RETOOLING WEBINARS, REVIEWS TOOLKIT OF PERPETUALITE RESEARCHERS

| By: Research and Development Center

Performing its capacity-building function to improve the research toolkit of the university’s teaching force, the Research and Development Center (R&DC) headed by Dr. Leomar S. Galicia, university research director organized a series of retooling webinars on March 22, 24 and 26 via Google Meet.

In the morning session of March 22, participating departments included the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education, College of Maritime Education and College of Criminology with their deans and faculty members attending the virtual affair. In its afternoon session, the College of Engineering, Aviation and Architecture and College of Computer Studies served as the webinar participants. On March 24, the affair was attended by the College of Business and Accountancy and the College of International Hospitality Management whereas on March 26, the Basic Education Department including the Senior High School which comprises the biggest chunk of the university teaching personnel joined the web-based undertaking.

Supportive of the direction of the institution to continuously champion the utilization of online environment in holding classes and activities amidst the rising cases of COVID-19, Dr. Leomar S. Galicia, laid out the objectives of the affair which are to:

- 1) discuss research strengths, weaknesses and opportunities with university researchers
- 2) foster collaboration in research through online platform
- 3) enhance the research portfolio of the university through improved research practices and outputs.

His discussion began with asking reflective questions as to the attitude, knowledge and skills of faculty in the realm of research as well as their level of productivity for the past few years. He then covered a number of observations relative to the produced research outputs of faculty including high level of similarity index in their literature review, weak sample size and the need to improve the analysis and discussion part of their manuscripts. He then provided the available journal databases for literature review, advantages of researching during the pandemic and the research priority areas of the institution.






ONLINE PLATFORM MAXIMIZED. Webinar banners showing the participating colleges, and the schedule of their retooling sessions



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In his talk, Dr. Galicia highlighted paraphrasing and summarizing in order to lower the similarity index as shown by Turnitin results thus increasing the level of originality of the research paper. He also argued that that in order to arrive at a good sample size, the determination of the total population is necessary, including the identification of strata or groups (if any) so probability sampling can be made, consequently improving the external validity of the findings. He focused on ways to provide a good analysis and interpretation of findings by ensuring three levels of discussion i.e., literal, inferential and theoretical. A list of journal databases which he shared included Philippine e-journals, EBSCOHOST research platform, Directory of Open Access Journals, InfoTrac, Education Resources Information Center (ERIC), Mendeley, Academia.edu, Public Library of Science (PLOS), Open Access Journals Search Engine (OAJSE), OMICS International and PubPsych. Meanwhile, the latter part of Dr. Galicia's virtual talk focused on research areas to work on like Industry/Education 4.0, Internationalization and transnational education, global health crisis and its management, transversal/soft skills, learning management system and environmental issues and natural disasters. He topped the undertaking with the advantages of researching during the pandemic: ease of data gathering, maximizing technology, collaboration becoming a norm, increased publication opportunities, flexible time and avenues for exchange and learning.

Before the activity was ended with a photo opportunity, the research director of the campus quoted Mattie J.T. Stepanek, saying "Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

Range of Scores	Level of Critical Thinking Skills	f	%
29-35	Superior	166	48.88
22-28	Above Average	91	26.67
15-21	Average	84	24.63
8-14	Below Average	0	0
0-7	Poor	0	0
	Total	341	100

Mean = 27.14 SD = 4.88

It can be observed from the table that there were more students having superior level of critical thinking skills. Results further showed that there were 91 students who got the scores ranging from 22 – 28. This indicates that 26.67% of the students are having above average level of critical thinking skills. Moreover, there were 84 students or 24.63% who got scores ranging from 8 – 14 which indicates that their level of critical thinking skills as average. No students are considered having below average and poor performances in critical thinking skills test. The composite mean of the scores is 27.14 with the standard deviation of 4.48, indicating that the level of critical thinking skills of the students are generally above average.

This implies that the students were able to interpret data, answer questions and statements, able to examine ideas and detecting argument working and arriving at the answers on their own thinking and able to evaluate questions to arrive answers.

The findings of the study confirm the previous work of Demat (2016) stating that students surveyed in a private school in Singapore demonstrated above average level of critical thinking. The only difference which can be noted is that more students in the said study fell under superior level of critical thinking skills which can be attributed to factors like school resources, instructional effectiveness and study habits (Marin, 2016).

LEARNING TOGETHER AS ONLINE COMMUNITY. Screenshots of contents being discussed by Dr. Leomar S. Galicia including some of the participants.



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Participants from the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education, College of Maritime Education and College of Criminology.



Participants from the College of Engineering, Aviation and Architecture and College of Computer Studies

Participants from the College of Business and Accountancy and College of International Hospitality Management



Participants from the Basic Education Department including the Senior High School