ABSTRACT

The study investigated the relationship of moral intelligence and competitiveness of children in political families and non-political families. The respondents in the study were from a political family (N = 119) and non-political family (N = 119) in Guiuan, Eastern Samar and were chosen through purposive sampling. Descriptive-correlational method was utilized to examine the moral intelligence and competitiveness of the respondents. The results of the study have shown that there is a high level of moral intelligence and a below average competitiveness in children from political family. Furthermore, it showed that there is a medium level of moral intelligence and average competitiveness in children from non-political family. The results of the study also yielded that there is a significant difference (p<0.05) in the moral intelligence and competitiveness between respondents from political family and non-political family. Findings also suggested that there is no significant relationship between moral intelligence and competitiveness.

Keywords: moral intelligence, competitiveness, political family, competition, morality, political environment

Competition has been deeply embedded in the society. People seek for a higher position and strive for superiority in different and various contexts, may it be socially, economically, physically or academically. It is ever-present. In this competition, one develops an important personality characteristic that influences behavior across an array of social environments; their competitive streak (Houston, Queen, Cruz, Vlahov, Gosnell, 2015).

For the past few years, studies have shown the relationship of competitiveness in various traits and its role in various contexts. For one, a study done by Luchner, Houston, Walker, & Houston (2011) showed that there is a strong positive association between competitiveness and hyper competitiveness. Hyper competitiveness is a notion by Horney (1973) which means the need to compete indiscriminately and to win at any or all cost. This was consistent with the findings of the study done by Mudrack and Turnley (2012), which suggests that the construct share a focus on self-interest and a lack of focus on others in the pursuit of winning. Apart from that, Kilduff (2010) suggested that competitive environment plays a significant role in rivalry formation. It was also found that rivalry was related with unethical behaviors such as deception and unsportsmanlike behavior (Kilduff, Galinski, Gallo, Reade, 2012). The findings that showed the relation of competitiveness and rivalry support Sorchira et.al. (2012) that political rivalry arises from political competition. Moreover, Sorchira et.al., (2012)’s study, showed that political rivalry that stems up from negative political competition happens when enrichment from other social group shows threat to another group’s ability to benefit from the political power in the future.

Some of the unethical behaviors that people have seen in politics is vote-buying during elections. In Nigeria, empirical studies have demonstrated the prevalence of vote buying. A survey directed by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and Practical Sampling International shows that more than seven out of ten Nigerians believe that vote buying happens most of the time during the elections. According to Rappler, data cited by election officials from their law department revealed that 56 cases of vote buying were filed during the
May 2013 midterm elections and 45 incidents of vote buying were recorded by the Manila Police. An empirical analysis made by Mendoza, Lopez and Canare (2013) also found that out of 360 respondents from living cities in Metro Manila, about 90% mentioned that the vote buying offer was accepted; and up to 70% of the recipients voted for the candidate. There were also some instances where the political rivalry turned into violence, another example of unethical behavior. According to the statistics available with the State Crime Records Bureau in India, 92 were killed in the state due to political animosity from 2004 to 2013. In Indonesia, there have been reportedly more than 50 politically motivated attacks in 2014. In the Philippines, one of the most violent and controversial massacre happened last 2009 which killed 52 people, this massacre was instigated by the intense political rivalry between two clans in Muslim Mindanao.

This study aims to determine the level of moral intelligence and competitiveness of respondents in political and non-political family, the relationship of moral intelligence and competitiveness and to see if there is a difference in moral intelligence and competitiveness in children from political and non-political family.

Moral intelligence

Moral Intelligence is defined as the capacity to comprehend what is right from what is wrong; it means to have a solid ethical conviction and to act on them so that one behaves in proper and honorable way (Borba, 2001). According to Lennick and Kiel (2010) it is made up of four dimensions: integrity, responsibility, forgiveness, and compassion.

In the academe setting, the results obtained in the study done by Hoseinpoor (2013) on the relationship between moral intelligence and academic progress of third year high school students indicated that there is a positive and significant relationship between moral intelligence and students’ achievement. In lieu of this, Olusola (2015) studied the moral intelligence of senior secondary school students in Nigeria and it was found that moral intelligence is significantly correlated with students’ perception of examination malpractices. The results showed a negative correlation between the two, which means that moral intelligence aids students to do what is right and resist any pressures that may resist the habits of good character. These two findings suggest that moral reasoning correlates with academic integrity.

Meanwhile in the medical setting, a cross-sectional study on nurses in Iran was done by Mohammadi, Nakhaei & Borhani, (2013). It was found that there was a direct and meaningful relationship between moral intelligence and age and years of practice of the nurses. Optimal levels of moral intelligence also suggested the importance that nurses attribute to moral values, and can also be an indirect indicator of their moral conduct in healthcare environments.

A study done by Khademi, Ghasemian and Hassanzadeh (2014) showed that moral intelligence could possibly have a predicting factor in an individual’s well-being. This supports the study done Faramarzi, Jahanian, Zarbaksh, Salehi, & Pasha (2014) which showed that levels of moral intelligence associated with lower mental problems in healthcare student, as well as the study of Farhan, Dasti, Khan (2015) which revealed that there is a significant positive relationship between aspects of moral intelligence and psychological well-being.

The study of Aldarbah, Almohatdi, Jwaifell, Salah (2015) evaluated the moral intelligence of late childhood years in Jordan and it was found that there was a significant difference between moral intelligence and parent’s age. They concluded that moral intelligence of the late childhood’s children (9-12) years old in Al-Karak governorate in Jordan are at medium level when fathers age between 20 to 30 years old.

Competitiveness

Competitiveness has been defined as the enjoyment of interpersonal competition and the desire to win and be better than others. (Fletcher, Major, Davis, 2008). In competition, one develops their competitive streak, a personality characteristic that influences behavior across an
array of social environment. (Houston, et al., 2012) Previous research found that there was a positive correlation between competitiveness and hyper competitiveness, the need to compete and win at all cost. (Luchner, Houston, Walker and Houston, 2011).

A study done by Kilduff (2010) showed that competitiveness plays a significant role in rivalry formation and it was found that rivalry was related to unethical behavior such as deception, cheating and unsportsmanlike behavior. (Kilduff, Galinski, Gallo, Reade, 2015) This supports the findings of the study of Munster (2007) that suggests despite the advantages of competitive behavior, the motivation to compete can sometimes have malevolent effects such as the adoption of unethical strategies like sabotage.

McEwan, Gilbert and Duarte (2012) studied the relationship of caring and competitiveness to psychopathology and the results showed that competitiveness is strongly associated with depression, making them conclude that social safeness or how safe and comfortable one feels in one's social relationships is a full mediator between competitiveness and depression. In the work setting, a study done by Lyons (2006) showed that there was a strong relationship between the quantity of job shaping behavior and individual competitiveness. The more highly competitive the individual say they are, the greater possibility for them to initiate job shaping behavior.

In the study done by Ward and Eagle (2013) on the relationship of competitiveness and conscientiousness of graduate students with life satisfaction, it was found that competitiveness is significantly correlated with life satisfaction, but for female participants only.

Grom (2008) studied the self-concept and competitiveness of three national cultures: Slovene, Serbian and Spanish and it was found that cultural indicator has a significant impact on the self-concept and competitiveness of the participants from different countries. But in the findings of the study done by Houston, Harris, Moore, Brumett and Kametani (2005) it indicated that although sex and cultural patterns influence some aspects of competitiveness, it does not influence all aspects of it. Literature also revealed that competitiveness varied across environments such as home, work, and school. Mothers and fathers have similar levels of competition at work but daughters are more prone to the feeling of competitiveness than son at school. (Schneider, Wallsworth and Gutin, 2014)

**Political Environment**

In a study done by Allen and Birch (2012) they found that a good political conduct involves basic principles such as honesty, loyalty, integrity and keeping one’s word. But despite these, politics is a real of higher consequentialism wherein officials have the necessity to settle between the lesser of two evils, which is also referred as the “the dirty hands dilemma.” (Hatier, 2012)

Moreover, research also showed that political rivalry arises from political competition. Moreover, it was suggested that political rivalry that arises from negative political competition happens when enrichment from other social group shows threat to another group’s ability to benefit from the political power in the future. (Sorchira, 2012)

In the political scene, political dynasty has been rampant and the participation of political dynasties in the Philippines scene is among the largest and the most enduring in the world. According to the empirical analysis done by Mendoza (2012), about 70% of the 15th Philippine Congress is dynastic; and dynasties dominate all of our major political parties and roughly 80% of the youngest Congressmen (ages 26–40) are from dynastic clans. There are also 178 active political dynasties in the Philippines, with 94% of the provinces having at least one political dynasty. Research showed that by 2016, 55 families will have held on to power for at least 20 years straight. Findings in the study done by (Mendoza, Beja, Venida and Yap, 2012) also provided some sort of validation to the notion that the occurrence of corruption is more
pervasive in dynastic areas than in non-dynastic area. The evidence also suggested that province and districts dominated by political clans are less likely to have better governance.

**Synthesis**

Several studies on moral intelligence pointed out its significant relationship with leadership. The status of moral intelligence and team leadership have been above average. Literature also revealed that, self-giving to others, a component of moral intelligence, has the highest correlation with the team leadership.

Competitiveness has a significant relationship with hyper competitiveness, the need to win at all and any cost. (Luchner et. al, 2011) It is also associated with the lack of forgiveness (McEwan et. al., 2012) In students, and particularly in patients, competitiveness and feeling unsuccessful in competing for resources is strongly associated with depression. (McEwan et. al., 2012) These findings are also consistent with the idea that competitiveness is linked to rank concerns and that these rank concerns and competitive striving may be especially problematic in depressed populations (Gilbert, McEwan, Bellew, et al., 2009) Aside from that, findings suggest that competitiveness plays a substantial role in rivalry formation, and rivalry is linked with unethical behavior. (Kilduff et.al., 2010), this is also consistent with the findings political rivalry arises from political competition. (Sorchira, 2012)

Although competitiveness has been investigated in relation to its effects in various contexts, researches on competitiveness on contexts such as the political realm are visually absent. There is also a lack of research on moral intelligence in this context, a context wherein the morality of the people in it are often questioned. Being competitive can be beneficial, but at the same time can be dangerous they its engagement on unethical behavior.

Honesty, loyalty, integrity and keeping one’s word that is what a good political conduct is consist of. (Allen and Birch, 2012) But despite these standards, politics has been viewed as the realm of a higher consequentialism wherein people have to do wrong in order to do right, otherwise known as the dirty hands dilemma. (Hatier, 2010) The Philippines has an enduring political dynasty, 70% of the 15th Philippine Congress is dynastic, and research findings provided some sort of validation to the notion that the occurrence of corruption is more pervasive in dynastic areas than in non-dynastic area. The evidence also suggested that province and districts dominated by political clans are less likely to have better governance. (Mendoza et al., 2012)

The study examines the competitiveness and moral intelligence of two different respondents: respondents from a political and non-political family. Would one’s upbringing influence their level of competitiveness and moral intelligence? The study pursues to answer the following research questions: What is the level of moral intelligence of respondents in political and non-political family? What is the level of competitiveness of respondents in political and non-political family? Is there a significant difference between the moral intelligence and competitiveness of respondents in political and non-political family? And lastly, is there a significant correlation between moral intelligence in respondents in political family, non-political family, and political and non-political family?

**Method**

**Research Design**

The Research Study utilized a Descriptive-Correlational quantitative method for the reason that this study determines how a variable affects another variable. (Houghton, 2014). The designed was used by the researcher to determine if there is a significant relationship between moral intelligence and competitiveness.

**Participants**
The study involved 238 respondents (males and females) aged 16-40 years old who were selected through purposive sampling. 119 of the respondents were from a political family background and the other half (n=119) were not from a political family background. The study involved students and professionals who are from the province of Eastern Samar. This group of respondents was selected from a province that has a more traditional outlook and perspective, hence the attachment of a culture that is family-oriented on them and plays a big part in their everyday lives.

**Instruments**

A modified Moral Competency Inventory (Lennick and Kiel, 2005) was used to determine the moral intelligence of the respondents. It is composed of a 30 item test that featured the 10 competencies of a moral person. It is on a 5-point Likert scale that ranges from *never*, *often*, *sometimes, in most situations* and *in all situations*. Sample of the scale include “I can clearly state the principles, values, and beliefs that guide my actions” and “I use my mistakes as an opportunity to improve my performance.” The verbal interpretation for the results will be as follows: Low level = rarely practices moral behavior indicated in the questionnaire, Medium level = practices moral behavior indicated in the questionnaire in some situations, High level = religiously practices moral behavior indicated in the questionnaire in most situations. Pilot-testing was conducted to ensure that the reliability of the modified Moral Competency Inventory. First, the researcher chose 40 participants in Guiuan, Eastern Samar that were similar to the study’s respondents. At the time of the pilot-testing, the researcher first explained the objective of the study and ensured the confidentiality of the answers to the questionnaire. After that, the questionnaires were distributed to the participants for them to answer and were given 20 minutes to complete it. The data were analyzed using the SPSS software. The pilot testing showed a reliability of 0.812 using the Cronbach alpha coefficient formula.

The Revised Competitive Index (Houston, Harris, McIntire & Francis, 2002) was used to measure the general competitiveness and assess the desire to win in interpersonal relationships of the respondent. It is a 14-item test that follows a 5 point Likert Scale. The scale ranges from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (5). Sample items include “I often try to outperform others” and “I like competition.” The verbal interpretation for the results will be as follows: Below average = Laidback, less desire in competing , Average = Enjoys degree of competing to a certain point, but is less likely to be inclined to fight in order to win, Above average = Competitive and more inclined to fight and argue in order to win. Interpretation was an own interpretation of the researcher based on the description of Houston et.al. (2002) on the Revised Competitive Index. It was reported to have a high internal consistency (α= 0.90) using the Cronbach’s alpha coefficient formula and a test retest reliability of 0.85, but only within a time interval of 18 to 34 days. (Harris and Houston, 2010)

A self-made checklist was created by the researcher to ensure that the respondents with political family background fit the criteria. It is composed of 10 items. Samples items include “Number of relatives in politics” and “Degree of affinity to the politician/s”

**Procedure**

For the official testing, the instrument was administered to the participants in their homes/offices. First, the researcher explained to the participants the purpose and the importance of their participation in this study. In addition to that, the researcher assured the respondents of the confidentiality of their response and that their response would be used only for research purposes. When the questionnaires were distributed, they were given instructions on how to answer it. The respondents were given approximately 25 minutes to complete it. The participants’ responses were scored and were entered into the computer for statistical analysis by a statistician. The data were analyzed using Microsoft Excel.

**Data Analysis**
The researcher used descriptive statistics, which includes the mean and standard deviation, to determine the level of moral intelligence and competitiveness of the respondents. The researcher also used Pearson R Correlation, a method which determines the linear relationship of two variables. This was used to determine if there is a relationship between moral intelligence and competitiveness. T-test was used to analyze if there is a significant difference in moral intelligence and competitiveness between respondents in political and non-political family.

Results

The Participants

The respondents were composed primarily of individuals coming from a political family or clan between ages 16-40 years old. Amongst the respondents with political family background, 67.3% were female, and 32.7% were male. The respondents with no political family background on the other hand, were comprised of 58% females and 42% male. The majority of respondents were professionals and the rest of the percentage were senior in high school and college students.

Research Question Number 1. What is the level of moral intelligence among respondents from political family and non-political family?

The content of Table 1 is the Mean and Standard Deviation of Moral Intelligence. This table will determine the level of Moral Intelligence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moral Intelligence from Political Family</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.0628</td>
<td>.5528</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 presents that moral intelligence level of respondents in political family with an overall mean of 4.0628, which indicates a high level of moral intelligence. This indicates that they religiously practice moral behavior indicated in the questionnaire (See Appendix 1). Behavior is practiced in most situations. It further revealed a medium moral intelligence level for the respondents from non-political with a x value of 3.8772 indicating that they practice moral behavior indicated in the questionnaire (See Appendix 1) in some situations.

According to the results of the study, there is a high level of moral intelligence when it comes to the respondents in political family, indicating that children from political family religiously practice behavior stated in the questionnaire and that moral behavior is practiced in most situations. The reason behind this may be because politicians are expected to behave in a certain way, such as being honest, loyal and having an integrity, and research have shown that children are more likely to adopt these when it is important to their parents. Furthermore, children of politically-engaged parents adopt these views as they grow older. (Allen and Birch, 2012; Dinas, 2013)

Research Question number 2. What is the level of Competitiveness among respondents from political and non-political family?

The content of Table 2 is the Mean and Standard Deviation of Competitiveness. This table will determine the level of competitiveness.
Table 2. Level of competitiveness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competitiveness in respondents from political family</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.6997</td>
<td>.56133</td>
<td>Below: Average level of Competitiveness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competitiveness in respondents from non-political family</td>
<td>3.0403</td>
<td>3.0403</td>
<td>Average level of Competitiveness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 presents the level of competitiveness of respondents in political family with an overall mean of 2.6997. This indicates that their competitive level is below average. Having a below average level of competitiveness means that there is no great desire in competing and respondent is less likely inclined to fight and argue. It further revealed the level of competitiveness of respondents in non-political family with an overall mean of 3.0403, which indicates an average level of competitiveness. This suggests that respondents from non-political family enjoy competing to a certain degree but are less likely inclined to fight and argue in order to win.

Although studies have shown that competitive environment can heighten the desire to win (Malhotra, 2010) Results have revealed that competitiveness in respondents from political family is below average, indicating that they have no great desire in competing. This could be in connection with the results revealed in the level of moral intelligence (See Table 1), wherein respondents in political family showed a high moral intelligence. Researches indicated that high levels of morality have reported low frequencies of negative behaviors in a competitive environment (Kavussanu & Roberts, 2001; Ommundsen, Roberts, Lemyre, & Treasure, 2003). This supports the result above wherein it showed that respondents in political family have no great desire in competing and less likely inclined to fight and argue.

**Research Question no 3. Is there a significant relationship between moral intelligence and competitiveness in respondents from political family, respondents in non-political family and combined respondents?**

Table 3 contains the R-value and P-value of Moral Intelligence and Competitiveness. This table will determine if there is a significant relationship in moral intelligence and competitiveness in respondents in political family, non-political family and combined respondents.

Table 3. Relationship between Moral Intelligence and Competitiveness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>R</th>
<th>P-value</th>
<th>Significant Level</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Political Family</td>
<td>-0.061</td>
<td>.103</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>Not Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Political Family</td>
<td>0.227</td>
<td>.066</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>Not Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Respondents</td>
<td>0.116</td>
<td>.081</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>Not Significant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results in Table 2 present that there is no significant relationship (p>0.05) between moral intelligence and competitiveness in respondents from political family, non-political family and combined respondents.

The reason behind the no-significant relationship results may have been because of the results revealed in the moral intelligence level in respondents in political family, in which it indicated that respondents have a high level of moral intelligence. Research suggested that a high level moral intelligence aids an individual to do what is right and resist any pressures that may resist the habits of good character. (Olosula, 2015).
Research question number 4. Is there a significant difference between the following:

a. Moral intelligence of respondents in political family and non-political family.

b. Competitiveness of respondents in political and non-political family.

The table below shows the Mean and P-value of Pair 1, which is the moral intelligence of respondents in political family and moral intelligence respondents from non-political family and Pair 2, which is the competitiveness of respondents in political family and competitiveness of respondents in non-political family. This table will determine if there is a significant difference between the respondents of the two variables. (Moral Intelligence and Competitiveness).

Table 4. Difference of Moral Intelligence and Competitiveness between Political and Non-political family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>P-value</th>
<th>Significance Level</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pair 1: Moral Intelligence</td>
<td>.18562</td>
<td>.001</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Political Family – Moral</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intelligence From Non Political</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pair 2: Competitiveness</td>
<td>-3.4062</td>
<td>.000</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Political Family – Competitiveness</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Non Political Family</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 presents that there is a significant difference (p<0.05) in the moral intelligence between respondents in political and non-political family. The respondents from political family showed a greater level of moral intelligence than the respondents from non-political family. The results support the findings of Aldarabah (2015) that suggest that moral intelligence may differ on the type of family you have. Furthermore, Dinas (2013) suggested that children of politicians are more likely to adopt moral views and behavior, hence why they have a higher level of moral intelligence.

As for the competitiveness, Table 4 presents that there is a significant difference (p<0.05) between respondents in political and non-political family. The respondents from the non-political family showed a greater level of competitiveness than the respondents from the political family. This supports those findings of Schneider (2014) that competitiveness may vary in different environment.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Based on the data presented, the researcher concluded that although people from the political environment are often times perceived as immoral and unethical because of how the media portrayed them to be, they have a high moral intelligence. Due to the below average level result of the competitiveness in respondents from non-political family, the researcher concluded that even though competitive environment such as the political environment can heighten the competitiveness of an individual, it might not only be the only factor affecting it. The researcher concluded that there is no significant relationship between moral intelligence and competitiveness. The researcher also concluded that there is a significant difference in the moral intelligence and competitiveness of children in political and non-political family.

One possible limitation to the accuracy of these findings may be self-report bias. Because of nature of the questionnaire, respondents had an awareness that their responses were being recorded, and may not have responded honestly.

The study has examined moral intelligence and competitiveness in general, researcher suggests to add more depth to the study by also including the subscale of moral intelligence and
not just moral intelligence as a whole, as well as explore the other perspectives on competitiveness such as goal competitiveness. The researcher also suggest to have an equal number of male and female respondents, as well as a small gap on the age range.

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Khademi, M., Ghasemian, D., & Hassanzadeh, R. The Relationship of Psychological Resilience and Moral Intelligence with Psychological Well-Being in the Employees of Iranian National Tax Administration.


