

---

**| RESEARCH ARTICLE**

## **The Don Honorio Ventura Technological State University; The oldest government school in the Philippines**

**Jessie D. Manapsal**

*Don Honorio Ventura Technological State University, Bacolor, Pampanga, Philippines*

**Corresponding Author:** Jessie D. Manapsal, **E-mail:** [jdmanapsal@dhvsu.edu.ph](mailto:jdmanapsal@dhvsu.edu.ph)

---

**| ABSTRACT**

The people of Pampanga envisioned a university that would help them realize their dreams and the generations to come of quality education. To have a university that will deliver quality education at a subsidized cost. They will prefer this school over other schools in Pampanga and Metropolitan Manila because of its century-old delivery of quality education. The vision came into reality by the establishment of the Don Honorio Ventura Technological State University (present name) in 1861. In spite of nature's wrath and other man-made unfortunate events, the school triumphantly bannered its commitment to deliver quality education at a subsidized cost for the kapampangans. This study aims to understand the reasons behind the stagnant development of the school from its establishment in 1861 up to the time when the current president made tremendous development in a short span of more or less nine years. The objectives of the study are as follows: What made DHVTSU in 2006 expand tremendously? What kind of governance does it exercise? Is it possible to be at par with the National University? The findings of the study: Review the existing guidelines for the research if it conforms with the intention of the university and conformably the international standards. Prioritize or balance the Instruction and Research with the facility development in order for the school to achieve its vision. Review other matters, especially committees that select the researches and make sure that the members comply with the alignment policy of education espoused by the Commission on Higher Education. Create criteria for the faculty to advance their welfare in terms of research-related activities. Review the existing scholarship accommodations to the faculty and make them accessible to all, including non-teaching staff. The study presented the above objectives through the available data, primarily government documents. The scope of the research concentrates on the records and data available and by comparing and analyzing the contents. A case study is appropriate for this study because researchers have used the case study research method for many years across a variety of disciplines. Researcher Robert K. Yin defines the case study research method as an empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context when the boundaries between phenomenon and context are not clearly evident. Multiple sources of evidence are used (Yin, 1984, p. 23).

**| KEYWORDS**

Colegio de Instruccion Primaria y Latinidad, Bacolor Trade School, Pampanga Trade School, DHVCAT, DHVTSU

**| ARTICLE DOI:** [10.32996/jhsss.2019.1.2.6](https://doi.org/10.32996/jhsss.2019.1.2.6)

---

### **1. Introduction**

The people of Pampanga clamor for a state university that will be at least at par with the National University in terms of Instruction, Research and Extension can be traced back to the colonial period of Spain. Not all people are aware that there is an existing one and probably the oldest government school in the Philippines. This university is now known as the DON HONORIO VENTURA TECHNOLOGICAL STATE UNIVERSITY located in Bacolor, Pampanga, established in 1861

The school is believed to be the oldest government school in the Philippines established during the reign of Queen Isabel II of Spain; the School was officially founded on November 4, 1861, upon the approval of the decree by Captain-General Jose Lemery; as "Colegio de Instruccion Primaria y Latinidad."

The plan indicated the primary objective of the school is to give young kapampangan boys the much-needed instruction “to make themselves useful members of society being aware of such duty for God and for the government without having to incur great expenses in going to the capital and without being separated from their families.” The subjects include Christian Doctrine, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Spanish and Latin Grammar.

The school was made of the seat of one of the conferences of the powerful Taft Commission, composed of Governor-General Howard Taft, Dr. Trinidad Pardo H. de Tavera, Jose Luziaga, Benito Legarda and other prominent Filipino.

Subsequently, this school was converted into a craftsman school with related academic instruction in 1905 and was named Bacolor Trade School. The subject offerings did not deviate much from the former but were upgraded to enrich its curriculum.

In anticipation of the conversion of this school into a secondary trade school, it was renamed Pampanga Trade School in 1909. True to the prediction of its administrator then, this school was authorized to offer a curriculum on the secondary level in 1922. It had its first batch of graduates in 1926. From the roster of these graduates could be found those who have excelled in the field of vocational education. Its curricular offerings included ironworking, Woodworking, and building construction courses for males and Domestic Science for females. Its academic curriculum included such subjects as English, History, Physics, and Mathematics.

By virtue of Republic Act 1388, the school was converted into a regional school of arts and trades and was renamed Pampanga School of Arts and Trades. Technical Education courses were also offered in October 1957.

In 1964, the school was renamed Don Honorio Ventura Memorial School of Arts and Trades in honour of Don Honorio Ventura, a prominent son of Bacolor, who was a statesman and philanthropist. The renaming was signed by the then President Diosdado Macapagal, a protégé of Don Honorio who sent him to school and became instrumental in the former’s success, especially during his (Macapagal) struggling years.

### ***1.1 Don Honorio Ventura College of Arts and Trades (DHVCAT).***

Through the priceless assistance of former Solicitor-General, Pampanga Governor and Minister of Justice, Estelito P. Mendoza, the school was converted into a State College on May 5, 1978, by virtue of President Decree No. 1373 and was renamed Don Honorio Ventura College of Arts and Trades (DHVCAT).

Officials envisioned DHVCAT as a center for learning in Central Luzon that will provide highly accessible educational opportunities to its clientele in order to produce a continuously improving, better-educated workforce, professionals and leaders and thereby contribute to the personal prosperity of the citizens and strong socio-economic development for the region.

## **2. Method**

The aim of this study is to understand the reasons behind the stagnant development of the school from its establishment in 1861 up to the time when the current president made tremendous development in a short span of more or less nine years. The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. What made DHVTSU in 2006 expand tremendously?
2. What kind of governance does it exercise?
3. Is it possible to be at par with the National University?

The study will present the above objectives through the available data, primarily government documents. The scope of the research concentrates on the records and data available and by comparing and analyzing the contents.

A case study is appropriate for this study because researchers have used the case study research method for many years across a variety of disciplines. Social scientists, in particular, have made wide use of this qualitative research method to examine contemporary real-life situations and provide the basis for the application of ideas and extension of methods. Researcher Robert K. Yin defines the case study research method as an empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context when the boundaries between phenomenon and context are not clearly evident. Multiple sources of evidence are used (Yin, 1984, p. 23).

The advantages of the case study method are its applicability to real-life, contemporary, human situations and its public accessibility through written reports. Case study results relate directly to the common reader’s everyday experience and facilitate an understanding of complex real-life situations

### **3. Results and Discussion**

#### **3.1 Start of the New Greater Heights**

DHVCAT gradually advanced to greater heights from 2006 onwards. More buildings were constructed through the kind assistance of local officials and political leaders. Furthermore, through the assiduous efforts of the academic community led by the College President, Dr. Enrique G. Baking, DHVCAT was able to partake of a substantial amount from the Bacolor Rehabilitation Act for campus development. Under the new faculty and staff development program, instructors and non-teaching staff were given financial support to pursue graduate programs along with their respective areas of specialization.

To provide students with a broader and stronger general education that will lay the foundation for critical and analytical thinking in all fields of specialization, the Institute of Arts and Sciences was created. More undergraduate and graduate programs were offered, namely: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship, Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering, Bachelor of Science in Fine Arts and Master of Public Administration. All these undertakings resulted in a steadily increased student population.

Because of the collaborative efforts of dedicated officials, faculty members, staff and friends of DHVCAT, many lives continued to be transformed through academic excellence, innovation, research and development and leadership. Former Congressman Aurelio D. Gonzales, Jr. of the Third District of Pampanga, as well as municipal and provincial leaders, extended full support in the pursuit of the conversion of the College into a state university after two similar attempts failed in the past. A thorough evaluation of the college's performance over the years was conducted by the technical working groups of the Commission on Higher Education, the Senate Commission on Education, Culture and Arts and the House Commission on Higher Technical Education. Finally, DHVCAT was found ready to be bestowed a university status.

On December 9, 2009, at the University Gymnasium, Former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed Republic Act 9832, an Act converting DHVCAT in Don Honorio Ventura Technological State University (DHVTSU). The change from college to university will enable the institution to live more fully its vision.

#### **3.2 President Enrique G. Baking, Ed.D. and the University**

He was simple in everything, very intelligent, and possessed a creative mind that makes him loved and respected by the DHVTSU community. His vision for the school surpassed all of those who had been part of the institution since 1861. His love for the poor always echoed in the four corners of the university; his line is in kapampangan "deng pakakalulu atsu la queng kakung pusu kapilan man alila milako" ( The poor will always be in my heart, and they will never fade). Dr. Baking assumed his post as college president in 2006; from then on, the university continued to surge in greater heights in terms of development; however, the main task of the university to uplift its Instruction, Research, and Extension remains a big challenge for him to take. Upon assumption in office, the university prepared for the sesquicentennial celebration and had the privilege of naming him as the sesquicentennial president, an epitome of success, hard work and service.

#### **3.3 Growth and Development (2006 to present)**

##### **2006**

- Launched the five-year comprehensive manpower development plan
- Developed and expanded student scholarship programs
- Completed five (5) infrastructure projects amounting to Php 25.4 million taken from internally- generated income of the college.

##### **2007**

- Completed the Rehabilitation of Industrial Technology building (phase 1) and 5 minor constructions funded from donations of stakeholders

##### **2008**

- Re-opened the satellite campus in Mexico, Pampanga
- Completed six (6) infrastructure projects (perimeter fence and main gate, Academic building, Industrial Technology Building, College Library and Two Classroom buildings).

##### **2009**

- Implemented an extensive campus development program
- Established the DHVCAT Management Information System
- Completed the construction of the: Information and Communication Technology Building (now College of Computer Studies) and Technological Building (phases 1 and 2)
- Installed the E-Library system

- Signed a memorandum of agreement with the provincial government of Pampanga for the re-opening and relocation a satellite campus in Lubao, Pampanga
- Signed a memorandum of agreement with the provincial government of Pampanga for the establishment of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centers in the four districts of Pampanga

### **2010**

- Installed the e-library system
- Signed a memorandum of agreement with Governor of Pampanga for the reopening and relocation of a satellite campus in Lubao, Pampanga
- Signed a memorandum of agreement with Daejin University, South Korea, to promote institutional collaboration.

### **2011**

- Signed memorandum of understanding with Chung Buk National University and the Kyung-In Women's University of Korea for possible program complementation
- Procured multi-million peso worth of laboratory equipment, machinery and other gadgets for instruction and human resource management

### **2012**

- Opened the satellite campus in Porac, Pampanga
- Signed a memorandum of understanding with Kaywon School of Arts and Design (KSAD) for the establishment of an international academic cooperation

### **2013**

- Launched the extension campus at Sto. Tomas, Pampanga
- Implemented the construction of the following projects; Administration Building Extension (phase 1), Graduate School Building, Multi-purpose, Motor pool and Engineering Building

### **3.4 Financial Resource Generation**

The university knows that the subsidy will not be enough to sustain its speedy growing population from 2006 to 2012 to generate income to support its various programs and projects toward the attainment of its mission and vision. The subsidy from the national government in 2006 amounted to Php75.2 M to Php 139.8 M in 2012, whereas the income represents the tuition fees and another income-generating project from Php. 33.5 M in 2006 to P194.3 M in 2012. Likewise, the assets rose by Php 430.1M from Php 137 M from 2006 to 2012.

### **3.5 Faculty Development**

The university offered scholarships and other assistance for all the faculty to continue their studies in their field of specialization; so far, the university recorded 14 faculty scholars and 113 faculty who received thesis/dissertation and allowances for the period 2006 to 2013. It can be gleaned that the management is open with the idea of supporting its faculty to be competitive and world-class professors.

### **3.6 Research and Extension**

The knowledge that a university creates may bring it closer to the universities/colleges in the Philippines and the rest of the world and may leave a long-lasting impact on the community. Sadly, there are no records of research and extensions made by the university from 1861 up to 2005. Only from 2006 to 2013, the university embarked on the research by producing 82 types. It is unthinkable that the previous administrations and management did not encourage a community research-based environment for a century-old university. The management always shouts that every faculty must engage in the research, but regrettably, the support is far from what they shouted. They will always stand and proclaim that they would support any study, especially internationally accepted papers, but when it is presented for them for support, it will go into the internal process and re-evaluated by the committee and end up not supporting the paper and missed the opportunity of having the school known in the research arena. Noticeably the research papers presented from 2010 to 2013 majority were presented at the same date, and in one conference or organizer, it looks like a fiesta of research outputs. It is also observed that some, although they have doctoral degrees but presented papers not related to their field of specialization.

### **3.7 To be at par with the National University**

At this state and condition, it is difficult for the university to be at par with the National University (University of the Philippines) in terms of Instruction, Research and Extension. The University of the Philippines (UP) had the highest number of publications in 2011, with 343 articles (up from 302 articles in 2010). UP is followed by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) with 139 articles

(109 in 2010). For 2011, De La Salle University (in 4th place previously) overtakes the University of Santo Thomas (3rd place previously), the former with 48 papers and the latter having 29 papers. Completing the top 5 are the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) and Mindanao State University, with 21 papers each. The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine stays at 6th place with 18 papers, followed by the University of San Carlos with 17 papers, also maintaining its 7th place. Ateneo de Manila University and St. Lukes Hospital are tied to 8th place with 15 papers. It will be ambitious for the present administration and the succeeding to emulate and be at par with the National University in terms of research, but with the persistence and right people to support the management, perhaps it may in the coming years.

#### 4. Conclusion

This study aims to understand the reasons behind the stagnant development of the school from its establishment in 1861 up to the time when the current president made tremendous development in a short span of more or less nine years. The objectives of the study are as follows: What made DHVTSU in 2006 expand tremendously? What kind of governance does it exercise? Is it possible to be at par with the National University? The findings of the study: Review the existing guidelines for the research if it conforms with the intention of the university and conformably the international standards. Prioritize or balance the Instruction and Research with the facility development in order for the school to achieve its vision. Review other matters, especially committees that select the researches and make sure that the members comply with the alignment policy of education espoused by the Commission on Higher Education. Create criteria for the faculty to advance their welfare in terms of research-related activities. Review the existing scholarship accommodations to the faculty and make them accessible to all, including non-teaching staff.

The study is deemed significant to the People to become aware of the establishment of the oldest government educational institution in the Philippines.

The management of the university should focus on the areas of Instruction, Research and Extension by supporting the studies conducted by the faculty in the different disciplines. They are doing these, but it seems it is not enough to boost the morale of the faculty. The university has a good development in terms of facilities and equipment, but these are without any tangible effect unless used by the faculty and other personnel of the university. They always say that the people are the company's greatest asset, and this is true, especially in the field of academe. Facility development must go hand in hand with the enhancement and training of the faculty in order to achieve an excellent result. The very reason as observed why some faculty are hesitant or adamant about venturing into research is the behavioral attitudes of some management staff, instead of supporting the study, unwelcome comments will be uttered into their mouths, and the faculty will be dismayed and discouraged in what he is trying to find out in the study. This kind of attitude must be stopped for the faculty to engage in the research for the benefit of the university and the students.

Attention may also be invited to the researchers and scholars of public administration, political science and management to conduct a parallel study that supports and enhance the assumption about the need to study the delivery of education of state universities and colleges.

#### 5. Recommendations

The university must review and make changes with the following:

1. Review the existing guidelines for the research if it conforms with the intention of the university and conformably the international standards.
2. Prioritize or balance the Instruction and Research with the facility development in order for the school to achieve its vision.
3. Review other matters, especially committees that select the researches and make sure that the members comply with the alignment policy of education espoused by the Commission on Higher Education.
4. Create criteria for the faculty to advance their welfare in terms of research-related activities.
5. Review the existing scholarship accommodations to the faculty and make them accessible to all, including non-teaching staff.

#### References

- [1] DHVTSU Accomplishment Report 2006-2013
- [2] *DVTSU Sesquicentennial Commemorative Book 1861-2011*
- [3] Don Honorio Ventura State University (n.d) <http://www.dhvtsu.edu.ph/>
- [4] Lt. Gen. Don Jose Lemery, a former senator of the Spanish Crown, was Captain-General of the Philippines from February 2, 1861, to July 7, 1862
- [5] *Research Productivity: Philippines' Most Productive Institutes and Researchers in 2011* (2012, July 6)  
<http://blog.bahaykuboresearch.net/2012/07/06/research-productivity-philippines-most-productive-institutes-and-researchers-in-2011/>
- [6] (Manila: Establecimiento tipografico de los Amigos del Pais, 1861), p. 1, Proyecto para establecer Un Instituto de Instruccion Primaria en Provincia Pampanga