

Perception Of Maydolongnons In The Wearing Of Facemask

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to determine the perception level of Maydolongnons on the wearing of face mask. The unit analysis of the study was the 222 residents in the Poblacion Barangays of Maydolong E. Samar who serve as respondents. The study focuses on perception level of the respondents towards wearing a face mask and was measured by 5-point Likert scale categorized under; comfort, efficacy doubt, access, compensation, inconvenience, appearance, attention, and independence. Descriptive survey method was used in this study. To obtain the needed data the researchers distributed a questionnaire to the respondents. The data were tabulated, analyzed and interpreted. Findings of the study revealed that the perception of Maydolongnons on wearing facemask mostly remark as "neither agree nor disagree". This means, that respondents had the sense of impartiality on their beliefs and behaviors in the wearing of facemask.

Keywords: covid-19; pandemic; perception; facemask

INTRODUCTION

In 2020, the World Health Organization declared a pandemic caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome 2 that results to the disease called coronavirus or colloquially known as COVID-19 (World Health Organization, 2020). Several non-pharmacological measures were introduced to contain the spread of the disease. These include social distancing, prohibiting agglomerations of people, keeping rooms well-ventilated and exposed to the sun, cleaning objects and surfaces, regular hand washing and using personal protective devices, such as face masks.

Around the world, China was the first to introduce wearing of face masks as a comprehensive strategy against COVID-19 and many countries followed suit (Leung, 2020). In the Philippines, safety protocols were set by the Inter-Agency Task Force to curb the spread of the disease. In a memorandum circular number 2020-071 submitted by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), all residents are mandated to wear face masks and other protective equipment in public areas (DILG, 2020). Several officials even encouraged the wearing of face masks at home. Members of the country's task force against COVID-19 recommended the use of face masks at home after health officials record clusters of coronavirus cases in households. The Department of Health said people exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms and members of the vulnerable sectors — such as the elderly, pregnant women, and those with pre-existing medical conditions — are urged to wear face masks even inside their houses to protect other members of the household (CNN, 2020).

Face masks are ubiquitous symbols of the pandemic that has affected more than 35 million people and killed more than a million more. According to some studies, the use of face masks clearly cuts down the transmission and catching of COVID-19 and is supported by science suggesting that the use of face masks can also reduce the severity of infection if people do contract the disease (Peeples, 2020). Both the WHO and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) are already promoting the use of face masks but earlier in the pandemic, they were stating the opposite (Bai, 2020). These shifting guidelines may have resulted to the confusion of the use and effectivity of face masks.

One of the prominent personalities who abhor wearing face masks is President Donald Trump, who was reported to

have contracted the disease recently (Givhan, 2020). The mask, an emblem of safety around the world, and the refusal of some people to wear them despite medical guidance to do so conjures an image of stubbornness. Wearing the mask maybe the easiest thing that a person can do against the pandemic and yet it has been a subject of many a great debate in the United States. In a recent study in Brazil, researchers claim that people who reported to have antisocial traits such as callousness, and low level of empathy are less likely to comply with protocols such as social distancing and wearing of protective equipment like face mask or face shields (Steig, 2020).

Mask wearing can be deemed by some people as a means to protect themselves, their loved ones and their families. Despite the numerous guidelines and mandates by various government agencies, some people are still refusing to wear masks even when they are up and about in public places. According to a renowned psychologist, Dr. Gayani deSilva (2020), there are four reasons why some people do not wear masks-confusion, denial, control and selfishness. The opposing messages of government officials led people to think that the guidelines itself are confusing. Denial and control are one of the coping mechanisms of individuals who can't accept the trauma brought on by the pandemic. Finally, there are just people who refuse to be team players and opt to deviate from the norms set by the government or the society (Gillespie, 2020).

Locally, the attitude and perception of Maydolongnons towards wearing face masks has never been explored. The confusion leading to the importance or mediocrity of such a practice has brought on a dilemma on local policymakers. This guideline has been made into a local ordinance (Cafe, 2020), some local residents are still refusing to abide by it. It is in this quandary that a study was deemed necessary. International and local data on such focus are still lacking if not, non-existent and it is imperative that a study be made on the perception of Maydolongnongs on the wearing of face mask to explain their acceptance or rejection towards such practice.

Objectives

The following are the purposes of the study:

1. To determine the personal profile of the respondents based on their occupation status;

2. To determine level of perception of Maydolongnons regarding the wearing of face masks.

Significance of the Study

The study will be beneficial to the following:

Policymakers. Results of the study can help legislators and other policymakers, in the national and local government, to come up with guidelines, ordinances and laws that can address the problem of recalcitrance among some people.

The Academe. The study can help effectuate similar studies by other researchers which can create a preponderance of data connected to addressing the current pandemic.

Filipinos. The study can provide information on the necessity of adhering to the wearing of face masks and other health protocols.

Maydolongnons. Results of the study may help enlighten Maydolongnons of the importance of following local ordinances and guidelines and can abet the predicament of local legislators and enforcers on the disobedience of some residents.

Definition of Terms

The following terms are defined to further understand the scope of the study.

Face mask- a protective mask covering the nose and mouth believed to be used as a preventive measure against spreading or contracting virus through saliva and other particles.

Perception- the process of getting, interpreting, selecting and organizing sensory data through the brain

Maydolongnons- residents living in Maydolong, a fourth-class municipality situated in the middle coastlines of the province of Eastern Samar.

COVID-19- a disease caused by a new strain of corona virus, formerly referred to as 2019-Coronavirus

Pandemic- an epidemic of an infectious disease that has spread in more than one continent

IATF- Inter-Agency Task Force, which serves as the main forum responsible for addressing concerns about emerging or ongoing disasters, diseases or any crisis.

Ordinance No. 5, S.2020- a local ordinance requiring the mandatory use of face masks of all persons in public places within the municipality of Maydolong, Eastern Samar.

Community lockdown- a requirement for people to stay where they are, limiting the activities of the community.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

COVID-19

The world is in a frenzy over Coronavirus, the strain which causes COVID-19, resulting to a pandemic around the world. According to WHO, there already 38,000,699 confirmed cases of the disease, resulting to 1,083,234 deaths, in over 235 countries (WHO, 2020). COVID-19, or simply COVID, is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person. Once infected, its symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness. It can spread through respiratory droplets when an infected person, coughs, sneezes or talk within about six feet (CDC, 2020). This outbreak began in Wuhan, China and has spread internationally. Some symptoms of the disease are cough, runny nose, sore throat, fever or a general feeling of not being well (Dascomb, 2020).

Due to its severity, WHO identified persons who are most at risk of getting the disease? These are people who have been overseas, who have been in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, people in correctional or detention facilities, and people in group residential settings. On the other hand, those who are in the risk of getting a serious illness when they get the disease are people with chronic condition, people over 60, people with other underlying conditions or co-morbidity, and people with disability (Health, 2020).

As of today, no vaccine has been found yet for the disease. However, several measures were introduced by countries and health organizations. These control various measures and epidemic prevention are aimed at lessening the person-to-person contact. In China, traffic control and social distancing were the two identified measures by the government (Lin, 2020). Schools closed and workplaces applied the skeleton

workforce scheme meaning that only a few members of the organization will report to work (Prem & Liu, 2020). Travel restrictions were imposed and, in the Philippines, some places were put in hard community lockdowns. Health protocols such as wearing of face mask and shield, constant hand-washing and sanitizing were also encouraged.

Several local government units were active in creating ordinances that can curb the spread of the virus in their respective localities. In Eastern Samar, the governor expressed his dismay when typhoon Ambo hit the province in May, adding to the aggravation of the COVID-19 crisis (Inquirernet, 2020). Still, local chief executives were consistent in their fight against the pandemic, implementing border controls, curfew hours, prohibition of social gatherings, and the most basic mandatory wearing of face masks (Kahambing, 2020).

The Importance of Wearing Face Mask

According to the medical dictionary (2020), a face mask is a barrier device used in infection control to prevent health care providers from breathing or coughing on patients. It is also used to prevent patients' sneezes and sputum from making contact with the health care provider's face or eyes or from being inhaled. Today, the face mask is an everyday staple, like underwear and socks (Evans, 2020). And not just health care providers are wearing them, but almost everyone who believes in its effectiveness. What was once reserved for surgeons and laborers is now an item donned frequently like clothes (Cook, 2020). Fabric masks are recommended to prevent onward transmission in the general population in public areas, particularly where distancing is not possible, and in areas of community transmission. Masks may help to protect others, because wearers may be infected before symptoms of illness appear. The policy on wearing a mask or face covering should be in line with national or local guidelines. When used, masks should be worn, cared for and disposed of properly.

There are several types of face masks. Surgical masks, cloth masks with valve, leather face masks and the most effective N95 masks are but a few of the various masks that are seen being worn (Ringer, 2020). Face masks are a simple way to help decrease coronavirus transmission and save lives. According to Center for Disease Control and Prevention (2020), wearing a face mask in public places has been known to reduce the spread of the virus, because those who are pre-symptomatic can spread the virus before showing symptoms.

Simply, these includible piece of mouth and nose covering has become the sign of the times.

Arguments against Wearing Face Masks

Several government guidelines around the world have imposed on the importance of wearing face masks. However, some research claim that wearing such a mask does not necessarily protect a person from being infected. In a study in Germany, results posit that face masks give a false sense of security and does not protect the wearer (Matuschek, 2020). Systematic reviews on the use of face masks suggest relative risk reduction from 8-80 percent- an inconsistency which might result from the type of included population, the type of face masks or the outcomes considered (Schunnemanne, 2020).

In one of the interviews with President Duterte, he emphasized that one should always wear a face mask whenever going out, or face the consequence of arrest (Mendez, 2020). Such strong words did not deter some Filipinos from doing away with face masks. This could probably be caused by not owning any, as 13 percent of Filipinos or equivalent to around 14.2 million locals who do not own one, according to a survey by Finder.com (Luna, 2020).

Violation on the Wearing of Face Mask

Different ordinances were created for the implementation of different health protocols in the province. On April 24, Executive Order 0424-BPE was enforced by Governor Ben P. Evardone, restricting the movement of Estehanon and enjoining them to adhere to health protocols set by IATF emphasizing on the wearing of face masks and discouraging mass gathering. In Maydolong, Ordinance Number 5 and later amended to Ordinance Number 7 requiring the mandatory use of face mask was also implemented giving leeway to the local police force. Despite these regulations, residents of Maydolong continue to breach these protocols. In Eastern Samar, there were a total of 430 violations for the month of May, 610 in June, 471 in July, 374 in August and 335 in September (ESPPPO, 2020).

Table 1. Violations on Non- wearing of Face Masks in Eastern Samar

Month	May	June	July	August	September
Number of Violations on Non-wearing of Face Masks	430	610	471	374	335

In Maydolong, the Ordinance Number 5 was amended to Ordinance Number 7 to include monetary fines and community service, instead of a lecture given by the members of the Rural Health Unit and the police personnel. There was a total of 420 violators and 254 cited persons for the said ordinance from the months of May to September (MPS, 2020).

Table 2. Violation on Non-Wearing of Face Masks in Maydolong, Eastern Samar

Month	May	June	July	August	September	Total
Number of Violators	97	110	85	76	52	420
Number of Cited Persons	56	68	52	42	36	254

The tables only showed that despite the best efforts of the government and local leaders, there are still residents who fail to adhere to the simplest protocol of wearing a mask to cover the nose and the mouth. This could also portray a lack of discipline of Filipinos which betrays a deep distrust of rules, a symptom of an indifference to, and a lack of confidence in some forms of authority (Nolasco, 2016).

Other Related Studies

Several studies were also found akin to the present study conducted.

In a study in Germany, respondent believe that implementing a mandatory policy increased actual compliance despite moderate acceptance and mask wearing correlated positively with other protective behaviors. 7000 German participants demonstrate that a mandatory policy on the wearing of face masks appears to be an effective, fair, and socially responsible solution to curb transmissions of airborne viruses (Betsch & Korn, 2020).

In Harvard, a survey was conducted on why most Americans do not want to do social distancing and wear face masks, making the issue a battleground on a country where individual rights have been considered part of the nation's founding ethos. According to the survey, many Americans consider face mask wearing as a violation of their individual liberty and the resistance is not about public health but more about politics (Walsh, 2020).

Another survey on US consumers posit that the wearing of face masks is greatly dependent on age and their perceived face mask efficacy. Most of the respondents wear face masks but are less like to follow social distancing protocols. They also claim that they are extremely likely to wear mask if required by public authorities (Knotek, 2020).

In Poland, a study was conducted to gauge the different emotions of people who are wearing face masks. The study deduced that wearing of face masks allow for the relaxing of other preventive measures such as strict isolation and quarantining. However, the respondents also believe that since the mask is a cover, it crucially affects social interaction.

No other study yet was conducted in the region nor in the province providing an opportunity for the researchers to undertake this research.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study is descriptive research using the descriptive survey design to assess the level of perception of the respondents in wearing facemask. Creswell (2012) and Ary, et. al. (2010) propounded that survey research designs are procedures in quantitative research in which investigators administer a survey to a sample or to the entire population of people to describe the attitudes, opinions, behaviors, or characteristics of the population.

Research Locale

The study was conducted in the poblacion barangays of the municipality of Maydolong. Guidelines limiting movement and travel among residents prompted the researchers to limit the scope of the area of the study.

Respondents of the Study

The respondents of the study are residents of Maydolong, Eastern Samar, living within its poblacion barangays.

Sampling Technique

Because of the hindrances caused by the pandemic, the researchers opted to employ the convenience sampling technique. This sampling technique is a type of non-probability sampling in which members of the target population that meet certain practical criteria are included in the study.

Research Instrument

The researchers employed the Face Mask Perception Scale (FMPS) by Howard (2020). The scale is made up of questions pertaining to eight categories namely comfort, efficacy doubts, access, compensation, inconvenience, appearance, attention, and independence. All categories were measured in a 5- point Likert scale of (5) Strongly Agree, (4) Agree, (3) Neither Disagree or Agree, (2) Disagree, and (1) Strongly Disagree.

The survey questionnaire asked the name of the respondents but it was optional. It also asked the age, sex, and their economic status which solicited if the respondents are employed, self-employed and unemployed.

The questionnaire also seeks to know how often the respondents wear their facemask and it was measured by 4- point Likert scale which was interpreted as follows; (4) always, (3) Often, (2) Sometimes, and (1) Never.

Data Gathering

After the research instrument was finalized, the researchers sought in writing the permission from the municipal mayor of Maydolong E. Samar. A consent form was given to the respondents before the gathering of data and the researchers personally administered the research instruments after the respondents signed the form. The questionnaires were distributed in the poblacion barangays of Maydolong E. Samar where the respondents reside.

Data Analysis

The data obtained was carefully collated, tabulated and analyzed with the use of statistical tool of which, percentage, frequency and weighted mean were determined. The result of the study was presented using table/matrix. And the scores of the respondents were rated based on the given table.

Descriptive Ratings and their Equivalent

Table 3

Adjectival rating	Range of weighted mean
Always	3.26- 4.0
Often	2.6- 3.25
Sometimes	1.76- 2.5
Never	0.75- 1.75

Table 4

Adjectival rating	Range of weighted mean
Strongly Agree	4.21-5.00
Agree	3.41-4.20
Neither Disagree or Agree	2.61-3.40
Disagree	1.81-2.60
Strongly Disagree	1.00-1.80

Ethical Consideration

All data gathered from the participants was used for the purpose of this research only and did not used to defame or malign any of the participants. The researcher also made sure that the participants agreed on the process of gathering data by letting them sign a consent form. The respondents were also informed that they can stop without any explanation while answering the questionnaires, if they deem it necessary.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study sought to determine the perception of Maydolongnons on the wearing of facemasks. A total of 222 respondents participated in the study, all of whom are living within the poblacion area of the municipality. The respondents answered a three-part survey where the first-one contained questions regarding their employment status, the second one pertains to the frequency of their wearing of face mask and the third part sought to determine their perception on the wearing of face masks.

Profile of the Respondents on Employment Status

Of the 222 respondents who were part of the study, one hundred thirty-two (132) or 59.46 percent of them were employed, fifty-six (56) or 25.22 percent were unemployed, and thirty-four (34) or 15.32 percent of the respondents were self-employed.

Table 5. Profiles of Respondents According to their Employment

Item	Number of Respondents	Frequency
Employed	132	59.46
Self-employed	34	15.32
Unemployed	56	25.22
Total	222	100

Frequency on the Wearing of Face Mask among Maydolongnons

Table 6 provides direct evidence on how often the respondents wear their face mask. The result from the table shows that out of six (6) statements, two (2) or 33.33 percent got the weighted mean of 3.33 to 3.41 percent on the statements 1 & 4 which is interpreted as “Always”, which means that mostly of the respondents believed in wearing their facemask when going outside the house and attending social functions. Statements 2, 3 & 5 got a weighted mean ranging from 2.87 to 3.143 which is interpreted as “Often” which means that the respondents believed in wearing their face mask constantly when they were in the closed space with people and in the workplace. On the other hand, statement 6 got a weighted mean of 1.75 which is interpreted as “Never”, which shows that the respondents do not wear face mask inside their house. The overall weighted mean of the Likert item that asked about how often the respondents wear their facemask is 2.93 which is interpreted as “Often”. The findings show that the respondents believed that wearing a facemask constantly during pandemic will reduce potential exposure with the risk of getting infected from other person whether it shows symptoms or not.

Table 6. Frequency of Wearing Facemask

Number	Likert Item	Weighted mean	Interpretation
1	When going outside the house.	3.33	Always
2	When inside closed spaces among one or more people.	3.06	Often
3	When in the workplace.	3.13	Often
4	When attending social functions	3.49	Always
5	When doing recreational activities	2.87	Often
6	When inside your own house	1.75	Never
Total		17.55	
Mean(x)		2.93	Often

The frequency of the wearing of face mask of the Maydolongs which was interpreted as “often” reflects the attitude of Filipinos to adhere to protocols that are mandated by its government. In a survey conducted, it showed that ninety-one (91) percent of Filipinos wear masks (Baron, 2020) and the national government are elated that majority of Filipinos are complying with the government’s protocol of wearing face masks to curb the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) in the country (Gita-Carlos, 2020).

Comfort

Table 7 which carried out the questions on the level of “comfort” of the respondents on wearing their face mask, revealed a lowest weighted mean ranging from 3.02 to 3.33 percent which is interpreted as “Neither Disagree or Agree” in the Likert item 2, 3, 4 which is interpreted that the respondents had a neutral opinion when it comes to the comfort brought by wearing facemask. The table also shows a highest mean of 3.50 percent from the statement if the “Facemasks disrupts their breathing” and interpreted as “Agree” which means that the respondents had a strong belief that the face mask brings anxious or discomfort in their breathing patterns.

The overall weighted mean of 3.27 percent shows that the respondents are either agreeing or disagreeing how comforting it is to wear a face mask.

Table 7. Comfort on Wearing Face Mask

Number	Likert Item	Weighted mean	Interpretation
1	Face masks disrupts my breathing	3.50	Agree
2	It is difficult to breath when wearing a face mask	3.33	Neither Disagree or Agree
3	Face mask cause me to overheat	3.02	Neither Disagree or Agree
4	Face mask get too hot	3.23	Neither Disagree or Agree
Total		13.08	
Mean(x)		3.27	Neither Disagree or Agree

A study on the effectiveness of personal protection equipment such as masks raised questions regarding its comfort given to the wearer. Results show that the comfort of the wearer needs to be considered as it is one of the factors that impacts the attitude of the wearer to wear such protective equipment (Mayer, 2019).

Efficacy Doubt

Table 8 which is categorized under the “Efficacy Doubt” of the respondents on wearing facemask, shows that the lowest mean ranges from 2.23 to 2.55 percent which is interpreted as “Disagree” in the Likert item 2,3 and4. This means that the respondents do not believe on the negative or ineffective factors caused by wearing a face mask. The first Likert item which is about the few benefits caused by wearing a facemask gleaned result of 3.37 percent weighted mean, which means that the respondents either agree or disagree to the

statement. The general result of the table 1.3 got a weighted mean of 2.63 percent which is interpreted as “Neither disagree nor agree” shows that the respondents compensate on their doubt on the effectiveness of wearing a facemask.

Table 8. Efficacy Doubt

Number	Likert Item	Weighted mean	Interpretation
1	Facemasks provide few health benefits	3.37	Neither Disagree or Agree
2	Face mask provide a false sense of security	2.55	Disagree
3	Face mask are ineffective	2.23	Disagree
4	Face mask are unsafe because they force you to touch your face.	2.35	Disagree
Total		10.5	
Mean(x)		2.63	Neither Disagree or Agree

Masks prevent the spread of the airborne particulars bearing the virus (Newswise, 2020). But for some Canadians and Americans, a recent survey shows that there are still more people who refuse to wear masks because they don't believe in their effectiveness to curb the disease but instead, they claim that wearing masks impair breathing and breed other respiratory illness (Jarry, 2020).

Access

Table 9 shows that the items or statements 2, 3, and 4 gained results of a weighted mean ranging from 1.88 to 2.40 percent which is interpreted as “Disagree” which means that the respondents do not believe that the accessibility on getting the face mask is unreachable. Likert item no. 1 got a weighted mean of 1.79 percent which is interpreted as “Strongly Disagree” which means that the respondent has a cheaper accessibility in

purchasing a facemask. Table 3 shows overall result of an average weighted mean of 2.05 percent which is interpreted as “Disagree” which means that the respondents did not believe on the difficulty on the access of getting the facemask.

Table 9. Access

No.	Likert Item	Wtd. Mean (x)	Interpretations
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1	I do not know where to buy a face mask.	1.79	Strongly Disagree
2	There is nowhere for me to buy the proper type of face mask.	2.12	Disagree
3	It is difficult to get a face mask.	1.88	Disagree
4	Face mask are too expensive.	2.40	Disagree
Total		8.19	
Mean (x)		2.05	Disagree

Wearing of face masks is one of the factors of the new normal. In the urban areas and highly urbanized towns, residents opted to wear masks not just because of their perceived effectiveness but also because masks are readily available to them. In far-flung barangays however, although their advantage is being socially distant, the availability of masks is rare and scarce and residents of these said communities only wear them when they go to nearby town (Miller, 2020).

Compensation

Table 10 gleaned results with the highest weighted mean of 3.55 percent from the Likert item no. 2 which asked how the respondents compensate with their social interaction with others amid the pandemic. The result of item 2 was interpreted as “Agree” which means that the respondents believed that with or without wearing a facemask they already considering social distancing as health protocols to avoid transmission of virus.

From the statements 1,3, & 4 it shows results of weighted mean ranging from 3.22 – 3.36 which is interpreted as “Neither disagree or agree” which means that most of the respondents had neutral opinion on keeping their distance with others. Overall results of table 1.6 explain that the respondents had balance opinion in following protocols through social distancing.

Table 10. Compensation

No.	Likert Item	Wtd. Mean (x)	Interpretations
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1	I stay away from people when I go out.	3.22	Neither Disagree or Agree
2	I already social distance.	3.55	Agree
3	I can avoid people when I go out anyways	3.30	Neither Disagree or Agree
4	I only go out for a short period of time.	3.36	Neither Disagree or Agree
Total		13.43	
Mean (x)		3.36	Neither Disagree or Agree

People have a target level of risk they are comfortable with and they adjust their behavior to be able to combat that risk (Pless, 2016). For example, if they feel that the measure will benefit them, they will adhere to the regulation (Mantzari, 2020). In this scenario, respondents compensate they're not wearing of face masks to maintaining social distancing because limiting contact is the best way to combat the disease (CDC, 2020).

Inconvenience

Table 11 shows a lowest mean on item 4, showing that the respondents disagree to the statement that it is hard to develop the habit of wearing face mask. The overall weighted mean for inconvenience is 2.43 interpreted as "disagree" which means that the respondents are not at all inconvenienced in wearing face mask.

Table 11. Inconvenience

No.	Likert Item	Wtd. Mean (x)	Interpretations
1	I do not like remembering to wear facemask.	2.48	Disagree
2	I forget to wear a face mask when going out.	2.50	Disagree
3	Wearing a face mask is too much of a hassle	2.58	Disagree
4	It is hard to develop the habit of wearing a face mask.	2.16	Disagree
Total		9.72	
Mean (x)		2.43	Disagree

Convenience defined is anything that makes work easier (Merriam-Webster, 2014). Some people do not wear masks because they feel that it makes breathing difficult (McEchern, 2020). But because of the gravity of the pandemic, people are wearing to trade their inconvenience for their safety that is why even if they feel that wearing face masks is an inconvenient, Filipinos are still ranked third in the world for adhering to health protocols during this pandemic (News, 2020).

Appearance

Table 12 shows the perception of the respondents regarding appearance. Highest score indicates a 2.21 mean on Item 2 which results to respondents saying they “disagree” that face masks are silly. The results show that respondents disagree that face masks are ugly with a mean of 2.07. Overall mean shows 2.13 which mean that the respondent does not care about the appearance of the face mask or their appearance when wearing them.

Table 12. Appearance

No.	Likert Item	Wtd. Mean (x)	Interpretations
1	Face masks look dumb	2.16	Disagree
2	Face masks look silly	2.21	Disagree
3	Face masks are ugly	2.07	Disagree
4	Face masks look weird	2.09	Disagree
Total		8.53	
Mean (x)		2.13	Disagree

In a recent survey, it turns out that wearing face masks make you look attractive (Schnitzer, 2020). In a study conducted in Philadelphia, results posit that health benefits are clear cut and it improves your looks making you more attractive to other people when you are wearing masks (Stahl, 2020). This means that nowadays it is more important for you to wear face masks than your personal appearance (Gray, 2020).

Attention

Table 13 shows that respondents neither agree nor disagree that facemasks make others untrustworthy with the result of item 3 showing a mean of 3.07. On the other hand, item 1 shows a mean of 2.29 interpreted as disagree which means

that respondents do not believe that face masks make people untrustworthy. Overall mean for attention gleaned a result of 2.7, which interpreted as neither agree nor disagree which could mean that they are not sure whether wearing a facemask seeks attention from other people who sees them.

Table 13. Attention

No.	Likert Item	Wtd. Mean (x)	Interpretations
1	Face masks make people seem untrustworthy.	2.29	Disagree
2	Face masks make people look suspicious.	2.43	Disagree
3	Face masks make others uncomfortable.	3.07	Neither Disagree or Agree
4	Face masks make other people feel uneasy.	2.99	Neither Disagree or Agree
Total		10.78	
Mean (x)		2.70	Neither Disagree or Agree

Wearing face masks has become a political stand point (Pendo, 2020). Some people believe that wearing face masks make people obedient. In a recent survey conducted, results show that people find mask-wearers to be more trustworthy and reliable but more illness inclined. It states that people are more likely to associate and interact more with people wearing masks that with people who aren't (Ellwood, 2020).

Independence

In table 14 the highest mean of 3.24 pertained to respondents valuing their independence. On item 2, the lowest mean is 2.32 which is interpreted as "disagree". The overall mean on independence is 2.72 interpreted as "neither disagree nor agree".

No.	Likert Item	Wtd. Mean (x)	Interpretations
1	I do not like feeling forced to do something.	2.74	Neither Disagree or Agree

2	I do not like blindly following suggestions.	2.32	Disagree
3	I value my independence.	3.24	Neither Disagree or Agree
4	I want to prove a point against authority.	2.56	Disagree
Total		10.86	
Mean (x)		2.72	Neither Disagree or Agree

Table 14. Independence

Men and women are equally likely to wear face masks during the face masks during the covid-19 pandemic although they have different reasons for doing so. It was found out that men have slightly stronger perceptions that face masks infringe upon their independence, whereas women have slightly stronger perceptions that face masks are uncomfortable (Dolan, 2020).

Perception of Maydolongnons on Wearing Face Mask

Comfort	3.27	Neither Disagree or Agree
Efficacy doubts	2.63	Neither Disagree or Agree
Access	2.05	Disagree
Compensation	3.36	Disagree
Inconvenience	2.43	Disagree
Appearance	2.13	Neither Disagree or Agree
Attention	2.70	Neither Disagree or Agree
Independence	2.72	

CONCLUSIONS

The goal of this study is to provide evidences or to identify the perceived behavior and beliefs of Maydolongnons on wearing a face mask. Their responses are measured through 5-point Likert-scale questionnaire that are categorized under different elements or factors: (Comfort, Efficacy Doubts, Access,

Compensation, Inconvenience, Appearance, Attention, and Independence)

The study revealed that the enormous majority of respondents wore face mask when they went out in public even though they felt uncomfortable with the effect of face mask in their breathing pattern. Respondents are likely to be confused or had neutral opinion on the effectiveness of face mask in preventing the transmission of the virus. However, they had precise belief that face mask are likely to secure and reduce the transmission/spread of the virus. They believed that access to face mask are within- reached with expedient on its purpose. Respondents believed that they are likely following the guidelines on social distancing. The study showed aggravation of disliking or disagreeing result on the adherence of wearing face mask. However, respondents who thought and are aware on the effectiveness of face mask in reducing the spread and transmission of the virus are more likely to disagree when asked if they forgot to wear their mask when going outside.

Although function and efficacy are the main priority of mask, the appearance and design of mask might affect the willingness of people to wear or purchase them (Feng, Tao, Deng, Lui & Shi, 2015). In this study, the respondents remark that they disagree on the idea how the designs of the mask affect their look or appearance. This is very apparent that the respondents are more anxious on the effect of the virus to their health rather than considering what their looks are when wearing face mask or clothe face coverings. Another factor that this study had considered is the attention of people or the impression of others to those who are wearing the mask. The study shows that the respondents had balance opinion when asked if the face mask draw negative attention, discrimination, or/and embarrassment to people. It appears that other respondents have feared of drawing negative attention that can influence viewer's emotional estate. Moreover, others believed that wearing mask is for the virus prevention.

People are responsible for their behaviors, but individual lifestyles are also influenced by the policies adopted by the communities, state or national leaders (Brown eta al., 2010). The perception of respondents on the adherence of wearing face mask is measured by their independence. In this aspect, the study showed that respondents are either agreeing or disagreeing on following the mandate from the authority.

Some likely wants to follow health safety guidelines, while others disagree to do so.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the conclusion of this study, the researchers strongly recommended the following:

1. Proper health care seminars (extension program from the university), including wearing of face mask must be conducted and propounded in the locality to help community be aware on the function of mask especially in this time of pandemic.
2. The findings of this study revealed evidences that people are considerate on wearing a face mask because of degree of protection brought by the face mask. However, wearers must not anticipate that mask is 100% capable of preventing or reducing the transmission of COVID 19. This is very important to note that people must consider other public health measures, including social distancing.
3. Research and extension of the university must conduct epidemiological studies on the general hygiene and other health behaviors (e.g., Hand sanitizer, Hand washing) in conjunction with the mask wearing.

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