

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**FILIPINO LIBRARIANS AND
SOCIAL CHANGE: AN
INTERPRETATIVE
PHENOMENOLOGICAL ANALYSIS**

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ABSTRACT

While *social change* is usually brought about by massive occurrences, such as population shifts, political upheavals, and the natural environment, it can also be led by individuals or professions that contribute change in society, through their own ways. It is around this foundation that this study examines Filipino librarians and social change by looking into how Filipino librarians, understand social change through their lived experiences in their own context, how they respond to and affect social changes in their communities, and why they engage in such activities as well as the reason behind their advocacies. The study used a qualitative phenomenological method which used the Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) approach in order to determine the understanding of Filipino librarians of social change. A semi-structured interview guide was used as the research instrument. Several librarians from different types of libraries were interviewed in order to understand social change from their perspectives and lived experiences. Aside from manual coding, the software Atlas.ti was also utilized to analyze data from the interview, where themes were later derived to form an understanding of social change. The study revealed that Filipino librarians associate social change to education, and respond to the changes happening to society through their advocacies, activities, and programs. Their motivation in engaging with such activities is their passion and love for their profession. Filipino librarians also want to help society by influencing people to create informed decisions and creating an impact through their advocacies. The findings help us understand social change through a personal level while showing how librarians leveraged their skills, especially as educators, to remain relevant in today's world. It also showed the importance of librarians in fostering a more knowledgeable and empowered community capable of driving social change.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
CONFIRMATION BY PANEL OF EXAMINERS	ii
AUTHOR'S DECLARATION	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vi
LIST OF TABLES	xii
LIST OF FIGURES	xiii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xiv
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.1.1 Social Change and Libraries in the Philippine Context	2
1.2 Problem Statement	10
1.3 Purpose of the Study	11
1.4 Objectives of the Study	12
1.5 Research Questions	12
1.6 Scope and Limitations of the Study	13
1.7 Significance of the Study	14
1.7.1 Theoretical/ Methodological Contribution (Body of Knowledge)	14
1.7.2 Societal Contribution	15
1.7.3 Practical Contribution	16
1.8 Definition of Terms	16
1.9 Structure of the Thesis	17
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	19
2.1 Introduction	19
2.2 Social Change	20
2.2.1 Understanding Social Change through Time	21
2.2.2 Different Approaches to Social Change	26

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

One of the most interesting but often unsettling aspects of social change is the transformation it brings about in the meaning of words and in the common understanding of the ideas or things that the words symbolize (Mathews & Lacy, 1970, p. 4).

1.1 Background of the Study

Natural calamities, physical events, demographic factors, technologies, discoveries and innovations, diffusion, and human collective action, bring about social changes in our society. These social changes may be observed after a society undergoes structural changes brought upon by different contexts which include political and economic turmoil, natural calamities, and technological advancements (de la Sablonnière, 2017). *Social Change*, as it is called, is the transformation of a culture over time or a significant modification in the lifestyle of a society (Duka et al., 2014; Ferris & Stein, 2008). The change, which varies in pace, sets the society in motion, and affects various facets of life of an individual or a culture.

While social change is usually brought about by huge occurrences, such as physical environment, and population shifts among others, individuals, in their own ways and through their profession, can contribute to society to make a difference. Ferris and Stein (2008) termed this as “helping professions,” which include careers in nursing, counseling, teaching, and those in social service, non-profit, and law enforcement sectors, where every encounter with a person or client is an opportunity heading for social change. Librarianship, the researcher believes, may also be surmised as part of this helping professions as it plays an essential role in the education of its clientele or its community.

This “helping professions” is further supported by a sociological theory, the Structuration Theory of Giddens (1994), which posits that certain knowledgeable individuals engage in activities that lead to social action in order to bring about change in society. Librarians, essentially, maybe one of those actors that are catalysts of social change. As Mathiasson & Jochumsen (2021) believed, librarians are also considered as change agents due to the nature of their profession. They strive to promote access to