

2020



STUDYING CATECHETICAL FORMATION PROGRAMS (SCFP) FORMATION TRACER STUDY TOOL (FTST)



The National Catechetical Study (NCS) 2021: Pastoral Action Research and Intervention (PARI) Project

A project of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) - Episcopal Commission on Catechesis and Catholic Education (ECCCE) and the UST Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSSED)

STUDYING CATECHETICAL FORMATION PROGRAM (SCFP)



BE A PARTICIPANT IN OUR SURVEY

Ikaw ba ay isang KATEKISTA?

Tell us your stories. Please help us understand your **catechetical formation experiences**.

Click this Google form link

<http://forms.gle/jo9WdvgYebdMTkCs5>

Please share this Survey to your fellow catechists!

4. Your experiences of catechesis during the COVID-19 pandemic; and,
5. Your sociodemographic profile.



Formation Tracer Study Tool (FTST) Workshop

August 10, 2020 (Monday) | 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Online via Google Meet



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Introduction

This workshop is intended to redevelop the *Formation Tracer Study Tool (FTST)* of the *National Catechetical Study (NCS) 2021: Pastoral Action Research and Intervention (PARI) Project – Studying Catechetical Formation Programs (SCFP)*. This is a preparation for the pre-testing of the aforementioned research tool before data gathering.

Workshop on Formation Tracer Study Tool (FTST)

The workshop opened with a prayer led by Ms. L. Andaya. The actual discussion started with the viewing of the *FTST* in Google Form facilitated by Ms. de Vergara. Each item was read; decisions on maintaining, improving, or deleting the item were made by the *NCS 2021: PARI Project Research Team*.



Concerning the 'Criteria Questions,' Ms. de Vergara clarified that the tool's target respondents were catechists who underwent formation. The first criteria question was changed to "In any point of your life, have you ever been a catechist?" to validate whether the respondent had experienced being a catechist. The team decided to maintain the also the second criterion.



In 'Consent to Participate,' Dr. Batan reminded Ms. de Vergara that asking for the respondent's name should be optional. In this light, she added the term "optional" after "Name." Concerning the '*Ecclesiastical Province (EP) and Ecclesiastical Territory (ET) Indicators*,' the word "Ordinariate" was misspelled; she corrected it.

The first question under the theme '*Catechetical Formation Program Information*' was deleted. The team decided that the first question should be, "From what you can recall, which of the following types of catechetical formation programs you have undergone? Check all that apply." About this question, Ms. de Vergara was instructed to change the question type to multiple checkboxes. In addition, Dr. Batan found the question's options insufficient. As a response, the research associates improved the options. The resulting choices were "Basic Orientation," "Certification Program," "Associate Program," "Degree Program," "Post-Graduate Program," and "Others." Moreover, the team decided to put examples after the choices.

Furthermore, Ms. Balajadia suggested considering the improved question "From your estimate, how long have you undergone catechetical formation program/s?" as a follow-up question of the former question. In the latter question, the options were also reconstructed. The resulting choices were "Less than a week," "One to three weeks," "One to two months," "Three to six months," "Seven to 11 months," "One to two years," "Three to four years," and "Five years and more."

A. CATECHETICAL FORMATION PROGRAM INFORMATION

25. 3. From what you can recall, which of the following types of catechetical formation program/s have you undergone into? Check all that apply.

Check all that apply.

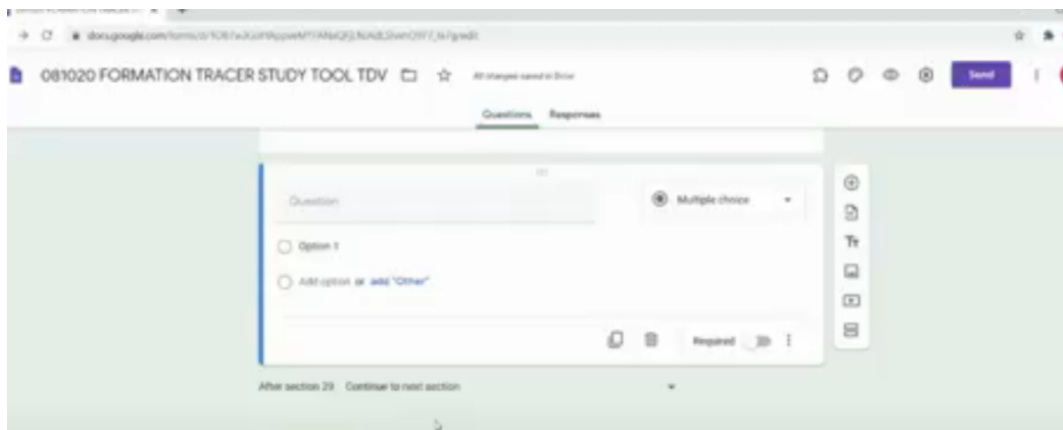
- Catechists' Orientation
- Basic Catechetical Formation Program

3 | Workshop on Formation Tracer Study Tool

The team decided that the question "Which of the following formation providers did you undergo catechetical formation program/s? Check all that apply" should follow. Concerning this question, Dr. Batan asked whether there was a difference between the options "School-based (University)" and "School-based (College)". Both Ms. Balajadia and Dr. Navidad affirmed that there is a difference and Ms. Anorico verified this concern.

In addition, Dr. Batan inquired if the term "spaces" would be better than "providers." Dr. Navidad responded that the term "providers" was better since it merely meant "the ones who provide the formation." On the other hand, "spaces" would only mean the "venue" or "location" where the formation was facilitated. Thus, the decision was to maintain the term "providers." Moreover, Dr. Batan told Ms. de Vergara to change the question type to a checklist. Furthermore, the options were improved. The resulting choices were "Parish," "Vicariate," "Diocese," "Formation Center – Community Life," "Formation Center – Live Out," "School-based (College)," "School-based (University)," and "Others."

Under the theme "Catechetical Formation Curricula," Ms. Balajadia suggested that the first question should be about awareness, then followed by whether the institutions strictly followed the curricula or not, and its effectiveness. Dr. Batan agreed with her suggestions. With this, the resulting questions were, "Were you ever aware of any curricula used during your catechetical formation program?" "From your experience, did your catechetical formation program strictly follow the curriculum?" In addition "From a scale of one to five (five being the highest) assess the level of effectiveness of the curriculum in your catechetical formation program."



Moreover, the term "Curricula" in the theme title was contested by Ms. Balajadia, citing specific academic programs at La Salle University that used the term "Program" more often than "Curricula." According to Dr. Navidad, the former term was more encompassing than the latter one. Therefore, the former was better. However, Dr. Batan also raised his concern about the term "Curricula" relative to his knowledge that some catechetical centers are using "catechetical formation programs."

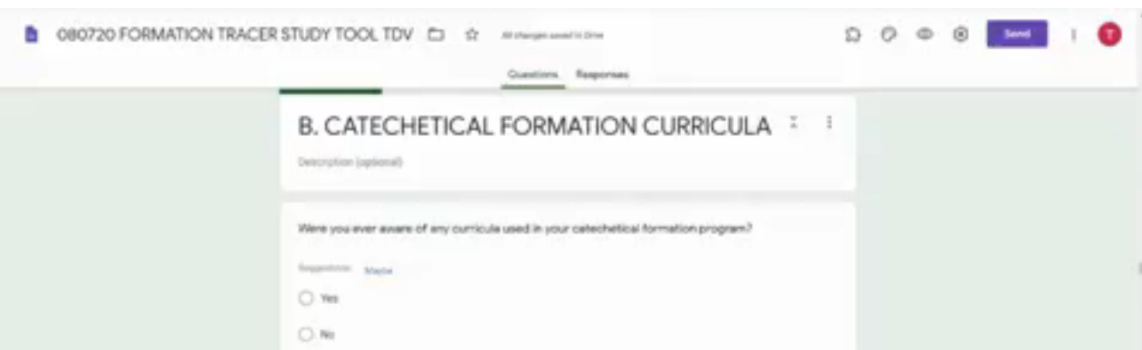
To solve this issue, he asked Ms. de Vergara to create a Question Tree for the tool. In this light, she would create a separate series of questions for catechists who had undergone formal formation and those formed informally.

The remaining questions were scanned, reclassified, and maintained. Dr. Batan suggested including the theme "*Catechetical Ministry Engagements*," and the questions about employment and contentment for being a Catholic. Moreover, he asked the SCFP team to ensure that the tool would be answerable for about 15 minutes. After the recalibrating of the FTST tool, he reminded Ms. de Vergara about the need for pre-testing.

The workshop closed with a prayer led by Mr. Espinosa.

Conclusion

At the end of the workshop, the team reviewed some parts of the FTST tool. Some of the survey sections that also need improvement were identified. Although incomplete, the workshop prepared the team for the necessary steps to accomplish the tool before its online deployment and highlighted the importance of prudent research decision-making in developing tools.





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