

Citizens' Sense of Safety and their Perceptions on the Implementation of Peace and Order Programs in Poblacion, Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay, Philippines*

Rosienie D. Gallardo
Department of Environmental Science
Mindanao State University - Buug
Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay, Philippines

Nehemiah F. Marquez
College of Arts and Sciences
Mindanao State University - Buug
Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay, Philippines

Eladio V. Lumantas Jr.
Group Executive Officer
Philippine Army
Pagadian City, Philippines

Omar Bryan M. Hampong
College of Arts and Sciences
Mindanao State University - Buug
Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay, Philippines

Jehada A. Elias
Department of Senior High School
Mindanao State University
Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay, Philippines

Ali G. Lucman
Budget Office
Mindanao State University
Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay, Philippines

Abstract:- It is important to craft a peacekeeping concept appropriate to the particular situation of peace and order in the barangay. Realizing the significance of barangay peace and order programs, this study was steered to determine the prevailing peace and order programs and its extent of implementation in Barangay Poblacion, Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay, Philippines. The researchers used a pre-designed survey questionnaire and distributed them to 99 barangay residents. The distribution was based on convenience sampling technique and data gathered were treated with a weighted mean. The results of this study showed that the residents of Barangay Poblacion, Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay have “High” sense of safety in their residence and neighborhood. They also purported that the peace and order ordinances and programs are well implemented, garnering “High” score in the overall result. These implied that the residents feel safe and they likely benefit from the strong implementation of Peace and Order programs and ordinances. Thus, it is recommended that the barangay officials together with all the concerned personnel including the chief of the barangay enforcers, the barangay enforcers, and barangay workers shall work altogether to strengthen the peace and order programs in the barangay. This shall be done with careful planning and well-defined strategies within the smallest political unit in the Philippines, the barangay level.

Keywords:- *Sense of Safety; Peace and Order; Barangay Governance; Security.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Every person's life depends on maintaining peace and order (Kimanuka, 2018). It is a natural state for everyone to want to live in peace and order. Stability, security, and public order are the most important components in laying the foundation for sustainable development, a highly trusted and resilient society, and a globally competitive information

economy, according to the National Economic and Development Authority Socioeconomic Report (2017). Sense of safety is described as a multidimensional and complex construct in the literature because it has a distinct psychological and subjective dimension based on an individual's personality on the one hand, and social and objective dimensions based on ethical, legal, and political factors on the other (Migliorini, 2004). The objective risk of being involved in an act of aggression, the individual's perception of that risk, and the personal judgment of vulnerability all come together in the idea of sense of safety. Recent theoretical contributions (Zani, 2001) imply that insecurity is a complex concept with three dimensions: cognitive (subjective assessment of the severity of the problems in the region), emotional (fear of becoming personally engaged), and behavioral (coping strategies). The first-dimension concerns information and impressions about the situation of the individual, the second relates to the sense of concern regarding the individual's environment, and the third concerns any flight or avoidance strategies implemented in the face of risks. Negative personal experiences intensify insecurity across all dimensions.

In regard to this matter, the Philippine Local Government Code, which was enacted in 1991, defines barangay as the primary planning and implementing unit of government policies, projects, campaigns, programs, and activities in the community, as well as a medium through which the people's collective opinions can be expressed, manifested, and considered, and where disagreements can be reconciled.

The barangay contributes significantly to the country's progress and, to some extent, to the people's peace, order, and security (Boysillo, 2017). The Katarungang Pambarangay, or Barrio Justice System, exists in each barangay. The establishment and operation of the Barangay Justice System was authorized by Republic Act No. 7160 of the Local Government Code of 1991. These tactics were supplied to barangays to foster peace and harmony among community

members and improve and make the justice system more responsive to people's needs.

It is critical for stakeholders to maintain the benefits of implementing peace and order regulations at their locations in order to encourage more enterprises to do business in the area and accomplish the expected vigorous economic growth in the future (Ocden, 2018). Indeed, Peace and order are vital ingredients in sustaining economic development, social order, and political stability because they foster investment growth, produce more job opportunities, and attract more visitors (PhDEssay, 2016).

On that premise, Executive Order No. 366, s. 1996 was created with the objective of organizing the barangay peace and order committees as the implementing area of the City/Municipal peace and order council at the barangay level. Due to this fact, the researchers as advocates of peace and order realized the importance of determining the peace and order programs, the extent of implementation and the level of sense of safety among the residents of Barangay Poblacion, Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay, Philippines. Moreover, this study also aims to know if there is a significant relationship between citizens' age, sex and civil status to their sense of safety and if their perceived degree of implementation of the peace and order programs significantly related to their sense of safety. The researchers also believed that the outcome of this study may serve as a basis for the development of effective and efficient strategies for the peace and order ordinances that can regulate crimes in the barangay level which would ensure peace of mind for most of the residents.

II. METHODOLOGY

This study employed the descriptive research design to determine the prevailing barangay peace and order programs and its extent of implementation. Descriptive research is a fact-finding study with adequate and accurate interpretation of data. It discusses with emphasis what happens, such as the present state of the phenomenon (Calderon, 2007).

The study was conducted in Barangay Poblacion, Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay, Philippines. Its population as determined by the 2015 Census was 9,317 and this barangay represented 21.34 % of the total population of the Municipality of Buug (PhilAtlas, 2015). The researchers used Slovin's formula and come up with a 99 respondents and further employed stratified random sampling to assure the proportionality among the Clarks. Additionally, the researchers employed convenience sampling, a type of nonprobability sampling in which people are sampled simply because they are "convenient" sources of data for researchers (Lavrakas, 2018). Likewise, the researchers distributed a modified survey questionnaire form to the barangay residents and conducted an informal interview and observation to supplement the data gathering. The four-point Likert scale was used to gauge the extent of implementation of the peace and order in the barangay and for the citizens' sense of safety. The scale of sense of safety is adapted through the study of Migliorini, Rania, Cardinalli & Mannetti in 2008 entitled "Sense of safety and the urban environment: A study of preadolescents and adolescents". This

scale provides a measure of the sense of safety that an individual feel in the area where they live. The scale is divided in two different sections: the first part inquiries about sense of safety in the city (1 item on a ten-point scale) and in the neighborhood (1 item on a ten-point scale), the second part is focused on sense of safety in the residence neighborhood (8 items).

The scale reveals three factors that explain 50.98% of the variance: Emotional Aspects, Relationships, Police and Adult Presence. The scale was developed from a qualitative survey carried out on adolescents in Genoa (Migliorini, Zunino & Piermari, 2004).

The data gathered were collated and tabulated. The results were interpreted quantitatively based on the percentage and identified range of interval. Lastly, the weighted mean was utilized in quantifying the extent of the barangay peace and order implementation and citizens' sense of safety., and not as an independent document.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Distribution of Respondent's Demographic Profile

<i>Demographic Profile</i>	<i>Categories</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Total</i>
Age	18-31	30	30.3%	
	32-45	31	31.3%	
	46-59	21	21.25	
	60-73	16	16.2%	
	74-87	1	1%	100%
Gender	Male	50	50.51%	
	Female	49	49.49%	100%
Civil Status	Single	35	35.35%	
	Married	59	59.60%	
	Widow	5	5.05%	100%

A. Citizens' Sense of Safety

Table 2 shows the frequency distribution of respondents based on their average level on the sense of safety. The study found out that most or 46% of the respondents have a high sense of safety in their residence neighborhood and 16% of the respondents moderately feel that they are safe in the area of residence.

The findings of being moderately safe of the respondents could be a result of the following dimensions of the feeling of insecurity suggested by in the study of Zani, Cicognani, & Albanesi (2001), one is cognitive (subjective evaluation of the seriousness of the problems in the area), the second emotional (fear of being personally involved) and the third behavioral (coping strategies).

Table 2. Frequency Distribution of Respondents Based on Their Average Sense of Safety

<i>Sense of Safety</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Low	0	0
Moderate	16	16.16
High	46	46.46
Very High	37	37.37
Total	99	100

As depicted in Table 3, the Overall Weighted Mean rating for all questions on the sense of safety equals 3.136, which is interpreted as “High”. This implies that the respondents strongly agrees that there is a sense of safety in their barangay and residence in neighborhood.

Table 3. Weighted Mean of Respondents' Sense of Safety

<i>Questions</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Weighted Mean</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
	Low (1)	Moderate(2)	High (3)	Very High (4)		
1	0	2	41	56	3.545	Very High
2	14	10	39	36	2.980	High
3	14	5	41	39	3.061	High
4	15	6	43	35	2.990	High
5	21	12	33	33	2.788	High
6	16	17	31	35	2.859	High
7	1	0	55	43	3.414	Very High
8	0	4	53	42	3.384	Very High
9	1	2	42	54	3.505	Very High
10	16	12	43	28	2.838	high
Mean					3.136	*HIGH

B. Relationship between Socio-Demographic Variables and Level of Sense of Safety

In determining the relationship between socio-demographic variables and sense of safety, Chi-square was employed at 0.10 level of significance. The result showed that only the civil status was found to be significant among the socio-demographic variables mentioned above.

This result is strengthened by the suggested literature of some authors (Perkins, Meek & Taylor, 1992; Perkins & Taylor, 1996) based on their studies that there is an inside

processes that seem to produce levels of malaise characterized by anxiety and stress, some authors have shown how the perception of living in an area that is not very safe can lead to a limitation in people's movements, changes in social relations and increasing conflicts between groups. The sense of insecurity is not necessarily connected to the existence of “objective” dangers but often varies according to subjective experiences or socio-demographic facts such as age, sex and social position.

Table 4. Relationship of Age and Sense of Safety

<i>Age</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Very High</i>	<i>Degrees of Freedom</i>	<i>Computed Chi-Square</i>	<i>Critical Value</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
18-31	6	19	5				
32-45	3	13	15				
46-59	1	8	12	12	18.192	18.549	Not Significant
60-73		6	4				
74-87			1				
Total							

Table 5. Relationship of Sex and Sense of Safety

<i>Gender</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Very High</i>	<i>Degrees of Freedom</i>	<i>Computed Chi-Square</i>	<i>Critical Value</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Male	7	25	18				
Female	10	22	17	5			
Total					0.73945	9.236	Not Significant

Table 6. Relationship of Civil Status and Sense of Safety

<i>Civil Status</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Very High</i>	<i>Degrees of Freedom</i>	<i>Computed Chi-Square</i>	<i>Critical Value</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Single	4	25	6				
Married	11	20	28	7			
Widow		1	4				
Total					15.884	12.017	Significant

Table 7. Frequency Distribution of Respondents Based on Their Average Level of Perception on the Implementation of Peace and Order Programs

<i>Level of Implementation</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Low	4	4.04
Moderate	30	30.30
High	50	50.50
Very High	15	15.15
Total	99	100

Table 8. Weighted Mean of Citizens' Perception on the Extent of Peace and Order Program Implementation

<i>Questions</i>	<i>Never</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Often</i>	<i>Always</i>	<i>Weighted Mean</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
	Low (1)	Moderate(2)	High (3)	Very High (4)		
1	63	6	14	16	1.83	Moderate
2	8	23	48	20	2.81	High
3	9	33	42	15	2.64	High
4	7	28	43	21	2.79	High
5	10	15	44	30	2.95	High
6	7	33	41	18	2.71	High
7	2	21	39	37	3.12	High
8	6	32	36	25	2.81	High
Mean					2.71	HIGH

It can be noted from the data above that resident believed that all barangay peace and order programs are implemented to a high extent except for the strict implementation of installation of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Cameras in public areas, which is implemented to a moderate extent.

Because the barangay enforcers brigade is so vital to the barangay's development and progress, they must closely monitor the application of various regulations such as anti-alcohol consumption in public areas, minor curfews, and so on. This is one of the Barangay Peace and Order Committee's (BPOC) implementation mechanisms, which is primarily responsible for ensuring that the peace and order in the barangay is maintained.

Unfortunately, residents believed that the installation of closed-circuit television cameras (CCTVs) on public paths, alleys, sidewalks, and stairways was only done to a moderate level. Recognizing that installing CCTV cameras will reduce, if not eliminate, the number of crimes committed since the police will be able to detect and respond to suspicious activity as soon as it occurs (Arranz, 2020). According to Hent (2019), installing CCTV cameras in all of the municipality's barangays will not only serve as a deterrent to crime, but it will also aid in the close monitoring of the current situation in the barangays and the immediate identification of areas that may be affected by natural and human-induced disasters.

Citizens further claimed that the barangay enforcers' role of conducting frequent patrols or rondas in the barangay, generally at night, is carried out. This is a fulfillment with one of the chief of the barangay enforcers' roles and responsibilities to help the barangay enforcers in preventing crime and improving public safety, the barangay enforcers are deployed in the barangay to conduct ronda patrolling (Pabelo, 2013). As a result, they are really serious in carrying out their responsibilities in order to ensure the safety of the people in their barangay.

According to barangay inhabitants, the presence of street lights to prevent crime throughout the night as part of their area's peace and order program is also executed to a high extent. As everyone knows, lighting, particularly street lighting, is necessary for a tranquil, crime-free society. This is due to the fact that a well-lit environment discourages criminal activity (Manila Standard, 2018). But there is a need to note that there are individuals who responded that there were no streetlights provided since their area is located meters away from the main road.

Residents also stated that providing a hand-held radio to all barangay officials is only being implemented to a limited extent though it reflected High in the weighted mean. According to one of the barangay captains, providing handheld radios to all barangay officials, the Barangay Police Action Team (BPAT), and barangay workers is one of their strategic approaches to maintaining peace and order. The presence of this device will undoubtedly assist enforcers in immediately reporting any

observations and untoward incidents to the appropriate agency.

Finally, locals claimed that the Philippine National Police conducts seminars for barangay enforcers on anti-crime measures and conduct IEC about peace and order. As a result, the relevance of community participation and conducting seminars and BPATs Skills Training in the government's crime prevention and solution initiatives must be understood. They are also encouraged to work with the law and collaborate with it.

C. Relationship between Sense of Safety and Perceived level of Peace and Order Program Implementation

Results also show that between sense of safety and citizens perceived extent of program implementation, the computed chi-square is less than the critical value hence the relationship of the residents' sense of safety is not significant with their perceived level of peace and order program implementation. This means that it doesn't guarantee that an individual feels safe then the peace and order programs are well implemented. However, based on the results given above, the residents of Barangay Poblacion, Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay have **"high"** level of feeling safe and also perceived **"high"** level of peace and order program implementation.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions are drawn: Respondents of the study is composed of individuals with ages ranges from 18-84 and with percentage of 30.3% for 18-31, 31.3% for 32-45, 21.25% for 46-59 and 17.2% for individuals classified as Senior Citizens ages from 60 and above. For sex, 50.51% are male and 49.49% are female. Majority of the respondents are married with 59.60%, 35.35% are single and 5.05% are widowed.

The results of this study showed that the residents of Barangay Poblacion, Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay have **"High"** sense of safety in their residence and neighborhood. They also purported that the peace and order ordinances and programs are well implement garnering **"High"** score in the overall result. These implied that the residents feel safe and they likely benefit from the strong implementation of Peace and Order programs and ordinances.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Arranz, Jho (2020). Barangays with alleys urged to install CCTV. Retrieved on July 4, 2021 2020 from: <http://www.baguio.gov.ph/content/barangays-alleys-urged-install-cctv>
- [2]. Boysillo, Sheena L. (2017). Governance of the Barangay Chairpersons in The Municipality of Ubay Bohol. International Journal of Business and Management Studies. Vol 9, No 1, 2017 ISSN: 1309-8047. Retrieved on June 29, 2021.
- [3]. Calderon, J.F. (2007). Statistics for educational research simplified. Ermita, Manila: Educational Publishing House.
- [4]. Free Essays–PhDessay.com. (2016). Peace and Order in the Development of the Country. Retrieved on July 1, 2021 from: <https://phdessay.com/importance-of-peace-and-order-law-in-the-development-of-the-country/>
- [5]. Hent (2019). Bauko to install CCTV cameras in barangays. Retrieved on July 4, 2021 from: <https://www.baguioheraldexpressonline.com/bauko-to-install-cctvs/>
- [6]. Kimanuka, Oscar (2018). Why peace and security are essential enablers of development. Retrieved on June 28, 2021 from: <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/opinions/peace-security-development>
- [7]. Komnimos (2018). Smart cities. In Warf, B. (ed.) The SAGE Encyclopedia of the Internet, 783-789. Sage publication. Retrieved on July 1, 2021 from <https://bit.ly/2Z2cTMX>
- [8]. Manila Standard (2018). Street lights to deter crime. Retrieved on July 4, 2021 from: <https://www.manilastandard.net/lgu/ncr/268859/street-lights-to-deter-crime.html>
- [9]. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs of Abraham - Physiological, safety, social. Retrieved on July 1, 2021 from <https://bit.ly/2NWQr5R>
- [10]. Migliorini, L., Rania, N., Cardinalli, P., & Manetti, M. (2008) Sense of safety and the urban environment: A study ofpreadolescents and adolescents. Medio Ambiente y Comportamiento Humano. ISSN 1576-6462. Volume 9(1y2), 69-89.
- [11]. Migliorini, L., Zunino, A. & Piermari, A. (2004) Sense of safety and perception of life environment: the preadolescent and their parent perception, paper presented at 18 Conference of the International Association for People Environment Studies (IAPS, Wien, 7-10 July 2004)
- [12]. National Economic and Development Authority (2017). Ensuring Security, Public Order, and Safety. Retrieved on June 28, 2021 from: https://www.neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/SER-Chap-18_as-of-March-26.pdf.
- [13]. Ocden (2018). Peace and order is the foundation of development. Retrieved on July 1, 2021 from: <https://www.baguioheraldexpressonline.com/peace-and-order-is-the-foundation-of-development-ocden/>
- [14]. Panelo, Riles MG (2013). Barangay Tanods. Retrieved on July 4, 2021 from: <https://lgupdates.weebly.com/blogs/barangay-tanods>
- [15]. Perkins, D.D. & Taylor, R.B. (1996). Ecological assessment of community disorder: Their relationship to fear of crime and theoretical implication, American Journal of Community Psychology, 24, 63-107.
- [16]. Perkins, D.D., Meek, J.W. & Taylor, R.B. (1992). The physical environment of street blocks and resident perception of crime and disorder: implication for theory and measurement, Journal of Environmental Psychology, 12, 21-34.

- [17]. PhilAtlas (2015). Municipality of Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay Province. Retrieved on July 2, 2021 from: <https://www.philatlas.com/mindanao/r09/zamboanga-sibugay/buug.html>
- [18]. Redoble, F., Ramos, V., Vidal, A.L. and Valdes, E. (2018). Factors Affecting Effective Dissemination of Peace and Order Ordinances to Punong Barangays in Maria Aurora, Philippines. *Journal of Public Administration and Governance*. ISSN 2161–7104, Vol. 8, No. 4, doi:10.5296/jpag.v8i4.14065 URL: <https://doi.org/10.5296/jpag.v8i4.14065>
- [19]. Zani, B., Cicognani, E. & Albanesi, C. (2001). Adolescents' sense of community and feeling of unsafety in the urban environment, *Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology*, 11, 475-489.