

LEVEL OF EFFECTIVENESS AND SATISFACTION OF BARANGAY TANODS ON THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND ORDER AS PERCEIVED BY THE RESIDENTS OF BARANGAY COGON, TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL

SHIRLEY MOLINA ^{ID}, MARVEN B. JUMAWID, JAY MAR AÑORA, MIE CARIAS, CHEREY VIL OPERIANO, ANTHONY REFULLE, MARIANE KARYLE TARE

College of Criminal Justice, University of Bohol, Tagbilaran City, Philippines

Corresponding Author: somolina@universityofbohol.edu.ph

ABSTRACT

Article History

Submission: April 5, 2025
Revised: May 10, 2025
Accepted: August 15, 2025
Publication: September 5, 2025

Keywords— Criminal Justice; Community Policing; Barangay Tanods; Peace and Order Maintenance; Resident Satisfaction; Perceived Effectiveness; Descriptive–Quantitative Research Design; Chi-Square Test of Independence; Spearman Rank-Order Correlation; Philippines.

This study explores a crucial aspect of community well-being by investigating the effectiveness and satisfaction levels of barangay tanods in maintaining peace and order. The research methodology employed in this study was quantitative, with data collection conducted through a modified survey questionnaire. The study was conducted in Barangay Cogon, Tagbilaran City. The participants were Barangay residents, with a sample size of 344 out of 3311. The researchers protected respondents' anonymity and confidentiality.

The study was conducted in accordance with a protocol reviewed by the



© Molina, S., Jumawid, M. B., Añora, J. M., Carias, M., Operiano, C. V., Refulle, A., & Tare, M. K. (2025). Open Access. This article published by University of Bohol Multidisciplinary Research Journal is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0). You are free to share (copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format) and adapt (remix, transform, and build upon the material). Under the following terms, you must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. You may not use the material for commercial purposes. To view a copy of this license, visit: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

University of Bohol Research Ethics Committee to ensure compliance with ethical standards. The research evaluated the respondents' demographic profile, their perceptions of the effectiveness of Barangay Tanods in maintaining peace and Order, and residents' level of satisfaction with Barangay Tanods' efforts to maintain peace and order. The barangay tanods were perceived as effective overall, and collaboration with other law enforcement agencies was rated highly. Demographic factors like civil status, education level, and years of residency significantly influenced perceptions of effectiveness and satisfaction, whereas age and sex did not show significant correlations.

INTRODUCTION

Peace and public safety remain central concerns in both global and local governance. The United Nations identifies "peace, justice and strong institutions" as foundational to sustainable development, recognizing that stable and accountable institutions contribute significantly to social and economic progress (United Nations, 2015). While such goals are articulated at the international level, their realization depends heavily on grassroots governance structures that operate closest to the people.

In the Philippines, the barangay serves as the fundamental political and administrative unit of government. It is crucial for maintaining local peace and order through processes embedded in the community's fabric. The Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT), commonly referred to as barangay tanods, is one such method.

These community-based volunteers are essential to promoting community safety and cohesion, as they assist law enforcement agencies and enforce local ordinances. The function of barangay tanods is a prime example of community policing principles, which prioritize partnership, visibility, and collaboration between law enforcement and residents.

Barangay tanods reside in the communities they oversee, unlike ordinary police officers who operate across many locations. They can effectively resolve minor issues and avert disruptions through their proximity, social connections, local expertise, and cultural understanding. Nonetheless, apprehensions regarding their training, preparedness, and capacity to address novel challenges endure.

The literature emphasizes the importance of institutional support and public engagement in bolstering local peacekeeping efforts. By focusing on capacity-building, you may get the audience to support or push for continued improvements in grassroots government. This will create a sense of common progress. Public opinion also has a big impact on how well local peacekeeping works. By understanding social factors like education level and length of stay, the audience can be empowered to shape community initiatives and encourage more inclusive peacekeeping efforts.

Sarkisian and Gerstel (2016) conducted a study indicating that individuals

who are more integrated into their communities and have strong social connections exhibit higher levels of civic engagement and social connectedness. These characteristics are likely to influence how residents evaluate the performance of community-based peacekeepers, underscoring the significance of social networks in assessing public administration and governance. Few studies have specifically focused on the combined evaluation of efficacy and satisfaction in Barangay Cogon, located in Tagbilaran City. Highlighting this gap aims to motivate scholars and practitioners to explore this relevant context, thereby helping to close the knowledge gap. Understanding how residents perceive barangay tanods here may offer actionable insights for local government officials and community leaders to strengthen community-level peacekeeping strategies.

While this study provides an essential perspective into residents' perceptions in Barangay Cogon, it is important to acknowledge that results may not be directly generalizable to other barangays with different social or demographic contexts. Nonetheless, the insights gained can serve as a basis for comparative studies and tailored interventions in similar grassroots settings.

METHODOLOGY

Design. This research employed a descriptive, quantitative approach to systematically assess citizens' perceptions of barangay tanod effectiveness and satisfaction in maintaining peace and order. A survey method was employed to gather structured data for statistical analysis of trends and correlations among variables, hence facilitating the study's objectives.

Environment. The study was conducted in Barangay Cogon, Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Philippines. Barangay Cogon is one of the largest barangays in the city, with a population exceeding 15,000, according to recent local records. Its central location and mixed residential-commercial character make it an appropriate setting for examining grassroots peacekeeping functions.

Respondents. The target population consisted of adult residents of Barangay Cogon. A total of 344 respondents were selected using stratified random sampling to ensure representation across key demographic categories. Participants were required to be at least 18 years old and current residents of the barangay at the time of data collection.

Stratified sampling was used to improve representativeness and reduce sampling bias. This approach allowed the researchers to capture perceptions across different age groups, civil status categories, educational backgrounds, and lengths of residency.

Research Instrument. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire developed specifically for this study. The instrument was based on the duties and responsibilities of barangay tanods as outlined in Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act No. 7160, 1991). Since no standardized instrument directly addressed the study

objectives, items were adapted to reflect local peacekeeping functions relevant to Barangay Cogon.

The questionnaire consisted of three sections: the demographic profile of respondents, the perceived level of effectiveness of barangay tanods, and the level of satisfaction with barangay tanod performance. Prior to full deployment, the questionnaire underwent pilot testing with a small group of residents to assess clarity and content relevance. Minor revisions were made to improve comprehensibility.

Data Collection Procedure. Permission to conduct the study was obtained from university authorities and local government officials, including the Barangay Captain. Respondents were informed about the purpose of the research and assured that their responses would remain confidential and would be used solely for academic purposes.

The researchers personally distributed printed questionnaires to selected respondents. A Visayan translation was provided to ensure accessibility and reduce language-related misunderstandings. Respondents completed the survey voluntarily, and clarification was provided when needed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic profile of respondents. A total of 344 residents participated in the survey. The majority of respondents (33.4%) were between the ages of 18 and 25, with 26 and 32 (21.8%) and 33 and 40 (18.0%) following as the next age groups. The substantial representation of younger adults may indicate their increased likelihood of participating in surveys and of engaging with community-focused concerns, such as those supported by online or digital communication.

Still, it is worth noting that digital participation is not evenly distributed; the “digital divide” can shape who is reached by technology-enabled civic processes and whose voices become more visible in peace-related initiatives (Parveen, 2021).

Females comprised 58.7% of the respondents, while males comprised 41.3%. This pattern suggests that women in the community may be particularly involved in discussions regarding neighborhood welfare, local governance, and safety. Mesa (2018) primarily examined women’s empowerment from a development and livelihood perspective; however, the fundamental concept remains: women’s participation is frequently essential in the formation of local community dynamics and collective endeavors.

The distribution of civil statuses showed that the most common status was single (51.7%), followed by married (41.9%) and separated (0.9%). The percentages of separated individuals (0.9%) and widows/widowers (5.5%) were lower. This distribution is significant because their social connections and community integration may influence residents’ evaluations of local institutions. Sarkisian and Gerstel (2016) noted that individuals who have

never married often maintain strong relationships with acquaintances, relatives, and neighbors, which can affect their civic consciousness and community involvement.

The educational attainment cohort with the highest prevalence was high school graduates (37.8%), followed by college graduates (35.2%) and college-level students (19.8%). Postgraduate education and elementary graduates were represented in lower proportions. Despite a robust educational foundation, this profile indicates that the community has diverse experiences with postsecondary education.

In a related Philippine study, De Asis et al. (2020) emphasized the role of training and capacity-building in strengthening barangay tanods' performance—particularly important where community expectations may vary by education and experience.

Finally, residency was long-term for most participants: 80.8% had lived in the barangay for 15 years or more. Long residency typically comes with deeper familiarity with local routines and barangay-level security realities. Baldesanso et al. (2018) similarly observed that longer-term residents often have more established community connections that may influence perceptions of barangay peacekeeping performance.

Perceived effectiveness of barangay tanods. Residents mostly gave barangay tanods high satisfaction ratings across all effectiveness measures. The best thing was working with other law enforcement agencies, and the next best thing was enforcing the curfew. These perceptions imply that communities highly regard collaborative enforcement and coordination, which are often utilized as conspicuous markers of organized peacekeeping.

This is consistent with the principles of community policing, which emphasize collaboration and shared problem-solving in terms of perceived effectiveness and legitimacy (Cruz et al., 2021).

Prompt response, peacekeeping during events, resident safety, and dispute resolution were also rated favorably. One of the areas that consistently lagged behind the others was traffic management, indicating a practical gap in day-to-day enforcement that was visible to the public. It is more helpful to view this as a specific service domain where residents may have higher expectations or where operational constraints are more pronounced, rather than as overall poor performance. This is because the former interpretation is more straightforward.

Resident satisfaction with barangay tanod performance. Satisfaction ratings clustered around a moderately satisfied level. Residents were most satisfied with curfew enforcement and coordination with law enforcement, mirroring the effectiveness ranking and suggesting that visible, structured enforcement often translates into satisfaction. However, satisfaction was slightly lower (though still moderate) for areas such as visibility/accessibility, training adequacy, and, again, traffic management.

This pattern resembles what Baldesanso et al. (2018) found in Ozamiz

City: communities may express overall satisfaction with barangay peacekeeping while still identifying areas for improvement, particularly in crime-prevention support, resources, and capability-building.

Table 1. *Chi-Square Test of Independence Between Respondents' Profiles and Level of Effectiveness*

Variable	χ^2	p-value	Decision	Interpretation
Age × Effectiveness	16.433	0.058	Fail to reject H_0	Not significant
Sex × Effectiveness	4.018	0.674	Fail to reject H_0	Not significant
Civil Status × Effectiveness	19.470	0.021	Reject H_0	Significant
Educational Attainment × Effectiveness	26.034	0.038	Reject H_0	Significant
Years of Residency × Effectiveness	24.457	0.004	Reject H_0	Significant

Civil status, highest educational attainment, and years of residency were significantly associated with perceived effectiveness. A reasonable interpretation is that residents' lived experience in the barangay (time of residency) and their expectations/standards for public services (often linked with education) can shape how they judge local peacekeeping. This direction is consistent with findings from Philippine local studies, which show that certain demographic factors help explain differences in perceptions of barangay tanod engagement and performance (Baddong et al., 2023).

Table 2. *Chi-Square Test of Independence Between Respondents' Profiles and Level of Satisfaction*

Variable	χ^2	p-value	Decision	Interpretation
Age × Satisfaction	13.173	0.155	Fail to reject H_0	Not significant
Sex × Satisfaction	3.217	0.781	Fail to reject H_0	Not significant
Civil Status × Satisfaction	17.610	0.040	Reject H_0	Significant
Educational Attainment × Satisfaction	42.168	0.000	Reject H_0	Significant
Years of Residency × Satisfaction	17.174	0.046	Reject H_0	Significant

The satisfaction results follow a pattern similar to effectiveness: civil status, educational attainment, and length of residency are significant, while age and sex are not. This suggests that satisfaction is shaped less by broad demographic categories like age/sex and more by factors linked to community embeddedness and evaluative expectations. Notably, Baldesanso et al. (2018) reported comparable demographic patterns, with differences in satisfaction more evident for variables such as civil status, educational attainment, and length of residency.

Table 3. *Spearman Rank-Order Correlation Between Perceived Effectiveness and Level of Satisfaction*

Variables	Spearman's ρ (rs)	p-value	Decision ($\alpha = .05$)	Interpretation
Perceived Effectiveness $\times$ Satisfaction	0.838	$p < .001$	Reject H_0	Strong, positive, and statistically significant relationship

A strong positive correlation was observed between perceived effectiveness and satisfaction ($rs = 0.838, p < .001$). Put simply, when residents view barangay tanods as more effective, they also tend to be more satisfied. This is consistent with the practical logic of community policing: trust and satisfaction often rise when frontline services are experienced as reliable and responsive (Cruz et al., 2021).

Residents of Barangay Cogon generally perceive barangay tanods as effective in maintaining peace and order, particularly through their coordination with law enforcement and enforcement of local regulations. However, satisfaction levels indicate moderate approval, suggesting opportunities for further strengthening service delivery, especially in areas such as traffic management and visibility.

Demographic factors—including civil status, educational attainment, and length of residency—appear to shape how residents assess effectiveness and satisfaction. These findings highlight the importance of tailoring community-based peacekeeping strategies to the social characteristics of the population served.

CONCLUSION

This study examined residents' perceptions of barangay tanods in maintaining peace and order in Barangay Cogon, Tagbilaran City. Overall, respondents viewed barangay tanods as effective in carrying out their responsibilities, particularly in collaboration with law enforcement agencies and in enforcing curfew regulations. Satisfaction levels were generally moderate to positive, and a strong association was observed between perceived effectiveness and resident satisfaction.

The findings further indicate that demographic factors—particularly civil status, educational attainment, and length of residency—were associated with variations in how residents assessed effectiveness and satisfaction. These results suggest that perceptions of local peacekeeping are shaped not only by performance itself but also by residents' social positioning and level of community integration.

Viewed through the lens of community policing, the results underscore the importance of coordination, visibility, and responsiveness at the barangay level. In relation to Sustainable Development Goal 16, which calls for

peaceful and inclusive societies and effective, accountable institutions (United Nations, 2015), barangay tanods serve as a critical grassroots mechanism for advancing local peace and institutional trust. While the general perception remains favorable, the study also highlights specific areas where incremental improvement may strengthen both performance and public confidence.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Although barangay tanods in Barangay Cogon are widely regarded as beneficial, the data highlight numerous areas that require additional attention.

1. Continued capacity-building activities may help to maintain and improve performance, particularly in areas such as traffic management, conflict resolution, and day-to-day visibility. Targeted refresher training and skill improvement could improve service delivery consistency, according to previous local research on barangay-level peacekeeping (De Asis et al., 2020).
2. Maintaining close contact with formal law enforcement agencies appears critical. In accordance with the concepts of community policing, positive evaluations of collaboration imply that a partnership that is both visible and coordinated helps to cultivate public confidence (Cruz et al., 2021).
3. The barangay may also consider expanding feedback channels, such as conducting brief satisfaction surveys or monthly consultations. Regularly obtaining community feedback could help align peacekeeping practices with public expectations. Because viewpoints differ according to factors such as civil status, education, and tenure, planning initiatives would be better off recognizing this diversity rather than assuming that all members of the community share the same point of view.
4. Last, according to Baldesanso et al. (2018), barangay officials should be able to make more informed, transparent decisions if they make modest adjustments to documentation and data use. These adjustments include tracking occurrences and reaction trends. The overarching goal of these recommendations is to offer practical techniques to enhance existing efforts and promote activities that advance local peace and order.

REFERENCES CITED

- Baldesanso, M. L., Saligan, M. P., Maniabo, G. L., Canini, N. D., & Jomud, P. D. (2018). Community satisfaction with Barangay Peacemaking Action Team (BPAT) performance in Ozamiz City, Philippines. *Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies*, 7(2). <https://doi.org/10.7828/jmds.v7i2.1230>.

- Cruz, R. M., Frontuna, E. J., & Tus, J. (2021). The challenges and lived experiences of the barangay tanods: A phenomenological qualitative study in the Philippines during the COVID-19 pandemic. *International Journal of Advanced Research and Innovative Ideas in Education*, 7(1), 1231–1250. <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.14033348.v1>
- De Asis, J. A., Malibong, J. D., Alquiza, C. M., & Tagulao, R. M. (2020). Effectiveness of barangay tanods on the maintenance of peace and order in the Municipality of Bayambang. *Southeast Asian Journal of Science and Technology*, 5(1). <https://www.sajst.org/online/index.php/sajst/article/view/245>
- Mesa, H. R. (2018). Women's empowerment or disempowerment? A case study of social microfinance activities and gender relations in Rizal Province, Philippines. *Social Transformations: Journal of the Global South*, 6(2), 27–56. <https://doi.org/10.13185/2799-015X.1095>.
- Parveen, H. (2021). Social media and peace. In R. Sharma (Ed.), *Peace education in the 21st century* (pp. 88–98). ABS Books.
- Republic Act No. 7160. (1991). *Local Government Code of 1991*. Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/1991/10/10/republic-act-no-7160/>
- Sarkisian, N., & Gerstel, N. (2016). Does singlehood isolate or integrate? Examining the link between marital status and ties to kin, friends, and neighbors. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 33(3), 361–384. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0265407515597564>
- United Nations. (2015). *Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>