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# AWARENESS ON THE POLICE COMMUNITY RELATION (PCR) IN CRIME REDUCTION IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBAY

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## ABSTRACT

This study investigates the awareness of the Police Community Relations (PCR) Program in Albay, particularly in crime reduction. The research aims to bridge gaps in existing studies by examining various dimensions on program status, awareness levels, stakeholder support, and challenges. Through Multi-Method Research Design, a structured survey-questionnaire was employed from three respondent groups: community members, barangay officials, and Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel. The sampling approach included simple random sampling for community members, total enumeration for barangay officials, and purposive sampling for PNP members. Findings reveal that while there is a basic level of community awareness regarding PCR programs, further efforts are needed to enhance information dissemination and promote active community participation through dialogues and collaborative decision-making. The study highlights positive awareness levels that supports partnerships, with PNP-Bicol's active collaboration serving for effective community engagement. However, significant challenges includes limited resources, negative public perceptions, and community mistrust. To address these challenges, recommendations were reinforced communication campaigns, greater involvement of Barangay Officials, targeted interventions to rebuild trust, and continuous program monitoring and evaluation to adapt strategies effectively. The "ONE-STOP SHOP" initiative is proposed as a proactive model that integrates community policing to strengthen public safety, self-reliant community-police endeavor.

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**Keywords:** *Police-Community Relations, Crime Reduction, Awareness*

## INTRODUCTION

Police Community Relations are integral to modern law enforcement strategies aimed at upbringing collaborative partnership between police and the communities they serve. In an era marked by complex societal challenges and evolving crime dynamics, the role of PCR in enhancing public trust, improving community safety, and preventing crime has garnered increasing attention. According to the Police Community Relations Manual, Police-Community Relations is a slowly evolving policing system that is being adopted by police organizations worldwide. This policing system can be equated with diplomacy such that even the subjects of policing actions view the system as the most acceptable form of police-community interaction to ferret out crimes, ensure public safety, or maintain peace and order.

Public perception of the police plays a critical role in the success of PCR efforts. Disfigured public perception, shaped by popular opinion, media coverage, and reputation, can distort the absolute truth based on facts. To address negative public perception, the Philippine National Police continues to innovate its policing systems and implement programs aimed at regaining public support and trust. Research on PCR underscores its massive importance in modern policing paradigms. Studies have shown that effective PCR programs can significantly reduce crime rates, enhance community satisfaction with police services, and mitigate social tensions. Moreover, PCR initiatives contribute to a more responsive and accountable police force, capable of adapting to local needs and priorities. Despite its recognized benefits, gaps remain in understanding the full impact and optimal implementation of PCR programs across different contexts. Key research questions include assessing the awareness levels of PCR among community members, evaluating the efficacy of specific PCR strategies in crime prevention, and identifying barriers to effective police-community collaboration.

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The current research on the awareness of the Police Community Relations (PCR) Program in crime reduction in the Province of Albay highlights specific areas of inquiry that the present study aims to bridge. Based on the crime statistics from October 2022 to October 2023, the top three barangays in Tabaco that obtained the highest crime rates are Matagbac-5, San Juan-6, and San Lorenzo-7. In Legazpi City, Barangay 36-Kapantawan-22, Brgy Bitano-46, and Brgy Cruzada-17, and in Ligao City, Tuburan-9, Bagumbayan-6, and Busay-5 also recorded high crime rates. Thus, this research aims to contribute to the existing body of knowledge by examining the awareness, effectiveness, and challenges associated with PCR programs in the three cities in Albay. By exploring these dimensions, the study seeks to provide evidence-based insights that can inform policy development, enhance community engagement strategies, and optimize PCR practices to better serve and protect communities.

## FRAMEWORK

This study is grounded in the *Social Capital Theory* and the *Community-Readiness Model*, both of which offer valuable perspectives on community engagement in crime prevention. The **Social Capital Theory**, initially conceptualized by Coleman (1988, 1990), emphasizes the role of social relationships and networks in gaining trust and mutual norms. Social capital, in this context, arises when relationships evolve to enable collective action, maximizing the capabilities of individuals who collaborate and trust one another. Incorporating Social Capital Theory into this study provides a lens for understanding the crime prevention capabilities of the Police Community Relations (PCR) initiatives. Central to this theory is trust, the foundation of effective collaboration between the community and law enforcement. Trust promotes open communication, mutual respect, and information exchange between police officers and residents, which encourages active community involvement in crime prevention. Social networks further strengthen PCR initiatives by creating channels for information dissemination and cooperative action. and collective efficacy in supporting crime prevention, reinforcing a resilient and secure community.

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The second theoretical model guiding this research is the **Community-Readiness Model (CRM)**, originally developed by the Tri-Ethnic Center at the University of Colorado. This model provides a systematic framework for evaluating a community's awareness and readiness to address social issues, such as crime. The CRM assesses a community's stage of readiness, from "No Awareness" to "Professionalization," across five dimensions: Knowledge of Existing Efforts, Leadership, Community Climate, Knowledge about the Issue, and Resources (Oetting et al., 2014). The CRM's stages—from unawareness of the issue to a high level of professionalized response—help identify the prevailing attitudes, leadership engagement, and community action levels. The progression through these stages reveals how communities move from recognizing a problem to mobilizing resources and implementing structured responses. Adopting CRM in this research specifically in understanding the participants level of awareness offers a structured approach to assess Albay's readiness for PPR-driven crime prevention. Understanding each stage helps identify current community perceptions and preparedness levels, offering insights for strategic improvements.

**OBJECTIVES**

The primary objective of this study is to determine the level of awareness of the Police Community Relations (PCR) Program in reducing crime in the Province of Albay. Specifically, the study aims to identify the status of crime prevention programs by examining key aspects such as legal basis, vision, mission and objectives, human resources, budget allocation, and the activities conducted. Additionally, the study seeks to assess the level of awareness regarding PCR programs in four critical areas: information dissemination, program implementation, police-community partnerships, and stakeholder support. Another objective is to analyze the significant agreement among the ranks involved in the PCR Program within Albay. The study will also identify the challenges encountered by the Philippine National Police (PNP) and barangay officials in implementing PCR programs. Finally, the study proposes the design of a program, called the "ONE-STOP SHOP: Reinforcing PCR Programs and Enhancing

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Community Linkages," aimed at strengthening and enhancing the existing PCR initiatives in the province.

## METHODOLOGY

This study employs a Multi-Method Research Design to evaluate the awareness and impact of the Police Community Relations (PCR) program on crime reduction in Albay province. The multi-method approach combines quantitative and qualitative data, enhancing the study's reliability and validity through triangulation. By using both surveys and interviews/focus groups, the study aims to provide a comprehensive view of the PCR program's influence on the community.

The research is conducted in three cities in Albay—Tabaco, Legazpi, and Ligao—each offering different socio-economic and cultural environments. These cities provide a varied backdrop for assessing how PCR programs contribute to crime reduction and strengthen community trust in law enforcement.

Respondents are categorized into three groups: community members, barangay officials, and Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel. This stratified selection ensures a holistic understanding of the PCR program's impact. Community members provide insights into the program's effectiveness in enhancing safety, barangay officials offer perspectives on local challenges and program execution, and PNP personnel share operational insights, focusing on the challenges and outcomes of PCR implementation.

The study uses a structured survey-questionnaire as the primary research instrument. It covers two key areas: the level of awareness of PCR programs and the challenges faced by PNP and barangay officials in implementing these programs. The awareness component uses a Likert Scale, categorizing respondents' knowledge of PCR programs into four levels: "Fully Aware," "Aware," "Moderately Aware," and "Not Aware." This scale allows for the

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quantification of awareness levels, providing a clearer understanding of community knowledge.

Informed consent was obtained from all respondents, ensuring ethical compliance and confidentiality throughout the data collection process. This methodology ensures a robust and comprehensive analysis of the PCR program's impact on crime reduction in Albay.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Status of Crime Prevention Program

This study provides a comprehensive exploration of the status of crime prevention initiatives, focusing on key aspects such as the legal basis, vision, mission, objectives, human resources, budgetary requirements, and activities conducted under the Police Community Relations (PCR) program of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

**Legal Basis:** The foundation of this study is grounded in the legal framework established by Republic Act 8551 and the PNP "Tagapagtaguyod" Master Plan. RA 8551, which establishes the PNP as a community and service-oriented agency, mandates its responsibility in maintaining peace, order, and public safety while ensuring accountability and effectiveness in policing. The PNP "Tagapagtaguyod" Master Plan 2019-046 further supports this initiative by focusing on information development, public information, and community affairs and development, aiming to foster sustainable development and community cooperation.

**Vision, Mission, and Objectives**: The vision of the Directorate for Police Community Relations (DPCR) is to transform police units and officers into a community-oriented organization, fostering harmonious relations with the community for a peaceful and orderly environment. The mission emphasizes guiding police officers in building relationships, shaping public perceptions, and mobilizing communities towards the respect of laws, peace, and safety. The key objectives of the DPCR include formulating PCR plans and policies, supervising public information activities, developing programs to enhance public perception of the PNP,

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conducting research to assist in policymaking, forging relationships with communities, and coordinating with other government and non-government entities to support peace and order efforts.

This discussion highlights the critical role of the legal framework, vision, mission, and objectives in guiding the implementation of PCR programs, aiming to strengthen community involvement in crime prevention and enhance public trust in law enforcement.

**Human Resource:** The Philippine National Police (PNP) is a law enforcement agency in the Philippines responsible for maintaining peace and order, preventing and investigating crimes, and ensuring public safety. The PNP is composed of various units, and its human resources in fulfilling its mission.

Enforcing public safety, law and order, and maintaining peace across the country is the responsibility of the Philippine National Police (PNP). Its ability to carry out these responsibilities effectively depends in large part on how well it manages its human resources. A strategic decision-making process is represented by the PNP framework's staff distribution within the Police Community Affairs Development (PCAD) and Regional Community Affairs and Development Division (RCADD) sections. Interestingly, the PRO5-RCADD employs forty people, compared to the comparatively smaller numbers in city-based units like Legazpi CPS (8), Ligao CPS (7), and Tabaco CPS (9).

This distribution pattern raises a number of complex questions about the organizational strategy of the PNP. It first highlights the contrast between decentralized and centralized methods of allocating resources. Localized demands and responsiveness run the risk of being marginalized by a centralized paradigm, even while it may centralize expertise and resources. On the other hand, decentralization encourages customized remedies to problems unique to a community, but it may also result in unequal resource distribution and uniformity.

Additionally, considering the efficacy and efficiency of the task is prompted by the allocation of staff within RCADD/PCAD units. There are concerns over each unit's ability to interact with communities, stop crimes, and uphold order given their disparate staffing levels.

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To maintain maximum productivity and effectiveness in the face of these discrepancies, proactive steps must be taken to distribute workloads and resources evenly among all units.

**a. Activities Conducted**

The Philippine National Police (PNP) engages in a wide array of activities under its Police Community Relations programs aiming to build a strong bond between the police force and the communities they serve. One of the key aspects of this effort is the Public Information segment, which includes the Police Institutional Information Program, Police Community Information Program, and the Freedom of Information (FOI) Program. These initiatives aim to provide transparent and timely updates about PNP operations, policy changes, and other relevant information. By keeping the public well-informed, the PNP enhances its transparency and builds trust within the community.

On the Community Affairs, the PNP undertakes several initiatives to enhance community engagement and development. The Community Affairs Program focuses on organizing outreach activities, forums, and seminars to facilitate direct interaction between police officers and community members. Additionally, the Community Inter-relations and Development initiatives promote cooperation through neighborhood watch programs and youth engagement activities. The Disaster Preparedness and Response program is another pivotal component, ensuring that both police officers and community members are well-equipped to handle emergencies through training and simulation exercises.

**Description of the Activity**

The Information Operations section of the PCR activities includes the implementation of the PNP Information Operations Working Group (IOWG), which develops strategies to counter misinformation and manage public perception. Collaboration with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) through the Joint AFP-PNP Civil Relations Committee (JAPCRC) enhances the effectiveness of civil relations activities, particularly in conflict-affected areas. The Community Anti-Terrorism Awareness (CATA) program further strengthens public safety

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by educating citizens on recognizing and reporting potential terrorist activities, raising a vigilant and informed community.

Gender Awareness and Development (GAD) is another focus area for the PNP. Advocacy campaigns under the SANTINIG initiative raise awareness about gender issues and promote equality within the police force and the community. GAD-related activities under the SAMBAYAN program integrate gender perspectives into PNP policies and practices, ensuring an inclusive approach to public safety. These initiatives address gender-based violence and discrimination, providing support mechanisms for victims and promoting a culture of respect and equality.

The Salaam Police program is dedicated to peace-building and counter-radicalization activities, particularly within Muslim communities. Through SANTINIG and SAMBAYAN activities, the program promotes dialogue, cultural exchange, and community resilience against extremism. These efforts help build understanding and cooperation among different religious and ethnic groups, contributing to a more harmonious society.

The PNP organization continuously researches and enhances its programs through initiatives like the PNP Citizen's Charter, which outlines service standards and promotes accountability. By documenting and sharing best practices in community policing, disaster response, and other areas, the PNP ensures continuous improvement and adherence to directives and special laws. These efforts collectively contribute to a more effective and trusted police force, dedicated to serving and protecting the community.

**b. Budget**

The Philippine National Police (PNP) allocates its Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) budget to support a range of Police Community Relations (PCR) activities, amounting to ₱948,744.63 per quarter. This funding is divided into six key categories that address various aspects of community engagement and public safety. Public Information initiatives, with a total allocation of ₱368,371.00, focus on enhancing transparency and communication, including programs like the Police Institutional Information Program and Freedom of Information efforts. Community Affairs initiatives, funded at ₱269,348.00,

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emphasize building relationships through activities such as BPATs training, disaster preparedness, and recovery programs.

Information Operations, with ₱43,036.00, implement strategic communication initiatives like anti-terrorism awareness campaigns. Gender Awareness and Development (GAD), allocated ₱90,349.00, ensures inclusivity through gender sensitivity campaigns and advocacy. Salaam Police activities, focused on peacebuilding and counter-radicalization, promote mutual understanding and cultural harmony. Lastly, Program Enhancements, supported by ₱122,508.00, include developing the PNP Citizen's Charter and evaluating program effectiveness to maintain relevance and impact. This budget allocation underscores the PNP's commitment to fostering trust, collaboration, and safety through well-funded, strategic PCR initiatives. Effective management of these resources ensures the success of community-focused programs that educate, engage, and empower the public, ultimately contributing to safer and more resilient communities nationwide.

**2. Level of Awareness of Respondents on PCR Programs**

This section assessed the level of awareness among three groups of respondents regarding the PCR programs on four variables: information dissemination; program implementation; police-community partnership; and stakeholder's support.

**a. Information Dissemination**

The evaluation of PNP-Bicol's Information Dissemination initiatives underscores the use of TRIMP channels—Television, Radio, Internet, Messaging, and Print—as effective tools for sharing crime prevention tips, public safety reminders, and program updates. These efforts were generally well-received, with PNP personnel giving the highest ratings (WM = 3.90, Fully Agree) and the Community providing slightly lower scores. While Barangay Officials and PNP members rated the dissemination of programs and social media engagement highly, the Community expressed less satisfaction, highlighting areas for improvement. For instance, news about Kasurog Cops and social media updates were rated "Fully Agree" by Barangay

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Officials and PNP but received lower ratings from the Community (WM = 3.12 and 3.10, respectively).

The findings indicate a gap in effectively reaching the Community compared to internal stakeholders and Barangay Officials. To address this, targeted strategies such as increasing direct community engagement, diversifying communication platforms, and conducting regular surveys to assess awareness are recommended. Research supports combining traditional and digital media to enhance public awareness and trust in police initiatives. Tailored approaches, such as community dialogues and inclusivity measures for underserved groups, can further strengthen these efforts. By prioritizing community engagement and refining dissemination strategies, PNP-Bicol can bridge the gap, improve public trust, and ensure broader awareness of its programs.

**b. Program Implementation**

The initiatives of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in the Bicol Region emphasize community engagement, social support, environmental conservation, and crime prevention through programs such as Community Outreach, Livelihood Training, drug awareness campaigns, and youth-focused projects. These efforts aim to enhance public safety and foster strong police-community relationships. Among the 14 questions evaluating awareness of these initiatives, all received an "aware" rating, with "Project Juana" (WM = 3.24) and "Community Outreach programs" (WM = 3.20) achieving the highest scores. However, specific programs like "PNP-Kasimbayanan" (WM = 3.11) and "Buhay Ingatan, Droga'y Ayawan (BIDA)" (WM = 3.10) were rated lower, highlighting areas where public understanding could be improved.

The data indicates that Barangay Officials and PNP personnel demonstrate greater awareness of these programs than the community group, reflecting their active roles in supporting and implementing these initiatives. While community development and outreach programs are widely recognized, specialized campaigns such as "PNP-Kasimbayanan" and "BIDA" require enhanced promotion to increase public familiarity and involvement. This is

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particularly important given that these programs, launched in 2022, are relatively new and need consistent communication efforts to maximize their impact.

Research emphasizes the importance of community partnerships in law enforcement, where collaboration among citizens, local groups, and government agencies strengthens public safety and crime prevention efforts. For instance, studies have shown that partnerships like those in Arlington, Texas, between police and private monitoring organizations have significantly reduced crime rates and improved public trust. Similarly, community policing approaches that focus on trust, communication, and cooperation have been found to enhance mutual understanding between police and the public. In the context of PNP-Bicol initiatives, broad programs such as "Project Juana" and Community Outreach have been positively received, but there is a clear need for targeted strategies to improve awareness of specialized programs like "PNP-Kasimbayanan" and "BIDA." These findings underscore the value of Barangay Officials in amplifying awareness campaigns and suggest that refined communication strategies can enhance program effectiveness. By addressing these gaps and strengthening outreach efforts, the PNP can better align its initiatives with community needs, ensuring stronger engagement and more impactful outcomes.

**c. Police-Community Relations**

The Philippine National Police (PNP) in the Bicol Region actively promotes community engagement, social support, environmental conservation, and crime prevention through programs like Community Outreach, Livelihood Training, drug awareness campaigns, and youth-centered initiatives. These efforts aim to improve public safety and nurture robust police-community ties. Awareness of these initiatives was evaluated across 14 indicators, all of which received an "aware" rating. "Project Juana" (WM = 3.24) and "Community Outreach programs" (WM = 3.20) garnered the highest scores, indicating strong recognition. However, specialized initiatives like "PNP-Kasimbayanan" (WM = 3.11) and "Buhay Ingatan, Droga'y Ayawan (BIDA)" (WM = 3.10) were rated lower, reflecting a need for greater public awareness and engagement.

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The findings reveal that Barangay Officials and PNP personnel exhibit higher awareness levels compared to community members, underscoring their roles in supporting and implementing these programs. While widely recognized programs focus on community development and outreach, more recent campaigns like "PNP-Kasimbayanan" and "BIDA," launched in 2022, require sustained promotion to achieve broader public understanding and participation. Studies highlight the critical role of community partnerships in effective law enforcement. Collaborative efforts among citizens, local organizations, and government entities have been shown to bolster public safety and reduce crime. For instance, partnerships like those in Arlington, Texas, between law enforcement and private monitoring groups have successfully lowered crime rates while fostering public trust. Similarly, community policing strategies emphasizing trust, communication, and cooperation are key to strengthening police-public relationships and achieving shared goals.

Broad initiatives like "Project Juana" and Community Outreach are well-received, yet there is a pressing need for refined communication strategies to elevate the visibility and impact of specialized programs like "PNP-Kasimbayanan" and "BIDA." Leveraging the influential role of Barangay Officials and enhancing outreach efforts will better align these programs with community needs, fostering stronger engagement and more meaningful outcomes.

**d. Stakeholders Support**

This section assesses respondents' awareness of Stakeholder Support in PCR activities, highlighting the collaborative efforts of community members, organizations, and agencies that partner with the Philippine National Police to improve public safety and community welfare. Understanding this awareness is essential for evaluating the effectiveness of the PNP's outreach and engagement strategies.

One of the aims of DPCR is to generate community partnerships and forge a united front for the promotion of peace and order. It is designed to unify and harmonize the efforts of all PCR units and to encourage broad networking, coordination and integration of all related undertakings within the PNP, LGUs, various sectoral groups and people's organization.

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Table 9 shows below that in terms of Stakeholders Support, results indicate an overall weighted mean of 3.16, signifying that respondent are generally "aware" of the concepts in stakeholder support. Along with the 5 questions, 2 questions obtained the highest rate PNP-Bicol is actively engaging with Advocacy Support Groups and Force Multipliers, underscoring the importance of collaborative efforts to enhance the impact of PNP initiatives and promote a shared responsibility for community well-being. Through structured partnerships, the PNP is actively establishing a network of support deemed crucial for building trust, resilience, and ensuring sustainable progress within the community. Both obtained a 3.19 weighted mean.

The implications of these findings shows a positive perception on potential effectiveness of such partnerships in addressing community concerns and enhancing overall safety. Moreover, the research implies that structured partnerships play a fundamental link in establishing a network of support for the PNP should focus on a progressive community engagement strategy, to ensure sustained progress on a resilient community.

PNP especially in full implementation of programs and activities. Also, this network is vital not only for the immediate success of programs and/or activities but also for building and maintaining trust within the community. It is therefore concluded that it is a collaborative effort in the context of community policing, specifically noting the active engagement of PNP-Bicol with Advocacy Support Groups and Force Multipliers. The positive responses from the community underscore the efficacy of these partnerships in promoting shared responsibility and trust. As the primary law enforcement agency,

This literature points out that involving the community in decision-making and allowing them to participate in crime prevention efforts strengthens police-community relationships. The study concluded that consistent engagement through community meetings, dialogues, and surveys led to a higher level of trust and awareness of police programs. This ties into your findings that the PNP should focus on increasing direct community engagement to improve information dissemination (Garcia & Reyes, 2020).The authors explore the effectiveness of community involvement in crime prevention strategies. The study highlights

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that communities and stakeholder that actively participate in decision-making and have frequent interactions with law enforcement tend to have lower crime rates. Their research emphasizes the importance of creating platforms for regular dialogue and collaboration between the police and the public. This aligns with your findings that increased engagement and direct communication, like meetings and surveys, enhance trust and awareness of police programs (Smith & Wilson, 2019).

**3. Significant Agreement among Ranks of PCR Program in the Province of Albay**

This study examines the significant differences in respondents' understanding of the Police Community Relations (PCR) Program across three groups: community members as program recipients, barangay officials as local leaders, and PNP members as implementers. Statistical analysis revealed a highly significant difference ($p = 0.000$) among the variables, underscoring substantial variations in awareness and understanding of PCR initiatives.

The findings highlight the need for targeted communication strategies to address information gaps and improve awareness of PCR programs. Effective community engagement, as emphasized by Llenares and Deocaris (2018), fosters trust and enhances program success through active collaboration between law enforcement and the public. Similarly, Martinez (n.d.) stresses the critical role of barangay officials in bridging the gap between the police and the community, ensuring programs are tailored to local needs. Regular monitoring and feedback mechanisms are also essential, as evidenced by a 2022 study in Region X of the Philippines, which found that programs succeed when communities are consistently surveyed to gauge awareness, perceptions, and satisfaction. Engaging community members in decision-making not only improves program effectiveness but also fosters a sense of shared responsibility for maintaining peace and order. These insights underline the importance of strategic communication, collaboration with local leaders, and feedback-driven adjustments to enhance awareness and active participation in PCR initiatives.

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**4. Problems Encountered on Police Community Relations (PCR) Program in Crime Reduction in the Province of Albay**

This research undertaking goes beyond merely identifying the awareness levels of the community and extends to an investigation on the challenges faced by barangay officials and members of the Philippine National Police (PNP). The findings reveal a comprehensive understanding of the prevalent issues, shedding light on the top three problems encountered.

At the forefront of these challenges is the negative perception towards Police Community Relations (PCR) programs, which garnered 427 instances, representing 34.16% of the reported issues. This signals a significant concern, as the community holds unfavorable views or misunderstandings regarding the PCR programs and initiatives. The second major challenge, identified that accumulates 285 counts (22.8%), pertains to limited resources encompassing insufficient financial funds, manpower, and logistical equipment. This underscores a tangible constraint that hinders the effective implementation of PCR programs. The inadequacy in resources can impede the efficiency and reach of PCR programs emphasizing the need for strategic resource allocation to overcome these limitations. Furthermore, community mistrust towards the PNP emerged as the third prominent challenge, accounting for 19.6% of the reported issues. Trust is fundamental in building successful community-police relationships, and addressing this challenge is pivotal for creating an environment where the community feels secure and collaborates willingly with law enforcement. By recognizing the negative perceptions, limited resources, and community mistrust as the top three concerns, the research provides a valuable foundation for developing targeted strategies and interventions to enhance the effectiveness of PCR programs and improve the overall relationship between the community and law enforcement.

**5. Program Design to Enhance PCR Programs**

The "Strengthening Linkages" program aims to improve Police-Community Relations (PCR) by fostering mutual trust, collaboration, and active community participation in maintaining safety. Rooted in the principle "the Police are the Public and the Public are the

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Police," the program seeks to empower communities in self-policing and promote collective responsibility for local well-being.

Objectives: The program has seven main objectives: to strengthen the relationship between the PNP and community members, facilitate open communication, encourage community involvement in safety efforts, align policing with community-oriented practices, maintain trust through transparent actions, cultivate a self-sufficient community, and reduce reliance on external law enforcement.

Activities: Key activities include area visits, house visits, community dialogues, livelihood training, and initiatives like PNP-Kasimabayanan, BIDA, BPATs, and environmental actions such as tree planting and clean-up drives.

Budget:
The program will be funded through the PNP's annual budget, with additional support from Local Government Units (LGUs), private sectors, NGOs, and community donations.

Task Allocation:
Clear roles will be defined, from the Regional Director overseeing the program to PCR officers executing activities. Other divisions, including logistics, public information, and training, will support the implementation.

Logistics:
The program will prioritize logistical needs such as transportation, informational materials, and necessary equipment to facilitate activities and ensure smooth execution.

Monitoring:
A monitoring system will assess the program's effectiveness using performance indicators and feedback mechanisms, enabling timely adjustments to ensure the program's responsiveness to community needs.

Beneficiaries:
The program will benefit barangay residents, youth groups, PNP officers, and the broader

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community, enhancing security, fostering awareness, and promoting collaboration in crime prevention.

## CONCLUSIONS

This section encompasses the main findings and insights gained from the study, providing a cohesive understanding of its overall significance. This section aims to draw together the key points, offering a final perspective on the research's contributions and implications for the broader context.

A comprehensive examination of the status of the crime prevention program, specifically focusing on the Police Community Relations Program of the Philippine National Police (PNP). The exploration encompassed various key dimensions, including the legal foundation, vision, mission, and objectives of the program. Additionally, it delved into operational aspects such as human resources, budgetary requirements, and the activities conducted under the program. The legal basis, as outlined in this research, establishes the framework within which the Police Community Relations Program operates, ensuring its alignment with legal standards and mandates. The vision, mission, and objectives serve as guiding principles, providing a clear direction for the program's initiatives and strategies in crime prevention. The analysis of human resources shed light on the personnel involved in the successful implementation of programs. Budgetary requirements were explored to gauge the financial support allocated to the Police Community Relations Program. Adequate funding is crucial for the program's successful implementation, enabling the acquisition of necessary resources and the execution of planned activities.

The community has a basic understanding, but the PNP can do more on dissemination of information. To achieve this, the PNP must engage more with the community by conducting dialogues and involving them in decision-making processes and in solving their own problems. This way, they can become more informed and can enhance active participation. Additionally, regular monitoring, including community surveys, should be conducted to gauge the community's awareness of the PNP and its community programs. Along with the Program

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Implementation, the community's awareness remains a cornerstone, and the involvement of Barangay Officials plays a crucial role in amplifying the impact of awareness initiatives. These comprehensions can inform future program adjustments and communication efforts, ensuring a more effective approach to community engagement within the PNP-Bicol programs. The community's limited awareness of Police Community Relations (PCR) programs can be attributed to several factors. This challenge is compounded by a lack of interactive engagement activities, such as dialogues, focus group discussions, or community assemblies, which are crucial for fostering a sense of connection and ownership among community members. Additionally, the perception that PCR initiatives are solely police-driven efforts can create a gap, reducing the community's motivation to actively participate. Insufficient follow-up and monitoring also contribute to the issue, as regular updates and sustained communication are necessary to reinforce awareness and ensure that the community remains informed. Language and cultural barriers may further hinder understanding, especially if the messaging does not align with the audience's context. Moreover, logistical constraints may limit the reach of information campaigns, leaving some barangays or marginalized sectors with minimal access to PCR programs. Finally, the limited involvement of barangay officials in amplifying awareness initiatives reduces the potential impact of these programs.

There is a positive level of awareness among respondents regarding police-community partnership. And this suggests a foundation for collaboration and cooperation between law enforcement and the community. On the "PNP-Bicol's active collaboration with various agencies indicates a successful model for fostering partnerships", this served as a success story that can serve as an example for other regions or law enforcement agencies seeking to enhance their community engagement. A collaborative effort in the context of community policing, specifically noting the active engagement of PNP-Bicol with Advocacy Support Groups and Force Multipliers. The positive responses from the community underscore the efficacy of these partnerships in promoting shared responsibility and trust. As the primary law enforcement agency, PNP should focus on a progressive community engagement strategy, to ensure sustained progress on a resilient community.

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One notable interpretation that emerges is the potential correlation between the observed variations in awareness and a lack of information about PCR programs. This perceived lack of awareness and information becomes a focal point for future interventions. The researcher emphasizes the need for reinforced communication campaigns designed to enhance awareness levels and ensure a more comprehensive understanding of Police Community Relations programs among community members. The identified problems by the three groups revealed negative perceptions, limited resources, and community mistrust as the top three concerns. This lays a foundation for the development of targeted strategies and interventions to enhance the effectiveness of Police Community Relations (PCR) programs. The acknowledgment of these key challenges offers valuable insights that can inform policy decisions and practical initiatives aimed at improving the overall relationship between the community and law enforcement.

The Strengthening Police Community Relations program highlights the value of proactive actions that build trust, communication, and collaboration between the police and the community. This initiative aspires to integrate community policing as a core part of everyday life, transforming it from a procedural obligation into a cultural norm. Such an approach can cultivate self-reliant communities that rely less on external policing. Reaching these objectives requires ongoing transparent communication, strong community engagement, and cooperative strategies that build public trust into robust partnerships. The adoption of a holistic approach to bolstering PCR programs can enhance the effectiveness of community-oriented policing. This direction supports the development of safer, more cohesive communities where mutual trust, collaboration, and shared responsibility are key. With consistent efforts and effective program management, police and community members can create an environment where public safety becomes a joint endeavor.

**TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH (If any)**

- Paragraph form, not broken down
- This part describes the various forms of popular and innovative media that translate scientific information into ways that can be understood by users of the research.

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- This includes but not limited to: policy, programs, action plan etc.

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