



CRIME PREVENTION EFFORTS OF POLANGUI MUNICIPAL POLICE STATION: IT'S EFFECTIVENESS

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ABSTRACT

The success of a police organization is dependent on evaluating its effectiveness in crime prevention and solving crimes that have already occurred. The study determined the level of effectiveness of crime prevention efforts of the Polangui Municipal Police Station and it identified the problems encountered in implementing the crime prevention strategies. A descriptive quantitative research was utilized in the study. The respondents of the study were the barangay officials and residents of the selected barangays in the study. Random sampling technique was employed to select the respondents and used survey questionnaire to collect the necessary information for the study. Weighted arithmetic mean was used as statistical tool of the study. The result revealed that in the effectiveness of crime prevention efforts of PMPS were effective for Oplan Sambayan and highly effective for Oplan Santinig. However, there were problems encountered in human resource and financial aspect which was found as highly needed for the sustainability of the program. The barangay has the capacity to prevent crimes because of its awareness of the efforts rendered by the PMPS, but still has to cooperate to all the programs which are being implemented. The PNP and the cooperation of the community heightened the prevention of crimes in the locality.

Keywords: *Crime Prevention, criminality, peace and order, strategies and barangay*

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INTRODUCTION

Crime is an old and multi-faceted problem in the society. There are several reasons why crimes are continuously committed and still counting as the year passes by. A crime is an offense that merits community condemnation and punishment, usually by way of fine or imprisonment. It is a behavior that the law makes punishable as a public offense. It is either by act or omission, defined by statutory or common law as deserving of punishment. Although most crimes require the element of intent, certain minor crimes may be committed on the basis of strict liability even if the defendant had no specific mindset with regard to the criminal action (Legal Services Commission of South Australia, 2017).

The developing countries' population increase and rapid urbanization are threatened by crime and insecurity, thus the level and intensity of crime differ from nation to nation and no country is spared. The limited resources to aid in development of their criminal justice system, underpaid police officers, inadequate equipment, overcrowded prisons and courts in such countries are considered serious threats (Dodds & Pippard, 2015). Additionally, the increasing crime rates suggest formidable challenges for the government in ensuring the safety and security of the people and the quality of their lives. Developed countries do not face the seriousness of crime issues and is not considered as developmental problem (United Nations UN, 2010).

According to Felipe (2011), a Philippine National Police Official (PNP) said that there was a downward trend in crime rate shown in statistics over the last two years. This claim was supported by the chief of the PNP Chief Director Arturo Cacdac Jr., stating a sharp decline in crime statistics from 2009 to 2010. "Crime volume in 2009 was at 502,665 but last year, (there were only) 319,441 cases, so there was a sharp decrease of 183,224 incidents or roughly 36 percent," Cacdac said in a forum. Cacdac noted that the PNP 2 leadership is now focusing on crime prevention programs and on training policemen to be more effective in solving crimes. He added that, cases of index crimes were reached about to 301,703 in 2009. On the contrary, the Regional Director of Police Regional Office 5, PCSupt. Cecilio B. Calleja Jr (2011) PNP PRO5, presented a report regarding the crime situation in the Bicol Region stating about 4,545 crime incidents reported as of January 1 to April 30, 2011. This figure reflects an increase of 27 or .60% as compared to 4,518 crime incidents reported during the same period last year.

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From this data, it could be mean that it is possible to prevent crimes which could lead to a decline in crime statistics, but still, the numbers were there only that it was just lessened to a smaller amount and a decline in crime statistics in a certain period would not guarantee that there will be still more declination in the next period for there will always be the possibility of inclination due to new developments of crime. So, this could mean that indeed crime is inevitable. However, criminology investigators must unceasingly investigate the present reasons for crime and preventions because there will be a tendency for the new crime. New crime prevention strategies (CPS) must suppress if not anticipate this new trend.

In the study conducted by Jonyo & Buchere (2011), states that for a better empathetic of their research, prevention of crime means to exertion plummeting, daunting crime and criminal doings. That crime prevention is an important method that should contemplate the use of public awareness procedures as deterrent measure to reduce crime. They also mentioned that community policing is known as participation in action and it involves shared participation of all persons in communities and at all different levels of government set ups and private sectors.

At the center of policing lies the community engagement consequently, collective efforts, community and police personnel address criminality and chaos using methods determined to be best observes for their communities. Currently, community policing involves a new philosophy of police operations and management; hosting an accountability system involving the entire organization. Nevertheless, to be effective in preventing crime, Nigerian Police should place renewed emphasis on community engagement and practices. (Nwogu, 2018).

On the other hand, the Philippine setting is faced with various formidable social problems and concerns. One of these problems is criminality which affects all part of the country and every aspect of community life. It is imperative to recognize criminality as complex matter. It proliferates with the acceleration of change and development and is magnified when the process is accompanied with the negative impact of population growth, unemployment and rapid urbanization (Patoza, 2018). The problem of criminality is aggregated by the popular perception that crime is very narrow sphere of behavior. In reality, there is no single formula and theory that can explain the vast range of criminal behavior. In this system, the community is encouraged to assist in maintaining peace and order because crime prevention and control will not be successful without it's concerned effort. The police can never solve crimes and deter the occurrence without the help of the community.

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Thus, the Philippine National Commission developed and promoted approaches and immediately tossed to plan out procedures to expand the development of their efforts such as Organization Plan called "Sambayan" and Communication Plan as "Santinig" through the National Headquarters of the Philippine National Police based from the Letter of Instructions of the Directorate of the PNP Community Relation dated October 2002.

"Sambayan's" main purpose is to engage with people within the community as a partner to hummer out in raising peace and order. It is designed for unified and harmonized efforts of all Police Community Relation units and to expanse interaction, synchronization, and combination of all related units of the PNP, LGUs, and other community partners. While, "Santinig" covers the thought of technically managing the operation, cautiously coordinating the role and functions of all PNP Units/Offices and intensively informing the population of the events, agendas, and activities of the PNP. Santinig is meant at regaining the assumption, backing, and support of the people is contributory to the victory of the government's aim of a STRONG NATION. This Santinig idea is also geared toward a harmonious public relationship towards the government and so deepening of people's indebtedness to the actions of the National Police in keeping nationwide safety, a letter of instructions coming from the National Headquarters, Philippine National Police for Directorate for Police Community Relations PNP dated October 2002.

In the implementation of PNP based on the letter of instruction dated October 2002 plan on crime prevention strategies, it is imperative to determine the programs along the "Samabayan and Santinig" plans to be used in depicting the level of effectiveness. Though such crime prevention strategies can be proven to be effective in a certain community by way of effectively reducing the level of crime, on the contrary, it may not reduce the same in some other communities due to several factors. It could not be because of new problems encountered by the people in the community which pushes them to commit crimes such as the abrupt escalation of inflation rate or unemployment and many other several factors that could trigger such persons to commit crimes.

These contributory plans became the baseline in sustaining crime prevention strategies to counter the problems in crime rates. Obviously, if these plans religiously implemented and follow wholeheartedly, a decline in crime rate would follow. However, the consistency in the operation of the existing anti-crime policies is one of the campaigns that are commonly disregarded due to inferiority of the operation which is best measured through public perception review. With these,

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it is possible to correlate the increase or decrease in crime rate against the level of operation of the delinquent deterrence tactics.

Polangui Municipal Police Station currently focused on the other plans relative to the implementation of crime prevention that requires full support from the community and these are the Index and Non-Index Crime. Because based on their records it shows that Index and Non-Index Crime has full implementation with corresponding records and data in a monthly basis. While the Sambayan and Santinig Plan quite disregarded due to the present health emergency status (Pandemic) that the worlds currently facing. Moreover, this is due also to nominal uniform personnel to hold these plans and the usual Sambayan and Santinig Plans are diverted to pandemic response due to the present COVID situation.

Concurrently, Polangui's local authorities are taking drastic measures to take action on the situation. Numerous actions can be done to reduce chances of having victims and prevent the incidence of crime from happening. Peace among the people and security of the public must be of highest importance. This study focused on assessing the success of anti-crime programs executed by the local authorities of Polangui.

The study is aimed to assess the effectiveness of the crime prevention efforts of the Polangui Municipal Police Station. Specifically, the study aimed to answer the following questions: (2). Assess the effectiveness of the crime prevention efforts of the Polangui Municipal Police Station (PMPS) in terms of; (A). Sambayan or Organization Plan and (B.) Santinig or Communication Plan. It also (2) Identify the problems encountered in the implementation of Sambayan and Santinig Plans by the Polangui Municipal Police Station in terms of; a. Human Resource and b. Financial Support. This study created an action plan to enhance the effectiveness of the crime prevention efforts of PMPS.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study employed descriptive quantitative research method for the study. To collect the necessary information needed in the study, the researcher used survey questionnaire during the gathering of data. The respondents were the selected residents from each zones of Brgy. A of Polangui, Albay and the barangay officials to assess the effectiveness of the crime prevention efforts of the PNP. The respondents were selected through random sampling technique and used

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Slovin's formula to get the sample size of the study. Weighted arithmetic mean was employed as the statistical tool of the study and a 4 point Likert scale.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This part presents the interpretation and analysis of data gathered on "The Crime Prevention Efforts of Polangui Municipal Police Station: Its Effectiveness. The study assessed the Effectiveness of Crime Prevention Efforts of PMPS. This presents the two (2) variables on the Effectiveness in terms of Sambayan and Santinig Plan, that includes programs on: (1) Organization/Mobilization of Volunteers/NGOs/Pos/Sectoral Group; (2) Inter-Agency Coordination/Linkages; (3) Community Awareness; and (4) Print Media respectively. Likewise, two (2) variables were included on Problems Encountered in Effectiveness of Crime Prevention Efforts and here are the following to wit: (1) Human resource; and (2) financial support, with the following indicators stated in Sambayan and Santinig Plan. The strategic guide of a proposed program and set of activities needed in the Effectiveness of Crime Prevention Efforts to reduce the crime rates in the locality.

Effectiveness of the Crime Prevention Efforts of the Polangui Municipal Police Station (PMPS).

Table 1. Sambayan or Organization Plan

Statement	Weighted Mean	Interpretation
a.1 Organization/Mobilization of Volunteers/NGOs/Pos/Sectoral Group	3.55	Highly Effective
a.2 Inter-Agency Coordination/Linkages	2.87	Effective
General Weighted Mean	3.21	Effective

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Table 1 shows the result of assessment on Sambayan or Organization Plan of the PMPS which gained a general weighted mean of 3.21 or effective since the PMPS has previously been implementing this program, Organization/Mobilization of Volunteers/NGOs/Pos/Sectoral Group got a weighted mean of 3.55, followed by the Inter-Agency Coordination/Linkages with a weighted mean of 2.87 interpreted as highly effective and effective respectively. It can be inferred that the PMPS' SAMBAYAN Plan in the Municipality of Polangui, as assessed by the respondents, is obviously active.

These results implied that the community felt the presence and commitment of the police and the involved agencies in crime prevention efforts. Thus, trust and confidence can be established involving a stronger partnership and support from the community, the police organization, NGOs, POs and other sectoral groups.

Inter-Agency Coordination/Linkages is essential for the police organization and its stakeholders. Consequently, proper coordination among agencies creates a harmonious working environment, indicates good rapport, and implies high respect among the member agencies.

According to Soriano (2013), to anticipate and regulate the crime is not a sole concern of the government, but also a social responsibility and duty of every community member. The active involvement of outside groups will greatly improve the implementation of programs relative to SAMBAYAN Plan for the success of the program particularly in creating partnerships and counterfeiting a united front in the advancement of safety and security.

Table 2. Santinig Plan or Communication Plan

Statement	Weighted Mean	Interpretation
b.1 Community Awareness	3.09	Effective
b.2 Print Media	3.65	Highly Effective
General Weighted Mean	3.37	Highly Effective

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Table 2 reveals the result of assessment on Santinig or Communication Plan of the PMPS which gained a general weighted mean of 3.37 or highly effective because this program is currently implemented by PMPS. The Print media with a weighted mean of 3.65 indicates its popularity as a highly effective way to communicate and disseminate information about PMPS plans. It can be inferred that information is found to be accessible and available to majority of the respondents. This implies an effective Print Media campaign in the community.

On the other hand, Community Awareness which ranked 2nd and with a weighted mean of 3.09 is slightly low compared with Print Media. This can be interpreted that the community is aware but has not completely understood the Santinig Plan. Awareness is only limited to word of mouth or only to those people directly involved in the crime prevention efforts such as Members of the Barangay Council, Tanods/Barangay Police, Barangay Emergency Responders, and the like. The similar Community Awareness activities in Sambayan Plans may have created some confusion on some respondents and considered them as only one program.

Community awareness of Santinig Plans will greatly influence the effectiveness of the program challenging its purpose which is dissemination of the existing police crime prevention efforts. Additionally, this suggests a program revision should there be low community awareness drawn from the respondents.

In parallel to the study conducted by Calag, Cruz, and Viñas (2016) they stated that the effectiveness of Crime Prevention of PNP in It-ba Manito, Albay reflected as highly effective was due to the capacity to prevent crime because of awareness only that cooperation to all the programs which are being implemented by PNP was needed.

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Problems Encountered in the Implementation of Sambayan and Santinig Plans by Polangui Municipal Police Station in terms of Human Resource and Financial Support.

Table 3. Human Resource

Statement	Weighted Mean	Interpretation
a. Organization/Mobilization of Volunteers/NGOs/Pos/Sectoral Group	3.92	Highly Needed
b. Inter-Agency Coordination/Linkages	3.82	Highly Needed
c. Community Awareness	3.84	Highly Needed
d. Print Media	3.79	Highly Needed
General Weighted Mean	3.84	Highly Needed

Table 3 indicates the result of the Problems Encountered in the Implementation of Sambayan and Santinig Plans by PMPS in terms of Human Resource. It is shown that Human Resource is highly needed that all indicators gained with weighted mean of 3.92 for Organization/Mobilization of Volunteers/NGOs/Pos/Sectoral Group, 3.82 for inter-agency coordination/linkages, 3.84 for communication Awareness and 3.79 for print media, respectively. Although both programs are highly effective (see Table 1 and Table 2), additional manpower is still essential to improve their implementation. On the other hand, Inter-Agency Coordination/Linkages and Print Media both obtained highly needed interpretation. This implies that although a human resource should not be overlooked because their level of effectiveness varies (see Table 1 and Table 2).

Generally, an average weighted mean of 3.84 interpreted as highly needed suggests a modification to enhance the human resource aspect of the Sambayan and Santinig programs.

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According to the study of Habiatan (2019) Executive Order 309 directed the presence of the Barangay Peace and Order Council to improve the efficiency of the Municipal Peace and Order Council through the increase of its involvement and the extension of its infrastructure in the barangay level. It showed that a reasonable involvement in the preservation of peace and mandatory that the peace and order council was discreetly operative in terms of Organization; meetings; policies, plans, and accomplishments. The Barangay Peace and Order Council were supportive in the preservation of peace and order wherein the council sectors of most barangays were likely instrument of public safety. The barangay must exercise its legal purposes in monitoring all the people within its authority, especially those that are involved in criminal doings. Close coordination with the police department within their area must be recognized for crime prevention and even criminal finding and trepidation (Guererro, 2013).

Table 4. Financial Support

Statement	Weighted Mean	Interpretation
a. Organization/Mobilization of Volunteers/NGOs/Pos/Sectoral Group	3.92	Highly Needed
b. Inter-Agency Coordination/ Linkages	3.82	Highly Needed
c. Community Awareness	3.84	Highly Needed
d. Print Media	4.00	Highly Needed
General Weighted Mean	3.90	Highly Needed

Table 4 exhibits the result of the Problems Encountered in the Implementation of Sambayan and Santinig Plans by PMPS in terms of Financial Support. The table shows that Financial Support in all the indicators fall in to a highly needed interpretation. According to the results, Print Media needed financial support the most since it is known that it cost charges and must be sustained. Organization/Mobilization of Volunteers/NGOs/Pos/Sectoral Group comes

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next with weighted of 3.92. It is undeniable that dialogues, conferences and forums require an operational budget, thus financial support is highly needed. Community awareness also requires budget similar with Organization/mobilization, financial support is needed in its implementation. Inter-Agency Coordination/Linkages can be considered on the list requiring a lesser financial support since most communication is thru emails, text messages and phone calls.

From the general weighted mean of 3.90 interpreted as highly needed, it can be inferred that Sambayan and Santinig Plans are effective, but financial support is the biggest factor that requires attention. Besides budget allocation and realignment could also be considered by focusing more on productive and result-oriented activities rather than wasting money on worthless programs.

According to Patalinghug (2017) understanding the problems within the organization and establishing a good rapport with the community will ensure a good result. It is imperative for the PMPS to periodically review and revise their current Sambayan and Santinig Plans to maintain active operation.

CONCLUSION

From the above discoveries, the following conclusion were drawn:

1. The Crime Prevention of Polangui Municipal Police Station for CY 2019 and 2020 in relation to SAMBAYAN or Organizational Plan is marked as effective. The barangay has the capacity to prevent crimes since they were aware of the efforts rendered by the PMPS, but still has to cooperate to all the programs which are being implemented. A peaceful community can be achieved and it can be done by working hand and hand with the police through creation of healthy and harmonious community relation and proper coordination of incidents that may occur in the locality. On the other hand, the effectiveness of Crime Prevention of PMPS in Polangui, Albay for CY 2019 and 2020 in relation to SANTINIG or Communication Plan is marked as highly effective. Therefore, the existing PMPS' community awareness and printed media programs are instrumental in information dissemination and crime control. The result is highly-influenced by the social media sites which are currently the easiest medium for dissemination information.

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2. The problem encountered by the respondents regarding the indicators mentioned above serves an important role in the operation of the program from human resource to financial support. The problems indicated in the study were regarded as highly needed. Prioritizing activities that will enhance the crime prevention strategies in the community is important. Continuity and sustainability of the program enhance the support of the community to the police. Financial support and human resource must be prioritized to support the program of the PNP.



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