



MOTORCYCLE-FOR-HIRE ORDINANCE: GUIDELINES, IMPLEMENTATION, AND OUTCOMES

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ABSTRACT

The descriptive-evaluative study was conducted to describe the guidelines, implementation and outcomes of the Motorcycle-for-Hire Ordinance in the Municipality of Leon. One hundred eighteen respondents answered a researcher-made questionnaire, and inputs gathered during a focus group discussion. The data were analyzed quantitatively using frequency count and percentage. Thematic analysis was used for qualitative data. Findings revealed that most respondents were old, evenly split by gender, and primarily college graduates, with drivers, operators, and students as the top occupational group, generally earning P10,000 or less monthly. The guidelines provide a framework for safety, compliance, and effective management of motorcycle-for-hire services. Respondents viewed the ordinance "highly favorable," especially in terms of compliance, driver safety, and skills. Key outcomes included increased transportation access, income opportunities, and revenue generation, though calls for stricter enforcement and enhanced measures were noted for recommendations.

Keywords: *Motorcycle-for-Hire, Implementation, Community Acceptance, and Outcomes*

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INTRODUCTION

Background of the study

Under the general welfare clause of Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, every local government unit shall exercise the power expressly granted, those necessarily implied, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental, for its efficient and effective governance, and these that are essential to the promotion of general welfare. In addition to promoting health and safety, peace and order, economic prosperity and social justice, the preservation of the comfort and convenience of the inhabitants is expressly provided (Section 16, Chapter 2, R.A 7160).

In pursuit of this legal mandate, local government units such as the provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays enact laws and ordinances that they believe will help them improve the quality of life of people within their areas of jurisdiction.

In the Municipality of Leon, an ordinance was enacted in prescribing the guidelines for the issuance of annual registration fee for the motorcycle for hire. It is for the drivers and/or operators to secure an annual registration fee sticker. This ordinance was enacted due to the absence of existing guidelines for the issuance of annual registration fee and authorizing the motorcycle-for-hire as a mode of transportation in the Municipality of Leon.

Moreover, there are existing laws that apply to motorcycle used on highways. Republic Act No. 4136 known as the "Land Transportation and Traffic Code." mandates the compile of laws related to land transportation and traffic rules, to create a land transportation

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commission, and other purposes.

Additionally, the Philippine Congress has been urged to fast-track the passage of House Bill No. 8959 also known as Motorcycles-for-Hire Act, which will authorize the LTFRB to legalize the operation of motorcycles as public utility vehicles. Since R.A No. 4136 prohibits the use of two-wheeled vehicles for public transport, it clearly does not allow motorcycles to be classified as 'for hire'.

The DOTr on the other hand issued a department order legalizing motorcycles-for-hire which should be based on existing laws and the issuance of the said DO violates the temporary restraining order issued by the Supreme Court against motorcycle ride-hailing firm.

Furthermore, for Sen. Poe it is the high time motorcycles have been recognized as a safe and convenient mode of public transportation in the country. After more than four years of continuous studies by the technical working group, it now appears, without doubt, that commuters are overwhelming in favor of legalizing motorcycles taxis.

In the Municipality of Leon, one of the common modalities of transportation when going out of town especially in far- flung areas is the motorcycle or habal- habal. It is also source of living for some members of the community.

To regulate the use of these motorcycles, specific guidelines and set of rules have been recognized by the local government units. The role of local level guidelines or policies in the operations of local public transport is quite important since it has a great effect in the over-all conduct and operation.

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However, the creation of guidelines of the Municipality of Leon have sparked differing opinions and point of views among the members of the community regarding the implementation and outcomes.

The researcher has decided to conduct the study with the hope of gathering evidence-based data that would help resolve controversy of allowing motorcycles as a mode of transportation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Methodology

This chapter discusses the research design, the respondents of the study, the sampling design, research instrument, data gathering procedure, data analysis, and statistical treatment used in the study.

Research Design

According to Calderon and Gonzalez (2018), descriptive evaluative survey research design is a systematic process of gathering, analyzing, classifying, and tabulating data on prevailing conditions, practices, processes, trends, and causes of effects, and then making appropriate and accurate interpretation of these data with or without or sometimes minimal aid from statistical methods.

In addition, this method determines the prevailing conditions of the facts in the group in question, which give either qualitative or quantitative descriptions of the general

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characteristics of the group as results.

Research Method

The researcher employed a survey with the use of a researcher made interview schedule which continued close-ended questions, as well as open-ended questions, to generate qualitative and quantitative data, respectively.

Further, for triangulation purpose, a focus group discussion was used to enhance the qualitative data.

In a sense, the research method used was mixed-method research.

Respondents of the study

A total of 118 respondents of the study came from the cross-section of the community who, in one way or another, were affected by the ordinance on the motorcycle for hire. Please refer to page 44 for a detailed presentation and discussion of the respondents.

Sampling Design

The researcher used the convenient sampling method. The principle of this sampling technique is that the selections of the sample subjects will be selected because of their convenient accessibility and proximity to the researcher (Creswell, J.W., 2012).

Research Instrument

In gathering the primary data, a research-made interview schedule and a few

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questions for the focus group discussion were utilized among the target respondents.

The interview schedule was composed of three parts. Part 1 elicited the personal information of the respondents, particularly to gather their socio-demographic profile. Part 2 contained items that indicate the level of implementation of the ordinance. Part 3 determined the outcomes of the study in terms of community acceptance, operators' economic and social well-being and the municipality's revenue collection. The questions for the focus group discussion were composed of only four (4) questions that used draw information regarding the status of implementation of the ordinance, and the outcomes of the ordinance in terms of community acceptance, operator's economic and social well-being and the municipality's revenue collection.

Validity of the Research Instrument

To ensure the valid result of the study the researcher submitted the questionnaire and the interview given for content validation. The draft of the questionnaire was submitted to the research adviser for editing and suggestions. Then it was presented to a group of jurors who are experts in the field of research. The corrections, suggestions, and recommendations of the jurors for every item in the questionnaire will be incorporated in the final print of the questionnaire for reliability testing.

Fraenkel and Wallen (2010) define validity as the degree to which instrument can measure what it is supposed to measure.

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Reliability of the Research Instrument

To test the reliability of the interview schedule, the researcher conducted a pilot test of the questionnaire to thirty (30) community members in the Municipality. These respondents as well as their answers were no longer part of the actual study process and were used only for pilot testing purposes.

The data that were derived from the pilot test be subjected to a reliability test using the Cronbach's alpha.

The result yielded an alpha of .90. According to Fraenkel and Wallen (2010), a reliability coefficient of .70 or higher, suggests that the instrument is reliable.

Data Gathering Procedure

Prior to conducting the study, the researcher ensured that all administrative requirements were completed. Approval was sought from the research committee of PHINMA University of Iloilo, through the Dean of the Graduate School, to conduct the study. Additionally, a letter requesting permission to administer the questionnaire was sent to the Municipal Mayor of Leon.

Upon receiving approval from the Mayor's office, the researcher obtained a copy of this approval and attached it to a letter that was given to the respondents. The researcher explained that the study's purpose was to test the reliability of the questionnaire and assured all respondents that data collected would be treated as confidential and used solely for research purposes.

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The researcher personally administered the interview schedule to the respondents, explaining its contents and parts and assuring them that all data collected would be used solely for research purposes. The retrieval of the questionnaires immediately followed administration.

A week later, the researcher conducted a focus group discussion with 10 respondents to gather further information. Respondents were oriented as to the scope of the discussion and assured that data, including personal information, would be treated as confidential and used solely for research purposes.

After administering the questionnaire, the responses were tallied, tabulated, transcribed, analyzed, and interpreted. The data was then turned over to a statistician for computation using SPSS software and thematic analysis.

After the conduct of the focus of group discussion the recorded material was transcribed and subjected for thematic analysis.

Data Analysis

For quantitative data, the researcher used the frequency count, the percentage, and the mean as descriptive statistics.

Using the Guilford's Table of Frequency Distribution (Noble-Calaycay, 2020), the lowest weight of one (1) was subtracted from the highest weight which is five (5). The difference of four (4) called the range was divided by 5 since there were five (5) categories of responses. The quotient of 0.80 became the step interval which was used to come up with the class

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intervals or scale of means the interpreted the mean. The resulting scale of mean with the description and interpretation will be as follows:

Scale of Means	Description	Interpretation
4.21-5.00	Strongly Agree	Very Highly Favorable
3.41-4.20	Agree	Highly Favorable
2.61-3.40	Neutral	Moderately Favorable
1.81-2.60	Disagree	Poorly Favorable
1.00-1.80	Strongly Disagree	Very Poorly Favorable

For the qualitative data, thematic analysis was used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The study was conducted to investigate and describe the Motorcycle for hire Ordinance in the Municipality of Leon.

A total of one hundred eighteen respondents participated in the study including operators, drivers, students, barangay officials, private employees, government employees, vendors, farmers, housekeepers and unemployed. These respondents were classified according to age, sex, educational attainment and monthly income.

A descriptive evaluative research design was used incorporating surveys and focus group discussion to gather data.

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Quantitative data analysis was enhanced through thematic analysis of opinions and recommendations from drivers and commuters regarding the Motorcycle-for-hire services under Ordinance No. 2018-010, which outlines the guidelines for the issuance of annual registration fee for Motorcycle-for-Hire in the Municipality of Leon.

The statistical tools used were the frequency count and percentage, mean, Mann-Whitney U test and Kruskal-Wallis test. This study was conducted in the Municipality of Leon from June to August 2024.

The findings revealed that majority of the respondents belonged to the older age group. In terms of sex male and female were almost equal, and most of the respondents were college graduate. It also showed that the top three occupation among respondents were drivers, operators, and students and in terms of income most of the respondents are earning P10,000 or less per month.

Regarding the ordinance guidelines, it was found out that it serves as a critical framework to ensure safety compliance, and efficient management of motorcycle-for-hire operations by establishing clear standards and procedures.

In terms of compliance, the safety of drivers and commuters, as well as the driver's skills were assessed. The overall findings indicate a "highly favorable" perception towards Motorcycle-for-Hire Ordinance.

The thematic analysis on outcomes for motorcycle-for-hire in terms of community acceptance, operators' economic and social well-being and the municipality's revenue

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collection and opinions and recommendations reveals different themes such as: easy access to transportation, source of income for the drivers and operators, driver’s social attitudes, source of revenue, source of improvements, source of oppression, stricter implementation of the ordinance.

Recommendations that can be proposed that have arisen to ensure the effective implementation of the motorcycle for hire ordinance includes monitoring, regulation, safety and training and seminars.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions are presented.

The respondents of the study represented the cross-section of the Municipality of Leon.

The guidelines emphasized a framework that ensures safety compliance, and the efficient management of motorcycle-for-hire operations.

In the implementation of the ordinance, the result revealed a “highly favorable” perception relative to compliance, safety of drivers and commuters, and driver’s skills. Meanwhile, the thematic analysis yielded the themes that include basic requirements of drivers, implementation of the ordinance for everyone’s safety, strict implementation of the ordinance, safety of passengers, regular maintenance checks, discipline and experience, and responsibility to local authorities.

The outcomes showed that in terms of community acceptance the following themes

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emerge namely easy access to transportation, and the positive response that the community accepts the ordinance.

In terms of operators' economic and social well-being the following themes emerge that included source of income for the drivers and operators', and driver's social attitudes.

Moreover, in terms of municipality's revenue collection the following themes emerge namely source of revenue, source of improvements, and source of oppression for the motorcycle-for-hire in the Municipality.

It can also be concluded that the outcomes of the motorcycle-for-hire needs stricter implementation of the ordinance.

The researcher proposed some policy recommendations that included enhancing safety and regulation, promote fair competition and sustainability, public education and engagement, technological integration and monitoring, and intergovernmental collaboration. By addressing these concerns and fostering a better understanding of the ordinance, policy makers can create a safer, more efficient, and equitable transportation system that meets the needs of the community.

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