

THE COMMUNITY SECTORS IN THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE AND ORDER

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Abstract

This study examined the community sectors in the preservation of peace and order in the municipality of Cabagan, Isabela, Philippines. Specifically, the extent of participation of the community sectors in the maintenance of peace and order and the functionality level of the community sectors in the preservation of peace and order were investigated. A total of 234 community sectors served as the respondents in this study. Descriptive design was used to analyze and interpret the data. Moreover, the needed facts were gathered through a validated and tested questionnaire. Findings showed the community sectors have moderate participation in the preservation of peace and order. The result indicated that significant differences exist between the extents of participation of the various sectors of the community. Further, the data stipulated that the community sectors are “moderately functioning” towards the maintenance of peace and order. There are also significant differences between the assessments of the various sectors on their functionality level. These figures imply that the various sectors in the community are cooperative in the preservation of peace and order wherein different sectors of the community are potential mechanism of public safety.

Key words: Community sectors, Participation, Functionality, Peace and Order

Introduction

Promotion of peace is one of the United Nation’s goals for sustainable development. This demonstrates the importance of peaceful societies in paving the way for sustainable development. Peace is an indicator of the attainment of the UN aims to improve the living conditions of all people now substantially and in future generation and to protect the planet Earth. Peace, justice, and judicial systems capable of enforcing laws and work towards a more just and peaceful community are treasured by the international community.

Peace and security are some of the things that people expect the community. It is a feeling that the utmost valued thing is the provision of security among people in public space. The feeling of insecurity can result to anti-social and cause the stress-related outcome among the people. Hence, to provide a safe feeling as well as protection for the residents, there is a need for the preservation of peace and order in the society (Shehayeb, 2008).

Security denotes a firm and relative predictable environment where people may live with no disruption, no harm, and no fear of disturbance from injury. Throughout the history of Western civilization, the concept of security in an organizational sense has developed progressively, moulded by a wide variety of institutional and cultural patterns. The foundation and development of security focused towards society and its institutions rather than to nature. Thus, in medieval England, there were actions intended to clear brush and other suppressions on either side of the king's road as a safety measure against burglars and to protect citizens from night larcenist, there were night watchmen. In the modern times in United States, security methods find their complements in the unoccupied areas neighbouring perimeter fences and buildings, in security patrols, and in protective alarms (Fisher & Green, 2004).

Soriano (2013) cited that there were laws promulgated by chieftains and council elders in the Philippines no matter how primitive. Customary laws were passed down verbally from subsequent generation and established the majority of barangay laws. Written regulations were those promulgated by the chieftain and his elders time to time. Only a few of the written laws have come down to the present because the elements have destroyed many. Disputes are inevitable in any society, and the Filipino society before the arrival of the Spaniards was not an exception. Disputes were usually decided peacefully through a court composed of the tribal chief as arbiter and the

barangay elders as the adjudicators. Conflicts arising between subjects of various barangays were settled through mediation by a board that comes from the elders of a neutral barangay.

Meanwhile, Foutz (1993) discovered that through community participation technique, the local government can achieve more goals. The study likewise found that citizen participation more frequently utilized by the mayor-council governments. The frequency of use of citizen involvement and overall employment rates were consistent with conventional wisdom which would assume that the higher the population size, use of citizen contribution would rise.

Bush (2004) emphasized that one of the striking characteristics of Local Government is the ability to strengthen public involvement for peace-building. Municipal governments contribute an essential role in encouraging, harnessing, and facilitating the involvement of different stakeholders in upholding peace including supporting local level, community-based peace initiatives involving peace promoters from the ground. Public involvement and community-based mechanisms such as dialogues, consultations, and public information campaign may be successfully undertaken by the municipal governments in collaboration with peace activists and peace bodies in the community, feasibly even at the national and international spheres. By working within such strategic partnerships (local, national and international), municipal governments may enhance their positive peace-building impacts.

In like manner, Hatley (2013) examined how and why citizens in South Florida participated in local community-based planning. The research demonstrated that citizens have participated in community-based planning out of a concern for conserving the character of the societies. The Citizens' involvement in shared community-based planning is encouraged by the belief that the process affords everybody the chance to set public policy that directly influences lives and people. Moreover, the citizens formed linkages, such as voluntary community organizations, through which members learn about complex local government processes and further partake commendably.

Similarly, Majumder (2015) disclosed that in Bangladesh, the chairmen, local leaders, and youth of Union Parishad spontaneously participated in different activities of the local government institution wherein their public involvement resulted in better decisions and grants legitimacy to government programs and leadership. Moreover, this claims that participation of local people is an essential precondition for any local government set up to become productive and successful.

In India, the involvement of rural youth in the development process is important in order to advance the quality of life. The place of rural youth class is more significant for the future of the country. Youth are the valuable human resources who can perform an essential part in the community growth activities building profitable contributions to national development and through which society can profit from the idealism and the sense of commitment of youth (Radhakrishnan & Arunachalam, 2017).

Under the Philippine setting, the reorganization of the peace and order brought by Executive Order No. 309 shows the critical importance of the involvement of the citizenry in the peace and order condition of the community. The peace and order council which is a gauge to counteract the threat to peace and order brought by criminality, insurgency, and subversion necessitates the devoted efforts of all government officials and the residents. The council reorganized in the national, regional, provincial, and municipal levels is composed of the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government as Chairman; Secretary of National Defense as Vice-Chairman; and members are the Secretary of Justice, Social Work and Development, Public Works and Highways, Trade and Industry, Press Secretary, Director of National Security Council, the Director of the National Bureau of Investigation, Chairman of the National Power Corporation, Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, Executive Director of the Dangerous Drug Board, the Armed Forces Chief of Staff, the Chief of the Philippine National Police, and eight representatives from the private sector on behalf of the academe, civic, religious, youth, labor, legal, business, and media groups.

The municipal peace and order council shall include the city or municipal counterparts of the departments, offices, and agencies comprising the national level with the City/Municipal Mayor as Chairman and the respective Vice-Mayor as the Vice-Chairman. Besides, there shall be one representative from the Sangguniang Bayan. The Municipal Peace and Order Council shall be accountable for the proper management and supervision of the civilian volunteer groups in coordination with other government entities. Furthermore, Executive Order No. 309 mandating the existence of the Barangay Peace and Order Councils was created because of the recognition of the government on the need to increase the effectiveness of the Peace and Order Council (POC) in its crime prevention and suppression mission through the expansion of its membership and the extension of its infrastructure until the barangay level.

Along these notions, there is a need to assess the community sectors since in the community level, it primarily served as the bottom line for planning and implementation of peace and order program particularly on the

extent of participation and functionality of the community sectors in the preservation of peace and order, hence, this study.

Specifically, this aimed to answer the following questions:

1. What is the extent of participation of the community sectors in the maintenance of peace and order?
2. Is there a significant difference in the extent of involvement of the community sectors in the maintenance of peace and order?
3. What is the functionality level of the community sectors in the preservation of peace and order?
4. Is there a significant difference in the functionality level of the community sectors in the preservation of peace and order?

Methodology

This study used a descriptive survey that systematically described and assessed the Community Sectors covering the extent of participation and functionality in the preservation of peace and order through the numerical data collected and analysed using mathematically based method. This study utilized a descriptive survey since it is the most fitting method to present and provide logical and factual information that can be used to examine conditions and variables being investigated; likewise, this method can obtain data of great value on which professional judgment can be based. Moreover, this study employed correlation method to compare the assessments of the various community sectors. This was done through formulation and distribution of questionnaire-checklist that obtained necessary facts which was further evaluated using statistical tool. For the respondents, complete enumeration was employed among the community sectors of the twenty-six (26) barangays of Cabagan, Isabela, Philippines having a total number of 234 respondents.

Data were obtained through the administration of survey questionnaire among the respondents. The questionnaire composed of two parts in checklist form. Part I consisted of a checklist to examine the extent of involvement of the community sectors in the maintenance of Peace and Order while part II included a checklist of the indicators of functionality to determine the level of functionality of the various community sectors.

Statistical Tools

The four-point Likert scale was used to examine the extent of participation and the functionality of the community sectors in the maintenance of peace and order.

Four-Point Likert's Scale

Arbitrary Values	Range	Description	Symbol
4	3.26-4.00	Highly Participated Well-Functioning	HP WF
3	2.51-3.25	Moderately Participated Moderately Functioning	MP MF
2	1.76-2.50	Slightly Participated Slightly Functioning	SP SF
1	1.00-1.75	Least Participated Least Functioning	LP LF

Moreover, the weighted mean was utilized in quantifying the extent of involvement and functionality of the community sectors in the maintenance of peace and order. On the other hand, weighted mean and ANOVA were used to test the significant difference between the assessments of the respondents if any.

Findings of the study

Based on the analysis of the gathered data, the succeeding findings are revealed in this study:

1. The community sectors have moderate participation in the preservation of peace and order as indicated by the area mean of 2.96. This means that the various sectors of the community took part in attaining peace and order and has cooperated to the peace and order programs of the municipality wherein each member had assumed the mandated duties and responsibilities.
2. The result of the analysis reflected a computed F-value of 171.111 and a tabular value of 2.036. Meanwhile the F-value is higher than the tabular value; the null hypothesis was not affirmed. This specifies that significant differences existed between the extents of participation of the different community sectors. It shows further that the sector affiliations of the respondents have significant bearing to their extent of participations.
3. The over-all area mean of 3.14 which indicates that the community sectors are “moderately functioning” towards the maintenance of peace and order. This finding implies that the various sectors had performed the prescribed functions towards the goal of maintaining peace and order.
4. The finding of the analysis revealed a computed F-ratio of 12.480 and a tabular value of 2.312 respectively. Subsequently, the F-ratio is higher than the tabular value; thus, the hypothesis was not affirmed. This spelled out that there are significant differences on the assessments of the respondents along functionality of the various community sectors. Moreover, this result emphasized that the sector attachments of the respondents have significant influence on their assessments.

Conclusions

After a thorough evaluation of the findings, the following conclusions are formulated.

The community sectors are cooperative in the maintenance of peace and order. Hence, it can be drawn that the sectors are potential mechanism of public safety. Likewise, the community sectors are functioning towards peace and order. Hence, it can be drawn that the sectors have conformed to the various mandated functions for its operations.

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