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## **PULSE AND IMPRESSIONS OF COMMUNITY RESIDENTS ON THE ILLEGAL DRUG CAMPAIGN OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE**

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**Abstract:** *Rampant consumption of the illegal drugs and criminal acts related to drug addiction are some of the major problems faced by the Philippine society. The Philippine government created different anti-drug laws to address drug abuse and committing crimes. Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drug Act of 2002, was promulgated by the Philippine Government to safeguard citizen from the harmful effects of dangerous drugs. To ensure more efficient implementation of this act, it has provided the local government units with authority to control the increase of drug abuse within their locality. The Drug Prevention Campaign Program of the national and local government is fighting against the drug dependency among all levels of society. The drug prevention campaign efforts typically focus on minor children and teens. Also, the National Drug Strategy Health Education campaigns continue to increase the public's awareness of the health impacts of drug use. The emphasis is to increase the public's understanding of drug-related harm and the wider impacts of the drug use among individuals, families and communities. On the other hand, the law enforcement strategies and interventions against drug supply include all activities carried out by law enforcement agencies, both police and custom forces, from national to international level, to reduce drug supply. The efforts in law enforcement are undertaken by member agencies in coordination with Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Philippine National Police and other attached agencies concerned with illegal drugs to curb the supply of dangerous drugs in the country. It is in this premise that this research endeavor was conceived to determine the pulse of the community residents regarding the illegal drug campaign of the Philippine National Police focusing on the residents of some selected barangays of Piat, Cagayan as the respondents of the study who represent the different sectors of the community on a random sampling method. This study utilizes the descriptive*



*method of research and a questionnaire was used as a tool to gather the data needed in the study. Frequency count and percentage was used to treat the data gathered. As revealed in the study, respondents have a positive outlook on the drug campaign programs of the Philippine National Police thereby recommending the continuity of the said campaign program.*

**Keywords:** *Pulse, Impressions, drug-campaign, PDEA, Republic Act 9165, sectors, National Bureau of Investigation, illegal drugs, consumption, drug addiction*

## **INTRODUCTION**

One of the primordial concerns of the present administration is to completely eradicate the use of illegal drugs in the country. Drug addiction is not only a domestic problem but also a worldwide issue. Its rapid increase from being the cause and effect of the problem is one of the main reasons of the unstable and slow development of the country. Rampant consumption of the illegal drugs and criminal acts related to drug addiction are some of the major problems faced by the Philippine society. The Philippine government created different anti-drug laws, to address drug abuse and committing crimes. The Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drug Act of 2002, was promulgated by the Philippine Government to safeguard citizen from the harmful effects of dangerous drugs. To ensure more efficient implementation of this act, it has provided the local government units with authority to control the increase of drug abuse within their locality.

The Drug Demand Reduction pillar is geared towards reducing the consumer's demand for drugs and other substances. This is done through programs on preventive education, treatment and rehabilitations and researches. Along with its partner agencies, the DDB continues to formulate policies on drug prevention and control, develop and implement preventive education programs, adopt and utilize effective treatment and rehabilitation programs and conduct research on vital aspects of the drug abuse problem.

The Drug Prevention Campaign Program of the national and local government is fighting against the drug dependency among all levels of society. The drug prevention campaign efforts typically focus on minor children and teens. Also, the National Drug Strategy Health Education campaigns continue to increase the public's awareness of the health impacts of drug use. The emphasis is to increase the public's understanding of drug-related harm and the wider impacts of the drug use among individuals, families and communities. On the



other hand, the law enforcement strategies and interventions against drug supply include all activities carried out by law enforcement agencies, both police and custom forces, from national to international level, to reduce drug supply. The efforts in law enforcement are undertaken by member agencies in coordination with Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Philippine National Police and other attached agencies concerned with illegal drugs to curb the supply of dangerous drugs in the country. Illegal drug use is a health issue and promoting human rights should anchor on the anti-drugs campaign.

An exchange of views by a multidisciplinary panel of experts emphasized the importance of a rights-based approach which also engages different stakeholders—notably families and the communities—in curbing the illegal drugs problem. Dr. Vilma Diez, Director of the Dangerous Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program (DDAAPT), Office of Special Concerns of the Department of Health (DOH) discussed how the Philippine government is indeed sharpening its anti-drug campaign with a strong public health perspective. She discussed the immediate responses to support the large number of addicts who surrendered, which primarily include meeting the regional directors and the chiefs of the drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation centers monthly for their responses, plans and needs report. She noted the critical convergence of work across key agencies, with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) as the lead, together with DOH, Ugnayan ng Barangay at Simbahan (UBAS) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the agencies partner with other government offices (i.e. TESDA, DDB, BJMP, etc.) According to the Health Secretary, Dr. Paulyñ Ubial, the increasing number of drug surrenderers in the country demonstrates that it is a public health emergency (Rappler, 2016). The DOH will use around PhP145 million of its Quick Response Fund for treatment and rehabilitation centers. Diez also elaborated on the standard guideline on the voluntary surrenders of drug users and dependents. The immediate responses also include the distribution of manuals regarding community-based treatments. Another response is the building of temporary Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers or DATRCs in military camps.

The DDAAPT aims to reduce the prevalence of drug abuse and its health-related effects, as mentioned by Diez. Furthermore, the goal of DDAAPT is to achieve a more effective leadership and governance for the prevention of drug abuse, and the treatment and



rehabilitation of drug users; to provide a comprehensive, integrated health care services in TRCs as well as in communities, to implement strategies for health promotion and drug use prevention; and to strengthen information systems and evidence based research. Diez also emphasized the importance of collaborative effort, notably among the community's health care system, schools, workplaces, religious and voluntary organizations, media, law enforcement and regulatory agencies, and the family, peers and the community where an individual belongs to prevent substance or drug abuse.

The social dimensions of drug use should also be recognized and addressed in order to protect the youth. Dr. Emma Porio, Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at the Ateneo de Manila University and Science Research Fellow at the Manila Observatory shared the key findings of her study, "Children in Drugs in Southeast Asia: Implications for Anti-Drug Campaigns/Reforms in the Philippines." Porio noted that there are three intervention models to eliminate drug use: 1) community-based, 2) school-based, and 3) street-based approaches. Further, she emphasized the importance of focusing on the youth as the center of change, in collaboration with their families and their elders. Porio explained that the fight against illegal drugs is not solely the responsibility of the police through the campaigns like Tokhang Plan, rather, it is the responsibility of everybody. Recognizing the importance of information education campaigns to capacitate parents, teachers, community leaders, etc., she also identified the significance of communities building a safe environment for everyone. This underscores the need for child/youth/gender-sensitive drug policy framework, a supportive bureaucracy, and budget and other resources to support the fight against illegal drugs.

Health leadership models for academe-LGU-clinic drug programs were also discussed by Dr. Elmer Soriano, Managing Director of the Civika Asian Development Academy. Soriano noted the important role of social labs for drug rehabilitation and possible social innovation of universities in the fight against illegal drugs. He further explained the need to recognize the nature of the challenge and the type of leadership needed. Fr. Luciano Felloni, Vicar Forane of the Our Lady of Lourdes Vicariate in Caloocan City shared their church's "Healing and Protecting" campaign. Fr. Felloni shared their experience working with the local barangay thru Ugnayan ng Barangay at Simbahan or UBAS to address the drug problem in their community. The rehabilitation program focuses on 1) health by implementing medical checkups, detoxification, feeding program, and exercise; 2) family, including the



surrendered co-dependents, parenting, marriage encounter, etc.; 3) livelihood such as their pay for work, TESDA trainings, product marketing etc.; 4) psychosocial support that includes counseling, therapy with psychologists and psychiatrists and narcotics anonymous; 5) spirituality by engaging the surrendered in recollections, catechesis, and other similar activities.

Mr. Benjamin Reyes, Chairman of DDB, noted how drug supply and demand reduction is being accomplished through enforcement of activities and at the same time, providing for prevention, treatment, and promoting advocacy activities. The Board also promotes an alternative source of income for marijuana planters by providing different livelihood projects for planters in several marijuana plantation sites. Furthermore, attaining civic awareness and response is made through promoting advocacies on the local and international level. Meanwhile, regional and international cooperation is being managed by maintaining the connections with other countries via actively participating and hosting conferences, seminars and trainings.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

This undertaking aimed to determine the pulse and impression of community residents of some selected barangays of Piat, Cagayan on the illegal drug campaign of the Philippine National Police.

Specifically, it sought answers to the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the respondents as to:
  - a. Age
  - b. Sex
  - c. Educational Attainment
  - d. Civil status
  - e. Occupation
2. What is the pulse and impressions of the community residents on the illegal drug campaign of the PNP?
3. What programs or alternative solutions do the respondents propose to address the needs of surrendered?

### **STATISTICAL TOOLS**

The information and data that were gathered through the different techniques were organized, tabulated and collated for better analysis and interpretation.

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- To interpret the data, the personal profile, the frequency and percentage distribution was used. The formula for computing percentage is given below:

$$\text{Percentage} = \frac{\text{Responses}}{\text{Number of Responses}} \times 100$$

**Table 1.1**

**Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Adult Respondents Profile**

Profile	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Age</b>		
31 – 32 years old	8	8.00
33 – 34 years old	12	12.00
35 – 36 years old	40	40.00
37 – 38 years old	20	20.00
39 – 40 years old	10	10.00
50 – 54 years old	10	10.00
Total	100	100.00
X = 38.9 years old		
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	54	54.00
Female	46	46.00
<b>Civil Status</b>		
Single	2	2.00
Married	98	98.00
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Elementary level	30	30.00
Elementary graduate	32	32.00
Secondary level	30	30.00
Secondary graduate	6	6.00
College level	2	2.00
<b>Occupation</b>		
Farming	52	52.00
Housekeeping	26	26.00
Vegetable vendor	12	12.00
Tricycle driver	10	10.00

Table 1.1 reflects the profile of the adult respondents in terms of age, sex, civil status, educational attainment and occupation. As reflected in the table, the age of the adult-respondents range from 31 to 54 years of age. Forty percent or 40 respondents fall within the age bracket 35-36 followed by 20 or 20 percent within the age bracket 37-38 years of age. The youngest among the respondents are within age bracket ranging from 31 to 32 and



the oldest from 50-54. The mean age of 38.9 indicates that the adult-respondents are still young and capable to support their families.

In terms of sex, more than half of the total respondents are males with a frequency of 54 or 54 percent and with 46 females or 46 percent.

As to civil status, majority are married numbering to 98 or 98 percent and only 2 is single or 2 percent of the total adult respondents.

As to educational attainment, most of the respondents reached the elementary level and finished elementary education with frequencies of 30 and 32 in that order. Thirty or 30 percent likewise reached the secondary level. Only 2 respondents have undergone college level.

Majority of the adult-respondents are farmers while others are housekeepers, vegetable vendors and 10 or 10 percent are tricycle drivers. It can be inferred from this data that most of the respondents are minimum wage earners.

**Table 1.2**

**Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Government Employee Respondents' Profile**

Profile	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Age</b>		
26 – 30 years old	2	2.00
31 – 35 years old	16	16.00
36 – 40years old	20	20.00
41 – 45 years old	40	40.00
46 – 50 years old	16	16.00
51` – 55 years old	6	6.00
Total	100	100.00
X = 44.5 years old		
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	70	70.00
Female	30	30.00
<b>Civil Status</b>		
Single	4	4.00
Married	94	94.00
Widower	2	2.00
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
College graduate	100	100

Table 1.2 presents the profile of the government employee-respondents. As shown in the table, the youngest fall within the age bracket 26-30 and the oldest from 51-55 years of age.



A mean of 44.5 indicates that the government employees are in their mid 40's which would show that they are still in their productive years and active in the government service.

In terms of sex, majority of the total respondents are males with a frequency of 70 or 70 percent and with 30 females or 30 percent.

As to civil status, majority are married numbering to 94 or 94 percent. With 4 or 4 percent are single and only 2 or 2 percent are widower of the total adult respondents.

As to educational attainment, all of the employee-respondents are college graduates.

**Table 1.3**

**Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Youth Respondents Profile**

Profile	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Age</b>		
14 years old	22	22.00
15 years old	18	18.00
16 years old	22	22.00
17 years old	14	14.00
18 years old	8	8.00
19 years old	16	16.00
Total	100	100.00
X = 17.23 years old		
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	76	76.00
Female	24	24.00
<b>Civil Status</b>		
Single	100	100.00
Married	0	00.00
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Secondary level	74	74.00
College level	26	26.00

Table 1.3 shows the profile of the youth-respondents. Their age ranging from 14 to 19 was taken as respondents to represent the youth. Most of them fall within the age bracket 14 and 16 with equal number of 22 which represents 22 percent of the total respondents. The oldest among the respondents are 19 years of age. A mean age of 17.23 reflects that they are in their teenage stage which implies that they are so energetic and full of vigor. As to sex, 76 or 76 percent are males and only 24 or 24 percent are females.

As to civil status, all the respondents are single.



In terms of educational attainment, majority of the respondents with a frequency of 74 or 74 percent are in secondary level while 26 of the respondents or 26 percent are in college level.

All respondents are not employed.

**Table 1.4**

**Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Academe Respondents' Profile**

Profile	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Age</b>		
26 – 30 years old	10	10.00
31 – 35 years old	32	32.00
36 – 40years old	20	20.00
41 – 45 years old	20	20.00
46 – 50 years old	18	18.00
Total	100	100.00
X = 42.30 years old		
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	72	72.00
Female	28	28.00
<b>Civil Status</b>		
Single	10	10.00
Married	76	76.00
Widower	14	14.00
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
College graduate	20	20.00
With MS units	22	22.00
Master's degree	32	32.00
Doctorate degree	26	26.00

Respondents from the academe have ages ranging from 26 to 50 years of age with equal number of 20 falling within the age bracket 36-40 and 42-45 respectively. The oldest respondents fall within the age bracket 46-50 years of age.

The mean age of 42.30 manifest that the respondents in the academe are relatively old in the service. As to sex, majority are males with a frequency of 72 or 72 percent compared to only 28 females or 28 percent. Majority of the respondents are married and 10 or 10 percent remain single. Most of the respondents finished their masters' degrees while 26 of them finished their PhD's. Promotion in the academe is highly competitive as reasoned out by the respondents that they have to pursue post graduate degrees in order to compete for promotion.



**Table 2.1**

**Pulse and Impressions of the Community Residents on the Illegal-drug Campaign of the  
Philippine National Police**

Items	Adults		Government employee		Youth		Academe	
	WM	AV	WM	AV	WM	AV	WM	AV
1. The illegal drug campaign of the PNP is a strategy to eradicate the use of drugs in the community	3.00	SA	3.00	SA	2.64	SA	3.0	SA
2. Strategies used in the campaign against drug is impulsive	2.0	A	3.0	SA	3.0	SA	3.0	SA
3. Killing of suspect drug-users without investigation and proof is against our justice system	3.0	SA	3.0	SA	3.0	SA	2.86	SA
4. Encouraging drug users to surrender would give them chance to reform and become good citizens of the community	3.0	SA	3.0	SA	3.0	SA	2.75	SA
5. The PNP relies on unreliable reports of persons concerning drug-users suspect	2.90	SA	2.84	SA	3.0	SA	2.64	SA
6. The conduct of illegal drug campaign is a strategy to make people aware of the risks brought by the use of drugs	2.20	A	3.0	SA	2.97	SA	3.0	SA
7. Rehabilitation of drug-user surrenderees is giving them chance to reform	3.0	SA	3.0	SA	3.0	SA	3.0	SA
8. Illegal drug campaign resulted to a lot of killings of drug pushers and users	2.95	SA	3.0	SA	3.0	SA	2.98	SA
9. It is mean of eradicating crimes due to drugs	1.65	DNA	2.75	SA	1.7	A	1.68	A
10. It is a strategy to provide a safe and drug-free community where people could live freely without fear	3.0	SA	2.78	SA	1.60	DNA	2.5	SA
11. Alleged drug-user are apprehended due to frame-up	1.87	A	3.0	SA	2.98	SA	2.67	SA
12. Some enforcers are involved in the drug menace in the country	3.0	SA	3.0	SA	3.0	SA	3.0	SA
13. The campaign is laudable because it gets rid of the country of the problem	2.2	A	1.66	A	2.0	A	1.69	A
14. Majority of the Filipinos are	1.54	DNA	1.34	DNA	1.56	DNA	1.64	DNA



satisfied in the all out war against illegal drugs								
15. The campaign does not discriminate classes poor or rich	3.0	SA	3.0	SA	3.0	SA	3.0	SA
16. Drug suspects should be apprehended alive	2.35	SA	3.0	SA	2.97	SA	2.84	SA
17. It is a means to emancipate the nation from the scourge of the illegal drugs by running after all those involved in the illegal drug trade with the full force of the law	2.25	A	3.0	SA	2.98	SA	3.0	SA
18. Creates fear among users that they be killed without fair trial	2.8	SA	3.0	SA	3.0	SA	2.97	SA
19. The president strongly support the PNP in the illegal drug campaign	2.9	SA	3.0	SA	3.0	SA	3.0	SA
20. Eradicate the influence of drug users to non-users	3.0	SA	2.89	SA	2.86	SA	2.56	SA
Overall weighted mean	2.46	SA	2.66	SA	2.31	A	2.68	SA

Table 2.1 presents the pulse and impressions of the four groups of respondents regarding the anti-illegal drug campaign of the PNP. Among the adult-respondents, all of them 'strongly agree' on the items stating that illegal drug campaign of the PNP is a strategy to eradicate the use of illegal drugs in the community, that killing of suspect drug-users without investigation and proof is against our justice system, that encouraging drug users to surrender would give them chance to reform to become good citizens of the community, that rehabilitation of drug user surrenderees is giving them chance to reform, that it is a strategy to provide a safe and drug free community where people could live freely without fear, that some enforcers are involved in the drug menace in the country, that the campaign does not discriminate rich and poor, and eradicate the influence of drug users to non-users with equal weighted means of 3.0 or an adjectival value of "strongly agree". The same result was perceived by government employees on items 1, 3, 7 and item 15 as reflected in the table. It should be noted however that they do not agree on the issue that the campaign is getting rid of the country of drug problem and majority of the Filipinos are satisfied with the campaign. I can be gleaned in the same table that government employees strongly agree on other items. The strong agreements of the government employees conform with the youth perceive the effects of anti-illegal drug campaign of the PNP except that the youth do not agree on the issues that the strategy provides a safe and drug-free community where people could live freely without fear, majority of the Filipinos are satisfied with the program.



Among the residents from the academe, the only item where they do not agree is that issue that Filipinos are not satisfied of the program with a weighted mean of 1.64. The non-agreement was made on the basis of the comments of people on how they feel about the campaign.

The overall means of 2.46 (adults), 2.66 (government employees), and 2.68(academe) indicates that all the groups manifested strong agreement to the program while a weighted mean of 2.31 among the youth reflects that they just agree with the program.

**Table 3.1**

**Comparison on the Difference of the Perception of the Four Groups of Respondents**

Source	SS	Df	MS	F	p-v
Treatment	240,10	1	240,100	16.21	.0003
Error	563,00	48	14,816		
Total	803,10	49			

Table 3.1 reflects the analysis on the difference of perception among the four groups of respondents. The table shows that there exist highly significant differences in the perception of the respondents. It implies that government employees significantly differ in the perception of the adults, the youth and academe. It can be inferred further that the government employees have stronger agreement on the issues related to the anti-illegal drug campaign of the Philippine National Police.

**Table 4.1**

**Alternative Solutions and Programs**

Alternative Solutions and Programs	Frequency	Percentage
1. Conduct of seminars and trainings	70	17.5
2. Rehab drug surrenderees	400	100.00
3. Arrest the culprit of drugs	70	17.5
4. Collaborate with the community residents	374	93.5
5. Create livelihood programs	378	94.5
6. Provide recreational facilities	300	75.00

All 400 respondents regardless of group suggested that rehabilitation should be the best solution for drug surrenderees to transform them to become good citizens of the community. Other suggested solutions and programs to be undertaken by the government were conduct of seminars and trainings, arrest of illegal drugs culprits, collaboration with the community residents, creation of livelihood programs and provision of recreational facilities to make the youth busy during their leisure hours.



## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Results of the study show the adult-respondents are relatively young with mean age of 38.9 while the government employees are in their mid 40's with mean age of 44.50. The mean age of the youth is 17.83 and the academe is 42.30. There are more males than female respondents in the four groups of respondents. Among the adults, government employees and the academe, majority are married. However, in terms of educational attainment, it is noted that only in the academe where most of them pursued Masteral and doctoral degrees. Majority of the adult-respondents are engaged in farming while the youth are not employed.

Results on the pulse and impressions of the four groups of respondents, the adults, government employee and the academe strongly agree on the issues related on the anti-illegal drug campaign of the PNP with overall weighted means of 2.46, 2.66 and 2.68 correspondingly, while the youth agree on the issues with a weighted mean of 2.31. There exists a highly significant difference in the perceptions of the four groups of respondents with F-value of 16.21 and p-value of .0003.

In the interview conducted to augment the data gathered from the respondents, the programs and solutions suggested to help in the campaign were: conduct of seminars and trainings, rehabilitation of drug surrenderees, arrest of illegal drug culprits, collaboration with the community residents, creation of livelihood programs and provision of recreational facilities.

From the above findings, the researchers conclude that the four groups of respondents have positive outlook about the illegal drug campaign of the PNP. They agree more on the reasons of the why's of the campaign rather than disagreeing on the statements that elucidate their pulse and impressions. However, some respondents indicated disagreement on some issues related to the campaign which reflects their true feelings and impressions about the program.

From the above findings and conclusions, the researchers recommend that the PNP should pursue the conduct of seminar and trainings regularly in the community and the schools; that suspects and surrenderees should be treated fairly and regularly in accordance to our justice system; that the PNP should coordinate with other programs for the launching of livelihood programs in the community, and that they should keep and encourage the youth



to get busy and active by providing recreational facilities in the communities in coordination with the local government units.

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