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## COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION: THE CASE OF A BARANGAY IN THE NORTHERN PHILIPPINES

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### ABSTRACT

*Crime prevention is usually not the concern of everyone. Crime prevention is a series of strategies done by the national government to the local government units to combat crimes. These strategies may include mobile or foot patrol, imposing curfew hours, information dissemination, and others. Additionally, the primary aim of crime prevention is to ensure the safety of the community. This study focused on crime prevention of a barangay utilizing qualitative analysis. It determined the crime prevention activities that the Philippine National Police and barangay officials implemented and discovered the challenges encountered in the implementation of the crime prevention activities. The study involved 9 participants composed of 3 barangay officials, three residents of Barangay Lucnab and 3 Police Officers*



*from the Baguio City Police Station 3. All in Baguio City in the Philippines. The study was conducted from January 2020 until May 2020. In treating the data collected, the researcher made use of thematic analysis. Results showed that the Police Personnel and Barangay Officials are regularly conducting the following activities: regular patrolling (foot and mobile patrol), routine checkpoints, and crime prevention seminars. It also showed that they had challenges in implementing these crime prevention programs such as having depleted personnel, inadequate crime prevention equipment, and instances of unreported cases*

**KEYWORDS:** *Crime prevention, challenges, implementation, police officers, barangay officials*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Crime is one of the leading universal problems this day. From time to time, many lives and property were destroyed due to the criminal lawlessness committed. Society sees most crimes such as robbery, rape, murder, and assault as deviant and destructive to one's life and property. Those who want more and need more and powerful can simply take from the less powerful.

Crime has effects which are extensive as society itself. It can be as pervasive to development and debasing to the quality of life as personally dangerous, socially damaging, or politically embarrassing. It quiet erosion of national achievement and long term influence on motivation can be far more detrimental to a society that is currently recognized. Crime permeates all aspects of society and, as such, is a form of warfare waged on a worldwide scale, with non-combatants on the losing side(UIA, 2019).

Crime is a violation of rules of behavior as interpreted and expressed by the law, which reflects opinions, traditional values, and the viewpoint of people having social and political power. Individuals who go against these rules are subject to sanctions by state authority, social stigma, and loss of status (Siegel, 2008).

Crime is a destructive phenomenon, given the various effects that are evident in various literature. It ranges from physical disability, emotional crisis, psychological trauma, and



economic crisis to mention a few, law enforcement agencies are challenged to design and implement effective crime prevention activities.

Crime prevention refers to the various strategies that are devised and enforced by communities, businesses, non-government organizations and all levels of government to target the various social and environmental factors that increase the risk of crime, disorder and victimization (AIC, 2003; ECOSOC, 2002; IPC, 2008; Van Dijk & de Waard, 1991). Crime prevention activities vary from place to place in such that different places adapt to varied activities anchored in various theories of crime prevention.

Understanding crime as a product of an environment naturally suggests that crime may be prevented and controlled. Paul Bartingan and Frederick Faust, as cited in Matsukawa and Tatsuki (1976), compared this idea to immunology and public health. Primary prevention aims to prevent the impact of disease or injury from occurring by maintaining a healthier population and avoiding unhealthy behavior. Secondary crime prevention aims to reduce the impact of a disease or injury by treating it as soon as possible, and tertiary crime prevention aims to soften the impact of an ongoing illness or injury through rehabilitation and livelihood support. Primary crime prevention aims to prevent crime from occurring by creating and maintaining safe environments from a criminology perspective. Secondary crime prevention aims to address incivilities and deviances before they lead to criminal activities, and tertiary crime prevention seeks to rehabilitate offenders through punishments, corrections, probation, parole, and community support.

One approach to crime prevention was based on the concept of the crime prevention triangle: desire, ability, and opportunity. According to Hallock (2001), as cited in Gubatan (2011), taking away any of the three elements of the crime triangle, prevents the occurrence of crime. He further suggested that opportunity is the most natural component to control, which can break the crime prevention triangle to win the battle against crime.

Under United Nations standards and norms on crime prevention, UNODC contributes to crime prevention and control for international and national efforts. UNODC assists member states in enhancing the ability of primary crime prevention actors and systems to be more productive with particular attention to weaker groups. UNODC also focuses on creating



specialized tools and manuals in support of policymaking and the delivery of technical assistance.

Addressing the UN Security Council, The United Nations Secretary-General observed that in matters of justice, prevention is worth better than a cure. Prevention is the first imperative of justice o, the prevention of crime is the keystone requirement for the establishment of a safe and secure society, the achievement of which is a prerequisite for healthy economic growth through continuing business investment as well as community wellbeing cohesion (Homel, 2009).

In the Philippines, Republic Act 6975 or the "Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG ) Act of 1990", as amended directs the National Police Commission to recommend to the President, through the Secretary of the DILG a national crime prevention program. The NAPOLCOM developed the 2019 National Crime Prevention Program (NCPP) through its Technical Committee on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, an ad-hoc interdisciplinary body composed of acknowledged experts from government agencies and non-government agencies involved in the criminal justice system. To ensure the success of the NCPP, the office of the President issued Memorandum Circular Order No. 66, which directs all government agencies and local government units to support the same.

The 11th United Nations (UN) Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2005 provides an account of the development of the Community Oriented Policing System (COPS) adopted in the Philippines in 1994. It is a part of the national anti-crime strategy, which is now included in the National Crime Prevention Program adopted in 2004. Accordingly, the COPS program is 'people-powered' and utilizes the first projects to explain its pros. In 1986, the first initiative BAC-UP was developed in Bacolod City modeled on the Japanese 'Koban' system. It displayed decentralized community-based police stations at the local level. The project developed solid police-community links at the local level, which has continued to grow and been sustained over 18 years. The COPS system is built on the same principles of utmost integrity, trust, participation, and civic-mindedness of both officials and citizens (Braga & Weisburd, 2001).



The Philippine National Police said crime prevention remains a top priority to ensure public security and safety but needs the community's active support and cooperation. Cooperation stakeholders are the primary key and should be done to maintain safety in the community. Citizens are encouraged to report and become volunteers by informing the PNP about suspicious movement of persons such as modus operandi in their area.(Patoza, 2018)

In the local setting, Quilang (2017) claims that the type of living conditions and social environment in Baguio City accompanied by urbanization has also affected crime trends. For instance, in urban areas, a crime such as theft, robbery, violent crime, and drug-related crime has drastically increased. Simultaneously, the type of offenses executed by organized criminals, juveniles, and foreigners become more grave. This event generates "feelings of insecurity" in many people, especially those living in urban areas. This increase in crime has adversely affected the "quality of life" in the community and poses a serious cause of hindrance to the sustainable growth of a country

Recently, however, according to reports released by the Baguio City Police Office, the crime rate in Baguio City continuous to decrease. This decline is due to the implementation of different programs, and interventions by the police force to uphold the peace and order situation. The same has placed the country's summer capital one of the most peaceful cities in the country and the Southeast Asian region over the past years. Therefore, the city is a desirable place to study crime prevention activities.

Carroll (2019) emphasized that effective crime prevention requires individuals, communities, businesses, and all levels of government to work cohesively in a coordinated way to develop and implement effective strategies to address the causes of crime. Also, community crime prevention programs need appropriate and sufficient funding. Resources should be structured under subsidiary principles, which demand that resources and responsibilities be given and assigned at the lowest level of government feasible. An engaged approach to funding with clear parameters will help to ensure that the program's funding aligns with and can achieve the central government's strategic plan. The benefits of the contractual arrangement include leveraging local knowledge by engaging local government and community organizations and empowering communities.



Zvekic (1993), as cited in Dasayon (2013), states that crime prevention strategy should include several aspects in his theory on Citizens' Experience with Crime Prevention. It should promote active crime prevention policies and the development of long-term plans. There is also a need to improve coordination of crime prevention activities at the national, regional, and local levels. Law enforcement and criminal justice should promote the safety and security of person and property; treatment of victims with respect and understanding of their needs; regular monitoring of crime prevention programs, based on reliable information, analysis and public discussion with all parties involved.

In the 1970s in England & Wales, the mainstream of social welfare services was generally provided through generic service delivery structures. Teams of social workers were organized to be close to the communities and served to provide those communities with a wide range of services - largely in response to the expressed needs of these communities. As we moved into the 1980s, however, these generically organized teams began to separate into several discrete specialisms. New team structures were developed to provide specialist services to specific client groups, largely within the government's policy agenda and a rearticulated professional philosophy couched in preventative terms. And, quite naturally, these specialist teams increasingly grew to define their role in terms of the internal imperatives of their area of work. (Haines, 2019)

The neighborhood watch has often been characterized as one of the most widespread means of decreasing crime. It is recommended by the UK and United States governments and is prevalent among the society and the police (Sims, 2001). Holloway and Bennett's (2008) research review furnishes some proof that neighborhood watch can be efficient in reducing crime; yet, the results of evaluations are mixed and note that some programs work well while others seem to work less well or not at all. There are several possible motivations for this. Rosenbaum (1987) groups these reasons under three general subjects: (1) measurement failure, (2) program failure, and (3) theory failure. Measurement failure indicates that the evaluation missed measuring the accurate program result because the research design used to evaluate it was inadequate. Program failure means that the Neighborhood watch program did not display a positive result because the program was not adequately strong to bring about the effects sought. Theory failure indicates that the



principles on which neighborhood watch is based are incorrect—that the offered device by which neighborhood watch is supposed to prevent crime is incorrect.

Aquino, Pila, and Buraga (2016), in their effort to assess the crime prevention activities in Mandaluyong City, revealed that the PNP conducts enhanced Police Integrated Patrol Systems (PIPS), deploys Tactical Motorized Riders on perceived crime-prone areas, saturation drives among others. The respondents from the business, education, health, and youth sectors appraised the crime prevention efforts as moderately. The crime prevention activities of the barangay, on the other hand, is assessed as effective. All the barangays have organized a group of Barangay Tanod, which helps maintain the peace and order situation in their respective places. Data also show that they received good benefits in cash and in-kind while serving their barangay constituents. The youth, however, find the barangay officials not fully efficient probably because they were affected by the restrictions and were deprived of their enjoyment, especially the curfew hours where they have to observe. While the study assesses crime prevention activities based on the perception of the end-receivers, which is rational, comprehensive assessment of activities should be based on results and not perception alone.

Patalinghug (2017) cited that the crime prevention strategies of four (4) municipalities in Salug Valley, Zamboanga del Sur were “much effective” to include Integrated Patrol System, Barangay Peace Keeping Operations, Anti- Criminality Operations, Integrated Area Community Public Safety Services, Bantay Turista and School Safety Project in connection to the responses of 158 participants.

In a study in the Municipality of Bontoc in Mountain Province, Vicente (2019) focused on the domestic crime prevention programs, the implementation of police and public officials' crime prevention efforts, and the extent of participation of the residents of the same place. It revealed that indigenous crime prevention practices in Bontoc include “*pechen*” system, “*ator*” system, “*maipaila*” system, and “*fagfaga*” system. These practices were used as a means of crime prevention and indigenous prosecution that is primarily grounded in their culture.



With the involvement of the community, crime prevention has become everybody's business. To further strengthen the awareness and participation of the community on crime prevention, a Presidential Proclamation No. 461 dated August 31, 1994, declared every first week of September annually as a national crime prevention week. Everybody is advised to be involved in implementing the programs and activities on crime prevention. During one celebration of the crime prevention week with the theme *"Sa Crime Prevention, May Magagawa Ako"* Benguet Gov. Nestor Fongwan capitalized on the importance of peace and love, starting in the family, which eventually spread to the community as an instrument in winning the fight against crime. The roles of family and the community are critical in crime prevention (Quilang, 2007).

This shows that crime prevention activities can be as unique and needy as it can get. Continuous studies on crime prevention activities and programs of different places, especially those deemed effective, are then significant in trying to develop programs that can be adapted. Other than assessing the effectiveness of these crime prevention activities, which can be delved into is the perspective of what makes these activities effective. It is equally important to identify if certain crime prevention activities, if adopted by other local governments, can be as effective in other places considering culture, geographical location, population, and others.

### **Theoretical and Conceptual Framework**

In his book "Police Field Operations," Thomas F. Adams identified the theory of police omnipresence as one of the oldest but most effective ways of preventing crimes. Police omnipresence is associated with the police visibility principle. It requires physically uniformed personnel to patrol their beat, especially during peak hours to implant into the minds of the people, including would-be criminals that police are present in the vicinity. Thus, this strategy is effective in eliminating the desire to commit crimes (Adams, 2010). When implemented, this theory will eliminate intent/motive, opportunity, and instrumentality as necessary in the commission of a crime.

The environmental approach maintains to change the specific attributes of the environment that possibly cause criminal events to transpire. This includes situational strategies and



broader planning efforts and aims to reduce crime by designing and changing the physical environment to decrease the opportunities for crime to occur. ( Sutton, Cenev, and White, 2008).

Situational crime prevention is based upon the idea that crime is opportunistic and aims to change contextual circumstances to limit offenders' chances of engaging in criminal behavior (Tonry & Farrington, 1995). Situational prevention comprises various measures that emphasize the importance of targeting particular forms of crime in certain circumstances. Rather than punishing violators or seeking to eliminate criminal dispositions through the improvement of society or institutions, it suggests making criminal action less desirable. It can be done in five main ways: (1) by raising the difficulties of crime, (2) by escalating the instant risks of getting caught, (3) by diminishing the rewards of offending, (4) by eliminating excuses for offending, and (5) by lowering temptations and incitement.

Situational crime prevention interventions encompass activities such as improved security by strengthening locks and enhancing surveillance. Cornish and Clarke classified 25 situational crime prevention methods into five broad categories based on the techniques underlying the various ways: raising the effort involved in offending; growing the risk related with offending; diminishing the rewards of committing a crime; reducing situational circumstances that affect the propensity of a person to offend; and eliminating excuses for offending behavior (Cornish & Clark, 2003).

Under NAPOLCOM Resolution No. 2015-342 dated July 21, 2015, NAPOLCOM adopted the Community and Service-Oriented Policing (CSOP) System as the foundation of community-oriented policing and crime prevention strategy. The CSOP System refers to the promotion of peace and order and public safety and strengthening of local government capability aimed towards the effective delivery of essential services to the citizenry. It shall be undertaken through collaboration and cooperation between the local executives and citizenry, the integrated law enforcement agencies through program or project implementation, and sharing funds and logistics.

According to the PNP Managing Patrol Operations Manual (2015), the PNP strategy in crime prevention, which the institution has advocated to be complete and holistic, is composed of



three mechanisms, namely police visibility, law enforcement, and police-community partnership.

Police presence is done by deploying various activities such as area patrol, community engagement, and other related policing activities to respond to situations that warrant police assistance or intervention. Law enforcement, as one mechanism, is the implementation of laws and ordinances through police operations, investigation, apprehension of suspects, or convicted offenders. Police community partnership applies the philosophy of community policing, which emphasizes the collaboration between the police and the community in settling peace and order issues towards a healthy and harmonious society. The point of peace in order is seen as a shared responsibility. The community becomes the force multiplier of the police.

*Barangay Tanods.* This is equivalent to civilian police in the place. The barangay tanod brigade plays an essential role in the development of the barangay. It is one of the implementing means of the Barangay Peace and Order Committee (BPOC), which has the fundamental task of ensuring that peace and order prevail in the barangay. Chapter 4 Section 391 No. 16, of the Republic Act 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, mandates the Sangguniang Barangay, as the legislative body of the barangay, to provide for the organization of community brigade, barangay tanod or community service unit as may be necessary. The Punong Barangay shall supervise the barangay tanod.

The results of this study would be beneficial to the Philippine National Police (PNP) particularly the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) and to the community of Baragay Lucnab, Baguio City, Philippines because the findings may be used to design crime prevention intervention programs in the barangay.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The study aims to determine the crime prevention activities in Barangay Lucnab, Baguio City, specifically to:

1. identify the crime prevention activities conducted by the Philippine National Police and the barangay officials in the community;



2. identify the challenges in the implementation of crime prevention activities;

## METHODOLOGY

A qualitative descriptive type of research was used in this study. The study was conducted at Barangay Lucnab, Baguio City, Philippines. The informants of this study were three (3) barangay officials, three (3) barangay residents, and three police officers from the Baguio City Police Office – Police Station 3. A validated interview guide was used in gathering the data. The study was endorsed by the Dean of the University of Baguio, School of Criminal Justice and Public Safety, and was approved by the head of the place of study. Thematic analysis was used. Pseudonyms were utilized to conceal the informant's identity. Informant "A," "B," and "C" are the police informants. Informant "D," "E" and "F" are the barangay officials/tanod and Informants "G," "H," and "I" are the community informants. The study followed the ethics of research from informants' identity to the conduct of interview and treatment, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data. An informed consent form was explained to the informants and be signed by them. The informed consent form informed the informants of their rights to social research. Informants were asked to check a checklist which confirmed their voluntariness in participating in the study. The checklist also provides that the informants understood the research project, that all data gathered were kept confidential, that they have the right to ask questions, and that they have the right to withdraw at any time of the study.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Crime Prevention Activities conducted by the PNP and the Barangay Officials

**Regular Patrolling.** This is done to make the community feel the police and the official's presence and dedication to implementing the law and readiness to apprehend violators.

The informants acknowledge the observation of patrolling activities in the community, which according to A *"Mobile patrol ti commonly nga ususraen mi. Han unay ti foot patrol ta bassit kami piman"*. (We commonly use automobile patrol considering that



our number is limited). Similarly, according to D, he said, "*Agpatpatrol kami nga barangay officials ken tanod. Karkaro idiaiy dandani banbantay ta isu kauurnungan ti uubing. Nu mamingsan ket agiinom da idiaiy. Maiwarwara pay dagidyay bote ti naginuman da. Inidentify mi dagidiay common nga pagtamtambayan da.*" (The barangay officials and tanods are conducting foot patrol, especially near the mountains, where we observe the place where students or youths gather. Some drinking bottle was even found there. We pay special attention to the identified hotspots where the youth gather.). Consequently, according to C, "*While conducting mobile patrol ket, upon reaching places of convergence, agsardeng jay mobile, agsardeng ti nakapatrolya tapnu agtambay ken iobserve dyay place for few minutes for purposes of patrol and police visibility.*" (While conducting mobile patrol, upon reaching places of convergence, we will stop park the automobile there for a few minutes to observe, patrol and be visible to the community).Of which, according to I, he said, "*Agrugi 9 PM enggana 5 PM ket ag rikus dagidiay tanod tapnu agi-enforce ti curfew ken agbantay.*" (From 9 PM to 5 PM, the barangay tanods rove the barangay to enforce the curfew and patrol the barangay.). Conclusively, according to B, he said, "*Mayat piman idiaiy Lucnab ta every night nga agpatrol tanod da. Agsubmit da ti report ken pictures proving agbanbantay da talaga. Bale agpatrol kami agsapa ket ada da met nu rabii*". Barangay tanods in Lucnab are submitting reports and pictures proving they patrol every night. So we (police) commonly patrol during the daytime, and they patrol at night). Of which, according to G "*Agrovroving dagidyay police sunga makikitata mi suda from time to time. (We observe police officers roving the barangay from time to time using their mobile.)*).

Barangay tanods with barangay officials are conducting patrol every night from 9 PM to 5 AM when law violators such as thieves are expected to carry out their plans. This is also geared to implement the anti-curfew ordinance among minors. Further, more efforts are given at night, considering that it is the time when possible altercations happen due to drunkenness and accidents. This manifests that, indeed, community-based policing is being observed in the area. The barangay itself has developed a scheme to prevent crimes and not merely relying on police operations.

Perhaps the most persuasive case for community policing is its capacity to improve relations between the police and residents by sharing responsibility for addressing community



problems. Community policing emphasizes preventing crime before it is committed by encouraging community residents to become the "eyes and ears" of the police. Furthermore, the ratio of police officers to possible crime targets is meager. Officers are not likely to encounter crimes in routine patrols, so the community must participate in patrolling (Rohe, Adams, Arcury, 1997).

Furthermore, enhanced police visibility may not always work or may fail to address criminality. The police need to share the mantle of responsibility for fighting crime with the members of the community. Community cooperation and support is indispensable. The PNP's primary mission expressly provides that peace and order and public safety can only be attained with the active involvement of the community (BPAT Manual, 2009).

For the police, routine patrolling is conducted based on a schedule. Accordingly, BCPO Station 3 has a deployment scheme or plan wherein identified personnel will patrol the vicinity of a place under their area of responsibility on specified dates. Automobile patrol is commonly used to rove around the barangay. The patrol officers will then stop for several minutes at some locations, such as points of convergence, to ensure safety and develop police omnipresence. The community informants confirmed these identified activities. This proves that the PNP vigorously pursued its operational programs with the implementation of LOI 63,/2010 Police Integrated Patrol System (PIPS) dated November 27, 2012, directing all units to enhance crime prevention and solution. The LOI calls for the pursuit and intensification of high visibility (foot and mobile patrols) and other police interventions.

Patrol activities are considered as the primary activity conducted by the implementers in the effort of preventing crimes in the barangay. These activities are held so that police and its auxiliaries can be seen and felt by the community. Patrol is a way to employ presence, which is a significant crime deterrent to reduce if not eliminate the opportunity to commit a crime. Patrol officers, daily, acquire first-hand information and experience on the situation in the community, particularly identifying crime-prone areas and usual suspects or recidivists. Hence, the conduct of patrol and the appropriate deployment of patrol officers to reduce crimes is an indispensable component of policing (PNP Managing Patrol Operations Manual, 2015).



The barangay tanods conducting foot patrol at night is the initial effort of the barangay. While early evaluations of foot patrol indicated that it was similarly ineffective at reducing crime, community-policing advocates asserted that foot patrol resulted in other benefits, namely, producing approachability, familiarity, and trust between officers and residents (Cordner, 2010). This was echoed in an experiment that found that increased foot patrol in hot spots of crime and disorder decreased reported crime by 39% and emergency calls-for-service by 20% when compared to areas that did not receive increased foot patrol (Ariel et al., 2016). Foot patrol, with adequate dosage, can be used effectively for crime reduction.

**Establishment of Checkpoints.** Aside from patrol operations, the informants also noted the conduct of checkpoints in strategic places by both the police and barangay officials as part of their crime prevention efforts. According to E, *"Agcheckcheckpoint dagidyay police station three intersection jay ngato tapos dagidyay barangay officials met idyay outpost."* (Station 3 personnel conducts checkpoint at the intersection (going down to Lucnab proper) while the barangay officials and tanods do checkpoint at the outpost inside the barangay where most resident pass). Similarly, according to C, *"Ti minimum mi dita ket twice as day. Morning ken afternoon. Nu mamingsan ada itawag da for dragnet operations ket I set up mi nga dagus"*. (We conduct checkpoints at least twice a day. One in the morning and another in the afternoon. Sometimes, if there's a dragnet operation, we set the checkpoint immediately.) F also noted that *"Ijay checkpoint ket kititan mi dagijay sumsumerek barangay. Damagen mi nu apanan da karo nu makita mi nga dayo. Ag-assist kami metIng nu ada dagijay kasapulan da inside the barangay."* (At the checkpoint, we monitor those who enter the barangay. We sometimes ask questions to passers-by, especially if we know that they are not residents. We also assist and give needed directions to visitors).

Meanwhile, according to H, *"Agcheckcheckpoint piman dagidyay opisyal ken tanod dita outpost idi ngem medyo sinmardeng da ta dinadael diay typhoon diay outpost ket isimsimpa da pylang."* (The barangay officials and tanods conducted checkpoints at the outpost regularly. However, since the typhoon destroyed the outpost, and is still under reconstruction, these checkpoints are not already observed.)



Informant A where he said, *“Masapul ladta nga ada checkpoint from time to time han lang nga nu ada seal off operation. Police visibility ladta gamin dyay. Nu makita da kami idyay checkpoint ket agbehave da karkaro dagidiay overspeeding nga drivers.”* (It is essential to conduct checkpoints from time to time. It is not only for seal off operation but as a crime prevention strategy through police visibility. When we are visible at checkpoints, people behave, especially overspeeding drivers.)

According to the PNP informants, a regular checkpoint is conducted in the morning and at night to ensure that no illegal activities, services, and goods enter the vicinity of the barangay. Such checkpoints are conducted with the joint effort of barangay officials, barangay tanods and PNP members. Barangay tanod checkpoint was also activated and is currently placed at the barangay outpost at Purok 1 as part of their peace and order efforts. Checkpoints were conducted at the barangay outpost, considering it is where most vehicles were going to and from the puroks of the barangay pass through the outpost. Furthermore, it is well-lighted, which makes it the best option to establish checkpoints. According to the community informant, however, when the typhoon significantly destroyed the outpost, the usual routine checkpoint was not always observed already.

A checkpoint is a place where the police check vehicular/ pedestrian traffic to enforce circulation control measures and other laws, orders, and regulations. Checkpoints are established to enforce circulation control measures, rules, orders, and regulations, and when there is a necessity to arrest a criminal or fugitive from justice. Furthermore, fixed checkpoints are also administered to deny the proliferation and transfer of instruments of crime, and prevent the escape of people with criminal records and intents (Revised Philippine National Police Operational Procedures, 2013).

However, most literature examines checkpoints as a traffic enforcement scheme and crime detection activity but less as a crime prevention strategy. Fell et al. (2008) and Lacey et al. (1999) assert that checkpoints not only result in arrests for the driving-while-intoxicated (DWI), but also yield apprehensions for stolen vehicles, illegal firearms, outstanding warrants, and drug violations. The strategy of using high-visibility traffic enforcement, where many drivers experience or see the enforcement activity, not only raises the



perceived probability of apprehension for the DWI but may also increase the recognized risk of being arrested for other criminal activities, so their opportunity to commit the crime is reduced. A more in-depth review of checkpoints as a crime prevention strategy may be a subject for future study.

On the other hand, Nunn & Newby (2011) claimed in their study that it is no longer necessary to ask checkpoints have deterrent potential. However, one may and should still inquire into the conditions under which they work well, resulting in a steep and long-term decline in fatalities, or poorly, possibly representing a waste of resources compared with other possible uses for them. He further suggested the nature of the checkpoint, frequency of the checkpoint, and publicity, of checkpoints as points of inquiry.

PNP police visibility activities such as checkpoints and patrolling are grounded on the theory and psychology of police omnipresence. This explains that if the police or other law enforcement officers are present in a particular place and time, it would be more likely to eliminate the desire to commit a crime. If police are always in a specific location or area, it is now being implanted into the minds of people that make their presence 24/7 (Clarke & Weisburd, 1994). Increasing the presence of the police by employing more officers and by allocating existing officers in a manner that heightens the perceived possibility of apprehension consistently seem to have substantial marginal deterrent effects" (Durlauf & Nagin 2011). Furthermore, the public believes that the number and visibility of officers are more effective in tackling crime than any other intervention, including addressing the root causes of crime (Wakefield, 2006).

The acknowledged partnership of both the police and barangay officials and auxiliaries revealed that the community policing concept, as stipulated in the PNP PCR Manual and the CSOP System, is being followed. Community policing is a system that links the police to the community and creates a more positive and cohesive community interaction. Community policing can be achieved through three (3) types of activities: patrol activities, organizational work, and community interactions. (Revised Police Community Relations Manual, 2012). The first and third type of activity is evident in Barangay Lucnab.



**Conduct of Seminars.** Furthermore, the BCPO Station 3 conducts seminars on its initiative or upon request of the barangay to further strengthen the community in preventing as well as fighting crimes. Informant A said, "*Kalkalpas mi nagleadership training, ijay two days nga KKDaT. Nagited kami met ti IEC materials pang crime prevention ken engagement tapno nu ada problema ket ibaga da kenyami ta haan da mabutbuteng ta ada tiwala da kenyatayo.*" (We recently conducted a 2-days leadership training there as part of the Kabataan Kontra Droga at Terorismo (KKDaT) advocacy. We also provided information, education, and communication (IEC) materials for crime prevention and engagement to inform the community and not hesitate to cooperate with us since they have our trust). According to B, "*Aglecleecture kami for VAWC ta iengage mi dagidiay highschool. Isabsabay mi metlng nu ada barangay meeting nga alecture ijay attendees. Naala mi pay kit di dagidiay 4 Ps mi ijay nga nalecturan.*" (We conduct lectures about Violence Against Women and Children to highschool students. We also do crime prevention seminars during their meetings and assemblies. We previously lectured to the members of 4Ps.). Similarly, C said, "*Agited kami flyers pang tips anti-criminality. Nakapasign up kami metlang youth volunteers for KKDaT. Isuda kasla agabalin nga leader jy kakadwa da and contact person mi nga police towards their fellow youth.*" (We distribute flyers containing tips against criminality. We were also able to sign up for youth volunteers for our KKDaT program. They will be trained and serve as leaders to their co-teenagers and contact person for us.). Meanwhile, G said, "*Nu general assembly ket ada metlang piman ayaban dagijay officials nga agdiscuss crime prevention tips from PNP ken schools.*" (During our general assembly, the barangay officials invite speakers from the PNP and schools to give crime prevention tips.). As added by D, "*Agreqrequest kami ti seminars from PNP based ijay makita mi nga kailangan ti umili kasla kuma VAWC ken flyers ket poster metlang pang curfew ta nalaka da gamin madadadael nu agtudo.*" (We request seminars from the PNP based on the observed needs of the community such as VAWC. We also ask for flyers and posters mostly for curfew since the rain destroys the earlier posters.)

Seminars to topics including but not limited to Violence Against Women and Children were conducted with the community as participants. Further, Regional Mobile Force Battalion, in coordination with BCPO Station 3, spearheaded the program entitled Kabataan Kontra Droga at Terorismo (KKDaT) by reaching out to high school students enlightening the youth



of the consequences of using drugs and participation with communist parties. These seminars were acknowledged and given positive feedback from the community informants. Barangay officials added that they were made aware that making any request to the station of their needs would be addressed.

Accounts of the informants show an excellent partnership between implementers, which manifests in the community's statements as well. The police and the community are collaborators in the quest to encourage and preserve peace and prosperity. While there are police-initiated crime prevention activities, they also promote the community through the barangay to identify and speak up of the problems or challenges to be addressed when it comes to peace and order. They are applying community-oriented policing to eliminate one of the crime triangle elements, the opportunity to commit a crime. It is an established notion that crime happens when the three elements are present: motive, which is the intention that drives a person; instrumentality is the device used in committing the crime; and the opportunity which consists of the circumstances which allow the person to commit the crime. The first two are held by the criminal and are not controlled by law enforcers. They can, at most, only reduce or eliminate the opportunity by appropriate actions. The police and the barangay practiced this.

The community informants also observed both patrolling and checkpoints. Accordingly, they were able to notice barangay officials and police officers working together to patrol the barangay roads. As to the effectiveness of these crime prevention efforts, all the informants considered them useful because of the shallow crime rate in the barangay. They credited such a clean record to the active implementation of patrol and checkpoints and strong partnership of the police to the barangay officials and the community's participation.

According to A, "*Effective met ta awan met ti crime, especially taOpen communication da piman ijay Lucnab. Constantly nga in contact ni kapitan kenyami nu ada request da form kenyami or vice-versa.* (The activities are effective, especially because we have good communication with Barangay Lucnab through their barangay captain. We constantly communicate to address the requests and needs of one another to prevent crimes.). As affirmed by F, he said, "*Ada met contact number mi nga barangay officials kenyada sunga*



*nalaka ti communication nu ada masapol da.*" (As barangay officials, the residents have our contact numbers so we can easily be available for them and attend to their concerns). Additionally, B said, "*Nu agpaseminar kami met piman ket umay da. Isu ti mayat tadta ijay ta agparticipate da. Ngem syempre nu agconduct kami activity, ikita mi metlang nga mayat nga schedule since agtatrabaho da met piman dagita.*" (We are grateful that the residents attend and participate when we conduct seminars. Well, of course, we also try to schedule our activities wisely because everyone has their jobs at certain times of the week). H even said, "*Awan met problema ditoy nu panggep ti relationship ti officials, police ken dakami. Ada ladta panagsasabalian ti opinion nu mamingsan ngem normal met dyay.*" (I see no communication problem among the officials, the police, and us, residents. At times, there will still be differences in views, but that is nothing but typical).

The barangay and the police working together shows that both realize the importance of collaborating to achieve crime prevention goals. The police acknowledge that despite their authority, extensive training, and often considerable resources, the police require the support and assistance of others. To justly and effectively control and prevent crime and disorder, public support is necessary because the number of police officers to hand duty at any me is far fewer than most citizens imagine. They cannot possibly demonstrate physical presence in all places at all times in a community. Furthermore, for police to be effective, they should be able to work not just within the operations of the criminal justice system with which they are most closely identified but also within other social and governmental networks, such as the schools and local government units (Plant & Scott, 2009).

### **Challenges in the Implementation of Crime Prevention Activities**

**Depleted Number of Personnel.** The patrolling and checkpoints require workforce which the informants acknowledged being depleted where A said "*Talaga nga nu personnel ket agkurang isunga halos automobile patrol. Awanen ti ag foot patrol ta syempre ada daduma nga activities and functions.*" (We do lack personnel, so all most of our patrol efforts are on the automobile. We rarely conduct foot patrol because we are only a few, and we have other taskings.). C also added, "*Ada ti schedule per barangay ta ti AOR mi ket 20 nga barangay isunga masapul maschedule tapnu at least ma-cater met piman amin nga*



*barangay*". (There are 20 barangays under our area of responsibility. Therefore, we schedule patrol activities so that all the barangays will be attended.) Similarly, B said, "*Nu mamingsan gamin ket ada activities ijay CBD ket gapu ta medyo agkurang da metlang personnel ijay isunga agrequest da ti ag-augment isunga mapan kami met.*" (Sometimes, the activities at Central Business District may require us to augment, so there is depletion of personnel). Meanwhile, I said, "*Inactive ti SK ditoy. Awan unay ti participation da ti program. Umay da lang nu kailangan ti attendance.*" (The Sangguniang Kabataan here are inactive. They have no participation in any program. They only show up when attendance is mandatory). Similarly, G said, "*Kurang kami community volunteers nga tumulong tanod agpatrol ti rabii.*" (We lack community volunteers to help barangay tanods patrol at night).

In the conduct of crime prevention activities, police informants acknowledge that they are depleted due to the city's simultaneous events. The barangay is under the area of responsibility of Baguio City Police Station 3. At this moment, the station has 34 uniformed personnel with specific tasking. The station is further responsible for the peace and order in nineteen other barangays of the city.

According to the police officers, though they are challenged by the steep and narrow road condition of the barangay, this should not be a hindrance in delivering security and crime prevention services, so they try to strategize. They would then use larger mobiles instead when patrolling the area. However, the more significant challenge is that patrol activities are sometimes affected when the office's personnel are requested to augment other stations, especially at the central business district. This is during city activities and festivities, which involve a large crowd, therefore, requiring more stringent security measures from the PNP. Further, the station is tasked to perform police duties in twenty barangays of the city. Given the number of personnel, they need to schedule activities in such that the needs of the twenty barangays when it comes to security and safety are attended.

Insufficient personnel in an organization brings about an increase in workload and less supervision. Many managers and supervisors are under the impression that the level of employee performance on a job is proportional to their size (Engetou, 2017). In contrast, Chiwokwu (2016) asserts that police in a region does not necessarily result in more or less



crime; effective crime control and prevention rely on proper and effective utilization and management of police personnel. In the case of Barangay Lucnab, though BCPO 3 felt the effect of insufficient staff, its prevention activities are effective because of the cooperation of its residents.

The situation still makes it clear that the PNP has not been able to meet the ideal police personnel to community ratio of 1:500. This is true not only in Barangay Lucnab but throughout the Philippines due to the fast-growing population. The performance of the Philippine National Police (PNP) posted improvements over the last few years. Still, these remain mostly unfelt as they are overshadowed by more significant problems of lack of personnel and equipment. This is among the primary findings of the September 2008 agency budget notes of the House of Representatives' Congressional Planning and Budget Department. The study, however, noted that police forces' undermanning and ill-equipage had hindered its "optimum performance."

To the end of barangay officials, they encounter a lack of civilian volunteers conducting crime prevention activities such as patrolling and disaster-preparedness activities. This is because, at the moment, there are only three active barangay tanods who helps in the peace and order efforts of the barangay for more than 400 households. That number cannot be all covered even with the number of tanods and officials combined. Further, inactive Sangguniang Kabataan involvement was noted. While it is true that that peace and order might not be at the top of their concerns, their participation would be beneficial in encouraging their fellow youth to take part in building a safer community to live.

Community participation in crime prevention and criminal justice involves the active cooperation of residents and organizations and has a long history of accomplishments in many countries around the world. Community involvement has become an essential component of crime prevention in all kinds of partnerships involving municipalities, the police, schools, health and social services, and the private sector (United Nations Congress, 2015). The problem of lack of community volunteers accordingly may have various reasons behind such as not having enough time, people naturally only give when they have



something in return, or as simple as no one asked them (Beck,2015). Encouraging residents to volunteer by various means can be fruitful to address this problem.

**Insufficient Equipment and Materials.** Crime prevention, just like any other work, requires several pieces of equipment. These resources are inadequate in Barangay Lucnab. According to C, *"Masapul gamin ijay Lucnab jay dakel nga lugan ti mausar ta han nga kaya jay bassit nga kotse. Kaya lang dyay dakkal ng mobile ket han nga kanayon available ta mausar ti daduma activities."* (Because of Barangay Lucnab's terrain, the smaller mobile car can not be used. On the other hand, the larger mobile car is not always available due to other activities.). Even D, he said, *"Mayat kuma nu agkaroon ti reflectorized vest ken raincoats pang dagidiay agronda karkaru nu panagtutudo en."* (It would be better to have reflectorized vest and raincoats for tanods to use, especially during rainy seasons.). G also said, *"Dua lang ti baton da piman."* (The barangay tanods only have two batons). Similarly, H said, *"Jay spacing ti streetlights. Nag dalang unay. Han nga tuloy tuloy sunga adu ladta jay han nga well-lighted place pagtatambayan uubing nu mamingsan."* (The streetlights are too far away from each other. The areas which are not well-lighted serve as a gathering place for teenagers, sometimes.). Meanwhile, E said, *"Agsolicit kami piman from residents ta awan met funding para idiyay daduma nga equipment ken pang meryenda dagidiay agpatrol."* (We solicit from the residents to buy equipment and snacks for the barangay tanods).

After a series of interviews conducted to the community in Barangay Lucnab, it was found out that they perceive the lack of streetlights as a hindrance in crime prevention activities. Previous outreach activities and collaboration with the officials resulted in installing streetlights in every purok. However, the community still find it lacking as it does not reach all the hooks and crevices of each street. Thus, creating an opportunity for possible perpetrators. Lights in the alleys going to households are also considered a problem not just on crime prevention but also on the safety of the community in general while going home at night and since the pathways are not that visible.

Recent researchers have found that the number of streetlights affects the number of crimes in a particular area. Clarke (2008) stated that improved street lighting is the second most



important and effective means of preventing crime. Increased police presence being number one. Indeed, residents in crime-prone places demand that the lighting be improved, and recent research generally bears out the expectation that improved lighting does reduce crime. Better street lighting can assist reduce fear, crime, and disorder. Under the environmental approach, changing the specific characteristics of the environment, such as ensuring that the road's whole stretch is well-lit at night, may prevent criminal events from occurring. This aims to reduce crime by designing and modifying the physical environment to reduce the opportunities for crime to occur ( Sutton, Ceney, and White, 2008).

Lack of equipment for the implementers, specifically the barangay tanods, were also included as identified challenges. There is a noted inadequacy of equipment such as a baton, flashlight, whistle, reflectorized vest, and raincoats.

The above-stated challenge all goes down to the limited funds of the barangay to be allocated to various sectors, peace and order being only one of them. It supports Carroll (2019) idea that community crime prevention programs need appropriate and sufficient funding. Resources should be structured under subsidiary principles, which demand that resources and responsibilities be given and assigned at the lowest level of government feasible.

According to Tengpongsthorn (2016), work conditions become quite become problematic at times, especially concerning the scarcity of modern equipment and work tools. It is an obstacle in all police divisions. These challenges were identified not by the police officers but the barangay tanods. Still, they are the active components in the barangay crime prevention activities, especially at night.

**Unreported Cases.** One of the challenges or problems uncovered in the conduct of the study is the presence of unreported cases. According to I, "*Dagidiay daduma nakitak ket hanen nga maireport talaga ti police kasi agpapamilya ket agkaaruba met jay involved. Madi met nu suda agkikinaso unless grave violation. Ngem so far met ditoy ket maisimpa either in the family or barangay level metIng.*" (I observed some cases here are not reported to the police since members of the same family were involved or were neighbors. It is odd for them to file cases against each other. But so far, they were all been settled either at the family or



barangay level). Similarly, according to F, *"Jay maysa nga theft case mi ditoy ket han nga taga ditoy tapos minor pay lang sunga binay-an da ladtan."* (One theft case here was committed by an outsider, who is still a minor, so they let it go). As affirmed by H, he said, *"Dagidiay agaapa ditoy nga maireport nga physical injuries ket agaapa nga agkakabsat. Agama kasjay. Nag-ayos da metlng nga dagos"*. (The reported physical injury cases here before were between brothers and father and son. They made peace immediately).

According to community informants' observations and experiences, some petty crimes such as theft, especially of minors, are unreported to the proper authorities. The identified reasons were community relationships wherein, supposed victims decide to let it go for the sake of "harmony" in the community, not creating drifts among its members. This is primarily true when the offender and victim belong to the same family or clan or are neighbors. The second reason is the offender's circumstances, either being a minor, a vagrant, or a combination of both. The victim sees the offense as a "kid's stuff" and is probably not serious enough to be reported to the police.

Now, this might not be a crime prevention concern since it already falls under the crime-reaction track; however, it is still a crime prevention concern since there is a possibility of recidivism if these cases would remain silent. Langton et al. (2012), in their US National Crime Victimization Survey, reports that when crimes go unreported, victims may not be able to obtain necessary services to cope with the victimization, offenders may go unpunished. Law enforcement and community human and physical resources may be misallocated due to a lack of accurate information about local crime problems.

## CONCLUSION

Personnel of Baguio City Police Office Station3, barangay officials, and the community work hand and hand to perform productive crime prevention activities. Depleted personnel, and lack of equipment, and unreported cases pose challenges to the police in the conduct of crime prevention activities. Therefore, it is recommended that there is a need to strengthen the working relationship of the PNP, barangay officials, and community by conducting regular meetings to address unreported cases. Furthermore, BCPO Station 3 should help to conduct awareness seminars regarding crime prevention and



standard operating procedures on crime reporting to encourage the community to participate actively.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Despite the low crime rate in the barangay, BCPO Station 3 personnel, barangay officials, and the community acknowledge challenges in the performance of crime prevention activities that need to be addressed to achieve better results. Also, the active participation of barangay volunteers should be encouraged through the leadership and management of the *purok* leaders. It would also help request from partner agencies and organizations of the barangay for assistance in the provision of equipment and crime prevention paraphernalia such as a baton, flashlight, whistle, reflectorized vest, raincoats, and boots together with the installation street lights at strategic areas. Lastly, during council meetings, the SK Council shall be reminded of their mandates.

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