

### Long Paper

# ***When there is Peace, there is Order: Bacolod City's Cognizance on the Implementation of Peace and Order***

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## **Abstract**

Local power compositions heavily influence how the complexity of conflict and power dynamics is reflected. The provision of universal justice services has evolved into an essential component of the effective and efficient implementation of holistic peace and order. The study aims to investigate the cognizance on the implementation of peace and order in Bacolod City. It utilized quantitative and qualitative approaches, specifically a descriptive-causal research design. This research design is a regularity of causality that underlies the arguments for science-based research on the value of the quantitative computation of data and is supported with a qualitative approach for the causal explanation, which is appropriate for a more productive collaboration of the results and implications of this study (AECT, 2001; Maldonado & Greenland, 2002; Maxwell, 2004; Umstead & Mayton, 2018). The respondents of 123 elected barangay officials, including the chief tanod and five constituents, were selected through purposive sampling. A modified research instrument was employed, and it underwent validation using Lawshe content validity by the research experts in the field. It was then submitted to reliability testing using Cronbach's alpha, which resulted in 0.87 and was considered reliable. This study used a semi-structured interview guide for the informants' interviews. The researcher revealed 'an increase in the percentage of drug-cleared barangays' ( $M = 3.9512$ ), and it also noted that 'logistical support to the Katarungang Pambarangay' had manifested ( $M = 3.9431$ ) in Bacolod City. A significant difference is observed in the level of implementation of peace and order regarding age [ $U = 1388.00$ ,  $p = 0.011$ ] and sex [ $U = 1279.00$ ,  $p = 0.008$ ] as computed in the Mann-Whitney U test. This study further formulates the "theme": "Effectiveness in the implementation of peace and order



programs is based on citizens' cooperation and effort." Thus, the researcher recommends further studies to confirm the present results, and a replication of this study is highly recommended for future researchers.

*Keywords* – barangay officials, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), implementation, Local Government Unit (LGU), peace and order, and barangay tanod.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Over the last decade, various forms of government have improved their research for peace and order. It is usually failure to achieve and fulfill throughout history; as Hagelin (2017) stated, seeing the lack of fulfillment of individuals and the resulting stress levels in society is the fundamental cause of life in conflict, misunderstanding between two parties, and resolution toward peace. According to Maharishi's life theory, world peace is possible through the application of collective consciousness.

When discussing the relationship between individual consciousness, collective consciousness, and the unified field of natural law; the relationship between violence and stress in the collective consciousness at all levels of society, the collective consciousness is addressed (Orme-Johnson & Dillbeck, 1987). The researcher conceptualizes the reflection of the complexities of conflict and power dynamics, which are heavily reliant on local power structures and power distribution among local power holders. In this context, providing holistic or comprehensive justice services has become a necessary feature of newly developed mechanisms to maintain global peace and order.

In Kant's theory of international peace, the public right comes into play. The rightful regulation of the interactions among individuals requires the rule of law within a rightful state; the rightful regulation of the interactions among states involves the rule of international rights. The public right is grounded in the basic idea of external freedom as applied to the external relations among persons. Right posits the restriction of the freedom of each to the condition of its being compatible with the freedom of everyone following a general law, and public right is the sum of external laws that make such a universal harmony possible (Kleingeld & Guyer, 2006).

Direct violence, on the other hand, includes acts of terrorism and criminality, violence caused by intergroup conflicts and insurgency, and violence committed by and against the military and police. In contrast, structural violence involves violations of human rights, poverty, insufficient social services, and ineffective peace-building programs. In this case, the Peace and Order Councils tighten security, intensify intelligence operations, impose martial law, and use their traditional nonviolent methods of resolving intergroup conflicts. Their peace-building efforts highlight their participation in the peace process, development efforts, and inclusivity initiatives (Baquiano, 2022). Estonio (2014) discusses various crimes in the community, such as theft, kidnapping, and murder, among others. To reduce the presence of criminal elements, peace and order

must be implemented. If peace and order are threatened, the state's obligations and responsibilities include police and military forces. According to the Philippine National Police (PNP), it took responsive action and carried out police operational procedures to direct violence as well as initiatives to promote peace and order (Galabin et al., 2021).

In a previous study on maintaining peace and order, Ragandang and Ponce (2019) examined the role of women. It is said that in maintaining tribal peace and order, the women members of the tribal council employ indigenous systems to note what transpired in the conflict resolution process and which practices are being respected by the tribal community. They also help their male counterparts in securing the tribe by suggesting helpful strategies for maintaining peaceful tribes, as well as making sure that tribal rituals are appropriately celebrated. This practice of women's inclusion in the tribal council amidst the highly patriarchal indigenous communities in Mindanao is a good manifestation of the gender sensitivity of the tribe. The role of women in the Higaunon tribal council of Kiabo, Bukidnon, is an insightful practice to ponder, as is the role of women in making such indigenous practices even more effective and sustainable.

In this case, there are several different paths to achieving peace. However, the rule of law dictates the necessary and sufficient conditions for the order to reach the identified area. Moreover, peace and order are significantly linked to one another if the rule of law is implemented in society and the state is accountable for doing such things (Kildi & Cepoi, 2017). The Philippines has the potential to attain peace and order in this millennium. However, it is observed that peace and order have been shifting over time. It is unpredictable, affecting the government's economy and development because of the absence of peace and order. For example, Bauzon (1999) revealed that the peace agreement between the Republic of the Philippines government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) had a transitional period. It committed the GRP to a massive program of socio-economic development for the region. It opened to local and foreign developers, investors, and entrepreneurs on a more intensified scale. Therefore, the threat of investors investing is in jeopardy if peace and order are not implemented in the area, especially at the barangay level. The barangay remarkably provides the country's growth and, to some extent, the people's peace, order, and security (Boysillo, 2017).

Redoble et al. (2018) mentioned that the interest of punong barangays in the effective dissemination of peace and order ordinances was significantly linked to economic progress through the trust and confidence of investors in their locality. In this study, cognizance of Bacolod City's implementation of peace and order has been an issue for the LGU. Thus, the present researcher investigates and digs further from the barangay level on implementing peace and order through elected barangay officials and the chief tanod. The support of peace and order at the barangay level, headed by the barangay captain, is necessary and valuable to its constituents. It aims to describe how peace and order are maintained at the barangay level and their capacity for human resources, materials, and strategies used to administer as a peacekeeping body (Estonio, 2014).

One of the process indicators of local governance includes the procedures adopted and actions taken to achieve beneficial results. Thus, for the local government to function, the barangay should have functioning and quality administrative systems, planning and policy-making procedures, and implementation mechanisms (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Oslo Governance Center, 2008, cited in Redoble et al., 2018). This is the local government unit's emphasis on implementing peace and order.

Furthermore, the government strictly monitors the implementation of community peace and order regarding crime prevention and control, anti-illegal drugs, public safety, and the enforcement of ordinances. Nevertheless, barangays differed from others in implementing peace and order (Nicor-Mangilimutan et al., 2020). In this case, this is to indicate the local anti-crime action plan (LACAP) in assessing the said implementation, which facilitates and maintains peace, order, and public security within the locality.

Thus, the primary purpose of this investigation is to determine the level of implementation of peace and order in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, to assess the said implementation, and to determine a substantial part of the determination to safeguard its citizens' safety.

### ***Statement of the Problem***

The study ascertained the level of cognizance of implementing peace and order in Bacolod City for the fiscal years 2021–2022, and whether the respondents had awareness and responsiveness toward implementing peace and order in their locality.

This study aimed to answer the following specific questions:

1. What is the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of (a) age, (b) sex, (c) marital status, (d) educational attainment, (e) socio-economic status, and (f) place of birth?
2. What is the level of cognizance on the implementation of peace and order in Bacolod City when taken as a whole and grouped according to (a) age, (b) sex, (c) marital status, (d) educational attainment, (e) socio-economic status, and (f) place of birth?
3. Is there a significant difference in the level of cognizance on the implementation of peace and order in Bacolod City when grouped according to (a) age, (b) sex, (c) marital status, (d) educational attainment, (e) socio-economic status, and (f) place of birth?

4. What are the insights of the constituents on implementing peace and order in Bacolod City?

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### ***Strategic Structure of Government Agencies on Peace and Order***

According to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), maintaining peace and order is everyone's business to maintain sustainability for economic progress. Stability, security, and public order are essential in laying the foundation for sustainable progress, a highly trusted and adaptable society, and a globally competitive information economy. This is based on the strategic framework to ensure security, public order, and safety. Particularly in the specific agenda item on strengthening the partnership between law enforcement agencies, local peace and order institutions, and communities.

It is mentioned in the agenda of the NEDA that LGUs will continuously enhance regional peace and order institutions to address criminality and illegal drugs within communities effectively. Maintaining peace, order, and discipline in the communities is paramount, as quarantine restrictions adversely affect the economy and people's livelihoods and income. To this end, the government will capacitate LGU officials, especially those at the barangay level, to implement peace, order, and discipline. Together with the DILG, the PNP will also develop concise rules of engagement with their civilian counterparts. Through information technology solutions and initiatives, the Philippine National Police (PNP) will ensure timely and accurate crime monitoring and reporting. To supplement administrative data, a nationwide crime victimization survey will be conducted on a regular basis. A survey on the perception of criminality and law enforcement will also be conducted (all cited in NEDA, 2022).

The Philippine Local Government Code, enacted in 1991, defines the barangay as the community's primary planning and implementation agency for government policies, projects, campaigns, programs, and activities. It is a place where people's common beliefs can be expressed, manifested, and considered, as well as where disagreements can be resolved. In addition, Executive Order No. 366 s. was established in 1996 to organize barangay peace and order units as the barangay implementing arm of the city/municipal peace and order legislative body. Among barangays, the Katarungang Pambarangay, or Barrio Justice System, existed. Republic Act No. 7160 of the Local Government Code of 1991 authorized the establishment and operation of barangay justice systems. These strategies were supplied to barangays to foster peace and harmony among community members and enhance and make the justice system more responsive to people's needs (all cited in Gallardo et al., 2021). The LGUs are in charge of carrying out and enforcing the requirements of this Act within their respective territories (Aquino, 2023).

The government's peace efforts, peace research, and social development work are vital players, factors, and impacts of peace-building initiatives in the government's peace efforts, which take off from a bottom-up approach. These are primarily drawn from grassroots initiatives that promote a general perception of peace in order to sustain a durable peace and address the sources of crimes and violence. It also evolved out of the realization. This is the practical solution to the problem, but the citizens' aspirations should prevail. Strong collaboration between organizations and their constituents has stimulated a desirable spirit of cooperation. There is, however, a fair representation of the youth sector in peace and order efforts. Justifying factors interfere with the contextualization of specific peace and order activities. Generally, these factors are categorized as cultural factors, political environment, economic concerns, religious influence, and collaboration of a multisectoral group. Thus, initiatives are also context-specific and sufficient grounds to claim the desired outcomes (Ekid, 2010).

### ***Implementation of Peace and Order***

This study of peace and order implementation establishes the implementation criteria for describing the assessment of the existing peace and order program in Bacolod City. It is about the implementation of causal consequences or how different programs under different conditions and orders of implementation relate to changes in time and technology. These implementation conceptualizations are based on a description of peace and order activities such as strict monitoring by the government at the barangay level, primarily to determine whether those activities built into the original activity design occurred at local sites. These components must then be measured to determine whether they were present in the expected form and quantity in the planned programs and activities. A description of the quality and appropriateness of program services, in this case, peace and order, for a specific target population is also required for a comprehensive implementation analysis (Cook et al., 1993). In this study, the respondents were elected officials of the barangay, led by Punong Barangay as chief executive, and selected Bacolod City constituents.

In this manner, the term barangay refers to the basic political unit in the Philippines that implements policies of local and national governments and acts as a crucial planning and implementing unit for government policies, plans, programs, projects, and activities in the community (Caldo, 2015). The Punong Barangay implements all laws and ordinances applicable within the barangay and intends to maintain public order. Punong Barangays may also assist the city or municipal mayor and the sanggunian (local legislative body) members in performing their duties and functions (RA 7160, 1992). Executive Order No. 366 mandated that every barangay should initiate a Barangay Peace and Order Committee (BPOC) that initiates an implementing arm of the city/municipal Peace and Order Unit at the barangay level. According to Capeless (n.d.), cited in Redoble et al. (2018), maintaining peace and order through crime prevention is everyone's responsibility, not just law enforcement. They should actively engage in activities for good governance and implement policies and programs parallel to local government

efforts at improving people's lives. Accordingly, barangay officials are expected to be more aware of the peace and order ordinances for implementing peace orders.

In the same premise, the local state-based and civil are those established by local executives and operated mainly through local state structures, as well as those developed by local non-government organizations with the support of international development organizations for peace and order activities and programs. The Katarungang Pambarangay is a recent phenomenon developed from local initiatives to cope with difficulties in dispensing justice in a multi-ethnic community mired in conflict. The formation of the Provincial Peace and Order Team and the Municipal Peace and Order Council in various places in the ARMM coincided with the increasing power of local executives. They started to receive automatic revenue appropriations from the central government in the late 1990s, when the Local Government Code was passed to provide fiscal autonomy to local government units. The combination of state authority and resources, traditional power or indigenous means of settling disputes, and flexibility in the dispute settlement process has made it increasingly popular among the population (Deinla, 2018).

### ***Importance of Peace and Order Implementation***

Peace and order promote social, economic, and employment benefits. This is how people improve their standard of living by focusing on opportunities since all programs are implemented. The government knows how to develop more of its place if the promotion of peace and order is severe and strictly observed and implemented. It is agreed to upgrade social conditions by promoting friendly, hospitable treatments for the people and improving their lifestyles. The trading industry, income for local government, an improved standard of living, economic growth or progression, investment, and development are opportunities that may focus and proliferate in the upliftment of the economy (Buted et al., 2014).

The foundation of humanity's survival is that there is peace and order in the community. Ensuring the peace and security of the people is vital to maintaining economic development, social order, and political stability. In the Philippines, the government strictly monitors community peace and order and public safety for this purpose. The extent of implementation of peace and order and public safety in terms of crime prevention and control, anti-illegal drugs, public safety, and the enforcement of ordinances are the government's obligations and responsibilities. The program's implementation occurs when the communities are guided by community leaders' existing peace and order and public safety programs (Nicor-Mangilimutan et al., 2020).

Based on the literature review, local executives must enforce all laws and ordinances and maintain public peace and order with the help of the barangay tanod to ensure peace and order, which reign in the barangay.

## **Framework of the Study**

This study was primarily anchored in the Social Contract Theory by Thomas Hobbes, the method of alleviating political ideologies or provisions by petitioning to the contract that would make among appropriately positioned sensible, accessible, and equal persons. The social contract method is intended to arrive at the astounding assumption that one ought to submit to the authority of an absolute, undivided, and unlimited sovereign power. Therefore, forming a civil government organizes a 'contract' between us and our autonomy. Therefore, we must give up certain rights in the state of nature for peace. In other words, the government must have protection, obedience, and the duties of the sovereign to provide for its constituents given the complexity of social behavior and relations that are highly relevant for peace and conflict studies.

These insights from complexity theory about how to best influence the behavior of complex systems, how such systems respond to pressure, and how to avoid unintended consequences should thus be valuable for peace and conflict studies (De Coning, 2022). This relevance for peace and conflict influences the behavior of complex systems in society that require law enforcement to maintain peace.

In this situation, peace and order are the obligations of a state with just laws and the power to enforce them. In the absence of a just legal system with coercive authority, that is, in the state of nature, no one's right to external freedom can be secured against violence by others. People are, in fact, prone to violate the freedom of others and possible violations of that freedom by others. People are, in fact, prone to violate the freedom of others and possible violations of that freedom. This possibility alone is enough to require a system of laws and their enforcement to protect rightful freedom (Kleingeld & Guyer, 2006).

Furthermore, the nature of society is to maintain peace and order in a manner befitting a civilized and organized society. The people are always looking for peaceful areas to stay and do business in for sustainability with a peace agreement and concurrently setting up a sovereign to be kept and ensure the treaty in the future. Thus, the premise of this theory has been engaged in this study. It also determines the level of cognizance of the implementation of peace and order in Bacolod City.

On this premise, the researcher, as a believer in peace and order, appreciated the beneficial role of governing the implementation of peace and order programs among barangays in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, Philippines. Moreover, this study also focuses on knowing if there is a significant difference in age, sex, marital status, educational attainment, socio-economic status, and place of birth in implementing peace and order. The researcher also anticipated that the outcome of this study might provide input to the local executives as they review and assess the local anti-crime action plan and integrated area community public safety plan based on the existing ordinances, policies,



and laws implemented in the locality. It may also be postulated to the investors whether peace and order have been strictly implemented at the barangay level.

According to Ocden (2018), residents and barangay officials who keep promoting peace as their overarching agenda for development and the reign of peace in the area will attract investors who will contribute to creating more jobs and providing stable sources of income for the people in the locality. Thus, local officials, together with the continuous support of the Philippine National Police (PNP), implement the anti-criminality and peacekeeping capabilities of the local government for lasting peace towards achieving growth and development. It is now critical for stakeholders to maintain the advantages of implementing peace and order regulations at their locations to invite more enterprises to do business in the area and fulfill the expected vigorous economic growth. Figure 1 presents a detailed representation of the appropriateness of the variables under study.

Figure 1 is the schematic diagram of the conceptual framework of the study, showing the possible connection between specific variables like age, sex, marital status, educational attainment, socio-economic status (SES), place of birth, and the cognizance of the implementation of peace and order in Bacolod City. It has also schemed the cognizance of peace and order in Bacolod City on how it differs the variables from the demographic profile to the existing BPATs, ADAC, MASA MASID program, and Katarungang Pambarangay to the insights of the constituents. The assessment would be the basis for reviewing the local anti-crime action plan and integrated area community public safety plan based on the existing ordinances, policies, and laws in Bacolod City.

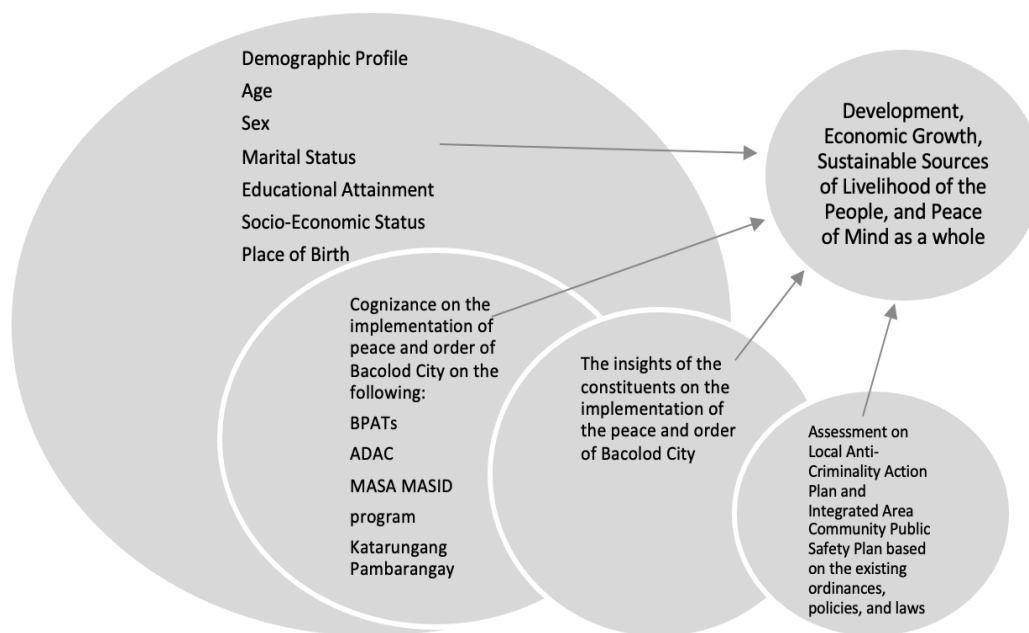


Figure 1. Schematic Diagram on the Implementation of Peace and Order in Bacolod City

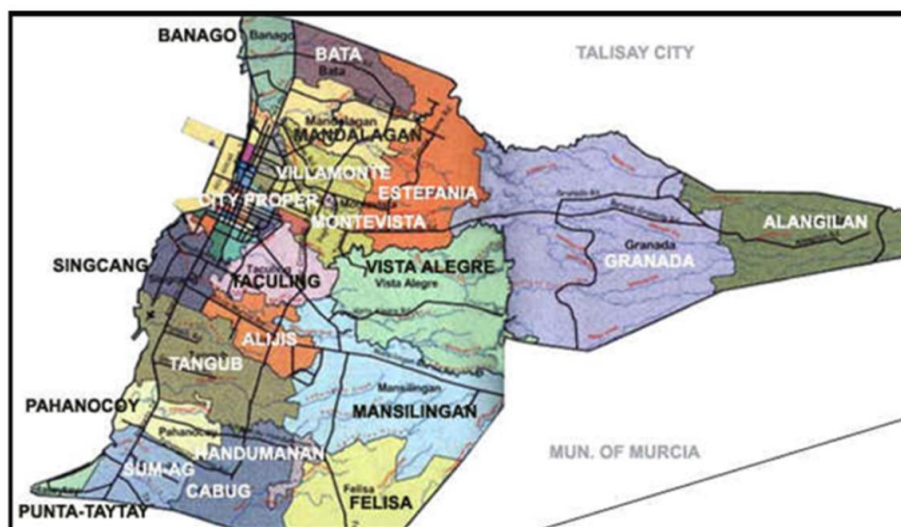
## METHODOLOGY

### *Research Design*

This study used a descriptive research design that could be either quantitative or qualitative. Specifically, descriptive-causal research design provides a general framework for designing and analyzing phenomenal studies (Maldonado & Greenland, 2002). On the other hand, when in-depth analysis is used as a descriptive tool to establish patterns or themes that emerged during analysis (AECT, 2001), Since this study utilized quantitative and qualitative approaches, the regularity of causality underlies the arguments for scientifically-based research on the value of quantitative data computation and supports the qualitative approach. A qualitative approach to causal explanation supports making decisions about programs based on the responses of the target respondents (Maxwell, 2004; Umstead & Mayton, 2018). In this case, the present research focuses on interpreting and analyzing. It also makes an impression on the results of the data collected.

### *Locale of the Study*

The research was carried out in Bacolod City, the highly urbanized city and communication, trade, and service hub of Negros Occidental on Negros Island in the Visayan Islands group in the heart of the Philippine Archipelago. The cities of Talisay border Bacolod City to the northwest. Silay and Victorias are to the northeast, and Murcia is to the east and southwest. Bago is in the southwest, and the Guimaras Strait separates it from the west. The total land area is 16,270 hectares, or 162.67 km<sup>2</sup>, excluding straits and bodies of water. The most recent population estimate is close to 600,000 or half a million people, or roughly 25% of the province of Negros Occidental.



Source: <https://rnn.ph>

Figure 2. Map of Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, Philippines

## **Respondents**

The respondents of this study were 123 barangay officials, including the chief tanod in every barangay, and five (5) selected constituents who willingly participated in this study for a face-to-face interview for their insights into peace and order implementation in Bacolod City. It was explicitly appropriate in this case for this study to explore the insights from the available respondents to answer the fourth specific question. This study utilized purposive sampling in gathering data from the respondents. According to Saunders et al. (2012), purposive sampling was an appropriate method if only a limited number of primary data sources could contribute to the study.

Moreover, a purposive sampling method may be helpful when a limited number of respondents can serve as essential data sources due to the nature of the research design and aims and objectives (Black, 2010). Caldo (2015) assessed the barangay council's competency in peace and order implementation and employed purposive sampling as a suitable and practical method for the selection of the respondents. Total population sampling is a kind of purposeful sampling in which the entire population of interest is investigated (Foley, 2018; cited in Olifant et al., 2020). Regarding the present study, the researcher felt that elected barangay officials and barangay tanod and its constituents could provide relevant information about implementing peace and order based on their perceptions and observations.

## **Instrument**

The instrument used in gathering data on the level of cognizance regarding the implementation of peace and order in Bacolod City was a modified research instrument. It was based on the Seal of Local Governance of the Department of Interior and Local Government. It had undergone expert examination by jurors who were considered authorities in the field of research using the Lawshe content validity instrument. Most of the items were valid. Furthermore, the instrument underwent a reliability test using Cronbach Alpha (Fraeklen & Wallen, 2006), and the result was 0.87, which was considered reliable. On the other hand, this study used a semi-structured interview guide for the fourth question. It was an opportunistic conversational approach employed in the interview to thematize the informants' responses. Furthermore, the researcher used the scale and verbal interpretation to assess the level of cognizance of implementing peace and order in Bacolod City. Table 1 shows the scale and verbal interpretation on the level of Implementation of Peace and Order.

Table 1. Scale and Verbal Interpretation on the Level of the Implementation of Peace and Order

Scale	Interpretation
4.51-5.00	Very High Cognizance on Implementation
3.51-4.50	High Cognizance on Implementation
2.51-3.50	Moderate Cognizance of Implementation
1.51-2.50	Fair Cognizance of Implementation
1.00-1.50	Poor Cognizance of Implementation

### **Data Processing Procedure**

The data processing, which involved tabulation and subsequent computation of statistical values, was done after the data collection using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software. The informants' responses from the in-depth interview were thematized to cull the nucleus of truth. Since this study on peace and order implementation was a sensitive issue for the barangay officials, the researcher explained and asked for assistance from the LGU officials to usher him in conducting the study for security reasons, especially in the far-flung areas. Moreover, the researcher repeatedly informed the participants of the purposes of this research. It is allowed for them to express their willingness to participate. Maintaining the identity of their responses was the utmost priority. There were instances when the researcher had to translate the research instrument into the respondents' mother-tongue language before they were comfortable with their words. Furthermore, the face-to-face interviews with the five informants were agreed upon and scheduled according to availability and comfort. Any residual errors in this study are the sole responsibility of the present researcher and not of my affiliations in conducting this study.

### **Statistical Treatment and Thematic Analysis**

The data were then statistically analyzed to answer questions 1, 2, and 3 and test the study's hypothesis. The statistical tools used were frequency count, mean, and standard deviation for descriptive statistics and Mann-Whitney U test and Kruskal-Wallis test for inferential statistics, set at a 0.05 level of significance. On the other hand, the researcher thematized the informants' responses to dig for the essence of the truth.

## **RESULTS**

Based on the data presented, analyzed, and interpreted, the researcher was able to formulate the following findings:

The demographic profile of the respondents is shown in Table 2 with respect to the following variables: (a) to age bracket of 21-43, there were 63 or 51.20% while 44-68 got 60 or 48.80% respondents; (b) sex, male respondents were 76 or 61.80% while females

were 47 or 38.20%; (c) as to marital status, married respondents were 93 or 75.60% while single respondents were 30 or 24.40%; (d) as to educational attainment, elementary got 35 or 28.50% while secondary had 64 or 52% and College degree respondents were 24 or 19.50%; (e) as to socio-economic status bracket of 16,000-25,666 had 61 or 49.60% respondents, in 25,667-35,333 brackets got 32 or 26% and 35,334-45,000 bracket responded 30 or 24.40%; and (f) as to the place of birth, those who were born in the city area got 59 or 48% while 64 or 52% for municipality respondents.

Table 2. Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Variables	f	%
<b>Age</b>		
21-43	63	51.20
44-68	60	48.80
Total	123	100.0
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	76	61.80
Female	47	38.20
Total	123	100.0
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single	30	24.40
Married	93	75.60
Total	123	100.0
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Elementary	35	28.50
Secondary	64	52.00
College Degree	24	19.50
Total	123	100.0
<b>Socio-Economic Status</b>		
16,000 - 25,666	61	49.60
25,667 - 35,333	32	26.00
35,334 - 45,000	30	24.40
Total	123	100.0
<b>Place of Birth</b>		
City	59	48.00
Municipality	64	52.00
Total	123	100.0

Table 3 shows the results as High Cognizance of Implementation of the Peace and Order of Bacolod City, even though there were variations in the mean scores. Nevertheless, it is still interpreted as high cognizance of the implementation of peace and order activities and programs. This suggests that these strategies were provided to

barangays to promote peace and harmony among members of the locality and improve and make the justice system more responsive to people's needs (Gallardo et al., 2021).

Table 3. Level of the Cognizance on the Implementation of Peace and Order in Bacolod City (N = 123)

Peace and Order Implementation Activities/Programs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Interpretation
1. Peace and order council convened.	3.8455	0.90565	High
2. Adopted a local anti-criminality action plan.	3.9350	0.80714	High
3. Separate plan in the integrated area community public safety plan.	3.9024	0.83386	High
4. Embodied in the integrated area community public safety plan.	3.8455	0.92358	High
5. Initiated local peace and order and public safety plan.	3.8455	0.93241	High
6. Provide logistical support to the PNP City/Municipal Police Station or Office.	3.8537	0.91152	High
7. Supported the organization of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPATs) barangay tanods, and/or any similar unit.	3.8618	0.92617	High
8. Organized BPATs, barangay tanods, and/or any similar unit.	3.8293	0.92955	High
9. Trained BPATs, barangay tanods and/or any similar unit.	3.8293	0.91174	High
10. Activated its Anti-Drug Abuse Council (ADAC).	3.8537	0.94681	High
11. Organized a council as prescribed by DILG MC No.: 98-227 and 2012-94.	3.8374	0.91771	High
12. Asked NGO representative(s) as part of the council.	3.8455	0.93241	High
13. Met at least once in a quarter.	3.8455	0.92358	High
14. Did activities to strengthen illegal drug awareness and related programs.	3.9024	0.91808	High
15. Issued ordinance or similar issuance.	3.8862	0.93391	High
16. Appropriated budget for peace and order.	3.8211	0.95842	High
17. Supported the implementation of the MASA MASID program.	3.9350	0.94730	High
18. Made local efforts to campaign against illegal drug use effectively.	3.8618	0.96092	High
19. Initiated a number of drug-cleared barangays.	3.8943	0.95654	High
20. Initiated a number of reported drug-affected barangays.	3.9350	0.95591	High
21. Initiated an increase in the percentage of drug-cleared barangays.	3.9512	0.97387	High
22. Provided logistical support to the Katarungang Pambarangay.	3.9431	0.93476	High
23. Initiated regulation for firecrackers and pyrotechnic devices through an ordinance.	3.9350	0.95591	High
24. Initiated a total ban on firecrackers and other pyrotechnic devices.	3.9187	0.97168	High
25. Designated zones for the sale, manufacture, and use of firecrackers and other pyrotechnic devices.	3.9350	0.96445	High
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.882</b>	<b>0.25209</b>	<b>High</b>

Table 4 shows a significant difference in the level of cognizance on the implementation of peace and order in Bacolod City regarding age [U = 1388.00, p = 0.011] and sex [U = 1279.00, p = 0.008] as computed in the Mann-Whitney U test, while there is no significant difference in marital status, educational attainment, socio-economic status, or place of birth. The findings indicate that age and gender are factors affecting the observations of the respondents.

Table 4. Significant Difference of the Cognizance on the Implementation of Peace and Order of Bacolod City

Grouping Variables	U	p-value	Interpretation
Age	1388*	0.011	Significant
Sex	1279*	0.008	Significant
Marital Status	1247	0.382	Not Significant
Educational Attainment	1.821	0.402	Not Significant
Socio-Economic Status	0.371	0.831	Not Significant
Place of Birth	1857.50	0.877	Not Significant

\*p<0.05 significant at 0.05 alpha

This study explored the insights gained through the constituents' responses on their cognizance of the implementation of peace and order in Bacolod City. The extracts below are from the informants' responses, and there are translations from Hiligaynon's responses to the closest English translations with the help of language experts of Hiligaynon to the English language. Moreover, utilizing ellipsis in every statement helps translate from one language to another. According to Zhang et al. (2020), an ellipsis is prevalent in social conversations. This is a prediction with semantic role labeling to improve language understanding. Thus, the following extracts from the informants that expressed their insights on the peace and order implementation in Bacolod City were responded to in some Hiligaynon language or code-switching and mixed with English translations:

#### Informant 1

*... There is more police visibility, lower crime rates... The police precinct is accessible... There is a scheduled checkpoint... However, it would be better if there were assigned officers/personnel in educational institutions (elementary and high schools)... Comprehensive implementation of the program, especially the war on drugs... Seminar about crime prevention and protection for children and women... Plan moving police patrols at night and identify high-crime areas....*

#### Informant 2

*... Ang peace and order nga gin pa implement sa amon barangay isa sa mga activities na nangin successful sa una nga kung sa diin diutay na lang ang crime nga nagakatabo sa mga purok... Kalabanan nga nangin involve ang mga kabataan... May mga police mobile nga naga libot sap ag monitor sang peace and order lalo na sa mga area na bag-o gin-relocate... Indi man ma avoid na may ara man gihapon mga kaimon pero sa pag-implement sin inga programa makabulig sa kada pumuluyo ng ana*

protektahan...[...The peace and order that implemented of our barangay, one of the successful activities before where in less crimes happened among areas... Most likely involved among youths... There were police mobile monitoring the peace and order especially new areas of relocations...It is unavoidable that there were crimes but the implementation of the program (peace and order), it could help to protect every citizen....]

Informant 3

...Reactive...no guarantee and left to self-protection...The safety of the residents' abode, we are expected to secure our households... And in the case of community...We could hardly contact our communities...Police Unit Office (Bac-Up4)...The landline contact facility is not usually accessible...Not enough info/visibility of authorities in our area. They are usually confined are their limited office...No monitoring/updates in spot areas....

Informant 4

...Sa akon pag-observa sang amon barangay diri sa barangay Estefania, nakita ko na ginatingwa-an sang mga opisyaes sang barangay nga mapatigayon kag matapna na ang kriminalidad nga nagaluntad ilabi na gid kung kagab-ihon... Makita ko nga aktibo nga naga ronda ang mga barangay tanod kung gab-I kag ang mga traffic police sang barangay naga pakita man sang aktibo nga buluhaton sa dalanon ilabi nagid ng aini malapit sa isa ka buluthuan... Bisan may mga patyanay kag iban pagid nga sayop nga nagaluntad sa amon barangay sa gihapon ma-obsorbahan ko ang programa sa pagpasanyog sang kalinong nagaluntad kag padayon nga nagapansanyog.... [...In my observation of our barangay here in barangay Estefania, I have seen that they are trying their best among the barangay officials to address and to eradicate the crimes that will happen especially in the night...I seen that they were active in monitoring among barangay 'tanods' in the night and also among traffic police of the barangay... They were also showing active in the road and helping the traffic road along school...Even in murder incidents and other violence happened in our barangay, still I observed that the program of peace and order are continuing and progressing....]

Informant 5

...Sunong sa akon pag observa ang mga aktibidad sa pagtuman sang kalinong kag katawhay nangin epektibo sa pamaagi sang pagbuligay sang tagsa-tagsa nga mga pumuluyo. Tungod sa pagpanikasog ang amon pumuluyo nangin malipayon kag matawhay ang amon lugar.... [...According to my observation of the activities in implementing peace and order was effective through cooperation of every citizen. Because of the effort of the people that they were happy and peace in our place....]

## DISCUSSION

Based on the profiles of the respondents, there is a thin margin between the age brackets 21–43 and 44–68. As reflected in the profiling, male respondents dominated as elected barangay officials. In Redoble et al. (2018), most respondents were male, reflecting men's dominance in the political field. This study also noted that barangay



tanods were members of most peace and order activities and programs. This result was supported by Ragandang & Ponce (2019), who found that the male members maintained peace and order and took the process of conflict resolution as being respected by the tribal community. De Asis et al. (2020) revealed that male respondents could fulfill their tasks in the best interests of their neighborhood. This highlights the fact that maintaining peace is a male-dominated activity because there may still be a masculine culture.

There was a noteworthy margin between married and single respondents. It also observed a substantial edge for most secondary-school graduate respondents over respondents with elementary and college degrees. This result suggests the freedom of the people to run for public office. Most respondents manifested the same observation about the socio-economic status bracket of 16,000–25,666. The place of birth of the respondents was proportionately disseminated. However, the respondents residing in far-flung barangays could not observe the activities or programs of peace and order. This result supported the notion that the topographical settings of the barangays could affect the services and activities/programs, especially for those who lived in the underserved areas (Shaifuddin et al., 2011). Generally, Java (2011) showed respondents that were generally male, married, and in their middle ages. Boysillo (2017) mentioned that elected barangay officials and tanods headed by the punong barangay should act on all relevant laws and ordinances within the barangay and organize and direct the emergency unit whenever the same may be necessary for the maintenance of peace and order. Table 2 shows the data.

Table 3 shows the results as high cognizance of the implementation of peace and order in Bacolod City. The researcher observed that there had been "an increase in the percentage of drug-cleared barangays' ( $m = 3.9512$ ). It also noted that 'logistical support to the Katarungang Pambarangay' had manifested ( $m = 3.9431$ ) in Bacolod City. This result was also observed in the municipality of La Castellana, Negros Occidental, where the local executives strictly monitored the anti-illegal drugs (Nicor-Mangilimutan et al., 2020).

This is also part of the strategic framework of NEDA (2012), which states that LGUs will continuously strengthen local peace and order institutions to effectively address criminality and illegal drugs within communities that affect the economy and people's livelihoods and income. On the other hand, the Katarungang Pambarangay developed from local initiatives to cope with difficulties in dispensing justice in a multi-ethnic community mired in conflict, and the dispute settlement process's flexibility has increasingly increased its popularity among the population (Deinla, 2018). The Philippine Public Safety College (2015) stated that the national government has also initiated the Community-Oriented Policing System (COPS) to empower the community and harness its participation in crime prevention. Table 3 shows the data.

Table 4 shows a significant difference in the level of cognizance of the implementation of peace and order in Bacolod City. This result suggests the struggles of

women in the political arena against male dominance and the command of the males in implementing peace and order. Boysillo (2017) mentioned that due to their natural sociability, men have eventually gathered in a politically organized community. Gallardo et al.'s (2021) study revealed the significance of socio-demographics, such as age and sex, on changes in social relations, increasing conflict awareness, and a sense of safety in the perception of living in an area. Table 4 shows the data.

Based on the informants' narration, this study formulates the "theme": *"Effectiveness in the implementation of peace and order programs is based on citizens' cooperation and effort."* It expresses that there are narratives mentioned by the informants that they observed some crimes occurring during the night among the youths. However, barangay officials are addressing this issue to eradicate it by monitoring through police mobility and barangay tanods' visibility. This result was supported by Gallardo et al. (2021), who claimed that the barangay enforcers' role of implementing and actions in continuously patrolling or rondas within the barangay, generally at night, are keeping up. De Asis et al. (2020) mentioned that barangay tanods effectively carried out their duties and obligations based on their capacity as first responders.

Although another informant mentioned that there was no monitoring of spot area updates at that station, the researcher presumed that the contact information of that police station needed to be disseminated to the public. De Asis et al. (2020) said that some respondents accepted that their police car needed some upkeep despite receiving enough preventive maintenance under both administration plans. Estonio (2014) cited various issues facing the peace and order committee of the barangay, mainly the lack of budget for additional human resources, equipment, and materials and further support from other local government authorities.

## **IMPLICATION**

This study may imply that the LGU has a basis for what factors may influence the implementation of peace and order. According to Duran (2020), barangay officials played a substantial role in supporting the implementation of peace and order. They need to exert effort to protect and secure their constituents.

It was also noted that Katarungang Pambarangay is an active and legitimate program in any disputes as part of the implementation of peace and order in Bacolod City. This is one of the Department of Interior and Local Government's peace and order activities and programs (DILG). In this regard, this may imply that Bacolod City's peace and order are on the right track in terms of implementation. Caldo (2015) stated that expectations could only be met through an appraisal and personal development planning process that aligned organizational goals with individual performance and allowed for dynamic team and individual growth.

This study may also imply that the LGU should be visible in strengthening and maintaining peace and order implementation in Bacolod City while serving and securing peace and order in the barangay for the sake of development and economic growth due to investor trust in the area's peace and stability. Afterall, all programs and services of the Local Government Unit may be subjected to constituents' satisfaction to further improve it (Jadie & Marcaida, 2023).

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The conclusions are presented based on the results of this study. The researcher noted that the LGU exerts efforts to implement peace and order for its constituents in Bacolod City through crime prevention strategies implemented by the government that are strictly monitored to help reduce occurrences of crime within the barangay level effectively. This would lead to the conclusion that crime prevention is a bridge towards peace and order where initiatives are taken to minimize crimes through police visibility, patrolling, and other initiatives. Cooperation within a community has helped in its drive for peace and order.

Indeed, the theory of the social contract by Thomas Hobbes proves that by alleviating political ideologies or provisions by petitioning the contract, it would make for appropriately positioned, sensible, accessible, and equal persons by submitting to the authority. In this principle, the researcher concludes that understanding the problems within the organization and establishing a good rapport with the community will ensure good results by encouraging trust and cooperation with the authority.

It is a clear manifestation that peace and order should start at the grassroots and that necessary foundations exist to claim that peace and order initiatives have resulted in desirable outcomes through the good governance of the barangay officials, who portray a significant function towards implementing peace and order. Generally, the primary purpose of peace and order is to improve access to essential social services and increase local business investments to generate local employment within the community.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following measures involve peace and order implementation, as revealed by the results and their conclusions. To curb untoward incidents and crimes effectively, the following are recommended. First, the Sangguniang Kabataan representative (SK) could participate in peace forums and organize peace campaigns for the youth to mobilize the influence of the youth sector. This is one way to encourage youth participation in raising sensible peace-oriented consciousness through their social media capability to publicize peace activities within the community. It also suggests intensive training for barangay tanods to strengthen their capacities as the barangay's peace-keeping unit. This intensive

training may result in quality and timely responses to future crimes, as well as how they will handle the situation by following proper protocol.

Second, the study recommends that elected barangay officials attend training seminars on effective and efficient governance to improve their skills in implementing peace and order activities and programs. It appropriated funds for a quarterly evaluation of the implementation's performance. This implies that a strategic intervention plan in economic policies, the creation of employment stability, poverty eradication, improving law enforcement agencies, and steering to a peaceful, secure, and comfortable area should be considered. Finally, additional research may be conducted to confirm the current findings, and replication of this study is strongly advised for future researchers.

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## **DECLARATION**

### ***Conflict of Interests***

The author had declared no potential conflicts of interest concerning this article's research, authorship, and publication.

### ***Informed Consent***

The author obtained informed consent before conducting this study. Since this study is voluntary, participants have the right to refuse and withdraw anytime to participate without penalty if they wish.

### ***Ethical Approval***

No ethical approval was needed in this study because it involved no form of physical risk, distress, embarrassment, anxiety, stress, fatigue, or inconvenience to the participant or adverse effect on the participant's personal, social, or economic well-being.

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