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Research Article

Level of Effectiveness and Seriousness on The Problems Encountered in the Implementation of Crime Prevention Strategies of The Philippine National Police in Olongapo City, Philippines

Generico M Binan*, Alrien Francisco Dausan, Jessie Sabellano Echaure

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*Corresponding author:

E-mail:

binangenerico@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Every country is impacted by criminality on an economic, social, and political level. The national news in the Philippines typically reports on crimes against persons and property because of the prevailing belief that the country's economic standing is insufficient to support an individual's level of living. The Philippine National Police (PNP) in Olongapo City has not yet succeeded in implementing crime prevention and control, despite their best efforts to prevent crime. The Philippines uses foreign approaches to crime prevention that don't align with the nation's current criminality issues. The PNP organization is facing difficulty in crime prevention due to its inability to demonstrate its efficacy and efficiency in the performance of its duty. The primary aspect that leads to the prevention of crime is following the path of morality, virtue, and ethics by all the individuals. These morals and values would enable a person to focus on the achievement of his life and career goals and abstain from conducting any kind of criminal and violent acts.

Keywords: *Effectiveness, The Implementation of Crime Prevention Strategies, The Philippine National Police in Olongapo City, Philippines*

Introduction

Statement of the Problem

The study aimed to determine the level of effectiveness and level of seriousness in the problems encountered in the implementation of crime prevention strategies of the Philippine National Police in the Olongapo City, Philippines during SY 2019-2020. Specifically, it sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the status of crime profiles of the Olongapo City Police Office (OCPO) as to:
 - 1.1. Crime Index Profile from FY 2016-2019, and
 - 1.2. Percentage of Increase/Decrease of Crime Index from FY 2016-2019?
2. How is the level of effectiveness in the crime prevention strategies implemented

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in OCPO be described according to the following aspects/dimensions:

- 2.1. Mobility
 - 2.2. Communication
 - 2.3. Manpower, and
 - 2.4. Community Support?
3. How is the level of seriousness in the problems encountered by the personnel of OCPO in the implementation of crime prevention strategies in OCPO be described as to the following dimensions:
 - 3.1. Mobility;
 - 3.2. Communication,
 - 3.3. Manpower, and
 - 3.4. Community Support?
 4. Is there a significant difference in the assessment of the respondents on the dimensions towards the level of effectiveness of implementation of the crime prevention strategies as cited in problem number 2?
 5. Is there a significant difference of the assessment of respondents on the dimensions towards the level of seriousness in the problem encountered in the implementation of the crime prevention strategies as cited in problem number 3?
 6. Is there a significant difference in the crime index profile?
 7. Is there a significant difference in the crime index profile by year?
 8. Is there a significant relationship in the assessment between the crime index profile and year?

Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study was limited in determining the assessment of crime prevention strategies of

the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Olongapo City, Philippines. Philippine National Police respondents included Police Commissioned Officers (PCOs) and Police Non-Commissioned Officers (PNCOs) assigned to OCPO, particularly in Police Station 1,2,3,4,5,6, personnel of City Mobile Force Company, and OCPO Headquarters. Further, barangay officials from all the barangays of Olongapo City were used as respondents of this study. The study dealt with the assessment of crime prevention strategies of OCPO in terms of mobility, communication, manpower, and community support; and the problems encountered in implementing the same.

The personnel of National Support Units and Non-Uniformed Personnel (NUP) were not part of this study. Barangay official included the barangay chairmen, barangay councilors/kagawad, barangay secretaries, barangay treasurers, members of the Sanguniang Kabataan, and barangay police/tanod. Other aspects and variables not related to the goals of this research were deemed part of the limitations.

Methodology

The study employed a descriptive research methodology, using a researcher-made questionnaire as the primary instrument to collect data from two hundred seventy-nine (279) respondents who were randomly selected coming from the the provinces of Aurora, Bulacan, Zambales, Bataan, Tarlac, Pampanga and Nueva Ecija. Research specialists validated the tool, and Cronbach's Alpha was used to calculate its reliability.

Results and Discussions

Table 1. Frequency and Percentage Distribution in Crime Index from 2016-2018

Crime Profile	2016	%	2017	%	2018	%	2019	%
Crime Against Person	92	6.20	93	7.90	68	7.98	59	6.70
Crime Against Property	355	23.94	247	20.99	190	22.30	163	18.52
Non-Index Crimes	160	10.79	149	12.66	107	12.56	95	10.82
Traffic Incidents	274	18.48	134	11.38	108	12.68	80	10.80
Special Laws	602	40.59	554	47.07	379	44.48	483	9.09
Total/Percentage	1483	100	1177	100	852	100	880	100

In summary, a total of 1483 crimes were registered in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. The crimes in violation of special law were noted

with the highest frequency and percentage related to child abuse, anti-gambling, cybercrime, sexual harassment, motorcycle helmet act,

anti-trafficking illegal logging, illegal recruitment, anti-drug, and fencing law, anti-graft, corrupt practices, and many others. This goes to show that among the crimes that can be committed by a criminal the violations of special laws are the easiest to violate as well as traffic and crime against property.

The ability of the police force to solve cases has caused an increase in the crime solution

efficiency rating of 78.62 percent. These marked improvements in the overall crime picture translate to a better security outlook among our people and add to upbeat investor confidence that spurs economic growth despite the ongoing health crisis due to the pandemic (Benter & Cawi, 2021; Galabin, Pallega, & Recapente, 2021; Mark & Sarcena, 2021).

Table 2. Frequency and Percentage Distribution in the Increase and Decrease of Crime Index from 2016-2018

Crime Profile	2016	2017	% </>	2018	% </>	2019	% </>
Crime Against Person	92	93	>1.08	68	<36.76	59	<15.25
Crime Against Property	355	247	<43.72	190	<30.00	163	<16.56
Non-Index Crimes	160	149	<7.38	107	<39.25	95	<12.63
Traffic Incidents	274	134	<104.48	108	<24.07	80	<35.00
Special Laws	602	554	<8.66	379	<46.17	483	>21.53
Total/Percentage	1483	1177	<25.99	852	<38.15	880	<3.18

The table shows the high drop in crime related to traffic incidents from 2016 with 140 equivalent to <104.48%, however noted the increase of >1.08% in crime against persons such as murder.

In 2018, all crimes were noted to decrease from 2017 with 175 or <46.70% in special laws, 42 or <39.25% in non-index crimes, 25 or <36.76% in crime against the person, and least on traffic with 26 or <24.07%.

In 2019, the crime in violation of the special laws was noted with a frequency of 483 of >21.53% while the least was on non-index crime against a person with 95 or <12.63%.

In summary, there was a noted decrease in registered crime incidents from 2016 by <25.99 percent and <38.15% in 2018 while

there was an increase of crime incidents by >3.18% in 2019. The decreases could be ascribed to the result of an intensified drive against crime and lawlessness. The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo M. Año lauded the PNP for its unwavering commitment to curb criminality in the country (2019).

The increase could be accounted for the new additional violations which were not observed and registered for the last two years such as regulating firecrackers, anti-fencing law, food safety act violators, illegal logging, illegal number gaming, illegal possession of ammunition and explosives, and motorcycle helmet violations.

Table 3. Summary of Responses Toward Level of Effectiveness in the Implementation of Crime Prevention Strategies

N=279

Parameters	OWM	Qualitative Interpretation	Rank
Mobility	4.20	Very Effective	2
Communication	4.35	Very Effective	1
Manpower	4.09	Effective	4
Community Support	4.15	Effective	3
Grand Mean	4.19	Effective	

Table 3 reveals that the police and barangay official respondents assessed “Very Effective” on communication with a mean value of 4.35 and ranked 1st, followed by **mobility** with a mean of 4.20 and ranked 2nd. They assessed “Effective” on community support with a mean value of 4.15 and ranked 3rd while manpower was 4.09 and ranked 4th.

The computed grand mean on the responses toward the effectiveness in crime prevention strategies was 4.19 with a qualitative interpretation of **Effective**.

The occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic shifted the global trend of index crimes (Meyer, Prescott, & Sheng, 2022). It was alarming to find that domestic violence increased during

the pandemic (Nivette et al., 2021). In fact, in 2020, various media sources in the United States reported an increase in homicide cases (Asher & Horwitz, 2020; Hilsenrath, 2021; McCarthy, 2020; Struett, 2020). Meanwhile, with the limited opportunities for criminals due to community lockdowns, other crimes, such as burglary and robbery, were reported to have decreased following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States (Boman & Gallupe, 2020). Despite the numerous studies on crime during the COVID-19 (Nivette et al., 2021), global research in the association of location and types of index crimes are very limited.

Table 4. Summary of Responses towards Problems in the Implementation of Crime Prevention Strategies

N=279

Parameters	OWM	Qualitative Interpretation	Rank
Mobility	3.51	Serious	1
Communication	3.29	Moderately Serious	4
Manpower	3.45	Serious	2
Community Support	3.30	Moderately Serious	3
Grand Mean	3.39	Moderately Serious	

The respondents assessed “Serious” **mobility** with an overall weighted mean of 3.51 and ranked 1st; **manpower**, 3.45 and ranked 2nd, **community support**, 3.30 interpreted as “Moderately Serious” and ranked 3rd and problem on **communication** with a mean of 3.29 and ranked 4th. The computed grand mean on the responses towards **Summary of Responses towards Problems in the Implementation of Crime Prevention Strategies** was 3.39 interpreted as “Moderately Serious”.

The limitations of human mobility during the pandemic have resulted in a significant decline in crime incidence in the different administrative regions in the Philippines. Furthermore, the COVID-19 lockdowns in the Philippines have contributed to decline of crime incidence in the Philippines. Boman and Mowen (2021) noted that global crime trends have declined during the pandemic. According to them, this is expected since during mobility restrictions, opportunities for crime such as robbery, theft, road violence, and crimes also decrease.

Table 5. Analysis of Variance to test differences in the Crime Level of Effectiveness on the dimensions of Crime Prevention Strategies

ANOVA						
Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between Groups	0.18214	3	0.06071	3.1210	0.06	3.23887
Within Groups	0.31124	16	0.01945			
Total	0.49338	19				

Decision: Reject Null Hypothesis (There is a Significant Difference)

There is a significant difference in the perception towards the level of effectiveness on the dimensions of crime prevention strategies as manifested by the computed F- value of **3.1210** which is lower than (<) the F critical value of **3.23887** using 0.05 Alpha Level

This means that the respondents had similar assessments of the level of effectiveness in

terms of mobility, communication, manpower, and community support. The effectiveness of one dimension is comparable with that of the others. This could further mean that crime prevention strategies as observed and assessed by the respondents are of equal weight of effectiveness.

Table 6. Analysis of Variance to Test Differences in the Crime Level of Seriousness on the Dimensions of Crime Prevention Strategies

ANOVA						
Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between Groups	0.1765	3	0.05883	3.7665	0.03	3.23887
Within Groups	0.24992	16	0.01562			
Total	0.12642	19				

There is a significant difference in the perception towards problems encountered in the implementation of crime prevention strategies as manifested by the computed F- value of **3.7665386** which is higher than (>) the F critical value of **3.238872** using 0.05 Alpha Level of Significance; therefore, the Null Hypothesis is accepted. Hence, there are significant differences in the perception of the level of seriousness in the problems of mobility, communication, manpower, and community support.

The effectiveness of visible police patrol in public expectations of policing once highlighted a strong preference for a highly visible presence. However, when these views were

explored in more detail, it was discovered that people had seemingly instinctive reactions to call for more bobbies on the beat motivated by a desire to see crime reduced. The study also suggested that the police can help ensure the public accepts and supports the targeting of resources in high priority areas by engaging them in dialogue. The police visibility has increased in different regions as the Philippine National Police (PNP) has also increased the number of police and police stations all over the country. The Philippine National Police have also reported an increase in their overall crime solution efficiency (Gita-Carlos, 2019).

Table 7. Analysis of Variance to Test Differences in the Crime Index Profile

ANOVA						
Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between Groups	4.600024	3	115006.07	22.688	3.23E-06	3.055
Within Groups	76034.5	16	5068.966			
Total		19				

There is a significant difference in the crime index profile as manifested by the computed F- value of **22.688** which is higher than (>) F critical value of **3.055** using 0.05 Alpha Level of Significance; therefore, the Null Hypothesis is rejected. Hence, there is a significant difference.

This proves that the crime index profile committed by the offenders is observable at different levels. The violation of special laws refers to crimes related to child abuse, anti-

gambling, cybercrime, sexual harassment, motorcycle helmet act, anti-trafficking, illegal logging, illegal recruitment, anti-drug, anti-fencing law, anti-graft corrupt practices, and many others. This goes to show that among the crimes that can be committed by a criminal is the violation of special laws which is the easiest way to commit such as drug use, drug selling, trafficking, as well as road traffic violations and crime against property. Everyone has the right

to live in a safe community. Just as it should not pose threats to the health of residents, people should not have to fear for their safety or the safety of their belongings.

Table 8. Analysis of Variance to Test Differences in the Crime Index Profile by Year from FY 21016-2019

ANOVA						
Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between Groups	52501.2	3	17500.4	0.5790	0.637163	3.238872
Within Groups	483357.6	16	3022.35			
Total		19				

As indicated, there is no significant difference in the crime index profile by year as manifested by the computed F-value of **0.579055** which is lower than (<) F critical value of 3.238872 using 0.05 Alpha Level of Significance; therefore, the Null Hypothesis is accepted. Hence, there is no significant difference.

Crime prevention and management are at the forefront of the agenda of the Philippine government under the Duterte administration. Its campaign against the war on drugs is aimed at reducing criminality and uplifting the lives of

the Filipino people. Our study revealed that the continuing efforts of the government to fight criminalities have resulted in the increased crime solution efficiency of the police force. The government's success in reducing the crime incidence in the country is attributed to many factors, mainly due to the effective government policies and programs. Similar studies have shown that effective government programs significantly reduce crime incidence in different localities (Arvate et al., 2018)

Table 9. Chi-Square to Test Relationship between Crime Index Profile and Year of Crime Commission

Crime Profile	2016	2017	2018	2019	Row Total
Crime Against Person	92	93	68	59	312
Crime Against Property	355	247	190	163	955
Non-Index Crimes	160	149	107	95	511
Traffic Incidents	274	134	108	80	596
Special Laws	602	554	379	483	2018
Column total	1483	1177	852	880	4392
Chi-Square Computed Value				84.15	
Chi-Square Critical Value at df=9				16.92	
Decision	Reject Ho (There is a significant relationship)				

As reflected, there is a significant relationship between the crime index and year of commission as manifested by the computed Chi-Square value of **84.15** which is greater than (>) Chi-Square Tabular Value of **16.92** at df=9 using 0.05 Alpha Level of Significance; Therefore, the Null Hypothesis is rejected.

The findings reveal that crime violations will increase if prevention strategies are not fully implemented by the PNP personnel in Olongapo City. This would lead to the idea that the crime prevention initiatives be strengthened to minimize the occurrence of various crimes such as crimes against persons,

property, non-index crimes, traffic violations, and disrespect to special laws. Police mobility, communication strategies, manpower, and community support must be enhanced and improved to lessen criminalities and attain peace and order in the community. The need for safety and security is one of the human needs considering the direct and indirect costs of crime such as physical, psychological, economic, social, and political costs of crime; loss suffered by victims.

The significant association between type and location of index crimes in the Philippines suggests that crimes vary across locations and

the occurrences of crimes are not random. Rape has become predominant during the pandemic in 11 regions. The findings are similar to many studies wherein crimes against women such as rape, domestic violence, and sexual abuse have become prominent during COVID-19 (Rapee et al., 2022; Rockowitz et al., 2021; Sifat, 2020).

Conclusions

The researcher concluded that:

1. The crime index profile was high in special laws followed by crimes against property. The crime index decreased for the last three years but slightly increased in 2019.
2. The respondents assessed "Very Effective" for mobility and communication but "Effective" for manpower and community support as dimensions for crime index intervention strategies.
3. The respondents assessed "Serious" for mobility and manpower but "Moderately Serious" for communication and community support as for the level of seriousness of the problems encountered in the implementation of crime intervention strategies.
4. There was no significant difference in the assessment of the respondents towards the level of effectiveness on the dimensions of crime prevention strategies as to mobility, communication, manpower, and community support.
5. There was a significant difference in the assessment of the respondents regarding the problems encountered in the implementation of crime prevention strategies as to mobility, communication, manpower, and community support.
6. There was a significant difference in the crime index profile as to crime against persons, crime against property, non-index, traffic incidents, and special laws.
7. There was no significant difference in the crime index profile from 2016 to 2019.
8. There was a significant relationship between crime index profile and years of crime commission.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusions arrived at, the researcher offered the following recommendations.

1. There is a need to add more police personnel for backup activities for criminal apprehensions and perform administrative/office duties.
2. The PNP personnel in the area, together with the City Peace and Order Council (CPOC), must review their implementation procedures and enhance their strategies by incorporating new approaches in dealing with criminalities.
3. Officials of the Local Government Unit in Olongapo City should endeavor to continue their support and cooperation in terms of financial sufficiency, resource management, and program implementation on the strategies to augment and maximize the capacity of police organizations in crime prevention.
4. PNP personnel are encouraged to strengthen the implementation of the different strategies for them to become effective in crime prevention.
5. The City Director is encouraged to investigate and evaluate the weaknesses of the force with due consideration to the crime strategies adopted by them.
6. Lastly, future researchers are advised to conduct supplementary research in crime prevention with the aim to discover new strategies on how to reduce crime occurrence.

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