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Research Article

Through the Lens of Accountability: Body-Worn Cameras in Police Operations at Pampanga Police Provincial Office

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ABSTRACT

This study evaluates the compliance of the Pampanga Provincial Police Office with the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices during police operations in the province Pampanga and examines the severity of problems encountered in their use. Specifically, it assesses compliance in terms of procedural fairness, police performance, data protocols, privacy concerns, and camera benefit while investigating the relationship between compliance levels and encountered problems. It hypothesizes that higher compliance levels are associated with fewer operational problems and that certain areas, such as data protocols and privacy, may present greater challenges. A descriptive correlational design was used, employing structured questionnaires to gather data from 200 respondents, including police officers and community members. Key findings indicate a very high compliance level in using Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative Recording Devices (Mean = 3.49), but also highlight significant challenges, with an overall severity rating of problems as high (Mean = 2.81). Correlational analysis suggests a moderate positive relationship between perceived compliance and the severity of problems faced. The study recommends tailored training, procedural adjustments, and improved data management and privacy measures to address these challenges. Limitations of the study include potential biases in respondent perceptions and constraints in generalizing findings to other regions. Policymakers are urged to enhance transparency, accountability, and public trust in police practices to foster a safer community environment in Pampanga Province

Keywords: *Body-word camera, Compliance, Problems encountered, Pampanga Provincial Police Office, Perception*

Introduction

In the past ten years, the police have been struggling with a huge problem – people

questioning whether they are doing their job fairly. As more reports about excessive police force emerged, the situation grew worse. Many

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people have questioned if the police are carrying out their duties properly in light of these circumstances. A widespread reassessment of strategies has evolved as a response to the legitimacy issue facing police enforcement forces worldwide, with the use of body-worn cameras as a possible countermeasure. Police have been employing body cams all around the world as a solution to this problem. Police officers are required to wear these cameras, which are intended to improve the public's perception of the police and to restore the eroded public trust (Lum et al., 2019).

Body-Worn Cameras are being increasingly adopted by law enforcement agencies, and this significant move has a number of implications that go beyond just restoring lost public confidence. Incorporating this technology strategically has not only revealed new avenues for enhancing accountability and transparency within law enforcement, but it has also sparked in-depth discussions about issues like privacy, data handling, and the general relationship between officers and the communities they serve.

A great deal of research has been done on the use of body-worn cameras by law enforcement agencies, with an emphasis on how these devices affect police conduct, public views, and interactions in general. The impact of body-worn cameras on instances involving the use of force, citizen complaints, officer professionalism, trust-building, and procedural fairness has been the subject of numerous studies.

Early studies mainly focused on the experiences of body-worn cameras early adopters in an effort to comprehend how BWCs alter police officers' contacts with the public and their behavior. Following the adoption of body-worn cameras, studies like those by Ariel, Farrar, and Sutherland (2015) and Sousa, Miethe, and Sakiyama (2015) indicated a consistent decrease in officer use of force and citizen complaints.

Body-Worn Cameras are typically viewed favorably by police officers, who see them as instruments that boost accountability, transparency, and confidence in law enforcement encounters. These tools are viewed as impartial records of what happened, providing defense against baseless claims, and boosting professionalism by motivating cops to follow correct

procedures. Officers are aware of privacy invasion issues and the potential effects frequent monitoring may have on their judgment. Due to the availability of audio-visual evidence that offers an impartial account of events, body-worn cameras have been linked to enhanced citizen satisfaction during police confrontations. According to research, the presence of body-worn cameras can increase legitimacy and trust between the police and the community, resulting in more favorable interactions.

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Hence, due to the availability of audio-visual evidence that offers an impartial account of events, body-worn cameras have been linked to enhanced citizen satisfaction during police confrontations. According to research, the presence of body-worn cameras can increase legitimacy and trust between the police and the community, resulting in more favorable interactions.

The Research Problem

This study aims to determine the level of compliance of Police Provincial Office in the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices in the conduct of police operations in Province of Pampanga. Furthermore, it seeks to unravel the degree of seriousness of the problems encountered by the Pampanga Police Provincial Office in the use body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices.

Specifically, it aims to answer the following questions:

1. What is the level of compliance of Pampanga Police Provincial Office in the use of body-worn camera and alternative-recording device in the conduct of police operations in terms of:
 - 1.1. Procedural fairness

- 1.2. Police performance
- 1.3. Data Protocols
- 1.4. Privacy concern
- 1.5. Camera Benefit
2. What is the degree of seriousness of the problems encountered by the Pampanga Police Provincial Office in the use of Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative Recording Device in the conduct of police operations in terms of the variables aforementioned?
3. Is there a significant relationship between the level of compliance and problems encountered of Pampanga Police Provincial Office in the use of Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative Recording Devices in the conduct of police operations?
4. Based on the findings of the study, what policy brief can be proposed on the use of Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative Recording Devices?

The Research Methodology

The study uses a descriptive correlational design to examine the level of compliance and seriousness of problems related to body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices in police operations. It aims to determine if there is a significant relationship between compliance and the problems encountered without implying causation. A structured questionnaire was developed, and a survey was administered to 200 respondents, including 100 police officers in Pampanga Province and 100 community members. The research was conducted within the jurisdiction of the Pampanga Provincial Police Office, which operates within the framework of law enforcement to maintain public safety, prevent criminal activities, and foster positive community relationships. The province's diverse population and socio-economic backgrounds contribute to a variety of perspectives on policing, crime prevention, and interactions with law enforcement. The study's findings may be influenced by the size and representativeness of the sample, as well as social desirability bias and subjective perceptions. The study's scope and limitations may limit its generalizability to other police departments or regions with potentially different contexts and characteristics.

This study used a researcher-made questionnaire distributed to community and police officers in Pampanga Police Provincial Office. The questionnaire underwent screening and pilot testing, with Cronbach's Alpha used to examine the results. The respondents answered a 4-point Likert-scale about the level of compliance in the use of body-worn cameras in law enforcement operations. The questionnaire covered four major items: procedural fairness, police performance, data protocols, privacy concern and camera benefit. The study aimed to obtain accurate and reliable results that supported the investigation's objectives. The data was treated using mean and standard deviation for each dimension, and Pearson's correlation coefficient was used to assess the relationship between compliance and problems encountered. A 4-point Likert scale was used to determine the level of compliance of Pampanga Police Provincial Office in the use of body-worn cameras and alternative-recording devices in police operations.

Results and Discussions

The outcome of the study can be summarized based on the findings and insights derived from the research conducted on the use of body-worn cameras and alternative-recording devices by the Pampanga Police Provincial Office during police operations.

The study yielded several key outcomes:

The study revealed insights into how officers and stakeholders perceive compliance with protocols and procedures related to the use of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices. It provided valuable information on the perceived levels of procedural fairness, police performance, data protocols, privacy concerns and camera benefit within the Pampanga Police Provincial Office.

Through statistical analysis, the study identified correlations between indicators of compliance and the degree of problems encountered during police operations. These correlations shed light on the complex interplay between perceptions of compliance and operational challenges faced by the Pampanga Police Provincial Office.

The level of compliance in using Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative-Recording Devices during police operations was rated very high (Mean=3.49) by both police officers and community members.

Respondents rate the severity of problems faced by the Pampanga PPO in using Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative-Recording Devices during police operations as high overall (Mean=2.81), highlighting significant challenges across procedural fairness, police performance, data protocols, and privacy concerns.

The study's findings have significant policy implications for the Pampanga Provincial Office and law enforcement agencies more broadly. They highlight the importance of addressing procedural fairness, police performance expectations, data handling protocols, and privacy concerns in the utilization of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices. A moderate positive correlation exists between perceived procedural fairness and the encountered problems (Pearson $r = 0.43$, $p = 0.0363$). A weak positive correlation exists between perceived police performance and encountered problems (Pearson $r = 0.31$, $p =$

0.028). A moderate positive correlation exists between confidence in data protocols and encountered problems (Pearson $r = 0.31$, $p = 0.0321$). There is a moderate positive correlation between privacy concerns and encountered problems (Pearson $r = 0.46$, $p = 0.0413$). There is a moderate positive correlation between camera benefits and encountered problems (Pearson $r = 0.45$, $p = 0.039$).

Based on the study's outcomes, recommendations can be formulated to enhance the effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of police operations involving body-worn cameras and alternative recording device. These recommendations may include policy revisions, training initiatives, community engagement strategies, and continuous evaluation mechanisms.

Ultimately, the outcome of the study contributes to efforts aimed at building public trust and confidence in law enforcement practices. By addressing concerns and improving compliance with established protocols, the Pampanga Police Provincial Office can strengthen its relationship with the community and promote greater accountability and transparency

Table 1. Summary of Respondents' Self-Perceived Level of Compliance, by Pampanga Police Provincial Office in the Use of Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative Recording Devices in the Conduct of Police Operations.

Variables	Average Mean	Verbal Interpretation
1. Procedural Fairness	3.55	Very High
2. Police Performance	3.51	Very High
3. Data Protocols	3.54	Very High
4. Privacy Concern	3.59	Very High
5. Camera Benefit	3.42	Very High
Overall Mean	3.49	Very High

Table 2. Summary of Respondents Degree of Seriousness of the Problems Encountered by the Pampanga Police Provincial Office in the Use of Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative Recording Devices in the Conduct of Police Operations.

Variables	Average Mean	Verbal Interpretation
1. Procedural Fairness	2.81	High
2. Police Performance	2.78	High
3. Data Protocols	2.74	High
4. Privacy Concern	2.89	High
5. Camera Benefits	3.07	High
Overall Mean	2.81	High

Table 3. Relationship Between each Indicator of Compliance and Degree of Problems Encountered by Pampanga Police Provincial Office in the Use of Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative Recording Devices in the Conduct of Police Operations.

Indicators	Pearson r	Interpretation	p-Value	Interpretation
1. Procedural Fairness	0.43	Moderate Positive Correlation	.0363	Significant
2. Police Performance	0.31	Weak Positive Correlation	0.028	Significant
3. Data Protocols	0.31	Moderate Positive Correlation	.0321	Significant
4. Privacy Concern	0.46	Moderate Positive Correlation	.00413	Significant
5. Camera Benefit	0.45	Moderate Positive Correlation	0.039	Significant

Conclusions

In conclusion, the study indicates a very high level of compliance (3.49) in using Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative-Recording Devices during police operations, as perceived by both police officers and community members. However, respondents rate the severity of problems faced by the Pampanga Police Provincial Office as high overall (2.81), highlighting significant challenges across procedural fairness, police performance, data protocols, privacy concerns and camera benefit. Furthermore, moderate positive correlations exist between perceived procedural fairness, police performance, confidence in data protocols, privacy concerns, and encountered problems, suggesting intertwined perceptions and challenges that warrant attention and strategic interventions for improved policing practices and technological integration.

Recommendations

In view of the findings and conclusion deduced from the responses of the participants, the following are recommended:

Enhance Training Programs: Develop comprehensive training initiatives to address technical proficiency, procedural fairness, and data management skills among police officers regarding the use of Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative-Recording Devices.

Implement Maintenance Protocols: Establish regular maintenance schedules and protocols for Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative-Recording Devices to mitigate technical issues and ensure optimal functionality during police operations.

Review Procedural Guidelines: Conduct a thorough review of procedural guidelines to

address concerns related to procedural fairness, including the announcement of camera usage and adherence to recording protocols, especially in fast-paced or high-stress situations.

Strengthen Data Security Measures: Implement robust data security measures to safeguard recorded footage, mitigate risks of data loss, unauthorized access, and tampering, thereby ensuring the integrity and confidentiality of recorded data.

Enhance Privacy Protection: Develop clear policies and protocols to address privacy concerns, including restrictions on recording personal information, preventing unauthorized access, and establishing transparent decision-making processes regarding data access and usage.

Foster Collaborative Feedback Mechanisms: Establish channels for open communication and feedback between law enforcement agencies, community members, and stakeholders to address concerns, share best practices, and foster mutual understanding regarding the use of surveillance technologies in policing.

Regular Monitoring and Evaluation: Implement mechanisms for regular monitoring, evaluation, and review of the use of Body-Worn Cameras and Alternative-Recording Devices to identify emerging challenges, assess the effectiveness of interventions, and ensure continuous improvement in policing practices.

Promote Accountability and Transparency: Foster a culture of accountability and transparency within law enforcement agencies by encouraging adherence to protocols, promoting ethical use of surveillance technologies, and fostering trust and cooperation between police officers and the community.

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