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Research Article

An Evaluation of Community Satisfaction on Engaging in Disciplinary Hours for Minors in Selected Barangays in Dasmariñas City, Cavite

Jose Luis I. Bangit, Mary Jane V. Dela Pena, Edralyn Mojica, John Robert G. Sotto, Eden Mae D. Tagalog, Arthur Villanueva, Elizabeth Villa, Froilan D. Mobo, Nathaniel S. Golla

De La Salle University Dasmariñas, Philippines

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*Corresponding author:

E-mail:

joseluisbangit@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study aims to evaluate community satisfaction with the implementation of disciplinary hours for minors in selected barangays of Dasmariñas City, Cavite. It focuses on addressing issues involving minors in conflict with the law. The participants include police personnel, barangay officials, and parents from Barangays Sta. Fe, San Nicolas I, and San Francisco 2. A quantitative-descriptive design was employed, using surveys to gather data on the participants' demographic profiles and factors contributing to minors' involvement in criminal activities. Findings revealed that while curfew measures are seen as effective and well-implemented, their associated costs are perceived as insignificant. To address habitual offending, the researchers recommend an awareness or intervention program involving the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). This initiative would provide counseling and promote social responsibility among minors, fostering active citizenship and unity to eliminate minor crimes in the area.

Keywords: *Community Satisfaction, Disciplinary Hours, City Ordinances, Municipal Ordinances, Juvenile Delinquency, DSWD, Curfew Regulations, Enhanced Guidelines, Dasmariñas City Cavite*

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Introduction

A discipline hour or curfew hour constitutes an authoritative directive mandating individuals to return to their residences before a specified time. It is frequently enacted by a governing body to ensure the preservation of societal order. Certain jurisdictions have implemented curfews for minors. The implementation of curfew laws serves to restrict the movement of individuals under the age of 18, thereby safeguarding them from the perils associated with gangs, drug-related activities, and criminal behavior. Curfews, applicable during nocturnal hours, serve not only to deter adolescents from engaging in undesirable behavior but also to protect children from potential harm or victimization by crime. (Bautista et. al, 2019).

Cervantes et al. (2018) assessed the rationale for implementing curfews among juveniles. Their study examined the well-being of youth by restricting their presence on the streets during late night and early morning hours, addressing youth drunkenness, and evaluating the functions of barangay officials in mitigating disorderly conduct among the youth it also focused on the welfare of youths and the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

Juvenile delinquency is a significant and escalating issue, frequently associated with both narcotics and aggression. Implementing youth curfews can mitigate these issues by keeping children off the streets, thus reducing their likelihood of engaging in misconduct and preventing their assembly in crime-prone areas.

Implementing curfews for minors helps safeguard at-risk children, as not all parents exhibit responsibility, resulting in their children being susceptible to crime, accidents, and detrimental behaviors. The community must guarantee the safe return of neglected children to their homes and compel their parents to confront their familial responsibilities.

Juvenile curfew regulations have attracted the interest of both liberals and conservatives but for quite distinct reasons. For conservatives, curfews align with a strategy of intensified enforcement, stricter sentencing, and augmented social restrictions. For liberals, curfews align with the initiative to identify children in

the early stages of delinquency who may benefit from intervention programs.

Article 139 of Presidential Decree No. 603, referred to as the Child and Youth Welfare Code, empowers Local Government Units to establish curfew hours for minors. The Code stipulates, "City or municipal councils may establish curfew hours for children as deemed necessary by local conditions."

Dasmarias City, Cavite's 2022 Code of the General Ordinances (COGO) includes all of the city's ordinances. It establishes the legal, political, ethical, social, cultural, and holistic framework for city governance, the delivery of city government services, and the conservation and control of natural resources and the environment. The city's superior laws are specifically enforced by it.

According to Article C Section 76 of the Prohibited Act of the COGO, minors under the age of 18 are prohibited from loitering or roaming in public streets, roads, and other public areas within the city from 10:00 PM to 4:00 AM the following day, except the following cases:

- a) the minor is a student or engaged in an employment activity who is on the way to or from such activity without detour or stop;
- b) the minor is accompanied by a parent or guardian; or
- c) in the event of an emergency or untoward incident, or if the minor is required to report to a police station due to a disaster or accident.

The following sanction is to be paid by any minor who violates this Ordinance, as attested by their parent.

It is important to note that Sections 57 and 57-A of RA No. 9344, as modified, or the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act of 2006, prohibit the imposition of fines on children for status offenses, including curfew violations. A curfew regulation cannot impose fines or jail on minor violators. The same law promotes LGUs to implement more suitable intervention programs, such as community-based initiatives, which are seen not as punitive actions but as legitimate disciplinary measures.

The curfew hours will be from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. under House Bill 1016, which was filed by

Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Bagong Henerasyon Party-list) in the 18th Congress, she submitted.

The bill aims to establish and strictly enforce a set of hours during the night in which minors are prohibited from remaining outside of the home. This is done not only to maintain public order and safety and prevent the further increase in criminality but also to safeguard minors from potential threats that may arise in the remote environment that could be detrimental or harmful to their development.

Police personnel will be obligated to identify themselves as such to the juvenile to take custody of minors who violate the proposed curfew under Herrera-Dy's proposed bill. The officer will subsequently explain the violation in a manner that is both simple and comprehensible, and will also inform the individual of their rights.

Unless absolutely necessary and only after all other methods of control have been exhausted and have failed, police personnel are prohibited from using profane language and from displaying and using their firearms or other weapons.

The child's custody will be transferred to the Social Welfare and Development Office or another accredited non-governmental organization immediately, but no later than eight hours after the officer apprehends the child.

Once the parent or guardian retrieves the child, the erring minor must approve all of their statements in their presence. Penalties may include the requirement for parents or guardians to contribute a minimum of 48 hours of community service and/or pay a minimum of P2,000 in fines.

On the second offense, the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children will mandate that both the parent or guardian and the child participate in consistent counseling sessions.

At the same time, the local Department of Social Welfare and Development may provide intervention to a minor who is caught out during curfew for the third time using counseling and "proper disposition on the matter."

According to Human Rights Watch, Duterte's "Crime Prevention Program" targeted the impoverished, resulting in the arrest of more than 8,000 individuals.

In 2020, the Department of Interior and Local Government issued its advisory on how to address adolescents who have violated quarantine protocols to safeguard children from exposure to violence, as the Philippines implemented one of the world's most stringent lockdown measures.

The local government units must meticulously formulate their curfew rules to avoid unjustly infringing upon the fundamental rights of minors. Although curfew ordinances seek to protect adolescents from criminal influences, they should not grant local authorities unchecked authority that could result in abuse.

This study seeks to address the gaps in policy and enforcement surrounding curfew hours for minors in selected barangays. Specifically, it aims to identify deficiencies in the current policy framework, assess community vulnerabilities, and determine the resources needed to improve implementation. By analyzing data, the study will propose solutions to strengthen policy enforcement and ensure minors have access to essential community resources.

Despite progress in implementing disciplinary hours, significant challenges persist in addressing the broader issues of minors in conflict with the law. The absence of comprehensive and cohesive legislation tailored to minors exacerbates the problem. Existing laws are often inconsistent, insufficient, or poorly enforced, highlighting the need for a robust legal framework to protect minors while holding offenders accountable. The study will also explore targeted strategies to address these gaps and enhance community satisfaction with curfew policies.

Theoretical Framework

The juvenile delinquency arises from societal parameters and flourishes within a social framework, it is crucial to understand the evolution of delinquency into its present form. Thus, sociological theories clarify the relationship between crime and delinquency. It seeks to determine whether a singular or dual theoretical framework suffices for understanding Juvenile Delinquency, or if an extensive analysis of all theories about one another across many socioeconomic contexts is requisite. Ju-

venile delinquency arises from societal parameters and flourishes inside a social setting, inextricably connected to the societal structure. (Raturi & Rastogi, 2022).

Sociological theories are intensively investigated due to their significant impact on juveniles. Durkheim, recognized as the "Father of the Sociological School", wrote the book "Division of Labor in Society" which addresses the law in the social order. According to him, legislation is the benchmark for evaluating a society since it embodies the fundamental aspects of social solidarity (Boylestad, 1968). He introduced the term "anomie," denoting a societal condition marked by the disintegration or absence of formerly shared norms and ideals. His research concluded that Anomie occurs during and following periods of substantial and rapid transformations in the social, economic, or political systems. Durkheim posits that this is a transitional phase in which the values and standards prevalent in one era become obsolete, while new ones have yet to emerge. (<https://www.thoughtco.com/anomie-definition-3026052/>).

The understanding of right and wrong develops gradually, particularly during childhood. Childhood establishes a fundamental foundation for moral development. Consequently, certain juveniles adhere to established societal norms, whereas others are referred to as deviants. Psychologist Lawrence Kohlberg suggests that deviants are individuals with incomplete moral development. Additionally, he contended that individuals engaging in deviant behavior do not attain the same developmental milestones as those who abstain from criminal activities. Kohlberg delineated three distinct levels of moral reasoning, each comprising two sub-stages. (Kohlberg, S., n.d) Each subsequent stage supersedes the reasoning characteristic of the preceding stage. (<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Lawrence-Kohlberg>).

Level 1 - Preconvention Morality

Preconventional morality constitutes the initial phase of moral development, persisting until approximately the age of nine. A child's moral understanding is governed externally at the pre-conventional stage. Children accept and believe in the authority of figures such as

parents and instructors. (Kohlberg, S., n.d.). Children typically base their moral decisions on the tangible adverse effects of their acts.

Stage 1: Obedience-and-Punishment Orientation

In Stage 1, the attention is on how willing the child is to follow the rules to avoid getting in trouble. For instance, the act is seen as ethically wrong because the person who did it is punished; the harsher the punishment, the more "evil" the act is seen to be.

Stage 2: Instrumental Orientation

The "what's in it for me?" perspective, represented by Stage 2, holds that the optimum course of action is dictated by what the individual feels is in their best interests. Thinking in stage two shows a narrow concern for other people's needs, only to the extent that those needs could further the interests of the individual.

Level 2 - Conventional

A child's understanding of morality is associated with personal and societal relationships in the traditional stage. Children adhere to the norms set by authority figures primarily to preserve amicable relationships and social order.

During these times, regulations and traditions are rigorously adhered to, and the legitimacy or fairness of a regulation is hardly challenged. (Kohlberg, S., n.d.).

Stage 3 - Good Boy, Nice Girl Orientation

During stage 3, children seek praise and avoid condemnation. Positive behavior and being "kind" to others are encouraged.

Stage 4 - Law and order orientation.

During stage 4, children tend to accept rules and conventions as necessary for society to function. Obedience to "supposed" rules is valued and vital, as they are perceived to be the same for everybody. Stage four prioritizes moral thinking over individual approval, which was seen in stage three. Upholding laws and conventions is both an obligation and a responsibility. If one person defies the law, others are likely to follow suit. The majority of society's active members remain in stage four, where

morality is essentially directed by an outside power.

Level 3 – Postconventional

The post-conventional level is characterized by a person's sense of morality being defined by more abstract principles and values. There is a prevailing belief that certain laws are unjust and warrant modification or repeal. This marks a growing realization.

Individuals exist as distinct entities within society and may choose to disregard rules that conflict with their principles. Post-conventional moralists adhere to their ethical principles, which typically encompass fundamental human rights such as life, liberty, and justice. They regard norms as practical yet evolving mechanisms rather than as immutable rules that must be followed unconditionally.

Post-conventional individuals prioritize their moral judgment over social conventions, which can lead to their behavior, especially at stage six, being misinterpreted as that of pre-conventional individuals. Some theorists argue that a significant number of individuals will not achieve this level of abstract moral reasoning. (Kohlberg, S., n.d.).

Stage 5: Social-Contract Orientation

In stage 5, the world is perceived as possessing diverse beliefs, rights, and values. Given the uniqueness of each individual or society, such perspectives should be recognized. Laws are perceived as social constructs rather than rigid mandates and agreements.

Individuals who do not advocate for the general welfare should be replaced promptly to maximize the benefit for the largest number of individuals. This is achieved by a blend of majority decisions and necessary compromise. Democratic administration is theoretically founded on stage five logic.

Stage 6: Universal-Ethical-Principal Orientation

In stage 6, moral reasoning relies on abstract reasoning that employs universal ethical principles. The adopted principles are intellectual, emphasizing concepts such as equality, dignity, and respect. Laws possess validity only when grounded in justice; thus, a commitment

to justice necessitates the disobedience of unjust laws. Individuals select the ethical principles they wish to adhere to and experience guilt when they violate these standards. Individuals act in this manner due to a sense of moral obligation rather than a desire to evade punishment. It aligns with their best interests; it is customary, legal, or has been previously agreed upon. Kohlberg asserted the existence of stage six, noting, however, that individuals who consistently function at that level are uncommon.

According to the social disorganization theory, a person's home address is a better indicator of their violent behavior than their personal traits. Teenagers are more likely to become thieves in these poor urban areas because the culture is accepted there. Geography is important when it comes to crime, according to the social disorder theory (Walker and Zawisza).

Clifford Shaw and Henry D. McKay, two criminology researchers from the "Chicago School," used their research from 1942 to come up with the idea of social disorganization. Giving to social disorder theory, a person's social and physical surroundings have a big impact on the decisions they make about how to behave. Place is the most important part of social disorder theory when it comes to predicting illegal behavior. Areas with high crime rates have problems like decaying buildings, poverty, and a lot of people from different cultures and ethnicities living together. Delinquency is caused by the normal way that people normally react to strange situations. A popular way to predict teen violence and crime is to use the hypothesis of social disorder.

A sociological perspective on the evolution of crime and deviance that emphasizes social labeling. The concept posits that although aberrant behavior may stem from diverse reasons and settings, once individuals are categorized or identified as deviants, individuals often face new obstacles stemming from self and external responses to the negative stereotypes (stigma) linked to the deviant label. Becker (1963); Lemert (1967). Theory suggests that deviant behavior may serve as a "method of defense, attack, or adaptation" in response to the obstacles posed by deviant categorization.

The designation of an individual as a criminal offender by others may catalyze mechanisms that perpetuate or solidify engagement in criminality and deviance, irrespective of prior behavioral patterns or existing social and psychological factors.

A significant array of criminological theories has emerged from sociological investigation. These theories generally assert that criminal behavior is a typical response of biologically and psychologically normal individuals to specific social circumstances. These social circumstances have the greatest impact on juveniles.

Undeveloped and developing nations are confronting juvenile delinquency mostly due to sociological issues, as evidenced during the disciplinary sessions for minors in Barangay San Mateo, Dasmariñas City, Cavite. They instituted and rigorously implemented a curfew prohibiting minors from being outside their homes during certain hours at night. This is executed not only to uphold public order and safety and mitigate the escalation of criminality but also to protect minors from potential threats in the remote environment that could adversely affect their development; however, there are significant numbers of apprehended minors from April to August 2024.

In April 2024, 35 minors were apprehended; in May, 17 minors faced similar circumstances. On June 24, several minors were apprehended. On July, 17 minors were apprehended, followed by another incident on August involving the arrest of 14 additional minors.

The implementation of disciplinary hours (such as curfews) for minors can be understood through both sociological and psychological theories that explain the behavior of minors and how societal structures and individual psychology influence their actions. Here are some relevant theories:

Sociological Theories:

Social Control Theory (Travis Hirschi):

This theory suggests that strong social bonds to family, school, and community serve as a deterrent to deviant behavior. When minors are closely connected to these institutions,

they are less likely to engage in criminal activities.

Relevance: Curfews aim to strengthen social control by limiting minors' opportunities to engage in delinquent behavior during late hours, particularly by restricting their unsupervised time.

Strain Theory (Robert Merton):

Strain theory posits that when individuals are unable to achieve societal goals (such as success or wealth) through legitimate means, they may turn to deviance as an alternative.

Relevance: Minors who face social or economic pressures may engage in delinquency as a response to strain. Disciplinary hours or curfews attempt to reduce the chances of minors falling into deviant behavior by keeping them away from environments that may lead to criminal activities.

Labeling Theory (Edwin Lemert):

This theory suggests that individuals who are labeled as deviant are more likely to internalize that label and engage in further deviant behavior, reinforcing the cycle of crime.

Relevance: If minors are frequently subjected to curfews or other forms of control, they may be labeled as "troublemakers." This could lead to stigmatization and, paradoxically, encourage the very behavior the curfew aims to prevent. Effective curfew implementation needs to be mindful of not reinforcing negative labels but instead focusing on providing positive alternatives.

Psychological Theories:

Cognitive Behavioral Theory (Albert Bandura):

This theory emphasizes the role of learned behavior through interactions with the environment and the impact of thoughts on behavior. It suggests that deviant behavior can be learned through socialization and modeled by peers or authorities.

Relevance: Curfews could be seen as a form of behavior modification, where minors are taught to associate certain behaviors (such as being home by a specific time) with positive outcomes (safety, discipline). Moreover,

positive reinforcement for following curfew rules may encourage better behavior patterns.

Developmental Theory (Erik Erikson):

According to Erikson's stages of psychosocial development, adolescence is a time for identity exploration and gaining autonomy. During this stage, minors may engage in risk-taking behaviors as part of their quest for identity.

Relevance: While curfews may limit minors' autonomy, they can also provide a sense of structure and security, which is crucial during this developmental stage. By enforcing curfews, society is helping minors navigate the challenges of adolescence in a controlled environment, potentially preventing the exploration of risky behaviors.

Social Learning Theory (Albert Bandura):

Social learning theory asserts that behavior is learned from others, particularly through imitation and reinforcement.

Relevance: Curfews can help prevent minors from associating with delinquent peer groups or engaging in antisocial behaviors during late hours. If minors are kept in environments where pro-social behavior is encouraged, they are more likely to learn and adopt these behaviors.

Integrating Sociological and Psychological Perspectives:

Social Control and Strain Theories suggest that societal structures such as curfews can reduce opportunities for deviance and address external factors contributing to criminal behavior.

Psychological theories like Cognitive Behavioral Theory and Developmental Theory highlight the individual's cognitive development and social learning, showing that curfews can also serve as tools for modifying behavior and providing structure during a critical developmental period.

In conclusion, the implementation of disciplinary hours for minors can be seen as a strategy to both manage external social factors and influence internal psychological processes that drive delinquent behavior. However, the effectiveness of such measures depends on how they are integrated with supportive community resources, positive role models, and alternative pathways for minors to develop healthy identities.

Conceptual Framework

The following presents the conceptual framework of the study:

Based from Figure 1, the Input-Process-Output or the I-P-O Model will apply to the present research. The use of the I-P-O Model will be deemed applicable by the researcher to effectively show the different inputs, the processes or methods that will be used, and also the intended output of the study. In this research, the inputs that will be utilized include the community satisfaction in implementing disciplinary hours for minors in selected barangays in Dasmaringas City, Cavite in terms as assessed by the three groups of respondents.

Finally, the intended output of the study will include propose enhanced guidelines for disciplinary hours for minors in Barangay San Mateo, Dasmaringas City Cavite.

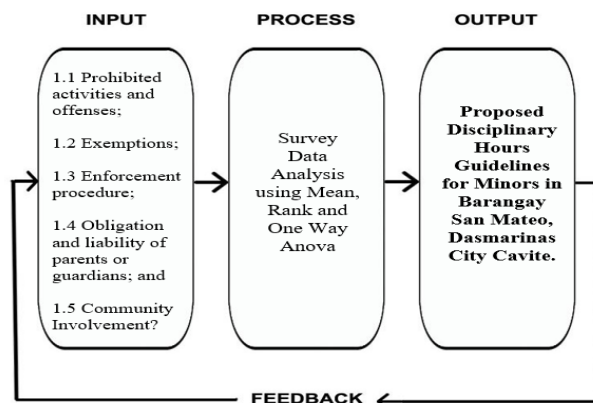


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

The objective of this research study is to assess the municipal ordinance for curfew on minors, specifically the perceptions of Philippine National Police Personnel, Barangay Officials, and Parents regarding the implementation of curfew for minors in specific barangays in Dasmaringas City, Cavite.

Statement of the Problem

The present study aims to assess the implementation of disciplinary hours in selected barangays in Dasmaringas City.

Specifically, this study seeks answers to the following questions.

1. How do the respondents assess the effectiveness of the community satisfaction in implementing disciplinary hours for minors in selected barangays in Dasmaringas City, Cavite in terms of:
 - 1.1 Prohibited activities and offenses;
 - 1.2 Exemptions;
 - 1.3 Enforcement procedure;
 - 1.4 Obligation and liability of parents or guardians; and
 - 1.5 Community Involvement?
2. What are the challenges encountered in the implementation of the disciplinary hours in selected barangays in Dasmaringas City, Cavite?
3. Is there a significant difference in the assessment between the three groups of respondents in terms of the above-cited variables?
4. What measures may be proposed to enhance the guidelines for disciplinary hours for minors in selected barangays as assessed by the three (3) groups of respondents?

Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study will focus on the assessment of the community satisfaction in implementing disciplinary hours for minors in selected barangays in Dasmaringas City, Cavite. Further, it will concentrate on the implementations of the parameters such as prohibited activities and offenses; exemptions; enforcement procedures; obligation and liability of parents or guardians; and community involvement with the greatest number of violation cases for minor offenders which will cover 2023 and 2024 respectively.

This will become the basis of the researcher in crafting the enhanced guidelines for disciplinary hours for minors p towards preventing crime rate in minors. The respondents of the study will be the Police Personnel, Barangay Officials, and Parents.

The target number of respondents according to the Raosoft calculator will be 363 for a 95 confidence level and a 5% margin of error.

Research Method

In order to address the research questions previously outlined, this study adopts a normative-descriptive research design, employing survey methodology as its primary approach.

This study will employ a quantitative-descriptive framework. This study utilizes a survey approach to gather information about the demographic traits of the participants and evaluate community satisfaction concerning prohibited activities and offenses; exemptions; enforcement procedures; responsibilities and liabilities of parents or guardians; and community engagement. It will also investigate the challenges faced, and recommendations may be put forward to improve the guidelines for disciplinary hours for minors.

Creswell defines descriptive research design as a study that delineates the characteristics of a population or phenomenon under investigation. Utilized primarily to comprehend a group or phenomenon. This entails the collection of data via surveys, interviews, or observation. Descriptive research designs address the questions of "Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How." Thorough investigation is carried out with the purpose of acquiring extensive knowledge about a certain topic. Commonly observed in the domains of social sciences and health sciences (Survey Point Team, 2023).

Respondents of the Study

The assessment carried out among the participants reveals a total of 363 individuals, including Police Personnel, Barangay Officials, and Parents living in Barangay Sta. Fe, San Nicolas I, and San Francisco 2. According to the data from the chosen barangays between April and August 2024, the following outlines the instances of minors who have been apprehended.

Table 1. Reported Cases of Minors

Month, 2024	Cases
April	35
May	17
June	24
July	17
August	14
Total:	107

Population and Sampling Scheme

The selection of respondents will be conducted through stratified random sampling. In stratified sampling, the subjects are divided into subgroups known as strata based on shared characteristics (Creswell, 2013). The

criteria established are as follows; Currently serving as local government officials in Dasmariñas City, Cavite, with a minimum of one year of experience in managing disciplinary hours for minors and having resided in the selected barangays for less than one (1) and above.

Table 2. Respondents of the Study

Area	PNP Personnel	Barangay Officials	Parents
Barangay Sta. Fe	10	3	10
Barangay San Nicolas 1	10	3	10
Barangay San Francisco 2	11	3	9
TOTAL	31	9	29

Data Analysis

The data undergo the subsequent treatments:

The use of percentage, weighted mean, and ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) can provide valuable insights depending on the nature of the data and the research objectives.

Percentage. The simple percentage will be used to determine the size and magnitude of

one variable to another particularly the demographic profile of the respondents.

Weighted Mean. This calculation will yield a statistical measure that summarizes the central tendency or average value of a quantitative or continuous variable. The weighted mean will be utilized to assess the results of the survey questionnaire.

Weighted Mean Description of Survey Questionnaire

Quantitative Description	Qualitative Description	Interpretation
3.26 - 4.00	Highly Implemented Highly Serious	Distinguished
2.51 - 3.25	Implemented Serious	Proficient
2.26 - 2.50	Least Implemented Least Serious	Beginning
1.0- 1.25	Not Implemented Not Serious	Poor

One Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). This will be used to assess if there is significant difference on the evaluation of the community engagement in the implementation of the Disciplinary Hours for minors.

Ethical Consideration

The participants involved will utilize the Free-Priority and Informed Consent Protocol, wherein the respondents will ensure that their responses are solely for research purposes and thus to help the implementation of the discipli-

nary hours for minors. The anonymity of the respondents was preserved by not collecting their names or any identifying information that could specifically reveal their identities. After extracting the data, the questionnaires were disposed of by shredding them.

Results and Findings

Sub-problem No. 1. Respondents assessment on the effectiveness of the community

satisfaction in implementing disciplinary hours for minors in selected barangays in Dasmaringas City, Cavite.

Table 1 illustrates the respondents' assessment on the effectiveness of the community satisfaction in implementing disciplinary hours for minors in selected barangays in Dasmaringas City, Cavite in terms of Prohibited Activities and Offenses.

Table 1. Respondents assessment on the effectiveness of the community satisfaction in implementing disciplinary hours for minors in selected barangays in Dasmaringas City, Cavite in terms of Prohibited Activities and Offenses

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Interpretation
1. Implementors advocate that curfews are necessary to protect minors from crime and improve their safety and security.	3.46	Highly Implemented (HI)
2. The government assists parents or guardians in fostering the moral development of children; implementing curfews is a legal measure to safeguard children from criminal activities.	3.27	Highly Implemented (HI)
3. Minors may be required to adhere to curfews set by city or municipal governments based on the specific circumstances in their respective areas.	3.39	Highly Implemented (HI)
4. Curfew restrictions should be clearly defined and limited to necessary objectives.	3.51	Highly Implemented (HI)
5. Disciplinary Ordinances, such as curfew hours, restrict unsupervised activities of minors that do not enhance their welfare during periods when danger is heightened.	3.26	Highly Implemented (HI)
Overall Weighted Mean	3.38	Highly Implemented (HI)

Legend:

- 3.26 – 4.00 Highly Implemented (HI)
- 2.51 – 3.25 Implemented (I)
- 2.26 – 2.50 Least Implemented (LI)
- 1.00 – 1.25 Not Implemented (NI)

The result shows that the overall assessment of the respondents is Highly Implemented, with mean score of 3.38.

The respondents concur that curfew restrictions in their barangays are clearly defined and focused on necessary objectives, resulting in a highest weighted mean of 3.51, interpreted as Highly Implemented.

Furthermore, proponents assert that curfews are essential for safeguarding minors against crime and enhancing their safety and security, as evidenced by the respondents'

agreement, reflected in the second highest weighted mean of 3.46, which is interpreted as highly implemented.

Lastly, while it receives the highest implementation with weighted mean of 3.26, it indicates that the respondents strongly advocate for Disciplinary Ordinances, such as curfew hours, to limit unsupervised activities of minors that do not promote their welfare during times of increased danger.

The importance of enforcing a curfew is undeniable, particularly during the COVID-19

pandemic, as it requires citizens to manage their movement within their communities. The Municipality of Dilasag has aligned its curfew implementation with the issued Executive Order (E.O.) No. 2020-0025 s. 2020 from the Provincial Government of Aurora, led by Governor Gerardo A. Noveras, which regulates the movements of certain minors to ensure public safety. The law stipulates that minor in the jurisdiction of Dilasag, Aurora, must be under the supervision of law enforcement authorities to prevent their involvement in crime and to ensure public health and safety. (Pia et al., 2023).

It was backed up with Morgan (2017) examined the significance of curfews in preventing juveniles from congregating in public

spaces and mitigating criminal activity. Minors must remain indoors or be accompanied by an adult or legal guardian during the enforcement of curfews. Minors must remain indoors during curfew, regardless of their location. Minors must adhere to the ordinances or resolutions established by their residing city.

Table 2 illustrates the respondents' assessment on the effectiveness of the community satisfaction in implementing disciplinary hours for minors in selected barangays in Dasmariñas City, Cavite in terms of Exemptions.

Table 2. Respondents assessment on the effectiveness of the community satisfaction in implementing disciplinary hours for minors in selected barangays in Dasmariñas City, Cavite in terms Exemptions

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Interpretation
1. Implementors advocate that curfews are necessary to protect minors from crime and improve their safety and security.	2.97	Implemented (I)
2. The government assists parents or guardians in fostering the moral development of children; implementing curfews is a legal measure to safeguard children from criminal activities.	2.93	Implemented (I)
3. Minors may be required to adhere to curfews set by city or municipal governments based on the specific circumstances in their respective areas.	2.89	Implemented (I)
4. Curfew restrictions should be clearly defined and limited to necessary objectives.	2.91	Implemented (I)
5. Disciplinary Ordinances, such as curfew hours, restrict unsupervised activities of minors that do not enhance their welfare during periods when danger is heightened.	2.97	Implemented (I)
Overall Weighted Mean	2.93	Implemented (I)

Legend:

- 3.26 – 4.00 Highly Implemented (HI)
- 2.51 – 3.25 Implemented (I)
- 2.26 – 2.50 Least Implemented (LI)
- 1.00 – 1.25 Not Implemented (NI)

The result shows that the overall assessment of the respondents is Implemented, with mean score of 2.93.

The respondents agree that implementors support the idea that curfews are essential for safeguarding minors from crime and enhancing their safety and security. Disciplinary Ordinances, like curfew hours, limit unsupervised activities of minors that do not contribute to their welfare during times of increased danger,

leading to a highest weighted mean of 2.97, which is interpreted as Implemented.

Moreover, supporters argue that the government plays a role in helping parents or guardians nurture the moral growth of children; the establishment of curfews serves as a legal strategy to protect children from criminal activities, as indicated by the second highest weighted mean of 2.93, which is understood as being put into action.

Lastly, the implementation received a weighted mean of 2.89, indicating that respondents believe minors should adhere to curfews established by city or municipal governments, depending on the specific circumstances in their respective areas.

(Former) President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, declared his support for curfews, which were in place in Davao City even throughout his tenure as mayor. Children are prohibited from loitering between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. due to curfew hours. In an interview with Angie Saveron of Edge Davao on November 2, 2018, Davao City Police Office Director Sr. Supt. Alexander Tagum stated that curfew hours for minors would remain in place since "this is still for their protection."

Curfew ordinances can differ across cities and barangays; however, the benefits of implementing curfews for minors significantly surpass any possible negative aspects. A study conducted in 2018 by students from Central Mindanao University examined the impact of curfew enforcement on juvenile crimes in Dologon, Maramag, Bukidnon. The findings indicated that the implementation of curfews served as effective measures in reducing various juvenile crimes and acted as a deterrent for offenses committed by young individuals.

Table 3 illustrates the respondents' assessment on the effectiveness of the community satisfaction in implementing disciplinary hours for minors in selected barangays in Dasmariñas City, Cavite in terms of Enforcement Procedure.

Table 3. Respondents assessment on the effectiveness of the community satisfaction in implementing disciplinary hours for minors in selected barangays in Dasmariñas City, Cavite in terms Enforcement Procedure

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Interpretation
1. The authorities may question the minor's age and why they are in public within the restricted hours.	3.36	Highly Implemented (HI)
2. Explain to the minor in simple terms the reason for their custody and the alleged offense they committed.	3.38	Highly Implemented (HI)
3. Inform the minor of the reasons behind the custody arrangement and provide the child with a concise explanation of their constitutional rights.	3.29	Highly Implemented (HI)
4. Establish your role in the barangay to the minor using your identification card.	3.29	Highly Implemented (HI)
5. Refrain from using vulgar or inappropriate language, engaging in harassment, sexual abuse, or making sexual advances toward the child in conflict with the law.	3.36	Highly Implemented (HI)
Overall Weighted Mean	3.34	Implemented (I)

Legend:

- 3.26 – 4.00 Highly Implemented (HI)
- 2.51 – 3.25 Implemented (I)
- 2.26 – 2.50 Least Implemented (LI)
- 1.00 – 1.25 Not Implemented (NI)

The result shows that the overall assessment of the respondents is Highly Implemented, with mean score of 3.34.

The respondents concur that implementors convey to the minor, in simple terms, the rationale for their custody and the purported offense committed, resulting in a highest weighted mean of 3.38, which is interpreted as Highly Implemented.

Furthermore, respondents concur that authorities have the right to inquire about a minor's age and their presence in public during restricted hours. It is essential for implementors to avoid the use of vulgar or inappropriate language, as well as any form of harassment, sexual abuse, or sexual advances towards the child involved in legal conflicts, as reflected by

the second highest weighted mean of 3.36, indicating a high level of implementation.

Lastly, the implementation received a weighted mean of 3.29, suggesting that respondents perceive implementors as effectively informing the minor about the reasons for the custody arrangement. They also provide a clear explanation of the child's constitutional rights and clarify the role of the barangay official to the minor using the identification card.

Puno (2017) recommended that the general public, especially the youth, should be prepared to explain their presence on the streets during curfew hours and to present

identification if asked, as young teens require more stringent restrictions. Establishing a curfew for teenagers is a matter of principle, irrespective of their age. A definite curfew establishes explicit guidelines that must be adhered to, while also clearly outlining the consequences of any violations.

Table 4 illustrates the respondents' assessment on the effectiveness of the community satisfaction in implementing disciplinary hours for minors in selected barangays in Dasmarinas City, Cavite in terms of Obligation and Liability of Parents or Guardian.

Table 4. Respondents assessment on the effectiveness of the community satisfaction in implementing disciplinary hours for minors in selected barangays in Dasmarinas City, Cavite in terms Obligation and Liability of Parents or Guardian

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Interpretation
1. It is required that parent(s) or guardian(s) oversee the activities of their child/ren.	3.27	Highly Implemented (HI)
2. Parent (s) or guardian(s) needs to ensure the care, protection, and overall moral, mental, and physical development of the child(ren) in conflict with the law.	3.33	Highly Implemented (HI)
3. The parent(s) and guardian(s) advocate for and safeguard the rights and interests of their children allegedly in conflict with the law.	3.40	Highly Implemented (HI)
4. Attending counseling sessions or seminars may be mandatory for both the child in conflict with the law and their parent(s) or guardian(s).	3.07	Implemented (HI)
5. Any statements signed by a child during an investigation require the presence of a parent or guardian as witnesses.	3.39	Highly Implemented (HI)
Overall Weighted Mean	3.29	Highly Implemented (I)

Legend:

- 3.26 – 4.00 Highly Implemented (HI)
- 2.51 – 3.25 Implemented (I)
- 2.26 – 2.50 Least Implemented (LI)
- 1.00 – 1.25 Not Implemented (NI)

The findings indicate that the respondents' overall assessment is categorized as Highly Implemented, reflected by a mean score of 3.29.

The respondents concur that the parent(s) and guardian(s) actively advocate for and protect the rights and interests of their children who are reportedly in conflict with the law, yielding a highest weighted mean of 3.40, interpreted as Highly Implemented. Moreover, participants agree that any declarations made

by a child during an inquiry necessitate the presence of a parent or guardian as witnesses, as evidenced by the second highest weighted mean of 3.39, signifying a substantial level of implementation.

Finally, the implementation garnered a weighted mean of 3.07, with respondents indicating that participation in counselling sessions or seminars could be essential for both the

child in conflict with the law and their parent(s) or guardian(s).

Dalizon (2017) stated that Philippine National Police authorities assert that enforcing a curfew for minors nationwide, together with penalizing parents and guardians of offenders, will serve as a significant deterrence to crimes involving minors and juvenile delinquents.

According to the findings of their research study, Apduhan et al. (2019) suggested in their published article that the Barangay 1-7 community should cooperate and participate in the

institution's curfew hour implementation because it is only for the benefit of the general public and the quality of understanding the law when it comes to becoming a professional and a heavy and highly trained student.

Table 5 illustrates the respondents' assessment on the effectiveness of the community satisfaction in implementing disciplinary hours for minors in selected barangays in Dasmariñas City, Cavite in terms of Community Involvement

Table 5. Respondents assessment on the effectiveness of the community satisfaction in implementing disciplinary hours for minors in selected barangays in Dasmariñas City, Cavite in terms Community Involvement

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Interpretation
1. Minors who violate the disciplinary hours may engage in community service as a substitute for any offenses.	3.17	Implemented (I)
2. Engaging in community service allows minor to grasp the consequences of their actions while acquiring essential life skills.	3.24	Implemented (I)
3. Engaging in community groups that foster a secure social atmosphere for minor(s) to interact.	3.30	Highly Implemented (HI)
4. Assure that a minor facing legal issues can be successfully reintegrated into society. This approach not only supports the child(ren) but also contributes to public safety by engaging them to the community in proactive prevention strategies.	3.34	Implemented (HI)
5. The interest of the minor(s) encompasses the entirety of circumstances and conditions that best support their survival, protection, and sense of security, while also fostering their physical, psychological, and emotional development.	3.27	Highly Implemented (HI)
Overall Weighted Mean	3.26	Highly Implemented (I)

Legend:

- 3.26 – 4.00 Highly Implemented (HI)
- 2.51 – 3.25 Implemented (I)
- 2.26 – 2.50 Least Implemented (LI)
- 1.00 – 1.25 Not Implemented (NI)

The results show that the overall assessment from the respondents is classified as Highly Implemented, with a mean score of 3.26.

The participants agree that those responsible for implementation ensure that a minor encountering legal challenges can be effectively reintegrated into society. This method not only aids the child(ren) but also enhances public

safety by involving them in community-driven prevention strategies, resulting in a highest weighted mean of 3.34, which is interpreted as Highly Implemented. Furthermore, participants concur that involvement in community groups that promote a safe social environment

for minors to engage, as indicated by the second highest weighted mean of 3.30, reflects a significant level of implementation.

Ultimately, the implementation achieved a weighted mean of 3.17, indicating that respondents concur that minors who breach the disciplinary hours might undertake community service as an alternative for any infractions.

Alternative approaches to minor crime prevention may be more effective in the long term. Programs that target the root causes of delinquency, such as educational initiatives, community support, and family aid, offer promise for long-term reductions in child criminality. Integrating curfew regulations into these broader

efforts may result in a more holistic solution. Moving forward, a combination of enforcement and supporting interventions looks to be the most successful strategy for addressing and reducing adolescent crime. (Soriano, 2019).

Sub-problem No. 2. Challenges encountered in the implementation of the disciplinary hours in selected barangays in Dasmarinas City, Cavite.

Table 6 illustrates the challenges encountered in the implementation of the disciplinary hours in selected barangays in Dasmarinas City, Cavite.

Table 6. Respondents assessment on the challenges encountered in the implementation of the disciplinary hours in selected barangays in Dasmarinas City, Cavite

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Interpretation
1. Disciplinary Hours enforcement is perceived as unreasonable and discriminatory due to vague regulations.	2.40	Least Serious (LS)
2. Abuse by the implementing authorities by making it illegal or difficult for minor(s) to do legal things during curfew hours.	2.27	Least Serious (LS)
3. Deny minor(s) the right to freedom and travel without significant due process.	2.20	Least Serious (LS)
4. Deprive the parent(s) or guardians(s) of their inherent and principal right to raise their child(ren) without substantive due process.	2.34	Least Serious (LS)
5. Curfew ordinances favor unjust and discriminatory enforcement due to the absence of clear provisions and detailed standards guiding the implementors in the apprehension and accurate determination of the age of alleged curfew violators.	2.40	Least Serious (LS)
6. The implementor's apprehension relies solely on a physical assessment, which is subjective and influenced by the implementor's visual evaluation of the alleged curfew violator.	2.42	Least Serious (LS)
7. The lists of exemptions do not encompass a broad range of acceptable activities or the reasons why minors would be out at night, and as a result, they prohibit or hinder the acceptable activities of minors during curfew hours. This includes students who work or attend evening classes.	2.32	Least Serious (LS)
8. The implementor(s) do not meet the criteria for thorough evaluation due to the absence of knowledge about the ordinance, adequate seminars, and training sessions provided by the LGU and DSWD.	2.40	Least Serious (LS)
9. The restriction of minor(s) on the streets during curfew hours does not inherently safeguard or enhance the social and moral welfare of the children within the community.	2.37	Least Serious (LS)

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Interpretation
10. The government fails to implement more appropriate sanctions, such as mandatory parental counseling and educational seminars that explain the foundation for the curfew.	2.44	Least Serious (LS)
11. Imprisonment is an excessively severe penalty for parents whose children are out during curfew hours.	2.50	Least Serious (LS)
12. The community fails to promote acceptable and proper behavior in the child(ren) nor provide an emotionally safe and secure setting for their development.	2.41	Least Serious (LS)
13. Inconsistent application of discipline within the community will hinder a child(ren) respect for their parents and elders.	2.50	Least Serious (LS)
14. Punitive measures in discipline, such as humiliation (verbal abuse, shouting, name-calling), will hinder the child(ren) ability to appreciate and trust their community.	2.41	Least Serious (LS)
Overall Weighted Mean	2.03	Not Serious (NS)

Legend:

- 3.26 – 4.00 Very Serious (VS)
- 2.51 – 3.25 Serious (S)
- 2.26 – 2.50 Least Serious (LS)
- 1.00 – 1.25 Not Serious (NS)

The results demonstrate that, on average, respondents rated the situation as Not Serious, with a score of 2.03.

The respondents reached a consensus that imprisonment is an overly harsh punishment for parents whose children are out after curfew hours, and that inconsistent community discipline will discourage children from respecting their parents and elders, leading to a weighted mean score of 2.50, indicating that this is the least serious issue.

Also, with the second-highest weighted mean of 2.42, respondents think the government isn't doing enough to enforce reasonable punishments like required parental counseling and educational seminars that explain the rationale behind the curfew is least serious concern to them. In the end, the implementation reached a weighted mean of 2.20, which means that most respondents agree that the most important issue in their barangays is the denial of minors' right to freedom and travel without meaningful due process.

The findings indicate that the curfew hour was consistently enforced through the ongoing efforts of the Barangay Officials and Police Officer. The result demonstrates that safety and security requirements are integral to the foundational needs outlined in the hierarchy of

needs. Self-actualization cannot be achieved without the provision of the second level of needs by the barangay officials. This concept revolves around the hierarchy of needs as proposed by Maslow, particularly in relation to the duties of Barangay Officials. A prime illustration of this is how these officials create a learning environment that fosters and empowers individuals to realize their distinct potential. (Soriano, 2019).

The implementation of curfew promotes community security among minors since it reduces juvenile victimization in homicide and assault, and no juveniles were detected on the streets or in commercial establishments. Furthermore, curfews tend to prevent child kidnapping, minors involvement and victimization in rape, and present a high level of security and safety. (Pia et al., 2023b).

Sub-problem No. 3. Significant difference in the assessment between the three groups of respondents in terms of the above-cited variables?

Table 7 shows the significant difference in the assessments between the three groups of respondents in terms of prohibited activities

and offenses; exemptions; enforcement procedure; obligation and liability of parents or guardians; and community involvement

Table 7. Significant Difference in the Assessment Between the Three Groups of Respondents

Source of Variation	SS	MS	F	F crit	P-value	Decision
Between Groups	0.852001	0.426001	1.707405	3.09887	0.187221	Accept H ₀₁
Within Groups	22.20567	0.249502				Reject H _{a1}

$\alpha = 0.05$ level of reliability = 95%

H₀₁ There is no significant difference in the among the assessment of the of respondents on the effectiveness of the community satisfaction in implementing disciplinary hours for minors in selected barangays in Dasmaringas City, Cavite in terms of prohibited activities and offenses; exemptions; enforcement procedure; obligation and liability of parents or guardians; and community involvement.

H_{a1} There is a significant difference among the perceptions of the respondents on the effectiveness of the community satisfaction in implementing disciplinary hours for minors in selected barangays in Dasmaringas City, Cavite.

ANOVA was used in order to determine the significant difference among the assessment of PNP Officers, Barangay Officials and Parent/Guardian respondents on the implementation of effectiveness of the community satisfaction in implementing disciplinary hours for minors.

Table 7 shows that there is no significant difference (Pvalue 0.187221>) among the perceptions of the respondents from PNP Officers, Barangay Officials and Parent/Guardian, because the P-value is greater than the alpha (=0.05) or level of significance.

In terms of variance, the F-computed (F=1.707405) is lower than the F-critical (Fcrit=3.09887) which further confirms that there is no significant difference among perceptions of the respondents from PNP Officers, Barangay Officials and Parent/Guardian on the on the implementation of effectiveness of the community satisfaction in implementing disciplinary hours for minors. The null hypothesis is accepted and the alternative hypothesis is rejected.

The study's findings imply that the Disciplinary Hours are being implemented effectively based on respondents' perceptions. The policy

was designed in good faith to reduce crime rates caused by minors and promote community peace and order.

Conclusions

Based from the findings of the study, the following conclusion were drawn:

The study on the enforcement of Disciplinary Hours for Minors reveals a largely positive perception of the policy, confirming its efficacy in promoting both community well-being and the development of minors. The findings highlight that the policy is seen as reasonable and non-discriminatory. It has clear regulations, and implementors demonstrate a strong commitment to supporting its goals, benefiting both the community and the children involved. Minors, recognizing the necessity of these measures for their well-being, generally comply with the policy.

The involvement of government agencies such as the DSWD and local government units (LGUs) is pivotal in assisting parents and guardians to guide the ethical development of minors. Curfews, as a legal measure, play a crucial role in protecting minors from engaging in criminal activities. The process during apprehension is clear, ensuring the minor's rights are upheld, which contributes to effective enforcement.

Additionally, the role of parents and guardians is vital in ensuring the care, protection, and proper development of minors, especially those in conflict with the law. Their active involvement in supervising their children's activities is essential for the long-term success of the policy. Moreover, community service is recognized as an effective tool, allowing minors to better understand the consequences of their actions while developing important life skills and fostering a secure social environment.

However, the study also highlights challenges related to the formulation of policies that restrict minors' freedom of movement, particularly concerning travel documentation and curfew exemptions. There is a need for more comprehensive guidelines that consider a broader range of acceptable activities for minors during curfew hours. The issue of punitive measures, such as verbal abuse, was also raised by respondents, emphasizing the importance of handling discipline in a way that fosters trust and respect within the community, rather than diminishing it.

Lastly, the findings underscore the successful implementation of Disciplinary Hours for Minors in the selected barangays of Dasmariñas, Cavite. The policy is highly regarded for its clear guidelines on prohibited activities, exemptions, enforcement procedures, and the involvement of parents or guardians. The policy's implementation has contributed significantly to decreasing crime rates related to minors, fostering a more peaceful and orderly community environment.

In conclusion, while the policy shows promise in its objectives, further refinement and consideration of the challenges identified can enhance its effectiveness in guiding minors toward responsible behavior while ensuring their rights are protected.

Recommendations

1. Curfew policies should be implemented in conjunction with broader socioeconomic reforms to maximize their effectiveness. Investing in community-based initiatives provides educational, mentoring, and recreational opportunities for adolescents. These initiatives, which target the core causes of juvenile delinquency, such as poverty and a lack of opportunities, can complement curfews to achieve larger long-term reductions in minor crime.
2. Legislators should take into account the distinctive socioeconomic circumstances of the communities in which curfew regulations are imposed. This includes examining local needs and conditions in order to establish and implement equitable and effective curfews and address underlying issues that contribute to juvenile delinquency.

3. Curfew policies should be regularly reviewed and assessed to make sure they are accomplishing their intended objectives. Frequent evaluations enable improvements to be made and can assist in identifying any unforeseen outcomes, such as crime displacement or poor community relations. In order to improve curfew regulations and make sure they support broader efforts to prevent crime, input from law enforcement and local communities can be quite helpful.
4. Investigating and funding other crime prevention techniques is crucial given the shortcomings of curfew policy. Programs that emphasize family counseling, mental health assistance, and early intervention can provide more comprehensive answers to minors criminality.
5. The researchers considered that the findings were relevant and significant since they may be used by future researchers to undertake additional research.

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