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Research Article

Cameras on Duty: Exploring the Impact of Body-Worn Cameras on Law Enforcement Practices and Accountability

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the perceptions of the PNP personnel of Cabuyao Component City Police Station and barangay officials in different barangays in Cabuyao City, Laguna regarding the impact of body-worn cameras on law enforcement operations, practices, and accountability. This study analyzed significant differences in their responses concerning awareness of BWCs' role in reducing crime, enhancing police accountability, and improving community trust. Additionally, the study explored challenges in the use of BWCs and assessed their effectiveness in preventing police misuse of force. This study employed descriptive quantitative research design, and the data gathered through questionnaires distributed to the police personnel and barangay officials from various barangays in Cabuyao City. Findings showed that PNP personnel and barangay officials recognized the benefits of BWCs in promoting transparency of their operations, reducing crime rates in high-crime prone areas, and strengthening community trust. Key challenges to effective implementation of BWCs include limited funding for purchasing, technical difficulties during police operations, and inadequate training in using BWCs. These results underscore the positive impact of BWCs in enhancing modern policing procedure. Addressing operational challenges and fostering alignment between law enforcement agencies and the public perspectives are therefore essential in achieving long-term positive impact.

Keywords*: Body-worn camera, Community trust, Peace and order, Police accountability, Police operations*

Introduction

Despite the growth of research on body-worn cameras (BWCs), a significant knowledge gap remains regarding their impact on police-citizen's relationships. Most law enforcement agencies in the world are using BWCs in their operations, although there is a notable gap regarding the long-term effect of BWCs,

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particularly in diverse cultural and socio-economic contexts. Specifically, existing research has focused primarily on short-term outcomes such as reduced use of force and citizens' complaints but has neglected to explore the sustained impact of body-worn cameras on trust and legitimacy, police-citizen's communication, interaction quality, community policing, engagement strategies and police personnel behaviour and well-being.

Body-worn cameras (BWCs) have emerged as a valuable tool for law enforcement agencies to enhance accountability, transparency, and community trust (Lum et al., 2015; 2020a). BWCs are small, portable cameras that police officers wear on their uniforms to capture audio and video footage of interactions with the public. By providing an objective record of police-citizen interactions, BWCs have been shown to reduce complaints against officers and improve the quality of evidence in criminal cases (Lum et al., 2020a). Additionally, they can also be used to enhance police-community relations and build trust between law enforcement and the public.

The widespread adoption of body-worn cameras (BWC) began amid public pressure for police accountability following a series of highly publicized use-of-force incidents. Extant BWC research primarily associates the concept of police accountability with the prevalence of police misconduct alone, often focusing on quantitative changes in citizen complaints and use-of-force reports. However, perceptions of accountability following unjustified use-of-force incidents are shaped not only by the prevalence of police misconduct, but also by the broader systemic response, including the way in which the mechanisms of arrest, prosecution, and sentencing are applied to unjust police behaviour. This systems approach to police accountability in the context of BWCs considers the outcomes of police, prosecution, court, and corrections agencies as equally important to the achievement of accountability. To understand the impact of BWCs on police accountability, their effect on the entire criminal justice system should be considered (Petersen, 2022).

Throughout history, police-community relations have often been called into question. In an era of instantaneous communication through social media and other outlets, media coverage of events involving perceived police misconduct can have an instant impact on the public trust of the police and their perceptions of the police as legitimate. Just as evolving technology can have a negative impact on perceptions of the police, officer body-worn cameras present departments with a novel outlet to rebuild and maintain trust and legitimacy within their communities. As campus law enforcement agencies continue to be tasked with the equivalent roles of their municipal counterparts, the impacts of trust and legitimacy trickle upon campus police officers. Hence, there is a need to assess the value of implementing body-worn cameras in modern policing, with a particular focus on campus policing, through relevant research from multiple disciplines of criminal justice, sociology, psychology, and law (Elliott, 2015). Body-worn cameras (BWCs) are an increasingly common tool for police oversight, accountability, and transparency, yet there remains uncertainty about their impacts on policing outcomes.

The Philippines, in compliance with the constitutional mandate to respect human rights and value the dignity of a person, is obliged to perform its duty to keep the community safe against lawless elements, and at the same time, regard full respect and observe the fundamental rights of all persons, including those arrested, suspected, and even convicted criminal offenders. However, despite the existence of these legal instruments, deplorable acts of human rights violations committed by police force, military, and other security forces of the State have been an ordinary newscast. "In one reported case in Navotas, police failed to activate BWCs, which limited their evidentiary value (Gozum, 2023)." In Navotas, they have a total of seven body-worn cameras in their station. The Philippine National Police deployed body-worn cameras in 2021 to make police operations more transparent, including execution of warrants. If it had been turned on, the recording from the body-worn camera could have provided evidence or pieces of evidence. The complaint against six detained policemen was lowered from homicide to reckless imprudence resulting in homicide due to lack of supporting information (Gozum, 2023). The

deployment of body-worn cameras to the law enforcement agencies has sparked intense debate regarding police transparency and accountability during police operations. Body-worn camera enhances transparency and police accountability by providing objective record of police-citizen interactions and reducing police violence or misuse of force during the arrest.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) finally deployed its body-worn cameras four years after it promised to use the gadgets to help make police operations more transparent. At a press conference, PNP Chief Police General Guillermo Eleazar said that 600 cops have been trained to use the gadgets. He said that of the 2,696 body cameras in their inventory, an initial four units have livestreaming capability. The top cop said that initially, 171 police units will receive body cameras. The cameras can work up to eight hours, with three-hour charging time. Each time a cop goes off duty, the cameras will be surrendered back to the command center. The PNP chief said the body cameras will serve as protection for both the citizens and the police (Bolledo, 2021). As a government's response, in July 2021, the Supreme Court released its 29 June 2021 Resolution, which approved A.M. No. 21-06-08-SC, or the Rules on the Use of Body-Worn Cameras in the Execution of Warrants. The Philippine National Police (PNP) announced that the mandatory use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) or alternative recording devices (ARDs) during police operations are now mandatory (Nepomuceno, 2021).

A study on the implementation and impact of the use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) among police personnel and barangay officials is therefore directly relevant to and supports global development goals, particularly the commitment to peace, justice, and strong institutions. By studying the effectiveness and community reception of BWC technology, the study could shed light on how accountability tools might convert grassroots law enforcement into more open, responsive, and rights-oriented systems.

Body-worn cameras, when properly installed, act as both a protective and preventative measure. They serve as a disincentive to potential misbehavior by law enforcement officers while protecting officers from false charges. The presence of an impartial digital witness promotes mutual respect between law enforcement officers and the community. This technological intervention promotes fairness in law enforcement, enhancing the credibility of police operations and ensuring that the rule of law is upheld without bias.

Furthermore, the study demonstrates how incorporating BWCs into routine police practice might open up avenues for justice by ensuring that contacts are documented and available for review. This increases the evidentiary value of police processes and promotes due process for all people, particularly those from underrepresented populations. It also strengthens public faith in justice systems by ensuring that acts made by authority are visible, reviewable, and accountable.

The study supports the concept of inclusive governance by including both government actors and local stakeholders, such as barangay officials and youth. Encouraging collaboration across sectors improves institutional effectiveness and ensures that security policies are responsive to people's demands. This participatory approach fosters peaceful coexistence, promotes active citizenship, and builds a strong foundation for sustainable development rooted in transparency and equality.

In summary, the study does more than just evaluate a law enforcement tool as it suggests a model in which technology, policy, and community engagement work together to produce safer, more equitable, and accountable institutions. This immediately reflects the ideal of creating inclusive and peaceful societies that do not leave anyone behind.

The major purpose of this study was to assess the implementation of body-worn cameras in the Philippine National Police in terms of preventing misuse of force and improve community trust.

Specifically, it sought to achieve the following objectives:

1. determine the profile of the respondents in terms of:
   1.1 police personnel
      a. rank;
      b. section/designation;
      c. number of years in PNP service;

1.2 barangay officials
   a. position held;
   b. number of years residing in the barangay;
2. examine the level of awareness of the police personnel and barangay officials on the impact of body-worn cameras in terms of:
   a. reducing crime rate;
   b. police accountability;
   c. improving community trust;
3. assess the challenges encountered in using body-worn cameras based on the perception of police personnel and barangay officials;
4. evaluate the perceived effectiveness of body worn cameras in preventing police misuse of force;
5. analyze the significant difference in the responses of the police personnel and barangay officials on the following:
   a. level of awareness on the impact of body-worn cameras in reducing crime rate, police accountability, and improving community trust;
   b. challenges encountered in using body-worn cameras; and
   c. effectiveness of body worn cameras in preventing police misuse of force.

Theoretical Framework

Deterrence theory, rooted in classical criminology and advanced by theorists like Cesare Beccaria and Jeremy Bentham, posits that individuals are discouraged from committing offenses when the costs such as punishment or exposure outweigh the perceived benefits. The theory distinguishes between general deterrence, which affects the public by observing others being sanctioned, and specific deterrence, which targets the behavior of individuals who are aware of being monitored or punished. Deterrence is the theory that criminal penalties do not just punish violators, but also discourage other people from committing similar offenses. Many people point to the need to deter criminal actions after a high-profile incident in which an offender is seen to have received a light sentence. Some argue that a tougher sentence would have prevented the tragedy and can prevent a similar tragedy from taking place in the future (Johnson, 2019).

In the context of law enforcement, body-worn cameras (BWCs) act as a mechanism of deterrence for both police officers and the public. For police officers, the knowledge that their interactions in the community are being recorded increases the certainty that any police misconduct such as excessive use of force, abuse of power, or unethical behavior can be recorded or captured by BWCs and result in disciplinary actions or imprisonment. For public, the presence of cameras may deter aggression or false accusations during police operations. Thus, BWCs operationalize deterrence theory by increasing transparency, accountability, and behavioral restraint in police work.

Meanwhile, the self-awareness theory introduced by Duval and Wicklund (1972) suggests that when individuals become the focus of their own attention, they are more likely to compare their behavior to social norms and internal standards. This self-evaluation often leads to behavior that is more consistent with societal expectations, ethics, or professional codes of conduct.

In the context of law enforcement, body-worn cameras (BWCs) serve not only as a monitoring tool for external behavior oversight but also as a mirror that triggers internal self-awareness among police officers. When police officers aware of their actions are being recorded or being caught by the camera, they become more conscious of how they act in the public, speak in a nice way, and make positive decisions during public interactions. This heightened awareness can lead to greater self-regulation, self-restraint, and ethical conduct, all of which align with the principles of self-awareness theory.

This theory helps explain why police officers may act differently when wearing a camera. Unlike deterrence theory which focuses on avoiding punishment, self-awareness theory emphasizes internal control. The camera acts as a psychological prompt: police officers are reminded that their actions or behavior could be reviewed not only by superiors but also by the public or the media. As a result, they are more likely to align their behavior with the law, department protocols, and public expectations.

A study by Koen et al. (2018) supports this application as they examined how body-worn

cameras affect officer behavior and found that officers wearing BWCs reported increased consciousness of how their actions might appear on video. This often led to de-escalation, more respectful communication, and adherence to procedure. These behavioral shifts are consistent with self-awareness theory, which suggests that individuals adjust their behavior when they are aware of being observed or evaluated.

Moreover, self-awareness induced by BWCs does not only deter the negative behavior of the police officer but it can reinforce positive conduct. Police officers who are aware of the recording of their action may be more likely to follow the rules and standard operating procedures during police operations, thereby improving relationships and trust with the public and reducing complaints against police misconduct and unethical behavior.

Methods

This study adopted a quantitative descriptive survey research design, which is appropriate for understanding and summarizing the perceptions of police personnel and barangay officials regarding the use of body-worn cameras (BWCs). A descriptive quantitative approach allows for systematic collection and statistical analysis of numerical data to identify trends, relationships, and patterns within a population. It is particularly suited for measuring public perceptions, behaviors, and the effectiveness of interventions such as BWCs in law enforcement practices. Through this design, the study was able to examine the impact of BWCs on reducing police misuse of force, lowering crime rates, and improving community trust.

To gather the required data, a structured survey questionnaire was developed and utilized as the main research instrument. The questionnaire consisted of multiple sections designed to capture responses on key study variables including reducing crime rate, police accountability, improving community trust, and challenges related to BWC use. It employed a four-point scale format, with response options ranging from "fully aware" to "not aware," "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree," and "very effective" to "not effective," providing a standardized method to quantify subjective responses.

This study employed a complete enumeration sampling design in the selection of police personnel to answer the survey questionnaire. The sample consisted of one hundred twenty-nine (129) police personnel from the Cabuyao Component City Police Station who have been equipped or have knowledge in using body-worn cameras.

Also, the sampling design for barangay officials was also complete enumeration sampling. This second group of respondents consisted of one hundred forty-four (144) barangay officials from the eighteen (18) barangays in Cabuyao City, Laguna.

This sampling method was selected due to the manageable size of the target population, the specificity of the research topic, and the critical relevance of every member's perspective to the study's objectives. Complete enumeration was chosen as the most appropriate approach due to its ability to offer extensive and inclusive data, particularly for studies involving institutional procedures and operational systems such as the deployment and monitoring of body-worn cameras. Because every police personnel and barangay official have direct or indirect interaction with law enforcement processes, their perspectives were deemed critical in capturing the full scope of BWC utilization, efficacy, and issues in the community.

Result and Discussion

Part I. Profile of the Respondents

Table 1A. Distribution of the Police Personnel as to Demographic Profile

A. Rank	Frequency	Percentage
Patrolman/Patrolwoman	27	21%
Police Corporal	22	17%

A. Rank		Frequency	Percentage
Police Staff Sergeant		**34**	**26%**
Police Master Sergeant		17	13%
Police Senior Master Sergeant		6	5%
Police Chief Master Sergeant		7	5%
Police Executive Master Sergeant		16	12%
	Total	**129**	**100%**
B. Designation		**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Drug Enforcement Unit		6	5%
Operations Section		9	7%
Warrant Section		7	5%
Intelligence Section		12	9%
Patrol Section		**61**	**47%**
Administrative Section		12	9%
Community and Development Section		5	4%
Police Community Relations Section		2	2%
Investigation Section		15	12%
	Total	**129**	**100%**
C. Number of Years in PNP Service		**Frequency**	**Percentage**
1-5 years		16	12%
6-10 years		33	26%
11-15 years		**48**	**37%**
21-25 years		32	25%
	Total	**129**	**100%**

Table 1B reveals the distribution of the barangay official respondents in terms of demographic profile. As shown by the data, majority or 88% of them were barangay councilors.

In terms of barangay residency, most of them have been in their barangay for 21-30 years with 33% and 11-20 years with 32%. This implies they have familiarity on the situation in their area. This suggests that 65% of the respondents have over a decade of residency, which implies a deep familiarity with the local context, issues, and community dynamics. Their long-term residence likely contributes to a more informed and grounded understanding of the barangay's situation, making their insights valuable for assessing local governance and community needs.

Most barangay officials were councilors with more than a decade of residency in their communities. Their long-term presence provided them with deep familiarity with local issues, enabling informed views on the role of BWCs in improving trust and accountability. Extended residency also fosters legitimacy and credibility, making their positive assessments of BWCs significant for building community-oriented policing strategies.

Part II. Respondents' Level of Awareness on the Impact of Body-Worn Cameras

Table 2. Respondents' Level of Awareness on the Impact of Body-Worn Cameras in Reducing Crime Rate

Indicators	Weighted Mean		Average Mean	Verbal Description
	Police Personnel	Barangay Officials		
1. Reduce crime rate when the police officer is equipped with the body-worn camera during patrol.	**2.80**	2.92	**2.86**	**Aware**

Indicators	Weighted Mean		Average Mean	Verbal Description
	Police Personnel	Barangay Officials		
2. Reduce crime rate when the police officer is equipped with the body-worn camera in high-crime prone areas.	2.68	**3.04**	**2.86**	**Aware**
3. Reduce crime rate when the police officer is equipped with the body-worn camera during police checkpoint.	2.63	2.96	2.80	Aware
4. Reduce crime rate when the police officer is equipped with the body-worn camera during celebrations.	2.70	2.69	2.70	Aware
5. Reduce crime rate when the police officer is equipped with the body-worn camera during business establishment visitation.	2.63	2.97	2.80	Aware
Overall Mean	**2.69**	**2.92**	**2.80**	**Aware**

Table 2 discloses the respondents' level of awareness on the impact of body-worn camera in reducing crime rate.

As shown by the overall mean of 2.80, the police personnel and barangay officials were generally aware of the impact of body-worn camera in reducing crime rate.

In particular, they ranked first that the crime rate is reduced when the police officer is equipped with the body-worn camera during patrol and when the police officer is equipped with the body-worn camera in high-crime prone areas. Both obtained an average mean of 2.86. Notably, the highest agreement was seen in two areas: first, when police officers wear body cameras during their patrol duties, and second, when these cameras are used in areas known for frequent criminal activity. This suggests that visible accountability through body-worn camera may play a role in discouraging unlawful behavior, especially in situations or locations where crime is more likely to occur.

Table 3. Respondents' Level of Awareness on the Impact of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Accountability

	Indicators	Weighted Mean		Average Mean	Verbal Description
		Police Personnel	Barangay Officials		
1	Show clear recording of the operation.	2.68	3.19	2.94	Aware
2	Show the accurate time of the operation.	2.72	**3.24**	2.98	Aware
3	Show police officers follow the operational procedure.	2.66	3.22	2.94	Aware
4	Show police officers conducting warrant of arrest or search warrant act professionally.	**2.84**	3.23	**3.04**	Aware
5	Show police officers transparent in collection of evidence during police operations.	2.71	3.19	2.95	Aware
	Overall Mean	**2.72**	**3.21**	**2.97**	**Aware**

Table 3 reveals the police personnel and barangay official respondents' level of awareness on the impact of body-worn camera in terms of police accountability.

As can be seen, the overall mean is 2.97 which indicates that they are generally aware of the impact of body-worn camera on police accountability.

Based on the average mean of their responses, the use of body-worn camera shows police officers conducting warrant of arrest or search warrant act professionally, which obtained the highest average mean of 3.04. It was also ranked first by the police personnel with a weighted mean of 2.84.

Meanwhile, barangay officials gave the highest rating on the usage of body-worn cameras to indicate exact time of operation, with a weighted mean of 3.24. Body-worn cameras (BWCs) are rapidly being used in law enforcement operations around the world, driven by rising public expectations for transparency, accountability, and confidence. BWCs are used in several key contexts, including the execution of search and arrest.

Table 4 Respondents' Level of Awareness on the Impact of Body-Worn Cameras on Improving Community Trust

Indicators	Mean		Average Mean	Verbal Description
	Police Personnel	Barangay Officials		
1. Show police transparency in their operations.	**2.85**	3.16	**3.01**	**Aware**
2. Show police accountability in their operations.	2.68	3.15	2.92	Aware
3. Show police sense of fair treatment in their operations.	2.77	**3.19**	2.98	Aware
4. Show police reduce police misconduct in their operations.	2.84	3.08	2.96	Aware
5. Increase the trust of community to the police in their operations.	2.66	3.18	2.92	Aware
Overall Mean	**2.76**	**3.15**	**2.96**	**Aware**

Table 4 shows the police personnel and barangay official respondents' level of awareness on the impact of body-worn camera in terms of improving community trust.

As shown by the findings, the overall mean is 2.96 which indicates that they are generally aware of the impact of body-worn camera on improving community trust.

Based on the average mean of their responses, the use of body-worn camera shows police transparency in their operations, obtaining the highest average mean of 3.01. It was also ranked first by the police personnel with a weighted mean of 2.85.

Meanwhile, the barangay officials ranked first that the use of body-worn camera show police sense of fair treatment in their operations, with a weighted mean of 3.19.

Respondents agreed that BWCs foster transparency, fair treatment and reduce misconduct, thereby enhancing trust. Barangay officials rated these impacts more positively than police, reflecting stronger optimism among community leaders. This divergence points to a perception gap: while the public view BWCs as tools for reform, officers may regard them as burdensome surveillance. Addressing this gap through joint training and dialogue could strengthen police-community relations.

Part III. Challenges Encountered in Using Body-Worn Camera

Table 5. Perceived Challenges Encountered in Using Body-Worn Camera

Indicators	Mean		Average Mean	Verbal Description
	Police Personnel	Barangay Officials		
1. Insufficient funding for purchasing of body-worn cameras in the police station	**2.79**	2.89	**2.84**	**Agree**
2. Frequent malfunctions of body-worn camera during police operations	2.55	2.72	2.64	Agree
3. Lack of police officers' personal training in using body-worn cameras	2.48	2.82	2.65	Agree
4. Lack of privacy when using body-worn cameras during police operations (e.g., filming individuals without consent, filming children, etc.)	2.52	**2.94**	2.73	Agree
5. Lack of authenticity and quality of the video of body-worn cameras during police operations	2.54	2.80	2.67	Agree
Overall Mean	**2.58**	**2.83**	**2.71**	**Agree**

Table 5 reveals the police personnel and barangay official respondents' perception on the challenges encountered in using body-worn camera.

As can be gleaned from their combined responses, the overall mean is 2.71 which indicates that they generally agreed on the challenges encountered.

Specifically, the most common challenge they encountered was insufficient funding for purchasing of body-worn cameras in the police station, with an average mean of 2.84. The police personnel also agreed on this as they gave it the highest weighted mean of 2.79.

Meanwhile, the barangay officials ranked first that there was a lack of privacy when using body-worn cameras during police operations (e.g., filming individuals without consent, filming children, etc.), with a weighted mean of 2.94.

Both groups identified funding shortages, technical malfunctions, inadequate training, and privacy issues as significant barriers. Funding limitations were the most critical concern, consistent with global studies highlighting cost as a major obstacle to BWC adaption. Privacy concerns raised by barangay officers underscore the need for clear guidelines to balance transparency with individual rights.

Part IV. Effectiveness of Body Worn Cameras in Preventing Police Misuse of Force

Table 6. Perceived Effectiveness of Body-Worn Cameras in Preventing Police Misuse of Force

Indicators	Mean		Average Mean	Verbal Description
	Police Personnel	Barangay Officials		
1. Affect police officers' decision to use force during the service of warrant of arrest or search warrant.	2.39	3.00	2.70	Effective

2.	Affect police officers conducting warrant of arrest or search warrant act professional.	2.38	2.96	2.67	Effective
3.	Affect police officers' actions because they need to turn on the video at the very beginning of their operation.	2.57	2.97	**2.77**	**Effective**
4.	Affect police officers' actions because it captures the entire scene.	**2.58**	2.96	**2.77**	**Effective**
5.	Affect police officers' actions less likely to abuse their authority when body-worn cameras are active.	2.53	**2.99**	2.76	Effective
	Overall Mean	**2.49**	**2.98**	**2.73**	**Effective**

Table 6 shows the police personnel and barangay official respondents' perception on the effectiveness of body-worn cameras in preventing police misuse of force.

Based on their combined responses, the use of body-worn cameras was generally effective, with an overall mean of 2.73.

They ranked first that the body-worn camera affects police officers' actions because they need to turn on the video at the very beginning of their operation and that it affects police officers' actions because it captures the entire scene. Both obtained an average mean of 2.77.

While the police personnel ranked that the use of body-worn camera affects police officers' actions because it captures the entire scene with a weighted mean of 2.58, the barangay officials ranked first that the presence of the camera encourages officers to follow proper procedures during operations, with a weighted mean of 2.99.

Findings show BWCs influence officer behavior, particularly by encouraging procedural compliance when cameras are recording. Barangay officers rated effectiveness higher than police, suggesting greater confidence in BWCs as safeguards against misconduct. Police scepticism may stem from practical challenges or perceptions of BWCs as punitive surveillance. Nevertheless, the overall consensus supports their role in reducing misuse of force through both deterrence and self-awareness mechanisms

Part V. Significant Difference in the Respondents' Responses

Table 7. Significant Difference Between the Responses of the Police Personnel and Barangay Officials on Their Level of Awareness on the Impact of Body-Worn Cameras

Variables	t-value	*P*-value	t critical two-tail	Decision	Impression at 0.05 level of significance
Reducing Crime Rate	-3.38381741	0.0095	2.306004135	Reject Ho	Significant
Police Accountability	-14.90225031	0.0000	2.306004135	Reject Ho	Significant
Improving Community Trust	-8.936830751	0.0000	2.306004135	Reject Ho	Significant

Legend: If t > t critical, reject the null hypothesis; if p is less than .05, the result is statistically significant

Table 7 presents the results of a t-test analysis examining the statistical difference between the responses of police personnel and barangay officials regarding their awareness of the impact of body-worn cameras (BWCs) on reducing crime, enhancing police accountability, and improving community trust. Across all variables—reducing crime rate (t = -3.38, p = 0.0095), police accountability (t = -14.90, p = 0.0000), and improving community trust (t = -

8.94, p = 0.0000)—the p-values are all well below the 0.05 significance threshold. Consequently, the null hypothesis is rejected in all cases, indicating that the observed differences between the two groups' responses are statistically significant.

This result suggests a pronounced divergence in perception between barangay officials and police personnel, particularly regarding the role of BWCs in fostering accountability and trust. Barangay officials who serve as community representatives and often mediate between citizens and law enforcement perceive BWCs more favorably. They may view these tools as vital for deterring misconduct and improving transparency, aligning with findings from White and Malm (2020) who asserted that BWCs are widely supported by communities as instruments for reforming policing practice.

Table 8. Significant Difference Between the Responses of the Police Personnel and Barangay Officials on the Challenges Encountered in Using Body-Worn Cameras

Variables	t-value	*P*-value	t critical two-tail	Decision	Impression at 0.05 level of significance
Challenges Encountered in Using Body-Worn Cameras	-3.871064689	0.005	2.306004135	Reject Ho	Significant

Legend: If t > t critical, reject the null hypothesis; if p is less than .05, the result is statistically significant.

Table 8 presents the significant difference between the perceptions of police personnel and barangay officials regarding the challenges encountered in the use of body-worn cameras (BWCs). The statistical result (t = -3.871, p = 0.005) is well beyond the critical t-value of 2.306, indicating that the difference in responses is statistically significant at the 0.05 level. The decision to reject the null hypothesis underscores that both groups—while experiencing challenges—differ markedly in their perceived severity or nature of those challenges.

This divergence is likely rooted in the contrasting roles, operational proximity, and accountability expectations of each group. Police personnel, being the primary users of BWCs, are directly involved in managing the devices during operations. Their firsthand experiences with technical limitations, such as battery life, device malfunction, data management burdens, or procedural constraints, likely contribute to a more critical view.

Table 9. Significant Difference in the Responses of the Police Personnel and Barangay Officials on the Effectiveness of Body-Worn Cameras in Preventing Police Misuse of Force

Variables	t-value	*P*-value	t critical two-tail	Decision	Impression at 0.05 level of significance
Effectiveness of Body Worn Cameras in Preventing Police Misuse of Force	-10.93308688	0.000	2.306004135	Reject Ho	Significant

Legend: If t > t critical, reject the null hypothesis; if p is less than .05, the result is statistically significant.

The statistical results presented in Table 9 reveal a highly significant difference between the responses of police personnel and barangay officials regarding the perceived effectiveness of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in preventing police misuse of force. With a t-value of -10.93308688 and a p-value of 0.000, which is well below the standard alpha level of 0.05,

the analysis strongly supports the rejection of the null hypothesis, confirming that the variance in perspectives between these two groups is not due to chance. The t-critical value of 2.306 underscores the robustness of the statistical difference. These results are not only statistically significant but also substantively meaningful, pointing to a deeper divide in perception that warrants attention in policy and practice.

Significant differences also appeared in perceptions of BWCs' effectiveness in preventing misuse of force. Barangay officials expressed greater confidence in BWCs' ability to deter misconduct and promote professionalism, while police personnel were more reserved. This reflects cultural gap: communities see BWCs as tools of protection whereas officers may perceive them as constraints on discretion. Bridging this divide through participatory olicymaking and training could enhance BWCs' effectiveness.

Discussion

The respondents in the study included police personnel and barangay officials, with data gathered on their ranks, section or designation, years of service, position held and years residing in the barangay. This profiling was essential for understanding the contextual background of the responses.Among police personnel, ranks and years of service varied, which likely influenced their perspectives on BWC use. Similarly, barangay officials' responses were shaped by their position within the community and their experience with local law enforcement. The diversity in the respondent pool ensured a broad and representative understanding of the issues at hand.

The police personnel and barangay officials possess a general awareness of the role body-worn cameras play in law enforcement operations, particularly in relation to public trust and accountability. The results indicate that barangay officials consistently reported a higher level of awareness compared to their police counterparts. This disparity suggests that barangay officials are community-based leaders are more aligned to the social implications, such as transparency and fairness in police conduct. The consistently higher ratings from barangay officials imply that communities may view BWCs as a critical tool for reform and oversight, reinforcing the need for awareness-building initiatives targeted at police personnel to enhance their understanding and commitment to ethical BWC usage.

The implementation of body-worn cameras has not been without practical challenges, as reflected in the findings across the responses of both groups of respondents regarding operational and logistical difficulties. The findings emphasize that funding limitations, technological malfunctions, inadequate training, and concerns over privacy remain core issues in the current deployment of BWCs. While both police personnel and barangay officials acknowledged these concerns, barangay officials tended to rate these challenges more severely. This could stem from their heightened concern over public-facing consequences, such as legal liabilities and privacy violations. These insights underscore the importance of a comprehensive implementation strategy that includes technical support, privacy safeguards, and continuous professional development for officers to minimize operational gaps and ensure ethical camera use.

Findings indicate that BWCs are widely perceived to contribute positively to mitigating instances of police misuse of force. Both police personnel and barangay officials agreed on the effectiveness of BWCs, with barangay officials again showing stronger belief in their impact. This trend may be attributed to a stronger focus on community welfare and public safety among barangay officials, who may observe more tangible behavioral shifts in police conduct when BWCs are present. On the other hand, police personnel might view these devices as a procedural obligation rather than a transformational tool. Nevertheless, the consensus across both groups suggests that BWCs play a preventive role by influencing officer behavior, reinforcing professionalism, and establishing an objective record of police-community interactions.

The analysis reveals statistically significant differences in perception between police personnel and barangay officials across all major variables—awareness, challenges, and effectiveness. This divergence illustrates how each

group's role and experiences shape their views on BWC implementation. Barangay officials consistently expressed higher levels of awareness and confidence in the effectiveness of BWCs, alongside stronger concern for operational challenges. This reflects a community-centric perspective that values transparency and accountability as cornerstones of effective governance. Conversely, police personnel appeared more cautious or reserved in their evaluations, possibly influenced by practical concerns and the demands of frontline enforcement. These perceptual gaps highlight the necessity for collaborative dialogue and joint training initiatives to harmonize understanding and expectations between law enforcement officers and community leaders.

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