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The Relationship of Quality Decision-Making and Effectiveness of Conciliation Process of a Barangay Based Justice System

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Abstract: ***This study was initiated to correlate decision making quality and effectiveness of conciliation process of Lupong Tagapamayapa. The study utilized a quantitative design that involved 371 residents from barangay La Filipina. Thompson's survey was modified to suit the study setting. The study is also correlational since it sought to investigate the relationship of variables; Quality Decision-Making and Effectiveness of Conciliation Process. Results show that both decision making and conciliation process have high descriptive levels. For decision making, Structure and approach revealed a significant mean(x=4.23), while both evaluation and Transparency and communication got the similar mean scores (x=4.21). Responsibilities got the most significant mean score (x=4.25) under Conciliation Process. This is followed by Mandatory roles (x=4.23) and Function (x=4.22). The results also show a significant (p≤0.05) Relationship between decision making and conciliation process. Recommendations were then made to address the result.***

Keywords: Decision-making, Conciliation process, Lupong Tagapamayapa, Barangay.

1. INTRODUCTION

Decision-making is a process that includes multiple phases: determine what to decide, gather information and assess possible solutions. Decision-making allows people to select most suitable options. There will also be cases requiring more time if higher stakes exist [1]. As such, decisions must be sound, or else it will lead to disastrous outcomes [2-3]. Organizations benefit from sound decisions [4]. This can even be extended to justice systems [5-6].

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Lupong Tagapamayapa is the barangay justice system composed of 20 members helmed by the barangay captain [7]. This barangay-based alternative assists in settling disputes without the need for high expenses demanded by higher courts [8]. Lupong Tagapamayapa has operated in the Philippines for many years and has resolved disputes that occur in the barangay [9]. Studies have been initiated concerning Lupong Tagapamayapa. Some studies pointed out some issues of Lupong Tagapamayapa. From the lack of training of the personnel and the problems recurring in dispute [10-11]. Despite documented cases, Lupong Tagapamayapa has helped communities, as evidenced in other studies. One study found that being multilingual dramatically helps in the facilitation of settling conflict for parties coming from various ethnolinguistic background [12]. Another study found that Lupong Tagapamayapa could preserve the relationship of neighbours [13].

The research observed that there are limited studies conducted in the locale. In fact, only one study was conducted in the region of Davao del Norte [14]. This has stirred the researchers to conduct the study in a localized setting. This allows a better understanding of the decision-making and conciliation process relative to a barangay-based justice system. In this context, it would be understanding Lupong Tagapamayapa.

2. METHODOLOGY

The study utilized a quantitative research design. The study sought to determine the quality of decision-making and effectiveness of the conciliation procedure of Barangay La Filipina. In addition, the study will also establish if there is a relationship between two variables: decision-making and effectiveness of the conciliation procedure. A quantitative design was used because the study involved collecting data that would undergo statistical treatment [15]. This was observed in studies that share a similar research design to this study [16-18].

A total of 371 residents of Barangay La Filipina were selected as participants. This complies with the acceptable sample size of 30 and 500 for quantitative studies [19]. The research instrument was modified to suit the context of the study. The indicators for quality in decision-making are: Structure and Approach, Evaluation, Impact, and Transparency and Communication. The indicators for conciliation process are: Mandatory roles, Function and Responsibilities.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSION

a. Quality in Decision Making of Lupong Tagapamayapa in Barangay La Filipina

Table 1 shows the quality in the decision-making of Lupong Tagapamayapa. Results show that all mean scores gained a high descriptive level with a corresponding overall mean (x=4.22). Further, all three indicators (Structure and Approach x=4.23, Evaluation x=4.21, and Transparency and Communication x=4.21) received a high descriptive level. This means that the Lupong Tagapamayapa has exhibited quality decision-making. This also demonstrates that Lupong Tagapamayapa has made good decisions consistently.

Table 1. Quality Decision Making of Lupong Tagapamayapa in Barangay La Filipina

Indicators	X	SD	Descriptive Level

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Structure and Approach	4.23	0.60	High
Evaluation	4.21	0.56	High
Transparency and Communication	4.21	0.60	High
Overall	**4.22**	**0.54**	**High**

From the three indicators, Structure and approach got the highest mean score (x=4.23). This means the Lupong Tagapamayapa of Barangay La Filipina has demonstrated an organized manner in reaching decisions in the barangay-based justice system. Both Evaluation and Transparency got similar mean score (x=4.21). This indicates that lupong's evaluates the factors that can be instrumental in reaching decisions. This also includes that an existing practice of transparency in the lupong's decisions are observed.

b. Conciliation Process of Lupong Tagapamayapa in Barangay La Filipina

Table 2 reveals the Conciliation Process of Lupong Tagapamayapa. The data reflects that all mean scores garnered a high descriptive level with an overall mean (x=4.24). Further, all indicators of the Conciliation Process (Mandatory Roles x=4.23, Function x=4.22, and Responsibilities x=4.25) got a high descriptive level. This means that the Lupong Tagapamayapa has exhibited effective conciliation processes of Lupong Tagapamayapa in terms of Mandatory roles, Function, and Responsibilities. The high mean scores can be attributed to following legal procedures to achieve proper and effective conciliation processes [20].

Table 2. Conciliation Process of Lupong Tagapamayapa in Barangay La Filipina

Indicators	**X**	**SD**	**Descriptive Level**
Mandatory Roles	4.23	0.52	High
Function	4.22	0.59	High
Responsibilities	4.25	0.61	High
Overall	**4.24**	**0.58**	**High**

Among the indicators of the Conciliation Process, Responsibilities garnered the highest mean score (x=4.25). This means the Lupong Tagapamayapa of Barangay La Filipina has demonstrated conciliation processes responsibly. Function also got a high descriptive level (x=4.22). This indicates that Lupong Tagapamayapa of Barangay La Filipina has performed its functions in conciliation effectively. The Lupong performs its functions impartially. It is a time-honored practice that is deeply rooted in Filipino culture. Finally, Mandatory roles got the second highest mean and a high descriptive level (x=4.23).

c. Correlation between Quality Decision-Making and Conciliation Process

Table 3 shows the relation of the two indicators (Quality Decision-Making and Conciliation Process) the results show that the r-value is 0.924, and the calculated p-value is 0.000. Given that the p-value is lesser than 0.005, there is a significant relationship in the two variables. Thus, there is a correlation between the Lupong's Quality Decision-Making and Conciliation Process. This also conforms with a previous study sharing the same variables [13].

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Table 3. Correlation between Quality Decision-Making and Conciliation Process

Variables	X	SD	R-value	P-value
Quality Decision-Making	4.22	0.54		
Conciliation Process	4.24	0.58		
			.924**	.000

p<0.00 *p<0.05

4. CONCLUSION

The conclusions of this study are drawn from the results. Given that the mean scores of both Quality Decision-Making and Conciliation Process are high, it can be said that an established quality in the decisions made by the Lupong Tagapamayapa in Barangay La Filipina. In addition, there the conciliation process is equally successful. Regarding the relationship between both variables, the results point towards a correlation. This means that quality decisions made by Lupong Tagapamayapa can result in an efficient conciliation process.

Recommendations

These recommendations were made based on the results:

1. The Lupong Tagapamayapa of Barangay La Filipina can sustain its efforts when it comes to the decision-making and conciliation process.
2. Barangay-based justice systems can innovate new ways of evaluating so that these systems can continue its effectiveness as a barangay-based conciliation body. This can be sustained by the continuous enhancement of the Lupong's of social welfare skills.
3. Future studies may be conducted to expand upon the limitations of this study. Future researchers may investigate other variables related to the barangay justice system.

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