

POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN SAMPALOC, QUEZON

BONNA I. ABUYAN- OBMERGA
Master in Public Administration

Abstract

The police consistently do its task which is to prevent and control crimes, maintain peace and order ensure public safety and internal security with the active support of the community. The study generally aims to assess the implementation of Police Community Relations Program in Sampaloc, Quezon Philippines. Descriptive type of research method was utilized in the study. Results showed that the Philippine National Police group in Sampaloc, Quezon rated the implementation of PCR program as Fully Implemented. PNP members in Sampaloc, Quezon perceived that the problems in the implementation of Police Community Relations Program are due to the following reasons: policemen like to exercise their authority too much, police are overbearing and conceited to their relationship with the people, police secretly enjoy giving criminals a hard time, the people cannot be expected to work with the police and ties between political entities and the police is perceived by the public as too close and results to suspicions of favoritism or unequal treatment. On the other hand, community members believed that the problem in the implementation is the lack of police' understanding of the needs and interests of the people. There is no significant difference in the responses on the extent of implementation of Police Community Program when grouped according to profile and variables.

Keywords - Filipino Policemen, Community Relations, Quezon Province

INTRODUCTION

The relationship of the police to the community should be harmonious. The community relies upon the police to "protect and serve", and the police in return rely upon the community's support and cooperation in order to be effective. When there is good police-community relations, police have a better understanding of the public's concerns (especially those that are crime related), and citizens are more inclined to report crimes that occur to the police, provide tips/intelligence to law enforcement, willingly serve as witnesses, and are happy to participate in jury trials. By extension, police also become more proactive, thereby

preventing crimes before they occur or minimize their impact, instead of simply reacting to calls for service. Good police–community relations prevent the possibility that the public thinks that police are simply a mechanism for intelligence collection (Samples.jpup.com).

Police community relations refer to the on-going and changing relationships between the police and the communities they serve. This includes issues of cooperation, fear of police, violence and corruption. Police community relations is aimed at establishing a dialogue with the police.

Ellison (2010) stresses the importance of community consent for policing in liberal democracies before sketching the nature of police–community relations in Northern Ireland during the decades of political conflict. He then considers whether the situation has changed in the aftermath of the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland (ICP) reforms, by examining recent survey data from the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. Moreover, he suggests that while official surveys are useful in highlighting trends in police–community relations over time, a more refined conceptual framework is required in order to take stock of such relationships in marginalized and alienated communities. Drawing upon the ecological model of police–community relations proposed by scholars such as Sung and Weitzer, Ellison argues that any analysis needs to dig deeper and consider residential fragmentation, the spatial distribution of power, specific modalities of police–community relations across and between neighborhoods and problematic assumptions about the nature of „community“ itself.

Poor relations between community members and police can lead to feelings of distrust, anger and fear. Citizens may think the police are prejudiced and have unfair policies. Police may feel blame for all kinds of social problems, and think they don't get credit for doing their jobs. Dialogue to change programs help people build trusting relationships necessary for long-term change. People from diverse backgrounds and experiences, and work together on solutions (infor@everyday-democracy.org).

Poor communication between the police and communities served as the problem most frequently, in a variety of ways, by police and community members surveyed. When asked what the main problems are when it comes to police community relations, police listed “language barriers”, “connecting with the community” and “lack of meaningful communication on both sides” and “lack of understanding of police practices” as obstacles in to better relations. This list is similar to the one provided by community members, who listed “lack of communica-

tions, “language barriers” and “lack of relationships” as barriers to getting along with the police (Building Police Community Relations, 2010). The study conducted by Holgado in 2008 found out that the residents of Lucena City did not encounter problems in the implementation of the PCR programs in Lucena City Police. It was supported by the data obtained on the extent of implementation of PCR Programs where it was assessed as implemented and the Police Officers of Lucena City PNP did their job well in the community that they are serving.

The municipality of Sampaloc is formerly part of Lucban, Quezon comprising of three (3) sitios namely; San Diego, Sta. Potenciana and Sta. Cecilia. These sitios were called “Dingin” by early inhabitants who established their first settlements on a high place along the banks of the river called Maapon River passing Dingin Creeks.

Now on its 17th year of implementation, the researcher as a Police Officer would like to assess the implementation of the Police Community Relations Program in her own area of responsibility, Sampaloc, Quezon. As a Public Administration student and as an administrator in her own right, she hopes to contribute something for the enhancement of the implementation of the program not just in her own area but hopefully, the enhanced Police Community Relation Program will serve as model for other police administrators to follow.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study generally aims to assess the implementation of Police Community Relations Program in Sampaloc, Quezon. Specifically, to describe the profile variables of the respondents in terms of age, sex, education attainment, socio economic status and occupation; to determine the extent of implementation of the PCR program in Sampaloc, Quezon; to identify the problems encountered in the implementation of Police Community Relations Programs; to test the differences in the responses on the extent of implementation when grouped according to profile variables; to test the differences in the response on the extent of the implementation and problems encountered; and to offer an action plan to enhance the implementation of Police Community Relation activities in Sampaloc, Quezon.

Ho1: There is no difference on the extent of Implementation when grouped according to profile variables.

Ho2: There is no difference on the extent of Implementation and problems encountered.

METHOD

Research Design

The study employed the descriptive type of research. Descriptive research, also known as a statistical research, describes data and characteristics about the population or phenomenon being studied. Descriptive research answers the questions who, what, where, when and how. The respondents of the study includes 20 or 100 percent of PNP employees assigned at Sampaloc Police Station and 367 residents of Sampaloc, Quezon, randomly selected from the total population of 12,813.

The researcher utilized a researcher-made questionnaire patterned from the research conducted by Holgado (2009), with some modification to suit the present study. Descriptive survey was utilized to determine the extent of implementation of Police Community Relation Program in Sampaloc, Quezon.

The researcher's first step was to gather the needed literature to support the study. The first stop was the Institutional Media Center of LPU, utilizing the world wide web and other online journals subscribed by LPU, and previous studies conducted.

The questionnaire was patterned from the study conducted by Holgado (2008) but modified to suit the present investigation. After the validation of the questionnaire, letters of request addressed to the Mayor of Sampaloc and to the respondents were formulated and the data gathering started.

The data gathered were tabulated, analyzed and interpreted using frequency distribution and percentage to describe the profile of the respondents. Weighted mean to assess the implementation of police community relations. Sheffe's Post Hoc Tests and One way ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) was utilized to determine the difference in the extent of implementation and problems encountered.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 shows the distribution of the respondents' profile. In terms of age, mostly falls on the age bracket of 41 to 45 years old which composed of 62 or 16 percent, followed by 46 to 50 years old. This shows that majority of the respondents are in their productive years and in the prime of their lives. As to sex distribution, male was dominated by female since female got 56.10 percent.

Table 1. Percentage Distribution of the Respondents' Profile (N = 387)

Profile Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
18 – 25 years old	38	9.80
26 – 30 years old	43	11.10
31 – 35 years old	44	11.40
36 – 40 years old	49	12.70
41 – 45 years old	62	16.00
46 – 50 years old	50	12.90
51 – 55 years old	47	12.10
56 – 60 years old	35	9.00
61 years old and above	19	4.90
Sex		
Male	170	43.90
Female	217	56.10
Educational Attainment		
Elementary Graduate	62	16.00
High School Graduate	166	42.90
College Graduate	92	23.80
Others	67	17.30
Socio Economic Status		
Low Income	282	72.90
Middle Income	62	16.00
High Income	43	11.10
Occupation		
Employed	252	65.10
Self-Employed	108	27.90
Unemployed	21	5.40
Student	6	1.60

Table 1 shows the distribution of the respondents' profile. In terms of age, mostly falls on the age bracket of 41 to 45 years old which composed of 62 or 16 percent, followed by 46 to 50 years old. This shows that majority of the respondents are in their productive years and in the prime of their lives. As to sex distribution, male was dominated by female since female got 56.10 percent.

With regards to educational attainment, majority are high school graduate while other are degree holder. In addition, most of the respondents are employed which composed of 252 or 65.10 percent but majority belongs to the low income group, the reason they were not able to go to college to continue their education. Although majority of the respondents are employed, they belonged to the low income group and high school graduates. This result showed the quality of life of the people in

the community. It indicates that majority of the respondents belong to the marginalized group.

Extent of Implementation of the Police Community Program

The over-all assessment of the police on the extent of police community program was 3.69 and rated fully implemented while the community assessed it as implemented only.

From the point of view of the police, free hair cut was fully implemented with mean value of 3.95. It was followed by summer sport clinic, Police Ko Titser Ko and Uganayan sa barangay. The low weighted mean obtained shows lacklustre performance in the implementation of PCR programs. Coming from the police group themselves it should have obtained a higher mean.

On the other hand, the community assessed Ugnayan sa Barangay, Lectures & Seminars for Barangay Tanod and BPAT's and Tree planting & other environmental programs topped on the ranked with 3.12, 3.08 and 3.00 respectively. This could mean that community members often see the police conduct lectures and seminars for the Barangay Tanod and BPATs. On the part of the PNP in Sampaloc, the least mean was obtained by the implementation of the Disaster Operation Program (3.41) and Anti-Gambling Program (3.45).

This indicates disaster unpreparedness of the community and persistence of gambling in the area. On the other hand, Billboards & streamers display (2.47), Police News sa Barangay (2.44) and Radio Guesting to promote Police programs and activities (2.26) were fairly implemented according to the community. Financial constraints and absence of radio stations in Sampaloc is the reason for this. Sampaloc Police Station does not have enough for its operation on a day to day basis much more to spend on billboards or tarpaulins to promote its PCR programs. This could be the result for the difference in the assessment in the extent of implementation of the two groups of respondents.

Problem Encountered in the Implementation of Police Community Program

The police group in Sampaloc strongly disagreed that these items are problems in the implementation of Police Community Relations Program: Police lack understanding of the needs and interests of the people, policemen like to exercise their authority too much, police are overbearing and conceited in their relations with the people, police secretly enjoy giving criminals a hard time which all ranked 4.5.

On the other hand, community members do not consider police' lacking of understanding of the needs and interests of the people, lousy wearing of uniform which greatly affects the good image and efficient performance of duty of a police officer, common people hesitate to ask police assistance and help because of unequal treatment as problems in the implementation of PCR programs in Sampaloc.

PNP members in Sampaloc gave the least mean to the items on Lousy wearing of uniform greatly affects the good image and efficient performance of duty of a police officer and police officers are inefficient and untrustworthy in times of needs. While community members gave the lowest mean to items on I feel that policemen are too rigid and narrow minded, police officers are inefficient and untrustworthy in times of needs. These indicate that police are doing well on the implementation of the PCR Programs.

Radalet and Carter as cited in the article "Poor Community Relations" (2010) said that poor communication between the police and communities served as the problem most frequently, in a variety of ways, by police and community members surveyed. When asked what the main problems are, when it comes to police community relations, police listed "language barriers", "connecting with the community" and "lack of meaningful communication on both sides" and "lack of understanding of police practices" as obstacles to better relations. This list is similar to the one provided by community members, who listed "lack of communications, "language barriers" and "lack of relationships" as barriers to getting along with the police. These findings supported the result of the study conducted by Holgado in 2009 who found that the residents of Lucena City did not encounter problems in the implementation of the PCR programs of the Lucena City Police.

Table 2. Difference of Responses on the Extent of Implementation When Grouped According to Profile Variables

Profile Variables	df	Fc	p-value	Interpretation
Age	8, 378	0.902	0.515	Not Significant
Sex	1, 385	0.566	0.452	Not Significant
Educational Attainment	3, 383	7.374	0.000	Highly Significant
Socio Economic Status	2, 384	3.667	0.026	Significant
Occupation	3, 383	0.120	0.949	Not Significant

Legend: Significant at p-value < 0.05; ($\alpha = 0.05$)

Based from the result, only educational attainment and socio economic status show significant difference on the extent of implementation on Police Community Program since the obtained p-value of 0.000

and 0.026 were less than 0.05 level of significance; thus, the null hypothesis of no significant difference on the extent of implementation of the program when grouped according to profile variables (educational attainment and socio economic status) is rejected.

This means that the respondents' response on the implementation of the PCR activities differs as to their earned degree and their status in life. It was found out that those who finished college have different assessment than those who are high school graduate and college graduate while those who belong to the low income group differs with those in the middle group. This was observed using Post Hoc Analysis using Scheffe method. This finding is negated by the study conducted by Holgado (2009) entitled "Enhancing the Police Community Relations Program" which concluded that respondents do not differ in their assessment of the implementation of PCR Programs when grouped according to profile variables.

Table 3. Difference of Responses on the Extent of Implementation and Problems Encountered Between the Police and the Community

Profile Variables	t_c	t_t	p-value	Interpretation
Extent of Implementation on Police Community Program	8.835	1.960	0.000	Highly Significant
Problems Encountered in the Implementation	8.856	1.960	0.000	Highly Significant

Legend: Significant at p-value < 0.05; ($\alpha = 0.05$)

As seen in the result of Table 3, the two groups of respondents show significant difference on the extent of implementation of police community program and the problem encountered in the implementation as revealed by the obtained t – values and the resulted p-values which were less than 0.05 level of significance. This indicates that the two groups have different assessment. These indicate unclear police community programs being implemented by Sampaloc PNP. The implementers have different views from the recipient of the programs. The item on Police lack understanding of the needs and interests of the people which got the highest mean from the community members indicates wrong program priorities and program implementation.

Table 4. Action Plan to enhance the implementation of police community relations program

Key Results Area	Objectives	Strategies	Person(s) / Offices In-charge	Target Date
Poor Public Perception of the Police Image	To improve the image of the police	Trainings on values enhancement, personality development and interpersonal relations	Chief of Police Prov. PNP Human Resource Management Officer	Improved Public Perception of the Police
Improve Community Relation	To prioritize the PCR programs needed by the community To improve PCR Program	Conduct community needs assessment	Chief of Police Police Personnel in Sampaloc Community members	Community participation in police community relations programs
Community Awareness of Police Community Relations	To enhance community awareness	Information dissemination through barangay ugnayan, dialogue with community members, tarpaulins, Radio Guesting,	Chief of Police Police Personnel in Sampaloc Community members	Enhance implementation of police community relations programs.

CONCLUSIONS

Majority of the respondents are 41-45 years of age, female, high school graduate, employed and they belong to the low-income group. The Philippine National Police group in Sampaloc, Quezon rated the implementation of PCR program as Fully Implemented. On the other hand, community members assessed the extent of implementation as Implemented. PNP members in Sampaloc, Quezon, perceived that the problems in the implementation of Police Community Relations Program are due to the following reasons: policemen like to exercise their authority too much, police are overbearing and conceited with their relationship with the people, police secretly enjoy giving criminals a hard time, the

people cannot be expected to work with the police and ties between political entities and the police is perceived by the public as too close and results to suspicions of favoritism or unequal treatment. On the other hand, community members believed that the problem in the implementation is police' lack of understanding of the needs and interests of the people. There is no significant difference in the responses on the extent of implementation of Police Community Program when grouped according to profile variables. The two groups of respondents show significant difference on the extent of implementation of police community program and the problems encountered in the implementation.

RECOMMENDATION

The Sampaloc PNP may conduct seminars and trainings on values enhancement, personality development, and interpersonal relationship. The Sampaloc PNP may continuously maintain their Community Relations Program.

REFERENCES

- Bermas, Danila S.; Handbook on Police Ethics and Community Relations Building Community Relations. (2010) 71386_CH08_115_130.qxp 12/9/10 8:55 AM Page 115
- Community-Police Relations, url: <http://everyday-democracy.org/resources/police-community-relations#.U1MM6FWSxfA>
- Ellison G. (2010) „Police-Community Relations in Northern Ireland in the Post-Patten Era: Towards an Ecological Analysis“, in J. Doyle (ed), Policing the Narrow Ground: Lessons from the transformation of policing in Northern Ireland, 242-276. Royal Irish Academy.
- Holgado, Sheeri Ann Smile (2009). Enhancing the Implementation of the Police Community Relations Program; Lyceum of Batangas.
- Poor Community Relations. 2010. 71386_CH08_115_130.qxp 12/9/10