



Community Involvement of Residents on Peace and Order in Lower Quirino Hill, Baguio City

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Abstract— This study examined the community involvement of residents in peace and order activities in Lower Quirino Hill, Baguio City. The objective was to assess the residents' level of awareness, community involvement and factors that affects the involvement in local peace and order initiatives. A sample size using Slovin's Formula was used to determine its respondents which is 176. Moreover, a survey questionnaire was used in gathering data personally and through the Google Form. The findings revealed that residents were highly aware of more visible peace and order activities, such as curfew enforcement and barangay patrols, but awareness was lower for less visible activities like crime prevention seminars. In terms of involvement, residents were slightly involved in peace and order activities overall, with higher participation seen in initiatives such as promoting peace and organizing community cleanups. However, engagement in activities like neighborhood watch programs and crime prevention seminars remained limited. The study identified several factors that affects participation, including lack of information, lack of community cohesion, and low trust in local law enforcement. Based on these findings, the study suggests the need for improved communication strategies, outreach programs, and initiatives to enhance community trust and social ties. These recommendations aim to increase resident participation in peace and order activities in the community.

Keywords— Community, Peace, Order, Lower Quirino Hill, Baguio City.

I. INTRODUCTION

Community involvement has become an essential element in the sustainable development process worldwide. It refers to the active participation of individuals, organizations, and groups within a community in initiatives designed to improve or benefit the collective well-being of that community. This concept transcends borders, as it is a global strategy for promoting development, fostering empowerment, and ensuring the sustainability of local and international initiatives (Barnes & Schmitz, 2016; Ascher & Barter, 2024). When communities are engaged in decision-making processes, they not only feel a sense of ownership but also contribute to more sustainable and relevant development outcomes (African Development Choices, n.d.).

The United Nations (UN) has long recognized the importance of community involvement in peace and development. Since its founding in 1945, the UN has worked to maintain international peace and security through various programs, including peacekeeping efforts and conflict mediation (Maintain International Peace and Security, n.d.). In 1992, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali declared peacebuilding a priority for the organization, recognizing that lasting peace depends on the active involvement of local communities (Local



Peacebuilding, What Works and Why, n.d.). Through these efforts, the UN has aimed to encourage cooperation between nations and communities to achieve global peace and sustainable development.

Furthermore, community involvement in health, safety, and well-being has gained prominence in international health initiatives. The World Health Organization (WHO) has underscored the importance of community engagement in achieving its long-term vision of becoming the world's healthiest and safest region (WHO, n.d.). This approach has proven essential in creating operational shifts and new strategies for improving health outcomes, with local communities at the forefront of these efforts.

In the Philippines, community involvement has played a crucial role in the advancement of peace and order initiatives across various administrations. The concept of community-driven development has been central to national strategies, with organizations like the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) leading initiatives aimed at peacebuilding and empowering local communities (Global Peace Foundation Philippines, n.d.; Global Peace Foundation, 2018). Through participatory planning and decision-making processes, these initiatives have enhanced social cohesion, reduced poverty, and strengthened resilience among marginalized groups.

Community involvement was integral to the successful implementation of programs and initiatives within barangays, the smallest administrative units in the Philippines (Del Rosario, 2016). Barangays served as the primary interface between citizens and local governance, playing a vital role in executing community programs and fostering civic engagement. Maria Ela Atienza, a political science professor at the University of the Philippines, emphasized the potential of barangays as incubators for progressive citizenship and leadership (Salazar, 2023). Atienza's perspective underscored the importance of viewing barangays not only as administrative divisions but also as dynamic spaces for innovative governance approaches.

In Barangay San Antonio, Makati, residents actively participated in community-building initiatives, such as street-sharing activities and orientations for street officials. These efforts helped strengthen the sense of ownership and involvement in local governance, demonstrating that meaningful collaboration between leaders and residents could lead to successful peace-building and community development (Somera, 2016).

In Baguio City, according to Baguio Midland Courier (2014), the concept of public-private partnership gained prominence in urban governance, particularly in initiatives aimed at enhancing community involvement in maintaining and developing public spaces. In line with this trend, the city government of Baguio introduced the Adopt-a-Park program, which encouraged private entities to participate in the upkeep and enhancement of public parks, center islands, and rotundas. Quirino Hill's "Project Puraw," initiated to address the challenges posed by the dominance of grey hues in the landscape due to industrial activities, was one of the projects aligned with this initiative. Through this project, community members volunteered their time and resources to paint walls, structures, and fences in vibrant colors, transforming the once bleak environment into a lively and visually appealing space. This community-led effort exemplified the impact of community involvement on the aesthetic and social landscape of Baguio, fostering a sense of ownership and pride among residents (Baguio Midland Courier, 2014).



Additionally, a law enforcement officer organized public safety and peace-and-order initiatives for the benefit of local communities (Geminiano, 2018). A memorandum of agreement was signed by the heads of the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO), the Liga ng mga Barangay, the National Police Commission, and Service-Oriented Policing (CSOP) system. This system aimed to make communities safe and secure, ensured that residents received services, and emphasized the value of cooperation between law enforcement, local government, and the public for their own welfare (Geminiano, 2018).

Moreover, Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong highlighted improvements in Baguio City's peace and order situation during a Luzon-wide lockdown, attributing decreased crime rates to enhanced law enforcement efforts (Hent, 2021). Efforts such as Project KABSAT aimed to improve the relationship between the police, the public, stakeholders, and religious organizations, further emphasizing community engagement in maintaining peace and order (Sec, 2019). The collaborative approach leveraged the resources and expertise of both the public and private sectors to promote community engagement and environmental stewardship.

In the context of Quirino Hill, a neighborhood in Baguio City, Philippines, community involvement took on unique significance. This area was home to indigenous migrant communities, including the Ibaloi people, who actively participated in various initiatives to improve their locality. Their involvement was not only crucial for the successful implementation of these projects but also for ensuring that the projects aligned with the community's needs and values. Through the enforcement of the Anti-Road Obstruction Ordinance, the local community collaborated with law enforcement agencies to address road safety concerns and reduce traffic-related issues (Lower Quirino Hill Facebook Page, n.d.). This effort demonstrated how community involvement in local governance could create safer, more organized, and more efficient environments.

Despite the positive impact of community involvement in these initiatives, challenges persist. One potential problem that prompted researchers to delve into the importance of community involvement was the disconnect between existing development initiatives and the specific needs and values of the residents of Quirino Hill. The Quirino Hill's "Project Puraw," was initiated to address the challenges posed by global warming and climate change, aiming to revitalize the community by painting houses with white, symbolizing unity and resilience (Addatu, 2017). However, it encountered setbacks, such as discontinuation of the project by 2023 due to the unavailability of white paint from Boysen, a corporate sponsor engaged in Corporate Social Responsibility efforts. This highlighted the importance of building long-term, sustainable partnerships between local governments, communities, and private sectors to ensure that initiatives continue to thrive even when external resources are limited.

This study sought to explore the dynamics of community involvement in Barangay Lower Quirino Hill, focusing on the level of awareness among residents regarding barangay peace and order activities, their involvement in these activities, and the perceived factors that affected their non-participation. The research aimed to understand how community involvement had shaped the development trajectory of Quirino Hill and how it could be promoted to ensure sustainable progress. By examining these factors, the study aimed to bridge the gap between development



initiatives and community needs, contributing to more effective and sustainable outcomes in Quirino Hill and beyond.

This study aimed to extend its benefits beyond the immediate residents of Lower Quirino Hill and the academic community, reaching future researchers, policymakers, and barangay officials. This study's findings serve not only as a resource for local residents but also provide meaningful contributions to academic discourse and policy development. The collaborative approach to the research process encourages continued community involvement and offers a model for future research that seeks to make a tangible impact on community development.

Statement of the Problem

This study aimed to determine the community involvement of residents in Lower Quirino Hill, Baguio City. This research aimed to answer these specific questions:

- What is the level of awareness of Barangay Lower Quirino Hill residents to existing peace and order activities in their community?
- What is the level of involvement of Barangay Lower Quirino Hill residents to existing peace and order activities in their community?
- What is the level of perceived barriers preventing residents from participating in various community activities in Barangay Lower Quirino Hill?

II. METHODOLOGY

A. Research Design

This study used a descriptive research design using quantitative method. Descriptive research design is a scientific method that entails observing and describing a subject's behavior without influencing it in any way (Shuttleworth, 2019). The primary objective of this design is to describe individuals, situations, issues, behaviors, or phenomena in nature (Siedlicki, 2020).

B. Locale and Population of the Study

This study specifically focused on Barangay Lower Quirino Hill residents who were 18 years and older and were confirmed to be official residents of the area. In determining the sample size for this study, careful consideration was given to ensure that the participants were representative of the diverse population of Barangay Lower Quirino Hill while maintaining feasibility for data collection and analysis. The target population for this study is 278 residents. After applying Slovin's formula to compute the sample size, the target population was reduced to 176 residents who meet the criteria of being 18 yrs or older and official residents of the barangay.

C. Data Gathering Instrument

The researchers used a survey questionnaire with Likert scale questions to gather the data for this study. The questionnaire was self-made and formulated by the researchers to address the objectives and research questions of the study. A questionnaire is research instrument consisting of a set of questions (items) intended to capture responses from respondents in a standardized manner where questions may be structured or unstructured (Bhattacharjee, n. d.).



D. Data Gathering Procedure

The researchers first sought approval from the head of the College of Business Administration Department to conduct the study. Upon receiving approval, they proceeded to request permission from the Barangay Captain of Lower Quirino Hill to allow them to conduct the research study in the barangay. Once permission was granted by the Barangay Captain, a letter was attached to the questionnaire, assuring the respondents of the confidentiality of their responses. The researchers then administered the questionnaire through face-to-face interactions, while the rest were through online Google Form. Upon retrieval of the completed questionnaires, the data were grouped accordingly and the researches tallied the responses.

E. Treatment of Data

The data gathered in the study were presented in a series of tables, classified, and analyzed. Descriptive statistics such as frequency count, percentage, and ranking were used to analyze the data obtained from the respondents' answers to the questionnaire. A Likert scale, commonly used in survey questionnaires, was employed to assess respondents' feelings and levels of agreement. The Likert scale measures opinions, attitudes, or behaviors by presenting a statement followed by a series of five or seven response options. Respondents chose the option that best reflected how they felt about the statement or question (Bhandari & Nikolopoulou, 2020).

F. Ethical Considerations

Residents of Barangay Lower Quirino Hill were approached by the researchers and asked for their consent before participation. To maintain confidentiality, a cover letter outlining the purpose of the study and assuring anonymity was provided along with the questionnaire. Participation in the study was entirely voluntary, and individuals who agreed to participate were given the questionnaire. All collected data were treated with the utmost confidentiality and used solely for academic purposes. Participants' anonymity was preserved throughout the research process, whether they participated in person or online.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Level of Awareness of Barangay Lower Quirino Hill Residents to Existing Peace and Order Activities in their Community

Table 1 presents the findings regarding the level of awareness of residents in Lower Quirino Hill, Baguio City in their barangay peace and order activities. The average weighted mean is 3.54, indicating that residents are Highly Aware.

The highest level of awareness was found in the curfew implementation for minors (3.84), which reflects strong community awareness and engagement. This suggests that the curfew is not just a rule being imposed but a shared understanding within the community, indicating that residents are actively aware of and involved in maintaining peace and order. One of the primary implications of this high level of awareness is the strong connection between the community and barangay authorities. The curfew's visibility – through regular enforcement and direct interaction between officials and residents – serves as a constant reminder of the role that each individual plays in upholding communal safety. As noted by Putnam (2016), such visible collective actions contribute to a culture



of civic involvement. When people see the direct outcomes of their involvement, it reinforces their commitment to community well-being.

Following closely is the awareness in barangay patrols conducted by tanods or patrol cars around the neighborhood with a mean level of 3.67 and using of reporting mechanisms such as hotlines or number to call, to report crime or suspicious activities within the barangay has a mean level of 3.64. These findings suggest that the visibility and accessibility of these initiatives are critical in fostering a strong sense of community involvement and shared responsibility for maintaining peace and order. The significant awareness of both the barangay patrols and the reporting mechanisms suggests that these initiatives are integral components of the barangay's safety strategies. The visibility of barangay patrols, conducted by local tanods or through patrol cars, plays a key role in reinforcing the presence of local authorities and fostering a sense of security among residents. Residents are more likely inclined to engage with and support these initiatives because they are tangible, visible, and consistent aspects of their daily lives. Similarly, the reporting mechanisms – hotlines or designated contact numbers – serve as accessible tools for residents to engage directly with barangay authorities. The relatively high awareness of these mechanisms suggests that residents feel empowered to act when they observe suspicious activities or crimes in their neighborhoods. The ease of access to these reporting tools is key to enhancing community vigilance and ensuring that safety issues are addressed in a timely manner. As Cohen and Prusak (2011) emphasized, trust in community systems is built when residents see that their actions contribute to positive outcomes. The presence of barangay patrols and the availability of reporting mechanisms both work in tandem to build this trust.

In contrast, community policing initiatives like neighborhood watch programs or police engagement events scored slightly lower with a mean of 3.42. While still a strong measure of community awareness, the less visible nature of these initiatives may contribute to the relatively lower score. These programs, while valuable, may not have the same level of physical presence or daily interaction with residents, which can reduce their perceived impact compared to more visible safety initiatives. Putnam (2016) emphasizes that while programs like neighborhood watch schemes are essential for fostering community solidarity and collective action, they may be less immediately apparent to residents unless they are actively engaged in the program. As a result, their awareness and impact might be more subtle and less measurable on a broad scale.

Table 1. Level of Awareness of Barangay Lower Quirino Hill Residents to Existing Peace and Order Activities in their Community (n=176)

INDICATORS	Mean	Descriptive Equivalent	Rank
I am aware of barangay patrols conducted by tanods or patrol cars around our neighborhood.	3.67	Highly Aware	2
I have encountered community policing initiatives, such as neighborhood watch programs or police engagement events, in our area.	3.42	Highly Aware	4
I have attended a crime prevention seminar or workshop organized by our barangay to learn about protecting ourselves and our property from crime.	3.13	Moderately Aware	5



I know how to use reporting mechanisms, such as hotlines or number to call, to report crime or suspicious activities within our barangay.	3.64	Highly Aware	3
There is a curfew implementation in our barangay, setting specific times for minors to be off the streets.	3.84	Highly Aware	1
Average Weighted Mean	3.54	Highly Aware	

B. Level of Involvement of Barangay Lower Quirino Hill Residents to Existing Peace and Order Activities in their Community

Table 2 presents the findings on the level of involvement in barangay peace and order activities among the residents of Lower Quirino Hill, Baguio City. The average weighted mean is 2.54, indicating that residents are slightly involved in these activities.

The highest level of involvement was observed in taking an active role in promoting peace and harmony within the community, with a mean score of 2.76, categorized as moderately involved. This involvement aligns with Dental's (2018) view that when residents feel a sense of ownership over community activities, they are more likely to stay involved. Promoting peace and harmony is fundamental for fostering a sense of community cohesion, as it encourages the residents to take responsibility for their neighborhood's well-being. However, the moderate level of involvement signals that there is room for improvement, particularly in cultivating a stronger sense of collective responsibility.

Following closely is the collaboration in organizing community cleanup drives, with a mean score of 2.63, categorized as moderately involved. This shows that while some residents are contributing to environmental initiatives, broader participation could be achieved with more focused outreach. According to Healy (2005), activities with immediate and visible outcomes, such as cleanup drives, tend to attract greater involvement. These activities not only improve the local environment but also encourage community collaboration. This concept is further supported by Vega and Gutiérrez (2020) who suggest that community mobilization and involvement in cleanup initiatives enhance neighborhood safety and social capital.

The involvement in neighborhood watches or security patrols is slightly lower, with 2.50 mean score. This result indicates that while residents recognize the importance of safety initiatives, fewer are actively participating. According to David (2014), involvement in security initiatives often improves when individuals feel a stronger connection to the community and recognize shared responsibility for safety. The lower participation in neighborhood watches could suggest that many residents may perceive security as primarily the responsibility of local authorities or police. Gibson and Nixon (2021) argue that community-policing partnerships can be effective when there is a clear sense of collective responsibility for maintaining public safety.

The lowest level of involvement is volunteering for crime prevention seminars, with a mean score of 2.40, indicating slightly involved participation. This suggests that while crime prevention is an important focus, residents are less likely to volunteer for such educational programs. According to Dental (2018), the level of



participation in educational activities like crime prevention seminars is often low unless there are clear incentives or perceived benefits for the participants. Krebs and Ritchie (2021) also emphasize that offering incentives and involving residents in more active learning could significantly improve volunteer rates in crime prevention initiatives.

Table 2. Level of Involvement of Barangay Lower Quirino Hill Residents to Existing Peace and Order Activities in their Community

INDICATORS	Mean	Descriptive Equivalent	Rank
I am involved in volunteering my time in assisting in crime prevention seminars.	2.40	Slightly Involve	5
I am involved in engaging in discussions or meetings related to neighborhood watch programs.	2.42	Slightly Involve	4
I am involved in collaborating with local authorities or organizations in organizing community cleanup drives.	2.63	Moderately Involve	2
I am involved in taking an active role in promoting peace and harmony within our community.	2.76	Moderately Involve	1
I am involved in participating in neighborhood watch or security patrols to ensure the safety of our community.	2.50	Slightly Aware	3
Average Weighted Mean	2.54	Slightly Involve	

C. Level of Perceived Barriers Preventing Residents from Participating in Various Community Activities in Barangay Lower Quirino Hill

Table 3 presents the findings on the level of perceived factors that affect the non-participation of the Lower Quirino Hill residents in peace and order activities. The average weighted mean of 3.97 indicates that residents generally agree on the existence of factors that hinder their participation.

Based on the weighted mean, the top three perceived factors were lack of knowledge about peace and order activities, lack of information about reporting crimes or suspicious activities, and lack of community cohesion or unity. These factors show that while residents may have some awareness of peace and order initiatives, there is a significant gap in their understanding of how these activities operate or how they can be actively involved. Denton (2018) asserts that effective communication and community education are essential in empowering residents to participate in local governance and safety initiatives. Providing clearer, more accessible information about available programs can break down these perceived factors and encourage greater involvement.

According to Neal (2020), community cohesion plays a vital role in facilitating active participation. Without strong social ties, residents may feel disconnected from the broader goals of the community. The lack of community unity noted in the study may reflect a broader issue of social fragmentation within the barangay, where residents are not sufficiently integrated into shared goals for peace and order. Community Organization Theory, which



emphasizes the importance of collective action and leadership development within communities, supports the idea that strengthening social ties and building local leadership are key steps toward overcoming this barrier.

The lowest three factors are language barriers, limited financial resources and the feeling of concern about personal safety. While these factors were perceived as less significant, they still represent important challenges that could limit the participation of certain groups within the community.

Language barriers are often overlooked but can be a significant obstacle to effective community participation, particularly in areas with linguistic diversity. The diverse linguistic makeup of Lower Quirino Hill may result in some residents feeling excluded from peace and order activities due to communication gaps. Berkley (2019) highlights that inclusive communication strategies that take into account the linguistic diversity of communities is essential for improving participation. Financial constraints also emerged as a barrier to participation. Limited financial resources can prevent residents from engaging in certain activities, particularly if they involve any out-of-pocket expenses. This finding aligns with Community of Practice Theory, which suggests that for community members to actively participate, they must have access to the necessary resources to do so (David, 2014). For some residents, even minimal costs could act as a deterrent. As Putnam (2016) asserts, effective community engagement requires not only communication but also ensuring that participation does not place an undue financial burden on residents. Lastly, the concern for personal safety remains a barrier to participation, especially in areas where crime rates or the perceived threat of crime may be higher. Some residents may feel that participating in peace and order activities exposes them to personal risk, particularly if they are directly involved in initiatives such as neighborhood watch programs or community patrols. This concern aligns with Systems Theory, which emphasizes the interconnectedness of individuals and the broader system in which they live (Healy, 2005). When individuals feel unsafe or vulnerable, they are less likely to engage in community safety efforts. The barangay should address these concerns by implementing security measures for volunteers and participants, as well as building trust between residents and law enforcement authorities. According to Cohen and Prusak (2011), trust is a crucial component of successful community involvement, particularly in safety and crime prevention initiatives.

Table 3. Level of Perceived Barriers Preventing Residents from Participating in Various Community Activities in Barangay Lower Quirino Hill

INDICATORS	Mean	Descriptive Equivalent	Rank
Not knowing much about peace and order activities can make it difficult for many individuals to participate.	4.16	Agree	1
Feeling concerned about personal safety can be a significant barrier for some people who want to get involved in peace and order initiatives.	3.94	Agree	7
A lack of trust in law enforcement may discourage participation in peace and order efforts.	3.97	Agree	6
Limited financial resources can present a major obstacle to actively engaging in peace and order activities.	3.87	Agree	8



The absence of community support or involvement can be a discouraging factor for many individuals considering participation in peace and order activities.	3.99	Agree	5
Language barriers make it hard for many people to get involved in peace and order activities.	3.69	Agree	9
The lack of information about reporting crime or suspicious activities can hinder individuals from contributing to maintaining peace and order.	4.10	Agree	2
The lack of community cohesion or unity may hinder participation in peace and order initiatives for many individuals.	4.04	Agree	3
Perceiving apathy or indifference among residents can strongly discourage individuals from getting involved in peace and order activities.	4.01	Agree	4
Average Weighted Mean	3.97	Agree	

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The residents in Lower Quirino Hill, Baguio City are aware of visible peace and order activities, especially curfew implementation and barangay patrols. Moreover, they are only involved in peace and order activities, with the highest involvement in promoting peace and community cleanups. While the primary barriers are lack of information, lack of community cohesion and lack of trust in law enforcement.

Hence, to increase involvement, the barangay should focus on targeted outreach and community mobilization. For example, volunteer programs and regular community events that promote collective responsibility that could help foster a stronger sense of ownership and shared duty among residents. To address the information gap, the barangay should prioritize educational campaigns that increase awareness of available peace and order activities and reporting mechanisms. The lack of community cohesion could be tackled by fostering more community bonding activities and open forums, helping to strengthen social ties. To combat the barrier of lack of trust in law enforcement, the barangay could engage in community policing efforts, focusing on building trust between residents and authorities.

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