

Community participation as a determinant of Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) program implementation in Angeles City, Pampanga

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ABSTRACT

This study examined community participation as a determinant of Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) program implementation in Angeles City, Pampanga. Specifically, it determined the profile of the respondents; assessed community participation in terms of information dissemination and awareness, reporting and cooperation with law enforcement, participation in preventive and advocacy activities, and collaboration with local government units and community organizations; evaluated PDEA program implementation in terms of effectiveness of program delivery, responsiveness to community needs, coordination with local stakeholders, and sustainability of program initiatives; and determined the significant relationship between community participation and PDEA program implementation. The study employed a descriptive-correlational research design involving 33 respondents composed of PDEA personnel, barangay officials, and community members. A researcher-made questionnaire using a five-point Likert scale was utilized in gathering the data. Frequency and percentage, average weighted mean, and Pearson Product-Moment Correlation were used to analyze the data. The findings revealed a high level of community participation, with grand average weighted means of 4.67 for female respondents and 4.47 for male respondents, both described as “Strongly Agree.” Collaboration with local government units and community organizations emerged as the highest-rated dimension for both groups. PDEA program implementation was likewise highly assessed, obtaining grand average weighted means of 4.75 for females and 4.61 for males, both described as “Strongly Agree.” Coordination with local stakeholders was the highest-rated dimension of program implementation for both groups. The relationship analysis yielded a Pearson r of 0.398 and a significance value of 0.707. Since the significance value was greater than the 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis was accepted, indicating no significant relationship between community participation and PDEA program implementation. The study concludes that community participation and PDEA program implementation are both highly evident in Angeles City, Pampanga; however, community participation was not found to be a statistically significant determinant of program implementation within the study sample. The findings suggest that other organizational, institutional, operational, and inter-agency factors may also influence program implementation. Continued stakeholder collaboration, community awareness, reporting mechanisms, preventive advocacy, and inter-agency coordination are therefore recommended to sustain and further strengthen anti-drug initiatives.

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INTRODUCTION

Illegal drug use and trafficking remain significant concerns affecting public safety, social stability, and community well-being. Addressing these concerns requires more than law enforcement operations alone; it also calls for active collaboration among government agencies, local government units, barangay officials, community organizations, and residents. Community participation provides an important mechanism through which citizens can contribute to information dissemination, reporting of drug-related activities, preventive education, advocacy, and other community-based anti-drug initiatives.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), as the lead agency responsible for enforcing the country's anti-illegal drug laws, implements programs that require coordination with local stakeholders. At the community level, effective implementation may depend on public awareness, cooperation with authorities, participation in preventive activities, and partnerships among government and community organizations. Collaborative governance emphasizes that public programs benefit when government institutions and stakeholders participate collectively in addressing complex social concerns (Ansell & Gash, 2008).

Angeles City, Pampanga provides an important setting for examining community participation in anti-drug initiatives because of its urban characteristics and diverse stakeholders. Understanding how community members participate and how PDEA programs are implemented can provide insights into existing strengths and areas requiring further improvement.

Thus, the study examined community participation as a determinant of PDEA program implementation in Angeles City, Pampanga. Specifically, it assessed community participation in terms of information dissemination and awareness, reporting and cooperation with law enforcement, participation in preventive and advocacy activities, and collaboration with local government units and community organizations. It also evaluated PDEA program implementation in terms of effectiveness of program delivery, responsiveness to community needs, coordination with local stakeholders, and sustainability of program initiatives. Finally, it determined whether a significant relationship existed between community participation and PDEA program implementation.

METHODOLOGY

The study employed a descriptive-correlational research design. The descriptive component was used to determine the respondents' profile and assess the levels of community participation and PDEA program implementation, while the correlational component examined the relationship between the two major variables.

The study involved 33 respondents consisting of 17 females and 16 males. The respondents represented PDEA personnel, barangay officials, and community members involved in or knowledgeable about anti-drug and community programs in Angeles City, Pampanga. Purposive sampling was employed to select respondents who could provide relevant information concerning the implementation of anti-drug initiatives.

A researcher-made questionnaire served as the primary data-gathering instrument. The first part gathered the respondents' profile, while the succeeding sections assessed community

participation and PDEA program implementation. A five-point Likert scale was used to measure respondents' assessments.

Frequency and percentage were used to describe the respondents' profile. Average weighted mean was employed to assess community participation and PDEA program implementation. Pearson Product-Moment Correlation was used to determine whether a significant relationship existed between the two variables at the 0.05 level of significance.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The profile findings showed that among the female respondents, PDEA personnel constituted the largest group at 70.59 percent, while among males, PDEA personnel and barangay officials each comprised 37.50 percent. Most female respondents were 31–35 years old at 76.47 percent, whereas the largest proportion of male respondents was 25 years old and below at 37.50 percent. College graduates constituted 94.12 percent of females and 62.50 percent of males. In terms of program involvement, 52.94 percent of female respondents had been involved for five years and above, while among males, those with less than one year and those with five years and above each represented 37.50 percent.

Community participation was assessed positively across all dimensions. Female respondents registered a grand average weighted mean of 4.67, while male respondents obtained 4.47, both with the QD of “Strongly Agree.” Among females, collaboration with local government units and community organizations obtained the highest average weighted mean of 4.79, followed by participation in preventive and advocacy activities at 4.67. Among males, collaboration with local government units and community organizations likewise ranked highest at 4.61, followed by information dissemination and awareness at 4.49.

PDEA program implementation was similarly rated highly. Female respondents obtained a grand average weighted mean of 4.75, while male respondents obtained 4.61, both with the QD of “Strongly Agree.” Coordination with local stakeholders ranked highest for both groups, with average weighted means of 4.79 among females and 4.71 among males. These results indicate that coordination, communication, and collaboration among PDEA, barangay officials, and other stakeholders are strongly evident in program implementation.

The relationship analysis yielded a Pearson r of 0.398, indicating a low positive relationship between community participation and PDEA program implementation. However, the significance value of 0.707 exceeded the 0.05 significance level. Therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted, indicating no statistically significant relationship between community participation and PDEA program implementation among the respondents included in the study.

CONCLUSION

The findings demonstrate that community participation in Angeles City is highly evident across information dissemination, cooperation with law enforcement, preventive and advocacy activities, and collaboration with government and community organizations. The consistently high assessments suggest that stakeholders recognize their roles in supporting anti-drug initiatives. Collaboration with local government units and community organizations emerged as the strongest dimension for both female and male respondents, highlighting the importance of institutional and community partnerships.

The results are consistent with Ansell and Gash (2008), who emphasized that collaboration among government institutions and stakeholders facilitates the implementation

of public programs. Community-based partnerships can provide additional information, resources, legitimacy, and support necessary to address complex public safety concerns.

PDEA program implementation was likewise assessed at a very high level, particularly in coordination with local stakeholders. The findings suggest that respondents perceive PDEA programs as effectively delivered, responsive to community needs, coordinated with relevant stakeholders, and capable of being sustained. Effective coordination appears particularly important because anti-drug initiatives involve multiple institutions and community actors whose respective activities need to complement one another.

Despite the high assessments for both major variables, community participation was not significantly related to PDEA program implementation. The Pearson r of 0.398 indicated a positive tendency, but the significance value of 0.707 showed that the observed relationship was not statistically significant. Thus, the results do not provide sufficient statistical evidence to conclude that higher community participation corresponds to higher PDEA program implementation within the study sample.

This finding suggests that effective PDEA program implementation may involve factors beyond community participation. Organizational capacity, personnel, resources, leadership, operational procedures, institutional support, and inter-agency mechanisms may contribute independently to implementation outcomes. Consequently, community participation should remain an important component of anti-drug initiatives, but it should not be treated as the sole determinant of successful program implementation.

The study therefore recommends sustaining partnerships among PDEA, barangay officials, local government units, community organizations, and residents; strengthening reporting mechanisms and confidentiality safeguards; expanding preventive and advocacy activities; and maintaining responsive communication with communities. Future studies may include larger samples and examine additional determinants such as organizational capacity, leadership, resource adequacy, institutional support, and inter-agency coordination to provide a broader explanation of PDEA program implementation in local communities.

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