

# Exploring Performance and Challenges Faced by *Tanods*: A Comprehensive Review of Related Literature

Irene M. Wakat

Student, Graduate School, Baguio Central University  
Baguio City, Philippines  
[wakatirenem@gmail.com](mailto:wakatirenem@gmail.com)

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**Abstract**— *The manuscript offers an in-depth examination of the performance and obstacles faced by barangay tanods, vital civilian volunteers tasked with upholding peace and security in areas where formal law enforcement presence is scarce. The study extensively examines various aspects of barangay tanods' roles, responsibilities, and operational effectiveness, emphasizing their satisfaction levels, training needs, empowerment initiatives, and operational challenges. It underscores the significance of continuous training programs, specialized competencies, and community responses in improving the overall performance of barangay peacekeeping teams. Additionally, the research explores how barangay tanods engage in disaster risk reduction, respond to public health emergencies, and adapt to evolving work environments, demonstrating their resilience and adaptability during crises. While recognizing the effectiveness of barangay tanod across different domains, the study also highlights operational barriers like limited resources and challenges in information dissemination that impede their optimal performance. The study concludes by promoting research initiatives that encompass gender diversity to gain deeper insights into the responsibilities and challenges encountered by female tanods, aiming to improve the tanods' overall success in keeping peace and order. This research significantly adds to the domain of existing knowledge by illuminating the essential function fulfilled by barangay tanods and providing valuable perspectives to direct upcoming researchers in advancing understanding within this critical field.*

**Keywords**— *barangay tanod, grassroots peacekeeping, community-oriented policing, gender-inclusivity, peace and order*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Conducting an exhaustive literature review is fundamental in academic research, serving as the bedrock upon which new knowledge is built. By immersing in existing literature, researchers uncover insights into the breadth and depth of current scholarship, identifying areas warranting further exploration (Xiao & Watson, 2019). This article meticulously analyzes, synthesizes, and identifies gaps in the literature concerning the performance and challenges encountered by Tanods. The objective is to provide future scholars with a roadmap to address these gaps, advancing knowledge in this critical domain.

In the context of the Philippines, the preservation of peace, order, and safety for the society stands as a foundational responsibility of the Philippine National Police, in accordance with the directives outlined in the PNP Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998. While police visibility is crucial for peacekeeping efforts, mere augmentation of police presence may not always yield the desired outcomes in crime prevention. Collaboration between police and community members becomes imperative to collectively bear the responsibility of crime prevention.

The establishment of the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) serves as a pivotal entity responsible for implementing a community-focused policing and public safety system. Comprising the barangay tanod (sectoral representatives, police auxiliaries), Ex-O, Barangay Chairman and PNP supervisor, BPAT integrates grassroots approaches with traditional security services provided by the PNP (Philippine National Police, 2009).

## II. DISCUSSION

Barangay Tanods are civilian volunteers tasked with protecting communities from lawless elements and demonstrating a significant dedication to deterring crime, particularly in areas with limited police presence (Austria-Cruz, 2020). As frontline guardians of peace and order at grassroots levels, several studies have explored the performance and challenges faced by barangay tanods.

### A. *Performance Assessment of Barangay Tanods*

A study, by Austria Cruz (2020) thoroughly examined how well barangay security police officers are carrying out their responsibilities as specified in Memorandum Circular No. 2003-42. The research showed that tanods performance received feedback with data analysis showing no differences in opinions between community members and barangay officials. This discovery highlights the contentment, with how tanods are fulfilling their roles within the community.

Building on this positive evaluation, Laruan (2015) and Bente et al. (2022) further explored the performance of barangay tanods across different categories such as age, educational attainment, and length of service. Both studies consistently reported high overall performance levels among tanods, irrespective of these demographic factors. This suggests a uniform standard of excellence maintained by barangay tanods in fulfilling their responsibilities.

### B. *Training and Competency Enhancement*

Aydinan (2021) delved into the participants' understanding of their duties and obligations as initial responders, emphasizing the importance of training programs to enhance their competencies. The study underscored the necessity for financial backing and organized training programs to enhance the expertise and capabilities of barangay enforcers in essential areas necessitating improvement. This underscores the significance of continuous training and development programs to guarantee the proficiency of barangay tanods in fulfilling their responsibilities.

### C. *Satisfaction Levels and Challenges Faced*

Saligan et al. (2018) examined the satisfaction levels among respondents with the services provided by the BPAT, revealing high overall satisfaction except in the initiatives to reduce crime. The analysis of respondent profiles based on various demographic factors showed no statistically significant differences in satisfaction levels, except for factors like length of residency, marital status, and level of education. This highlights the need for targeted interventions to address specific areas of dissatisfaction and enhance overall service delivery by barangay peacekeeping teams.

In contrast, Sumad-on (2020) identified moderate effectiveness in crime prevention by barangay tanods, attributing this to deficiencies in routine duties and functions such as patrols, surveillance, and hazard identification. The study underscored the difficulties barangay tanods have in preventing crime, including inadequate resources like vehicles for patrols, training in self-defense techniques, and essential equipment for effective crime prevention. These findings shed light on the operational challenges that hinder barangay tanods from achieving their ideal function in upholding law and order within their communities.

### D. *Empowerment and Specialized Training Needs*

Lacanilao (2021) focused on empowering the capabilities of barangay tanods in specific areas such as aiding women that are victims of violence and employing a methodology suitable when dealing with children in conflict with the law. The study revealed a restricted understanding of procedures in these specialized areas, indicating a pressing need to enhance the competencies of barangay tanods in handling sensitive situations. This underscores the importance of specialized training programs to equip barangay tanods with the necessary skills to address diverse community needs effectively.

### E. *Community Responses and Operational Challenges*

Rodriguez-Lirios (2022) provided significant insights into the carrying out of duties of Barangay Peacekeeping and Safety Officers (BPSOs), highlighting the influence of community responses on their effectiveness. The study identified challenges such as lax attendance, inadequate support for personal protective equipment, inconsistent hazard remuneration, and a lack of coping mechanisms among BPSOs. These operational challenges impact the overall performance of barangay peacekeeping officers and underscore the need for structured support mechanisms to enhance their operational efficiency.

### F. *Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience*

Cobales et al. (2021) explored the involvement of barangay peacekeeping teams in disaster risk reduction management, emphasizing the resilience demonstrated by experienced respondents in the face of natural disasters. The study revealed a significant correlation between demographic variables including age,

educational achievement, and position concerning the implementation of BPATs' responsibilities in the management of disaster risk reduction. These findings underscore the significance of ongoing training initiatives to equip barangay peacekeeping teams with the necessary skills to effectively respond to disasters and emergencies.

G. *Infrastructure and Equipment Challenges*

De Asis et al. (2020) highlighted the troubles that Barangay Tanods has encountered in keeping the peace and order, including maintenance issues with police vehicles and a shortage of necessities such as raincoats and communication gadgets. These infrastructure and equipment challenges hinder effective patrol activities and monitoring efforts crucial for crime prevention. Addressing these challenges is essential to strengthen the barangay tanod's operating capacity and improve their ability in preserving harmony and order in their local areas.

H. *Response to Public Health Emergencies*

Roxas (2020) provided insights into the response of barangay peacekeeping teams to public health emergencies, specifically focusing on the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite initial unpreparedness and lack of knowledge and experience, the BPAT in Bacayao Sur, a barangay in Dagupan City, demonstrated active involvement in regarding the pandemic response in a systematic and adaptable manner. The study highlighted the resilience and adaptability of barangay peacekeeping teams in addressing public health emergencies, underscoring the importance of preparedness and effective response strategies in crises.

I. *Effectiveness and Operational Barriers*

Monte et al. (2023) emphasized the efficacy of BPAT in keeping peace and order, demonstrating exceptional proficiency in various areas such as safety for society, law enforcement, environmental preservation, dispute settlement, and catastrophe readiness. However, the study also identified barriers such as limited information dissemination and inadequate financial resources that pose substantial challenges to the operational efficiency of barangay peacekeeping teams. Addressing these barriers is crucial to sustaining the effectiveness of BPATs in upholding peace and order within barangays.

J. *Adapting to Changing Work Environments*

Cruz et al. (2021) explored the barangay tanods' actual encounters while the pandemic was in progress, highlighting the challenges faced when their work environment underwent abrupt changes. The study revealed that a majority Most barangay tanods were provided incentives by the government to address their health and sanitation requirements during the pandemic. Reflecting on their experiences, barangay tanods expressed a desire to boost their roles as agents of the government and equip themselves for potential impending emergencies. This underscores the adaptability and resilience of barangay tanods in responding to evolving challenges and underscores the importance of continuous learning and preparedness in their roles as frontline community enforcers.

### III. CONCLUSIONS

The research findings shared in this review emphasize the Barangay Tanods function in upholding peace and order in communities where formal police presence may be lacking. These dedicated civilian volunteers show a commitment, to preventing crime through teamwork and dedicated adherence to their duties. While previous studies have shed light on their performance and the obstacles they encounter, there is a gap in understanding the roles, experiences and empowerment of women tanods within barangays.

Including women tanods in research efforts is vital for gaining a comprehensive insight into the dynamics of barangay tanod groups. Examining the contributions and challenges faced by women tanods will not only deepen our understanding of their roles but also enhance the barangay tanods' overall success in preserving peace and order. By considering gender factors and advocating for gender approaches, in the realm of barangay security we can further bolster the capabilities and influence of these community guardians.

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