



# The Anti-Illegal Drugs Operation In La Trinidad Benguet Philippines

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## Abstract :

The research made used of a qualitative-narrative research design. The main purpose of this study was to know how does the barangay official accepts the implementation of anti-illegal drug operation in La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines.

The following are the major findings of the study:

1. The barangay officials considered illegal drugs as not a problem in La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines.
2. The leading anti-illegal drug operation joined by the barangay officials in La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines is Operation Tokhang followed by arrest and buy-bust operation. The law enforcement agencies that they have work with were the PNP and PDEA.
3. The roles of the barangay officials before the conduct of anti-illegal drug operations is to assist, identify and give the exact location of the person of interest but during the conduct of operation if the subject is known to be hostile then the barangay officials will be just called upon right after the operation for verification and identification of the arrested person and to serve as witness.
4. The barangay officials actively participate in the Information Education Campaign (IEC), continuous monitoring of the drug surrenderees of their barangay, supporting the programs and activities organized by the drug surrenderees and lastly attending training and seminars organized by the PNP and PDEA.
5. The barangay officials of La Trinidad, Benguet, look at the anti-illegal drug operation being implemented as advantageous and effective. Further, they also recognized the value of strict and consistent implementation of anti-illegal drug programs and operations of the government currently implemented today.

In relation with the findings and conclusion of this research, the following are recommended:

1. In order to achieve and sustain the full objective and purpose of anti-illegal drug programs and operations, sustainability of the presence, coordination and cooperation of the PNP and PDEA to the LGU down to the barangay level is recommended.
2. The PNP personnel's continuously conduct seminars, forums and programs and updates about illegal drugs in every barangay in order to maintain their connections and mutual relationships with the community.
3. Job fairs are also recommended to be organized by the Local Government through the barangay officials, NGOs and other labor sectors for the surrenderers to be employed while they are under rehabilitation and treatment program.
4. Revitalized and strengthen the presence of police officers posted at primary and secondary schools for maintaining regular contacts and communication with school personnel and students. They provide professional advice and assistance in handling criminal related activities including drug taking behavior of the students.

## INTRODUCTION

The drug war could be traced back in the United States of America (USA), way back in the early years of 20<sup>th</sup> century wherein the US Supreme Court, legislatives, other government agencies concerning food and drugs including the law enforcement began to enforce the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 targeting the toxic drugs and expanded to address misleading drug labels followed by the Harrison Tax Act of 1914, which restricted the sale of heroin and was used also to restrict the sale of cocaine as well (Head, 2017).

In Europe like United Kingdom (UK), it was cited on the article of Graham (2014) that the coalition Government is at war over a new report which suggests that decriminalizing drugs could have benefits to the United Kingdom (UK). The Home Office report examining a range of approaches, from zero-tolerance to decriminalization, it concluded drug use was influenced by factors more complex and nuanced than legislation and enforcement alone.

Likewise, The International Association Against Drug Abuse & Trafficking (IAADADT) in Moscow, Russia is a non-government organization that is active in dealing against illicit drugs. Their drug control activities were prevention, education, treatment, rehabilitation, research and training. The interventions are courses in schools, anti-drug advocacy, setting-up rehabilitation centers,

awareness training for drug law enforcement officers and research. The group has also publications and various materials, including TV program and magazine like Drug-Free World, On the Narcotics Situation in Russia and the CIS and documentaries.

In ASIA, the component of the ASEAN work plan on securing communities against illicit drugs 2016-2025 was launch and proposed the activities range from national and regional level, preventive education, law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation, research, alternative development, and extra-regional cooperation (THE ASEAN WORK PLAN ON SECURING COMMUNITIES AGAINST ILLICIT DRUGS 2016-2025).

Aside from punitive approach in dealing with illegal drugs a community-based program against illegal drugs was adopted in Hong Kong. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) adopts a proactive approach not only in spreading anti-drug messages but also in early identification of young people's needs and problems, so as to provide timely intervention through various services. Community based programs are designed in such a way as to arouse their interests in developing a positive lifestyle and to keep them away from the temptation of substance abuse. To this end, SWD collaborates with the Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and provides subventions for them to deliver tailor-made services for young people including drug prevention and rehabilitation programs through an integrated service mode at both school and community levels (Ng Ting-kwong, 2004).

In the Philippines the acts and crimes that are relative to opium and other prohibited drugs by are penalized virtue of the Philippine Revised Penal Code, the most iconic emergence of war on drugs is during the time of the late President Ferdinand E. Marcos. Where the punishment for drug related cases is upgraded up to death and one of the earliest executions of drug personality is Lim Seng. A Chinese drug trafficker convicted and sentenced to death through firing squadron January 15, 1973(Ocampo, 2016).

During the time of the Philippine Constabulary- Integrated National Police (PC-INP) the Narcotics Command (NARCOM) and the Criminal Investigation Service (CIS) is the specific group responsible in enforcing the laws related to drugs and by virtue of Republic Act 6975 which is an act establishing the Philippine National Police Under the Reorganized Department of the Interior Local Government maintained the groups and renamed as Narcotics Unit and Criminal Investigation Unit (RA 6975).

In addition, the Philippine National Police (PNP) launch its Six (6) Master Plans and one part of the Master Plan is the SANDIGAN which is an Anti-Criminality Plan including strategies against Anti-illegal drugs. The highlight of this strategy is to focus on the supply and demand reduction strategies and coupled with a heightened drug education campaign (Florendo, 2011).

Moreover, by virtue of Republic Act 9165, the penalty for violating its provisions was increased up to death, the Dangerous Drug Board (DDB) as a policy maker related to drug crimes together with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) as the lead agency in enforcing the drug laws of the Philippines and the PNP's Anti-Illegal Drug Operation and Investigation Task Force (AIDSOTF) was created during the time of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (RA 9165, 2002).

However, the law that created the DDB and PDEA did not only focus on law enforcement and penalization of drug offenders but also it strengthens the program for treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependents. In addition, it clearly specifies the participation of the community whether private or public entities in the prevention and education program, and the rehabilitation and treatment of drug dependents (RA 9165, 2002).

For this reason, the DDB broaden and strengthen community outreach and advocacy programs constantly conducted in different key settings such as schools, communities, and workplaces. During these activities, members of the DDB staff serve as resource speakers orienting the participants on the country's drug abuse problem, the ill effects of drug abuse and the legal consequences of being involved in illegal drugs activities (DDB Campaign and Advocacies, 2013).

Further, Treatment and Rehabilitation was also launch, this is a component under the drug demand reduction pillar which aims to reintegrate into the society recovering drug dependents. A chance to be treated and rehabilitated is afforded to those who have fallen prey to drugs. Through the use of effective treatment modalities, drug dependents are being trained to kick out the habit and become productive citizens of the country once again (DDB, 2013).

In 2016, the newly elected President Rodrigo Duterte pronounces to get rid of illegal drugs during the first six months of his term and he started with strengthening law enforcement of drugs laws by tapping the Philippine National Police (PNP) aside from the PDEA as lead agency.

On the same year in the month of July the Command Memorandum Circular Number 16-2016 with a subject Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drug Campaign Plan-Project: "Double Barrel" signed by Police Director General Ronald M. Dela Rosa was launch. This Command Memorandum Circular sets forth the general guidelines, procedures and tasks of police offices, units and stations in the conduct of the PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Campaign Plan - PROJECT: "DOUBLE BARREL" in support to the Barangay Drug Clearing Strategy of the government and the neutralization of illegal drug personalities nationwide (MCM #16-2016).

Since the start of the Operation Double Barrel in 2016 many iconic events happened that shakes the world of illegal drugs personalities like.

Elite personnel of the police Special Action Force (SAF) have been deployed to replace jail guards of the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) with irregularities like gun running and the illegal drug trade allegedly remained rampant. High profile inmates at the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) will be the first to experience tighter security being enforced by the police Special Action Force (SAF). The elite policemen, who replaced prison guards, will focus on the dormitories of so-called Bilibid VIPs at the NBP Building 14. The SAF will follow directives from the Philippine National Police (PNP) headquarters and the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) in manning the state penitentiary. Among the high-profile inmates housed in the NBP Maximum Security Compound are Peter Co, Herbert Colangco, and Jaybee Sebastian (Punzalan, 2016).

Moreover, the operation double barrel, as of September 16, 2016 PNP Chief Dela Rosa announced that the drug war had reduced the supply of illegal drugs by some 80 to 90 % based on statistical and observational evidence. Bodies continue to pile up and the rise of unexplained death has been attributed to the continuing police crackdown on illegal drugs in support to the government's war against illegal drugs (Djamin, 2016).

In support to current war on drugs by November 29, 2016 the mega drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation center in Nueva Ecija was inaugurated by President Rodrigo Duterte together with Huang Rulun the chairperson of board of century golden resources group of Beijing (Kabiling, 2016).



On the other hand, on September 19, 2016, the DDB passed Board Regulation No. 4, Series of 2016, entitled OPLAN SAGIP Guidelines on Voluntarily Surrender of Drug Users and Dependents and Monitoring Mechanism of Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Campaigns. Apart from establishing clear guidelines in dealing with drug personalities who voluntarily submit themselves to authorities, the regulation also mandated Local Government Units (LGUs) through their Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (ADACs) to facilitate the establishment of community-based treatment and rehabilitation services and interventions to surrenderers found to be of low-risk or having mild substance use disorder (DDB, 2016).

In Western Visayas the community vetting was initiated in the selection of Drug Enforcement Teams (DETs) to ensure individual and organizational integrity in the campaign against illegal drugs. Community Vetting involves the participation of the grassroots, particularly the BADAC and other stakeholders in the barangays, in the selection of DETs of police stations by simply naming at least four personnel whom they trust and the personnel whom they distrust from a roster of personnel provided in a survey form and provide answer why they mistrust in the campaign against illegal drugs. The purpose of community vetting is aimed to raise the level of acceptance, reinforce and restore the trust of the community to their police in the campaign, foster partnership and collaboration between the police and the community, among others (Masculino, 2018).

Same as through with our brother Muslims in Mindanao the Moro community core leaders in Barangay Baliwasan, Zamboanga City held meeting to tackle appropriate approaches in line with their exerted efforts in information-drive campaign against illegal drugs particularly Shabu (Methamphetamine) in Moro dominated barangays in Zamboanga City. The meeting aims to raise public awareness on the menace and ill-effects brought by Illegal drugs that destroy one's well-being and society as a whole. This was also in consonance and support with President Duterte's administration war on illegal drugs. Tirso Tahir of Bangsamoro Leadership and Management Institute (BLMI) Tirso Tahir assisted the Moro Community and Religious leaders in holding similar activities mostly in Moro dominated barangays in the city. This kind of activity can help boost government's advocacy against the use and proliferation of Illegal-drugs in the city, a Moro Community leader. In Islam, all substances be it in powder, liquid and etc. that can intoxicate and destroy a person's mind and body are Haram (Forbidden) as what Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said in Hadiths (Luwaran, 2017).

The same with the Department of the Interior and Local Government in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (DILG-ARMM) launched last week its community-based MASA MASID program on to empower communities and fortify people's participation in the war against illegal drugs, corruption, and criminality. MASA MASID, or Mamamayang Ayaw Sa Anomalya, Mamamayang Ayaw sa Iligal na Droga is an initiative aimed at encouraging the communities in the region to take action against all forms of irregularities and illegal activities, especially drug abuse. The program is a collaborative work involving the Philippine National Police (PNP), provincial and local government officials, village chiefs, religious sectors, civil society groups, and other nongovernmental organizations (Lanao del Sur Infocus, 2017).

In Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), there are at least 14 barangays with a resident known as a drug user, pusher, manufacturer, marijuana cultivator or any other type of drug personality had been cleared of drug affectation from October in 2009 to date by the PDEA – CAR, Police Regional Office Cordillera and other law enforcement agencies; while 58 drug personalities were neutralized. Nine of the cleared barangays are in Abra, three in Baguio City, and one each in Benguet and Apayao. As of the latest Regional Drug Situation Validation Workshop participated in by various anti-narcotic units, the Cordillera Region still has 81 barangays affected by dangerous drugs. 13 of these are classified as Seriously Affected and 68 are Moderately Affected. None is classified as just Slightly Affected. Currently, a total of 170 drug-listed personalities are due for neutralization. None is in Apayao, 13 are in Mountain Province, 15 in Ifugao, 16 in Kalinga, 33 in Benguet, 45 in Baguio City and 48 in Abra; whereas, only one in the list is categorized as both a pusher and financier, five are both couriers and pushers, six are users, ten are couriers, 38 are pushers, and 110 are both pushers and users (balitangilokandia, 2016).

Further, Punay (2017) reported in the Philippine Star that a judge named by President Duterte as a protector of the illegal drug trade faces charges. In a four-page resolution released yesterday, the Supreme Court (SC) approved the recommendation of a fact-finding panel led by retired associate justice Roberto Abad that an administrative case for corruption be filed against Baguio City Regional Trial Court Judge Antonio Reyes.

According to PCINSP Edgar Liwayan Tapo Chief of Police in Lamut Municipal Police Station, he has observed many changes ever since the launching of the PNP Anti-illegal Drugs Campaign Plan-Project: Double Barrel. Like for example the persons known to be a drug user became physically healthy, their businesses became sustainable and stable. The community involvement private and/or government organization supports and cooperates in any programs and activities of the Municipal Police office (personal communication, June 17, 2018).

Aside from the intensified enforcement of the law on the drugs the Cordillera Police Regional Office (CPRO) sought help from schools as part of its drive against illegal drugs. Cordillera police and five colleges in Baguio City and Benguet signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) recently on guiding and helping the schools formulate their anti-illegal drug campaign. Representatives from the Baguio College of Technology, Cordillera Career Development College, Easter College, King's College of the Philippines, Philippine Women's University, and PRO director Elmo Francis Sarna signed the MOA. The MOA hopes for the active participation of the five schools in drug abuse prevention programs and training activities initiated by government organizations and civil society organization in the community as part of their extension services or co-curricular activities (Osis, 2017).

In La Trinidad, Benguet, the newly created Multi-Agency Task Force on Anti-Illegal Drugs requested the Supreme Court to designate a temporary drug court in the province in line with the government's all-out campaign against illegal drugs. In a meeting convened by Task Force chairperson Governor Crescencio Pacalso, the members agreed to seek the Supreme Court's designation of a temporary drugs court to facilitate the issuance of court orders for the rehabilitation of drug surrenderees. Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Legal Officer, Atty. Ernesto Marzo expressed the urgency for the designation of a specialized court to attend to drug surrenderees since going to the regular court will take longer time as cases will be have to be raffled and calendared. Marzo explained that the issuance of a court order is to ensure the drug dependent will undergo full rehabilitation as indicated in his commitment upon applying for rehabilitation, otherwise if discontinued the court could file a case against him or her (balitangilokandia, 2016).

Spurred by the motivation that as an educator in the field of criminology and a citizen with deep concern about the problems about illegal drugs, the researcher is challenged to conduct a study on how the barangay official accepts the implementation of anti-illegal drug operation in La Trinidad, Benguet.

The findings of this study will be of benefit to the enforcers of RA 9165 and other related laws concerning drugs like the PDEA, PNP, community leaders, researchers, students and the researcher himself.

This study will serve as basis for community leaders such as barangay chairmen for the enhancement of their Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC) and strategies to eradicate or lessen the problems related to drugs.

The school administrators will be guided by the results of this study in so far as making adjustment in their school activities and programs against illegal drugs.

The researcher himself, a criminologist and an educator in the field of criminology, and concerned members of the community will use the results of this study in helping community leaders in the enhancement of the programs on how to avoid and counter the problems brought about by illegal drugs.

**NEED OF THE STUDY.**

After a long period of increasingly punitive policies, illicit drugs are more easily obtainable, drug potencies are greater and drug tycoons are richer than ever. The war on drugs costs so much on the government, it clogs the pillars of the criminal justice system up to the point that it won't function efficiently and effectively. But finding solutions to these problems was never stop, new system and programs were developed like instead of applying punitive approach only the treatment approach was also added. Aside from that, the community involvement including the youth was also strengthened which is very important in the efficiency and effectiveness of the programs against illegal drugs and drug related activities.

**3.1 Population and Sample**

The study was conducted in La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines with sixteen (16) barangays. The barangay captains were purposively chosen as the participants of the study but some were represented by the head of the Barangay Peace and Order Council (BPOC). They were chosen as participants of this study because they are the duly representative of their own constituents and mandated by the law as the man in the field through BADAC and BPOC in implementing laws, memorandums and ordinances pertaining to illegal drugs.

**3.2 Data and Sources of Data**

Interview guide was used to know how the barangay official accepts the implementation of anti-illegal drug operation in La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines.

Participants Journal was used to serve as a note book for the participants prior to the interview and/or focused group discussion.

The researcher prepared a request letter addressed to the barangay captain to conduct personal interview. Prior to the said date of interview, the letters were disseminated two days before the date of interview and some barangay captains opted to be interviewed right after the receiving of letter. The responses of the participants were consolidated, transcribe and interpreted to answer the specific problem of the study.

**3.3 Theoretical framework**

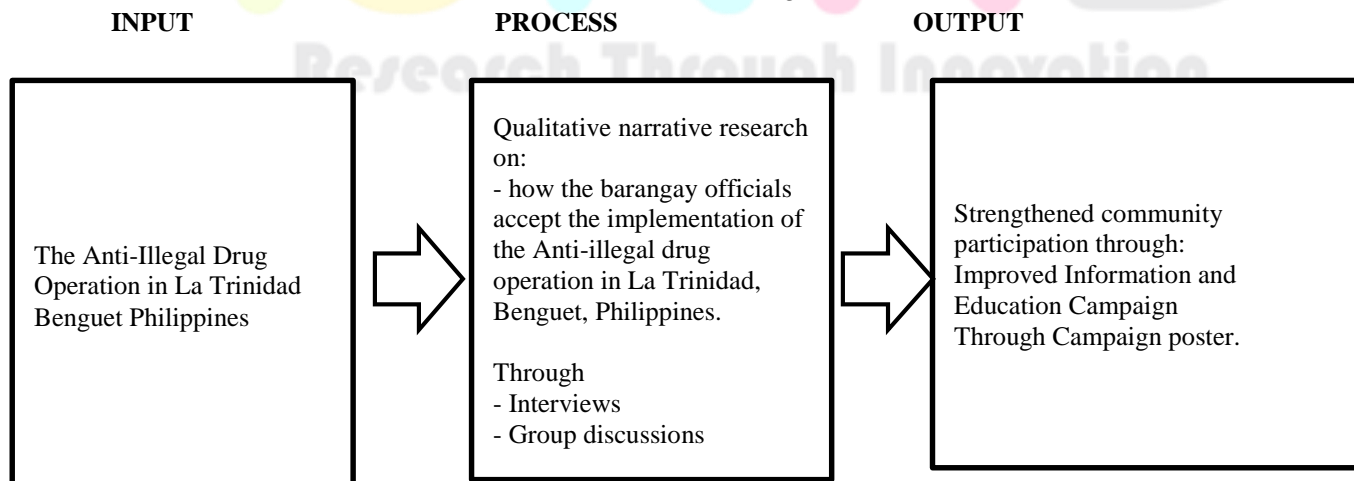
This study followed the input-throughput-output model in the paradigm which is a diagrammatic presentation of the method used in the study.

The first box presents the input covers the main research problem which is The Anti-Illegal Drug Operation of La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines.

The second box shows the process that provides the methods which is Qualitative narrative research on how the barangay Officials accepts the implementation of anti-illegal drug operation in La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines.

The output in the model is the strengthened community participation through the improved information education campaign.

*Figure 1  
Research Paradigm*



## Research Design and Methodology

This study used a qualitative-narrative research design on how the barangay officials, accepts the current anti-illegal drug operation being implemented in La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines. Narrative research is a term that subsumes a group of approaches that in turn rely on the written or spoken words or visual representation of individuals. These approaches typically focus on the lives of individuals as told through their own stories. The emphasis in such approaches is on the story, typically both what and how is narrated. Narrative research can be considered both a research method in itself but also the phenomenon under study. Narrative research is set out by the validation of the audience (ATLAS.ti, 2018).

### 4.1. Population and Locale of the Study

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### 4.2. Data Gathering Instrument

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### 4.3. Data Gathering Procedure

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In the discussions in chapter 3, the barangays were represented by letters following the sequence; Barangay Alapang is letter "A", Alno is "B", Ambiong is "C", Bahong is "D", Balili is "E", Beckel is "F", Betag is "G", Bineng is "H", Cruz "I", Lubas's "J", Pico "K", Poblacion is "L", Puguis is "M", Shilan "N", Tawang "O", and Wangal "P".

### 4.4. Treatment of Data

Thematic Analysis was used in analyzing the collected data. Thematic analysis can be used to make sense of seemingly unrelated material. It can be used to analyze qualitative information and to systematically gain knowledge and empathy about a person, an interaction, a group, a situation, an organization or a culture (Komori and Keene, 2007).

The data was gathered from sources namely participants journal, observational data and audio recording. The data from conversations audiotape were transcribed and encoded. After that the researcher coded the data by manually writing key words, concepts, and reflections to come-up with code book. From the codebook, the researcher identifies themes and sub-themes or patterns that have emerged from the coded data. Lastly, the researcher finalizes the name of each theme, writes its description and illustrates it with a few quotations from the original text to help communicate its meaning to the reader.

### 4.5. Theoretical/Conceptual Framework

This research will be anchored on the concept that "The police are the public and the public are the police" (Robert Peel).

The two fundamental theories of police service that could be related in this research are Continental Theory of police service where policemen, are considered as servants of higher authorities and the people of have little or no share at all in their duties, no have any direct connection with them. While the Home Rule Theory of police service is that policemen are considered as servants of the community, who depend on their effectiveness in performing their functions (Timpac, 2012).

Community policing is a community-oriented police department that values citizen input, define their mission more broadly than just law enforcement, and believe that policing must be tailored to the needs of the community. It emphasizes the positive citizen interactions, police community partnerships and problem-solving activities. Further, community policing favors a work environment where employee input is highly valued, mentoring is encouraged and systematic evaluation methods are in place (Rowe, 2008).

Mill's utilitarianism emphasizes that taking situation into account when deciding what is right, calculating what would produce the greatest good for the greatest number of people and focusing on consequences; right acts are those which, in their application, promote good over evil (Perez and Moore, 2007).

Expansion and Acceptance principle of Harris under the principle of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy refers to the practice of making room for unpleasant feelings, sensations, and urges, instead of trying to suppress them or push them away. By opening up and allowing them to come and go without struggling with them, running from them, or giving them undue attention, we find that they bother us much less. They also move on more quickly, instead of hanging around and bothering us (Harris, 2006; Harris, 2007).

Obstacles to acceptance in science, ideas can be rejected for many different reasons the lack of evidence is one that Scientists strive to scrutinize the evidence for everything, even things that seem obvious. This means that to be accepted, a scientific idea must be more than just plausible; it must be tested and supported repeatedly with multiple lines of evidence. Another one is Biases, scientists strive to work objectively, but they are still human and vulnerable to biases just like everyone else (Hagen, 1996). This obstacle is also true in the legal parlance, wherein legitimate or illegitimate operations are also possible for biases but could justify by evidence.



Community-based prevention program that focus on population health and in addition it may address changes in the social and physical environment, involve intersectoral action, highlight community participation and empowerment, emphasize context or include systems approach. Community-based prevention interventions offer three distinct strengths. First, because the intervention is implemented population wide it is inclusive and not dependent on access to health care system. Second, by directing strategies at an entire population an intervention can reach individuals at all levels of risk. And finally, some lifestyle and behavioral risk factors are shaped by conditions not under and individuals' control (An Integrated Framework for Assessing the Value of Community-Based Prevention, 2012).

Risk and Protective Factor Theory is community-based prevention and intervention against illegal drug use in Texas. Protective factors are characteristics that decrease an individual's risk for a substance abuse disorder that includes strong and positive family bonds, parental monitoring of children's activities and peers, clear rules of conduct that are consistently enforced within the family, involvement of parents in the lives of their children, success in school performance; strong bonds with institutions, such as school and religious organizations and adoption of conventional norms about drug use. While the risk factors increase the likelihood of substance abuse problems and includes chaotic home environments, particularly in which parents abuse substances or suffer from mental illnesses, ineffective parenting, especially with children with difficult temperaments or conduct disorders, lack of parent-child attachments and nurturing, inappropriately shy or aggressive behavior in the classroom, failure in school performance, poor social coping skills, affiliations with peers displaying deviant behaviors and perceptions of approval of drug-using behaviors in family, work, school, peer, and community environments (TEXAS Health and Human Services, 2016).

Community crime prevention programs or strategies target changes in community infrastructure, culture, or the physical environment in order to reduce crime. The diversity of approaches includes neighborhood watch, community policing, urban or physical design, and comprehensive or multi-disciplinary efforts. These strategies may seek to engage residents, community and faith-based organizations, and local government agencies in addressing the factors that contribute to the community's crime, delinquency, and disorder (National Institute of Justice (NIJ), n.d.).

This study followed the input-throughput-output model in the paradigm which is a diagrammatic presentation of the method used in the study.

The first box presents the input covers the main research problem which is The Anti-Illegal Drug Operation of La Trinidad, Benguet.

The second box shows the process that provides the methods which is Qualitative narrative research on how the barangay Officials accepts the implementation of anti-illegal drug operation in La Trinidad, Benguet.

The output in the model is the strengthened community participation through the improved information education campaign.

#### 4.6. Statement of the Problem

The major purpose of this study was to assess on how does the barangay official accepts the implementation of anti-illegal drug operation in La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines.

Specially, it sought to answer the following problems:

1. What is the assessment of the barangay officials on the problem of illegal drugs in their Barangay?
2. What anti-illegal drugs operations and Law Enforcement agencies did the barangay officials joined and work with?
3. What are the roles of the barangay officials in the conduct of anti-illegal drug operations in La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines?
4. What are the programs against illegal drugs that the barangay officials of La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines participated with?
5. What are the comments of the barangay officials about the programs and operations of anti-illegal drugs being implemented in their barangay?

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

This chapter presents and interprets the data relating on how does the barangay official accepts the implementation of anti-illegal drug operation in La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines.

#### The assessment of the Barangay Officials on the problem of illegal drugs within their barangay

Problem number one (1) discusses the assessment of barangay officials on the problem of illegal drugs in the municipality of La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines.

#### *Illegal drugs is not a problem*

This theme reflected that there is common assessment of the barangay chairmen that illegal drug is not a problem. For instance, the chairman of barangay "M" is very proud to mention that their barangay was awarded as best Barangay Peace and Order Committee in La Trinidad and also entire the Province of Benguet for two (2) consecutive years 2015 and 2016. For barangays "B", "H", "I", "O" and "P" generally mentioned by their chairman that their barangay is drug cleared. The chairman and their representative of barangays "G", "I", "L" and "P" mostly said that there are only few individuals listed as person of interest on the drug list but not actually a resident of their barangay instead they are just boarders, transient residence or from other nearby municipalities.

This was confirmed during the meeting of the joint Municipal Peace and Order and Municipal Anti-drug Abuse Council held on February 28, 2018 at the Municipal Lednick Hall, La Trinidad, Benguet, when it was presented and reiterated by the Chief of Police PCI Benson B. Macli-ling that all of the barangays of the Municipality of La Trinidad were declared as drug free. But the Province of Benguet is not drug free because some of the barangays of other municipalities were not yet drug cleared.

Likewise confirmed also by Senior Police Officer IV Lingbawan Chief of the Police Community Relation (PCR) La Trinidad Police Station during his visit in Kings College of the Philippines (KCP) all of the barangays of La Trinidad, Benguet are drug cleared and accordingly it was found out that all of the drug personalities it is either arrested through buy bust or raid and/or

voluntary surrendered were not a resident of La Trinidad, Benguet instead they are from other nearby municipalities and provinces (Personal Communication, May 9, 2018).

Among all of the barangays of La Trinidad, Benguet, the chairman of barangay “J” still considered illegal drug as a problem even though they were drug cleared barangay. According to the barangay captain although the number of surrenderer is minimal in numbers, he still considers it as a big problem because seven of the drug surrenderers are family head and one is a minor.

What was mentioned by the chairman of barangay “J” is supported by the research findings conducted by Houchin (2005) wherein Families experience emotional distress even with the temporary loss of a loved one from the family home and/or family life. Families are seen as guilty by association even though they are legally innocent and generally have had no involvement in the offence. This stigma is sometimes referred to as courtesy stigma or stigma by association. This stigma makes the imprisonment even more difficult for family members, and it can also mean that families are treated negatively by other members of their community, or face negative treatment from colleagues, peers, the media and even friends and family. Following the imprisonment of a person, partners of prisoners are often forced to take on multiple roles and responsibilities, particularly where the incarcerated family member has previously had an active role in the household. Imprisonment tends to impose financial strain on the families of the prisoners in two ways: by decreasing the family income and by increasing family expenditure, due to costly visits and phone calls, and handing in money for their loved ones in prison. Prison thus can exacerbate existing socio-economic disadvantage.

Further, it is also related to the broken window theory that if small things or mistake that is not corrected then there is bigger tendency that this problem would become worst and propagate that will affect wider area or the whole community.

In general, the discussions above indicate that illegal drug in La Trinidad, Benguet is not a problem as to the assessment of the barangay officials.

### **Anti-illegal Drug Operations and Law Enforcement Agencies Joined by the Barangay Officials in La Trinidad Benguet Philippines**

Problem number two (2) sought to determine the anti-illegal drug operations and law enforcement agencies that the barangay officials joined with.

#### *Anti-illegal Drug Operations Conducted in the barangays of La Trinidad, Benguet.*

Tokhang/tokhang re-loaded is one of the anti-illegal drug operations that the barangay officials have joined together with the Philippine National Police (PNP). According to the head of the Barangay Anti-Drug Council (BADAC) of barangay “C” they accompanied the person of interest to surrender at the Municipal Police Station. The chairman of barangay “M”, heads of Barangay Peace and Order Committee (BPOC) of barangays “L” and “P” have similarly stated that they help the PNP by conveying them going around their barangay in conducting house to house visitation of persons of interested listed on the drug list of the PNP. It was proudly mentioned by the head of BPOC of barangay “L” that they have accompanied for thrice the Chief of Police of La Trinidad Municipal Pulis Station (LTMPS) during visitation. In barangay “F”, the LTMPS coordinated with the barangay officials for the confirmation of the person of interest whether they live on that place or not.

The statement of the barangay officials above reflects that they are willing to do their duties and responsibilities stated under the Command Memorandum Circular no. 16-2016 otherwise known as PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Campaign Plan (PROJECT: DOUBLE BARREL). This program is composed of two major approaches the Project High Value Target as the upper barrel and the Project Tokhang as the lower barrel. There are five (5) stages in the conduct of PROJECT TOKHANG where in the presence and knowledge of the barangay officials are required namely: Collection and Validation of Information Stage, Coordination Stage, House to House Visitation Stage, Processing and Documentation Stage, and the Monitoring and Evaluation Stage (CMC no.16-2016).

Arrest and buy-bust operations were also mentioned by some barangay chairman, head of Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC) and Barangay Peace and Order Committee (BPOC) conducted by the PNP or PDEA. Barangays “C”, “H”, and “O” similarly mentioned that they have joined the arrest operations. For barangay “G”, “H”, “L”, and “M” commonly mentioned that they have joined PNP in conducting buy bust operation.

Barangays “E” and “H” experience physically present during the raids conducted in their place by the PNP or PDEA. While in barangays “B” and “N” they did not encounter any anti-illegal drug operations conducted in their barangay.

All in all the discussions above reveals that the barangay officials are actively participating in Tokhang /Tokhang reload, arrest and buy-bust operation conducted in their respective barangay together with the PNP and the PDEA.

### **The roles of the barangay officials before, during and after the conduct of anti-illegal drug operation**

Specific problem number three (3) focuses on the roles of barangay officials in the conduct of anti-illegal operations in La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines.

#### *Barangay Officials Role before the conduct of anti-illegal drug operation*

Before the conduct of anti-illegal drug operation, most of the barangay officials tell about their experiences and part before the operation takes place. For instance, the head of the BPOC of barangay “C” mentioned that they assist the PNP in locating the exact location of the person of interest which is similar with the statement of the chairman in barangay “D”. The head of BPOC in barangay “E” said that before any participation of operation against drugs they are being called upon by the PNP, but in barangay “K” the barangay chairman explained that they are conducting a meeting first together with the kagawads and tanods.

In barangay “F” the barangay chairman discussed that they identify first those who are involved in illegal drugs, go to their house and give advice to voluntary surrender and this is also similar to barangay “L” wherein the head of BPOC said that it is their obligation to encourage the person of interest to surrender themselves to the authority.

The statement above is in pursuant to the powers and functions of BADAC wherein they are obliged to refer suspected drug users to the City/Municipal Anti-Drug Abuse Council (C/MADAC) for corresponding counseling or rehabilitation and to refer drug users and dependents who voluntarily surrender to appropriate officer written under the DDB Board Regulation No.4 Series of 2016 and Board Regulation no.3 of 2017.

For barangay “M” the barangay chairman talk about intelligence and validations of report and information being forwarded by the PNP to them. It means that they are performing their duties and responsibilities in connection to the conduct of barangay drug-clearing operations during the pre-operation phase, the BADAC Chairman are mandated to submit consolidated information report to CADAC/MADAC and Local police unit concerned for the formulation and validation of watch list of drug personalities in every barangay (DDB BR No. 3, 2017).

#### *Barangay Officials Role during the conduct of anti-illegal drug operation*

During the conduct of anti-illegal drug operation there were only few barangay officials disclosed that they are physically present. Like in barangay “I” the chairman said that they assign a maximum of two (2) barangay officials per raid that is to be conducted in their barangay and there main role is to be a witness on the raid and apprehension if there is to be apprehended. This is similar with the elucidation of the chairman in barangay “J” that they are physically present to see to it that the operation is done in legal and acceptable manner.

It is also the same with the testimony of the head of BPOC in barangay “L” that they personally join the operation in order to protect the person of interest, talk in responsible way and convincing manner to surrender, he further explained that if in aggressive way, they will run or even shoot you with a gun and further commented that the person of interest must be treated as human. Another similar explanation of the barangay chairman of barangay “M” is that sometimes they are physically present to be a “by standers and living witness”.

The barangay officials discussions above is in compliance with their duties and responsibilities of the BADAC wherein they are obliged to extend assistance to law enforcement agencies during the conduct of anti-drug operations. Further, they are to ensure the safety of the community and extend such other necessary assistance to the operating units during the conduct of anti-drug operations (DDB BR no. 3, 2017).

Other barangay chairman focused more on the security and safety of their kagawads and tanods that is why they don’t physically join anti-illegal drug operations. As mentioned by the captain of the barangay “N” the illegal drug dealers, users are very dangerous so he will not risk the life of the barangay tanods or barangay officials to join anti-illegal drug operations.

#### *Barangay Officials Role after the conduct of anti-illegal drug operation*

This area reflected that most of the barangay officials participated after the conduct of operations on anti-illegal drugs. Synonymously mention by the chairman and representatives of barangays “A”, “B”, “G”, “L” and “O” that their role after the conduct of anti-illegal drug operation is to become a witness. In barangay “I” the head of the BPOC explained that after the operation or raid they are made witness by the inclusion of their names and initials to the confiscated items, identification of the suspect/s arrested and to sign affidavits which are presented or submitted to the court. For barangay “J” the chairman also said that they counter sign list of recovered paraphernalia’s which could be a compliment to the statement of the barangay chairman of barangay “M” wherein they are present during the inventory of drug paraphernalia’s and they identify the drug personalities arrested.

Under the DDB board regulation no. 3 of 2017, the BADAC Chairman or any elected official present during the anti-drug operations should sign the inventory of seized drugs and paraphernalia as witness after the conduct of anti-drug operations (DDB BR no. 3, 2017).

All of the discussions above clearly show the importance of community participation in the anti-illegal drug operation. As explained by Miller and Hess (2007) in improving intelligence the police must encourage more citizens to provide information about drug dealing in order to come with better accomplishment. The multifaceted approach of the Comprehensive Gang Initiative Program (CGIP) reiterates that variety of government and private agencies to work with police and community members to simultaneously address the many factors that create and sustain drugs and gangs (Hess and Wroblecki, 2006).

#### **Programs against illegal drugs that the barangay official of La Trinidad Benguet participated with**

The problem number four (4) sought to determine programs against illegal drugs that the barangay officials have actively participated with.

#### *Programs and activities for the minors*

Information Education Campaign (IEC) is one of the programs against illegal drugs actively participated by the barangay officials of La Trinidad Benguet.

The barangay chairman of barangay’s “A”, “B”, “C”, “F”, “H”, “I”, and “M” similarly mentioned that they actively participated in the IEC program together with La Trinidad COP and its personnel. Specifically explain by the barangay chairman of barangay “B” that together with the La Trinidad Police they went to the schools within their barangay for the purpose of educating the students on the effects of illegal drugs and as a responsible citizens or students. He further discussed that during their assembly where the audience were the constituent of the barangay ages fifteen (15) years old and above included the topics on anti-illegal drug campaign. The head of the BADAC in barangay “C” said that they also included the topic on illegal drugs and their responsibility as parents during the Parents Teachers Association (PTA) meeting. In barangay “H” they have joined the IEC not only within their barangay but also Municipal wide.

The discussion above implies that the barangay officials believe that informing and educating the public specially the children is a practical and effective approach against illegal drugs. In corroboration with the book of Ang (2011) educating the youth at an early age is necessary to stop the trend toward drug addiction.

In addition, preventive education against drug abuse is vital in shaping and developing the personality of young people because it seeks to inspire life goals, a challenge which endows it with much broader implications than the prevention of health problems (Buisman, 1995).

Further, it was discussed by Hart and Ksir (2011) that the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) and later other similar school-based drug-use prevention programs have been shown to reduce initiation and levels of drug use.

Aside from information drive, the chairman of barangay “A” had mentioned that they have also conducted clean up drive for youth, youth camp and lastly, they have implemented curfew hours for minor.



*Program and activities for the drug surrenderers*

There are barangay officials continuously monitoring and supporting the drug surrenderer even though they were forwarded to the Municipal Police Station. Like in barangay “A”, “C”, “E”, “K”, “L”, and “M” specifically mentioned that they continue monitoring drug surrenderers in their barangay.

The surrenderers are not only monitored by the barangay officials but it is also monitored in the municipal level wherein Mrs. Ma. Lourdes G. Taguiba Social Welfare Officer (SWO) 1 was able to present the status of the drug surrenderers during the joint meeting of the MPOC and MADAC of La Trinidad held on February 28, 2018. He made mention that there were forty two (42) voluntary surrenderers undergoing After Care Program and there were 9 enrollees undergoing Community Based Rehabilitation Program (CBRP). Further, Hon. Romeo K. Salda encourages the barangay officials and offices concerned to assist our surrenderers to religiously undergo the process. He pointed out that continuous monitoring and reporting should be done.

Community-based prevention program focus on population health and in addition it may address changes in the social and physical environment, involve intersectoral action, highlight community participation and empowerment, emphasize context or include systems approach (An Integrated Framework for Assessing the Value of Community-Based Prevention, 2012). While on the other hand, aftercare is any ongoing or follow-up treatment for substance abuse that occurs after an initial rehab program. No matter the setting, treatment provider, or methods used, the goals of addiction aftercare programs are the same and include: to maintain recovery from substance abuse, to find ways to prevent relapse, and to achieve a life filled with rewarding relationships and a sense of purpose (Patterson, 2018).

In barangay “C” the head of BPOC explained that they have enrolled the drug surrenderers in the Alternative Learning System (ALS) for those who are willing to pursue their study, other programs and activities organized by the surrenderers were supported by the barangay officials like sports activities, moral recovery and rehabilitation program.

The head of BPOC in barangay “E” also discussed that those who have surrendered are still under monitored by them, especially their suspicious actions and activities. If they still continue on their illegal activities the barangay chairman will recommend them for rehabilitation depending on the graveness of their situation.

For barangay “K” the barangay officials are formulating a resolution during meeting for the livelihood program of their drug surrenderers while in barangay “L” the head of BPOC had explained that they have a partnership to San Jose Parish Church for the seminar on moral recovery program within six (6) months.

In barangay “M” the chairman focused in his discussion the reintegration of drug surrenderer in the community. He further explained that one of their drugs surrenderer is the chosen president of La Trinidad drug surrenderer at the same time well talented and skilled in music that is why during the conduct of IEC he is asked to join together with other drug surrenderer to testify on the bad effects of illegal drugs and also to render songs in getting the attention of the students. There is a mandate from the DILG that the punong barangay should appoint one Barangay Information Officer and that is why they appointed this drug surrenderer as the barangay information officer with an honorarium.

The discussion of the barangay official implies that they still believe that drug surrenderers have chances to change that is why they support the programs and activities intended for the surrenderer. In corroboration in the book of Ang (2011) rehabilitation of drug addicts is an important aspect of the war against drug addiction. With so many drug addicts, there is a need for more rehabilitation’s centers. With every rehabilitated addict is one less customer for the drugs lords.

Further, this is also related to the Expansion and Acceptance principle of Harris wherein the practice of making room for unpleasant feelings, sensations, and urges, instead of trying to suppress them or push them away. By opening up and allowing them to come and go without struggling with them, running from them, or giving them undue attention, we find that they bother us much less. They also move on more quickly, instead of hanging around and bothering us (Harris, 2006; Harris, 2007).

*Programs and activities to improve the capability of barangay officials*

Organizing and strengthening the Barangay Anti-Drug Council (BADAC) is generally point out by the chairman and officials of barangay’s “D”, “F”, “G”, “L”, and “P”.

Training and seminars that is organized by the PNP and PDEA were commonly mentioned by the chairman and officials of barangay’s “A”, “C”, “I”, “J” and “O” and accordingly it is more intensified because the Chief of Police of La Trinidad is always present during the said activities. Specifically explain by the barangay chairman of barangay “I” that they have training and seminars on handling of drug cases, seminar on early detection of illegal drug users while in barangay “O” they have included residents in some training and seminars.

The statements above were the activities under taken during the Pre-operation Phase in the conduct of barangay drug-clearing operations. The capability enhancement of all stakeholders in barangay clearing operations through the conduct of basic drug prevention and control seminars, giving emphasis to collection and analysis of drug-related information and prevention education written under the pre-operation phase of the Barangay Drug-clearing Operations (DDB Board regulation no. 3, 2017).

The barangay officials actively participate in the Information Education Campaign (IEC), continuous monitoring of the drug surrenderers of their barangay, supporting the programs and activities organized by the drug surrenderers and lastly attending training and seminars organized by the PNP and PDEA.

### **Comments of the barangay officials about the programs and operations of anti-illegal drugs being implemented in their barangay**

Problem number five (5) deals with the comment of the barangay officials about the programs and operations being implemented in their respective barangay.

*Appreciative comments of anti-illegal drug programs and operations implemented in La Trinidad, Benguet*

The captains of barangay’s “A”, “C”, “D”, “L”, “N” and “O” have commonly mentioned that the anti-illegal drug programs being implemented in La Trinidad is good. In barangay “C” the head of BPOC commented that at least peace and order is achieved and so that the people will not be afraid. It is also stated by the chairman of barangay “D” that at least the drug users were lessen even though they did not fully change. The chairman of barangay “O” commented that the program is good because it decreases the crime rate but sometimes the manner of implementation is too much.

The chairman of barangay “B” said that they salute the La Trinidad PNP on their programs and operation of anti-illegal drugs being implemented. They are closely coordinating to the barangay officials for any programs and operations related to anti-illegal drugs.

The chairman of barangay’s “G” and “P” similarly mentioned that the programs and operations being implemented are helpful in the society.

Other barangay officials considered the anti-illegal drugs program being implemented in La Trinidad as effective.

In barangay “M” the chairman mentioned that the anti-illegal drug program being implemented in La Trinidad is successful while the chairman of barangay “B” had given a salute on the anti-illegal drugs program and lastly for the head of BPOC of barangay “H” said that it is also promising.

In the above statement it shows that the barangay officials of La Trinidad, Benguet look at the anti-illegal drug operation being implemented as advantageous and effective. Further, they also recognized the value of strict and consistent implementation of anti-illegal drug programs and operations of the government currently implemented today.

## Conclusions

In light of the findings derived from this study, the following conclusions were deduced:

1. The barangay officials considered illegal drugs as not a problem in La Trinidad, Benguet.
2. The leading anti-illegal drug operation joined by the barangay officials in La Trinidad, Benguet is Operation Tokhang followed by arrest and buy-bust operation.
3. The barangay officials have cooperation and collaborations in anti-illegal drug operations together with the PNP and PDEA being conducted in La Trinidad, Benguet.
4. The barangay officials have confidence in that public information and education in the campaign against illegal drugs have trust and confidence that the drug surrenderers will change and lastly the barangay officials improve their capabilities through attending training and seminars.
5. The barangay officials of La Trinidad, Benguet accepts and acknowledged the value of strict and consistent implementation of anti-illegal drug programs and operations currently implemented.

## Recommendations

After careful review of the findings and analysis of data, these recommendations are presented:

1. In order to achieve and sustain the full objective and purpose of anti-illegal drug programs and operations, sustainability of the presence, coordination and cooperation of the PNP and PDEA to the LGU down to the barangay level is recommended.
2. The PNP personnel’s continuously conduct seminars, forums and programs and updates about illegal drugs in every barangay in order to maintain their connections and mutual relationships with the community.
3. Job fairs are also recommended to be organized by the Local Government through the barangay officials, NGOs and other labor sectors for the surrenderers to be employed while they are under rehabilitation and treatment program.
4. Revitalized and strengthen the presence of police officers posted at primary and secondary schools for maintaining regular contacts and communication with school personnel and students. They provide professional advice and assistance in handling criminal related activities including drug taking behavior of the students.

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## APPENDIX

### INTERVIEW GUIDE

1. As a Barangay Captain how do you assess the problem on illegal drugs in your Barangay?  
(Bilang punong barangay paano mo sinuri ang problema sa ilegal na droga sa loob ng iyong barangay?)
2. Have you joined any anti-illegal drug operations? What particular operations and Law Enforcement agencies did you work with?  
(Sumali ka ba sa anumang operasyong kontra droga? Sa anong mga partikular na operasyon at mga ahensiyang nagpapatupad ng batas ka nakipagtulungan?)
3. What are your roles before the conduct of anti-illegal drug operation? What are your roles during the conduct anti-illegal drug operation? What are your roles after the conduct of anti-illegal drug operation?  
(Ano ang iyong ginagampanan bago magsagawa ng oprasyong kontra droga?Ano ang iyong tungkulin sa panahon ng pagsasagawa ng operasyong kontra droga? Ano ang iyong tungkulin pagkatapos isagawa ang operasyong kontra droga?)
4. What are the programs against illegal drugs have you actively participated with and why? What are the programs against illegal drugs have you not participated with and why?  
(Ano ang mga programa laban sa ilegal na droga ang aktibo mong sinalihan?Bakit? Ano ang mga programa laban sa ilegal na droga ang hindi ka aktibong nakilahok?Bakit?)
5. Do you have any comment about the programs and operations of anti-illegal drugs being implemented in your barangay and the whole La Trinidad?  
(Mayroon ka bang anumang puna tungkol sa mga programa at operasyon laban sa ilegal na droga na ipinapatupad sa loob ng iyong barangay at sa buong La Trinidad?)

