

Exploring youth's satisfaction with Bicol Police Programs and activities in the Philippines

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ARTICLE INFO

DOI:10.46223/HCMCOUJS.soci.en.14.1.2611.2024

Received: December 31st, 2022

Revised: May 04th, 2023

Accepted: July 31st, 2023

Keywords:

Bicol Police; PNP programs; youth satisfaction; young Bicolano

ABSTRACT

Filipino youths are considered the most valuable resource of the country comprising more than 40 percent of the total Philippine population. This descriptive-correlational study determined the satisfaction level of the 141 samples of young Bicolanos (81 were males and 60 were females) with the Philippine National Police (PNP)'s programs and activities. The multi-stage sampling designs were used to ensure representative samples from each of the six provinces in the Bicol region, Philippines. The gathered quantitative and qualitative data from a validated questionnaire revealed that Bicol youth respondents are generally satisfied with the PNP's programs and activities in the campaign against criminality, the campaign against illegal drugs, public safety, and public security. The youth respondents in the region felt that they were publicly safe and secure when they observed the PNP's visible campaigns against criminality and illegal drugs. The paper recommends promoting and enhancing programs and partnerships with the community involving the youth sector such as the out-of-school youth, students, and young professionals.

1. Introduction

Youths are major determinants of the level of development in any society. Without youths, there can be no sustenance of society, as no society can be self-sustaining without its human components of which the major workforce is the youths (George & Uyanga, 2014). The United Nations expressed, though there is no universally agreed international definition of the youth age group - without prejudice to any other definitions made by member states - that defines 'youth' as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years (Calazans, Araujo, Venturi, & Ivan França, 2005; Kinchin & Doran, 2018).

The operational definition and nuances of the term 'youth' vary from country to country, depending on relative sociocultural, institutional, economic, and political factors. Filipino youth are considered the most valuable resource in the country. The Philippine Republic Act 8044 (RA 8044), otherwise known as the "Youth in Nation-Building Act", which was enacted in 1995 established the National Youth Commission (NYC) and defined Filipino youth as those ages 15 to 30 years old (Philippine Republic Act 8044, 1995). The study by Salas, Abrigo, and Racelis (2012) projected the Philippine population to be 142 million in 2040 with about more than 40 percent comprising the youth. There is about a 36% labor force participation rate (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2022) with 9% considered as Out-of-School Youth (OSY) (Philippine News Agency, 2021) among the Filipino youth population. It is in this sense the need to strengthen the

participation of the youth sectors along with Philippine National Police (PNP) programs and activities toward a peaceful and orderly society as leaders of the future.

There were several visible programs and activities implemented by the PNP on crime prevention strategies (Escalona, 2020; Patalinghug, 2017) and the reduction of illegal drug involvement among sectoral groups (Gacayan, 2020; Salido, 2022) to maintain public safety and security since Rodrigo Duterte's administration in the Philippines. However, there is insufficient data that supports the level of satisfaction and involvement among the youth sector with the introduced programs and activities of the PNP. A previous study found that the majority of youth who participate in police programs show a very positive experience in outcomes on their personal adjustment, social competencies, adult-youth connections, and youth-community connections (Anderson, Sabatelli, & Trachtenberg, 2007). Hence, the current investigation documented also the experiences and feedback among youth sectors on the implemented PNP programs and activities in their campaign against crimes, illegal drugs, public safety, public security, and respect for the community.

2. Review of related literature

While most studies find out an overall positive satisfaction with the police, there were also studies that found that support of the police from the public is not universal. The public image of the police is a matter of concern among police administrators, social scientists, and community leaders. At a time when citizen cooperation is essential for effective law enforcement, the public perception of police becomes an important, if not the primary, consideration in determining police policy.

When compared with adults, young people's attitudes toward the police tend to be more negative (Hurst, Frank, & Browning, 2000). However, young people who view police as legitimate through their participation in the community policing project had a significant and positive influence on young people's willingness to assist police (Hinds, 2009). Moreover, previous research on juveniles' behavior reveals that the Police Insight Program (PIP) model, where police officers and middle-school students bring together for team-building activities in a neutral, fun, and engaging atmosphere, could serve as a stepping stone toward improved relationships between officers and youth (Broadus et al., 2013). It was also noted that positive police contact correlated highly with youths' attitudes toward police among the highly delinquent subjects (Rusinko, Johnson, & Hornung, 1978).

The case study of Adorjan, Ricciardelli, and Spencer (2017) among youth in remote, rural areas in the Atlantic region of Canada suggests that informal social contact and familiarity help instill strong and more positive interactions between youth and the police. However, the majority of the 21 samples of rural youth were unfamiliar with their local police; some expressed their frustration over police inefficiency. Slocum and Wiley (2018) found that when compared with different races, there are no significant differences in the satisfaction of Blacks, Whites, and Latinos with police treatment during procedural contacts or encounters.

There were studies conducted on the abuse and violence of police personnel during encounters as their tactics in dealing with crime offenders' misconduct. Misconduct or misbehavior is also visible among youth offenders, particularly boys. This suggests producing a police-led diversion program that reduces future delinquent behavior as affirmed in the Campbell systematic review of Wilson, Brennan, and Olaghere (2018) of the 14 manuscripts conducted from 1973 to 2011. To support this police-led diversion program, Akinyetun (2021)

recommended the use of extension technology and improved police-community relations to carry out a comprehensive reform in the delivery of police mandates across sectors in the community. It is in this sense the current study is conducted to document the Bicol youth satisfaction with the delivery of programs and services among police personnel to pursue further reforms for a better policing system.



Figure 1. Locale of the Study (Bicol Region, Philippines Map)

This research aims to determine the satisfaction rating of the youth with the Philippine National Police (PNP)'s police-community relations in the Bicol region, Philippines, see Figure 1. The current investigation considered the recommendations of the study of Walker and Kratcoski (1985) that any analysis of police-community relations must check on the current organizational-cultural milieu of the department. The survey measures the youth's satisfaction with the community relation performance of the police personnel along with the campaign against criminalities, the campaign against illegal drugs, the PNP's respect for the community, and maintaining public safety and security. The findings of the study hope to be a strong basis for youth-related programs and activities and further improve the relationship between PNP personnel and youths in attaining productive service in a healthy community

3. Methodology

3.1. Methods and respondents

The descriptive-correlational method of the study assessed the satisfaction of the Bicol youth with the PNP's programs and activities through the survey conducted. The face-to-face interview with the use of the validated questionnaire was executed to gather data. The multi-stage sampling techniques were used in involving the 141 sample representatives (81 were males and 60 were females) from the six provinces in the region. There were 20 sample respondents involved in each of the provinces of Albay, Catanduanes, and Sorsogon. There were 24 youth respondents in Camarines Norte, 17 in Masbate with the lowest number of respondents, and 40 in Camarines Sur with the highest number of respondents.

Table 1

Respondents profile

Sex	Albay	Camarines Norte	Camarines Sur	Catanduanes	Masbate	Sorsogon	Total	%
Male	11	14	26	10	9	11	81	57.45
Female	9	10	14	10	8	9	60	42.55
Civil Status								
Single	20	23	38	9	15	20	125	88.65
Married	0	1	2	9	2	0	14	9.93
Widow/er	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1.42
Age Bracket								
20 y/o & Below	16	11	25	8	8	11	78	55.32
21 to 30 y/o	4	13	15	12	9	9	63	44.68
Total	20	24	40	20	17	20	141	100

Of the 141 total respondents, 14, or 9.93% were married, 125, or 88.65% were single, and only 2, or 1.42% were widowed. There were 78, or 55.32% youth respondents aged 20 years old and below, and 63, or 44.68% belong to the 21 to 30 years old age bracket. In terms of educational attainment, 77, or 55% of them have attended a college, and 47, or 34% have attended a secondary level of education. There were 8 or 6% of youth respondents who acquired the Technical Skills certification from a Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA) accredited provider. The rest of the respondents either did not graduate from the elementary level of education or attended the advanced level of education. The respondents of this study comprise the out-of-school youth, students, community youth leaders, and young professionals in the Bicol region.

3.2. The instrument

The validated questionnaire with three parts was the main instrument used in the conduct of the study survey. The first part of the questionnaire pertains to the demographic profile of the respondents. The questionnaire highlighted the second part with five items on the satisfaction level with the PNP's performance on its programs against criminality, PNP respect for the community, public safety, public security, and implementation of the programs against illegal drugs. The third part of the questionnaire includes open-ended questions for the respondents' comments and suggestions to the PNP in the implementation of their programs, projects, and activities.

The questionnaires were drafted in consonance with the PNP requirements, which had already been utilized for two consecutive years at the provincial and regional levels. The questionnaire was presented to the PNP Regional Office V together with their Regional Advisory Council (RAC) and the six Provincial Directors (PDs) for further comments, suggestions, and improvements. This questionnaire underwent several revisions to improve both the content and face validity prior to the actual conduct of the survey. The dry-run of the questionnaire was also made by the 28 enumerators and seven tabulators who attended the scheduled regional orientation and training on the administration of the community survey. The enumerators and tabulators simulated the conduct of the survey until the submission of the tabulated results to determine the possible problems encountered in the actual conduct of the survey. The final form of the questionnaire was distributed by the research team to the respective enumerators assigned in each province for the simultaneous conduct of the actual survey.

3.3. The procedure of the survey

The organization of the regional research team was preceded by the identification of the enumerators and tabulators of the respective provinces. These enumerators attended the regional orientation to establish the procedures for the conduct of the survey through a face-to-face interview. Tabulators have been provided with the electronic copy of the tabulation table in Microsoft Excel, including the coding to be utilized during the actual encoding.

The regional survey was simultaneously conducted in the six provinces of the Bicol region from December 26, 2018, to January 5, 2019. The research team has set a schedule for the submission of all the tabulated survey results to check the completeness of entries. There were corrections made to ensure a uniform coding entry at the regional level and avoid discrepancies in the computation. Regular meetings of the research team were conducted per activities so that all issues and concerns regarding the survey have been discussed for the smooth implementation of the project.

3.4. Data analysis

The descriptive statistical tools used in the study were the frequency count and percentage. The frequencies and percentages results of the youth satisfaction level have been transformed into a graphical form to show the pictorial representation of the survey results. The Pearson Correlation Coefficient (r) was used and presented in the correlation matrix to show the relationships between youth satisfaction among the considered variables on PNP's community relations.

The comments, suggestions, and feedback of the respondents were analyzed qualitatively through coding and grouped into categories or themes under the considered variables. The qualitative analyses were used as support to the findings of the study on the youth's satisfaction rating of the PNP's community relations along with their programs on campaign against criminality, the campaign against illegal drugs, PNP's respect for the community, public safety, and public security.

4. Result and discussion

4.1. Youth satisfaction rating on Bicol police community relation

The proceeding paragraphs provide general information on youth satisfaction with the PNP's community relations in the performance of its programs against criminality, PNP's respect for the community, public safety, public security, and campaign against illegal drugs in the Bicol region, Philippines.

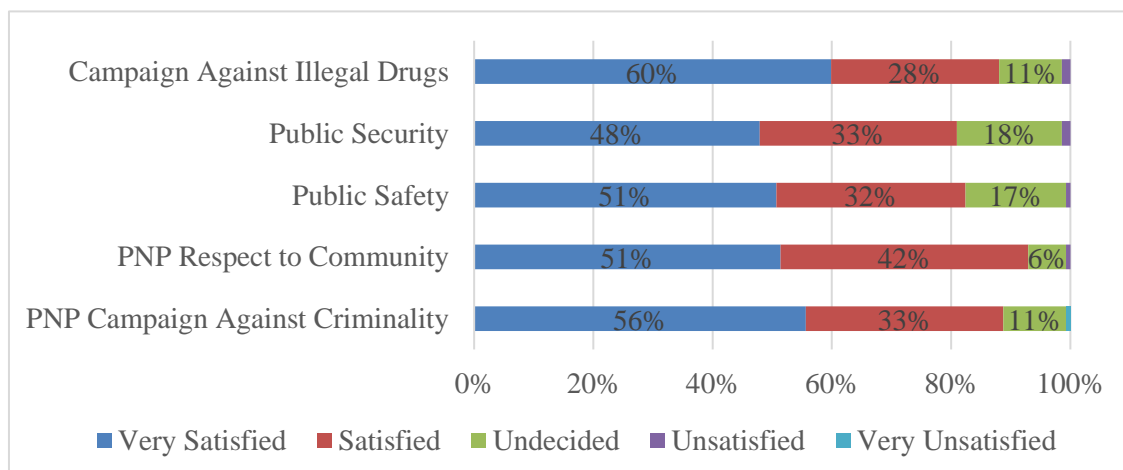


Figure 2. Youth's satisfaction rating with Bicol police programs

The Bicol youths are generally satisfied (60% were *very satisfied*, 28% were *satisfied*, and less than 1% were *unsatisfied*) with the PNP's performance in their campaign against illegal drugs. This result signifies that for every 10 Bicol youth respondents about nine of them believe that PNP's campaign against illegal drugs is effective and visible to young Bicolano. This could be supported by the result of the interview among the youth respondents from Camarines Norte and Naga who revealed that: "*Aktibo naman ang mga pulis ngayon lalong lalo na sa paglaban sa illegal na droga*" (The police officers were active in the fight against Illegal Drugs), and "*Ipagpatuloy ang paghuli sa illegal na droga at sugal*" (Continue to apprehend illegal drug and illegal gambling offenders), *respectively*. The remaining 11% of the youth respondents mark themselves as undecided for they know that the influence of illegal drugs in society still exists despite the rigid campaign and enforcement by the PNP.

The penetration of illegal drugs was one of the serious concerns that brought much to the attention of the Philippine government considered detrimental to the physical, mental, moral, and social well-being of the youth sector. Section 2, of the Philippine RA 9165, otherwise known as the "Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002" aims to safeguard integrity of its territory and the well-being of its citizenry, particularly the youth, from the harmful effects of dangerous drugs (Philippine Republic Act 9165, 2002). Zelfox (2017) mentioned that the Philippine drug users are mostly young people which became a major burden to society. While there are no accurate statistics available, it is estimated by the dangerous drugs board as many as 3.7 million in the Philippines are dealing with drug addiction, with 65 percent of it composed of young people in 2016. Law enforcement against illegal drug-related activities needs to be strengthened and enhance further the efficacy of the law to benefit the future generation of the Filipino people which was enforced by the Philippine government during the term of President Rodrigo Duterte.

These can be elaborated further by the comment from an out-of-school youth in an interview in Sorsogon who expresses its observation as; "*Hindi nila binibigyang pansin ang ibang problema, dahil nakafocus sila sa pagsugpo ng iligal na droga*" (They set aside other community problems, their main focus was only on their fight against illegal drugs). Similar comments and recommendations from the youth key informants of Camarines Sur, and Naga City were noted as: "*Iminumungkahi ko na dapat ipagpatuloy nila ang pag tuligsa sa mga krimen at gumagamit ng droga sa ating bansa para maiwasan ang maraming krimen*" (I suggest that they must continue their fight against criminality and illegal drugs in our country to then prevent such crimes).

In relation to this, 56% of the Bicol youth were *very satisfied* and 33% were *satisfied* with a corresponding less than 1% *unsatisfied* rating on PNP performance against criminality. It implies that for every 10 Bicol youths, nine of them believe that the Bicol Police campaign against criminality is noticeable and is doing its part in the fight against eradicating criminality. The PNP only needs to intensify its programs and activities with the involvement of the youth sector as recommended by one of the respondents in an interview from Camarines Sur as "*I-encourage at I-educate pa ang youth sa mga programa ng mga kapulisan para aware sila sa inyong programa at alam nila ang kanilang role sa mga adhikain ng programa*" (Educate and encourage the youth to get involved on PNP programs so that they would be aware of their respected role in attaining its goal).

These suggestions find support from the study of Fien, Neil, and Bentley (2008), who sought to build the capacity of youths to be agents of change, emphasizing their enormous potential to develop skills in questioning the pressures towards unthinking consumption and to create

alternative ways of living in the world. Legal mandates in the Philippines allow youth to govern, further information about the whereabouts was enacted by the House of the Representatives of the Philippines known as the “Republic Act (RA) No. 10742” commonly known as “*Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015*” or an act establishing reforms in the *Sangguniang Kabataan* creating enabling mechanisms for meaningful youth participation in national-building, and for other purposes (Philippine Republic Act 10742, 2016). The vital role of the youth in nation-building is emphasized in Section 2 of the same law which promotes and protects their well-being, inculcates in their patriotism, nationalism, and other desirable values, and encourages their involvement in public and civic affairs.

Moreover, an out-of-school youth in Sorsogon raised his suggestion as “*Magsagawa pa ng maraming programa sa bawat kumunidad*” (Implement more youth-related programs in every community). Most of the Bicol youths are aware of the existence of illegal drugs and criminality in their respective community, they just wanted the PNP to continue the programs and activities to minimize if not totally eradicate these community ill as expressed by one of the respondents in an interview conducted “*Hindi tumigil na hulihin ang mga adik at magnanakaw*” (Never stops on apprehending drug addicts and thieves). The respondent in Naga City also expressed his suggestion as “*Ang aking maimumungkahi ay ang pagbabantay ng maayos sa mga kriminal na kasalukuyang nasa kulungan*” (I suggest to guard the criminals well whose currently in the prison).

The study by Nagasawa, Qian, and Wong (2000) recommends educating and strengthening the moral values of the youth regardless of ethnicity, to engage them in the use of drugs and alcohol but rather concentrate on more productive and healthy activities. Thus, several training programs are conducted by the Philippine government in different local government units including the Bicol region for the youth to provide them with coping skills to face situations that can lead to drug use.

The Bicol youth’s favorable ratings on the PNP’s performance against illegal drugs and criminality are also confirmed by their satisfaction with the PNP’s respect for the community (51% were *very satisfied*, 42% *satisfied*) and public safety (51% were *very satisfied*, and 32% were *satisfied*) as shown in Figure 2. It can be inferred that nine out of 10 youth respondents believe that Bicol police have shown their respect for them and they feel safe in the presence of Bicol police.

This can be supported by the commendation of the respondents from Masbate province as “*Satisfied all PNP in Baleno*” (I am satisfied with the performance of PNP in Baleno), “*Sana ay ituloy lang ninyo ang pagtulong sa mga kapwa niyo tao at sana di kayo magbago*” (Keep on providing public services and hope you will not change). “*Mga maray man ng mga tapat sa tungkulin*” (They were doing well and faithful to their sworn duty). Another remarkable comment from Albay Province respondents was “*Maganda ang pamumuno ng mga pulis*” (PNP’s leadership were doing great), and “*Mababait naman ang mga pulis dito at masisipag*” (Policemen here were kind and industrious). The Bicol youth respondents recommended to “*Pagibayuhin ang pagiging tapat sa serbisyo at pagiging pulis*” (Keep improving their service and loyalty to the public). This findings shows supports the assumption of LaMotte et al. (2010) that confidence and commitment in having the skills necessary for interacting with youth by the patrol officers can have a positive impact on youth without taking time away from their other enforcement activities.

On the other hand, there were youth respondents who expressed their dissatisfaction with the attitude and character of some PNP personnel when dealing with the community. The youth respondents from Camarines Norte, Catanduanes, and Sorsogon expressed their experiences as

“May attitude yung ibang pulis” (Some of the Policemen do have attitude problem). With this experience, they recommended that *“Iwasang gamitin ang pagiging pulis sa pag yayabang”* (Do not use your position as authority in being arrogant), and *“Sana marunong parin silang makisama kahit na pulis sila”* (I hope PNP personnel also know how to deal properly with the community). They also recommended to *“Maging mahinahon sa mga mamamayan lalona sa pagaayos ng problema sa kumunidad”* (Remain calm to people especially when solving community problems).

Some out-of-school youth respondents from Catanduanes and Naga City marked their common observation on some PNP personnel as *“Bayas, pag kilala hindi hinuhuli”* (They are biased, they refuse to apprehend their acquaintances). The mentioned observation needs to be given attention so that every locality can implement fairness among sectors in the community regardless of status as mentioned by one of the respondents *“Maging patas sa pagpapatupad ng batas”* (Be fair and just in enforcing the Law). Moreover, Nonato (2020) reported that youth leaders of student organizations from different universities, including other activists in the Philippines, were expressing dissent against the law that may violate and intend to infringe on basic human rights on freedom of speech by scaring ordinary people into silence. Though the mentioned observation was not generalized by the Bicol youth respondents because most of the PNP personnel are doing their job well as one of the respondents remarks *“Ang aking masasabi ay karamihan sa mga pulis ay maayos magtrabaho at ang iba naman ay hindi”* (what can I say is that; most of them (policemen) were doing well while some of them were not).

The Bicol youth are also generally satisfied (48% were very satisfied and 33% were satisfied) with the PNP's performance in ensuring public security although it tallies the highest frequencies (or 18%) of undecided respondents among the five categories involved of police-community relations in this investigation. It is evident the favorable rating among Bicol youth is on the side of the Bicol PNP when it comes to public security. Since the vulnerability and malleability of youth make them susceptible to exploitation by both criminals and terrorists (Shelley, 2008), it is necessary for the PNP to intensify their programs and services in marinating peaceful and orderly communities by working with stakeholders such as the youth sectors.

There were several common concerns raised by the youth respondents in the provinces of Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Catanduanes, and Masbate to strengthen the public security such as *“Tawan nin atensyon ang pagpapatupad kan curfew”* (Give attention in the implementation of curfew hours), *“Pag may aksidente medyo mabagal lang magresponde ang kapulisan”* (In times of accidents, they fail to give immediate response), and *“Higpitan nila ang bantay saka ang pag huli o pag bawal sa mga tambay lalo na sa mga lasing nakaka perwisyo na dahilan ng mga away sa daan”* (Strictly monitor and enforce ordinance on by standers especially those drunkards who may have caused any trouble in the premises). This situation happens because of the lack of PNP personnel deploy in each area compared to the number of population and the land area (Dio, Apostol, & Madrazo, 2019). This is also evident as per common observation of the youth respondents from the provinces of Catanduanes, Albay, and Naga City *“Kakaunti ang kapulisan kung ikukumpara sa dami ng populasyon”* (Small number of PNP personnel ratio to population).

It was recommended by the youth respondents to *“Iminumungkahi ko po na kung maaring makapagtalaga ng mga pulis dito sa siyudad ng Iriga dahil kulang ang mga pulis”* (Deploy more policemen here in Iriga City). This will strengthen their presence and monitoring in all areas covered within their jurisdiction as suggested *“Patibayin ang kanilang pag momonitor sa lahat ng barangay na kanilang nasasakupan”* (Strengthened their monitoring in all barangays under their jurisdiction), and *“Maging aktibo sa pag ronda”* (Be active in daily roving).

4.2. Relationship among the youth satisfaction rating on Bicol police community relation

Table 2 shows the correlation among the youth satisfaction rating on the PNP Bicol community relation along with the Campaign against Criminality (CC), PNP Respect to Community (RC), Public Safety (PS), Public Security (PSe), and campaign against Illegal Drugs (ID). The results show that there is a significant relationship between the Bicol youth's satisfaction rating on the PNP programs and activities along with public safety and the campaign against criminality ($r = 0.49$, $p < 0.05$).

Table 2

Correlation among youth satisfaction rating on Bicol police community relation

	<i>CC</i>	<i>RC</i>	<i>PS</i>	<i>PSe</i>	<i>ID</i>
Campaign against Criminality (CC)	1.00				
PNP Respect to Community (RC)	0.45	1.00			
Public Safety (PS)	0.49*	0.54*	1.00		
Public Security (PSe)	0.41	0.47	0.60*	1.00	
Campaign against Illegal Drugs (ID)	0.41	0.51*	0.42	0.59*	1.00

Note: * Significant at 0.05

The finding signifies a moderate positive correlation that when the youth are satisfied with the campaign of PNP personnel against criminality they will feel that they are safe in the public. It can be also inferred from Table 2 that when the Bicol youth felt that they were safe in public they also had a feeling of security as revealed by a significantly high positive correlation ($r = 0.60$, $p < 0.05$) of their satisfaction ratings of the PNP's performance along with public safety and security. It is, therefore, necessary that the PNP shall continue to strengthen its programs and activities along with its campaign against any form of criminality so that the community will feel they are safe because they know that there is an agency that performs well in securing peace and order. Samuel (2011) emphasizes that youths are beginning to play a significant role in securing peace and order in the community, such as anti-terrorism campaigns. As one of the youth respondents said "*Pagibayuhin lang ang pagiging tapat sa serbisyo bilang pulis at lagi lang kami nakasuporta*" (The PNP personnel shall continue to being faithful to duty and we are always there to support).

Table 2 further demonstrates the significant relationship between the youth satisfaction rating on the PNP's campaign against illegal drugs and the PNP's respect for the community ($r = 0.51$, $p < 0.05$). It is highly regarded that the PNP's concerns among the Bicolanos give them a sense of empathy and effort to protect the public, especially the youth, from any harmful effects of illegal drugs. This condition also leads to the feeling of public security among the community as revealed by a significant moderate positive correlation ($r = 0.59$, $p < 0.05$) between the Bicol youth satisfaction rating with the PNP's campaign against illegal drugs and the public security rating.

It is generally accepted as a strong and robust link between the perceptions of children and their parents, especially on the feeling of security against vices, such as illegal drugs in the community. Those young people whose parents have more positive views of the police on their capacity to control illegal activities tend to hold more positive views themselves (Sindall, McCarthy, & Brunton-Smith, 2017). Youth respondents in this study correlatively felt their public security with the visible campaign of the PNP Bicol against illegal drugs. This finding exemplifies that the Bicol PNP shall continue to be visible among the public, both to youth and adult sectors,

in its programs and activities along with the campaign against illegal drugs as a sign of giving respect to the public as well as a feeling of security. The youth respondents from Catanduanes province mentioned “*Dapat magpatrol and mga pulis sa mga dating nasa drug list at i-monitor man giraray*” (PNP must continue to monitor those on drug list continuously), and “*Paigtingin ang kampanya sa mga illegal na droga*” (Intensify the campaign against illegal drugs).

5. Conclusions & recommendations

5.1. Conclusions

Existing studies internationally have already shown their interest in knowing what juveniles in their own respective country thought of the law enforcers- the Police. This study tends to add to the evident research focusing primarily on how satisfied the youth in the Bicol region in the Philippines along with the Philippine National Police (PNP) programs and activities as part of their community relations. The gathered qualitative and quantitative data from the locale of the study concluded that the Bicol youth are generally satisfied with the PNP’s performance along with the PNP’s campaign against criminality, the campaign against illegal drugs, PNP respect for the community, public safety, and public security. The youth respondents in the region felt that they are publicly safe and secure when they observed visible campaigns against criminality and illegal drugs. The feeling of being publicly safe can also be strengthened when the young Bicolanos experience that they are being respected by the Bicol police personnel, which will also lead to a highly satisfied community with the PNP’s effort in securing and maintaining peace and order. Youth leaders, out-of-school youths, young professionals, and other members of the Bicolano youth share their common desire for more youth-related programs by the PNP Bicol to further emphasize the role of the youths in the community and strengthen programs, projects, and activities in sustaining peaceful and orderly society.

5.2. Recommendations

The PNP may continue their creative and visible programs, projects, and activities in enforcing the high standards and ideals of the rule of law against any form of criminality to maintain their positive image in the community. With the overwhelming support from the community in sustaining their programs against illegal drugs, the PNP needs to work hand in hand with the concerned agencies or institutions towards youth holistic development by engaging them in any societal programs and activities. To maximize the PNP Bicol services in performing their duties and functions towards public safety and security felt by the different sectors and locations, there is a need to review the PNP policy programs e.g., localization on the hiring of the new personnel, additional deployment of personnel in a specific location, curfew hours in the locality, among others. The PNP may endeavor to always promote, maintain, and enhance programs and partnerships with the different sectors adopting a community policing approach (Almutairi, 2013) for better service for the general public.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The research team extends their deepest gratitude to the Sorsogon State University for the technical assistance; the enumerators and tabulators for their time and effort in gathering relevant data; the Provincial Government of Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Masbate, and Sorsogon as well as the Philippine National Police Regional Office V for the support and assistance provided to the research team. Above all, the Almighty God for the protection and guidance for the successful implementation of this project.

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