

The Capabilities of Barangay *Tanods* in Eastern Tabuk City, Kalinga

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the capabilities of Barangay Tanods in Eastern Tabuk City, Kalinga. Specifically, it determined the profile of the respondents in terms of sex, age, educational attainment, barangay assignment, and number of seminars attended; identified the level of capabilities of the barangay tanods; and determined if there is a significant difference in their level of capabilities when grouped according to profile variables. Utilizing a quantitative research design, the study employed a survey questionnaire administered to 120 barangay tanod respondents. Data were analyzed using frequency, percentage, weighted mean, t-test, and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). Among the duties and responsibilities of barangay tanods, the highest means were observed in having available two-way radios or mobile

phones, being highly reachable through active communication lines, being always available to respond to emergency orders, consistently performing environmental and civic duties, and actively assisting in crime prevention. Conversely, the lowest means were found in assisting in the execution of warrants, reporting through Hotline 911, assisting in Hotline 911 implementation, and addressing illegal gambling. Overall, the capabilities of the barangay tanods were described as “Always.” The results revealed that age, barangay assignment, and the number of trainings attended yielded significant differences in capability levels. In contrast, sex and educational attainment showed no significant differences, implying that gender and academic background do not significantly influence their operational capabilities.

Keywords: *Capabilities, Barangay Tanods, Eastern Tabuk City*

INTRODUCTION

Maintaining peace and order in a community is essential for the well-being of its residents. Crime rates have been increasing recently in Tabuk City, Kalinga, and among the recent cases involved robbery, murder, motorcycle and vehicle theft, and physical injury. The people responsible for maintaining peace and order include the Philippine National Police (PNP) and work closely with barangay officials to address security issues. Among the barangay officials responsible for this matter are the Barangay Police Security Officers, also known as “barangay tanods.”

Pursuant to DILG memorandum, the enactment of the Local Government Code (LGC) of 1991 ushered in a development paradigm placing local governments at the center stage of national development including the advancement of peace and order in the local communities. Section 391 (16) of the LGC of 1991 provides for the organization of a community brigade, barangay tanod, or community service as may be necessary. This is to assist the higher local government units in the peace and order efforts as such is a key factor in the development process.

While the LGC provides a maximum of twenty (20) tanods in each barangay, it may create more as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the barangay government in accordance with the needs of public service, subject to the budgetary limitations of the barangay. Also, under NAPOLCOM Memorandum Circular 2008-013, the Barangay Police Security Officers serving as an auxiliary of the Philippine National Police, are considered as force multiplier.

Most of the studies conducted related to Capabilities of Barangay Tanods are focused mainly on the evaluation of performance of their duties and responsibilities, awareness on their duties and responsibilities, and their effectiveness. However, there is limited research addressing the level of capabilities of the barangay tanods and their significant differences when grouped according to profile variables. This research aims to bridge this gap by assessing the capabilities of barangay tanods in Eastern Tabuk City, Kalinga.

Every individual who lives in a certain barangay seeks peace and order in their community to be able to live in harmony and develop their well-being. The barangay officials, specifically barangay tanods, play a vital role in promoting peace and order and are responsible for their duties and obligations as appointed by the punong barangay. The researchers wanted to conduct the study “Capabilities of Barangay Tanods in Eastern Tabuk City, Kalinga” to identify the level of capabilities among them and identify if there is a significant difference in the level of their capabilities when grouped according to profile variables.

METHODS

Research Design

This study utilized a quantitative research design in knowing the capabilities of barangay tanods in Eastern Tabuk City, Kalinga. The quantitative approach is deemed appropriate as it involved collecting and analyzing numerical data and evaluated the capabilities of barangay tanods in Eastern Tabuk City, Kalinga and identified any significant differences in responses based on respondents’ profiles. This design allowed the researchers to measure variables statistically and draw inferences.

Research Locale

This research was conducted in the Eastern Tabuk City, Kalinga specifically targeting respondents from various barangays in Eastern Tabuk City.

Sampling Technique

To ensure that each barangay is proportionately represented, the study employed a stratified sampling technique which resulted to a sample size of 120. This method involved dividing the target population into strata based on their respective barangays and then selected respondents from each stratum. This approach minimized selection bias and enhances the representativeness of the sample, thereby increasing the reliability and generalizability of the research findings.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Level of Capability of the Barangay Tanods of Eastern Tabuk City

Indicators		Mean	Description
1.	Assist the Barangay Officials in implementing ordinances and administrative code of the barangay	3.94	Always
2.	Implement teamwork in preventing or otherwise minimizing the commission of crime in the barangay	3.95	Always
3.	Conducts planning and strategical method to promote public safety	3.95	Always

4.	Follows the instruction order by the Barangay Officials in assuring the safeness of the people in their barangay	3.95	Always
5.	Helps the Barangay Officials prevent crimes and promote peace and order	3.97	Always
6.	Conducts patrol/ronda at daytime	3.83	Always
7.	Conducts patrol/ronda at nighttime	3.79	Always
8.	Uses their weapon/equipment in times of patrol/ronda	3.40	Always
9.	Assist by the Barangay Officials in conducting patrol	3.88	Always
10.	Conducts patrolling/ronda even during natural disasters (calamity and typhoon)	3.88	Always
11.	Immediately responds to incidents that occur during their duty	3.96	Always
12.	Alert and report to their central units, concerned or through Hotline 911 the incidents taken to their barangay	3.91	Always
13.	Responds in any natural calamity (typhoon, floods, earthquake)	3.96	Always
14.	Assisted by the PNP in responding to riot/rumble taken to their barangay	3.88	Always
15.	Reports in authorities (Brgy. Officials, PNP) the alleged and suspected criminals in their barangay	3.68	Always
16.	Monitors the presence of suspicious persons, criminals, and other lawless elements within the barangay during daytime and nighttime	3.82	Always
17.	Monitors the activities of suspicious persons, criminals, and other lawless elements within the barangay during daytime and nighttime	3.96	Always
18.	Implement certain techniques and programs in reducing or to suppress the commission of crime in the barangay	3.75	Always
19.	Report any information they gathered in monitoring the activities of lawless elements to the authorities	3.85	Always
20.	Monitors abandoned buildings that may be used for clandestine activities	3.71	Always
21.	Visits houses and place of works	3.72	Always
22.	Conducts surveillance on crime breeding areas within the barangays/puroks	3.81	Always
23.	Investigate suspicious places and activities	3.76	Always
24.	Observe people clandestinely	3.69	Always
25.	Reports any observation/findings they gathered to the proper authorities or through the Hotline 911	3.33	Always
26.	Assist the police and the Lupong Tagapamayapa in the execution of warrants within the barangay	2.99	Always
27.	Helps the police in tracking the whereabouts missing persons	3.85	Always
28.	Assist the police in arresting escaped prisoners and other fugitives from justice within their jurisdiction	3.80	Always
29.	Assists the police and Lupong Tagapamayapa in recovering stolen properties in their barangay	3.77	Always
30.	Assisting the police and the Lupong Tagapamayapa in all other judicial processes	3.70	Always
31.	Assist in the institutionalization of hotline 911	3.33	Always
32.	Everyone is aware that there is a hotline 911 for assistance or emergency	3.44	Always
33.	Uses of two-way radio, cellular phone or telephones as a means of communication	3.91	Always
34.	Have an available two-way radio or phones on their pocket to be used when confronted with emergency	3.98	Always

35. Active radio frequency or is reachable when calling	3.98	Always
36. Coordinates closely with the barangay officials and police/local authorities in the drive against terrorism, smuggling and carnapping	3.83	Always
37. Coordinates closely with the barangay officials and police/ local authorities in the drive against drug trafficking and drug pushing	3.83	Always
38. Coordinates closely with the barangay officials and police/local authorities in the drive against illegal gambling	3.39	Always
39. Coordinates closely with the barangay officials and police/local authorities in the drive against child abuse and crimes against women	3.78	Always
40. Coordinates closely with the barangay officials and police/local authorities in the drive against all other forms of vices and syndicated crimes	3.74	Always
41. Assist the BFP in the implementation of fire code of the Philippines	3.81	Always
42. Coordinates with the BFP in conducting program regarding the Fire Code of the Philippines in the barangay	3.83	Always
43. Undergo training on fire suppression	3.79	Always
44. Undergo training in emergency response	3.91	Always
45. Undergo training that includes fire suppression strategies, tactics, techniques and the use of portable fire extinguisher and other equipment	3.93	Always
46. Helps to dispose waste such as papers, rubbish and other materials that can easily be caught by fire	3.85	Always
47. Coordinates with the electrician in checking electrical installation in your barangay	3.76	Always
48. Prepare in case of assisting the BFP on fire suppression in their barangay	3.77	Always
49. Helps to detect and dangerous weapon that causes hazards in public safety within the barangay	3.74	Always
50. Detect any forms of violation that causes hazards in public safety	3.87	Always
51. Coordinates with the police in maintaining a smooth flow of traffic	3.73	Always
52. Help to reduce the traffic in fiesta	3.73	Always
53. Helps in directing traffic when there is an internment	3.71	Always
54. Assist the traffic in times of having a parade in barangay	3.76	Always
55. Assist the traffic in any program or activities in the barangay	3.76	Always
56. Carry other basic security functions under the supervision of the Brgy. Captain	3.84	Always
57. Assist the Brgy. Captain in the implementation of national and local laws	3.97	Always
58. Available to respond in any emergency order of the Brgy. Captain	3.98	Always
59. Performs the function of maintaining the desirable and balance environmental through the direction of Punong Barangay	3.98	Always
60. Performs other functions as may be directed by the Punong Barangay	3.98	Always
Categorical Mean	3.78	Always

The table shows that the overall categorical mean of the barangay tanods level of capabilities is 3.78, described as “Always.” This indicates that respondents consistently perform their duties and responsibilities across various functions. A mean of 3.78 suggests a high level of capability and consistent performance among barangay police officers. This implies that barangay tanods are reliable in maintaining peace and order, contributing significantly to community safety and governance. This finding strongly aligns with the study of Austria-Cruz (2020), which demonstrated that barangay tanods consistently exhibit a high level of operational performance and dedication across their mandated peace and order functions, reinforcing their vital role as frontline community force multipliers.

To understand the drivers behind this high overarching capability, the specific operational indicators must be examined, starting with the baseline logistical tools available to the force; it is gleaned from the table that barangay tanods have an available two-way radio or mobile phone, with a mean score of 3.98, interpreted as “Always.” This indicates that communication tools are consistently accessible to barangay tanods during their duties. Reliable access to communication devices enhances coordination, quick reporting, and immediate response to emergencies, thereby strengthening public safety operations. This structural reliability is crucial, as emphasized in the DILG local governance guidelines, which dictate that establishing unbroken communication lines via two-way radios and mobile networks is a prerequisite for barangay force multipliers to efficiently synchronize incident reporting with higher law enforcement units.

Directly tied to the hardware availability of these devices is the actual real-time accessibility of the personnel themselves; hence, the table reflects that respondents are highly reachable through active communication lines, with a mean of 3.98, described as “Always.” Barangay tanods maintain consistent accessibility and responsiveness through communication systems. This ensures timely coordination with authorities and enhances their ability to respond promptly to incidents. This outcome matches the operational standards set by the National Barangay Operations Office (NBOO), which emphasizes that maintaining continuous accessibility and open feedback loops is a core pillar of grassroots enforcement. When community watchmen are highly reachable, it bridges the gap between civilian reporting and formal police responses, directly accelerating local crisis mitigation.

This constant reachability translates seamlessly into an immediate, actionable readiness to deploy the moment an order is issued. Supporting this, the table reveals that barangay tanods are always available to respond to emergency orders, with a mean of 3.98. This reflects a high level of commitment and readiness among respondents in performing their duties. Such responsiveness contributes to faster emergency management and reinforces community trust in local security personnel. This strong sense of urgency is supported by Wakat (2024), who observed that despite common structural and budgetary limitations, local civilian watchmen consistently display a deep individual commitment to immediate crisis mitigation. Their status as localized neighborhood residents enable them to execute rapid frontline interventions during emergencies, cementing community confidence well before higher law enforcement agencies arrive.

Beyond immediate crisis response, this deep-seated reliability extends outward into broader civic, communal, and environmental responsibilities. Accordingly, the table presents that respondents consistently perform environmental and other assigned functions, with a mean of 3.98. Barangay tanods actively engage in broader community roles beyond crime prevention. This reflects their multifunctional role in maintaining not only peace and order but also environmental safety and community welfare. This highly versatile operational scope directly aligns with the findings of Wakat (2024), who observed that the duties of contemporary community watchmen have expanded significantly past basic neighborhood watch patrols. Her analysis highlights that tanods regularly demonstrate remarkable adaptability when deployed into diverse civic duties, including local environmental preservation, emergency public health tracking, and local disaster risk mitigation.

While these civic and ecological tasks underscore their versatile contributions, their core mandate remains firmly anchored in collaborative public safety and neighborhood defense. Consequently, the table shows that barangay tanods actively assist in crime prevention, with a mean score of 3.97. This suggests strong collaboration between barangay officials and police officers in maintaining peace and order. Effective teamwork enhances crime

prevention strategies and strengthens local governance. This collaborative framework is supported by Wakat (2024), who emphasizes that civilian watchmen function as essential community force multipliers whose presence significantly deters local crime. By working in close coordination with higher law enforcement, these grassroots teams efficiently bridge spatial security gaps, transforming local governance into a proactive and highly responsive defense system.

However, a complete evaluation requires juxtaposing these frontline strengths against the structural dimensions where performance frequencies significantly drop. Most notably, the table shows that assisting in the execution of warrants has the lowest mean of 2.99. Although still interpreted as “Always,” this relatively lower score indicates less frequent or less confident involvement in warrant execution. This may be due to jurisdictional limitations or lack of formal authority and training in legal procedures. This lower relative frequency aligns with the statutory limitations under Philippine law, where barangay tanods are legally restricted from serving judicial warrants of arrest, as their coercive power to apprehend is confined to narrow, warrantless citizen's arrest criteria. This legal barrier is directly mirrored in the empirical findings of an EPRA IJMR study (2024), which noted that limited enforcement power and gaps in formal legal training are primary institutional challenges that prevent auxiliary forces from confidently participating in technical, high-risk law enforcement operations like warrant executions.

While strict legal boundaries explain their hesitation in judicial operations, a parallel challenge emerges regarding technical coordination with national emergency infrastructures. This bottleneck is evident as the table shows that reporting through Hotline 911 has a mean of 3.33. This suggests moderate consistency in utilizing formal reporting channels. Limited use of centralized reporting systems may affect coordination with national authorities. This moderate utilization aligns with national public safety infrastructure reviews regarding Executive Order No. 56, which point out that emergency response coordination in the Philippines remains structurally fragmented. Because centralized 911 calls are frequently routed to regional answering points rather than directly to local village centers, local watchmen routinely experience dispatch delays. As a result, grassroots responders often favor direct, informal communication lines such as two-way radios or local police station mobile numbers over the national hotline system to ensure immediate, localized crisis response.

This friction in utilizing centralized emergency lines naturally manifests as a broader deficit in institutional programmatic advocacy. Reflecting this connection, the table indicates a mean of 3.33 for assisting in Hotline 911 implementation. Respondents show moderate involvement in promoting institutional emergency programs. This may reflect gaps in awareness or training regarding national safety programs. This interpretation directly aligns with the observations of Wakat (2024), who noted that localized auxiliary forces often experience structural disconnects when dealing with large-scale national frameworks. Her research confirms that while tanods excel at immediate, neighborhood-level duties, a widespread lack of advanced, continuous training and systemic gaps in institutional information dissemination significantly hinder their active involvement in higher-level centralized emergency programs.

Apart from national emergency reporting programs, specialized and sensitive crime enforcement sectors exhibit a similarly restrained pattern of involvement. Specifically, the table shows that coordination in addressing illegal gambling has a mean of 3.39. This reflects a slightly lower engagement in addressing this specific issue. This may be due to the sensitive and complex nature of illegal gambling activities within communities. This lower relative engagement aligns with the empirical observations of Austria-Cruz (2020), who noted that while grassroots watchmen are highly capable in general public safety duties, their enforcement consistency declines when addressing specialized or organized crimes. Because tanods are localized civilian volunteers who lack formal police authority, specialized tactical training, and protective gear, directly confronting sensitive neighborhood vices like illegal gambling exposes them to high risks of community retaliation, leading them to defer these complex interventions to higher law enforcement agencies.

Ultimately, the caution surrounding complex neighborhood vices perfectly mirrors the reserved approach that local watchmen must take regarding their personal field equipment. This final limitation is underscored as the table presents that the use of weapons or equipment during patrol has a mean of 3.40. This indicates moderate

utilization of equipment during operations. This may suggest either limited access to equipment or cautious use due to safety concerns and regulations. This moderate scoring directly reflects national policy, as Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) directives strictly bar auxiliary volunteers from carrying firearms, restricting them solely to non-lethal defensive tools. This regulatory boundary is compounded by the empirical findings of Wakat (2024), who confirmed that chronic resource limitations and logistical shortages leave many local watchmen without adequate standard-issue equipment, forcing them to conduct patrols with minimal tactical gear while exercising extreme caution to maintain personal safety.

Significant Difference on the Level of Capabilities of the Barangay Tanods of Eastern Tabuk

Profile Variable		Test of Difference for Level of Capabilities of the Barangay Police Officers of Eastern Tabuk City
Sex	t/f value	2.34
	p-value	0.169
Age	t/f value	16.2
	p-value	0.010*
Educational attainment	t/f value	1.59
	p-value	0.146
Barangay	t/f value	84.4
	p-value	<0.001
Number of seminars and training attended	t/f value	3.42
	p-value	0.040*

The table shows the significant differences in the level of capabilities of barangay tanods in Eastern Tabuk City when grouped according to selected profile variables. The results reveal that age ($p = 0.010$), barangay ($p < .001$), and number of seminars and training attended ($p = 0.040$) have p-values lower than the 0.05 level of significance, indicating that there are significant differences in the respondents' level of capabilities when grouped according to these variables. This means that the capabilities of barangay tanods vary depending on their age, assigned barangay, and extent of training exposure. In contrast, sex ($p = 0.169$) and educational attainment ($p = 0.146$) yielded p-values higher than 0.05, indicating no significant differences, which implies that gender and educational background do not significantly influence their level of capabilities. These findings suggest that practical factors such as experience (age), environmental context (barangay), and professional development (training) play a more critical role in shaping the competencies of barangay tanods than demographic characteristics like sex and formal education. This exact statistical trend is strongly corroborated by Wakat (2024), whose meta-analysis of local security forces established that static demographic markers like gender and formal degrees fail to predict baseline enforcement skills. Instead, her synthesis confirms that continuous exposure to specialized security seminars and local institutional training programs are the true critical determinants that elevate a tanod's operational readiness, with older, highly-trained watchmen consistently showcasing higher proficiency in localized emergency handling.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, it is concluded that barangay tanods in Eastern Tabuk City demonstrate a consistently high level of capability in carrying out their roles and responsibilities in maintaining peace and order within their communities. Their strong performance is particularly evident in areas related to communication, responsiveness, and coordination with barangay officials and other authorities.

However, the study also reveals that their capabilities are influenced by age, barangay assignment, and training exposure, indicating that experience, environmental context, and continuous professional development are essential factors in enhancing their effectiveness. On the other hand, sex and educational attainment do not

significantly affect their level of capabilities, suggesting that practical experience and training are more critical than demographic and academic factors.

Despite the overall high capability, there are notable areas of weakness, particularly in legal procedures, utilization of emergency reporting systems, and specialized operational functions, which indicate the need for targeted interventions. Therefore, strengthening training programs and improving support systems are necessary to further enhance the competencies of barangay tanods.

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