

Knowledge and Practices Among Residents Towards Police Community Relations in Camiguin

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the level of knowledge and extent of practices towards Police–Community Relations (PCR) among residents of the Province of Camiguin, Philippines using a quantitative descriptive–correlational research design. The data were gathered from 398 residents across the province’s five municipalities. The researcher-used a validated and pilot tested survey questionnaire as the main instrument in gathering data supplemented with casual interviews. Statistical tools were employed to analyze data frequency and percentage, weighted mean, standard deviation, t-test, Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), and Spearman’s rho correlation set at the 0.05 level of significance. Results indicated that residents agree to the knowledge indicators of police community relations which means they are

knowledgeable on it. In terms of PCR practices residents perceived moderate extent or described as sometimes practiced PCR reporting concerns like showing respect, and promoting trust with police officers. No significant differences in knowledge or practices were found when grouped according to sex. However, significant differences in knowledge were observed across age and educational attainment, and significant differences in practices were found across educational levels. Importantly, a strong and statistically significant positive relationship emerged between knowledge and practices, indicating that increased knowledge is closely associated with higher levels of community engagement and cooperation with police initiatives. The findings highlight the critical role of targeted, education-responsive strategies in enhancing police–community collaboration and inform the development of a sustainable local PCR action plan for Camiguin.

Keywords: *police–community relations; knowledge and practices; public trust; Camiguin, Philippines*

INTRODUCTION

Community relations are fundamentally anchored in the principle that governments, businesses, and public organizations bear a social responsibility to contribute to the well-being and development of the communities they serve. Contemporary literature emphasizes that this responsibility extends beyond mere compliance and philanthropic efforts, highlighting instead the importance of sustained engagement, stakeholder participation, and long-term community development as essential components of effective community relations (Watson et al., 2023).

Through deliberate initiatives such as crime prevention, employment generation, environmental protection, community clean-up and beautification, recycling, and restoration activities, organizations reinforce public accountability and strengthen their social legitimacy. Moreover, well-designed community relations programs have been shown to enhance organizational visibility, promote social cohesion, and encourage citizens to actively participate as responsible partners in local governance.

Police–community relations (PCR) represent a specialized form of community engagement, referring to the dynamic and reciprocal relationship between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. This relationship is grounded in cooperation, mutual trust, and shared responsibility for maintaining peace and public safety. Recent policing scholarship underscores that modern law enforcement extends beyond traditional crime control functions to include service delivery, community engagement, and adherence to principles of procedural justice (Blair et al., 2021). As agents of the state, police institutions are therefore expected to uphold public welfare through meaningful collaboration with citizens, thereby strengthening police legitimacy and institutional accountability.

Effective PCR recognizes the community as a critical partner in crime prevention and peacebuilding. In the Philippine context, police–community relations have been institutionalized as one of the core strategic pillars of the Philippine National Police (PNP) under its “Quad Concept” framework. This commitment is reinforced through national policies such as Presidential Proclamation No. 764, which designates July as Police Community Relations Month, emphasizing the importance of fostering trust and collaboration between the police and the community. Recent initiatives, including the Revitalized *Pulis sa Barangay* (R-PSB) program, aim to strengthen grassroots engagement by bringing police services closer to local communities. Similarly, the establishment of programs such as the PNP Women’s Support Network reflects a growing emphasis on inclusivity and gender-responsive policing in contemporary law enforcement practices.

Despite these national efforts, evidence from recent local studies and perception surveys indicates that police–community relations remain uneven across regions in the Philippines. While some communities report improvements in trust and cooperation, others, particularly in certain areas, continue to express declining satisfaction with police services. These disparities highlight the challenges in translating national policies into consistent and meaningful local outcomes, underscoring the need for localized assessments of PCR implementation.

In this context, the Province of Camiguin presents a relevant and timely setting for examining police–community relations. Located in Northern Mindanao (Region X) and composed of five municipalities, Camiguin has a relatively small but densely distributed population. Recent initiatives in the province, such as the establishment of Task Force Disiplina in 2024 and the implementation of the revitalized *Pulis sa Barangay* program, aim to enhance public order, safety, and community engagement. These efforts provide an opportunity to assess how PCR strategies are being understood and practiced at the grassroots level.

Given that perceptions of police effectiveness and legitimacy are strongly shaped by local social and cultural contexts, it is essential to examine the level of knowledge and practices of residents regarding police–community relations in Camiguin. The output of this is expected to generate empirical insights into the effectiveness of community-oriented policing strategies in small island settings. Furthermore, the findings may contribute to the development of context-responsive policies and interventions that align law enforcement practices with the needs, expectations, and lived experiences of the local population.

Theoretical Framework

Police–community relations can be examined through the lens of Systems Theory introduced by Karl Ludwig von Bertalanffy, (1928), which conceptualizes society as a complex system composed of interdependent subsystems that continuously interact to maintain stability and social order. Contemporary applications of Systems Theory in policing emphasize that law enforcement agencies do not operate in isolation but function as part of a broader social system that includes communities, local institutions, and governance structures (Weerawardhana & Wijewardhana, 2024). Within this framework, the police represent one critical subsystem whose effectiveness is closely linked to the responsiveness, cooperation, and feedback of the community. The breakdown or dysfunction of any subsystem whether police or community can disrupt the balance and security of the entire social system.

Applying Systems Theory to police community relations allow the study to acknowledge that police initiatives and community responses are mutually influential and dynamically interlinked. Effective crime prevention and public safety outcomes emerge when both subsystems communicate effectively, adapt to changing conditions, and pursue shared goals. Recent policing literature confirms that community-oriented policing functions

optimally when system components operate collaboratively rather than hierarchically, reinforcing the premise that sustainable public order depends on reciprocal interaction and shared responsibility (Dias Felix & Hilgers, 2020).

Objectives:

1. Determine the profile of the respondents in terms of sex, age and highest educational attainment.
2. Find out the level of knowledge towards police-community relations among residents.
3. Determine the significant difference in the level of knowledge towards police-community relations among residents when grouped according to profile.
4. Find out the the extent of practices towards police community relations among residents.
5. Determine the significant difference in the extent of practices towards police-community relations among residents when respondents are grouped according to profile.
6. Determine the significant relationship between extent of knowledge and level of practices toward police community relations among the residents.
7. Proposed action plan as output of the study.

Statement of Hypotheses

H₀1. There is no significant difference in the level of knowledge towards police-community relations among the residents when grouped according to profile.

H₀2. There is no significant difference in the extent of practices towards police-community relations among residents when grouped according to profile.

H₀3. There is no significant relationship between level of knowledge and extent of practice toward police community relations among residents.

METHODS

Research Design

This study used a quantitative research method particularly descriptive correlational design using a validated survey questionnaire supplemented with casual interviews in gathering the needed data of determining the level of knowledge and practices of Camiguin residents towards Police Community Relations (PCR).

Research Locale

The study was conducted in Camiguin, a province in the Northern Mindanao region (Region X) of the Philippines, which is composed of five municipalities: Mambajao (the capital), Mahinog, Guinsiliban, Sagay, and Catarman. According to the 2025 Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) preliminary census data, the province has a total population of 98,765, making it one of the most densely populated provinces in the country despite its small size.

The choice of Camiguin as the locale of the study was driven by several factors related to the research objectives and the unique context of PCR in the province. First, Camiguin has recently implemented key PCR initiatives that are the focus of the study, including the establishment of Task Force Disiplina in February 2024 to uphold public order and safety (Philippine News Agency, 2024d) and the deployment of the revitalized “Pulis sa Barangay” program, which aims to bring police services closer to residents by assigning police officers to barangays (Philippine News Agency, 2024a, 2024b). These initiatives provide a timely opportunity to examine stakeholders’ knowledge and practices on PCR that are currently being implemented in the province.

Respondents of the Study

The respondents of the study were the residents in the Province of Camiguin, representing each municipality. There was a total of 398 respondents from the total population of 66,557 as per COMELEC data server (2025). The 398 residents as respondents of the study are distributed as follows per barangay in each municipality:

Mambajao municipality has seven barangays namely: Balbagon (29 residents); Baslao (16); Benhaan (26); Pandan (12); Poblacion (44); Sorosoro (22) and Tagdo (19). For the municipality of Mahinog, there are 3 barangays: Owakan (18); San Isidro (22) and Puntod (25 residents). For the municipality of Catarman are: Bura (16); Catibac (24); Mandnao (18); Tangaro (14) and Sto. Nino (6). The Sagay municipality has four barangays which includes: Bacnit (21); Cuna (14); Poblacion (11) and Manuyog (9). Lastly is the municipality of Guinsiliban which composed of barangays Butay (18); Liong (5); Maac (6) and Cabuan (3).

The determination of the appropriate sample size for this study was guided using the Raosoft sample size calculator (Raosoft, Inc., 2004), which is widely used in survey research to identify the minimum number of respondents which required to achieve reliable results.

Research Instrument

This study utilized an adapted and modified survey questionnaire from Cimene et al., (2022) “Community Engagement Satisfaction Survey on Safety and Security, Respect and Trust in the Philippine National Police Region X that assessed the knowledge, attitude and practices of residents in Camiguin regarding police-community relations. The questionnaire was divided into four parts: demographic profile, knowledge items with a four Likert scale used interpreted as: 4- highly knowledgeable, 3- knowledgeable, 2-less knowledgeable and 1-not knowledgeable. For the practice’s items, responses were measured using a four-point Likert scale (High extent means PCR is always practices, Moderate Extent-PCR is sometimes practiced, Less Extent-PCR is rarely practiced and, No Extent which means PCR is not practiced).

Validity and Reliability of the Instrument

The questionnaire was validated by four experts on the subject matter. They were asked to evaluate the research instrument using the Retain (3), Revise (2), and Delete (1) method. The validators were heads of the Police community relations offices from municipal PCR of Mambajao, Camiguin, provincial PCR of Camiguin and regional PCR of Police Regional Office 10, a legal officer and and a CPSC faculty member who is also a member of Provincial Advisory Group for Police Transformation and Development (PAGPTD). Each expert received a draft copy of the questionnaire for review, thus contributing to the validation process. Consequently, the tool was established as both valid and reliable.

To ensure the reliability of the research instrument, the questionnaire’s internal consistency was measured using Cronbach’s Alpha. The researcher administered the questionnaire to a pilot group representative of the study population (30) who were not part of the final data gathering. These composed of some residents Barangay Benoni (17 residents) and Hubangon (13 residents) of the municipality of Mahinog only in the month of April 2026. They were given printed questionnaires for them to answer and were retrieve immediately after. The responses were analyzed using the Cronbach’s Alpha coefficient, yielded 0.94, described as highly acceptable in terms of reliability

Statistical Treatment of Data

The data collected from the respondents was analyzed using frequency counts and percentage to describe profile of respondents, weighted means and standard deviation used in determining the level of knowledge and extent of practices towards police community relations, T-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) were used to test any significant differences on the level of knowledge and extent of practices towards police community relations when grouped according to sex, age, and highest educational attainment and Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to test the significant relationship between knowledge and practices towards Police-Community Relations (PCR).

Ethical Considerations

This study adhered to strict ethical guidelines to protect the rights, dignity, and well-being of all respondents, in accordance with international ethical standards (e.g., Declaration of Helsinki, 1964) and local regulations set by the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) and the researcher’s

academic institution-the Camiguin Polytechnic State College. The confidentiality of the target respondents' data and information are protected. The researcher did not force anyone to comply or accept the survey form immediately. The respondents were first be asked for their permission to participate in the survey through an informed consent.

RESULT

Table 1. *Profile of the Respondents (N=398)*

SEX	Frequency (N)	Percentage %
Male	203	51.01
Female	195	48.99
Total	398	100
AGE (years old)		
18 - 27	137	34.42
28 - 37	98	24.62
38 -47	91	22.86
58 - 57	44	11.06
57 & above	28	7.04
Total	398	100
Highest Educational Attainment		
Elem Level		
Elem Grad	9	2.26
HS Level	58	14.57
HS Grad	94	23.62
College Level	93	23.37
College Grad	98	24.62
Total	398	100.00

In terms of sex, male respondents slightly outnumbered females, with 203 males (51.01%) and 195 females (48.99%), indicating a nearly balanced representation of both sexes in the study. Regarding the age, the largest group of respondents belonged to the 18–27 years old category with 137 respondents (34.42%), followed by those aged 28–37 years old with 98 respondents (24.62%), and 38–47 years old with 91 respondents (22.86%). Smaller proportions were recorded among respondents aged 48–57 years old (11.06%), 19 years and below (8.04%), and 58 years and above (7.04%). In terms of highest educational attainment, the majority of respondents had reached secondary to tertiary education, led by college graduates with 98 respondents (24.62%), followed by high school graduates (23.62%) and college level respondents (23.37%), while those with lower levels of education comprised a smaller portion of the sample.

The demographic distribution suggests that the respondents are largely economically active, socially engaged, and moderately to highly educated, which is advantageous in examining knowledge and practices related to police–community relations. The near-equal representation of males and females indicates that insights gathered reflect shared community experiences across sexes. The dominance of respondents within the 19–47 age range implies that those who are most likely to interact with police through work, family, and community responsibilities are well represented. Furthermore, the high proportion of respondents with secondary and tertiary education suggests a population that is generally capable of understanding police programs, community policing principles, and civic responsibilities. Collectively, these characteristics strengthen the credibility of the findings and indicate that residents' knowledge and practices towards police–community relations are shaped by informed and active segments of the community.

Table 2. *Level of Knowledge Towards Police-community Relations among Residents (N = 398)*

Indicators	Mean	SD	Description
I understand how effective police–community relations contribute to public trust and the maintenance of public order.	3.21	0.69	Agree
I am aware that maintaining peace and order involves a partnership between the PNP, barangay officials, and community members.	3.20	0.70	Agree
I am aware of the importance of police community relations in promoting peace, safety, and cooperation within the community.	3.10	0.73	Agree
I believe that effective police-community relations require cooperation between law enforcement and citizens.	3.10	0.67	Agree
I understand the role of police officers in maintaining peace and order in the community.	3.10	0.74	Agree
I know how to access police services when needed.	3.09	0.71	Agree
I am aware of the proper procedures for reporting concerns or filing complaints against police personnel.	3.08	0.72	Agree
I understand the importance of cooperation between police and community members in maintaining peace and order.	3.06	0.71	Agree
I am aware that community policing is a program mandated by the PNP to strengthen collaboration between the police and the community.	3.06	0.74	Agree
I am aware of activities where police and community members work together to solve local problems.	3.03	0.69	Agree
I am aware of the programs and initiatives of the police that aims to strengthen community relations.	3.03	0.74	Agree
I am familiar with community-based strategies implemented in Camiguin.	3.02	0.70	Agree
I am familiar with the roles and responsibilities of police officers in my community.	3.02	0.69	Agree
I understand the purpose of police–community relations programs.	2.99	0.67	Agree
I know how residents can participate in police–led community initiatives.	2.89	0.72	Agree
Total Average Weighted Mean	3.07		Agree
SD		0.71	

Table 2 presents the data on the level of knowledge among residents towards police community relations which obtained a Total Average Weighted Mean of 3.07 (SD: 0.71) or described as **agree** which means the residents are **knowledgeable** about police community relations. The highest mean scores were obtained in the indicators “*I understand how effective police–community relations contribute to public trust and the maintenance of public order*” (M = 3.21, SD = 0.69). The level of knowledge towards police–community relations is a crucial variable in understanding how residents perceive, engage with, and support policing initiatives in the Province of Camiguin. Knowledge shapes citizens’ awareness of police roles, community policing programs, and mechanisms for cooperation, which are fundamental to building trust, legitimacy, and collective responsibility for peace and order (Deligero & Sabijon 2025). In contemporary community policing and legitimacy-based frameworks, informed and engaged citizens are more likely to participate in crime prevention initiatives, comply with the law, and cooperate with law enforcement in addressing local concerns, particularly when policing practices emphasize procedural justice, transparency, and community partnership (Blair et al., 2021; Mazerolle, Murphy, & Sargeant, 2021).

The findings suggest that residents generally have a conceptual understanding of the value and principles of police–community relations, particularly regarding partnership and its contribution to public trust. However, the moderate ratings across all items indicate that this knowledge tends to be general rather than operational. While residents recognize the importance of cooperation between the police and the community, they are less informed

about specific programs, initiatives, and concrete mechanisms through which they can actively participate (Corpus & Gilaga, 2025). This pattern points to a gap between awareness of policing ideals and familiarity with actual community policing practices, which may limit meaningful engagement with police initiatives. Recent studies similarly show that limited procedural and program-specific knowledge constrain citizen participation and cooperation, even when public attitudes toward the police are generally positive, particularly in contexts where engagement strategies are not clearly communicated or institutionalized (Hanway & Hambly, 2023).

Table 3. *T-test on the on the level of knowledge towards police-community relations when grouped according to sex profile*

Profile	t-value	d.f.	P-value	Decision
Sex	0.816	396	0.415	Fail to Reject Ho

As shown in Table 6, the independent samples t-test yielded a t-value of 0.816 with 396 degrees of freedom and a corresponding p-value of 0.415. Since the computed p-value is greater than the 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis was failed to be rejected. This result indicates that there is no statistically significant difference in the level of knowledge towards police–community relations among residents when they are grouped according to sex.

The findings imply that male and female residents possess comparable levels of knowledge regarding police–community relations in Camiguin. This suggests that awareness of police roles, community-oriented policing principles, and the importance of cooperation between the police and the community is uniformly distributed across sexes. The absence of a significant difference indicates that both males and females are likely exposed to similar sources of information and shared community experiences related to policing (Labata, 2024). This result is consistent with recent studies showing that knowledge-based perceptions of policing and legitimacy are more strongly shaped by shared community contexts, civic experiences, and institutional exposure than by sex alone, particularly in communities where police engagement strategies are broadly implemented (Mazerolle, Murphy, & Sargeant, 2021; Hanway & Hambly, 2023).

Table 4. *Summary of the Analysis of Variance on the level of knowledge towards police-community relations when grouped according to profile*

Variables	Source of Variation	SS	Df	MS	F	P-value	Decision
Age	Between Groups	3.19	5	0.638	2.63	0.024	Reject Ho
	Within Groups	95.25	392	0.243			
Highest Educational Attainment	Between Groups	8.6	5	1.72	7.51	<0.001	Reject Ho
	Within Groups	89.83	392	0.229			

Table 5. *Post Hoc (Tukey)*

Comparison		Mean Difference	T-value	P-value	Decision
<i>Age</i>					
28 – 37 y/o	48 – 57 y/o	0.2931	3.277	0.014	Reject Ho
<i>Highest Educational Attainment</i>					
Elementary Level	HS Level	0.32306	3.4182	0.009	Reject Ho
	HS Grad	0.31819	3.694	0.003	Reject Ho

	College Level	0.33537	3.8867	0.002	Reject Ho
	College Grad	0.52131	6.0932	< .001	Reject Ho
HS Level	College Level	0.20313	2.9392	0.04	Reject Ho

The results of the Post hoc (Tukey) presented in Table 5 reveal that there is a significant difference between respondents aged 28–37 years old and those aged 48–57 years old, as reflected by a mean difference of 0.2931, a *t*-value of 3.277, and a *p*-value of 0.014. Since the *p*-value (0.014) is less than the 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis is rejected. The identified difference suggests that individuals in the 28–37 age group differ meaningfully in their level of knowledge compared to those in the 48–57 age group. The presence of a significant gap implies variations in exposure, awareness, and engagement with police-related community programs. Younger adults may potentially be more exposed to modern information channels, community activities, or digital platforms, while older individuals may rely on traditional sources of information, leading to differences in knowledge levels. Further, findings confirm that age is a significant factor (Hanway and Hambly, 2023) influencing residents' knowledge of police–community relations.

In terms of educational attainment, results show that respondents with Elementary Level education significantly differ from all other educational groups, including High School Level (*p* = 0.009), High School Graduates (*p* = 0.003), College Level (*p* = 0.002), and College Graduates (*p* < 0.001). All comparisons yielded *p*-values below the 0.05 level, leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis in each case. Additionally, a significant difference was also found between High School Level and College Level respondents (*p* = 0.04). The mean differences, ranging from 0.20313 to 0.52131, indicate that the variation in knowledge levels becomes more pronounced as the gap in educational attainment increases. Notably, the largest mean difference (0.52131) was observed between Elementary Level and College Graduates, suggesting a substantial disparity in knowledge between these groups.

The result highlights the need for age-responsive strategies in strengthening police–community relations and the importance of customizing interventions to ensure inclusivity and effectiveness across diverse age segments within the community. Moreover, educational attainment plays a critical role in shaping residents' knowledge of police–community relations (Blair et al., 2021). Individuals with higher levels of education are more likely to have greater access to information, better comprehension of governance systems, and increased awareness of community-based policing strategies. In contrast, those with lower educational attainment may have limited exposure to formal civic education and community engagement initiatives, which could affect their understanding of police roles, responsibilities, and community collaboration mechanisms. The significant difference between High School Level and College Level respondents further supports the notion that even incremental increases in education contribute to enhanced knowledge and awareness.

Overall, the findings confirm that there is a significant difference in the level of knowledge toward police–community relations when grouped according to highest educational attainment, emphasizing the importance of education in promoting effective community engagement and public safety awareness (Hanway & Hambly, 2023).

Table 6. *Extent of Practices towards police-community relations among respondents (N = 398)*

Indicators	Mean	SD	Description
I feel comfortable reporting concerns or incidents to the police.	3.23	0.68	Moderate Extent
I show respect towards police officers regardless of personal differences	3.19	0.71	Moderate Extent
I avoid making negative assumptions about police officers as a group	3.19	0.67	Moderate Extent
I encourage others in the community to respect police authorities.	3.16	0.68	Moderate Extent

I behave in a way that promotes trust between residents and police officers	3.16	0.66	Moderate Extent
I believe that open communication between police and residents reduces misunderstanding	3.16	0.64	Moderate Extent
I cooperate with police initiatives such as crime prevention programs	3.15	0.67	Moderate Extent
I communicate with the police when I have concerns about safety in my community	3.14	0.70	Moderate Extent
I trust the police to act fairly and without bias in dealing with community members	3.14	0.69	Moderate Extent
I treat police officers as partners in maintaining peace and order.	3.13	0.69	Moderate Extent
I try to understand the challenges faced by the police officers in performing their duties.	3.12	0.71	Moderate Extent
I interact respectfully with police officers during community events or patrols.	3.10	0.65	Moderate Extent
I participate in community activities where police officers are present.	3.09	0.75	Moderate Extent
I actively participate in community activities involving the police such as seminars, patrols and dialogues	3.08	0.73	Moderate Extent
I cooperate with police officers during lawful procedures or investigation.	3.00	0.76	Moderate Extent
Average Mean	3.14		Moderate Extent
SD		0.69	

Table 6 indicates that the overall total average weighted mean score is 3.14 (SD =0.69) described that respondents perceived *moderate extent* which means that PCR is *sometimes practiced* towards police–community relations. As to the highest-rated item, “*I feel comfortable reporting concerns or incidents to the police*” (Mean = 3.23, SD = 0.68). This shows that residents are relatively confident in approaching police authorities when issues arise, reflecting a positive level of accessibility and transparency.

The results portray a community that respects and acknowledges the role of police officers, but engagement remains at a moderate level. This suggests that while there is awareness and participation, stronger involvement and deeper trust still need to be cultivated. Trust and accessibility are relatively strong, as seen in comfort with reporting concerns. Formal cooperation (during investigations or lawful procedures) is weaker, suggesting the need for awareness campaigns, transparency measures, and confidence-building initiatives.

The moderate scores across all items imply that police–community relations are functional but not yet deeply integrated. Strengthening collaboration through consistent dialogue, participatory programs, and visible fairness in enforcement could elevate these ratings toward a “high extent.” Respondents demonstrate moderate extent in their practices as to respect, trust, and participation in police–community relations. The foundation is positive, but there is room to enhance cooperation, especially in formal procedures and active involvement in police-led initiatives. The statements suggest that while there is awareness and participation, stronger involvement and deeper trust still need to be cultivated.

Table 7. *T-test on the on the extent of practices towards police-community relations when grouped according to sex*

Profile	t-value	d.f.	P-value	Decision
Sex	0.997	396	0.319	Fail to Reject Ho

As shown in Table 7, the independent samples t-test resulted in a t-value of 0.997 with 396 degrees of freedom and a corresponding p-value of 0.319. Since the computed p-value is greater than the 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis was failed to be rejected. This statistical result indicates that there is no significant difference in the extent of practices towards police–community relations among residents when grouped according to sex.

The findings imply that male and female residents exhibit comparable levels of practice and participation in activities related to police–community relations. This suggests that engagement in community policing practices, cooperation with law enforcement, and involvement in maintaining peace and order are not influenced by sex, but are instead shaped by shared community norms, responsibilities, and experiences (Varian et al., 2026). The result supports the notion that practical involvement in police–community relations is largely collective in nature, where both males and females contribute similarly to public safety efforts (Haim 2024). This finding is consistent with earlier studies indicating that community participation in policing initiatives often transcends sex differences, particularly in close-knit communities where safety is considered a shared responsibility (Skogan, 2006).

The implications of these findings suggest that police–community practice-oriented programs can be implemented inclusively without the need for sex-specific differentiation. Law enforcement agencies and local government units should continue promoting community policing activities that encourage joint participation of both men and women, such as barangay safety forums, neighborhood watch programs, and collaborative problem-solving initiatives (Sambo, 2024). While practices appear uniform across sexes, maintaining gender sensitivity in communication and engagement remains important to ensure equal opportunity and representation. Community policing literature emphasizes that inclusive and participatory approaches strengthen trust, legitimacy, and sustained cooperation between the police and the community, ultimately enhancing public safety outcomes (Rosenbaum, 2010).

Table 8. *Summary of the Analysis of Variance on the extent of practices towards police-community relations when grouped according to age and highest educational attainment*

Variable	Source of Variation	SS	Df	MS	F	P-value	Decision
Age	Between Groups	2.15	5	0.429	1.96	0.084	Fail to Reject Ho
	Within Groups	85.94	392	0.219			
Highest Educational Attainment	Between Groups	5.87	5	1.174	5.6	<0.001	Reject Ho
	Within Groups	82.21	392	0.21			

Table 9. *Post Hoc Analysis*

Comparison		Mean Difference	T-value	P-value	Decision
<i>Highest Educational Attainment</i>					
Elementary Level	HS Grad	0.29058	3.5264	0.006	Reject Ho
	College Level	0.28094	3.4034	0.01	Reject Ho
	College Grad	0.42923	5.2442	< .001	Reject Ho

As shown in Table 8, the analysis of variance (ANOVA) revealed contrasting results for the two demographic variables examined. For age, the computed F-value of 1.96 with a corresponding p-value of 0.084 is greater than the 0.05 level of significance. This result led to failing to reject the null hypothesis, indicating that there is no significant difference in the extent of practices towards police–community relations among residents when

grouped according to age. In contrast, for highest educational attainment, the ANOVA yielded a high F-value of 5.60 with a p-value of less than 0.001, which is below the 0.05 significance level. Thus, the null hypothesis was rejected, signifying that the extent of practices towards police–community relations differ significantly across educational levels.

These findings suggest that age does not significantly influence residents’ practical engagement in police–community relations, implying that individuals across different age groups participate in and support policing initiatives at comparable levels. This may reflect shared community norms and a collective sense of responsibility for peace and order that transcend generational differences (Rarim, 2024). However, the significant difference observed when grouped according to highest educational attainment indicates that education plays a critical role in shaping the extent of residents’ practices. Individuals with higher educational levels may be more informed, confident, and proactive in engaging with police initiatives, better understanding their civic roles and participating more actively in collaborative community safety efforts. This result is consistent with recent literature emphasizing that education strengthens civic competence, critical awareness, and active participation in governance and police–community partnerships, thereby enhancing sustained cooperation with law enforcement institutions (Fine et al., 2021; Hanway & Hambly, 2023).

However, the significant differences associated with educational attainment underscore the importance of tailoring engagement strategies to varying educational levels. Police authorities, in collaboration with barangay officials and educational institutions, should simplify participation mechanisms and provide clear guidance and encouragement for residents with lower educational attainment, while empowering more highly educated residents to assume leadership and advocacy roles in community policing initiatives. Recent community policing and police legitimacy literature underscores that reducing informational and educational barriers to participation enhances inclusivity, strengthens public trust, and supports sustained cooperation between the police and the community, thereby contributing to more effective and equitable police–community relations (Mazerolle, Murphy, & Sargeant, 2021).

Table 9, the Tukey Post Hoc analysis identifies several significant pairwise comparisons. Respondents with Elementary Level education significantly differ from High School Graduates ($p = 0.006$), College Level ($p = 0.01$), and College Graduates ($p < 0.001$). The mean differences, ranging from 0.28094 to 0.42923, indicate that individuals with higher educational attainment tend to exhibit greater or more developed practices toward police–community relations. These findings affirm that education plays a crucial role in enhancing individuals’ engagement with community policing initiatives. Post hoc analysis is specifically used to determine which pairs of groups significantly differ following a significant ANOVA result.

That the role of education in promoting civic awareness, knowledge of rights, and participation in community governance. Studies have shown that civic education improves citizens’ understanding of their roles in policing and enhances their participation in community safety programs. Similarly, exposure to structured learning environments equips individuals with the skills and awareness necessary to engage in collaborative efforts with law enforcement. In the context of police–community relations, education fosters better understanding of procedural justice, reporting mechanisms, and active citizenship, all of which are essential for effective community policing.

Table 10. Summary on the significant relationship between knowledge and practices towards police community relations

		Practices	Decision
Knowledge	Spearman’s rho (r)	0.781	
	Df	396	
	p-value	<0.001	Reject Ho

As presented in Table 10, the Spearman’s rho correlation analysis yielded a correlation coefficient (r) of 0.781 with 396 degrees of freedom and a p-value of less than 0.001. The computed r-value indicates a strong positive

relationship between residents' level of knowledge and their extent of practices toward police–community relations. Since the p-value is lower than the 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis stating that there is no significant relationship between knowledge and practices was rejected. This result confirms that the observed relationship is statistically significant and unlikely to have occurred by chance.

The findings imply that higher levels of knowledge are associated with higher levels of practice among residents. This suggests that residents who are more aware of police–community relations, understand the roles of the police, and recognize the importance of cooperation are more likely to actively engage in behaviors that support community policing. Knowledge appears to function as a key enabling factor that motivates participation, cooperation, and shared responsibility for peace and order. This result aligns with contemporary social and behavioral research demonstrating that informed citizens are more likely to translate understanding into active cooperation and collective action, particularly within community-oriented and legitimacy-based policing frameworks (Blair et al., 2021; National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine [NASEM], 2022).

CONCLUSION

The study revealed that the majority of the respondents were males aged 20 to 49 years old who had completed basic to higher levels of education. Overall, the residents demonstrated a commendable level of knowledge regarding Police-Community Relations (PCR). Statistical analysis showed a significant difference in their perceived knowledge when grouped according to age and highest educational attainment, while no significant difference was found in terms of sex. In terms of practices, PCR was only sometimes observed among residents. A significant difference in the perceived extent of these practices was identified when respondents were grouped by highest educational attainment, whereas no significant variations were noted based on sex and age. Furthermore, the findings established a significant relationship between the respondents' level of knowledge and their practices toward Police-Community Relations, indicating that higher knowledge is associated with better engagement in PCR practices.

Recommendations

The findings of the study suggest the need to implement a comprehensive seminar program for identified residents and community organizations in Camiguin to enhance knowledge, promote participatory engagement, and foster sustainable and inclusive community policing initiatives. Furthermore, future studies are recommended to focus on younger populations, particularly those aged 13 to 17, to assess their level of knowledge and practices regarding Police–Community Relations (PCR) in their respective barangays or municipalities. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) is encouraged to develop evidence-based local PCR action plans, utilizing the findings of the study to design targeted and sustainable programs that emphasize education, engagement, and trust-building in alignment with the Philippine National Police (PNP) community-oriented policing framework. In support of this, the PNP may strengthen its information dissemination efforts by intensifying community orientations, barangay assemblies, and public awareness campaigns that clearly explain PCR initiatives, reporting procedures, and opportunities for citizen participation.

Moreover, Local Government Units (LGUs) may adopt education-responsive community policing strategies by developing communication materials tailored to individuals with lower educational attainment. PNP personnel are likewise encouraged to enhance participatory opportunities for residents through activities such as community dialogues, joint patrols, seminars, and crime-prevention programs to translate moderate knowledge into improved practices. Stakeholders are also urged to actively participate in PCR-related programs, projects, and activities, serving as partners or support groups in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of these initiatives. Finally, future researchers are encouraged to utilize mixed-method approaches in examining stakeholder involvement in PCR and to explore additional variables and statistical tools that will further enrich the understanding of police–community relations.

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