

Impact of Curfew System in a First Class City in the Philippines as Basis for an Enhanced Implementation

Asia Pacific Journal of
Education, Arts and Sciences
Vol. 7 No.3, 82-96
July 2020
P-ISSN 2362-8022
E-ISSN 2362-8030
www.apjeas.apjmr.com
ASEAN Citation Index

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Date Received: February 18, 2020; Date Revised: July 14, 2020

Abstract –*This research intended to determine the impact of curfew ordinance implemented at the Poblacion area of the City in terms of peace and order, morale values, family relations and incidence of crime. In addition, this research also intended to determine the difference on the implementation of such based on community profile and its perceived impacts. The study involved 186 residents from the chosen community and made use of the descriptive method in determining the impact of curfew system in Batangas City. In the vast majority cases, the study found out that curfew has a positive impact to lessen the incidence of crime, and improve the peace and order; however, it appeared that there seems to have challenges as to its impact in family relations and morale values. The study proposed strategies to enhance the implementation of the curfew system in Batangas City.*

Keywords –*Crimes, Curfew, Delinquency, Juvenile*

INTRODUCTION

Peace and order tops the wish list of every community and is one of the priorities of every law enforcer tasked to ensure the well-being of the residents. More often than not, the youth tend to be the alleged culprit of such disturbances and hence, are sometimes the focus of annoyance and frustration of ordinary community folks as well as law enforcers. On the other hand, they also the object of concern and of well-meaning programs and ordinances that seek to delimit their possible involvement in such troublesome acts. These troublesome acts are often lumped under the common heading juvenile delinquency.

Some would say that children's predisposition to delinquency is influenced by socialization elements they encounter every day. Many young people use their freedom to engage in things which they think well guarantee the happiness. Oftentimes, however, those very same things adversely affect the community and contribute to its problem.

For the sake of peace and order in the community, leaders and local authorities continuously implement various laws and regulations. These are designed to make community life better, quieter and more secure. In the same way, every country has her constitution that states all her laws and regulations with corresponding consequences should the same be violated. Likewise, each city has her particular set of regulations. Even barrios or what we call "barangays" or local villages implement rules and barangay or ordinances. Their purpose is to ensure the safety of their own people and maintain peace for everyone.

According to opportunity theory, juveniles who spend less time in the streets tend to have less opportunity to commit crimes. The action itself of barring youths during peak time periods may serve as deterrent and increased police assistance may totally eradicate its existence. Further, as police officers assist in stopping juveniles, crimes reported may increase as police officers could detect other illegal activities. Juvenile curfews may also meliorate parental authority and its supervision by putting parents responsible for their children during curfew hours, which could be of great effect in reducing crimes[1].

In 1997, the Canadian public appears to believe that the rate of youth crime has increased dramatically and that the youth justice system is dealing with, in particular violent young offenders, in an inadequate manner. More specifically, the public believes that youth court judges are too lenient, that youth crime, violent youth crime in particular, is on the increase and longer sentences are necessary. This has resulted in a numerous changes to the Young Offenders Act in the last decade, culminating in the drafting of a new Youth Criminal Justice Act, including the curfew system, introduced in Parliament in the fall of 1998 [2].

There are presently three kinds of youth curfews that are being used by municipalities across North America. In Canada, the municipalities that use

curfews have chosen to use nocturnal curfews in their efforts to battle youth crime. Nocturnal curfews define certain hours during the night when all youth are restricted from being in public places without a valid excuse. On the other hand, Day curfews, which are also used although, at present, are found only in the United States, restricting the movements of youths during certain hours in the day, usually those hours when youths are supposed to be in school. The last category of youth curfews are those imposed by court order, requiring youth to follow and subscribe on the premise laid down by the court.

Court ordered curfews somewhat differ than those imposed by municipal ordinances because they are part of a youth court disposition and are, therefore, enforceable by the court. This kind of curfew is commonly used across Canada and the United States [2].

In the Philippines, following the Martial Law declaration, the then President Ferdinand Marcos promulgated general orders. One of these was General Order No. 4, more popularly known as the curfew order. According to his order, curfew shall be in effect and enforced in the entire country from twelve o'clock midnight until four o'clock in the morning. This resulted on the significant decrease on the cases of crimes involving juveniles and crime rate during night time.

The City of Naga likewise implemented Ordinance No. 2004-072 entitled "An ordinance Re-enacting Ordinance No. 192, Series of 1958 entitled "An ordinance prohibiting the roaming, loitering or sleeping of unchaperoned children below eighteen years of age at late hours of the evening outside their domicile and providing penalties thereof." The ordinance is also known as ("Naga City Curfew Ordinance for Minors (Naga City Ordinance for Minors/Baloi Ordinance #4 series of 2011).

In addition, Batangas City declared Ordinance No. 16 S.1999. This ordinance was cited as "Curfew Ordinance for Minors Below 18 years Old". It applied to all minors below 18 found within the territorial jurisdiction of Batangas City and imposed penalties for violation thereof and for other purposes.

That there was such a need to ensure the welfare of local populace, particularly minors, is attested to by Article 139 of the Child and Youth Welfare Code. It provides that City Councils may prescribe such curfew hours for children as may be warranted by local conditions and that the duty to enforce curfew

ordinance shall devolve upon the parents or guardians and the local authorities.

In like manner, the National Capital Region Police Office several years ago urged local government units to strictly enforce the ordinance in curfew hours for minors amid the cases of missing children. The parents were called on to be more watchful of their children, especially those between 13-17 years of age. The NCRPO spokesperson Molitas declared that intensifying the implementation of curfew will help the prevent disappearance of children.

Also, Section 458 No. 1 (V) of the local Government of 1991 provides, among others that the "SangguniangPanlungsod" Shall enact ordinances to prevent, suppress and impose appropriate penalties for vagrancy, mendicancy and such other activities inimical to the welfare and morals of the inhabitants of the city.

In the earlier part of June 2018, President Rodrigo Duterte, through PNP Chief Director Oscar Albayalde, ordered to intensify the campaigns against loiterers saying they are potential trouble for the public. All Local Government units were also taped to intensify enforcement of their Local Ordinances against these potential trouble makers.

A week after the start of OPLAN Tambay, PNP has already rounded up more than 8,000 loiterers around Metro Manila over which many are minors violated curfew ordinances.

Based on the Statistics of Social Weather Station administered in the first quarter of this year, about 1.5 million families fell victim to common crime, the prime reason why President Duterte has to implement OPLAN Tambay. He also added that he intended to include minors and teenagers in the crackdown on "tambays" and loiterers and for the PNP to take custody of them, to protect them against illegal drugs and other threats.

In the span of 9 years, the City Social Welfare and Development Office and Batangas City Police Station recorded 275 children in conflict with the law cases, which include instances of commission during curfew hours.

For years, Batangas City and its residents are trembled by cases of infractions and delinquent behaviors of the so called "Rugby Boys". These are happening during curfew hours most of the time. These rugby boys are loitering around the city Poblacion during late hours.

Does the imposition of curfew really eliminate youth crime or reduce youth engagement in criminal

activity? Is curfew ordinance an effective social control measure that makes for peace and order in the community? Would other communities benefit from the implementation of curfew as well?

The researcher of this paper firmly believes that answers to these questions and others like it are crucial towards a better understanding of whether or not curfew is a practical and effective means towards achieving peace and order and combating youth crimes in the community.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Generally this study focuses on the impact of the curfew system as observed by selected local villages in one City in the Philippines.

Specifically, the study sought to determine the community profile in terms of number of population, number of households, number of commercial establishments and local village internal revenue allotment; to determine the respondent's observation on the impact of curfew system in Batangas city with regards to peace and order, morale values, family relationship, and incidence of crime; to test the significant difference on the responses of the respondents on the impact of curfew system in Batangas City when grouped according to community profile; the results of the study will be a basis for a proposed enhanced implementation of curfew system in Batangas City.

METHODS

Research Design

The main objective of this study is to determine the impact of curfew system in Batangas City. The descriptive method is used in this study. The researcher believes that this design is the most appropriate one since the study involves the collection of data concerning the current status of the subjects under one study.

Descriptive research methods such as naturalistic observation and case studies are often used in situations where performing an experiment is not realistic or is downright impossible. The descriptive method often requires the creation of an instrument in collecting numerical data to answer question concerning to the current status. The facts may have many different forms such increase quantity of knowledge, and to enhance the programs including strategies for more accurate formulation to be solved [3].

On the other hand according to Sanchez [4], descriptive research is a purposive process of gathering, analysing, and tabulating data about prevailing condition, practices, beliefs, processes, trends and relationships followed by making adequate and accurate interpretation about such as data with or without the help of statistical method. In addition it also involves collection of data in order to test hypothesis or to answer questions concerning the current status of the study.

Participants

The respondents of the study involved the 186 households from the chosen locality of the study. The number of respondents was computed using 5% margin of error using Raosoft Sample Size Calculator and were distributed in each barangay using the stratified sampling. Barangay 9 covers 23 respondents, 49 from barangay 10, 67 from barangay 14, in barangay 15 on the other hand covers 20 respondents and 27 from barangay 16, respectively. The study covers only Barangays 9, 10, 14, 15 and 16 of Poblacion, Batangas City. The said barangays were strategically chosen primarily because they are very much located in the heart of Batangas City, Poblacion Proper. Also, these areas of the Poblacion proper represent the most number of commercial establishments and population. Reports also show that juveniles are more likely to loiter around these areas because of various commercial establishments as a potential target of infractions.

Instruments

The researcher used a self-constructed questionnaire based on the concept and objective of the Curfew Ordinance of Batangas City. Furthermore, the instrument was also guided by Article 139 of the Child and Youth Welfare Code and the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006. The self-constructed questionnaire served as the main data gathering tool was based on the objectives of the study. Although, the guide questions used in gathering data were prepared by the researcher, these were also framed after studying several theses similar to this study.

The survey questionnaire elicited the impact and of Curfew system as perceived by the respondents in terms of the following criteria: peace and order, moral values, family relationship and incidence of crime.

However, the community profile of the respondents in terms of number of population,

household, establishment and internal revenue allotment was acquired using secondary data.

The questionnaire was validated by experts and individuals who are more likely inclined on the subject matter by means of their profession, work experience and academic qualifications. Upon validation, the researcher administered a pilot testing to further enhance the questionnaire prior to its distribution to the actual respondents of the study. The reliability of the instrument were tested using Cronbach's Alpha and obtained a value of 0.84 which indicates that the questionnaire has a good internal consistency and considered valid and reliable for use.

Procedures

The collection of data was done through administration of validated survey questionnaire to the selected respondents. The request letter was sent to the Association of Barangay Council President, and to the concerned Barangay Captains. Once the request was granted, the researcher personally distributed and collated the questionnaires with the assistance of two enumerators. The administration of questionnaires ran for 3 days from January 28, 29 and 30, 2019.

Data Analysis

The basic statistical treatment was used that includes frequency, percentage, weighted mean, and ranking. The one way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and T-test were used to determine the significant difference on the responses when grouped according to community profile.

Further, the study used Likert's Scale to interpret the results, as follows: 3.50 – 4.00: Strongly Agree (SA)/Very High (VH); 2.50 – 3.50: Agree (A)/High (H); 1.50 – 2.49: Disagree (D)/Low (L); 1.00 – 1.49: Strongly Disagree (SD)/Very Low (VL); 0.00 – 0.99: Not Applicable (NA).

Ethical Considerations

The ABC President and the concerned barangay captains expressed their approval to administer the questionnaire to the selected respondents, and the

respondents were informed about the purpose of the study and expressed their willingness to cooperate in answering the questionnaire. The researcher did in no case insisted nor force the unwilling respondents, only the respondents who voluntarily agreed with were considered.

Responses of the respondents were deemed private and were given utmost confidentiality and were used only for research purposes.

The researcher expressed no conflict of interest on this particular research required by the College of Criminal Justice - Graduate School of Lyceum of the Philippines University – Batangas.

Personal presence during the interview and filling up of questionnaire were made to explain each and every content of the instrument for clarity. Profound issues are not required to be answered but were thoroughly explained and to protect the privacy and confidentially, the respondents' anonymity assurance were highly observed.

The actual names of the selected barangays were not identified in the discussions for confidentiality of the data and information gathered from the respondents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

It can be gleaned from the Table 1 above that majority of the respondent barangays have a population of less than 300. Barangay 1 only have 217 populations (15.3%), barangay 3 with 14.6 percent followed by barangay 4 with 14 percent of the total number of population respectively. Only 2 of the 5 barangays have more than 300 populations. Meanwhile barangay 3 has the most number of households with 36 percent of the total number of households of the respondent barangays. Barangay 4 has the least number of households with only 10.8 percent of the total number. In terms of commercial establishments, barangay 3 has the most number having 115 commercial establishments (38%) and barangay 5 having the least number with only 8 percent of the total number of commercial establishments of respondent barangays.

Table 1. Profile of the Community

Barangay	Population	%	Households	%	Commercial Establishments	%	Brgy IRA	%
1	217	15.3	45	13	95	32	1,108,931	20
2	446	31.4	95	26.3	42	14	1,263,192	23
3	207	14.6	129	36	115	38	1,025,280	19
4	199	14.0	39	10.8	25	8.3	1,035,020	19.9
5	350	24.7	52	14.4	23	8	1,041,133	19.02
Total: 1419		360		300		5,473,556		

Barangay 2 has the most number of internal revenue allotment having more than 1.2 million pesos (23%), barangay 1 has 1.1 million (20%) while the rest of the barangays only incurred less than 1.1 million internal revenue allotment.

Based on the Table 2 all of the surveyed respondents agreed that the curfew ordinance shields impressionable youngsters from the influence of street gangs and other criminal groups (100%) while 94.1 percent of them also agreed that juvenile curfew protects vulnerable children from untoward incidence. There is also a high percentage of respondents agreed that imposing curfew ordinance prevents youth crime involving drugs and violence (81.7%) and curfew ordinance helps significantly to lessening children's tendency to delinquency (81.2%). However, more than a quarter of the respondents disagreed that this ordinance gives the community a sense of comfort and security at night time (28%).

In general, there are 85.8 percent of the respondents agreed on the impact of Curfew system in Batangas City as to peace and order which is considered high based on the observations of the households while there are still 14.2 percent who disagreed as to its impact.

All of the surveyed respondents believed that curfew ordinance shields impressionable youngsters from the influence of gangs and other criminal groups. This is true to the fact that curfews primarily are intended to secure the tranquility and peace during night time. It bars and prevents youth to loiter around the streets during late hours and thus protecting them to be potential targets of lawlessness. However, it seems that curfew has a significantly low impact in giving a sense of comfort and security at night time. For instance, a Barangay Official of one of the actual barangays made mention of cases of disturbance during night time. These involved juveniles loitering around the city Poblacion during night time. He also added that these delinquents were the ones responsible on cases of burglary in their community and nearby barangays. It appears to be overwhelming agreement on the impact of curfew system in Batangas city as to peace and order. The finding is supported by the study of Amutan [5], imparting that juvenile curfew laws and ordinances are normally enacted at the local government level. The legislative intent behind the implementation of juvenile curfew laws is usually promotion of social peace and order.

Table 2. Impact of Curfew System in Batangas City with regards to Peace and Order

A. Peace and Order In Batangas City...	D-SD		A-SA		WM	Rank
	F	%	f	%		
1. Imposing curfew ordinance prevents youth crime involving drugs and violence.	34	18.3	152	81.7	3.18	3
2. Juvenile curfew protects vulnerable children from untoward incidence.	11	5.9	175	94.1	3.25	2
3. Curfew ordinance shields impressionable youngsters from the influence of street gangs and other criminal groups.	0	0.0	186	100	3.38	1
4. This ordinance gives the community a sense of comfort and security at night time.	52	28.0	134	72	2.94	5
5. Curfew ordinance helps significantly to lessening children's tendency to delinquency.	35	18.8	151	81.2	3.17	4
Composite Mean		14.2		85.8	3.18	

Table 3. Impact of Curfew System in Batangas City with regards to Morale Values

B. Moral Values in Batangas City...	No Idea		D-SD		A-SA		WM	Rank
	f	%	F	%	f	%		
1. Juvenile curfew enables students to devote more time on their school/home work.	-	-	3	1.6	183	98.4	3.38	2
2. Curfew promotes obedience and responsibility in the youth.	-	-	6	3.2	180	96.8	3.26	3
3. Curfew motivates out of school youth to work.	2	1.1	51	27.4	133	71.5	2.90	4
4. Curfew implementation changes a negative youth culture that sees challenging the law as desirable and participation in gangs as an aspiration.	14	7.5	112	60.2	60	32.3	2.06	5
5. Curfew implementation develops respect for authority and personal accountability.	-	-	2	1.1	184	98.9	3.32	1
Composite Mean		1.7		18.7		79.6	3.04	

Furthermore, as mentioned in the study of Wilson [6], the primary purpose of juvenile curfew is to bar unchaperoned minor to loiter around during night time and reduce the number of crimes committed by juveniles to maintain peace and order.

Almost all of the respondents agreed that curfew implementation develops respect for authority and personal accountability (98.9%) while 98.4 percent of the respondents also agreed that juvenile curfew enables the students to devote more time on their school/home work. There is also a high percentage of respondents agreed that curfew promotes obedience and responsibility in the youth (96.4%). However, 71.5 percent only of the respondents agreed that curfew motivates out of school youth to work. In addition, more than a quarter disagreed that curfew implementation changes a negative culture that sees challenging the law as desirable and participation in gangs as an aspiration (32.3%).

Table 3 generally shows that 79.6 percent of the respondents agreed on the impact of curfew system in Batangas City as to development of moral values which can be considered high based on the observation of the households however, there are still 18.7 percent of the households disagreed as to its impact.

Respect for proper authority, more time for school work, accountability and responsibility are values that respondents see as directly manifests impact of curfew implementation. Most of the youth in the Poblacion proper of Batangas City were attending schools. Schools significantly impact youth as it instills discipline, and morale values to students. Paying respect to authority and fear in God is best taught inside the classroom. Parents tend to reiterate these teachings in relation to curfew system as a means of

preventing their minors to deliberately violate the curfew ordinance. However, prevention of negative youth culture permeating the community and motivating out of school youth to work falls negative impact. In some readings and studies, articles and write ups, curfews are being hotly discussed as it allegedly violates the freedom to travel of the youth.

Carr [7] found out that requiring all juveniles to attend school during the day, when adult supervision is limited bars the commission of juvenile crimes. This is true to the fact that morale values, respect to authority and religious beliefs are being inculcated to the youth during school hours.

Jahn [8] cited that despite often doubtful evidence of its effectiveness, criminalizing harmless behavior to prevent crime has long been the norm particularly for young people. Curfew laws have been challenged on the grounds that they are unconstitutional, based on violations of freedom of speech, equal protection and due process, freedom of movement, rights of parents to rear their children, and that the youths are mostly not adjudicated delinquents [6]. The constitutional basis for infringing on the rights of youth rests on the assumption that curfews reduce juvenile crime and victimization. The results of the challenges are mixed, but Wilson [6], note that the more exceptions for “acceptable activities” (for example, legitimate employment) a given policy provides, the more likely it is to survive a challenge on constitutional grounds [9].

In addition, according to study of De Chavez [10], it appeared that poor parent and child relationship contributes more in the occurrence of juvenile crimes. These resulted to lack of parental control, supervision and rearing leading to children lacking of morale values.

Table 4. Impact of Curfew System in Batangas City with regards to Improvement of Family Relationship

Family Relationship In Batangas City...	No Idea		D-SD		A-SA		WM	Rank
	f	%	F	%	f	%		
1. Curfew gives parents more opportunities to bond with their children.	-	-	5	2.7	181	97.3	3.46	2
2. Parents become stricter towards their children during curfew hour implementation.	4	2.2	103	55.4	79	42.5	2.34	5
3. Curfew ordinance affords parents more time to inculcate good values in their children.	-	-	-	-	186	100	3.15	4
4. Curfew motivates the youth to interact more with other members of their family.	-	-	1	0.5	185	99.5	3.27	3
5. Curfew encourages parents to take more active role in their children’s safety and welfare.	-	-	-	-	186	100	3.56	1
Composite Mean			0.4	11.7	87.8	3.17		

Based on the data gathered in Table 4, all of the surveyed respondents agreed that curfew ordinance affords parents more time to inculcate good values in their children (100%). All of the respondents also agreed that curfew encourages parents to take more active role in their children's safety and welfare (100%). There is also a high percentage of the respondents agreed that curfew motivates the youth to interact more with other members of their family (99.5%) and also a high response on curfew gives more time to parents bond with their children (97.3). Meanwhile, only 42.5 percent agreed that parents become stricter towards their children during curfew hour implementation.

Generally, the table above shows that 87.8 percent of the respondent households agreed on the impact of curfew system in Batangas City as to family relationship however only 11.7 percent disagreed to its impact.

In relation to impact of curfew in to family relationship, it is clearly evident that all of the surveyed respondents sees curfew to have a big impact on the role of parents, the inculcation of values to children and bonding time and the parents active role in their children's safety and welfare and interaction with the other members of the family. However, the surveyed respondents implied that parents are not becoming stricter towards their children during curfew implementation.

Proper attitude, morale values, and goodness of being a person and the like are being taught first in the family. Parents being the first teachers of children play a very vital role in instilling what's best for the child. Parents have parental authority over their child making them the primary implementer and enforcer of curfew laws. However, it seems that parental authority over their children was not properly imbued in especially when they are too busy in their office jobs, the reason why these children are finding ease and comfort and the feeling of belongingness with their peers making them vulnerable in violating curfew laws.

This finding is supported by the study of Adams [11], according to him local government officials are making sure of the success of the curfew implementation program by making a long time commitment in the enforcement and by volunteer enlistment in filling out office works, waiting for parents in picking their children up, and on the spot parental orientation and counselling.

In addition, Amutan [5] pointed out the findings of Townsend [12], stating that curfews can be used to reinforce parental authority and strengthen family bonds. Juvenile curfew laws pointed out parental responsibility as the initial means of curfew law enforcement. Many curfew laws suggest putting parents and children in sanction but some specifically targets parents alone. As a related matter, family ties may be strengthened as children spend more time at home, and there may be benefits in other domains, such as school performance.

Similarly, as cited in the study of Aviola [13], peer groups relationships are closely tied with the increase of juvenile behavior tendencies. Youth who are unable to have a close family tie because of lack of quality time of parents due to work loads, tend to be loyal to delinquent friends and belongs to gangs and these more likely to commit crimes and engage in violence.

Furthermore, in the study of Church [14], youth with minimal family rules, minimal curfew expectations, and minimal parental monitoring were at the greatest risk for delinquency. Clearly parental control and supervision is very vital in child rearing to avoid juvenile delinquency.

It can be gleaned in the Table 5 below that all of the surveyed respondents agreed that curfew helps reduce the opportunities for young people to engage in criminal activities (100%). All of the respondents also agreed that curfew inhibits drug related activities in their barangay and prevents street crimes like robbery, theft and alarms and scandals (100%). There is also an extremely high percentage of agreement of 99.5 percent of the respondents in curfew serving as an effective deterrent to and against youth offenders and effectively diminishing the number of juvenile delinquents in their barangay (99.5%). Meanwhile 87.6 percent of the surveyed respondents agreed that the ordinance lessens the occurrence of crimes in commercial areas of their barangay.

There appears to be overwhelming agreement among the surveyed respondents on the impact of curfew in Batangas City as regard to incidence of crime (97.8%) meanwhile only 2.2 percent disagreed to its impact.

As to incidence of crime, it appears that the surveyed respondents significantly agreed that curfew reduce opportunities for criminal activities. This directly relates to lessening of the number of juvenile delinquents which then leads to the inhibition of drug related activities in their community, so as in deterrence to and against youth offenders and

prevention of street crimes like robbery, theft and alarms and scandals. Meanwhile, the surveyed respondents significantly responded a bit lower on agreement in curfew in lessening the occurrence of crimes on commercial areas of the community.

This finding is supported by the study of Hemmens, Craig & Bennet [15]. According to them, curfew as a crime control instrument paves its way as it is given a well-known reputation in reducing juvenile crime and victimization. It also assists the law enforcement agencies in providing additional investigative tool in juvenile crime detection. This claim of its effectiveness is supported by the opportunity theory stating, juveniles are less likely to commit crimes and to be victimized if they are not visible on the streets during peak time periods

Moreover, a previous study of Adams [1] also discussed the same claim, saying that juvenile curfew laws have become the most used and enforced strategy in addressing juvenile crime problems. Opinions from public and other stake holders are in support to the use of curfew as a means in controlling nocturnal crimes and making public streets safer. Adams provided preliminary results from a systematic review of empirical studies on juvenile induced crimes, concluding that the evidence does not support the arguments that curfews prevent crime and victimization. Juvenile crime and victimization are most likely to remain unchanged after implementation of curfew laws.

However, quite the opposite is true in commercial areas. In vast numerous cases, the law itself do not totally prevent crimes happening in commercial areas as mentioned by a barangay official and other

members of the subject community during informal interviews.

Based on the Table 6 there is a significant difference on the impact of curfew system in Batangas City when grouped according to Barangay as denoted by the computed p-values which are all less than 0.01 alpha level. Specifically, respondents from Barangay Number 3 rated significantly lower the impact of Curfew system when it comes to maintenance of peace and order 2.63), development of moral values (2.67) and improvement of family relationship (3.03) while respondents from Barangay Number 5 rate significantly lower the impact of the curfew system in terms of incidence of crime (3.11).

Meanwhile, respondents from Barangay Number 2 rated significantly higher the impact of curfew system in terms of development of moral values (3.33) and limiting the incidence of crime (3.60) while respondents from Barangay Number 4 rated significantly higher this system in terms of maintenance of Peace and Order (3.77) and development of Moral values (3.33) and respondents from Barangay Number 1 rated significantly higher on improvement of family relationship (3.39).

Respondent barangay 3 appeared to have a significantly low impact of curfew as to maintenance of peace and order, improvement of family relations and development of morale values. This is true to the fact that this barangay happens have the most number of commercial areas, population and households supported by the secondary data presented. Bringing to conclusion that maintaining peace and order as well as improvement of family relations and development of morale values are deemed problematic.

Table 5. Impact of Curfew System in Batangas City with regards to Incidence of Crime

C. Incidence of Crime In Batangas City....	D-SD		A-SA		WM	Rank
	f	%	f	%		
1. Curfew helps reduce the opportunities for young people to engage in criminal activities.	-	-	186	100	3.55	1
2. The ordinance lessens the occurrence of crimes in commercial areas of our barangay.	23	12.4	163	87.6	3.22	6
3. The ordinance serves as an effective deterrent to and against youth offenders.	1	0.5	185	99.5	3.38	4
4. Curfew implementation effectively diminishes the number of juvenile delinquents in our barangay.	1	0.5	185	99.5	3.50	2
5. Curfew inhibits drug-related activities in our barangay.	-	-	186	100	3.49	3
6. Curfew ordinance prevents street crimes like robbery, theft and alarms and scandals.	-	-	186	100	3.35	5
Composite Mean	25	2.2	1091	97.8	3.41	

Table 6. Significant difference on the impact of Curfew System in Batangas City when grouped according to Barangay

Curfew System	1	2	3	4	5	F	Sig.	Remarks
Peace and Order	3.32	3.62	2.63*	3.77**	3.20	158.70	.000	Highly Significant
Moral Values	3.13	3.33**	2.67*	3.33**	3.16	38.71	.000	Highly Significant
Family Relationship	3.39**	3.22	3.03*	3.27	3.16	10.01	.000	Highly Significant
Incidence of Crime	3.54	3.60**	3.35	3.45	3.11*	13.54	.000	Highly Significant

* - Significantly lower; ** - Significantly Higher at $p = \text{value} < 0.01$

The claim is supported by informal interviews from barangay officials and residents as well as observations of the researcher within the area. One of the barangay officials made mentions about their community having so much population and number of households tends to lack close family interactions as observed during their barangay assemblies. They also encounter small children loitering around unchaperoned at night time roaming around the commercial establishments in the area. Meanwhile barangay 5 has the lowest response on the impact of curfew as to incidence of crime by having the least number of commercial establishments. Potential juvenile lacks the opportunity to commit infractions and illegal activities when the community has lesser community establishments.

In terms of morale values, barangay 2 highly and significantly responded into its observable impact of curfew. This is an acceptable claim because the area is widely known to have a strong religious beliefs and aspirations having places within the area intended for religious worshipping.

Meanwhile, barangay 1 appeared to have the highest significant impact of curfew as to family relations. Close family tie is strongly observed in this area by having less number of households. As mentioned by their barangay secretary, less number of households means lacking of opportunity to make friends and peers outside home that leads to build family ties instead.

As can be viewed on the above table, all of the responses of the respondents regarding the impact of curfew system when grouped according to barangay are all significantly high based on the interpretation. It is clearly evident that curfew systems imposed in the subject barangays vary probably on the implementation, resulting to different responses of the community respondents on its impact. Clearly, after two (2) decades of the passage of the said ordinance in Batangas city, impact of it as perceived by the community is blatant.

The study of Kline [16] reveals that effective curfew programs share common number of components. Community involvement and sustained implementation and enforcement are the most common ones that marks the prime component of the success of the curfew law implementation. When enforced ruinously immediately right after the adoption, curfews are found to be less effective however it was found out to be loosely enforced as limited law enforcement personnel and resources are pushed into other policing concerns. The curfew program's success is ensured by making a long-term commitment and coordination of local officials and the enforcing authorities on different communities.

For instance, in the United States, curfew is usually a matter of city law, rather than federal law. Curfews set by national and local governments vary from state to state and even from country or municipality. In some cities there are curfews for persons under the age of 18 [17].

Table 7. Significant difference on the impact of Curfew System in Batangas City when grouped according to Indicators

Indicators	Subset for alpha = 0.05			f-value	P-value	Interpretation
	1	2	3			
Moral Values	3.0401	-	-	28.25	.000	Significant
Family Relationship	-	3.1707	-			
Peace and Order	-	3.1828	-			
Incidence of Crime	-	-	3.4136			

Development of Moral Values (3.04) obtained significantly lower impact in the curfew system in Batangas City as observed by the surveyed households while limiting the incidence of crime (3.41) obtained significantly higher level of response from the households. The community involved in the study

appeared to be significantly different as to their culture and family home relationships.

It can be gleaned from the above mentioned Table 7 that, there is a significant difference on the impact of curfew when grouped according to indicators as perceived by the surveyed respondents. For instance, the surveyed household respondents agreed that curfew significantly impact the incidence and commission of crime in their areas.

Curfew laws are a primary prevention and suppression strategy aimed at reducing crime and victimization in the overall population of juveniles. Its purpose theoretically is to limit, if not totally eradicated, opportunities to potential offenders the commission of illegal activities during night time.

That is, reduced opportunity to commit crimes should translate into committing fewer crimes [6]. From a theoretical perspective, curfews are basically designed to prevent crime and violence. According to Matienzo [18], local governments and non-governmental organizations should maintain a wide range of recreational programs and activities as well as facilities and services of particular interest to young person and make them easily accessible.

Moreover, as cited in the study of Mercado [19] entitled "Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006: An Assessment, there must be a program for each barangay in order to minimize or avoid any youthful offenses like juvenile curfews.

However, juvenile curfew laws have been the subject of numerous legal challenges. Curfew laws are expected to prevent the commission of crime at late hours, as promised, however, still cases of infractions exists despite the thorough implementation. In relation to modern policing system, the main focus nowadays is to prevent the existence of crimes and not just to suppress it. Curfews might be a good crime suppression strategy but as a preventive measure is quiet debatable.

Adams [11], claimed that during afternoon, there is an increase in juvenile crime by 13% however during study period; juvenile crime significantly drops into 6%. Nevertheless curfew enforcement could be an effective and efficient crime prevention and suppression strategy primarily when in coordination with truancy enforcement and pin-pointing of specific group of youngsters in small geographic areas. The community perceived that since the main purpose of the curfew is to limit, if not totally eradicate, the existence of juvenile crimes in the locality.

In addition, curfew laws' effectiveness is supported by the opportunity theory stating, juveniles are less likely to commit crimes and to be victimized if they are not visible on the streets during peak time periods [15].

Despite of curfews overwhelming support to its effectiveness as a tool for controlling the existence of crime, this however does not have the same apprehension when it comes to its impact on development of morale values. Curfew laws more likely to impact the post-effect of crime, but not the prevention. It does not address the pre-existence of crime but its post effect. Parental responsibility, authority and obligations in developing morale values of the children, must play its role in effect of the proper implementation of curfew laws.

According to Lopez & Garcia [20], religion does not affect delinquent behavior such as crime, and other things unaccepted by society but it does have a preventive effect on behaviors that are frowned upon in certain religious groups but not by society as a whole.

Forde [21], claimed that inability of parents to sustain emotional needs of their children leads youth to commit crime. Family intervention in morale and emotional development of youth are very vital.

Additionally, According to Regoli [22] the family is the most vital social institution primarily because the earliest and the most critical stages of child's socialization occur within the family bringing it to be the mainly responsible for instilling vital moral, family and religious values and apprehension between what is right or wrong.

In addition, according De Chavez[10], poor parent and child relationship contributes more in the occurrence of juvenile crimes. These resulted to lack of parental control, supervision and rearing leading to children lacking of morale values. Moreover, Carr [7], found out that requiring all juveniles to attend school during the day, when adult supervision is limited bars the commission of juvenile crimes. This is true to the fact that morale values, respect to authority and religious beliefs are being inculcated to the youth during school hours.

There is a significant difference on the impact of curfew system when grouped according to population as denoted by the computed p-values which are less than 0.01 alpha level. Results showed that those barangays with greater than 300 populations have significantly higher level of response on the impact of

curfew system in terms of maintenance of peace and power as well as the development of moral values.

Table 8. Significant difference on the impact of Curfew System in Batangas City when grouped according to Population

Curfew System	(<300)	(>300)	F	Sig.	Remarks	
Peace and Order	2.98	3.47	-	8.039**	.000	Highly Significant
Moral Values	2.88	3.27	-	7.230**	.000	Highly Significant
Family Relationship	3.15	3.20	-1.201		.231	Not Significant
Incidence of Crime	3.40	3.42	-.413		.680	Not Significant

*Significant at $p\text{-value} < 0.05$; **Significant at $p\text{-value} < 0.01$

Meanwhile, there is no significant difference on the improvement of family relationship and limiting the incidence of crime with p-values which are greater than 0.05 alpha. This signifies that these variables were not considered a factor that could influence the response of the households in the improvement of family relationship and limiting the incidence of crime.

The number of population is a factor as to the impact of curfew system in terms of peace and order and development of morale values. As the population increases so as the strict implementation of curfew and the involvement of parents in such. The support for curfew is overwhelming when it comes to its impact to maintenance of peace and order and development of morale values.

The finding is supported by the Wallace [23] stating that the effectiveness of curfew is based on the regression of the total number of arrests of juveniles during curfew hours. The study involved most populated localities in Baltimore making use of the data consisting of police arrests records for the months preceding and following the change in curfew implementation.

The findings is supported by the study of Males and Macallair[24] entitled “An Analysis of Curfew Enforcement and Juvenile Crime in California” conveying that the national and state leaders have endorsed the implementation and enforcement of stronger “status offense” laws to control youth crime. In addition, Males and Macallair further discuss that major assumption on curfews is that they reduce the risk by removing juveniles from public space on highly populated areas.

Table 9 shoes that there is a significant difference on the impact of curfew system when grouped according to households as denoted by the computed p-values which are less than 0.01 alpha level. Results showed that those barangays with less than 90 households have significantly higher level of response on the impact of curfew system in terms of maintenance of peace and power, development of moral values and the improvement of family relationship. Meanwhile, there is also significant difference on limiting the incidence of crime with p-value of 0.038 which are less than 0.05 alpha level. Result revealed that those barangays with greater than 90 households have significantly higher response on the impact of curfew system in terms of limiting the incidence of crime.

Table 9. Significant difference on the impact of Curfew System in Batangas City when grouped according to Households

Curfew System	(<90)	(>90)	F	Sig.	Remarks	
Peace and Order	3.40	3.05	5.392	.000	Highly Significant	
Moral Values	3.19	2.94	4.018	.000	Highly Significant	
Family Relationship	3.27	3.11	3.431	.001	Highly Significant	
Incidence of Crime	3.35	3.45	-	2.098	.038	Significant

*Significant at $p\text{-value} < 0.05$; **Significant at $p\text{-value} < 0.01$;

It can be viewed that community respondents when grouped according to number of households responded significantly high in difference on the impact of curfew system. These only manifests that their responses vary based on the number of households. It is evident that responses when grouped according to households have a significant result as to the impact of curfew system.

The lesser the community households, the higher the observable impact for curfew implementation. In a community of lesser households, the manifestation of the implementation of curfew system is clearly evident. Parents tend to impose well discipline and control among their children by deprivation in places where these juveniles might hang onto, like friends in the neighbourhood that used to hang up during night time. There are more time for family bonding and homework.

It is innate for parents to always worry about their children despite of their age. Parents on small community tend to set curfew in an autocratic manner

that leads sometimes to rebellion against authority [25].

Table 10. Significant difference on the impact of Curfew System in Batangas City when grouped according to Commercial Establishments

Curfew System	(<50)	(>50)	F	Sig.	Remarks
Peace and Order	3.53	2.81	13.795	.000	Highly Significant
Moral Values	3.28	2.79	9.538	.000	Highly Significant
Family Relationship	3.21	3.12	2.189	.030	Significant
Incidence of Crime	3.43	3.39	0.740	.460	Not Significant

*Significant at p -value<0.05; **Significant at p -value<0.01;

Significant difference exists on the impact of curfew system when grouped barangays are grouped according to the number of commercial establishments as denoted by the computed p -values which are less than 0.01 alpha level. Results showed that those barangays with less than 50 establishments within the area of the barangay have significantly higher level of response on the impact of curfew system in terms of maintenance of peace and order as well as the development of moral values. Likewise, there is a significant difference on the improvement of family relationship wherein the barangays with less than 50 establishments have significantly higher response. Meanwhile, there is no significant difference on limiting the incidence of crime with p -value of 0.460 which is greater than 0.05 alpha. This implies that number of establishments is not a factor that influences the response of the households in terms of limiting the incidence of crime.

The Table 10 shows significant results presenting number of commercial establishments as a determining factor as to the respondents perception on the impact of curfew as regards to maintenance of peace and order, development of morale values and family relationship.

Communities with lesser commercial establishments appeared to see clearly how curfew system impacts the said indicators most especially maintenance of peace and order because of limited commercial areas to loiter around. Moreover, those commercialized places tend to implement curfew in a much stricter manner.

In a study made by Alonso [26], cities with less establishments, where business curfews are

implemented, tend to be safer other than cities that do not. Business curfew restricts the operating hours of certain public establishments, such as grocery stores, restaurants and liquor stores. It is clearly evident that places with less establishments sees the positive impact of curfew because of them lacking places for possible target of juveniles at night time.

Moreover, in the study of Baron [27] entitled Youth Homelessness in Canada, it appeared that youth are more likely to engage in juvenile activities when they are on street loitering around commercial establishments with their peers. Economic circumstances foster increasing possibility of juvenile crime occurrence.

Table 11. Significant difference on the impact of Curfew System in Batangas City when grouped according to Brgy IRA

Curfew System	(<1.1M)	(>1.1M)	F	Sig.
Peace and Order	2.97	3.53	-9.627**	.000
Moral Values	2.89	3.26	-6.293**	.000
Family Relationship	3.10	3.28	-4.043**	.000
Incidence of Crime	3.31	3.58	-5.673**	.000

*Significant at p -value<0.05; **Significant at p -value<0.01;

Table 11 shoes that the significant difference exists on the impact of curfew system when grouped according to Barangay IRA as denoted by the computed p -values which are less than 0.01 alpha level. Results showed that those barangays with greater than 1.1 Million IRA have significantly higher level of response on the impact of curfew system in terms of the four (4) cited variables.

There is a clear manifestation that Barangay Internal Revenue Allotments serves as a very significant factor in identifying the impact of curfew system in Batangas City. It is evident that the higher the community IRA means the urbanized the community. The residents are paying their taxes and are with permanent jobs. The higher the number of the allotted internal revenue for the community the higher the tax and income of the barangay. The strict and proper implementations of curfew law are properly funded. These only leads to the conclusion that communities with more than 1.1 Million IRA tends to significantly observe the impact of curfew system in their areas.

The finding is supported by the study of Sutphen [28] citing the study of Hunt and Weiner, (1997) imparting that, in most highly urbanized cities that

have adopted and implemented curfew laws, rates of crimes involving juveniles are more likely to decrease prior to the adoption of curfew laws. The findings revealed that crime rates were decreased during curfew law implementation hours. However, there were also proof of crime displacements, that is, drastically increase in criminal activities observable during hours when the curfew was not in effect.

The Table 12 presents the proposed strategies to further enhance the implementation policy of the curfew ordinance of Batangas City that can be utilized to promote the efficient implementation of such.

Through the implementation of the suggested activities, the aim of enhancing the implementation policy of the curfew ordinance of Batangas City can be achieved. The Local Government Unit of Batangas City especially the Department of Interior and Local Government office and the SangguniangPanlungsod and the Association of Barangay Council should reinforce the community’s adherence, cooperation and compliance with the curfew ordinance in the interest

of providing a safe, and welcoming community for the youth.

CONCLUSION

Out of 5 actual barangays, served as the respondents of the present study, only 2 of them have a population of more than 300. Barangay 3 appears to have the most number of households and commercial establishments. Meanwhile all of the actual barangays have an internal revenue allotment of more than 1 million pesos. There is a significantly high difference on the impact of curfew system when grouped according to indicators. For instance development of moral values appeared to have a significant low impact while incidence of crime appeared to have a significant high impact. Meanwhile, family relations and peace and order appeared to be averagely affected. Those local villages with greater than 300 populations have significantly higher level of response on the impact of curfew system in terms of maintenance of peace and order as well as the development of moral values.

Table 12. Strategies to enhance the implementation of the curfew system in Batangas city

Indicators	Objectives	Strategies	Persons Involved	Success Indicator
Peace and Order	To give the community a sense of comfort and security at night time.	Strict and thorough implementation of curfew ordinance in barangay Launching of Night Watch Patrol Program	Barangay Council; Barangay Police and Volunteers; Police officers	Community enjoys the comfort and security at night time.
Morale Values	To change a negative youth culture that sees challenging the law as desirable and participation in gangs as an aspiration.	Information dissemination campaign, counseling and seminar to youth and their parents. Parent-Child Interaction Training Program Youth Community Involvement	Barangay Council; Barangay Police and Volunteers; Parents and Guardians; Guidance Counselors or Officers from CSWDO.	Law abiding youth are highly observable Parents and their children were having good family time and relationship Youth are being responsible and productive members of the community
Family Relations	To make parents a bit stricter towards their children during curfew hour implementation.	Seminars and parent-child counseling Amendments and revisions of the imposable sanctions prescribed in the ordinance Functional Family Therapy	Barangay Council; Barangay Police and Volunteers; Parents and Guardians; Guidance Counselors or Officers from CSWDO	Parents are more stricter when it comes to exercising their parental authority and obligation especially during curfew implementation
Incidence of Crime	To lessen the occurrence of crimes in commercial areas of the barangays.	Cooperation dialogue between different barangays and the commercial establishments as well as police officers and concerned citizens.	Barangay Council; Barangay Police and Volunteers; Commercial Establishment Owners; Police officers;	Total eradication of juvenile crime existence in commercial areas.

While local villages with less than 90 households have significantly higher level of response on the impact of curfew system in terms of peace and order, moral values and family relationship, there is no significant difference on the impact of curfew system in terms of incidence of crime when grouped according to commercial establishments. Meanwhile, barangays with more than Php1.1 Million IRA significantly observe the impact of curfew system in their areas. Proposed strategies were formulated based on the results to enhance the implementation of the curfew system in Batangas City.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Since most of the respondents see curfew contributing greatly towards incidence of crime, maintenance of peace and order in the community and development of family relationships, encouraging parental involvement in developing morale values of children, and promoting cooperation between community leaders, residents and local enforcers are vital.

Since most of the respondents do not seem to view curfew ordinance as influencing morale values, but much in peace and order and family relations, in sustaining such positive impact, committed enforcement, fair implementation and sustained vigilance must be demonstrated both by law enforcers as well as community leaders and barangay officials. Also, parental involvements to address the low impact in development of morale values are highly encouraged.

In view of the above, information dissemination, seminar on curfew rules, purposes and implementation must be done in the community level. This can foster ownership of the ordinance and open dialogue among residents, parents in particular and the ordinance enforcers.

Providing youth with venues for economic opportunities, as well (eg. job fairs, vocal training, dance clinic, etc) and meaningful community involvement (eg. buddy up with a barangay police, organizing a cleanup drive, etc.) to make them feel involved in socio-civic activities that could lessen the attraction of criminal acts and challenging the law, improve their self-esteem and encourage them towards responsibility for their actions and their own future. Youth counselling could also be beneficial in developing their values as a person. It is also highly recommended to assign guidance counsellors in each barangay or staffs from CSWD to address such

problems occurring in the area of concern and to provide appropriate funds thereof.

Seminars on crime prevention, parent-child counselling, community participation involving the youth as well as on parental roles and responsibility in terms of child rearing and growing their teen-aged children might offset some problems that prompt curfew implementation and thereby, ensure its effectiveness and impact as to development of their morale values. The responsibility of the parents and guardians especially to minor member of the family must be inculcated by reiterating the Parental obligations as per Civil Code, Child and Youth Welfare Code and Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006. Amendments on the City Ordinance No. 16 S 1999 are highly recommended.

The City Ordinance No. 16 Series of 1999, also known as “An Ordinance Imposing Curfew for Minors below 18 Years Old and Providing Penalties for Violation Thereof and For Other Purposes” should be amended after the implementation of such, two decades ago. Penalties and sanctions as well as the prohibitions should be amended. Revision of the implementing rules and regulations shall be made, and providing appropriate funds shall also be considered.

The future researchers can conduct a similar study in the future to further validate the results of the present study.

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