



CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED BY THE POLICE OFFICERS IN CRIME PREVENTION IN TABUK CITY, KALINGA

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Article DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36713/epra16729>

DOI No: 10.36713/epra16729

ABSTRACT

This study generally determined the challenges encountered by police officers in crime prevention in Tabuk City, Kalinga. The study specifically aimed to determine the specific challenges faced by police officers in effectively preventing crime regarding personal, family, and community relations and resources. Additionally, it sought to investigate the coping mechanisms of police officers to manage the challenges associated with their role in crime prevention. The study used a qualitative-narrative research design, and an interview guide was used to collect the data. The researcher used purposive sampling to select seven participants based on the specific characteristics or criteria relevant to the research questions. Through the use of inductive thematic analysis to analyze the qualitative data, the result revealed that police officers had encountered challenges during the implementation of crime prevention. It includes the impact of duty and personal relationships, threats and attacks, and cultural sensitivity and diversity regarding personal obstacles. Lack of time, high risk and stress, role modeling, and guidance regarding family challenges. Maximum tolerance, community engagement, concealment of criminals, and wrong perception regarding community challenges. Resource challenges require more funds and adequate equipment and vehicles. However, through proactive coping mechanisms, police officers attempted to overcome these obstacles. It concluded that the difficulties encountered by police officers in effectively preventing crime were complex and multifaceted, and they required a holistic approach that prioritized officers' well-being and could better fulfill their mission of promoting public safety.

KEYWORDS: Problem encountered, coping mechanism, personal and family challenges, community and resources challenges, police officers

INTRODUCTIONS

Around the world, police personnel face many obstacles when implementing crime prevention strategies. Inadequate resources, such as funding, staff, and equipment, frequently impair their capacity to deter crime. Although it is essential to foster collaboration and trust across communities, law enforcement personnel may find their work complicated by strained relations with the public and unfavorable opinions of police.

The work of police officers can have a significant effect on their personal lives, their families, and communities. Police officers often face a high level of stress and trauma due to the nature of their work, including exposure to danger and critical incidents. Their actions and behavior can influence the public trust and perception of law enforcement within the community, and police officers struggle to balance work commitments with family responsibilities.

According to the United Nations (2021), criminal justice systems worldwide face numerous obstacles. Integrated and coordinated measures are required to address them efficiently, and the United Nations plays an essential role in this. These challenges included an ongoing increase in violence and crime, the need to respond to emerging kinds of criminality, as well as improving responses to

long-standing criminal behaviors such as corruption and the lack of enough human and financial resources. This caused many problems in the legal system, including law enforcement authorities in the countries of Cambodia and Egypt as well as Guatemala, a country Kiribati, Mozambique, the nation of Pakistan, the nation of Peru, the Solomon Islands, Tunisia, and Vietnam.

In connection, Singh (2022) stated that the grounds for police corruption are varied. There are significant constants and variables to consider. Due to the constant issues, discretion can be practiced with licit and illegal cores, management lacking visibility, discretion of managers keeping police culture intact even if corruption is susceptible, low wage and status concerns, and association with criminals that impede the fulfillment of police tasks. Even if law enforcement personnel are well-paid, they may perceive that they are not reimbursed to meet their obligations, which might encourage dishonest practices.

Additionally, police forces around the country have come under heavy public scrutiny. According to the Southern Columbia website (2022), the spotlight is on law enforcement personnel's behavior, and departments are responding to demands for urgent reform at numerous levels. In Columbia, police bring new and complex concerns to be solved daily, whether finding



ways to retain police or adopting crime prevention measures without jeopardizing the public's trust. Hence, criminal justice professionals face the challenge of doing crucial work for their communities while considering public perception.

Therefore, it was impossible to overestimate the role of the police in society. They are responsible for maintaining social order and implementing legislation. Like in Liberia, many administrations have attempted to restructure the police force to reflect current policing ideas. In most countries that implement community policing, the situation is no longer acceptable for police to treat other members of the community as if they were unwelcome. Also, Liberia needed to recognize the worldwide paradigm shift in the police. As well as the Liberian policing and security system also encountered numerous challenges due to these multicultural compositions. However, recognizing and raising awareness about community policing was crucial (Badu, 2022).

While the majority of the implementation difficulties encountered by Canadian police in crime prevention corresponded to managing information and completing forms, hiring, referrals, and continued participation of participants and their parents, developing modifications to address participants' needs, staff recruiting, turnover, and instruction, including funding and financial resources also obtaining suitable facilities/sites and availability and partnership building and service and lastly the administration and management (Public Safety Canada, n.d.). On the other country, Japan's successful low crime rate is due to its competent and effective policing system. The Japanese police have a high crime-solving success rate, and having them in the neighborhood contributes to public safety. However, they face rising organized crime, emerging cybercrime, adjusting to new technologies, and integrating individual rights protection with social order maintenance (Ilarde, 2023).

Tuttle et al. (2019) stated that United States Police officers endure particular obstacles in the line of duty that affect their physical and mental well-being. Also, police officers faced a variety of organizational, functional, community-related, and personal stressors, including shift work and emergency response to public expectations on police-community relationships and social media. Stress and trauma provide external hurdles to their wellness, putting police officers at risk for compassion fatigue, moral harm, and burnout. In addition, according to the research study of James et al. (2023) found out that 77.4% of police officers had low levels of sleep, 25.7% had excessive tiredness during the day, 50.2% had symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, 51.9% had depressed symptoms, and 40.8% had symptoms of anxiety.

Hence, according to the study of Annag et al. (2023) in Ghana, challenges such as inadequate logistics, insufficient personnel, language barriers, and political interference hampered the Ghana Police Service's ability to carry out its mandate effectively. These issues significantly impacted the morale of Police Service officers, reducing their motivation to carry out their

responsibilities successfully. The studies also revealed that service inefficiencies hampered day-to-day operations and harmed service members' and women's confidence in going above and above when called upon.

In the other part of the world, the Law Enforcement Federation of England and Wales has expressed grave concerns about the well-being of individuals in the policing sector, highlighting the demanding and challenging nature of their job. According to Kilo (2024), research found that, despite their high degree of professional dedication, police personnel face substantial problems such as workplace aggression, verbal threats, and being subjected to traumatic situations. Furthermore, research findings revealed a disturbing trend of unhappiness with salary, rising financial concerns, and low confidence among police personnel, with the highest intent to quit ever recorded.

In the Philippines, police officers face many challenges in preventing crime. The need for more resources in terms of workforce and equipment is one of the main challenges. With limited staffing and outdated technology, law enforcement must adequately cover areas and respond promptly to incidents. Besides, Lobete (n.d.) stated that Philippine society faces numerous political, economic, and social challenges. Despite challenges such as terrorism, poverty, and bureaucracies, the Philippine National Police (PNP) remains a trusted resource for protecting residents.

The study by Cynic et al. (2024) revealed that the Pasay City Police Station's problems are based on personnel needs, facilities, supplies, and equipment; the respondent's suggestions to help solve the problems are specifically geared toward solving the problems encountered. However, Pasay City Police Officers/Personnel also revealed that they would be more efficient in solving crime problems if additional intelligence officers were dispatched to areas where criminal activity is prevalent.

Similarly, Mendoza et al. (2021) also found from their study that the Police officers in the National Capital Region (NCR) behind their performance of their duty have numerous issues, including administration, corruption, and national security concerns. As a result, establishing an effective succession of leaders capable of meeting these problems and improving enforcement efficacy and broader security sector changes is essential. Also, on January 4, 2023, Department of the Interior and Local Government Benjamin Abalos requested that the Philippine National Police (PNP) generals and colonels submit 'courtesy' resignations. The action is designed to clean up the ranks of the PNP, particularly those implicated in illegal narcotics. The request for courteous resignations was part of a credible campaign against government corruption (Tugade & Fernandez, 2023).

Moreover, the study by Falloran et al. (2022) in the local Police Station of Misamis Occidental revealed that perceptions of barriers, work environment dissatisfaction, and frustration



discomfort were predictors of occupational stress. This suggests that these factors play a significant role in determining the overall level of occupational stress experienced by employees. However, these findings underscore the interconnectedness of various factors within the work environment and their influence on police well-being.

In Tabuk City, Kalinga, police officers have experienced crime prevention challenges that have impacted them personally, socially, and within their communities and families. In diverse communities, language barriers and cultural differences may impede effective communication and engagement between police officers and residents, making it challenging to build rapport and address community-specific crime issues. Limited resources and competing priorities may lead to disparities in policing services across different neighborhoods, exacerbating feelings of inequality and distrust among marginalized communities (Philstar Global, 2023).

Hence, during the third quarter's meeting of the Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC), the Kalinga Police Provincial Office reiterated its dedication to crime prevention efforts in the province and continued to push initiatives aimed at developing a safe and secure environment for the public, with support from local government units, communities, and stakeholders. However, it challenged them to the need for more trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve, hindering cooperation and collaboration in crime prevention efforts (Serion, 2023).

Today, police organizations greatly need to recognize the issues they encounter while fulfilling their duties and obligations. This recognition is vital for understanding the hurdles they face in serving the community effectively. To tackle this challenge, various methods can aid police officers in enhancing their performance. As a result, the researcher decided to determine the challenges encountered and coping mechanisms by the police officers in Tabuk City in implementing crime prevention. As a goal to investigate the challenges faced by police officers in crime prevention, the researcher can provide policy recommendations to better support police officers and their resources, improve personal, family, and community relations, and enhance overall effectiveness in crime prevention efforts.

Theoretical Framework

The Social Support, Stress and Coping, and General Strain theories guided this study.

Social Support Theory by Cullen (1999) emphasizes how social relationships and networks can help individuals buffer the adverse effects of stress and enhance their coping resources. Social support in police work can be obtained from various sources, such as colleagues, supervisors, friends, and family members. Positive social support networks could provide police officers with emotional support, practical assistance, advice, and validation, which could help them cope with job-related stressors more effectively (Edward et al. (2021).

In addition, Lazarus' Stress and Coping Theory (1984) examines how individuals perceive and respond to stressful situations. Police officers often encounter high levels of stress due to the nature of their work, which can affect their psychological well-being and job performance. Understanding how officers cope with stress and the effectiveness of different coping strategies can provide insights into their ability to fulfill their duties effectively (Janse, 2022).

In connection, the General Strain Theory by Agnew (1992) posits that individuals experience strain or stress when they perceive a discrepancy between their expectations or aspirations and their actual life circumstances. This strain can arise from various sources, including adverse events, such as financial hardship, interpersonal conflict, or failure to achieve goals. In the context of police work, officers may encounter strain from factors such as exposure to violence, traumatic incidents, organizational stressors, and the demanding nature of their job. These strains can contribute to negative emotions, such as anger, frustration, or depression, which may, in turn, lead to maladaptive coping strategies or deviant behavior (Edward, et. al. (2021).

Significance of the Study

The research study will provide supporting documentation that may be used in future studies. This may also serve as the foundation for developing a plan, program, and model to improve police performance. The results of the research would be helpful to the following:

Tabuk City Police Station. The police station can implement targeted training programs, provide necessary resources, and develop supportive policies to address the identified issues to enhance the overall performance and morale of the police officers within the police station.

Police personnel. For police officers, recognizing and addressing crime prevention challenges can improve job satisfaction, mental health, and job performance.

Families of police officers. Understanding the challenges encountered can help families provide better support to the police officers and encourage the development of coping mechanisms that promote family resilience.

Community. This study can contribute to police-community relations, developing trust, and enhancing community safety.

Future Researcher. This study can be used by researchers as an additional foundation for their related research, for discussion, dissemination of information, and raising awareness.

Objectives of the study

This aimed to investigate the challenges encountered by police officers in crime prevention within Tabuk City, Kalinga. The study specifically aims:



- To determine the specific challenges faced by police officers in effectively preventing crime in terms of personal, family, and community relations and resources.
- To investigate the coping mechanisms of police officers to manage the challenges encountered associated with their role in crime prevention

METHODOLOGY

The following presented the study design, population, data gathering tool/s, data gathering procedure, treatment of the data, and ethical considerations that will be used in this study.

Study Design

The study used the qualitative-narrative design to match the proper outcome. Using this design offered data collection and analysis flexibility, allowing the researcher to adapt their approach based on emerging themes and insights. Using this design, the researcher gathered narrative data through informal interviews that were analyzed using thematic analysis, focusing on examining themes within the data collected.

Sample of the study

The researcher used purposive sampling to select seven participants based on the specific characteristics or criteria relevant to the research questions. The selected participants had been police officers who had stayed at least five (5) years in Tabuk City and had extensive experience, expertise, or direct involvement in implementing crime prevention. These participants were chosen because they possess valuable insights and perspectives relevant to the research topics for addressing the research question effectively. Those police officers who were not qualified with the specific criteria were excluded to ensure the validity and reliability of the findings. Based on the objectives of this study only focused on particular locations. Including additional local areas may have diluted the research focus or made it overly complex, and it may question the credibility and trustworthiness of the study. By acknowledging limitations, researchers can prevent misinterpretations of overgeneralizations of the findings. This helped ensure that readers understood the scope and boundaries of the study.

Data Gathering tool

This study used an interview guide as a tool. The adviser and tool validator checked the unstructured interview guide questions first to ensure validity and reliability. The survey interview guide consisted of two parts: the first was to determine the specific challenges faced by police officers in effectively preventing crime in terms of personal, family, and community relations and resources, and the second part was to investigate the coping mechanisms of police officers to manage the challenges encountered associated with their role in crime prevention. A secure and safe place in the facility for conducting interviews or designated meeting spaces that offer a degree of privacy and security. However, the researcher always prioritized safety protocols and ensured that the interview environment was safe for

all involved parties. The researcher used a recording tool with the consent of the participants and handled and stored the recorded data securely and confidentially to protect participant privacy.

Data Gathering Procedure

Upon the approval of the Dean, Adviser, and Tool Validators, the researcher proceeded to the data gathering.

First, before conducting the interview, the researcher was given a communication letter for approval, signed by the researcher's adviser, to the Chief of Police in Tabuk City to obtain the necessary data of the respondents in this study. Then, after the approval of all the communication letters, the researcher was referred and endorsed to inform and locate the study participants. The researcher discussed the informed consent and the nature of the study. Such as the objectives of the study, the willingness to participate in the study, and all data gathered were kept confidential. No force was used, and participants answered the questions voluntarily.

After the participants had consented, the researcher proceeded to interview them until data saturation was reached. Then, the data collected were transcribed to create a narrative format. Then, from the transcribed data, the common responses were categorized, and the theme was identified.

Treatment of the Data

The study used inductive thematic analysis to analyze qualitative data in the first and second parts of the interview guide to identify patterns or themes systematically. Initially, researchers familiarized themselves with the data and then generated initial codes by labeling sections of the data. These codes were grouped and refined into potential themes, which were reviewed, defined, and named. The final step involves writing up the analysis and creating a narrative for each theme supported by the data.

Ethical Considerations

In this study, participants were treated according to the ethical standard of treatment. The researcher strictly followed the ethical standards imposed before, during, and after the study's conduct.

Participants in this study were voluntary. To maintain confidentiality, the participants' real names and ranks were not revealed and treated with the utmost care. Thus, the researcher used a codename to present each participant's narration or responses. There was no harm done in getting information from the participants. The information received from participants was preserved and utilized solely for this research study. The researcher protected the participants' privacy, confidentiality, and anonymity. To ensure the trustworthiness of this study, the researcher sets aside personal feelings and opinions to achieve a better result. The researcher ensured that the Tabuk City police station received a copy of this research study and a signed copy upon receiving it with photos as a piece of evidence. This research was given to them so that the administration would be aware of whether or not there were still improvement needs. The paper's integrity was protected by citing references used in the



study. Data collected were stored in a password-protected device, and hard copies of the questionnaires were kept until the study was completed.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The following presents the result and discussion of the findings of the gathered data.

1. *Challenges encountered by police officers in crime prevention within Tabuk City, Kalinga in terms of personal, family, and community relations and resources.*

In terms of Personal obstacles or challenges encountered

Impact of duty and personal relationship. The police officers illustrate the complex interplay between the effects of duty and personal relationships in crime prevention efforts, as quoted from the sample statement of P1: *"Thinking of what would be the impact of my action, but I must have to do so, to implement what is due"* and P2 stated that *"The personal obstacle I faced when trying to prevent crime in Tabuk City is when I'm alone, and I'm not physically prepared to respond"*. Also, P6 added, *"During the implementation of traffic rules, I cannot deny that some are friends, acquaintances and relatives who violate but the understanding of situations sometimes prevails but if no valid reason rules must also prevail and should face a penalty."* This emphasizes the sense of duty and accountability that comes with their involvement in attempts to prevent a crime. However, police officers' professionalism and honesty in their responsibilities to prevent crime can be improved by recognizing and addressing the influence of their relationships and responsibilities. The impact of police officers' duty and personal relationships on implementing crime prevention was crucial to effective law enforcement, as effective police officers are diligent and efficient in their duties and responsibilities (Ejoc & Alferes, 2018).

Threat and personal attack. The challenges of threats and personal attacks draw attention to the severe personal difficulties that police officers deal with when attempting to prevent crime. As quoted from the statement of P3, *"Threat, harassment and fear,"* and added from P5, *"Personal attack and hatred."* These highlighted the severe challenges that police officers have in their attempts to prevent crimes because of the threats and personal attacks that were leveled at them. This also emphasized that police officers suffered the added burden of being the subject of personal harassment or violence in addition to the risks that come with their duties. Gomes et al. (2022) emphasized that persistent threats increased officer stress and burnout, potentially leading to retention issues and staffing shortages within police departments.

Cultural sensitivity and diversity. The police officers highlighted their challenges in crime prevention through cultural sensitivity and diversity. As quoted from the statements of P4, *"Our province is composed of many tribes, and sometimes this tribal connection is used negatively. Tribes must be considered due to differences in customs and traditions, but most of all, considered to help the peace and order of the province"* and also from P7 *"Intervention of the Bodong System (Peace Pact*

System)." This implies that tensions or disputes within the group may arise from cultural differences, such as the disparities in customs and traditions among various tribes. The *Bodong* system's involvement shows how dependent the community is on customary means of settling conflicts and upholding social orders. Fair (2023) highlighted that when police officers do not understand diverse cultural backgrounds within communities, they might inadvertently perpetuate biases or engage in discriminatory practices, leading to mistrust among marginalized groups.

In terms of family obstacles or challenges encountered

Lack of time. One major issue that impacted family relationships among police officers was the lack of time because of the demands of their jobs. As provided from the statements of P2, *"As a police officer, it saves me the chance to sustain the needs of my family, but it also limits the time to be with them during special occasions and holidays,"* added P4 *"My family is proud to have a police officer in our family group, but there is a consequence of sacrifices on other matters like family gatherings if in case the Philippine National Police is on full alert"* and P7 *"Time Mismanagement."* This implies that family members of the police officers might find it difficult to connect or partake in meaningful activities together due to this lack of time, which can result in police officers being absent from significant family gatherings or celebrations. Dingman (2022) found that the nature of police officers often involved irregular and long hours, rotating shifts, and unpredictable work schedules, which could significantly disrupt families' routines and limit quality time spent with their loved ones.

High risk and stress. This highlighted the experience of the police officers' families in the impact of the risks and stressors of their loved one's occupation in law enforcement. As quoted from the statement of P3, *"High risk because of the stressors of the job, as well as the stress created by shift work."* This suggests that because the family members are at risk of coming into danger daily, the family members frequently feel increased anxiety, fear, and mental discomfort. Furthermore, the strain brought on by the unpredictability of shift work may also affect the welfare of the police officer's family. In addition, Eikenberry et al. (2023) emphasized that police officers might have struggled to switch off work-related stressors at home, leading to conflict or disconnection from family members.

Role modeling and guidance. This highlighted the significant responsibility that police officers carry out not only in their professional roles but also in their roles within their own families. As stated by sample P6, *"I should be a good example and always remind my family members to be guided in rules and regulations that are being implemented."* This suggested the dual nature of the police officers' role. In addition to upholding the law and keeping their communities safe, police officers must lead by a good example and be role models for their families. Valmari et al. (2023) emphasized that police officers often served as role models for their families, demonstrating responsibilities,



integrity, and dedication to public service, regardless of the challenges in their work.

In terms of community obstacles or challenges encountered

Maximum Tolerance. This emphasized the problem encountered by the police officers in showing tolerance and calm in difficult situations. As quoted from the statements of the P4, *"Trying to keep in touch with the community through dialogue and being a person with maximum tolerance if engaged in any police operation to a disrespectful person with any violent reactions,"* and added from the P6, *"Some of the populaces are arrogant and not willing to abide but always practice maximum tolerance."* This shows how important it is for police officers to communicate with the public in a patient, understanding, and respectful manner, especially in situations that could involve confrontation. Caliwan and Nepomuceno (2023) stated that a maximum tolerance approach of police officers could contribute to a sense of security and safety within the community, even becoming challenging to implement.

Community engagement. Police officer's challenge encountered when trying to build trust and cooperation with the community to prevent crime was community engagement. As quoted from the statements of P3, *"Engage to school, pairing law enforcement together with school is another way to build trust."* P5 added, *"Become a good model, courteous, actively participating in various activities and communication in the community."* This implies that police officers actively participate in community engagement to prevent crime and improve public safety by fostering positive relationships between police officers and the communities they serve.

Concealment of criminals. This highlighted the severe problems of criminals hiding out in the community, which makes it difficult for police officers to enforce the law. This issue implies that efforts to establish confidence and support crime prevention may be hampered by community member's unwillingness to cooperate or report criminal activities. As revealed by the quoted statement of P1, *"Concealment of criminals is the main problem of law enforcement."* Valenzuela and Tamayo (2021) emphasized that if police work was ineffective or lacked community support, criminals might find it easier to hide within neighborhoods. This could occur when residents were reluctant to cooperate with police officers due to distrust and fear of retaliation.

Wrong perception. This emphasizes mistrust and unfavorable attitudes among community members toward the police officers. As quoted from the statement of P7, *"Wrong perception of the community about the police".* This perception may be from negative experiences in the community, abuse of authority by the police, discrimination, or media representations. As a result, creating partnerships with the community to prevent or deter crime becomes extremely difficult. Clark et al. (2019) found that negative perceptions of the police within communities could result in a loss of trust between them, which could hinder

cooperation with police investigations and discourage individuals from reporting crimes.

In terms of resources obstacles or challenges encountered

Limited funds. Police officers highlighted the limited funds needed to implement crime prevention, as quoted from the statement of P1: *"Our city Local Government Unit is very cooperative and supportive, but they cannot provide everything, so normally they are still short of funds."* P4 added, *"Limited funds to support activities, but not to the extent of sacrificing the safety of the public."* The statements suggested that although the Local Government Units cooperated and provided support, inadequate funds were available for successful crime prevention efforts. Rushin and Michalski (2020) emphasized that the limited funds might have led to staffing shortages within police departments, resulting in fewer officers to patrol neighborhoods, conduct investigations, and respond to emergencies.

Inadequate equipment and vehicles. Police officers emphasized the severe shortage of essential equipment and vehicles within their department, which significantly challenges them to carry out their duties effectively and ensure public safety. As quoted from the statements of P2, *"Lack of mobility or mobile vehicles to be used in the main office,"* P3, *"Lack of mobile vehicle and the other vehicles are under maintenance,"* P5, *"Lack of CCTVs,"* and including from P7, *"Lack of mobility and lack of radio communication equipment."* This implies that police officers encountered difficulties in maintaining operational preparedness and safety and successfully preventing crime due to a lack of equipment and vehicles in the police department, including patrol cars, communication devices, and surveillance technology. Annang et al. (2023) highlighted that inadequate vehicles could have led to delays in deploying officers to high-priority incidents responding to emergency calls and could have restricted mobility, particularly in rural or remote areas with large geographic regions to cover.

2. Coping mechanisms of police officers to manage the challenges encountered associated with their role in crime prevention

Coping mechanisms in terms of personal

Professional commitment and responsibilities. Police officers showed the need to carry out their duties and commitment despite the personal obstacles they faced in implementing crime prevention, as quoted by the statements from P1: *"By focusing on what is my part in implementing such activities, and doing my job religiously, fair, and with commitment,"* P5 *"As being part of the PNP organization we are equipped to face all challenges we encounter and also we practice maximum tolerance,"* P6 *"Always think that there are rules to be implemented and we are implementing those for prevention"* and added by P7 *"Avoid political intervention and just follow legal orders."* This highlighted that the police officers' continuous commitment to fulfilling their duties regardless of the personal challenges encountered to ensure successful efforts to prevent crime and maintaining professional integrity and adherence to



legal orders are essentials for their effectiveness. Dempsey et al. (2023) stated that police officers were bound by codes of ethics and professional standards that guided their conduct and decision-making. Upholding these principles, such as honesty, integrity, and impartiality, enabled police officers to navigate obstacles and maintain public trust in law enforcement.

Spiritual well-being, mental, and physical preparedness. Coping through spiritual well-being and mental and physical conditioning suggested a recognition of the pressure works of police officers in crime prevention, as quoted from the statement of P2, *"I cope by mind and physically conditioned,"* and P3, *"Through praying and having fun with my family."* This implies the importance of addressing the holistic well-being of police officers to ensure their resilience and effectiveness in crime prevention efforts. Police officer's spiritual well-being provides inner strength, while mental preparedness fosters resilience and sound decision-making under pressure (Murali, 2019). Physical preparedness ensured that police officers were physically fit and capable of performing their duties safely and effectively (Holder, 2023).

Cultural understanding and adaptation. Recognizing, understanding, and respecting the cultural differences within the community of Kalinga emerged as a coping mechanism among police officers in implementing successful crime prevention, as quoted from the statement of P4: *"Learn the culture of every tribe in Kalinga, adopt the good one, show respect and accept."* This emphasized the significance of different cultural competencies in effective community policing and crime prevention. Hancock and Tarallo (2021) revealed that understanding cultural differences enabled police officers to build trust, communicate effectively, and respond appropriately to community needs.

Coping mechanisms in terms of family

Effective communication and time spent with family. Police officers highlighted the importance of effective communication and time spent with family as the vital coping mechanism for problems encountered in their duties, particularly concerning their families. As quoted from the statements of P1, *"By explaining to them the nature of my job so they understand and admit it heartfully,"* then P2, *"I always informed my family of the activities,"* P3 *"Have time with the family,"* from P4 *"Having happy hour with family on another day if not busy or alert. Find time to have them socially engage"* and from P5 *"Communication."* This implies that police officers understand how important it is to keep communication and spend time with their families to manage the pressures of being a police officer. Soua et al. (2023) highlighted that maintaining open and honest communication within the family helped police officers navigate the challenges of their profession, including trauma, stress, and the demands of shift work.

Expressing care and financial support. Police officers expressed care and financial support as essential coping strategies

they faced in their families in their related duties. As quoted from the statements of P6, *"Constant reminder to my family member that will be sure of showing care to them,"* and P7, *"Time and financial management."* This suggests that the police officers show how crucial it is to express family love and care. By actively reminding their families of their care, police officers aim to foster a sense of security and well-being. Furthermore, adequate financial support is vital for ensuring they meet the needs of their families while fulfilling their responsibilities or duties as police officers. Zemlok (2022) highlighted that demonstrating care and support helped alleviate the anxiety and stress that family members may have experienced due to the inherent risks associated with police work.

Coping mechanisms in terms of community

Positive community engagement. Positive community engagement is an essential aspect of effective law enforcement. This theme highlighted the proactive approach that police officers can take to cultivate a supportive and cohesive community environment. This theme, as evidenced by the responses from P1 and P5, suggested the significance of fostering solid ties with the community to promote safety, trust, and cooperation. P1 highlighted the importance of imparting the values of peace to community members and emphasizing its positive impact on the community. As quoted from the statement of P1, *"By imparting to them the importance of peace and its effects on the community and development."* This suggested that the police officers recognized the role of communication in cultivating a shared understanding of the benefits of peace and cooperation in the community. Similarly, P5 emphasized the need to actively strengthen relationships within the community to gain its trust and support. As quoted from the statement of P5, *"Strengthen community relationships to win the heart of the community."* It implies that winning the hearts of community members requires consistent effort and responsiveness to their needs and concerns. Modise (2023) stated that positive community engagement fostered mutual respect and understanding between residents and police officers, reducing tensions and helping police departments tailor their services to meet the specific needs and priorities of the communities they served.

Professionalism and Ethical Conduct. This theme emphasized the importance of upholding high standards of behavior and integrity in law enforcement practice. As evidenced by the responses provided, P2 stresses the importance of being *"Always genuine in action."* This implies that police officers should consistently act with honesty, sincerity, and transparency in their interactions with the community. P3 emphasized the fundamental responsibility of police officers to *"Just do our work and duties as a police officer."* This implies the importance of dedication and professionalism in fulfilling the obligations associated with the role of a police officer. P4 added, *"Just continue patience since PNP work is not finished until you retire. Love your work, and avoid any unfavorable situations that may affect PNP as a whole"*. This highlighted the encouragement of the police officers to maintain patience and dedication throughout their



careers; this response also emphasized the long-term commitment required to serve and protect communities effectively. Similarly, P6 stresses the importance of "*Observing maximum tolerance and understanding of the situation.*" This suggests that police officers should approach challenging situations with empathy and patience with the community. P7 focused on the imperative to "*Avoid doing unnecessary negative activities.*" This implies the importance of ethical decision-making and integrity in law enforcement practice. This theme is highlighted as the foundation principles that guide effective police officer practices and are essential for maintaining public confidence and trust in the police. By embodying ethical and professional behavior, police officers not only upheld the rules of law but also promoted positive relationships with the community, enhanced accountability, and maintained the criminal justice system's integrity (Philippine National Police Code of Professional Conduct and Ethical Standards, 2022).

Coping Mechanisms in terms of resources

Resource Management. This emphasized the importance of effectively utilizing available resources to address challenges and limitations in crime prevention efforts. As quoted from the statement of P1, "*Optimized the available resources.*" This response emphasized the need to make the best use of the resources already at hand, namely that by optimizing available resources, police officers can maximize their efficiency and effectiveness in addressing crime prevention, as quoted from the statement of P6, "*Used resources in proper and right usages.*" It highlighted the importance of using resources responsibly and efficiently and ensuring they were utilized effectively to achieve desired outcomes. P4 added, "*We have to cut off unnecessary expenses like conserved electric energy and follow the guidance of the higher headquarters regarding energy conservation.*" This response emphasized the importance of cost-saving measures and conservation efforts in resource management. This theme of proper resource management enables police officers to operate more effectively and efficiently, maximizing their impact on crime prevention without overstressing limited resources. Townsend and Loudoun (2023) emphasized allocating and utilizing personnel, equipment, funding, and technology-enabled police departments to respond to emergencies promptly and implement proactive crime prevention strategies.

Collaboration and Partnership for Resource Support. The theme highlighted the importance of working with external entities to access additional resources to strengthen their capabilities and effectiveness in addressing crime and maintaining public safety. As evidenced from the responses, P5 emphasized the importance of "*Engagement to various establishments to set up CCTVs for security purposes.*" This partnership provides additional resources and fosters a sense of shared responsibility for community safety among stakeholders. Added by P7: "*Seek the support of stakeholders like Local Government Units.*" This response emphasized the importance of seeking support from LGUs to bolster crime prevention efforts, and by collaborating with LGUs, police officers can tap into

additional resources. Zaghoul and Patridge (2022) emphasized that collaboration and partnership for resource support enabled police departments to enhance their capabilities, optimize resource allocation, and deliver more comprehensive and impactful services to the communities they served.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

Based on the findings, the following conclusions were drawn.

The challenges faced by police officers in effectively preventing crime were complex and multifaceted, encompassing personal, familial, community relations, and resource-related obstacles. Police officers navigated the strains of high-stress environments, grappling with mental health issues and physical demands while balancing the needs of their families against the demands of their profession. However, through proactive coping mechanisms, police officers endeavored to overcome these obstacles. By prioritizing mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being, officers enhanced their ability to effectively serve and protect their communities, contributing to safer and more cohesive societies.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher recommends the following:

1. Police Departments may prioritize mental health support for police officers, including access to counseling services, peer support programs, and stress management resources.
2. Police Departments may promote work-life balance through flexible scheduling options, adequate time off, and family-friendly policies.
3. Investing in cultural competency training for police officers and promoting transparency and accountability in policing practices can also help bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community.
4. Collaborating with other law enforcement agencies, community organizations, and government entities can also help leverage additional resources and support.
5. The original research, focused only on police officers. However, conducting a follow-up study among other researchers that examines or determines the experience or perception of the community on the effectiveness of police officers in implementing crime prevention can provide a more comprehensive understanding.

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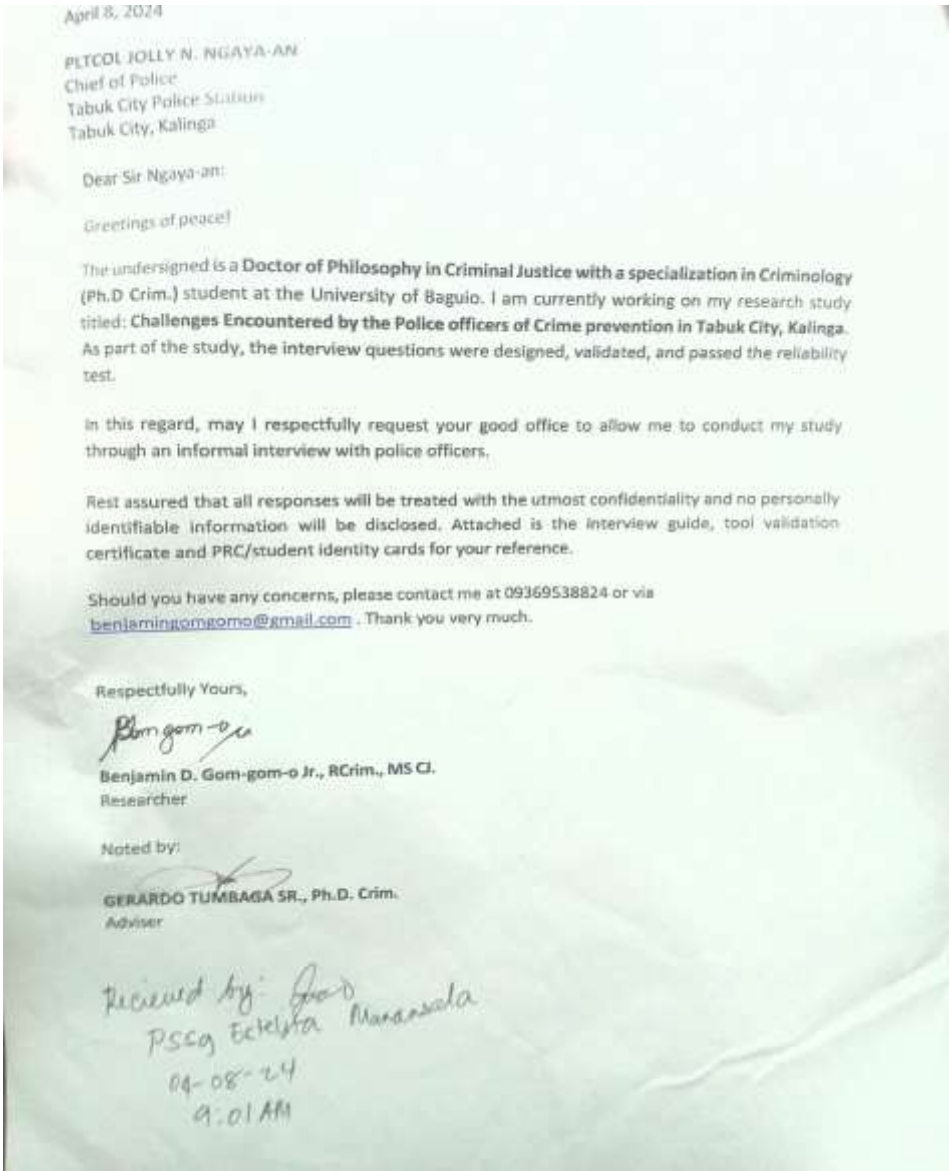
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Appendix A
Letter to conduct study



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Appendix B Interview Guide

Challenges encountered by the Police officers of crime prevention in Tabuk City, Kalinga

This aims to determine the challenges encountered by police officers in crime prevention within Tabuk City, Kalinga.

- A. The following are the interview questions regarding the challenges encountered by the police officer, in terms of; Personal (yourself); Family Relationships; Community Relations; and Resources.
 1. Can you tell me about some of the personal obstacles you faced when trying to prevent crime in Tabuk City?
 2. What is the impact of your work as a police officer on your family life and relationships?
 3. What are the challenges you encounter when trying to build trust and cooperation with the community to prevent crime?
 4. In your efforts to prevent crime in Tabuk City, what are some of the challenges you face due to resources (like funds, equipment, or materials to be used)?

- B. The following are the interview questions regarding the coping mechanisms of police officers in Tabuk City, Kalinga utilize to manage the challenges encountered associated with their role in crime prevention.
 1. How do you personally cope with the obstacles you face when trying to prevent crime in Tabuk City?
 2. What coping strategies do you employ on these challenges you encountered as a police officer in your family life and relationships?
 3. How do you manage these challenges you encounter within the community while still striving to maintain positive relationships as a law enforcement officer?
 4. What coping strategies do you employ to overcome resource limitations and challenges in your crime prevention efforts?

Appendix C. Transcript

1 Can you tell me about some of the personal obstacles you faced when trying to prevent crime in Tabuk City?

P1 "Thinking of what would be the impact of my action, but I must have to do so, to implement what is due".

P2 "The personal obstacle I faced when trying to prevent crime in Tabuk City is when I'm alone and I'm not physically prepared to respond.

P3 "Threat, harassment and fear".

P4 "Our province is composed of many tribes, sometimes this tribal connection was used negatively. Tribes must be considered due to differences in customs and traditions, but most of all, considered to help the peace and order of the province".

P5 "Personal attack and hatred".

P6 "During the implementation of traffic rules, I cannot deny that some are friends, acquaintances and relatives who violate but the understanding of situations sometimes prevails but if no valid reason rules must also prevail and should face penalty".

P7 "Intervention of the *Bodong* System (Peace Pact System)".

2 What is the impact of your work as a police officer on your family life and relationships?

P1 "I was a police officer before we married my partner, hence she accepted all the challenges or consequences of being a law enforcer's wife".

P2 "As a police officer it saves me the chance to sustain the needs of my family but it also limits the time to be with them during special occasions and holidays.

P3 "High risk because of the stressors of the job, as well as the stress created by shift work".

P4 "My family is proud to have a police officer in our family group, but there is a consequence of sacrifices on other matters like family gatherings if in case the Philippine National Police is on full alert".

P5 "Feeling safe and convenient to connect to PNP".

P6 "I should be a good example and always remind my family members to be guided in rules and regulations that are being implemented".

P7 "Time Mismanagement".

3 What are the challenges you encounter when trying to build trust and cooperation with the community to prevent crime?

P1 "Concealment of criminals is the main problem of law enforcement".

P2 "The challenges encountered when trying to build trust and cooperation with the community is the inconsistency of the programs, cultural defenses, and the "*bahala kayo system*" (It's up to You System).

P3 "Engage to school, pairing law enforcement together with school is another way to build trust".

P4 "Trying to keep in touch with the community through dialogue and being a person with maximum tolerance if engaged in any police operation to a disrespectful person with any violent reactions".

P5 "Become a good model, courteous, actively participating in various activities and communication in the community".

P6 "Some of the populaces are arrogant and not willing to abide but always practice maximum tolerance".

P7 "Wrong perception of the community about the police".



4 In your efforts to prevent crime in Tabuk City, what are some of the challenges you face due to resources (like funds, equipment, or materials to be used)?

P1 "Our city Local Government Unit is very cooperative and supportive but they cannot provide everything, so normally they are still short of funds".

P2 "Lack of mobility or mobile vehicles to be used in the main office".

P3 "Lack of mobile vehicle and the other vehicles are under maintenance".

P4 "Limited fund to support activities, but not to the extent of sacrificing the safety of the public".

P5 "Lack of CCTVs".

P6 "Our city mayor is supportive in the implementation of such crime prevention to aid some of the materials needed by the office".

P7 "Lack of mobility and lack of radio communication equipment".

1 How do you personally cope with the obstacles you face when trying to prevent crime in Tabuk City?

P1 "By focusing on what is my part in implementing such activities, and doing my job religiously, fair, and with commitment".

P2 "I cope by mind and physically conditioned".

P3 "Through praying and having fun with my family".

P4 "Learn the culture of every tribe in Kalinga, adopt the good one, show respect and accept".

P5 "As being part of the PNP organization we are equipped to face all challenges we encounter and also we practice maximum tolerance".

P6 "Always think that there are rules to be implemented and we are implementing those for prevention".

P7 "Avoid politics intervention and just follow legal orders".

2 What coping strategies do you employ on these challenges you encountered as a police officer in your family life and relationships?

P1 "By explaining to them the nature of my job so they understand and admit it heartfully".

P2 "I always informed my family of the activities". P3 "Have time with the family".

P4 "Having happy hour with family on another day if not busy or alert. Find time to have them socially engage".

P5 "Communication".

P6 "Constant reminder to my family member that will be sure of showing care to them".

P7 "Time and financial management".

3 How do you manage these challenges you encounter within the community while still striving to maintain positive relationships as a law enforcement officer?

P1 "By imparting to them the importance of peace and its effects on the community and development".

P2 "Always genuine in action". P3 "Just do our work and duties as a police officer".

P4 "Just continue patience since PNP work is not finished yet until you retire. Love your work, and avoid any unfavorable situations that may affect PNP as a whole.

P5 "Strengthen community relationships to win the heart of the community".

P6 "Observing maximum tolerance and understanding of the situation".

P7 "Avoid doing unnecessary negative activities".

4 What coping strategies do you employ to overcome resource limitations and challenges in your crime prevention efforts?

P1 "Optimized the available resources".

P2 "Be resourceful".

P3 "More mobile vehicle".

P4 "We have to cut off unnecessary expenses like conserved electric energy and follow the guidance of the higher headquarters regarding energy conservation".

P5 "Engagement to various establishments to set up CCTVs for security purposes".

P6 "Used resources in proper and right usages".

P7 "Seek the support of stakeholders like Local Government Units".



Appendix D
Tool Validation Certificate

 UNIVERSITY OF Baguio	Research and Development Center	UBRDC- RM No. ____	Version Number: 02	Version Date: 01.10.2017
	TOOL VALIDATION	Effectivity Date: 01-10-17	SCORE: _____	
Certification				

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that I have validated the questionnaire /
checklist / test question / survey / interview guide of the study
titled:

Challenges encountered by the Police officers in crime prevention in
Tabuk City, Kalinga

The proponent/s may proceed to data gathering.

VALIDATOR	DATE	SIGNATURE
DR. MARILOU M. SAONG	April 4, 2024	



**Appendix E.
CURRICULUM VITAE**

BENJAMIN DACQUIL GOM-GOM-O JR.

Tabuk City, Kalinga

EDUCATION

Graduate Studies	Doctor of Philosophy in Criminal Justice with Specialization in Criminology (On-going)
	Master of Science in Criminal Justice with Specialization in Criminology CICOSAT COLLEGES San Fernando City, La Union June 2019
Tertiary	Bachelor of Science in Criminology Panpacific University Urdaneta City, Pangasinan June 2016
Secondary	Cauayan City National High School Cauayan City, Isabela March 2012
Elementary	Agbannawag Elementary School Tabuk City, Kalinga March 2007

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE/S

Instructor	Urdaneta City University Urdaneta City, Pangasinan August 2017 – January 2018
Instructor	Northwestern University Laoag City, Ilocos Norte October 2020 - November 2021

TEST TAKEN / ELIGIBILITY

Licensure Examination for Criminology
Rosales, Pangasinan, October 2016

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Member	Professional Criminologists Association of the Philippines (PCAP) Philippine Security and Safety Professional Practitioner Association Inc.
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