



# PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED OF BARANGAY TANOD IN PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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## ABSTRACT

*This study aims to identify the problems encountered by Barangay Tanods in Barangay Sto. Rosario in performing their duties and responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Barangay Tanods, or Barangay Police Security Officers (BPSOs), serve as the lowest level of law enforcement officers in the Philippines and play a crucial role in maintaining peace and order in their respective barangays. However, their effectiveness and preparedness during the pandemic have been challenged due to various factors. The research utilizes a descriptive research design and qualitative descriptive approach to gather data through questionnaires, informal interviews, and observations. The data collected is analyzed using weighted mean and the Likert scale to assess the seriousness of the identified problems. The findings reveal several significant problems faced by Barangay Tanods during the pandemic. These include dealing with ill-tempered and stubborn individuals, non-compliance with safety protocols such as wearing face masks and observing social distancing, residents' resistance to following rules, encountering hostility and harassment, and facing challenges in correcting violators. These problems are categorized as serious to very serious based on their weighted mean scores. The study emphasizes the need for increased awareness and preparedness among Barangay Tanods in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities during the pandemic. The findings can serve as a basis for developing interventions and training programs to address these challenges effectively. By enhancing the competence and knowledge of Barangay Tanods, their ability to ensure the safety and well-being of their community can be strengthened even in the face of unprecedented circumstances like the COVID-19 pandemic.*

## INTRODUCTION

Barangays have ancient roots in the Philippines, serving as independent villages resembling city-states. Organized by indigenous communities, they were crucial to the social structure of the Philippine Archipelago. The term "barangay" stems from the Malay word "balangay," signifying early settlements with around 50 to 100 families (Jimenez, 2013).

Within the barangay governance structure, the Barangay Police Security Officers (BPSOs) or Tanods are frontline law enforcers within barangay governance. Supervised by the Barangay Captain, they serve as watchmen and peacekeepers. While collaborating with the Philippine National Police (PNP), they're not part of it but are acknowledged as force multipliers, assisting in law implementation within barangays (Manual on Barangay Peace Keeping Operation and Peace Keeping Action Team, 2009).

Barangay Tanods play a vital role in maintaining peace and order within their respective barangays, serving as an effective and indispensable instrument of even the smallest Local Government Units (LGUs). Composed of civilian volunteers, they safeguard their neighborhoods from lawless elements and deter criminals, particularly in areas where police presence may be limited. Equipped with nightsticks, they face inherent risks and dangers while carrying out their duties. However, the incentives provided to them are often inadequate compared to the risks they undertake (Gapangada, A.B., 2013).

In an effort to professionalize the BPSOs and enhance peace and order, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) introduced a program that includes various training and seminars. However, due to financial constraints within the barangay, the selection process often skips this crucial stage. Consequently, the competency of barangay tanods in dealing with crimes comes into question. Their preparedness and awareness as first responders in

crime incidents continue to fall short, putting their lives and well-being at risk. Regrettably, a significant number of barangay tanods have already been assaulted, injured, or even killed, leaving their families and dependents to fend for themselves (DILG, 2003).

Amidst these challenging circumstances, The COVID-19 pandemic, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, has surpassed previous outbreaks in global impact and death tolls. Emerging in Wuhan, China, in December 2019, COVID-19 primarily affects the respiratory system. While most cases are mild, some individuals, especially older adults and those with underlying conditions, face severe illness. Vaccines have been developed and proven effective in combating the virus (Joi, P. 2020; Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021).

Frontline workers, including many essential workers, play a vital role in meeting basic needs during the COVID-19 crisis. They often cannot work remotely and are disproportionately comprised of less educated and minority individuals, earning below-average wages. Providing hazard pay to these workers is justified due to the risks they face and for equity reasons (Francine D. et.al., 2022).

Jhoselle Tus's 2021 study sheds light on the challenges faced by barangay tanods amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Exposed to public areas, they not only risk contracting the virus but also endure mistreatment from violators while carrying out their duties. Tus identifies specific challenges within their work environment and explores the shifts in policing strategies necessitated by the pandemic, along with how barangay tanods cope with these changes. Meanwhile, Ayeo-eo, Paet, and Repoyo's study in the same year reveals three main challenges encountered by barangay front liners in Cabanatuan City. Residents' difficult behaviors, such as non-compliance with



safety measures like wearing facemasks and maintaining social distancing, pose significant hurdles for enforcement. Moreover, residents' resistance to following protocols and their unfriendly responses when confronted exacerbate the difficulties faced by barangay front liners (Ayeo-eo, S. et al., 2022).

Barangay tanods, as front-line workers, have not been exempt from the risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Working in public areas, they face potential exposure to the virus. Apart from health risks, they also encounter mistreatment from violators. The sudden shift in their work environment has presented various challenges, and their ability to cope and adapt to new policing strategies is crucial. In response, the government has provided incentives to address their health

## OBJECTIVES

The study determined the problems encountered by barangay tanods during the COVID-19 pandemic. It identified and analyzed the specific issues faced by barangay tanods in their work environment, including problems related to communication and other factors that hindered their ability to effectively perform their duties during the pandemic. By achieving these objectives, the study contributed to a better understanding of the challenges faced by barangay tanods during the COVID-19 pandemic. The findings could inform the development of targeted interventions, policies, and support systems to enhance the well-being and effectiveness of these essential frontline workers in the future.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

What are the problems encountered in performing their duties and responsibilities by the Barangay tanods of Brgy. Santo Rosario, Santa Rosa Nueva Ecija?

## METHODOLOGY

The methodology for this study utilized a descriptive research design to address the research questions outlined above. A quantitative descriptive approach was employed, as it was best suited for providing a straightforward description focusing on the details of the event or experience, including the what, where, when, and why. To gather data for this study, a survey questionnaire was administered to the participants. The questionnaire was adopted on the study of Ayeo-eo, S., Paet, E., Repoyo, L., 2022 Problems encountered by the barangay front liners on the onset of the covid-19 pandemic. It included a range of questions that explored their experiences, challenges, and interactions in the workplace.

The study involved 30 barangay tanods from Barangay Sto. Rosario, Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija, who served during the pandemic. These frontline responders played a crucial role in enforcing health protocols, ensuring compliance with quarantine measures, and assisting residents. Their experiences provide valuable insights into public safety and pandemic management at the grassroots level, highlighting adaptive strategies and community dynamics. Understanding their perspectives contributes to discussions on community resilience and preparedness for future crises.

**Table 1. Likert Scale**

Numerical Rating	Statistical Limit	Descriptive Value
4	3.26 - 4.00	Very Serious (VS)
3	2.51 - 3.25	Serious (S)
2	1.76 - 2.50	Moderately Serious (MS)
1	1.00 - 1.75	Not Serious (NS)

Table 1 represents the likert scale is used to gauge the seriousness of the problems encountered by the respondents regarding specific indicators.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

**Table 2 The Problems Encountered by Barangay Tanods**

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Rank
1. Ill tempered, Stern (Masusungit)	2.60	Serious	7
2. Stubborn (Madalas Pasaway)	2.75	Serious	6
3. Not frequent wearing of facemask (hindi madalas mag facemask)	3.60	Very Serious	2
4. Not observing social distancing when gathered (ang di pagdistancia sa maraming tao)	3.65	Very Serious	1
5. Not following rules (mga di sumusunod sa alituntunin)	3.50	Very Serious	3
6. They hate you because of the prohibitions (may nakakagalit dahil sa mga ipinagbabawal)	3.35	Very Serious	4
7. Sulking when corrected (nagtatampo sila pag nasisita)	2.95	Serious	5
8. Harassed and bad-mouthed (inaaway at minumura)	2.45	Moderately Serious	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.10</b>	<b>Serious</b>	

These indicators evaluate the problems encountered by barangay tanods. Here is the interpretation for each indicator based on their weighted mean and the corresponding verbal interpretation:

Harassed and bad-mouthed (inaaway at minumura): With a weighted mean of 2.45, this indicator is classified as "Moderately Serious." It suggests that individuals who engage

in harassment and verbal abuse are considered moderately serious. It ranks 8th among the indicators.

Ill tempered, Stern (Masusungit): This indicator has a weighted mean of 2.60, which falls under the category of "Serious." It suggests that individuals exhibiting ill-tempered or stern behavior are considered serious in terms of their impact or severity. It ranks 7th among the indicators.



Stubborn (Madalas Pasaway): With a weighted mean of 2.75, this indicator is also classified as "Serious." It implies that individuals who are frequently stubborn are regarded seriously. It ranks 6th among the indicators.

Sulking when corrected (nagtatampo sila pag nasisita): This indicator has a weighted mean of 2.95, falling under the category of "Serious." It implies that individuals who sulk or get upset when corrected are seen as a serious matter. It ranks 5th among the indicators.

They hate you because of the prohibitions (may nakakagalit dahil sa mga ipinagbabawal): With a weighted mean of 3.35, this indicator is also classified as "Very Serious." It suggests that individuals who are disliked or provoke anger due to prohibitions are considered a very serious issue. It ranks 4th among the indicators.

Not following rules (mga di sumusunod sa alituntunin): This indicator has a weighted mean of 3.50, falling under the category of "Very Serious." It indicates that individuals who fail to follow rules are regarded as a very serious concern. It ranks 3rd among the indicators.

Not frequent wearing of facemask (hindi madalas mag facemask): This indicator has a weighted mean of 3.60, falling under the category of "Very Serious." It indicates that individuals who do not often wear facemasks are considered to pose a very serious risk. It ranks 2nd among the indicators.

Not observing social distancing when gathered (ang di pagdistancia sa maraming tao): With a weighted mean of 3.65, this indicator is also classified as "Very Serious." It suggests that not adhering to social distancing guidelines when in a group is seen as a very serious violation. It ranks 1st among the indicators.

The total weighted mean for all indicators is 3.10, which falls under the category of "Serious." This indicates an overall serious level of concern for the evaluated behaviors or traits within the given context.

These factors suggest that face masks and social distances different fractions of asymptomatic individuals, as well as a realistic hypothesis of face masks protection during inhaling and exhaling, our simulations demonstrate that a synergistic use of face masks and social distancing is the most effective intervention to curb the infection spread. To control the pandemic, our models suggest that high adherence to social distance is necessary to curb the spread of the disease, and that wearing face masks provides optimal protection even if only a small portion of the population comply with social distance. In the case of COVID-19, community collaborations, healthcare systems, local governments, and the private sector will be critical in slowing the spread, mitigating the effects, and facilitating local recovery. Local governments are at the forefront of the fight: their leadership is not only distinguished by the language and speed with which they respond to this disaster, but it also has a direct impact on the health and well-being of their citizens. (B,M,D, Gupit, Cuevas, 2022)

## CONCLUSION

1. In conclusion, the evaluation of indicators pertaining to the problems encountered by barangay tanods in Barangay Santo Rosario, Santa Rosa, Nueva Ecija, paints a concerning picture. The findings reveal a range of behaviors and issues, from ill-tempered attitudes to non-compliance with essential health protocols like wearing face masks and observing social

distancing. These factors collectively underscore a serious level of concern regarding the ability of barangay tanods to effectively carry out their duties in maintaining peace and order within the community.

## Recommendation

Based on the identified problems of barangay tanods not observing social distancing and not wearing facemasks, the following recommendations can be made to address these concerns:

1. Implement targeted communication strategies to educate barangay tanods about the importance of social distancing and wearing facemasks. Utilize training sessions, informational campaigns, and materials to emphasize these practices' significance in disease prevention.
2. Provide comprehensive training programs to equip barangay tanods with the knowledge and skills needed to adhere to public health protocols. Ensure they understand the rationale behind these practices and the consequences of non-compliance.
3. Strengthen enforcement of social distancing and facemask mandates, assigning individuals or teams to monitor compliance. Implement penalties for violations to deter non-compliance effectively.
4. Equip barangay tanods with necessary resources such as facemasks and sanitizers to enforce protocols effectively. Install signs and markings in public areas to remind individuals to maintain social distancing.
5. Encourage community members to actively participate in adhering to protocols and support barangay tanods in enforcement efforts. Foster a sense of collective responsibility for public health.
6. Regularly assess the effectiveness of implemented strategies, gathering feedback from barangay tanods and community members. Use this feedback to refine approaches and adjust measures as needed for ongoing improvement.
7. By implementing these recommendations, barangay tanods can work towards addressing the problems of not observing social distancing and not wearing facemasks. Through effective communication, enforcement of rules, and community collaboration, the aim is to promote compliance and create a safer and healthier environment within the barangay.

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