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AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF THE PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY'S ROLES AND STRATEGIES: TOWARDS A FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

This study presents an in-depth analysis of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency's (PDEA) roles and strategies in combating the illegal drug trade to develop a strategic framework to enhance the agency's effectiveness. Using a mixed-methods approach, the study gathered data from administrators and drug enforcement officers (DEOs) through surveys and interviews to evaluate the extent of implementation, effectiveness, challenges, and perceptions surrounding PDEA's core functions. Key focus areas included enforcement operations, inter-agency and international collaboration, community engagement, public health impacts, technology use, and the influence of legal and institutional obstacles. Findings revealed that while PDEA's enforcement efforts are perceived to be effective to a considerable extent – particularly in disrupting drug supply chains and engaging communities – several challenges persist. These include resource limitations, evolving drug trafficking methods, insufficient technological integration, and disparities in public cooperation. Statistical analysis also showed significant differences in perceptions between administrators and DEOs on aspects such as international cooperation and technology utilization. The study proposes a six-component strategic framework, dubbed INTEGRATE-PDEA, which includes Intelligence and Technology Integration, Strengthened Cooperation, Community Engagement, Rehabilitation and Reintegration, Capacity Building, and Monitoring and Adaptation. This integrated model addresses both supply and demand reduction, promotes ethical and data-driven enforcement, and strengthens institutional coordination. Ultimately, the research underscores the importance of a balanced, multi-sectoral approach that combines enforcement with prevention, rehabilitation, and stakeholder collaboration. The proposed framework serves as a guide for future policy development, capacity-building efforts, and reforms aimed at improving the sustainability and impact of national drug control initiatives.

KEYWORDS: *PDEA, Drug Enforcement, Counter-Narcotics, Framework Development, Community Engagement, Rehabilitation, International Cooperation, Philippines.*

INTRODUCTION

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) serves as the Philippines' foremost line of defense against the formidable challenge of illegal drug trade and abuse. Established in response to the growing menace of drug-related crimes and public health concerns, PDEA's inception marked a pivotal moment in the Philippines' commitment to addressing the complex issue of illicit drugs. This critical development was facilitated through the enactment of Republic Act No. 9165, more commonly known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002. Under this law, PDEA was entrusted with a comprehensive mandate to enforce regulations, prosecute violators, and coordinate with various government agencies to combat drug-related problems.

At the heart of PDEA's mission lies the protection of public health, national security, and the overall well-being of the Filipino people. To achieve this, the agency employs a multifaceted approach that covers various aspects of the drug issue. Firstly, PDEA conducts thorough investigations to identify drug traffickers and manufacturers, as well as their illicit operations. Through intelligence gathering, the agency endeavors to stay one step ahead of the ever-evolving strategies employed by drug syndicates, thus enabling more effective enforcement.

Moreover, PDEA recognizes the importance of collaboration, both domestically and internationally, as it cannot tackle this widespread problem in isolation. Interagency cooperation is a key element in its strategy, as it works closely with other government bodies, such as the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation, to create a united front against the drug trade. Additionally, PDEA often collaborates with foreign law enforcement agencies, sharing information and resources to combat the transnational aspect of drug trafficking that affects not only the Philippines but the global community as well.

Beyond enforcement and cooperation, PDEA places significant emphasis on community-based drug prevention programs. Recognizing that prevention is a vital component of the solution, the agency actively engages with local communities to educate and empower citizens to resist the allure of illegal drugs. These programs promote awareness, provide support to individuals struggling with addiction, and offer alternatives to those vulnerable to drug abuse.

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Nevertheless, the road to a drug-free Philippines is far from smooth, and PDEA faces numerous challenges. The agency contends with the ever-adapting tactics of drug traffickers, who employ increasingly sophisticated means to evade law enforcement. Additionally, the social and economic factors that contribute to drug abuse remain deeply ingrained in some areas of society, making it difficult to achieve sustainable progress. Despite these challenges, PDEA remains unwavering in its dedication to eradicating the drug menace and contributing to a safer, healthier, and more secure Philippines.

Hence, this paper intends to provide a comprehensive and insightful examination of the pivotal roles and strategies employed by the PDEA in addressing the pervasive issue of illegal drug trade in the Philippines. This paper seeks to delve deep into the agency's multifaceted approach, investigating its enforcement methods, intelligence gathering, interagency collaborations, and community-based drug prevention programs. Furthermore, it aims to shed light on the challenges PDEA faces, both domestically and internationally, while acknowledging its achievements and successes in its relentless pursuit of a drug-free Philippines. The paper also endeavors to propose forward-looking recommendations and future directions for PDEA to enhance its effectiveness and overcome the evolving challenges presented by the drug trade. Ultimately, this paper intends to contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the complexities surrounding drug enforcement efforts in the Philippines and to facilitate informed discussions about the way forward in combating this critical issue.

Theoretical and Conceptual Framework

Three prominent theories served as the pillars upon which this research is structured: the CAP Control Theory of Drug Abuse, the Self-Esteem Theory of Drug Abuse, and the Social Bases of Drug-Induced Experiences. These theories represent diverse and interrelated perspectives within the field of drug abuse research, offering a comprehensive framework for understanding the multifaceted nature of substance abuse behaviors.

First, the CAP Control Theory of Drug Abuse, introduced by Michael A. Bozarth, provides a valuable framework for understanding the motivations and behaviors underlying drug use. This theory emphasizes the intricate balance between conflicting needs, the allure of immediate rewards, and the relentless pursuit of these rewards as fundamental components in comprehending drug abuse.

The CAP Control Theory underscores the complexity of drug addiction by highlighting the compromises individuals make between competing needs and desires. Gold's work, "The CAP Control Theory of Drug Abuse," delves into this concept, illustrating how drug use can serve as a compromise solution for individuals seeking to fulfill various, sometimes conflicting, needs and goals (Gold, 1980). The theory underscores the attractiveness of drug use due to the immediate gratification and positive reinforcement it offers. This aspect of the theory is explored in "Positive Reinforcement Produced by Electrical Stimulation of Septal Area and Other Regions of Rat Brain," where Olds and Milner (1954) conducted seminal research on the brain's reward system, providing insights into the reinforcing effects of drug use. Hence, the CAP Control Theory has practical implications for drug abuse prevention and treatment. It underscores the importance of addressing the underlying needs and motivations driving drug use in interventions.

Second, the Self-Esteem Theory of Drug Abuse offers a unique perspective on the complex relationship between self-esteem and substance abuse. This theory posits that self-esteem and self-worth are critical factors influencing an individual's vulnerability to drug abuse. Individuals with low self-esteem may turn to drugs as a coping mechanism to alleviate negative emotions and enhance their self-worth.

The theory highlights that individuals with low self-esteem may use drugs as a means of coping with negative emotions and psychological distress. Research conducted by Khantzian (1987) in his seminal paper "The Self-Medication Hypothesis of Addictive Disorders: Focus on Heroin and Cocaine Dependence" delves into this concept by examining how individuals may turn to substance use to self-medicate emotional pain and enhance self-esteem. Similarly, research has shown that self-esteem is closely linked to an individual's ability to regulate their emotions. When self-esteem is low, emotional regulation may be compromised, making it more likely for individuals to seek external means of emotional regulation, such as substance use. The paper "Emotion Regulation and Substance Use" by Gross and Muñoz (1995) explores the complex interplay between emotional regulation and self-esteem.

Lastly, the Social Bases of Drug-Induced Experiences theory provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the influence of social and environmental factors on an individual's drug-related experiences. This theory recognizes that the context in which drug use takes place, as well as social interactions and peer influences, plays a pivotal role in shaping drug abuse behaviors.

Peer pressure and social influence are key elements of the social bases theory. Research has demonstrated the powerful impact of peer groups on drug initiation and continued use. For example, the study "Stages in Adolescent Involvement in Drug Use" by Kandel (1975) explores how peer networks can significantly contribute to drug abuse behaviors among adolescents. Based on two longitudinal surveys involving random samples of high school students in New York State, a distinct four-stage pattern emerges in the progression of drug involvement. This sequence includes the use of various substances: initially, beer or wine, or both, followed by cigarettes or hard liquor, then marijuana, and ultimately, other illicit drugs.

Notably, legal drugs like alcohol and cigarettes serve as crucial transitional stages between non use and marijuana use. During a 5- to 6-month follow-up period, it was observed that 27 percent

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of high school students who both smoke and drink subsequently transition to marijuana use. In contrast, only 2 percent of those who abstain from any use of legal substances follow the same path. Furthermore, marijuana use plays a pivotal role in progressing to the consumption of other illicit drugs. Among marijuana users, 26 percent advance to using substances such as lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), amphetamines, or heroin, while merely 1 percent of individuals who don't use any drugs, including marijuana, and 4 percent of those who use legal drugs take a similar route. This pattern remains consistent throughout all four high school years and in the year following graduation. Conversely, a reversed pattern is observed for individuals who reduce their drug use, with legal drugs serving as the initial point of regression.

Social norms within a particular community or social group can shape drug-related behaviors. The paper "The Social Exigencies of the Gateway Progression to the Use of Illicit Drugs from Adolescence into Adulthood" by Otten et al. (2017) delves into the role of social norms in influencing drug policy and individual drug use decisions. According to the researchers, in this phase of growth and maturation, the presence of friends who engage in drug use plays a role in the transition to potentially more gratifying yet harmful illegal substances. These observations underscore the importance of considering the social environment when implementing preventive measures and support the widespread practice of involving non-drug-using peers in the treatment of drug dependency.

Further, the social bases theory acknowledges that cultural factors are integral to understanding drug-induced experiences. Cultural norms, beliefs, and practices can significantly influence an individual's perceptions and reactions to drug use. The article "A Cultural-Identity Theory of Drug Abuse" by Anderson (1998) offers a comprehensive exploration of cultural influences on drug use and abuse. The theory postulates that drug abuse results from a process of identity transformation related to drugs. This process involves three micro-level factors (personal alienation, discomfort with ego identity, and a lack of control in identity definition), two meso-level factors (social alienation and affiliation with a drug-related subculture), and three macro-level factors (economic opportunities, educational opportunities, and influences from popular culture). These components collectively depict the impetus for changing one's identity concerning drugs and the opportunities that facilitate such change.

By integrating these distinct but interconnected theories into our theoretical framework, the researcher aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of drug abuse behaviors, accounting for the complex interplay of psychological, social, and environmental factors. This theoretical foundation will guide the research, hypotheses, and analysis, allowing the researcher to explore the intricate relationship between these theories and their implications for drug abuse prevention and intervention strategies.

The conceptual framework provided outlines a comprehensive approach to analyzing the roles and strategies of the PDEA in combating the illegal drug trade. The input serves as a foundation for the framework, as it defines the starting point. It is imperative to present the agency's past achievements and set the context for analysis. Also, the researcher will identify the challenges and obstacles faced by PDEA provides a realistic understanding of the difficulties the agency encounters in its mission; understand the strategies and tactics adopted by PDEA is essential to assess their effectiveness in addressing the evolving dynamics of the illegal drug trade; consider international collaboration can significantly influence PDEA's effectiveness; gauge the broader implications of PDEA's strategies on society and public health; highlight the agency's efforts to address the demand side of the drug trade and its approach to prevention and rehabilitation; understand the role of technology and data analytics in modern law enforcement; and investigate the important contextual element affecting PDEA's effectiveness when corruption is present.

To do these things, the process involves creating a survey instrument designed to comprehensively analyze PDEA's roles and strategies. It includes questions related to the inputs mentioned above. The survey is distributed to relevant respondents, and their responses are retrieved. This step ensures data collection. Data collected from the survey is subjected to statistical analysis.

The ultimate output of this study is to provide future directions and strategies for the PDEA in enhancing its roles and strategies in addressing the illegal drug trade in the Philippines. These directions can include recommendations, policy improvements, resource allocation, and any necessary adjustments to enhance PDEA's effectiveness in combating the illegal drug trade.

Statement of the Problem

The general aim of this study is to analyze the PDEA's roles and strategies in combating illegal drug trade. Specifically, the researcher intends to answer the following research questions:

1. What is the profile of the respondents in terms of their positions?
2. To what extent do the respondents agree with reducing the prevalence of illegal drug trade and drug-related crimes in the Philippines through its enforcement efforts?
3. To what extent do respondents agree on the challenges and obstacles hindering PDEA's effectiveness in combating the illegal drug trade?
4. To what extent do respondents agree that international cooperation and collaboration impact PDEA's effectiveness in combating the illegal drug trade?
5. To what extent do the respondents agree that PDEA's strategies in combating the illegal drug trade have a significant impact on socio-economic conditions and public health?
6. To what extent do respondents agree that PDEA effectively engages with communities and civil society organizations to

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address the demand side of the drug trade and promote drug prevention and rehabilitation programs?
7. To what extent do respondents agree that technology and data analytics play a crucial role in the PDEA's efforts to track, monitor, and disrupt drug-related activities?
8. Is there a significant difference in the responses between administrators and drug enforcement officers?
9. What specific framework or strategic model can be proposed to enhance PDEA's role in addressing the illegal drug trade?

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The research design is a crucial aspect of the scientific inquiry process, providing a structured framework for collecting and analyzing data to answer the statement of the problem identified in the previous chapter. The descriptive research design will be used in this dissertation.

The researcher used the descriptive research design to provide a detailed account of a particular phenomenon, typically through methods like surveys. This design is valuable for exploring the characteristics, behaviors, or attributes of a single group or variable. It helps researchers gain a deeper understanding of the subject of interest, but it does not establish causal relationships. In this study, a descriptive research design is deemed appropriate in order for the researcher to describe the variables identified in the statement of the problem sub-section.

The researcher employed the quantitative research method. Quantitative research is a systematic and structured approach to studying phenomena through the collection and analysis of numerical data. It is characterized by its reliance on quantifiable variables, statistical techniques, and the use of objective, measurable measures. Researchers conducting quantitative studies often design experiments, surveys, or observational studies to gather data from a sample or population, and they use statistical methods to draw inferences, identify patterns, and test hypotheses.

Quantitative research is highly regarded for its ability to provide precise, replicable, and generalizable results, making it particularly valuable in fields like social sciences, natural sciences, and economics. It allows researchers to quantify relationships, make comparisons, and detect trends, enabling them to answer research questions with a high degree of rigor. However, it is important to recognize that quantitative research has its limitations, such as potentially overlooking the nuances and complexities of human behavior or qualitative aspects of a phenomenon. Researchers often combine quantitative and qualitative methods to gain a more comprehensive understanding of a subject, addressing its multifaceted nature.

Population and Locale of the Study

In this study, the research approach of total enumeration was utilized with 27 administration and 108 drug enforcement officers, contingent upon the voluntary participation of the potential respondents. Total enumeration, often referred to as a census, is a technique that involves collecting data from an entire population rather than a sample. It aims to gather information from every individual or unit within the defined population. This approach offers a comprehensive and detailed perspective on the entire population of interest, leaving no room for sampling error. However, it is contingent upon the voluntary involvement of the individuals or units being studied, as it is essential that they willingly participate in the research.

Consequently, all eligible individuals within the PDEA Regional Office III was invited to participate in the study. This comprehensive approach ensures that the research findings were representative of the entire population, as it encompasses the participation of every relevant individual or unit. The use of total enumeration is particularly valuable in situations where the population size is manageable and when it is feasible to engage with all potential respondents. It helps eliminate sampling biases and provides a complete picture of the phenomenon under investigation. The success of total enumeration in this study hinges on the willing participation of the individuals who make up the population.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Regional Office 3 (PDEA RO3) plays a pivotal role in implementing anti-drug laws in a significant geographical expanse within the Central Luzon region of the Philippines. This region encompasses seven provinces, which include Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Zambales, comprising a total of 115 municipalities, 15 cities, and 3,102 barangays. The agency's jurisdiction extends across a vast land area, totaling 21,470 square kilometers, and also covers three Freeport zones: Clark, Subic, and the Freeport Area of Bataan.

To effectively execute its operations and carry out its mission, PDEA RO3 maintains provincial offices in each of the aforementioned provinces. These provincial offices are strategically situated to facilitate the agency's anti-drug efforts within their respective areas of responsibility. They serve as regional outposts for planning, coordination, and law enforcement activities. Each provincial office was established on specific dates, marking their operational readiness.

In addition to these provincial offices, PDEA RO3 has established airport/seaport interdiction units across key locations to bolster its efforts in preventing illicit drug trafficking through air and sea routes. These units are strategically positioned at vital points, such as airports and seaports, to enhance drug interdiction operations. The establishment dates of these units further signify the agency's commitment to curbing drug-related activities and safeguarding the entry and exit points from drug trade and trafficking. This extensive network of offices and units underscores the comprehensive approach and dedication of the PDEA RO3 in its mission to combat illegal drug activities and contribute to public safety and security in the Central Luzon region.

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Data Gathering Tools

The research instrument for this study is composed of 8 parts, each aimed at gaining a comprehensive understanding of the PDEA's efforts in combating the illegal drug trade. Respondents will provide their responses to the following items on a 4-point Likert scale, ranging from "Strongly Agree" to "Strongly Disagree." Part I gathers basic information about the respondents, such as age, gender, education, and years of experience. Part II assesses the perceived effectiveness of PDEA's actions in reducing the illegal drug trade and drug-related crimes. Part III evaluates the challenges and obstacles encountered by the PDEA in its mission. Part IV evaluates the significance of international collaboration on the PDEA's effectiveness. Part V explores the perceived consequences of PDEA's strategies on socioeconomic and public health aspects. Part VI assesses the extent to which PDEA engages with communities and civil society organizations to address the demand side of the drug trade and promote prevention and rehabilitation programs. Part VII evaluates the role of technology and data analytics in tracking, monitoring, and disrupting drug-related activities.

For content validation, two (2) tool validators will evaluate the validity of each item using the Content Validity Index (CVI), assessing the relevance and clarity of the items. The CVI helps ensure that the items in the instrument effectively measure the constructs under investigation. On the other hand, for reliability testing, Cronbach's alpha was computed (α=0.912) to assess the internal consistency of the instrument. A high Cronbach's alpha value suggests that the items within each section are reliable and consistent in measuring the intended construct. The research instrument played an important role in gathering valuable data for the dissertation's analysis and conclusions.

Data Gathering Procedures

In the data collection process, the researcher adopted a systematic approach to facilitate effective communication with the participants and to ensure the active involvement of all intended respondents. The dissemination of survey questionnaires will entail direct contact with the participants, establishing a transparent avenue for interaction and guidance. This approach aims to offer participants the flexibility to complete the survey questionnaire at their convenience, thus promoting a more accommodating approach to participation.

Prior to commencing the study, formal authorization was sought through a letter of request submitted to the Dean of the Philippine College of Criminology Graduate School, as well as to the Regional Director of the PDEA Regional Office III (Central Luzon), symbolizing a steadfast commitment to ethical research standards. Following the acquisition of the necessary approvals, the survey questionnaire was administered to the respondents. The initial step involved the drafting of individualized formal letters addressed to each respondent, soliciting their personal information and, significantly, requesting their formal consent to participate. Respondents were afforded the autonomy to select the most convenient time for them to complete the survey questionnaire. To capture the subtleties of respondents' perspectives, a Likert scale, encompassing response categories ranging from "Strongly Agree" to "Strongly Disagree," was employed, ensuring a finer level of measurement precision.

Treatment of Data

In this study, the statistical software JAMOVI was the primary tool for processing, analyzing, and interpreting the quantitative data that has been collected. The utilization of this software facilitated a systematic and rigorous examination of the research variables. The data analysis process encompassed a combination of descriptive and inferential statistical techniques to extract comprehensive insights.

Descriptive statistics, including frequency distributions, percentages, and mean scores, were applied to offer an in-depth portrayal of the research findings. This involved creating profiles of the respondents and evaluating their assessments of the variables identified in the previous chapter. These descriptive measures provided a succinct and transparent summary of the data, enhancing our comprehension of the critical dimensions being investigated.

Moreover, the research delved into inferential statistics to uncover meanings within the data. The Mann-Whitney U-test was employed to determine whether significant differences exist between the groups of respondents. This analysis aided in the identification of specific factors that may exert influence on these dimensions.

For the various constructs, the Likert scale used was:4 (Strongly Agree), interpreted as Very Large Extent; 3 (Agree), interpreted as Large Extent; 2 (Disagree), interpreted as Little Extent); and 1 (Strongly Disagree), interpreted as Very Little Extent.

Ethical Considerations

In the execution of this research project, ethical considerations and the protection of participants' rights were paramount. To ensure that the study proceeds ethically and transparently, the researcher initiated the process by seeking formal permission from both the Graduate School of the Philippine College of Criminology and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Regional Office III. These permissions are essential to obtain the necessary authorization to administer the survey materials to the intended respondents.

Furthermore, the researcher placed great importance on securing informed consent from the participants. This consent process involved a comprehensive explanation of the research objectives, procedures, and the nature of their involvement. Participants were fully informed about the voluntary nature of their participation and their absolute right to decline or withdraw from the study at any point without facing any form of coercion or penalty. Their autonomy and comfort in participating were respected at all times.

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Additionally, to safeguard the privacy and confidentiality of the respondents, the researcher took meticulous measures to protect their identities. The data analysis and presentation of results will be conducted in a manner that ensures individual responses cannot be discerned, thereby preventing any potential identification of specific participants. This practice adheres to the highest standards of ethical research conduct and respects the fundamental principles of confidentiality and anonymity. In sum, the research was conducted with a strict adherence to ethical guidelines, ensuring the welfare and rights of the participants were upheld throughout the entire research process.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Profile of the respondents in terms of their positions

Table 1 presents the profile of the respondents involved in the study, revealing that the majority—80% (108 respondents)—are Drug Enforcement Officers, while only 20% (27 respondents) are Administrators. This distribution indicates that the study primarily gathered insights from frontline personnel directly engaged in operational drug enforcement activities. The predominance of Drug Enforcement Officers among the respondents provides a strong operational perspective on the implementation of counter-narcotics policies, enforcement challenges, and institutional practices.

Table 1.
Profile of the Respondents

Indicators	Frequency	Percent
Administrator	27	20.0%
Drug Enforcement Officer	108	80.0%

On the other hand, the smaller proportion of administrators suggests that perspectives on policy formulation, resource management, and strategic oversight may be underrepresented. While administrators often play a crucial role in setting the institutional direction and ensuring regulatory compliance (UNODC, 2011), the operational emphasis in this study offers a grounded view of real-world implementation, which is essential for evaluating field-level effectiveness and identifying procedural gaps.

The dominance of enforcement officers also reflects the structure of many anti-drug institutions, where the bulk of personnel are involved in surveillance, investigation, and interdiction (Cheng, 2016). Consequently, their responses likely provide practical insights into the day-to-day application of drug control measures, including coordination with other agencies, challenges in counter-drug operations, and capacity issues. However, to provide a more balanced institutional analysis, future studies may consider increasing administrator representation to capture more strategic, policy-level feedback.

Extent the respondents agree in reducing the prevalence of illegal drug trade and drug-related crimes in the Philippines through its enforcement efforts

Table 2 presents the extent of agreement, as measured by median scores, between Administrators (ADM) and Drug Enforcement Officers (DEO) on the effectiveness of PDEA's enforcement efforts in combating illegal drug trade and drug-related crimes in the Philippines. The data reveal a generally high level of consensus, with both groups rating most indicators at a median of 4, interpreted as "Very Large Extent" (VLaE). This suggests a strong shared perception of the overall effectiveness of PDEA's enforcement strategies.

Table 2.
Extent of Agreement on the Effectiveness of Enforcement Efforts in Reducing Illegal Drug Trade and Drug-Related Crimes (Median Scores)

Indicators	ADM	DEO
The PDEA has effectively disrupted major drug trafficking operations in the Philippines.	4 (VLaE)	4 (VLaE)
The PDEA has significantly reduced the availability of illegal drugs in my community.	4 (VLaE)	4 (VLaE)
PDEA's enforcement efforts have contributed to a decrease in drug-related violence and crime in the country.	4 (VLaE)	4 (VLaE)
The general public is well-informed about PDEA's anti-drug initiatives and their impact.	3 (LaE)	3 (LaE)
PDEA has successfully engaged in inter-agency cooperation to combat drug-related issues.	4 (VLaE)	4 (VLaE)
PDEA's enforcement efforts have led to the prosecution of high-level drug offenders.	3 (LaE)	4 (VLaE)
The PDEA has effectively prevented drug addiction and abuse among young people in the Philippines.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
PDEA's operations have fostered a sense of security and safety in my community.	3	4

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	(LaE)	(VLaE)
The general public has trust and confidence in PDEA's ability to combat the drug trade.	4 (VLaE)	4 (VLaE)
PDEA has made a positive impact on reducing the prevalence of illegal drug trade and drug-related crimes in the Philippines.	4 (VLaE)	4 (VLaE)
Overall	**4 (VLaE)**	**4 (VLaE)**

Legends: ADM=Administrator; DEO=Drug Enforcement Officer; VLaE=Very Large Extent; LaE=Large Extent; LiE=Little Extent; VLiE=Very Little Extent

Both ADM and DEO respondents agree that PDEA has been effective in disrupting major drug trafficking operations, reducing the availability of illegal drugs, and contributing to a decline in drug-related violence and crime. This alignment is significant, especially as it reflects confidence from both policy-level (administrators) and operational (officers) stakeholders, indicating perceived institutional credibility and impact. Research supports that when operational and administrative actors align in their perception of law enforcement effectiveness, it typically correlates with stronger institutional cohesion and policy implementation (Babor et al., 2010).

Interestingly, some divergence appears in specific areas. For example, while DEOs rated the prosecution of high-level drug offenders and the sense of community security at a VLaE, ADM respondents rated these at a slightly lower Large Extent (LaE). This discrepancy might reflect administrators' broader view of systemic challenges, such as judicial bottlenecks or policy gaps, which frontline officers may be less exposed to. Similarly, in the area of youth drug prevention, ADM respondents gave a higher rating (4 – VLaE) than DEOs (3 – LaE), possibly due to differing perspectives on the long-term impact of preventive education and community outreach.

Both groups rated public awareness and trust in PDEA's initiatives relatively high (4 – VLaE), indicating commendable communication and public engagement. This insight aligns with past literature suggesting that transparent and proactive communication is critical for maintaining public trust in anti-drug campaigns (Mendoza & Capuno, 2020).
Overall, the median rating of 4 (VLaE) across both groups reflects a strong perception of PDEA's success in its core mandate. However, the slightly lower scores in areas like public awareness, youth prevention, and community security suggest that supporting strategies such as media outreach, community-based prevention programs, and judicial reforms may be necessary to further strengthen the overall effectiveness of enforcement efforts.

Extent the respondents agree on the challenges and obstacles hinder PDEA's effectiveness in combating the illegal drug trade

Table 3 illustrates the comparative assessment of Administrators (ADM) and Drug Enforcement Officers (DEO) regarding the challenges that hinder the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency's (PDEA) effectiveness in its campaign against illegal drugs. The data reveal a shared perception of significant operational difficulties, as indicated by the overall median rating of 3, corresponding to a "large extent" on the rating scale. This consensus implies that both groups recognize that PDEA is grappling with serious barriers in executing its mandate.

Despite the shared overall rating, the specific challenges may be weighted differently by each group. For instance, Administrators might emphasize structural or policy-related issues such as limited funding, bureaucratic delays, or inter-agency coordination problems, whereas Drug Enforcement Officers, who are directly involved in ground operations, might point to more tactical concerns such as lack of personnel, outdated equipment, or threats to operational safety.

The convergence at the median level also suggests a broad institutional acknowledgment that improvements are needed both at the policy-making and enforcement levels. It reflects an understanding that the drug problem is multifaceted, and that hindrances to effective law enforcement stem from both internal constraints (e.g., resource limitations, manpower shortages) and external factors (e.g., community resistance, corruption, or legal loopholes).

Both ADM and DEO strongly agree that insufficient resources, such as budget and manpower, are a very serious challenge (median = 4, VLaE). This aligns with previous studies highlighting that resource constraints significantly limit law enforcement capacity in drug control operations, particularly in developing countries like the Philippines (UNODC, 2016). Moreover, both groups also agree that the ever-evolving nature of the drug trade remains a critical challenge, suggesting the need for dynamic strategies that adapt to shifting trafficking patterns and technologies (Paoli et al., 2009).

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Table 3.
Extent of Agreement on the Challenges and Obstacles Hindering PDEA's Effectiveness in Combating the Illegal Drug Trade (Median Scores)

Indicators	ADM	DEO
The PDEA faces significant challenges related to insufficient resources (e.g., budget, manpower) that hinder their anti-drug efforts.	4 (VLaE)	4 (VLaE)
The presence of powerful drug cartels and organized crime groups makes it difficult for PDEA to make substantial progress.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
Corruption within law enforcement agencies undermines PDEA's ability to combat the drug trade effectively.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
The lack of public cooperation and information sharing is a significant obstacle to PDEA's success in drug enforcement.	3 (LaE)	4 (VLaE)
Inadequate international cooperation and information sharing with other countries hinder PDEA's efforts to combat the global drug trade.	3 (LaE)	4 (VLaE)
The ever-evolving nature of the illegal drug trade presents a constant challenge for PDEA's strategies and operations.	4 (VLaE)	4 (VLaE)
PDEA faces challenges in keeping up with advancements in technology and communication used by drug traffickers.	3 (LaE)	4 (VLaE)
The complexity of drug-related issues, including addiction and social factors, hampers PDEA's overall success.	3 (LaE)	3 (LaE)
Legal and human rights concerns, such as extrajudicial killings, impact PDEA's strategies and public perception.	3 (LaE)	3 (LaE)
Overall, the challenges faced by PDEA have a significant negative impact on their strategies and outcomes in combating the illegal drug trade.	3 (LaE)	3 (LaE)
Overall	**3 (LaE)**	**3 (LaE)**

Legends: ADM=Administrator; DEO=Drug Enforcement Officer; VLaE=Very Large Extent; LaE=Large Extent; LiE=Little Extent; VLiE=Very Little Extent

However, differences emerge in several areas. Administrators rated the impact of powerful drug cartels and corruption within law enforcement agencies more severely (VLaE), while DEOs assessed these issues as significant but only to a large extent (LaE). This discrepancy may reflect administrators' broader exposure to systemic issues, while DEOs may be more focused on operational realities. Notably, DEOs rated lack of public cooperation and international coordination as more serious than administrators did, suggesting that those on the ground feel these gaps more acutely when conducting investigations and interdictions.

DEOs also highlighted difficulties in keeping pace with technology used by traffickers (median = 4, VLaE), which suggests a growing need for PDEA to invest in cybercrime and digital forensics capabilities. On the other hand, both groups consistently rated challenges related to drug addiction, social factors, and legal/human rights concerns at a median of 3 (LaE), indicating recognition of the multidimensional nature of the drug problem but perhaps less urgency in addressing these as enforcement challenges.

Overall, both administrators and frontliners acknowledge that PDEA's anti-drug strategies are significantly constrained by internal and external factors. These include limited resources, evolving threats, and systemic issues such as corruption and international collaboration gaps. Addressing these challenges requires not only operational improvements but also deeper institutional reforms and interagency partnerships to support a more sustainable and holistic approach to drug enforcement in the country.

Extent the respondents agree that international cooperation and collaboration impact PDEA's effectiveness in combating the illegal drug trade

Table 4 presents the extent of agreement between Administrators (ADM) and Drug Enforcement Officers (DEO) on the impact of international cooperation and collaboration on the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency's (PDEA) effectiveness in combating the illegal drug trade. The data reflect a strong overall agreement (median = 4, very large extent) that international partnerships significantly support PDEA's enforcement efforts, though a closer look reveals differences in perceived impact across specific indicators.

Administrators consistently rated all aspects of international cooperation at a very large extent (median = 4), indicating strong confidence in the benefits of global collaboration. This includes areas such as intelligence sharing, extradition of drug offenders, interdiction operations, financial tracking, and access to international expertise.

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Table 4.
Extent of Agreement on the International Cooperation and Collaboration Impacting PDEA's Effectiveness in Combating the Illegal Drug Trade (Median Scores)

Indicators	ADM	DEO
International cooperation has significantly improved PDEA's ability to combat the global drug trade.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
Collaborations with foreign law enforcement agencies have positively influenced the success of PDEA's drug enforcement operations.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
PDEA has effectively shared intelligence and information with international partners to combat transnational drug trafficking.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
International cooperation has facilitated the extradition and prosecution of high-level drug offenders.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
The relationships PDEA has established with other countries have positively impacted its ability to track drug money and financial flows.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
PDEA's efforts to collaborate with foreign counterparts have been transparent and effective.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
Collaborations with international organizations have enhanced PDEA's access to resources and expertise.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
PDEA's international partnerships have resulted in successful interdiction of drug shipments.	4 (VLaE)	4 (VLaE)
To enhance the effectiveness of international cooperation, PDEA should invest in more training and capacity building for its officers.	4 (VLaE)	4 (VLaE)
PDEA should focus on strengthening its diplomatic and strategic ties with key nations involved in drug trafficking to further improve collaboration.	4 (VLaE)	4 (VLaE)
Overall	**4 (VLaE)**	**4 (VLaE)**

Legends: ADM=Administrator; DEO=Drug Enforcement Officer; VLaE=Very Large Extent; LaE=Large Extent; LiE=Little Extent; VLiE=Very Little Extent

Such responses may reflect the administrators' strategic-level view, where they directly interact with international partners and witness institutional benefits like foreign aid, training, or multilateral coordination frameworks. As highlighted by UNODC (2018), international cooperation enhances drug enforcement through intelligence sharing, joint operations, and harmonized legal frameworks, which administrators may be more exposed to than frontline personnel.

In contrast, DEOs rated most indicators at a slightly lower level, Large Extent (median = 3), except for three items—interdiction success, officer training, and diplomatic strengthening, which they rated equally high as administrators (median = 4, VLaE). This difference in perspective suggests that while DEOs recognize the importance of global efforts, they may not always experience or directly observe the outcomes of international collaborations in their day-to-day fieldwork. DEOs' views may also reflect gaps in institutional communication or limited trickle-down of benefits from international cooperation, such as training opportunities or technological support.

Interestingly, both groups strongly agree on the need for continued investment in training and capacity building and strengthening strategic diplomatic ties—indicating a shared vision for long-term improvement in international engagement. This is consistent with findings by Werb et al. (2011), which emphasize the importance of international training and intelligence sharing in combating transnational organized crime.

Overall, the findings reveal strong institutional support for international cooperation, with administrators more fully perceiving its benefits across a range of areas. To bridge the perception gap, it would be useful to enhance the visibility and accessibility of international programs at the operational level and ensure inclusive participation of DEOs in cross-border initiatives, thereby deepening their understanding and ownership of global counter-narcotics efforts.

Extent the respondents agree on PDEA's strategies in combating the illegal drug trade have a significant impact on socioeconomic conditions and public health

Table 5 presents the extent of agreement between Administrators (ADM) and Drug Enforcement Officers (DEO) regarding the impact of PDEA's anti-drug strategies on socio-economic conditions and public health. A notable pattern emerges from the data: while administrators largely perceive these strategies as having a very large extent of positive impact (median = 4, VLaE), drug enforcement officers generally view the impact to a lesser degree, mostly rating items at a large extent (median = 3, LaE). This divergence underscores a difference in perception between policy-level stakeholders and operational front liners regarding the broader effects of drug enforcement activities.

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Administrators rated highly the influence of PDEA's strategies on reducing drug-related health issues, improving public health, and enhancing the social fabric of communities, suggesting a more optimistic and perhaps strategic or aspirational outlook. This perspective may be informed by macro-level reports, policy frameworks, and long-term development goals, such as those advocated by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2022), which stress integrating health and social development into drug control efforts.

Table 5.
Extent of Agreement on PDEA's Strategies in Combating the Illegal Drug Trade Impacting Socioeconomic Conditions and Public Health (Median Scores)

Indicators	ADM	DEO
PDEA's strategies have significantly reduced drug-related crime and violence in my region.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
The anti-drug operations conducted by PDEA have led to improved public safety in my area.	3 (LaE)	3 (LaE)
PDEA's strategies have effectively addressed the root causes of drug addiction and abuse in my region.	3 (LaE)	3 (LaE)
The enforcement efforts of PDEA have created economic opportunities and stability in my community.	3 (LaE)	3 (LaE)
The strategies used by PDEA have led to a decrease in drug-related health issues in my region.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
The social fabric of my community has improved as a result of PDEA's anti-drug strategies.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
PDEA's efforts have had a positive impact on the overall public health of my region.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
In my opinion, PDEA's strategies have disproportionately affected specific regions of the Philippines in terms of socio-economic and public health consequences.	3 (LaE)	3 (LaE)
The consequences of PDEA's strategies vary across regions based on socio-economic factors, such as poverty and employment opportunities.	3 (LaE)	3 (LaE)
In my view, PDEA should tailor its strategies to address the varying socio-economic and public health consequences in different regions of the Philippines.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
Overall	**4 (VLaE)**	**3 (LaE)**

Legends: ADM=Administrator; DEO=Drug Enforcement Officer; VLaE=Very Large Extent; LaE=Large Extent; LiE=Little Extent; VLiE=Very Little Extent

Conversely, DEOs showed more restrained optimism, suggesting that on-the-ground realities may not fully reflect administrative expectations. Their lower median scores point to the challenges of translating policy into immediate and visible improvements in public health and socio-economic conditions. For instance, while ADM respondents believe PDEA's strategies have improved public health and reduced drug-related violence, DEOs rated these outcomes one scale lower, possibly because they witness firsthand the persistence of health-related issues, community tensions, and the slow pace of socio-economic change in drug-affected areas.

Both groups agreed (median = 3, LaE) that the consequences of PDEA's strategies vary across regions based on socio-economic disparities such as poverty and employment opportunities. This supports findings in the literature that uniform drug policies often fail to account for local context, leading to unequal impacts across communities (Werb et al., 2011). Additionally, ADM respondents expressed stronger support for tailoring PDEA's strategies to address regional differences (median = 4, VLaE), emphasizing the importance of localized, context-sensitive approaches—an idea aligned with contemporary public health and harm reduction strategies (Degenhardt et al., 2017).

In summary, while both administrators and drug enforcement officers recognize the value of PDEA's anti-drug initiatives, their perspectives differ on the extent to which these strategies positively impact public health and socio-economic conditions. Bridging this perception gap may require greater inclusion of frontline experiences in strategy formulation, as well as enhanced intersectoral coordination with public health and social welfare agencies to deliver comprehensive and equitable responses to the drug problem.

Extent of Agreement on PDEA Effectively Engaging with Communities and Civil Society Organizations to Address the Demand Side of the Drug Trade and Promote Drug Prevention and Rehabilitation Programs

Table 6 examines the extent of agreement between Administrators (ADM) and Drug Enforcement Officers (DEO)

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Volume: 11| Issue: 12| December 2025|| Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra2013 || SJIF Impact Factor 2025: 8.691 || ISI Value: 1.188

regarding the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency's (PDEA) engagement with communities and civil society organizations (CSOs) to address the demand side of the drug trade and promote prevention and rehabilitation programs. The overall median score of 4 (Very Large Extent) from both groups reflects a strong consensus on the critical role and effectiveness of PDEA's community-based efforts in drug prevention.

Administrators consistently rated all items at the highest level (VLaE), showing strong confidence in PDEA's proactive community engagement and collaboration with CSOs. This suggests that at the policy and administrative level, PDEA is perceived as effectively integrating community voices, leveraging partnerships, and addressing the root causes of drug demand—an approach aligned with global best practices in drug control. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2022), a balanced drug strategy should address both supply and demand, incorporating prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation within a human rights framework.

While DEOs also agree with the importance of community collaboration, their responses show slightly lower agreement (median = 3, LaE) in specific areas such as dialogue with youth and parents, seeking community feedback, and involving community leaders in policy development. This gap may suggest that while PDEA initiatives exist, implementation on the ground may be uneven or less visible to enforcement personnel, who may not always be involved in or informed about these community-level interactions. This mirrors findings by Room et al. (2010), who emphasize the importance of frontline involvement in demand-reduction strategies to ensure consistency and effectiveness in public health and law enforcement integration.

Moreover, both ADM and DEOs strongly agree (median = 4, VLaE) that PDEA should further strengthen its collaboration with communities and CSOs, highlighting a shared belief in the value of community empowerment. This reflects a shift from purely punitive approaches to a more health-centered, preventive, and socially integrated response to the drug problem—a principle supported by the World Health Organization (WHO, 2014) in addressing substance abuse as a public health issue.

The data suggest that PDEA's efforts in engaging with communities and civil society are widely viewed as essential and generally effective. However, to maximize impact, the agency should enhance the visibility, inclusiveness, and feedback mechanisms of its community engagement programs, particularly among frontline enforcement personnel, to create a unified, whole-of-society approach to drug prevention and rehabilitation.

Table 6.
Extent of Agreement on PDEA Effectively Engaging with Communities and Civil Society Organizations to Address the Demand Side of the Drug Trade and Promote Drug Prevention and Rehabilitation Programs (Median Scores)

Indicators	ADM	DEO
PDEA actively engages with local communities to raise awareness about the dangers of drug addiction.	4 (VLaE)	4 (VLaE)
PDEA effectively collaborates with civil society organizations to develop and implement drug prevention programs.	4 (VLaE)	4 (VLaE)
PDEA has successfully partnered with community leaders to promote drug education and prevention initiatives.	4 (VLaE)	4 (VLaE)
The agency engages in regular dialogue with parents, teachers, and youth organizations to address drug demand.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
PDEA's efforts to promote drug prevention and rehabilitation programs have a positive impact on local communities.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
The agency actively seeks feedback from community members to improve its drug prevention and rehabilitation initiatives.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
PDEA collaborates with local governments and NGOs to provide accessible and effective drug rehabilitation services.	4 (VLaE)	4 (VLaE)
The agency involves community leaders in the development of drug prevention and rehabilitation policies.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
In my opinion, PDEA's engagement with communities and civil society organizations is essential in addressing the demand side of the drug trade.	4 (VLaE)	4 (VLaE)
PDEA should further strengthen its collaboration with communities and civil society to promote drug prevention and rehabilitation programs.	4 (VLaE)	4 (VLaE)
Overall	**4 (VLaE)**	**4 (VLaE)**

Legends: ADM=Administrator; DEO=Drug Enforcement Officer; VLaE=Very Large Extent; LaE=Large Extent; LiE=Little Extent; VLiE=Very Little Extent

ISSN (Online): 2455-3662
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Extent of Agreement on the Technology and Data Analytics that Play a Crucial Role in PDEA's Efforts to Track, Monitor, and Disrupt Drug-Related Activities

Table 7 explores the perceptions of Administrators (ADM) and Drug Enforcement Officers (DEO) regarding the role of technology and data analytics in PDEA's anti-drug operations. The overall median rating of 4 (Very Large Extent) for both groups underscores a shared recognition of the importance of technology and data-driven strategies in modern drug enforcement. However, there are nuanced differences in their responses that highlight operational gaps and areas for development.

Administrators generally provided more favorable ratings across all indicators, indicating a strong belief in the transformative potential of technology in tracking and disrupting drug-related activities. For instance, they rated highly the importance of using data analytics to identify high-value targets and the need for further integration of such tools into operations. This aligns with global best practices, where advanced analytics and surveillance technologies are used to enhance law enforcement effectiveness (UNODC, 2021).

In contrast, DEOs gave consistently lower ratings, particularly in indicators related to actual utilization and operational feedback mechanisms. While they agree on the importance of technology (e.g., median = 4, VLaE for overall impact), they rated items such as PDEA's ability to gather intelligence using tech (median = 3, LaE) and use of analytics for interdiction efforts (median = 4, VLaE) more conservatively.

Table 7.
Extent of Agreement on the Technology and Data Analytics that Play a Crucial Role in PDEA's Efforts to Track, Monitor, and Disrupt Drug-Related Activities (Median Scores)

Indicators	ADM	DEO
Technology and data analytics play a crucial role in enhancing PDEA's ability to track drug-related activities.	4 (VLaE)	4 (VLaE)
PDEA effectively utilizes technology to gather and analyze intelligence on drug trafficking networks.	3 (LaE)	3 (LaE)
Data analytics have significantly improved PDEA's ability to identify high-value targets in drug enforcement operations.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
Technology and data analytics enable PDEA to respond more rapidly to emerging drug trade trends.	3 (LaE)	3 (LaE)
PDEA's use of technology and data analytics has contributed to the successful interdiction of drug shipments.	2 (LiE)	4 (VLaE)
The agency effectively leverages data analytics to predict and prevent drug-related criminal activities.	3 (LaE)	3 (LaE)
PDEA actively seeks feedback from technology experts and data analysts to enhance its strategies.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
Technology and data analytics should be further integrated into PDEA's operations to improve outcomes.	4 (VLaE)	3 (LaE)
In my view, PDEA should invest in more advanced technology and data analytics capabilities.	4 (VLaE)	4 (VLaE)
PDEA can optimize its use of technology and data analytics through continuous training and development.	4 (VLaE)	4 (VLaE)
Overall	**4 (VLaE)**	**4 (VLaE)**

Legends: ADM=Administrator; DEO=Drug Enforcement Officer; VLaE=Very Large Extent; LaE=Large Extent; LiE=Little Extent; VLiE=Very Little Extent

This divergence may reflect on-the-ground challenges, such as a lack of access to real-time data tools, insufficient training, or systemic limitations in deploying advanced technologies in field operations.

According to Morselli et al. (2012), effective integration of technology requires not only tools but also organizational adaptation and skilled personnel.

Interestingly, there is a reversal in one indicator: while administrators rated the impact of technology on drug shipment interdiction at 2 (Little Extent), DEOs gave it a 4 (Very Large Extent). This suggests that frontline officers see tangible results from technological interventions in specific areas of operation, such as border control or tracking illicit logistics, even if administrators are more skeptical, possibly due to limited visibility of such outcomes at the macro level.

Both groups agree strongly on the need for continued investment and training in data analytics and emerging technologies (median

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Volume: 11| Issue: 12| December 2025|| Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra2013 || SJIF Impact Factor 2025: 8.691 || ISI Value: 1.188

= 4, VLaE). This supports calls from international bodies such as INTERPOL and the UNODC, which emphasize the importance of continuous capacity-building in data science, AI, and digital forensics to stay ahead of drug syndicates using sophisticated methods (INTERPOL, 2022).

While PDEA is seen as moving in the right direction by both administrators and enforcement officers, operational constraints, training gaps, and varying perceptions of technological effectiveness suggest that there is room for improvement. Investing in better infrastructure, increasing collaboration with tech experts, and providing field officers with real-time data access and analytics training will be crucial in optimizing PDEA's use of technology in its counter-drug strategies.

Differences on the Responses Between Administrators and Drug Enforcement Officers

Table 8 presents the results of a Mann-Whitney U test comparing the perceptions of administrators and drug enforcement officers (DEOs) across six key areas related to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency's (PDEA) effectiveness. This statistical test was employed to determine whether there are significant differences in the assessments provided by the two groups. The findings suggest that while perceptions are largely aligned in most domains, there is a statistically significant divergence in one critical area: international cooperation and collaboration.

Table 8.

Differences on the Responses Between Administrators and Drug Enforcement Officers (Mann-Whitney U Test)

	Statistic	p value
Effectiveness of Enforcement Efforts in Reducing Illegal Drug Trade and Drug-Related Crimes	1229	0.129
Challenges and Obstacles Hindering PDEA's Effectiveness in Combating the Illegal Drug Trade	1278	0.252
International Cooperation and Collaboration Impacting PDEA's Effectiveness in Combating the Illegal Drug Trade	783	<.001
PDEA's Strategies in Combating the Illegal Drug Trade Impacting Socio-Economic Conditions and Public Health	1134	0.053
PDEA Effectively Engaging with Communities and Civil Society Organization to Address the Demand Side of the Drug Trade and Promote Drug Prevention and Rehabilitation Programs	1337	0.435
Technology and Data Analytics that Play a Crucial Role in PDEA's Efforts to Track, Monitor, and Disrupt Drug-Related Activities	1380	0.638

The p-value for international cooperation and collaboration is less than 0.001, indicating a statistically significant difference in how administrators and DEOs perceive PDEA's engagement with foreign counterparts and global enforcement mechanisms. This could reflect a difference in vantage points: administrators may be more exposed to formal partnerships, intelligence sharing, and diplomacy-related functions, while DEOs, whose primary focus is fieldwork, may be less involved or less aware of these efforts. This gap supports findings from international studies emphasizing the need for cross-level communication to ensure frontline personnel understand and internalize the strategic value of international collaboration (UNODC, 2020; Keene & Bigo, 2017).

On the other hand, no significant differences were found between the two groups in their views on enforcement effectiveness ($p = 0.129$), operational challenges ($p = 0.252$), community engagement and prevention programs ($p = 0.435$), technology and data analytics ($p = 0.638$), and socio-economic and public health impacts ($p = 0.053$), although this last value approaches significance.

These results imply a general consensus between administrators and field operatives on most aspects of PDEA's work. Such alignment is crucial for cohesive policy implementation and suggests that, despite operational differences, both levels of personnel share similar evaluations of PDEA's core activities. This agreement can help ensure more coordinated planning and delivery of drug enforcement initiatives.

However, the disconnect in views on international cooperation underscores the need for stronger internal communication and training initiatives that bridge administrative and operational functions. Regular briefings, joint strategy workshops, and transparency in diplomatic collaborations may help ensure that international efforts are more visible and better appreciated by those executing domestic enforcement actions.

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Volume: 11| Issue: 12| December 2025|| Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra2013 || SJIF Impact Factor 2025: 8.691 || ISI Value: 1.188

Output of the Study



Based on the findings from Tables 1 to 8, a strategic model titled the INTEGRATE-PDEA Framework is proposed to enhance the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency's (PDEA) role in combating the illegal drug trade. This model is grounded in empirical data and aligns with both national priorities and global best practices.

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Research Instruments

Part I. Profile

Please put a check (/) to answer this item.

I am a/an _____ administrator
_____ drug enforcement officer

In the succeeding items, please choose the number that best corresponds to your answer.

SA	*Strongly Agree*	*D*	*Disagree*
A	*Agree*	*SD*	*Strongly Disagree*

Part II. Extent of reducing illegal drug trade and drug-related crimes

Code	Indicator	SA	A	D	SD
RED01	The PDEA has effectively disrupted major drug trafficking operations in the Philippines.	4	3	2	1
RED02	The PDEA has significantly reduced the availability of illegal drugs in my community.	4	3	2	1
RED03	PDEA's enforcement efforts have contributed to a decrease in drug-related violence and crime in the country.	4	3	2	1
RED04	The general public is well-informed about PDEA's anti-drug initiatives and their impact.	4	3	2	1
RED05	PDEA has successfully engaged in inter-agency cooperation to combat drug-related issues.	4	3	2	1
RED06	PDEA's enforcement efforts have led to the prosecution of high-level drug offenders.	4	3	2	1
RED07	The PDEA has effectively prevented drug addiction and abuse among young people in the Philippines.	4	3	2	1
RED08	PDEA's operations have fostered a sense of security and safety in my community.	4	3	2	1
RED09	The general public has trust and confidence in PDEA's ability to combat the drug trade.	4	3	2	1
RED10	PDEA has made a positive impact on reducing the prevalence of illegal drug trade and drug-related crimes in the Philippines.	4	3	2	1

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Part III. Key challenges and obstacles faced by the PDEA

Code	Indicator	SA	A	D	SD
KCO01	The PDEA faces significant challenges related to insufficient resources (e.g., budget, manpower) that hinder their anti-drug efforts.	4	3	2	1
KCO02	The presence of powerful drug cartels and organized crime groups makes it difficult for PDEA to make substantial progress.	4	3	2	1
KCO03	Corruption within law enforcement agencies undermines PDEA's ability to combat the drug trade effectively.	4	3	2	1
KCO04	The lack of public cooperation and information sharing is a significant obstacle to PDEA's success in drug enforcement.	4	3	2	1
KCO05	Inadequate international cooperation and information sharing with other countries hinder PDEA's efforts to combat the global drug trade.	4	3	2	1
KCO06	The ever-evolving nature of the illegal drug trade presents a constant challenge for PDEA's strategies and operations.	4	3	2	1
KCO07	PDEA faces challenges in keeping up with advancements in technology and communication used by drug traffickers.	4	3	2	1
KCO08	The complexity of drug-related issues, including addiction and social factors, hampers PDEA's overall success.	4	3	2	1
KCO09	Legal and human rights concerns, such as extrajudicial killings, impact PDEA's strategies and public perception.	4	3	2	1
KCO10	Overall, the challenges faced by PDEA have a significant negative impact on their strategies and outcomes in combating the illegal drug trade.	4	3	2	1

Part IV. Impact of international cooperation and collaboration on PDEA's efforts to combat the illegal drug trade

Code	Indicator	SA	A	D	SD
ICC01	International cooperation has significantly improved PDEA's ability to combat the global drug trade.	4	3	2	1
ICC02	Collaborations with foreign law enforcement agencies have positively influenced the success of PDEA's drug enforcement operations.	4	3	2	1
ICC03	PDEA has effectively shared intelligence and information with international partners to combat transnational drug trafficking.	4	3	2	1
ICC04	International cooperation has facilitated the extradition and prosecution of high-level drug offenders.	4	3	2	1
ICC05	The relationships PDEA has established with other countries have positively impacted its ability to track drug money and financial flows.	4	3	2	1
ICC06	PDEA's efforts to collaborate with foreign counterparts have been transparent and effective.	4	3	2	1
ICC07	Collaborations with international organizations have enhanced PDEA's access to resources and expertise.	4	3	2	1
ICC08	PDEA's international partnerships have resulted in successful interdiction of drug shipments.	4	3	2	1

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ICC09	To enhance the effectiveness of international cooperation, PDEA should invest in more training and capacity building for its officers.	4	3	2	1
ICC10	PDEA should focus on strengthening its diplomatic and strategic ties with key nations involved in drug trafficking to further improve collaboration.	4	3	2	1

Part V. Socioeconomic and public health consequences of the PDEA's strategies in combating the illegal drug trade

Code	Indicator	SA	A	D	SD
SPC01	PDEA's strategies have significantly reduced drug-related crime and violence in my region.	4	3	2	1
SPC02	The anti-drug operations conducted by PDEA have led to improved public safety in my area.	4	3	2	1
SPC03	PDEA's strategies have effectively addressed the root causes of drug addiction and abuse in my region.	4	3	2	1
SPC04	The enforcement efforts of PDEA have created economic opportunities and stability in my community.	4	3	2	1
SPC05	The strategies used by PDEA have led to a decrease in drug-related health issues in my region.	4	3	2	1
SPC06	The social fabric of my community has improved as a result of PDEA's anti-drug strategies.	4	3	2	1
SPC07	PDEA's efforts have had a positive impact on the overall public health of my region.	4	3	2	1
SPC08	In my opinion, PDEA's strategies have disproportionately affected specific regions of the Philippines in terms of socio-economic and public health consequences.	4	3	2	1
SPC09	The consequences of PDEA's strategies vary across regions based on socio-economic factors, such as poverty and employment opportunities.	4	3	2	1
SPC10	In my view, PDEA should tailor its strategies to address the varying socio-economic and public health consequences in different regions of the Philippines.	4	3	2	1

Part VI. Engagement with communities and civil society organizations to address the demand side of the drug trade and promote drug prevention and rehabilitation programs

Code	Indicator	SA	A	D	SD
ENG01	PDEA actively engages with local communities to raise awareness about the dangers of drug addiction.	4	3	2	1
ENG02	PDEA effectively collaborates with civil society organizations to develop and implement drug prevention programs.	4	3	2	1
ENG03	PDEA has successfully partnered with community leaders to promote drug education and prevention initiatives.	4	3	2	1
ENG04	The agency engages in regular dialogue with parents, teachers, and youth organizations to address drug demand.	4	3	2	1
ENG05	PDEA's efforts to promote drug prevention and rehabilitation programs have a positive impact on local communities.	4	3	2	1

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ENG06	The agency actively seeks feedback from community members to improve its drug prevention and rehabilitation initiatives.	4	3	2	1
ENG07	PDEA collaborates with local governments and NGOs to provide accessible and effective drug rehabilitation services.	4	3	2	1
ENG08	The agency involves community leaders in the development of drug prevention and rehabilitation policies.	4	3	2	1
ENG09	In my opinion, PDEA's engagement with communities and civil society organizations is essential in addressing the demand side of the drug trade.	4	3	2	1
ENG10	PDEA should further strengthen its collaboration with communities and civil society to promote drug prevention and rehabilitation programs.	4	3	2	1

Part VII. Role of technology and data analytics in the PDEA's efforts to track, monitor, and disrupt drug-related activities

Code	Indicator	SA	A	D	SD
TDA01	Technology and data analytics play a crucial role in enhancing PDEA's ability to track drug-related activities.	4	3	2	1
TDA02	PDEA effectively utilizes technology to gather and analyze intelligence on drug trafficking networks.	4	3	2	1
TDA03	Data analytics have significantly improved PDEA's ability to identify high-value targets in drug enforcement operations.	4	3	2	1
TDA04	Technology and data analytics enable PDEA to respond more rapidly to emerging drug trade trends.	4	3	2	1
TDA05	PDEA's use of technology and data analytics has contributed to the successful interdiction of drug shipments.	4	3	2	1
TDA06	The agency effectively leverages data analytics to predict and prevent drug-related criminal activities.	4	3	2	1
TDA07	PDEA actively seeks feedback from technology experts and data analysts to enhance its strategies.	4	3	2	1
TDA08	Technology and data analytics should be further integrated into PDEA's operations to improve outcomes.	4	3	2	1
TDA09	In my view, PDEA should invest in more advanced technology and data analytics capabilities.	4	3	2	1
TDA10	PDEA can optimize its use of technology and data analytics through continuous training and development.	4	3	2	1