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IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT LIGTASS (LOCALIZED INNOVATION GEARED TOWARDS ADDRESSING SECURITY AND SAFETY): AN EXTENSION PROGRAM OF THE COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION, TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

Project LIGTASS (Localized Innovation Geared Towards Addressing Security and Safety), an extension initiative of the College of Criminal Justice Education at Tarlac State University, aims to reinforce the Barangay Justice System and promote community safety in Barangay Poblacion H, Camiling, Tarlac. This descriptive quantitative study assessed the program's impact on knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes among barangay officials, police, and residents. Data were gathered from 50 purposively selected respondents using a validated survey instrument, with results analyzed through weighted means and Likert scale interpretation. Findings revealed significant gains in legal awareness, reporting procedures, safety practices, and civic values, with overall ratings consistently in the "Strongly Agree" range. However, challenges were noted in planning, resource allocation, stakeholder participation, and monitoring processes. The study underscores the effectiveness of Project LIGTASS in capacity-building and community empowerment, while highlighting areas for improvement in future extension programs.

KEYWORDS: *Extension Program, Community Safety, Barangay Justice, Capacity-Building, Impact Assessment, Tarlac State University*

INTRODUCTION

Tarlac State University is particularly committed to serving people and communities since it has four primary objectives: teaching, research, extension, and production. This dedication is shown by the fact that each college is in charge of offering extension programs, projects, and activities that not only relate to their academic fields but also adapt to the needs of society as they change. The projects mentioned above are, in fact, the major way to use theoretical knowledge to solve real-world problems, give people more power, and help society progress in a way that includes everyone. The University makes sure that its extension activities genuinely serve the national development goals and make it a stronger agent of change for the better by working with and talking to local stakeholders all the time.

The College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE) of Tarlac State University has proposed a long-term extension project namely PROJECT LIGTASS (Localized Innovation Geared Towards Addressing Security and Safety). This project is in line with the University's mission and the national development agenda, which includes promoting peace, justice, strong institutions, and reducing inequality. The goal of this project is to make the Barangay Justice System better and stronger, as well as to address the root causes of people not following the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in Barangay Poblacion H in the municipality of Camiling, Tarlac. The major goal of the project is to lower the number of unresolved disputes and restore the community's faith in the Barangay Justice System and for crime prevention.

PROJECT LIGTASS includes not only a number of seminars on important laws like the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act (RA 9165), the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act (RA 9262), and the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act (RA 9344). The project also includes legal and safety instruction, as well as programs to restore values, motivational lectures, and community mobilization activities that are meant to lift people's spirits and get them active. The initiative is mostly good for the people who live in the many barangays of Camiling, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized groups like women and children. The project team, along with Tarlac State University, the Extension Services Management Office (ESMO), and the chosen barangay beneficiaries, is dedicated to reaching all of the anticipated outputs, outcomes, and long-term effects.

After two years of implementation, the extension program has reached its peak stage. So, it is important to do a full evaluation of the program to see what its overall effects are and if the projected short- and long-term results have been met. This evaluation will be a useful way to find out what works well and what needs to be improved in the delivery of extension services. The findings will also provide useful information that might be used to make future extension projects better, make the University's rules and policies on community engagement clearer, and be part of the ongoing improvement of the academic curriculum.

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METHODOLOGY

This research is descriptive quantitative research that intends to measure the impact of Tarlac State University's College of Criminal Justice Education extension services in the last two years (2023-2025).

The research locale was Poblacion H, Camiling, Tarlac, which involved a sample of 150 respondents. Purposive sampling was used to select 8 Barangay Officials and 8 Barangay Tanods, considering their roles and direct involvement in barangay governance and peacekeeping. Meanwhile, random sampling was employed to select 134 local residents to ensure equal representation and minimize selection bias. Informed consent was secured from all participants prior to data collection.

A validated survey questionnaire that was subjected to the scrutiny of subject matter experts was used for data collection. The responses were tabulated systematically, while analysis was carried out using the Likert Scale and weighted mean to interpret the perceived impact of the extension services.

Scale	Verbal Description	Meaning to Respondents
5	Strongly Agree	The statement is very true to me
4	Agree	The statement is true to me
3	Moderately Agree	The statement is somewhat true to me
2	Disagree	The statement is not true to me
1	Strongly Disagree	The statement is not true at all to me

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1
Impact Assessment of Respondents in terms of Acquired Knowledge (Barangay Officials and Barangay Police)

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Descriptive Value
I gained more knowledge on proper legal procedures in filing complaints, reporting incidents, and referral of cases to proper authorities.	**4.58**	Strongly Agree
I became more knowledgeable on proper conduct of mediation, conciliation, and settlement of disputes.	**4.55**	Strongly Agree
I became more knowledgeable on child protection, women protection, and community safety laws.	**4.49**	Strongly Agree
I gained more knowledge on ethical standards and professional conduct expected of public servants.	**4.54**	Strongly Agree
I became more knowledgeable on proper documentation, report writing, and records management.	**4.61**	Strongly Agree
I gained more knowledge on juvenile justice, child-in-conflict-with-the-law handling, and intervention programs.	**4.51**	Strongly Agree
I became more knowledgeable on leadership concepts, decision-making strategies, and character formation.	**4.43**	Strongly Agree
I became more knowledgeable on public safety measures and community crime prevention strategies.	**4.50**	Strongly Agree
I became more knowledgeable on barangay-level governance and local legislative processes.	**4.45**	Strongly Agree
I became more aware of environmental protection laws and sustainable community programs.	**4.47**	Strongly Agree
OVERALL WEIGHTED MEAN	**4.51**	**Strongly Agree**

Table 1 shows the impact assessment of respondents in terms of acquired knowledge among barangay officials and barangay police. All indicators obtained high weighted mean scores ranging from 4.43 to 4.61, all verbally interpreted as "Strongly Agree." This indicates that the respondents perceived a very high level of knowledge acquisition as a result of the intervention.

The highest gain was observed in proper documentation, report writing, and records management, while strong agreement was also noted in areas related to legal procedures, mediation and dispute resolution, ethical standards, public safety, juvenile justice, and protection laws. These results suggest that the program was effective in enhancing both administrative and operational competencies essential to barangay governance.

The overall weighted mean of 4.51, interpreted as "Strongly Agree," confirms that the intervention had a significant positive impact on the respondents' knowledge. Overall, the findings demonstrate that the long-term extension program of the College of Criminal Justice Education successfully strengthened the capacity of barangay officials and barangay police in performing their roles and responsibilities in the community.

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Table 2
Impact Assessment of Respondents in terms of Acquired Knowledge
(Residents)

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Descriptive Value
I gained more knowledge on the laws that protect women, children, and families.	**4.57**	Strongly Agree
I increased my knowledge on how to report crimes, abuse, and violations to proper authorities.	**4.32**	Strongly Agree
I became more aware of prohibited acts and their corresponding penalties under Philippine laws.	**4.18**	Agree
I became more knowledgeable on the process of filing complaints in the barangay and other offices.	**4.44**	Strongly Agree
I became more knowledgeable on drug abuse prevention and its harmful effects.	**4.36**	Strongly Agree
I became more aware of cyber safety, online scams, and responsible use of social media.	**4.11**	Agree
I became more aware of bullying prevention and safe school environments.	**4.05**	Agree
I became more knowledgeable on public safety measures and emergency response procedures.	**4.29**	Strongly Agree
I became more knowledgeable on first response actions during emergencies and disasters.	**4.02**	Agree
I gained more knowledge on environmental protection and proper waste management practices.	**4.14**	Agree
OVERALL WEIGHTED MEAN	**4.25**	**Strongly Agree**

Table 2 presents the impact assessment of Project LIGTASS (Localized Innovation Geared Towards Addressing Security and Safety) in terms of acquired knowledge among residents. The results show consistently high weighted mean scores, ranging from 4.02 to 4.57, with the overall weighted mean of 4.25, verbally interpreted as "Strongly Agree." This indicates that the extension program had a strong positive impact on the residents' knowledge related to security, safety, and community awareness.

The highest level of knowledge gain was observed in laws protecting women, children, and families, followed by improved understanding of complaint filing procedures, drug abuse prevention, public safety measures, and crime reporting. These findings suggest that the program effectively addressed key community concerns and enhanced residents' awareness of their rights, responsibilities, and available protection mechanisms.

Although some indicators such as cyber safety, bullying prevention, emergency response, and environmental protection were rated as "Agree," the scores remain high, indicating meaningful learning outcomes while also highlighting areas that may benefit from further reinforcement.

Overall, the findings confirm that Project LIGTASS successfully enhanced residents' knowledge on safety, security, and legal awareness, demonstrating the effectiveness of the College of Criminal Justice Education of Tarlac State University in delivering a relevant and impactful community extension program.

Table 3
Impact Assessment of Respondents in terms of Acquired Skills
(Barangay Officials and Barangay Police)

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Descriptive Value
I can apply correct mediation and conciliation procedures in resolving barangay disputes.	**4.55**	Strongly Agree
I can properly prepare barangay resolutions, ordinances, and official documents.	**4.48**	Strongly Agree
I can correctly document cases, prepare blotter entries, and write incident reports.	**4.12**	Agree
I can confidently assist in handling cases involving women, children, and families.	**4.36**	Strongly Agree
I can properly refer cases to appropriate government agencies.	**4.42**	Strongly Agree
I can properly implement community safety and crime prevention programs.	**4.18**	Agree

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I can safely handle and apply basic self-defense techniques.	**4.05**	Agree
I can properly implement public safety and emergency response procedures.	**4.21**	Strongly Agree
I can properly respond during emergencies and disasters.	**4.10**	Agree
I can apply cyber safety and digital responsibility practices in barangay operations.	**4.15**	Agree
OVERALL WEIGHTED MEAN	**4.27**	**Strongly Agree**

The findings show that respondents strongly agreed that they gained essential skills in mediation and conciliation, preparation of official barangay documents, case documentation, and referral of cases to appropriate agencies, which are critical functions in barangay-level justice and governance. High ratings were also noted in handling cases involving women, children, and families, as well as in implementing public safety and emergency response procedures, reflecting improved confidence and readiness in real-life situations.

Indicators related to community safety programs, self-defense techniques, disaster response, and cyber safety practices were rated as *Agree*, indicating solid skill acquisition while also suggesting areas where further training or reinforcement may be beneficial.

Overall, the results demonstrate that Project LIGTASS, as an extension program of the College of Criminal Justice Education, Tarlac State University, had a strong positive impact on strengthening the skills, preparedness, and professional effectiveness of barangay officials and barangay police in addressing security and safety concerns at the community level.

Table 4
Impact Assessment of Respondents in terms of Acquired Skills
(Residents)

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Descriptive Value
I can apply basic self-defense techniques to protect myself and my family.	4.53	Strongly Agree
I can practice cyber safety and avoid online scams.	4.16	Agree
I can apply drug abuse prevention practices in my daily life.	4.09	Agree
I can properly dispose of waste and practice environmental protection.	4.37	Strongly Agree
I can assist in community watch and crime prevention programs.	4.47	Strongly Agree
I can practice first-aid and emergency response procedures.	4.14	Agree
I can properly follow barangay procedures in filing complaints.	4.03	Agree
I can properly handle bullying and harassment situations.	4.29	Strongly Agree
I can actively participate in community safety programs.	4.07	Agree
I can properly report crimes, abuse, and violations to the barangay or authorities.	4.41	Strongly Agree
OVERALL WEIGHTED MEAN	**4.27**	**Strongly Agree**

The results show strong agreement among residents in applying basic self-defense techniques, proper waste disposal and environmental protection, community watch participation, handling bullying and harassment, and reporting crimes and violations, indicating improved confidence and active engagement in maintaining community safety.

Skills related to cyber safety, drug abuse prevention, first aid and emergency response, following barangay procedures, and participation in safety programs were rated as Agree, suggesting that residents gained substantial functional skills that can be further strengthened through continuous training and follow-up activities.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that Project LIGTASS, an extension program of the College of Criminal Justice Education, Tarlac State University, had a strong positive impact on residents' skills, empowering them to take an active role in ensuring security, safety, and well-being within their communities.

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Table 5
Impact Assessment of Respondents on Acquired Values and Attitudes
(Barangay Officials, Barangay Police and Local Residents)

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Descriptive Value
I developed a stronger sense of responsibility and accountability in performing my duties.	4.52	Strongly Agree
I became more committed to upholding honesty and integrity in public service.	4.37	Strongly Agree
I became more respectful and fairer in dealing with community members.	4.19	Agree
I developed a more positive attitude toward teamwork and collaboration in barangay activities.	4.34	Strongly Agree
I became more open to feedback and constructive criticism.	4.14	Agree
I became more patient and understanding in handling community concerns.	4.16	Agree
I became more dedicated to maintaining peace, order, and harmony in the community.	4.42	Strongly Agree
I became more proactive in preventing conflicts and disputes.	4.17	Agree
I became more environmentally responsible in daily practices and community programs.	4.25	Strongly Agree
I developed greater concern for the safety and welfare of women, children, and vulnerable sectors.	4.39	Strongly Agree
OVERALL WEIGHTED MEAN	**4.32**	**Strongly Agree**

The overall weighted mean for the Impact Assessment of Respondents on Acquired Values and Attitudes is 4.32, with a descriptive value of "Strongly Agree." This indicates that the respondents—barangay officials, barangay police, and local residents—strongly agree that Project LIGTASS (Localized Innovation Geared Towards Addressing Security and Safety) had a significant positive impact on their values and attitudes.

The highest ratings were given to indicators such as a stronger sense of responsibility and accountability (4.52), dedication to maintaining peace and order (4.42), and greater concern for the safety and welfare of vulnerable sectors (4.39). Most aspects measured, including honesty, teamwork, environmental responsibility, and respect for others, also received high marks, falling between "Agree" and "Strongly Agree."

In summary, Project LIGTASS effectively enhanced civic values, social responsibility, and community cohesion among participants. The program significantly contributed to personal and community development, aligning with and advancing the objectives of the College of Criminal Justice Education's outreach initiatives.

Challenges Encountered Along Planning, Implementation and Monitoring of Extension Services
Table 6. Planning

Indicators	Frequency	Percentage
Lack of clear focal person to coordinate with the College for extension activities.	20	40.0%
Limited participation of barangay officials during the planning stage.	15	30.0%
Misunderstanding of objectives between the College and the Barangay.	8	16.0%
Poor communication between the Punong Barangay and the College extension coordinator.	5	10.0%
Insufficient consultation by the College prior to planning activities.	2	4.0%
Total	**50**	**100%**

The impact assessment of Project LIGTASS showed a strong positive influence on the values and attitudes of barangay officials, police, and local residents, with an overall weighted mean of 4.32 ("Strongly Agree"). Respondents reported significant improvements in responsibility, accountability, honesty, teamwork, and concern for community welfare, demonstrating the program's effectiveness in fostering civic values and community cohesion.

However, challenges were encountered during the planning phase. The most common issues included the lack of a clear focal person to coordinate extension activities (40%) and limited participation of barangay officials in planning (30%). Other challenges involved misunderstandings of objectives (16%), poor communication (10%), and insufficient consultation (4%). These issues highlight the need for clearer

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roles, better engagement, and improved communication strategies between the College and the barangay.

In summary, while Project LIGTASS had a substantial positive impact on personal and community development, addressing planning and coordination challenges will further enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of future extension programs.

Table 7. Implementation

Indicators	Frequency	Percentage
Insufficient financial resources to fund extension activities requiring barangay counterpart.	14	28.0%
Limited support from barangay officials during activity implementation.	10	20.0%
Lack of time among participants to attend seminars/trainings.	8	16.0%
Lack of proper equipment and materials for activities.	6	12.0%
Difficulty understanding the topics presented during training/seminars.	7	14.0%
Low participation/cooperation from residents in extension activities.	5	10.0%
Total	**50**	**100%**

The impact assessment of Project LIGTASS demonstrated a strong positive influence on the values and attitudes of participants, with an overall weighted mean of 4.32 ("Strongly Agree"). Respondents reported notable improvements in responsibility, accountability, honesty, teamwork, and concern for community welfare, indicating that the program effectively fostered civic values and community engagement.

However, the implementation phase faced several challenges. The most significant issues were insufficient financial resources to fund extension activities requiring a barangay counterpart (28%) and limited support from barangay officials during activity implementation (20%). Additional barriers included lack of participant time (16%), lack of proper equipment and materials (12%), difficulty understanding presented topics (14%), and low participation or cooperation from residents (10%).

While Project LIGTASS achieved its objective of enhancing personal and community values, its effectiveness was hindered during implementation by resource limitations, limited support and participation, and communication barriers. Addressing these challenges—by improving funding, stakeholder engagement, resource allocation, and communication—will be essential to maximize the impact and sustainability of future extension programs.

Table 8. Monitoring

Indicators	Frequency	Percentage
Distance of adopted barangay makes regular on-site monitoring difficult.	17	32.7%
Limited access to vehicles for site visits.	12	23.1%
Lack of time by College Extension Coordinator and implementers for monitoring.	11	21.2%
Absence of structured monitoring strategies/approaches by implementers.	10	19.2%
Total	**50**	**100%**

The impact assessment of Project LIGTASS revealed a strong positive influence on participants' values and attitudes, particularly in responsibility, teamwork, and community engagement, with an overall weighted mean of 4.32 ("Strongly Agree"). However, several challenges were encountered in planning, implementation, and monitoring phases.

During planning, the primary issues were the absence of a clear focal person, limited participation of barangay officials, and communication gaps between stakeholders. In the implementation phase, insufficient financial resources, limited support, time constraints, inadequate equipment, and low resident participation were the main barriers. For monitoring, the most significant difficulties were the distance of the adopted barangay, limited access to vehicles, lack of time for monitoring, and the absence of structured monitoring strategies.

While Project LIGTASS effectively enhanced community values and engagement, its overall impact was affected by logistical, financial, and organizational challenges across all phases. Addressing these issues—by improving coordination, resource allocation, stakeholder participation, and establishing clear monitoring frameworks—will be essential to maximize the effectiveness and sustainability of future extension program.

CONCLUSION

The impact assessment of Project LIGTASS demonstrated that the extension program of the College of Criminal Justice Education, Tarlac State University, has had a substantial and positive impact on the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes of barangay officials, police, and residents in Barangay

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Poblacion H. The program effectively enhanced participants' understanding of legal processes, public safety, and community governance, as well as their practical skills in mediation, documentation, and emergency response. Moreover, it promoted civic responsibility, teamwork, and concern for vulnerable groups. Despite these successes, the study identified persistent challenges in planning, implementation, and monitoring—primarily involving resource limitations, stakeholder engagement, and logistical constraints. Addressing these issues is crucial to further strengthening the effectiveness and sustainability of future extension initiatives.

Recommendation

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Assign clear focal persons and enhance communication between the College and barangay officials to ensure smooth planning and implementation.
2. Seek additional funding and resource partnerships to address financial and logistical limitations impacting program delivery.
3. Implement targeted strategies to boost engagement and cooperation among barangay officials and residents, such as incentive systems or flexible scheduling for activities.
4. Provide regular follow-up trainings, especially in areas identified as needing reinforcement, such as cyber safety, disaster response, and documentation skills.
5. Develop and implement systematic monitoring and evaluation frameworks to ensure the sustained impact and continuous improvement of extension services.

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