

THE IMPACT OF CURFEW HOURS IN REDUCING CRIME AT BARANGAY MUZON CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE BULACAN

ABSTRACT

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KEYWORDS

*san jose del monte; curfew
hours; barangay muzon; crime
prevention; community safety;
public awareness*

ARTICLE ID

AASGBCPJMRA-B30970

Curfew hours are government-imposed time restrictions aimed at maintaining peace and order, especially during periods of heightened alert or emergency such as the Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) in Bulacan. In Barangay Muzon, City of San Jose del Monte, the implementation of curfew hours serves to limit unnecessary public activity during designated times, thereby contributing to community safety and crime prevention. This study examines the perceived effectiveness of curfew enforcement in reducing crime rates and improving the overall sense of security among residents. This study employed a quantitative descriptive research design to assess the effects of curfew implementation on crime reduction. Survey questionnaires were administered to residents of Barangay Muzon to gather data on their perceptions and experiences related to curfew enforcement. The study focused on naturally occurring behaviors and conditions within the community and analyzed the results using both qualitative insights and quantitative methods, including descriptive statistics. The results showed that the majority of respondents were aged 18–25, mostly female, single, and college-level in terms of education. Most respondents strongly agreed that the barangay should increase community awareness regarding curfew laws through regular reminders. They also recognized that barangay officials were actively monitoring and strictly enforcing curfew regulations. The respondents emphasized the importance of implementing youth-focused programs as a preventive measure to reduce crime, particularly by limiting the number of minors on the streets during high-risk hours. However, a lack of community involvement was identified as a potential barrier to the full effectiveness of the curfew policy. Overall, the implementation of curfew hours was perceived as an effective crime prevention measure within the community. The findings indicate that curfew enforcement contributes positively to reducing crime and promoting community well-being in Barangay Muzon. It is especially effective when coupled with active monitoring, community participation, and supplemental programs for youth. The study concludes that curfew ordinances, when well-publicized and properly enforced, can create a safer environment. However, continued public engagement and support are essential to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of such measures.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

Fortes, Z. L., Pacanza, J., Puno, R., Reyes, J., & Tabangay, J. (2025). The Impact Of Curfew Hours In Reducing Crime At Barangay Muzon City Of San Jose Del Monte Bulacan. *Ascendens Asia Singapore – Bestlink College of the Philippines Journal of Multidisciplinary Research Abstracts*, 7(1), 35.