

IMPACT OF OVERPOPULATION ON THE CRIME RATE IN BARANGAY BAGONG SILANGAN, QUEZON CITY: BASIS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN

ABSTRACT

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High population density is a growing concern in many urban communities in the Philippines, particularly in highly urbanized areas where rapid population growth exceeds the capacity of available resources and public services. Barangay Bagong Silangan in District 2, Quezon City, is one of the most densely populated barangays in Metro Manila, with an estimated population of over 152, 000 residents. This condition places pressure on housing, sanitation, education, employment, and public safety, which may contribute to increased criminal activities. This study examines the relationship between overpopulation and crime rate, focusing on economic pressure, social inequality, and environmental and living conditions as contributing factors. The study employed a descriptive research design to gather data on perceptions and experiences within the barangay. A total of 50 respondents participated, including 10 barangay officials, 10 police officers, and 30 residents. Structured survey questionnaires were used to assess the extent to which overpopulation-related factors influence crime occurrence in the community. The findings indicate that economic pressure, social inequality, and poor environmental and living conditions are perceived to significantly influence the occurrence of crimes. Limited employment opportunities, low income, overcrowded housing, and inadequate infrastructure were identified as major concerns contributing to theft, robbery, drug-related offenses, physical injury, and violence against women and children. The study suggests that overpopulation-related factors contribute to rising crime rates in Barangay Bagong Silangan. Addressing economic challenges, improving access to social services, and enhancing living conditions may help strengthen crime prevention strategies and promote community safety. The findings may guide local government policies toward building a safer and more socially balanced community.

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