

EVALUATING THE BARANGAY JUSTICE SYSTEM IN HANDLING DISPUTE RESOLUTION: BASIS FOR AN ACTION PLAN

ABSTRACT

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This study evaluated the Barangay Justice System (BJS) in Barangay 171, Caloocan City, as a basis for proposing an action plan. The BJS is a community-based mechanism that resolves disputes through mediation, conciliation, and arbitration. It promotes peace, cooperation, and reconciliation while reducing court congestion. The study focused on three key areas: resources, implementation, and education, as assessed by complainants, defendants, and Lupon Tagapamayapa members who are directly involved in the dispute resolution process. A descriptive research design was used to assess current practices objectively. Forty-five (45) respondents were selected using purposive sampling: fifteen (15) Lupon members, fifteen (15) complainants, and fifteen (15) defendants. Data were gathered using a researcher-made Likert-scale questionnaire. Statistical tools such as frequency, percentage, ranking, weighted mean, and One-way ANOVA were applied to analyze trends and determine differences in group perceptions. Findings showed that the BJS is generally effective but faces operational challenges. Key issues include limited manpower and supplies, inconsistent implementation of procedures, and insufficient training for Lupon members. Common problems were delays in case handling, weak logistical support, and communication gaps. ANOVA results revealed no significant difference among the three groups, indicating similar perceptions of the system's performance. The study proposes improving resource allocation, standardizing procedures, and strengthening continuous training for Lupon members. Providing adequate materials, manpower, and clear guidelines can enhance efficiency, fairness, and accountability. Addressing these concerns can strengthen public trust, improve service delivery, and ensure the Barangay Justice System remains an effective and credible foundation of local justice.

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