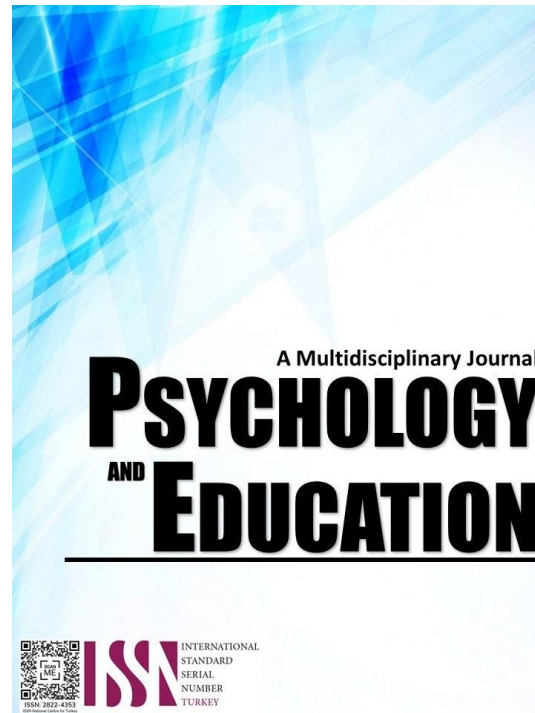


ASSESSMENT OF THE POLICE PERSONNEL ON THE LOCALIZED CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS AND CRIME RATES IN TACURONG CITY



PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATION: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL

Volume: 59

Issue 8

Pages: 1069-1085

Document ID: 2026PEMJ5813

DOI: 10.70838/pemj.590807

Manuscript Accepted: 05-18-2026

Assessment of the Police Personnel on the Localized Crime Prevention Programs and Crime Rates in Tacurong City

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Abstract

This descriptive quantitative research method, utilizing self-made, validated questionnaires, was used to assess the implementation of localized crime prevention. Through analyzing case studies and crime statistics, the study highlights the success factors, challenges, and areas for improvement in the implemented localized crime prevention programs, such as "Project Isugid mo kay Auntie Pulis," "Oplan Bantay-Kapwa," "Project Balik Kalinga," and "Project Bantay Barangay." The study showed a high level of implementation of the program. The respondents were 120 uniformed personnel of the Philippine National Police in Tacurong City Station. In this study, validated self-made questionnaires were used to assess the programs and provide recommendations to optimize localized crime prevention, including the enhancement of community partnerships, better resource allocation, and continuous evaluation to sustain positive outcomes in crime reduction and community security. This study implies that crime prevention is a shared responsibility between the law enforcers and the community. Therefore, it is suggested that the extent of involvement in localized crime prevention programs, focusing on Community Participation, Personnel Deployment, Information Dissemination, and Equipment and Logistics, should be highly strengthened.

Keywords: *localized crime prevention program, crime rate, police personnel, public safety*

Introduction

Crime prevention is one of the greatest concerns in the world today. The peace, security, and stability of a nation depend on how effectively it deals with and suppresses crime. The global community regards crime prevention as one of the most essential and valuable functions of law enforcement because it ensures the safety, security, and progress of its citizens. Crime is a major social problem that causes fear, anxiety, and disrupts peace within communities (Khatun, 2022). Over the years, various laws, penalties, and punitive measures have been implemented to prevent crime; however, it continues to persist. For law enforcement agencies, one key indicator of their effectiveness and efficiency is the absence or reduction of crime in the community.

With the advent of modern policing, proactive methods of combating and suppressing criminality have been developed and adopted globally. This approach, known as crime prevention, plays a crucial role in modern law enforcement. It has been widely accepted worldwide, and the United Nations has even established guidelines recommending that every country develop a National Crime Prevention Program. According to the United Nations standards and norms on crime prevention, there must be collaboration between international and national governments, ensuring that both work hand in hand. As stated in Article 2 of the United Nations Crime Prevention Guidelines Handbook, all levels of government are responsible for establishing, maintaining, and promoting a context within which relevant governmental institutions and members of civil society, including the corporate sector, can effectively contribute to preventing crime (UNODC, 2022).

In response to this pressing concern, the Philippine National Police (PNP) has implemented numerous crime prevention programs with varying degrees of success. However, despite these efforts, there remains a critical need to evaluate the effectiveness of existing crime prevention initiatives and identify gaps that hinder their optimal implementation. This study sought to address this gap by conducting a comprehensive examination of a specific crime prevention program, analyzing its strengths, weaknesses, and overall impact on reducing criminal activity. Furthermore, it aims to assess the strategies employed by the PNP and community stakeholders in sustaining crime prevention efforts, as well as the challenges they encounter in implementation.

Through careful analysis, this research aimed to contribute valuable insights that can guide the refinement and development of more targeted and evidence-based crime prevention strategies for communities at risk. Since the reorganization of the PNP under the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) pursuant to Republic Act No. 8551, numerous programs addressing the suppression of criminality have been implemented. Among these, crime prevention remains a top priority of the agency. Much of this responsibility rests on the shoulders of the dedicated men and women of the PNP, who strive to ensure public safety and security (PNP Manual, 2021).

In Tacurong City, where this study was conducted, the local police have made earnest efforts to prevent and suppress crime. Nonetheless, incidents of criminality and lawlessness still occur, though minimal, they remain significant and cannot be disregarded. To assess the effectiveness of crime prevention programs and their impact on the crime rate, this study was conducted to provide a clear perspective on the implementation and outcomes of such programs in Tacurong City.

Research Questions

This study aimed to assess the localized crime prevention programs of the Tacurong City Police Station and their effect on the crime rate. Specifically, it sought answers to the following questions:

1. What is the level of implementation of the following localized crime prevention programs implemented by the Tacurong City Police Station:
 - 1.1. project isugid mo kay auntie pulis;
 - 1.2. oplan bantay-kapwa;
 - 1.3. project balik-kalinga; and
 - 1.4. project bantay barangay?
2. What is the extent of community involvement in localized crime prevention programs implemented in terms of:
 - 2.1. community participation;
 - 2.2. personnel deployment;
 - 2.3. information dissemination; and
 - 2.4. equipment and logistics?
3. What is the crime rate of Tacurong City from 2022 to 2023, according to:
 - 3.1. index crimes; and
 - 3.2. non-index crimes?
4. Is there a significant relationship between the localized crime prevention programs and the level of crime rate?
5. Based on the findings, what recommendation can be made?

Methodology

Research Design

This quantitative study applied a descriptive research method. Maccombes (2023) explains that descriptive research aims to accurately describe a population, situation, or phenomenon, answering what, where, when, and how questions, but not why. A non-experimental correlation method was also used to examine the effect of community participation on crime rate. The study assessed localized crime prevention programs and their relationship with crime rate through surveys and statistical analysis. Survey data were obtained from the literature and validated through pilot testing of 20 uniformed personnel assigned to the Regional Mobile Force Battalion, Bar. Dos, Tacurong City.

Respondents

The respondents of the study were 120 police officers from Tacurong City, selected through purposive sampling. These respondents were uniformed personnel of the Tacurong City Police Office assigned to different units, with 100 having served for more than five (5) years and 20 having served for three (3) years. Purposive sampling was chosen over simple random sampling because the study required participants with direct experience and expertise in implementing localized crime prevention programs. By deliberately selecting officers with varying lengths of service, the researcher ensured that the data reflected both seasoned perspectives and relatively newer insights into police operations. While the PNP personnel are recognized as experts in program implementation, their assessments may carry inherent bias, as they are evaluating initiatives they themselves administer. This reliance on internal perspectives represents a limitation of the study.

Instrument

In this study, the researcher assessed the localized crime prevention program using surveys administered to the respondents. A self-made, validated questionnaire served as the primary tool, with carefully crafted items designed to measure both the level of program implementation and the extent of community involvement. To ensure methodological rigor, the questionnaire underwent expert validation by criminology faculty and research specialists, who reviewed the items for clarity, relevance, and alignment with the study objectives. Reliability testing was conducted using Cronbach's alpha, which yielded coefficients above the accepted threshold of 0.70, confirming strong internal consistency and dependable measurement of the constructs. A five-point Likert scale was employed to calculate, describe, and interpret the data with precision.

For crime rate data, the researcher requested official records from the Tacurong City Police Station for the years 2022–2023. This data served as a variable to determine whether crime prevention programs had a significant relationship with crime rates. A t-test was applied to compute and assess the existence of a statistically significant connection between the implementation of crime prevention programs and crime rate outcomes.

Procedure

To gather the necessary data, the researcher followed a three-phase procedure to ensure ethical compliance, systematic implementation, and reliable analysis.

Preliminary Phase. The researcher first sent a formal letter to the Chief of Police in Tacurong City requesting permission to conduct surveys with Tacurong City policemen, obtain information on the implemented crime prevention program, and collect crime rate data for the year 2023. Approval was granted, and ethical considerations were observed by ensuring voluntary participation and confidentiality of responses.

Implementation Phase. A self-made, validated questionnaire was then prepared and administered to the respondents. The instrument underwent expert review for content validity and reliability testing using Cronbach's alpha, which yielded coefficients above 0.70, confirming strong internal consistency. Respondents were given one week to complete the survey, and the researcher was present during administration to clarify terms and ensure proper understanding of the items. The survey questions were designed to assess both the level of implementation of the crime prevention program and the extent of community involvement.

Post-Data Collection Phase. After the questionnaires were retrieved, the responses were tabulated, analyzed, and interpreted. For this study, only the highest and lowest mean scores were reported, as these served as the primary basis for presenting the results. Crime rate data for 2022–2023, obtained from the Tacurong City Police Station, were also incorporated as a variable to determine whether crime prevention programs had a significant relationship with crime rates. A t-test was applied to compute and assess the existence of a statistically significant connection between program implementation and crime rate outcomes.

Data Analysis

The data were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics included frequency counts, percentages, and mean scores to summarize the level of implementation of the crime prevention program and the extent of community involvement. The five-point Likert scale provided the basis for interpreting these mean scores and standard deviation according to predetermined ranges. Inferential statistics were employed to test relationships between variables. Specifically, a t-test was applied to determine whether there was a statistically significant relationship between the implementation of crime prevention programs and crime rate outcomes. This combination of descriptive and inferential methods ensured that the findings were both comprehensive and statistically reliable.

Ethical Considerations

The researcher made certain that all ethical considerations were followed. This is done to avoid engaging in practice that may implicitly or explicitly abuse or exploit those with whom he sought to do research.

Before the study was conducted, the following were done (Pre-Data Collection):

A formal letter was sent to the Chief of Police in Tacurong City to secure authorization to conduct the survey and access crime prevention program data. Respondents were fully briefed on the nature, objectives, and procedures of the study. They were informed of the schedules and processes involved in completing the survey. Participation was voluntary, and respondents were assured that declining would not result in any negative consequences.

During the conduct of the study, the following were done (Pre-Data Collection):

Respondents were reminded that their involvement was voluntary and that they could withdraw at any point without penalty. The researcher was present during survey administration to clarify terms and ensure proper understanding of the questionnaire items. Strict confidentiality was maintained. No identifying information was disclosed, and coding procedures were used to protect the respondents' identities.

Data were handled responsibly to prevent unauthorized access or misuse. Care was taken to design survey materials and localized icons in ways that avoided reinforcing stereotypes. The study respected equality between men and women while acknowledging differences, ensuring that all perspectives were treated fairly.

The researcher engaged with local stakeholders to ensure that cultural symbols and practices were represented respectfully. Consideration was given to respondents' rank, position, and tenure of service, and permission was sought when incorporating culturally significant elements. Moreover, after the conduct of the study

(Post-Data Collection), the following were done: All collected data were securely stored and used solely for research purposes. The database was protected against unauthorized access, and respondents' identities remained confidential. The researcher acknowledged the contributions of the participants and ensured that findings were presented objectively, without bias or misrepresentation. Ethical responsibility extended beyond the study by recommending that future research include community members' perspectives to triangulate findings and reduce potential bias from police self-assessment.

Results

This section presents the analysis and interpretation of the data gathered through the use of survey questionnaires. The tabular presentations and discussions are organized according to the sub-problems outlined below.

The Level of Implementation of the Localized Crime Prevention Programs Implemented by the Tacurong City Police Station

The overall mean for the project “Isugid mo kay Auntie Pulis” was 4.34 with an overall standard deviation of 0.163 (High). The highest mean score was for the item, “I entertain complaints against any forms of Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) prevailing in the community,” with a mean score of 4.57 (SD = 0.856) and interpreted as Very High. “I provide all the necessary information in filing a case against the perpetrator” had the lowest mean of 4.16 (SD = 0.938), which is interpreted as High.

The outcomes in this study suggest that the police officers in Tacurong City give significant attention to complaints related to Violence against Women and Children (VAWC) due to the different work and hectic schedules they have. The overall standard deviation is quite low (0.163), indicating a high degree of agreement across respondents regarding the consistent implementation of this program throughout the station, not just relying on individual officers' initiative.

Table 1. Level of Implementation of Project Isugid mo kay Auntie Pulis by the Tacurong City Police Station

<i>Items</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Description</i>
1. I entertain complaints against any forms of Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) prevailing in the community.	4.57	0.856	Very High
2. I help and assist victims of VAWC in filing an appropriate case.	4.28	0.872	High
3. I give attention to reported cases of sexual Abuse committed against women and violence against children by their partners.	4.42	0.838	High
4. I respond immediately whenever there are reported incidents of violence against women and children.	4.28	1.231	High
5. I provide all the necessary information in filing a case against the perpetrator.	4.16	0.938	High
Overall Mean	4.34	0.163	High

Police departments around the world are concerned about the incidence of VAWC. VAWC refers to multiple types of violence experienced by women and children, such as physical, sexual, emotional, and economic violence. Such cases have a number of aspects that must be approached through police, social, and community measures. The relatively high standard deviation for this item (SD = 1.231) indicates some variability in immediate responses, possibly due to external factors like logistics or geographical location of the reported incidents.

A key challenge in tackling VAWC cases is that incidents are under-reported. Fears of reprisal, feelings of shame, and mistrust of the justice system all contribute to many victims refusing to come forward. The Tacurong City Police Department continues to ensure a safe and supportive environment for victims by consistently implementing its operations and/or strategies at a high level, as reflected in the data. This uniformity is critical for establishing the confidence and trust that are needed to get people to report abuses and thus receive law enforcement protection.

Table 2 presents the results of the level of implementation of Oplan Bantay-kapwa implemented by the Tacurong City Police Station. Data was obtained through a survey conducted from March 2023 to April 2023.

Table 2. Level of Implementation of Oplan Bantay-kapwa by the Tacurong City Police Station

<i>Items</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Description</i>
1. I advocate Oplan Bantay-kapwa in addressing community safety and security.	4.33	0.911	High
2. I encourage community participation to help each other for Oplan Bantay-kapwa.	4.23	0.905	High
3. I campaign for collaboration of community members and stakeholders to improve safety and security through Oplan bantay-kapwa.	4.28	0.992	High
4. I conducted dialogue with religious leaders in the community in achieving a much safer environment.	4.06	0.849	High
5. I discussed to the community COVID-19 safety measures, EO-70 Ending Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC), CATA, strict implementation of City Ordinances.	4.14	0.946	High
Overall Mean	4.21	0.053	High

Table 2 shows that the overall mean of the project “Oplan Bantay Kapwa” is 4.21 with an overall standard deviation of 0.053, which indicates a high level of implementation. The highest mean was found in item “I advocate Oplan Bantay Kapwa in addressing community safety and security” at 4.33 (SD = 0.911), which is interpreted as High. Meanwhile, item 4, “I engaged in talks with community religious leaders to create a safe environment,” had the lowest mean of 4.06 (SD = 0.849) or High.

These results indicate that the police officers of Tacurong City strongly advocate for Oplan Bantay Kapwa as a strategy to enhance community safety and security. The overall standard deviation is very low (0.053), which means that the program is very consistent across the station. This indicates that the basic work of the program is well embedded in the officers' daily routines, thus providing a unified strategy in the implementation of community policing.

The Philippine National Police has adopted this approach in combating crimes, with community safety and security as top priorities. The Oplan Bantay Kapwa is a community policing program that aims to enhance safety through active community engagement by cultivating and fostering trust and cooperation between the community and the police. The SD range of individual items (from 0.849 to 0.992) indicates that there is overall consensus (High SD), but that there is a little more room for variation in the way officers in the respective items engage in specific activities, e.g., collaborating with stakeholders (SD = 0.992) than in the overall program advocacy.

The police officers gave an explanation that Oplan Bantay Kapwa is a proactive, community-based strategy for policing with a focus on collaboration, empowerment, and engagement. This collaboration between police and community, and establishing a sense of trust, goes a long way toward improving the safety and security of the community while building a safer society.

Furthermore, Barreda (2023) notes that maintaining societal harmony, political stability, and economic growth depends on ensuring the safety and security of the populace. He emphasizes that peace is indivisible and universal, as it is essential to human survival. This strategy has proven effective in reducing crime and fostering personal and community safety within localities.

Table 3 presents the results of the level of implementation of Project Balik-Kalinga implemented by the Tacurong City Police Station. Data was obtained through a survey conducted from March 2023 to April 2023.

Table 3. The Level of Implementation of Project Balik-Kalinga by the Tacurong City Police Station

<i>Items</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Description</i>
1. I encounter challenges and issues in handling Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL).	4.18	0.925	High
2. I take the initiative to help reduce cases of violence involving women and minor children.	4.23	0.929	High
3. I join the community members and stakeholders through an outreach program to take responsive care for the youth and minors in the community.	4.07	0.908	High
4. I adhere to any movement that contributes to saving the future of the children.	4.28	0.997	High
5. I assure that my action is favorable to the community during rescue operations.	4.31	0.899	High
Overall Mean	4.21	0.038	High

Table 3, the overall mean for the level of implementation of the project “Project Balik-Kalinga” is 4.21, and the overall standard deviation is 0.038, which is interpreted as High. Items 5, “I assure that my action is favorable to the community during rescue operations,” and 4, “I adhere to any movement that contributes to saving the future of the children,” had the highest mean scores of 4.31 (SD = 0.899) and 4.28 (SD = 0.997), respectively. The mean of item 3, “I join the community members and stakeholders through an outreach program in taking responsive care for the youth and minors in the community”, was 4.07 (SD = 0.908), which was the lowest mean.

The results of this study show that the police officers of Tacurong City are actively involved in policies and measures that help protect the future of children and focus on actions that would benefit the community during sensitive police operations.

The overall standard deviation is very small (0.038), meaning that the responses were very uniform in their level of acceptance of the project's goals. This reflects the strong culture and mindset of child protection and responsive care at the station. Children's well-being and progress are fundamental to societal progress, a concern of paramount importance to law enforcement. Individual SD values (0.899–0.997) show that there is a high level of overall agreement, but there is slightly more variation in officers' perceptions of how closely they are following broad movements than in the officers' direct actions during rescue operations.

This implies that all officers are committed, but to a differing degree depending on the officers' individual roles or advocacy. The police officers reaffirmed that child protection of the future needs to be a joint effort between governments, communities, and individuals. When children are educated, healthy and well-fed, and protected, they can become responsible and productive citizens.

The scores range from 1 to 5, with low SD indicating high consistency among the scores, which suggests that the Tacurong City Police Station has been successful in standardizing their approach to handling Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) and minors and has a high level of professional and empathetic engagement. The consistent implementation of this helps to reinforce proactive policing approaches and enhance public confidence in the police service, and is a sustainable crime prevention measure that helps to create a more resilient society.

According to Arisukwu et al. (2020), preventing youth involvement in crime begins with developing positive behaviors through mentoring, skill- building, and community engagement. Empowering young people with discipline and social responsibility reduces delinquency and violence. This aligns with the objectives of Project Bantay Kalinga, which promotes positive youth development through mentoring, conflict resolution, and community service as effective strategies for preventing juvenile crime.

Table 4 presents the results of the level of implementation of Project Bantay Barangay implemented by the Tacurong City Police Station. Data was obtained through a survey conducted from March 2023 to April 2023.

Table 4. Level of Implementation of Project Bantay Barangay by the Tacurong City Police Station

<i>Items</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Description</i>
1. I take responsibility to enhance community safety and security in the Barangay.	4.22	1.162	High
2. I campaign for the cooperation of the community in every Barangay.	4.24	1.163	High
3. I take action to convince the community to support the program.	4.31	1.218	High
4. I take part through collaboration with the Barangay Peace Keeping Team (BPAT) in promoting safety and security.	4.18	1.159	High
5. I provide assistance which would contribute to strengthening the peacekeeping activities in the Barangay.	4.23	1.056	High
Overall Mean	4.24	0.059	High

Table 4 shows that the overall mean for the level of implementation of the project “Bantay Barangay” is 4.24, with an overall standard deviation of 0.059, interpreted as High. Item 3, “I take action to convince the community to support the program,” obtained the highest mean of 4.31 (SD = 1.218), interpreted as High. Meanwhile, item 4, “I take part through collaboration with the Barangay Peace Keeping Team (BPAT) in promoting safety and security,” obtained the lowest mean of 4.18 (SD = 1.159), also interpreted as High. These results indicate that the police officers of Tacurong City are proactive in encouraging community support for the Bantay Barangay program. The overall standard deviation of 0.059 reflects a very high level of stability and agreement across the general implementation of the project. This suggests that the station maintains a unified approach to grassroots policing and community mobilization.

Effective safety and security rely on smooth cooperation between the police and the community. While the overall consistency is high, the individual SD values for the items (ranging from 1.056 to 1.218) are notably higher than in previous tables. This indicates that while the average response remains “High,” there is a wider variety of experiences or levels of engagement among individual officers when working directly within the barangays. For instance, Item 3 has the highest SD (1.218), suggesting that the “action taken to convince the community” varies more significantly from one officer to another, potentially due to the different social dynamics found in each specific barangay.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) program Bantay Barangay is a community-based initiative designed to enhance peace and order at the barangay level. It empowers barangay officials and residents to actively participate in maintaining community safety in partnership with the police. The findings imply that sustained collaboration with the Barangay Peace Keeping Action Team (BPAT) is a standardized practice, yet the moderate variance in SD scores suggests that factors such as barangay size, local leadership cooperation, and geographic accessibility may influence the intensity of police presence and participation.

Ultimately, the results highlight that the Tacurong City Police Station successfully utilizes the Bantay Barangay program to foster shared accountability. By maintaining high implementation scores even with varying local conditions, the station demonstrates a robust commitment to grassroots crime prevention and the strengthening of public trust at the community level. According to Barreda (2023), community-based policing programs play a vital role in promoting public safety and strengthening partnerships between law enforcement and citizens. Initiatives such as Bantay Barangay empower local communities by fostering collaboration among barangay officials, residents, and police officers. This partnership builds trust, cooperation, and shared responsibility, making communities safer, more cohesive, and more resilient.

Table 5 presents the summary results on the level of implementation of the localized crime prevention programs crafted by the Tacurong City Police Station.

Table 5. *Summary Results on the Level of Implementation of Localized Crime Prevention Programs Crafted by the Tacurong City Police Station*

Items	Mean	SD	Description
1. Project Isugid mo Kay Auntie Pulis	4.34	0.163	High
2. Oplan Bantay-Kapwa	4.21	0.053	High
3. Project Balik-Kalinga	4.21	0.038	High
4. Project Bantay Barangay	4.24	0.059	High
Overall Mean	4.25	0.057	High

The summary results of the localised crime prevention programs developed by the Tacurong City Police Station are given in Table 5. The data indicates an Overall Mean of 4.25 and an Overall Standard Deviation of 0.057, which is classified as High. This program (Program 1 – Project Isugid mo Kay Auntie Pulis) had the highest mean of 4.34 (SD = 0.163) among the four programs. Programs 2 and 3, namely, “Oplan Bantay-Kapwa” and “Project Balik-Kalinga”, respectively, recorded the lowest means of 4.21 and 4.20 with SDs of 0.053 and 0.038, respectively. The findings show that although all programmes are being carried out well, Project Isugid mo Kay Auntie Pulis is the most prioritised programme. Overall, the standard deviation is very small (0.057), indicating high institutionalization of all localized programs. This indicates that the Tacurong City Police Station is not just addressing one aspect of crime prevention but has a balanced and uniform approach in several of its community-based initiatives.

The officers' special focus on violence against women and children (VAWC) is reflected in the success of Isugid mo Kay Auntie Pulis. This is a community engagement project that is intended to encourage trust, transparency, and accountability through a safe and accessible forum for vulnerable groups. The higher SD in the Auntie Pulis program (0.163) than other programs indicates that there is a wider distribution of individual officer engagement levels when compared to the more uniform engagement of Project Balik-Kalinga (SD = 0.038).

The results suggest that empathy and accessibility-based programming could contribute to improving the public perception of policing agencies as well as establishing early intervention mechanisms. The consistency of the values displayed in all summary indicators (reflected in the low SD values) indicates that the Tacurong City Police Station has effectively done its part in embedding these localized programs into its operations. This all-inclusive approach allows all aspects of community safety, from child welfare to barangay peacekeeping, to be treated with the same level of professionalism.

Finally, this all-encompassing implementation mechanism reinforces the partnership between the police and citizens. This high and

consistent performance is essential for the station to provide a consistent climate for crime prevention and shows that compassionate and proactive policing can be an effective way to help maintain peace and order in the city over the long haul.

Extent of Community Involvement in Localized Crime Prevention Programs Implemented

The extent of community involvement in localized crime prevention programs implemented by the Tacurong City Police Station is presented in Tables 6 to 10. Table 6 shows the results in terms of community participation, Table 7 highlights personnel deployment, Table 8 covers information dissemination, and Table 9 details equipment and logistics. Table 10 provides a summary of all indicators.

The table shows the extent of community involvement in localized crime prevention programs implemented by police personnel in terms of Community Participation.

Table 6. Extent of Community Involvement in Localized Crime Prevention Programs Implemented in Terms of Community Participation

<i>Items</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Description</i>
1. I respond promptly to reports of suspicious activities in our area.	4.06	0.692	High
2. I join the community in launching awareness campaigns to educate residents about crime prevention strategies.	4.18	0.690	High
3. I support the community in utilizing social media platforms to create community groups or pages dedicated to crime prevention and share observations and concerns.	4.26	0.738	High
4. I participate in encouraging local businesses in the area in promoting crime prevention efforts.	4.19	0.778	High
5. I encourage young people to engage in youth- oriented programs in promoting crime prevention education.	4.22	0.734	High
Overall Mean	4.18	0.037	High

Table 6 shows that the overall mean for the extent of community involvement in localized crime prevention programs, in terms of community participation, is 4.18, with an overall standard deviation of 0.037, interpreted as High. Item 3, "I support the community in utilizing social media platforms to create community groups or pages dedicated to crime prevention and share observations and concerns," obtained the highest mean of 4.26 (SD = 0.738). Meanwhile, item 1, "I respond promptly to reports of suspicious activities in our area," obtained the lowest mean of 4.06 (SD = 0.692). These results indicate that the use of social media platforms for crime prevention is highly supported and encouraged by the police officers of Tacurong City. The very low overall standard deviation (0.037) suggests a remarkable consistency in how officers perceive the level of community participation across different activities. This implies that the transition toward digital and collaborative policing is not isolated to a few areas but is a widespread standard within the city's jurisdiction.

In today's digital landscape, social media provides a platform for communities to connect, share information, and collaborate with law enforcement in real time. The individual item SD values (ranging from 0.690 to 0.778) indicate that there is relatively little variation in officer responses, further proving that both traditional response methods and digital engagement are being implemented with a high degree of uniformity. Interestingly, the lowest SD is found in Item 2 (0.690), suggesting that "launching awareness campaigns" is the most standardized form of community participation among the respondents. Despite its benefits, challenges exist in using social media for crime prevention, particularly the rapid spread of misinformation. False reports or suspect sightings can cause unnecessary panic and strain police resources. The high mean for social media support (4.26), coupled with a stable SD (0.738), shows that officers are confident in this tool despite these risks. To mitigate such risks, law enforcement agencies must remain diligent in verifying information before it is amplified.

Ultimately, the results demonstrate that community participation in Tacurong City is moving toward a more proactive and tech-savvy model. By maintaining high and consistent scores in these areas, the Tacurong City Police Station ensures that they are not only responding to crime but is also empowering the citizenry to act as a force multiplier through modern communication and collective vigilance. According to Johansen et al. (2021), the use of social media in law enforcement has become an effective tool for crime prevention and community engagement, enabling faster and more efficient information sharing between the police and the community.

Table 7 shows the extent of community involvement in localized crime prevention programs implemented by police personnel in terms of Personnel Deployment.

Table 7. Extent of Community Involvement in Localized Crime Prevention Programs Implemented in Terms of Personnel Deployment

<i>Items</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Description</i>
1. I support any action from the department to allocate additional resources and personnel during events or periods with historically higher crime rates.	4.31	0.683	High
2. I conduct undercover operations in response to specific crime trends.	4.10	0.671	High
3. I suggest conducting night patrols as always as possible.	4.24	0.655	High
4. I support implementing flexible shift scheduling to ensure police presence during peak crime hours.	4.41	0.708	High
5. I concur in setting up strategic roadblocks and checkpoints in areas with criminal activities.	4.24	0.739	High
Overall Mean	4.26	0.033	High

Table 7 shows that the overall mean for the extent of involvement in localized crime prevention programs in terms of personnel deployment is 4.26, with an overall standard deviation of 0.033, interpreted as High. The highest mean (4.41, SD = 0.708) was for item 4, I support implementing flexible shift scheduling to ensure police presence during peak crime hours. Secondly, "I conduct undercover operations in response to specific crime trends" had the lowest mean of 4.10 (SD = 0.671).

The findings suggest that a flexible shift schedule to allow for police officers to be on duty during the hours when crimes are most likely to be committed is highly approved of by the local police officers. Overall, the standard deviation was very low (0.033), indicating a high level of agreement among the respondents in general, and that the force as a whole is united in its support for dynamic and adaptive deployment strategies.

The flexibility of shift scheduling is a key factor in improving law enforcement effectiveness. Working hours are adjusted in order to be in line with the hours of most criminal activity, thereby increasing the chances of being seen and receiving a quick response. The individual SD values (ranging from 0.655 to 0.739) suggest that opinions from officers are tightly grouped around the mean, suggesting a consistent culture of tactical resource allocation. Interestingly, the smallest individual SD (0.655) for the individual item is for the patrol around the clock, pointing to minimal variation in opinion about the need for improved night visibility.

Undercover operations had the lowest mean, but it is still in the "High" description. The small SD of 0.671 for this item indicates that although undercover work is less used or valued than visible scheduling, the officers seem to be unanimous about its place in the crime prevention strategy.

Finally, the results suggest that strategic visibility and flexibility should be considered the priority of the Tacurong City Police Station. The station's high and stable deployment scores illustrate a proactive effort to respond to changing crime patterns and ensure that officers are deployed where they will be most useful to law enforcement. Reidy et al. (2021) argued that one key benefit of flexible shift scheduling is the ability to deploy officers when their presence is most needed, fostering a more proactive approach to crime prevention. This ensures that officers can deter criminal activity and respond quickly to incidents. Additionally, flexible scheduling can help reduce officer fatigue and burnout by providing a more balanced work schedule. To implement this approach effectively, crime data must be analyzed to identify peak periods of criminal activity, which can then inform an optimized shift schedule.

This implies that flexible deployment strategies not only strengthen operational efficiency but also enhance community confidence in law enforcement visibility (Tupas & Servallos, 2020). By ensuring that police presence is consistent during high-risk hours, local authorities can reinforce deterrence, improve response times, and cultivate a stronger sense of security among residents, factors that collectively contribute to sustained peace and order in Tacurong City.

Table 8 shows the extent of community involvement in localized crime prevention programs implemented in terms of Information Dissemination.

Table 8. *Extent of Community Involvement in Localized Crime Prevention Programs Implemented in Terms of Information Dissemination*

Items	Mean	SD	Description
1. I adhere in organizing workshops and seminars on crime prevention topics and invite other local law enforcement, security experts, and community leaders to share information and best practices.	4.33	0.739	High
2. I support establishing neighborhood watch programs that encourage residents to share information about suspicious activities.	4.20	0.733	High
3. I disseminate regular updates on crime trends and prevention tips.	4.14	0.714	High
4. I look forward to developing or promoting mobile applications that allow residents to report crimes or suspicious activities directly to law enforcement.	4.17	0.732	High
5. I disseminate regular information to the residents on recent crime trends and safety measures through social media.	4.15	0.751	High
Overall Mean	4.20	0.013	High

As shown in Table 8, the overall mean of the extent of involvement in localized crime prevention programs in terms of information dissemination is 4.20 with an overall standard deviation of 0.013, interpreted as High. The highest mean score (4.33, SD = 0.739) was achieved by item 1, I participate in organizing workshops and seminars on crime prevention topics and invite others from local law enforcement, security services, and the community to share information and best practices. The lowest mean (4.14, SD = 0.714) was for item 3, "I disseminate regular updates on crime trends and prevention tips."

The results showed that local police officers in Tacurong City consider information dissemination as a very important means of crime prevention. The overall SD is very low (0.013), suggesting that the respondents were in almost complete agreement about the importance of the information-sharing strategies. This indicates a culture of communications that is shared and consistent throughout the department; officers from all units share a similar commitment to public education.

The Philippine National Police's (PNP) information dissemination programs are one of its main functions in educating the populace, encouraging compliance with law, and encouraging community participation. The individual SD values (between 0.714 and 0.751) are very close together, thus reflecting very little "opinion gap" between officers on the various ways of dissemination, both traditional

workshops and digital social media. Interestingly, the lowest SD is for Item 3 (0.714), indicating that this is the activity that is practiced or agreed to most consistently among the officers, even though it has the lowest mean.

The results suggest that the Tacurong City Police Station has been able to make good use of knowledge sharing in order to create a safer society. The station has organised workshops and invited experts in its effort to educate the public and to serve as a centre for security expertise. In addition, the large scores for the mobile applications and social media indicate that the station is meeting the demands for real-time communication in a contemporary way.

Finally, this integrated information-sharing strategy allows the dissemination of crime prevention tips and safety measures at the grassroots level. High and steady scores in these areas are essential to having an informed citizenry and people who are capable of contributing to peace and order with law enforcement.

Information dissemination is an effective strategy for preventing criminality and other lawless incidents in the community. According to Scott (2024), by keeping the public informed and educated, these programs enhance awareness of crime prevention strategies, encouraging active community participation and promoting a safer environment for all residents.

This implies that continuous and strategic communication between the police and the public strengthens mutual trust and accountability. Through the timely dissemination of accurate information, citizens become empowered partners in maintaining peace and order, resulting in a more vigilant, cooperative, and crime-resilient community. Khatun (2022) explained that a good police-public mutual relationship, teamwork, and partnership may ensure the participation of the community.

Table 9 shows the extent of community involvement in localized crime prevention programs implemented by police personnel in terms of Equipment and Logistics.

Table 9. Extent of Involvement in Localized Crime Prevention Programs Implemented by Police Personnel in Terms of Equipment and Logistics

<i>Items</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Description</i>
1. I experience using data analytics to identify high-crime areas and optimize police patrol routes accordingly.	4.23	0.717	High
2. I recognize the effort of strategically deploying surveillance technologies such as CCTV cameras, license plate recognition systems, and smart sensors to monitor and deter criminal activities in key locations.	4.40	0.773	High
3. I uphold the action in establishing community policing centers strategically located within neighborhoods to improve response time.	4.17	0.785	High
4. I utilize GIS (Geographic Information System) technology to map crime hot spots, analyze trends, and allocate resources effectively.	4.06	0.786	High
5. I integrate technology solutions to streamline data collection and enhance the efficiency of investigations.	4.12	0.739	High
Overall Mean	4.20	0.031	High

The overall mean on the extent of involvement in localized crime prevention programs when it comes to equipment and logistics is 4.20 with an overall standard deviation of 0.031 (High). The highest mean score (4.40, SD = 0.773) was found for the item “I recognize the effort of strategically placing surveillance technology like CCTV cameras, license plate recognition, and smart sensors to monitor and deter criminal activity in important areas”. The lowest mean was 4.06 (SD = 0.786) for item 4, “I use GIS (Geographic Information System) technology to map crime hot spots and analyze trends and allocate resources effectively.” The results have indicated that the PNP crime prevention programs involving equipment and logistics are vital in improving the effectiveness of maintaining peace and order. Overall, the SD is 0.031, which is very low, indicating that the respondents are very unanimous on the recognition and use of modern equipment by the force. This stability indicates that the use of technology in everyday activities is a regular and normal part of the station.

The quality of equipment and logistics management helps police to be able to respond quickly to emergencies, to deter and prevent crime, and to collect evidence for prosecution. SD values of all technological indicators are consistent, ranging from 0.717 to 0.786. It is interesting to note that although the mean is the lowest for GIS technology, the SD is 0.786, indicating that the officers do not vary in their assessment of the use of GIS technology, possibly because the tool is used for a more specific task rather than not being used. The high score for surveillance technologies reflects a high degree of dependence on ‘force multipliers’ such as ‘smart sensors’ and ‘CCTV’. This suggests a high-visibility tech is a major deterrent in key urban areas. The results for data analytics and investigation streamlining also reflect the progress of the Tacurong City Police Station in transitioning to an evidence-based policing model, which prioritizes the use of data over police presence.

The findings, in the end, highlight the government's need to maintain its investment in the modernisation of PNP equipment. The Tacurong City Police Station's technological involvement, reflected in its low SD values, ensures that all its personnel are competent in the handling of the complexities of modern crime, thereby resulting in an efficient and responsive security environment for the community. According to Laufs and Borrior (2022), digital technology now plays a critical role in policing and security management. Tools such as policing apps, drones, and body-worn cameras have the potential to significantly enhance law enforcement operations,

enabling local police to perform more effectively in the field. Hence, this implies that sustained investment in technological tools and logistical infrastructure can transform traditional policing into a more data-driven and proactive system. By leveraging modern technologies, the PNP can improve situational awareness, resource allocation, and operational efficiency, ultimately fostering a safer and more responsive community.

Table 10 presents the summary results on the extent of community involvement in localized crime prevention programs.

Table 10. *Summary Results on the Extent of Community Involvement in Localized Crime Prevention Programs*

Items	Mean	SD	Description
1. Community Participation	4.18	0.037	High
2. Personnel Deployment	4.26	0.033	High
3. Information Dissemination	4.20	0.013	High
4. Equipment and Logistics	4.20	0.031	High
Overall Mean	4.21	0.010	High

The summary results of the extent of community involvement in localized crime prevention programs are presented in Table 10. The Overall Mean is 4.21, and the Overall Standard Deviation is 0.010, considered as High. The highest mean (4.26, SD = 0.033) was for Indicator 2: "Personnel Deployment." Indicator 3 (Information Dissemination) and indicator 4 (Equipment and Logistics) both had a mean score of 4.20, and standard deviations of 0.013 and 0.031, respectively. However, Community Participation (Indicator 1) had the lowest mean score of 4.18 (SD = 0.037). The findings show that the Tacurong City Police Station has a good and balanced Community Involvement in all functional areas. The most flagrant statistical result in this table is the very small overall standard deviation of 0.010, which indicates a very high degree of agreement on the way in which these various domains are perceived and implemented. This indicates that this station's community engagement plan is not unbalanced; it's a coherent system with the deployment, information, and logistics all combined.

The presence of officers and movement of officers to different locations is the most visible and emphasized crime prevention activity, as indicated by the highest mean obtained in 'Personnel Deployment' (4.26). Information Dissemination is the most stable and uniform practice with the lowest SD (0.013), making it the most stable practice of the station, with communication protocols highly standardized among personnel. It also had the lowest mean but still within the "High" range (4.18 – "Community Participation"). The slightly higher SD for this indicator (0.037) than the others suggests that there are more external factors associated with engaging the public (citizen will and neighborhood dynamics, etc.) than there are internal factors associated with logistics and deployment.

These results indicate that local police personnel recognize the importance of crime prevention programs in addressing specific crime issues within communities. Such programs often involve collaboration between police personnel and community members to identify, prevent, and reduce crime. The extent of police involvement is critical to the effectiveness and success of these programs. Active engagement with community members allows police personnel to implement targeted strategies, foster trust, and ensure that crime prevention initiatives achieve their intended outcomes. Building and maintaining strong partnerships between the community and the police is essential to achieving lasting peace and order. When community members are encouraged to take part in safety initiatives and work hand in hand with law enforcers, it creates a sense of shared responsibility. This cooperation helps in identifying potential problems early, strengthens trust, and fosters a united effort toward keeping the community safe and harmonious.

Crime Rates of Tacurong City from 2022 to 2023

The crime rates of Tacurong City from 2022 to 2023 are presented in Tables 11 to 13. Table 11 shows the data on index crimes, Table 12 details the non-index crimes, and Table 13 provides the overall summary of crime rates during the two years. These tables highlight the changes in both major and minor offenses, offering a clear picture of the city's crime trends and the impact of localized crime prevention programs.

Table 11 presents the crime rates of Tacurong City from 2022 to 2023, which is used to further analyze the relationship between the implementation of localized crime prevention programs, the extent of police involvement, and actual crime trends in the city.

Table 11. *Crime Rates of Tacurong City from 2022 to 2023 According to the Index Crimes*

Category	Crime Rates			Percentage (Difference)	Description
	2022	2023	Total		
1. Rape	22	18	40	18.18%	Decreased
2. Theft	7	9	16	28.57%	Increased
3. Robbery	4	10	14	60.00%	Increased
4. Murder	5	11	16	54.55%	Increased
5. Physical Injuries	7	4	11	42.86%	Decreased
6. Carnapping Mc	1	3	4	66.67%	Increased
7. Homicide	1	2	3	50.00%	Increased
8. Carnapping Mv	1	2	3	50.00%	Increased
Total	48	59	107	18.64%	Decreased

Category 1, Rape, recorded 22 cases in 2022 and 18 cases in 2023, totaling 40, with a percentage decrease of 18.18%, and was thus concluded as decreased. Category 2, Theft, increased from seven (7) cases in 2022 to nine (9) cases in 2023, totaling 16, with a percentage increase of 28.58%.

Category 3, Robbery, rose from four (4) cases in 2022 to 10 cases in 2023, totaling 14, representing a 60.00% increase. Category 4, Murder, increased from five (5) cases in 2022 to 11 in 2023, totaling 16, with a percentage increase of 54.55%.

Category 5, Physical Injuries, decreased from seven (7) cases in 2022 to four (4) in 2023, totaling 11, with a 42.88% decrease. Category 6, Carnapping of Motorcycles (MC), increased from one (1) case in 2022 to four (4) in 2023, totaling five (5), with a 66.67% increase. Category 7, Homicide, rose from one (1) case in 2022 to two (2) in 2023, totaling three (3), with a 50.00% increase. Category 8, Carnapping of Motor Vehicles (MV), increased from one (1) case in 2022 to two (2) in 2023, totaling three (3), also representing a 50.00% increase. Overall, the total index crime rates were 48 in 2022 and 59 in 2023, with a total of 107 cases and a percentage difference of 18.64%, which was concluded as decreased.

Index crimes, which include serious offenses such as murder, homicide, robbery, theft, and physical assault, serve as critical indicators of public safety and the effectiveness of law enforcement. Analyzing data from the Philippine National Police (PNP) provides valuable insights into crime trends and patterns, enabling researchers, policymakers, and law enforcement agencies to develop targeted strategies to address these issues. By understanding the trends in index crimes, authorities can implement more effective interventions to enhance public safety and security.

Table 12 presents the non-index crime rates of Tacurong City from 2022 to 2023.

Table 12. *Crime Rates of Tacurong City from 2022 to 2023, According to Non-Index Crimes*

Category	Crime Rates			Percentage (Difference)	Description
	2022	2023	Total		
1. RIR Physical Injuries	108	89	197	17.59%	Decreased
2. RA 9165	51	38	89	25.49%	Decreased
3. RA 9287	48	25	73	47.92%	Decreased
4. RIR Damage to Property	41	57	98	39.02%	Increased
5. RIR Homicide	20	14	34	30.00%	Decreased
6. RA 9262	13	12	25	7.69%	Decreased
7. RA 7610	9	4	13	55.56%	Decreased
8. ART 151	1	1	2	0.00%	Remain the Same
9. Acts of Lasciviousness	5	6	11	16.67%	Increased
10. Estafa	5	3	8	40.00%	Decreased
11. Frustrated Homicide	2	6	8	66.67%	Increased
12. Frustrated Murder	4	3	7	25.00%	Decreased
13. Attempted Homicide	2	1	3	50.00%	Decreased
14. Malicious Mischief	4	0	4	100.00%	Decreased
15. Slander	2	1	3	50.00%	Decreased
16. BP 881	5	1	6	80.00%	Decreased
17. Direct Assault	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
18. Alarms and Scandals	3	0	3	100.00%	Decreased
19. PD 1866	3	0	3	100.00%	Decreased
20. BP 22	1	2	3	50.00%	Increased
21. Threats	1	1	2	0.00%	Remain the Same
22. Unjust Vexations	1	2	3	100.00%	Increased
23. Attempted Rape	3	1	4	66.67%	Decreased
24. Trespassing	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
25. Concubinage	1	1	2	0.00%	Remain the Same
26. PD 449	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
27. RA 7183	0	1	1	100.00%	Increased
28. Attempted Murder	0	1	1	100.00%	Increased
29. False Testimony	0	1	1	100.00%	Increased
30. Attempted Robbery	2	0	2	100.00%	Decreased
31. RA 11313	2	0	2	100.00%	Decreased
32. RA 10606	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
33. RA 10610	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
34. RA 10604	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
35. RA 10608	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
36. RA 1999	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
37. Other Deceit	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
38. RA 10611	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
39. RA 10603	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
40. RA 10612	0	1	1	100.00%	Increased

41. RA 10605	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
42. RA 10614	0	1	1	100.00%	Increased
43. RA 10607	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
44. RA 10616	0	1	1	100.00%	Increased
45. RA 10609	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
46. PD 1829	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
47. PD 705	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
48. Intriguing Against Honor	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
49. RA 10613	0	1	1	100.00%	Increased
50. RA 10615	0	1	1	100.00%	Increased
51. RA 11479	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
52. RA 11596	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
53. Kidnapping	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
54. Arson	1	0	1	100.00%	Decreased
Total	358	276	634	22.91%	Decreased

Category 1, RIR Physical Injuries, decreased from 108 cases in 2022 to 89 cases in 2023, totaling 197 cases, with a 17.59% decrease. Category 2, RA 9165 (Illegal Drugs), decreased from 51 cases in 2022 to 38 in 2023, representing a 25.49% decrease. Category 3, RA 9287 (Illegal Gambling), decreased from 48 cases to 25, with a 47.92% decrease. Category 4, RIR Damage to Property, however, increased from 41 cases in 2022 to 57 in 2023, representing a 39.02% rise. Category 5, RIR Homicide, decreased from 20 to 14 cases, showing a 30.00% decrease. Category 6, RA 9262 (Violence Against Women and Children), decreased slightly from 13 to 12 cases, a 7.69% decrease, while Category 7, RA 7610 (Special Protection of Children), dropped from nine (9) to four (4) cases, a 55.96% decrease. Category 8 remained constant with one (1) case each year.

Other categories show mixed trends. For instance, Category 9, RIR Physical Injuries, increased from five (5) to six (6) cases, while Category 10, Estafa, decreased from five (5) to three (3) cases. Categories 11 and 17, Frustrated Homicide, both increased from two (2) to six (6) cases. Meanwhile, categories such as Malicious Mischief, Alarm and Scandal, P.D. 1886, and several RA violations recorded 100% decreases, indicating no incidents in 2023 compared to 2022. A few other categories, including RA 7183, Attempted Murder, and RA 10612, showed slight increases from zero to one case, signaling the emergence of new types of offenses.

Overall, the total number of non-index crimes decreased from 358 cases in 2022 to 276 cases in 2023, totaling 634 cases, with a percentage decrease of 22.91%. This signifies a general reduction in minor offenses that, while less severe than index crimes, remain important indicators of public order and community discipline. Non-index crimes, though considered minor, play a crucial role in reflecting the state of peace and the effectiveness of law enforcement within a community. These offenses, such as vandalism, trespassing, public disturbance, and violations of local ordinances, can affect the overall quality of life and, if left unchecked, may escalate into more serious crimes. Monitoring these cases provides valuable insights into the behavior, discipline, and cooperation of citizens, as well as the efficiency of local policing and governance (Johnson, 2021).

Crime prevention remains a cornerstone of law enforcement, aiming not only to suppress criminal activities but also to promote community safety and social harmony. The Philippine National Police (PNP) plays a vital role in this endeavor, using crime data to design targeted interventions and more responsive strategies for both index and non-index crimes.

The overall decline in non-index crimes implies a growing partnership between the police and the community in sustaining peace and discipline. This trend reflects not only effective policing but also a heightened sense of civic responsibility among citizens who actively engage in safety programs, report incidents, and comply with community ordinances. Such collaboration strengthens the social fabric and nurtures collective accountability for public safety. However, the rise in specific categories, such as damage to property, underscores the need for continued vigilance, proactive policy adjustments, and stronger community engagement to maintain and further improve these positive outcomes. Table 13 presents the summary of crime rates in Tacurong City from 2022 to 2023.

Table 13. *Summary Table on the Crime Rates of Tacurong City from 2022 to 2023*

Category	Crime Rates			Percentage (Difference)	Description
	2022	2023	Total		
1. Index Crimes	48	59	107	18.64%	Decreased
2. Non-Index Crimes	358	276	634	22.91%	Decreased
Total	406	335	741	17.49%	Decreased

Table 13 provides a summary of both index and non-index crime rates in Tacurong City. The total index crime rate was 48 in 2022 and increased slightly to 59 in 2023, totaling 107 cases, with a percentage difference of 18.64%, which is considered a decrease. Meanwhile, the total non-index crime rate decreased from 358 cases in 2022 to 276 cases in 2023, totaling 634 cases, with a percentage difference of 22.91%, also considered decreased.

The local police station emphasizes that both index and non-index crimes significantly impact the planning and effectiveness of crime prevention programs implemented by the PNP. Understanding these impacts and integrating strategies to address both types of crimes is crucial for the success of localized crime prevention efforts. By comprehensively addressing index and non-index crimes, the PNP

can enhance public safety, build community trust, and reduce overall crime rates. While crime statistics cannot predict criminal activities with absolute certainty, they are an invaluable tool for improving police-community relations and promoting transparency. Sharing crime data with the public not only increases trust and confidence in law enforcement but also fosters stronger collaboration between the police and the community.

The results also show that localized crime prevention programs, such as Project Isugid mo Kay Auntie Pulis, Oplan Bantay Kapwa, Project Bantay Kalinga, and Project Bantay Barangay, demonstrate effective implementation, as evidenced by the overall decrease in both index and non-index crimes. Accurate crime statistics are critical for evaluating the success of these programs and identifying areas for improvement.

Significant Relationship Between the Localized Crime Prevention Programs and the Level of Crime Rates

The significant relationship between the localized crime prevention programs and the level of crime rates in Tacurong City is presented in Table 14.

Table 14. Significant Relationship Between the Localized Crime Prevention Programs to the Level of Crime Rate

Variables	Level of Implementation of Localized Crime Prevention Programs		
	Correlation Coefficient (r)	p-value	Remarks
1. Community Participation	0.840	0.000	With Significant Relationship
2. Personnel Deployment	0.864	0.000	With Significant Relationship
3. Information Dissemination	0.863	0.000	With Significant Relationship
4. Equipment and Logistics	0.877	0.000	With Significant Relationship

Table 14 shows that the level of implementation and the extent of involvement in localized crime prevention programs by police personnel have significant relationships. Community Participation obtained a correlation coefficient (r) of 0.840 with a p-value of 0.000, Personnel Deployment obtained $r = 0.864$ with a p-value of 0.000, Information Dissemination obtained $r = 0.863$ with a p-value of 0.000, and Equipment and Logistics obtained $r = 0.877$ with a p-value of 0.000. These results indicate a significant relationship between the level of implementation and the extent of involvement in localized crime prevention programs across all examined dimensions.

The local police office emphasized that crime prevention is a critical aspect of law enforcement, particularly at the local level where police personnel play a vital role. The effectiveness of localized crime prevention efforts depends largely on both the level of implementation and the extent of involvement of police personnel in the community. High involvement and consistent program implementation enable the police to address crime proactively, foster trust, and maintain public safety.

However, it is essential to interpret these findings with academic caution. While the statistical data shows a strong correlation between these police programs and a lower crime rate, it must be acknowledged that crime is a multi-dimensional phenomenon. Other external factors, such as local government legislation, socio-economic shifts, and community-led development initiatives, may have also contributed to the overall reduction of crime during this period. Recognizing these overlapping influences does not diminish the importance of the police programs; rather, it highlights that effective crime prevention often functions as part of a broader, multi-sectoral ecosystem of governance and social stability.

The level of implementation and extent of involvement in crime prevention programs can vary across different jurisdictions. While some police departments have fully adopted community policing and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, others face challenges due to limited resources or insufficient understanding of these approaches. Therefore, police departments need to prioritize community engagement and continuous training in crime prevention strategies. Strengthening partnerships with the community fosters trust, cooperation, and mutual accountability between law enforcement officers and citizens.

These findings support the theory of Geason and Wilson (1988) that effective crime prevention should not rely solely on punitive measures or law enforcement expansion. Instead, it should focus on community-based strategies that address the root causes of criminal behavior through social, psychological, and environmental approaches. The active involvement of the Tacurong City community in these programs illustrates the importance of collective responsibility, where citizens and police work collaboratively to ensure peace, safety, and security in the locality.

Discussion

The study revealed that the localized crime prevention programs implemented by the Tacurong City Police Station were carried out at a consistently high level. Among the initiatives, Project Isugid mo Kay Auntie Pulis obtained the highest overall mean of 4.34, reflecting strong prioritization of cases involving Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC). This underscores the police officers' commitment to addressing sensitive issues of abuse and ensuring victims receive timely support. Meanwhile, Oplan Bantay Kapwa and Project Balik-Kalinga both recorded overall means of 4.21, while Project Bantay Barangay achieved 4.24, all interpreted as high. These results highlight the proactive stance of the police in fostering community safety, protecting children, and strengthening grassroots collaboration with barangay residents.

The statistical reliability of these findings is further reinforced by the notably low overall standard deviations across all programs, which ranged from 0.038 to 0.163. These low SD values indicate an exceptionally high degree of consensus and uniformity among the respondents. This suggests that the high level of implementation is not merely the result of individual effort by a few officers, but rather a reflection of a standardized institutional culture within the Tacurong City Police Station. The minimal variance in scores proves that these localized programs have been successfully integrated into the station's standard operating procedures, ensuring that crime prevention services are delivered with consistent quality and professional rigor regardless of the specific officer or unit involved.

Furthermore, the consistency in these results implies that the station has successfully balanced diverse objectives ranging from specialized VAWC response to general neighborhood watch programs. This holistic and steady approach to policing fosters a more predictable and reliable security environment, which is essential for building long-term public trust and ensuring the sustainability of peace and order at the grassroots level.

Community involvement was also found to be high across all indicators. Personnel Deployment obtained the highest mean of 4.26, suggesting strong support for strategies such as flexible shift scheduling and increased police visibility during peak crime hours. Information Dissemination and Equipment and Logistics both recorded means of 4.20, while Community Participation registered 4.18. These findings emphasize the importance of community-police partnerships, where active engagement, information sharing, and technological support contribute to effective crime prevention. The use of social media platforms, workshops, and surveillance technologies further demonstrates how modern tools are integrated into local policing to enhance responsiveness and public trust.

Crime statistics from 2022 to 2023 provide further evidence of the effectiveness of these programs. Index crimes decreased by 18.64%, while non-index crimes declined by 22.91%. Although certain categories, such as robbery, murder, and carjacking, showed increases, the overall reduction in crime rates indicates that localized prevention strategies have positively impacted public safety. This suggests that while challenges remain, particularly in addressing specific crime trends, the general trajectory of crime reduction reflects the success of community-centered policing.

Statistical analysis also confirmed a significant relationship between the crime prevention programs and crime rate reduction. Correlation coefficients ranging from 0.840 to 0.877, with p-values of 0.000, demonstrate that higher levels of program implementation and police involvement in community participation, personnel deployment, information dissemination, and logistics are strongly associated with reductions in crime. This validates the effectiveness of Tacurong City's localized crime prevention strategies, showing that collaborative, proactive, and resource-supported approaches can yield measurable improvements in public safety.

Conclusions

The implementation of localized crime prevention programs in Tacurong City has had a measurable impact on reducing and preventing lawless incidents, showing that these initiatives are effective in promoting public safety. The consistently high ratings across projects such as Isugid mo Kay Auntie Pulis, Oplan Bantay Kapwa, Project Balik-Kalinga, and Project Bantay Barangay confirm that these programs are well-executed and widely supported. The high level of police involvement demonstrates that active participation by officers is a decisive factor in the success of crime prevention. Their engagement in personnel deployment, information dissemination, and logistical support strengthens community trust and ensures that crime prevention strategies are implemented effectively. Crime statistics from 2022 to 2023 reflect the positive outcomes of these efforts. Both index and non-index crimes declined, indicating that the programs contributed to safer communities despite increases in certain categories. The overall downward trend validates the role of localized initiatives in addressing crime. The significant correlation between program implementation and crime rate reduction confirms that well-structured and actively pursued strategies directly influence public safety. Tacurong City's experience illustrates that community-based, participatory, and resource-supported approaches can serve as a model for other localities seeking to enhance security and resilience.

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