

Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team on Covid-19 Response: An Analysis

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Abstract:- Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is caused by a newly discovered coronavirus, which is an infectious disease. The COVID-19 pandemic is considered as the worst crisis that affects our world economically and socially. In this regard, government and community leaders were challenge enormously in responding to this kind of crisis. In the Philippines, following the announcement of the first localized transmission on 7 March, local officials raised by the DOH are at once responsible for distributing assistance to small businesses and people in an inclusive and transparent manner; they also need to collaborate with national and other local governments, the private sector and even foreign organizations in order to receive, monitor and receive support. In addition, several municipal councils are working rapidly to speed up the provision of health care, revise fiscal policies and introduce new rules on public safety. Thus, it can be noted that The nearest and most direct form of government is always the local institution. As the full effects of the pandemic, health, social, financial and political, are concentrated across the globe, they are important and need to be open, accessible and sensitive to citizens' needs. As it was noted by PGEN Camilo Cascolan (2020), the PNP can never be truly effective without the help and support of the community. In this regard, the role of the community is vital in providing services to this pandemic. In this regard, the researcher would like to conduct a study in order to identify the lived experiences of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team in response to COVID-19.

This study was conducted using a qualitative research approach particularly a Case Study with a population of 10 BPAT members assigned in barangay Bacayao Sur, Dagupan City identified through a Purposive Sampling.

The result of the analysis revealed that the BPAT in barangay Bacayao Sur, Dagupan City are active in responding to COVID-19 despite of the fact that they are unprepared and have lack of knowledge and experience. They still managed to proactively and reactively respond to COVID-19 in a systematic and flexible manner. The challenges they have encountered did not hindered them to become resilient in response to COVID-19.

The result of the study implied a clear indication that the challenges they have encountered did not hindered them to become resilient in response to COVID-19.

Keywords:- *Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team, COVID-19 Response.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is caused by a newly discovered coronavirus, which is an infectious disease. It is possible that COVID-19 infected patients will develop mild to moderate respiratory illness and will recover even without special treatment. According to the World Health Organization (2019), older people are more likely to experience severe diseases and those with underlying medical conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease and cancer. Being well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads, is the best way to avoid and slow down transmission. There are no clear COVID-19 vaccines or therapies at this time. Nevertheless, there are several current clinical studies testing possible treatments.

Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic is considered as the worst crisis that affects our world economically and socially. Vezina (2020), stated that the virus has essentially affected many things about how people learn, work, and play. In other words, it has extremely changed the lives of many people. Evidence indicates that epidemics and pandemics may have major social effects that cause restrictions on migration, travel bans, border closures, and area quarantines in extreme cases (Espinoza, Castillo-Chavez, & Perrings, 2019). The consequences of the pandemic are not only limited to social life but also affect financial constraints at the household. Blake, Blendon, and Viswanath (2010) that during the influenza epidemic, job insecurity was exposed as a real consideration for many working adults in the United States. In the absence of well-implemented social safety nets and unemployment insurance, during a pandemic, financial issues will weigh heavily on the minds of employees, and these problems can contribute to consideration of enforcement.

In this regard, government and community leaders were challenge enormously in responding to this kind of crisis. According to the World Bank (2020), in times like this, well-established structures for emergency support and immediate assistance are used by the government.

Initially, the federal government of the United States reacted to the COVID-19 pandemic with numerous emergency declarations, some of which led to restrictions on travel and entry, and the establishment of the White House

Coronavirus Task Force. As the pandemic advanced in the U.S. and in the rest of the world, the U.S. government started providing guidelines on state and local government responses as well as steps of social distancing and monitoring of occupational hazards. President Donald Trump declared the National Guard's mobilization in the most affected areas following the closing of most corporations in a number of U.S. states. (Holshue, 2020).

The U.S. between March and April 2020 As part of an aggressive attempt to combat both the pandemic and its economic effects, Congress passed a few big stimulus packages. Within both the House of Representatives and the Senate, with influence from the White House, the other proposed acts of legislation to provide economic relief were adopted. Furthermore, a variety of agencies have made other federal policy shifts, some at the behest of President Trump. Negative responses were created by the Trump administration's communication concerning the pandemic. President Trump was initially identified as positive about the country's response to the 2019 coronavirus disease pandemic and the level of risk to the public. Trump made a large number of false or misleading claims as the pandemic's seriousness grew in the U.S. Trump administration officials, on the other hand, made several comments in favor of physical distancing and purchasing steps. (Boseley, 2020).

In Uganda, in place of daily in-person market operations, the Kampala Capital City Authority provided guidelines and published related contact details for the home delivery of food and other essential commodities. The capital government of Mexico City and 13 of its 16 municipalities partnered in Mexico to introduce a new 'Mercomuna' program (Market, Culture, Food, and Supply) to help families and micro-enterprises during the COVID-19 pandemic. Special vouchers are issued to families participating in an established governmental milk supply program to redeem food for small businesses, such as local grocery stores, bakeries and markets. (Beerman, 2020)

Furthermore, to address questions about COVID-19 and provide resources in response to discrimination encountered during the health crisis, the Ministry of Diversity of the Municipality of Montevideo in Uruguay set up a telephone and email hotline for people from LGBTI+ and HIV-positive groups. (Beerman, 2020)

In Turkey, the Robotic Coding and Technology Training Center of the Muratpaşa Municipality, part of the Civil Society and Innovation Center of the city, began using 3D printers to produce and distribute face shields for critical workers in the city, especially those working in hospitals. In Taiwan, in response to COVID-19, Taipei City announced short-term economic relief initiatives for local businesses, including tax deferrals and decreases, rent reductions, preferential interest rates and other subsidies to avoid significant unemployment and business closures. These initiatives complement the medium-term economic relief program of the Taiwan Central Government. (Beerman, 2020)

Meanwhile, in the Philippines, the DOH increased its warning to Code Red Sub-Level 1 following the confirmation of the first localized transmission on March 7. On March 9, President Rodrigo Duterte later issued Proclamation No. 922, officially declaring a public health emergency and allowing local government units to use their local disaster risk mitigation management funds. President Duterte called on Congress to hold special sessions on March 23, following the dramatic rise in reported cases, to enact the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act upon his order, which would "authorize the President to exercise powers necessary to carry out urgent measures to meet the current national emergency related to COVID-19 only for three months unless extended by Congress". The act will enable President Duterte, in response to the pandemic, to "reallocate, realign, and reprogram" a budget of approximately \$275 billion (\$5.37 billion) out of the projected \$438 billion (\$8.55 billion) national budget approved for 2020; allow him to "temporarily take over or direct the operations" of public utilities and private health facilities and other essential facilities "when the public interest so requires", the accommodation of health workers and the delivery and storage of medical relief; and the accreditation of test kits to "facilitate and streamline". (Parrocha, 2020)

In like manner, the World Health Organizations (WHO, 2020), stated that the community plays a vital role in responding to pandemics. This is the lesson they have realized from the Ebola outbreak way back 2014 to 2016. This outbreak highlighted the essence of community crisis management responses and recovery of medical efforts.

In the case of COVID-19, community collaborations, healthcare systems, local governments and the private sector will play a key role in slowing the spread, mitigating impacts and facilitating local recovery. These collaborations facilitate preventive communication and behavior improvement, provide a quick short-term emergency response, reduce economic impacts and create resilience for the future.

Furthermore, Beerman (2020), it is mentioned that the challenges created by the COVID-19 threat are united by communities around the world. Local authorities are at the forefront of the fight: their leadership is not only characterized by the language and immediacy of their response to this disaster, but also has a direct effect on the health and well-being of their people. For years to come, the way elected officials react to the COVID-19 crisis will affect citizens' confidence and societal well-being, particularly at the local level.

Beerman (2020), noted that in response to emergency relief packages, cities and municipalities around the globe need to develop solid, open and accountable expenditure measures almost overnight to ensure proper allocation and control of funds. Local officials are at once responsible for distributing assistance to small businesses and residents in an equitable and open manner; and in order to receive, register, and distribute medical equipment and other materials, they must also collaborate with national and other local

governments, the private sector and even foreign organizations. In addition, several municipal councils are working rapidly to improve the availability of health care, revise budgetary policies and introduce new rules on public safety.

Thus, it can be noted that the local institutions often constitute the nearest and most direct form of governance. As the full ramifications of the pandemic - health, social, financial and political - are concentrated across the world, they are important and need to be open, accessible and sensitive to citizens' needs. As it was noted by PGEN Camilo Cascolan (2020), the PNP can never be truly effective without the help and support of the community. In this regard, the role of the community is vital in providing services to this pandemic. In this regard, the researcher would like to conduct a study in order to identify the lived experiences of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team in response to COVID-19. The objectives of this study are to identify the challenges encountered by the BPAT members in COVID19 response and eventually develop and propose measures that will address the challenges of the BPAT in responding to COVID19 response.

II. THEORETICAL/CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

This study is anchored in Participation Theory. According to Chamala (1995), involving stakeholders and empowering community members in projects at all levels, from local to global, offers a more productive route to addressing sustainable resource management challenges at all levels. Participation enhances project effectiveness through community ownership of development efforts and aids decision-making (Kelly and Van Vlaenderen 1995; Kolavalli and Kerr 2002). Price and Mylius (1991) also identified local ownership of a project or program as a key to generating motivation for ecologically sustainable activities. The authors also identify the role of community participation in disseminating information amongst a community, particularly local knowledge, that leads to better facilitation of action (Price and Mylius 1991; Stiglitz 2002). Kelly (2001) identified that participation results in learning, and learning is often a prerequisite for changing behavior and practices. Gow and Vansant (1983) identified four affirmations that summarize the importance of participation in development: (a) People organize best around problems they consider most important, (b) Local people tend to make better economic decisions and judgments in the context of their own environment and circumstances, (c) Voluntary provision of labor, time, money and materials to a project is a necessary condition for breaking patterns of dependency and passivity, (d) The local control over the amount, quality and benefits of development activities helps make the process self-sustaining. (Botchway 2001)

According to White (1981) A variety of beneficial factors for community engagement have been identified: more can be done with participation, and programs can be delivered more economically. Participation has an inherent value for participants; is a catalyst for further development;

facilitates a sense of responsibility; ensures that a felt need is involved; ensures that things are done the right way; uses useful indigenous knowledge; frees individuals from relying on the abilities of others and makes people more conscious of the causes of their poverty and what they can do about it.

According to Curry (1993:33) it recognizes that 'local-sensitive policies will not only be more effective in taking into account the heterogeneity of the local social system, economy, climate and culture, but will also be more likely to be successful in their implementation through the participation of the local community. Communities with a voice in shaping municipal policies are far more likely to be excited about their implementation. (Curry, 1993: 33 cited in (Storey 1999) page 308). Golooba-Mutebi (2004) found that participation has a role in enhancing civic consciousness and political maturity that makes those in office accountable.

In addition, Olson's theory is also used as a framework of this study. Mancur Olson (1971) A widely held belief that groups of people with shared goals normally work together to achieve them has been called into question. He argues that "...unless the number of individuals in a group is quite small, or unless there is coercion or some other special device to make individuals act in their common interest, rational, self-interested individuals will not act to achieve their common or group interests". (Olson, 1971). In general, the larger the party, the less visible the behavior of its individual members, the higher the cost of getting them together by transaction, and thus the greater the propensity to ride freely. This is why large organizations often struggle to provide their representatives with collective goods. Using two basic economic analysis methods, Olson has shown that "certain small groups can provide themselves with collective goods without relying on coercion or any positive inducements apart from the collective good itself. This is because in some small groups each of the members, or at least some of them will find that his personal gain from having the collective good exceeds the total cost of providing the collective good" (Olson, 1971). Olson does not specify the number of people who will make up the very small group, but he asserts that the group should be small enough to make "the individual actions of any one or more members are noticeable to any other individuals in the group." (Olson, 1971).

Lastly, this study is also based on the concept of RA 11469 or the "Bayanihan to Heal as One Act". The goal of this law is to contain local transmissions of the disease, mobilize assistance of basic necessities to affected families, undertake measures to manage the healthcare system, implement a social amelioration program to affected sectors, and partner with private sectors and other stakeholders in the implementation of programs and measures.

Hence, the above-mentioned theories and concept are very applicable as framework of the study because it gave ideas and references to guide this research to achieve its objectives.

Paradigm of the Study



Figure 1. Paradigm of the Study

Figure 1 shows the Paradigm of the study that serves as the flowchart of the study. The Corona Virus (COVID-19) is the main problem facing by the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team and is considered as the worst social, economic and health problem by the World Health Organization. The existence of COVID-19 led the government and private sectors to developed strategies to mitigate and prevent the spread of the virus. However, the implementation of these strategies or measures is indeed a great challenge to the government and private sectors. Thus, the researcher will conduct this study in order to address this challenges for the BPAT to become resilient and triumphant in the fight against COVID-19 and other future related crisis.

Statement of the Problem

This study sought to answers to identify the lived experiences of BPAT members in response to COVID19. Specifically, it seeks to answer the following question.

1. What are the current strategies applied by the BPAT in responding to COVID19crisis?
2. What are the challenges encountered by the BPAT on responding to COVID19crisis?

III. DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the research design and methodology, population of the study, data gathering tool, data gathering procedure, and treatment of data.

Research Design and Methodology

A qualitative research approach particularly a Case Study design was used in this study. Instead of a sweeping statistical survey or systematic comparative investigation, a case study is a detailed study of a specific research issue. It is also used to narrow down one or a few easily researched examples to a very wide area of study. The research design of the case study is also useful for checking whether a particular theory and model actually applies to real-world phenomena. It is a useful design when not much of a problem or phenomenon is understood. (De Vaus, 2006). In this regard, the researcher wanted to study the lived experiences of the members of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team in responding to COVID-19 in their area of jurisdiction.

Population and Locale of the Study

The population of this study was focused on the ten (10) BPAT members in barangay Bacayao Sur, Dagupan City to be determine using Purposive Sampling technique. Each participant of this study agreed to the interview was asked to read and sign an informed consent form and pledge absolute anonymity.

Furthermore, the study was conducted in Barangay, Bacayao Sur, Dagupan City, where the participants were assigned.

Data Gathering Instrument

The data were gathered using an In-Depth Interview. The term "In-depth is defined in the literature as fairly vague: it typically means a one-to-one interview on a single general subject, discussed in detail. These qualitative interviews usually last about an hour, but often a lot longer. It sounds like two people having a debate, but there are gaps in the dynamics of power and the end goal: these are 'discussions with a reason' for the classic sociologist Burgess (2002).

Data Gathering Procedure

Immediately after approval of this research proposal, the researcher conducted data gathering by means of in-depth interview. Mostly, with only an occasional question for clarification from the interviewer, the participants spoke over an extended interview about a wide range of subjects.

All interviews were recorded. The interviews were informal and open-ended, and carried out in a conversational style.

In connection with the interviews, follow-up interviews, observations, and casual experiences with subjects, she wrote field notes. While listening to recorded interviews, typing transcripts, and reflecting on a specific interview, notes were also written. In addition to the interviews and follow-up interviews, other data such as feedback from administrative and teaching colleagues, articles or other materials and on-going literature review will be collected by the researcher during the research.

Ethical Consideration

This study was guided by the ethical principles on research. The research ethics was focused on requirements of voluntary participation, informed consent, confidentiality and the personal safety of the participants and the researcher.

The participants of this study were not forced nor coerced to participate in this study. They can decline to answer the question for any reason. They can also withdraw their participation in this research verbally and/or return the unfinished questionnaire to the researcher. Debriefing was also be conducted to stabilize the psychological condition of the participants. Moreover, strict confidentiality and anonymity of the participants was always observed and maintained. Lastly, no money was given to the participants however, token of appreciation was considered.

Treatment of Data

To treat the qualitative data, a thematic analysis by Creswell (2007) was utilized by the researcher. Thematic analysis is a form of qualitative data analysis. It is commonly applicable to a collection of texts, such as transcripts of interviews. In order to recognize common themes, subjects, ideas and sense trends that come up frequently, the researcher closely examined the content.

IV. PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

This chapter presents, analyzes, and interprets the findings of the study on the COVID-19 response of the BPAT in barangay Bacayao Sur, Dagupan City.

THE CURRENT STRATEGIES APPLIED BY THE BPAT IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19 CRISIS

Upon analysis of the responses of the participants, the researcher has developed two themes.

Proactive-Reactive Approach

The researcher has identified the strategies applied by the BPAT in responding to COVID-19 crisis is a proactive-reactive approach. This is attributed to the fact that communities are taking more proactive-reactive function in disease transmission mitigation.

In fact, participant A stated in local dialect that “Ang laban natin kontra sa COVID- 19 ay nagsisimula sa ating mga komunidad, barangay, at mga tahanan” (Our fight against COVID-19 starts in our own community, village, and homes). Participant B also stated that “Noong wala pang virus (COVID-19) sa ating barangay, kami (BPAT) ay nakabantay na sa mga kalsada upang makontrol ang paglabas at pagapasok ng mga tao sa ating barangay, lalo na nung kasagasagan ng ECQ (Enhanced Community Quarantine)” (The BPAT is already watching the streets to control the movement of people even before the corona virus entered our barangay).

In support to this, DOH USEC Singh-Vergeire (2020) uttered that The Barangay Health Emergency Response Teams (BHERTs) are charged with guiding their communities to make COVID-19 more proactive. BHERTS consists of local community members, particularly the executive officer of the barangay, barangay tanods (BPAT), health workers of the barangay, and community volunteers. They are qualified to provide health promotion and education to the community and ensure that minimum public health requirements are enforced.

However, despite of the proactive efforts by the BPAT to prevent the COVID-19 transmission, unfortunately, COVID-19 positive cases were reported and identified in the said barangay. In this regard, the BPAT continued to employ proactive strategies and this time they have developed reactive strategies to address such cases. This includes providing assistance in contact tracing in their respective area of jurisdiction, monitoring close contacts under home quarantine on a regular basis; and arranging for the provision

of close contacts under home quarantine, and relief operation among families under quarantine and isolation. Participant C stated in local dialect “Nang nag GCQ na (General Community Quarantine), wala na kaming full control sa mga tao... nagkaroon kami ng positive case at agad kami nagsagawa ng home-based lockdown” (When General Community Quarantine is implemented, we had lost full control among our people leading to a positive case...immediately we imposed home-based lockdown).

According to DILG Secretary Eduardo Año (2020) all barangay chairpersons were instructed to form BHERT teams comprising an executive officer, a barangay tanod, and two health workers barangay—either a nurse or a midwife -- as first-line respondents in the community to help manage all COVID-related healthcare issues.

Thus, the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team or otherwise known as Barangay Tanods who are members of Barangay Health Emergency Response Team in barangay Bacayao Sur, Dagupan City were implementing proactive-reactive approach or strategies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Systematic and Flexible

The researcher also identified that the strategies implemented by BPAT in their respective barangay are systematic and flexible. Systematic because there are certain procedures or protocols that were being observed and followed by the enforcers and the people they are serving. These procedures or protocols implemented in the said barangay were either from the national government, or city government. There are also procedures or protocols designed and developed by their barangay council in accordance with the provisions of protocols from higher authorities. This includes the logbook of all residents going in and out of their barangay, the emergency hotline numbers of their barangay and localized curfew and liquor ban.

Participant D stated that they are strictly observing and following the protocols of their strategies they are implementing so that it will lessen the problem. He stated in a local dialect “strikto talaga ang barangay sa pagpapatupad ng mga protocols lalo na kung galing sa taas” (the barangay council is strict in the implementation of protocols specially from higher authorities).

On the other hand, the strategies were flexible as it tends to develop in accordance to the situation at hand. The strategies were not fix and consistent. They made improvements as the need arises so that it will blend to the welfare of the people. Participant X and Z both uttered that changes in the strategies were common and cannot be avoided. “Hindi talaga maiiwasan na paiba-iba ng strategy kasi hindi pare-pareho ang sitwasyon” (We cannot avoid to change our strategy from time to time because the situation also changes) uttered by participant Z. “Kailangan mag-adjust lalo na kapag ilang araw ng wala ng positive sa lugar natin, magluluwag, pag nagkaroon uli nag kaso maghiipit na naman” (We need to adjust according to the situation specially if there are no cases reported for several days, we

will be lenient, otherwise we will be strict again).

V. THE CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED BY THE BPAT IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19 CRISIS

The researcher, through thematic analysis has developed two themes namely, unprepared, and physically/mentally tested.

Unprepared

Based on the responses of the participants, the researcher identified unprepared as one of the themes in relation to the challenges encountered by the BPAT in responding to COVID-19 crisis. This might be attributed to the fact that they are not ready in this kind of crisis. All of the participants stated that lack of resources, budget, experience, knowledge and training in response to pandemic lead them to be considered defenseless in a battle with uncertain results.

Participant A stated in local dialect, “Lahat kami hindi handa, wala kaming sapat na kaalaman at karanasan sa ganitong klaseng krisis” (We are all unprepared, we do not have knowledge and experience in this kind of crisis). Such statement is also supported by a statement from participant B. “Para kaming lumalaban sa kalaban na di namin nakikita, wala kaming gamit at sapat na pondo para sa ganitong sitwasyon” (It seems that we are fighting an invisible enemy, we do not have tools and enough funds for this kind of situation).

The World Health Organization (2020) stated that preparedness it has played an important role in mitigating the impact of a pandemic, not just for the health sector, but also for all other sectors, people, families and communities. Being prepared is the key to the capacity of a group to respond to an incident and to recover from it. It needs collaboration and cooperation with, as well as other stakeholders, a cross-section of national, local, and tribal partners.

In addition, According to Empowerment Theory, the experience of non-public acquisition of knowledge and skills, growth and progress of self-definition takes place. (Staples 1990). This theory may be applied to BPAT response to COVID-19 by empowering the people within the community to develop their own community.

Lastly, Kelly (2001) in Participation Theory, it has been acknowledged that engagement results in learning and learning is also a requirement for attitudes and behaviors to improve.

Therefore, the fact that the participants are unprepared in this kind of crisis, empowerment and, learning is the key for them to be able to adapt in such kind of situation.

Physically and Mentally Tested

The challenges encountered by the participants were themed as physically and mentally tested. This is supported by the responses of the participants during the interview proper. The participants stated that they are sleepless,

exposed to all kinds of risks, they are outnumbered, encountered hard-headed people and pressured by the community and higher authorities. These challenges put the participants in physical and mental tests.

Participant E stated in local dialect that “yung kulang ka sa tulog, tapos mga tao matitigas pa ang ulo, problema talaga namin ‘yun. Minsan nakakapag-isip ka ng hindi tama laban sa kanila” (the fact that you are sleepless, and people are acting hostile, it is a big problem on our part. Sometimes, you imagine evil things against them). Participant D explained that the pressure they received from people and higher authorities were indeed a challenge to them. “Sobrang pressured kami...yung expectations ng mga tao sa amin at yung mga nakakataas sa amin talagang maituturing na malaking hamon sa trabaho namin. Lalo na at tanod lang kami” (We are so much pressured...the expectations of people and our superiors towards us will be considered a huge challenge in our task, especially we are just a village peacekeeper).

According to Corporate Wellness Magazine, workplace stress also has detrimental effects on the psychological condition of employees, with an increased risk of hysteria, burnout, depression, and disorders of drug use. Staff who are depressed at work are more likely to associate with harmful behaviors, such as smoking cigarettes, alcohol and habits, and poor eating patterns. Workplace stress decreases employee productivity with these attendant health consequences, increases absenteeism and presenteeism, increases the number of days embarked on work for doctor visits, and increases employers' healthcare costs. In addition, occupational stress is associated with higher accident and injury rates and better turnover rates, all of which raise operating costs.

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presents the conclusions and recommendations of this research.

Conclusion

The BPAT in barangay Bacayao Sur, Dagupan City are active in responding to COVID-19 despite of the fact that they are unprepared and have lack of knowledge and experience. They still managed to proactively and reactively respond to COVID-19 in a systematic and flexible manner.

The challenges they have encountered did not hindered them to become resilient in response to COVID-19.

Recommendation

The researcher recommends the following;

1. The barangay council may give rewards or certificate of recognition, appreciation or commendation to the BPAT to uplift the morale and boost encouragement to further improve the performance of their duties and responsibilities.
2. The propose intervening measure to address the challenges of the BPAT in response to COVID-19 may

be adopted by the barangay council to help BPAT become more resilient.

3. A more inclusive and deeper study may be conducted in order to identify more comprehensive information about community's response to COVID-19.

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Table 1:- Proposed Measures That Will Address The Challenges Of The BpatIn Responding To Covid19 Response

CONCERNS	OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS	EXPECTEZOUCOME
A. Outnumbered/Lack of manpower	To recruit additional manpower sufficient enough to manage crisis	The BPAT should encourage volunteers by tapping different civic groups/sectors in the barangay and if possible, from other places.	Sufficient number of Manpower to manage crisis.
B. Lack of Budget/ Resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To generate additional sources of funds and resources To improve budgeting skills and management of resources 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The barangay council should tap donors and sponsors. The barangay council should conduct/attend budget management training. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient budget resources to address crisis. Enhance budget management skills.
C. Lack of knowledge and skills in crisis management	To develop knowledge and skills in crisis management	The BPAT should organize/attend seminars or short-term classes related to the crisis management	Knowledgeable and skilled BPAT ready for crisis management