

The Impact of Covid -19 Health Protocols on Security in Balaoan District Jail

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Abstract:-

The main purpose of this study is to determine the impact of Covid-19 health protocols implemented on security in Balaoan District Jail.

Specifically, it sought to determine the level of implementation of Covid – 19 health protocols in Balaoan District Jail and the effects of Covid-19 health protocols to the security of PDLs in Balaoan District Jail.

This study used a mixed method of qualitative and quantitative research. It consists collecting and analyzing both quantitative (closed-ended) and qualitative (open-ended) data in determining the impact of Covid-19 health protocols in Balaoan District Jail and its effects to the security of PDLs.

Based on the findings, the health protocols set by the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) were being observed in Balaoan District Jail and Covid-19 affects not only the health but also the mentality of the PDLs.

This implies that Covid-19 really has a great impact in the security of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) especially in terms of their health and psychological well-being.

It is recommended that Balaoan District Jail may innovate the visitation process. Strengthening the E-dalaw thru video call, hire additional personnel to supplement the needed number of Jail personnel and restrictions of personnel movement during off duty to prevent possible contact with Covid-19 positive outside.

Keywords:- PDL, Health Protocols, Impact, Balaoan District Jail.

I. INTRODUCTION

The spread of the coronavirus transversely the earth poses a massive public health and economic crisis; similarly, it is a crisis of, and for governance. This may be particularly the situation for democracies, as in such emergency conditions public safety alarms are assessed against foundational freedoms and the norms and prospects of a democratic citizenry.

The Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) is a undertaking force organized by

the executive of the Philippine administration to answer to affairs regarding emerging infectious diseases in the Philippines. It was formed through Executive Order No. 168 in 2014 which was issued by then-President Benigno Aquino III. It was organized as government's instrument to assess, monitor, contain, control and prevent the spread of any potential epidemic in the Philippines. (___ May 26, 2014.)

In the Philippines, the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) gave emphasis on the safety health protocols in correctional institutions in the Philippines. Security often overrules health in prisons. Speaking COVID-19 necessitates critical readiness and a prepared response, mainly within places of detention (prisons). Prison staff play a crucial role in contributing to the effort of preventing the spread of the disease, promoting safer prison environments, responding to outbreaks in a timely and effective manner and security of the DPLs.

Balaoan District Jail is no excuse to adhere on the safety health protocols by the IAFT. This is to ensure the PDLs free from Covid-19 and provide security for the PDLs.

It is very clear that all district jails under the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) should strictly implement the guidelines and procedure by the IATF concerning not only on the health security of the PDLs but also to ensure that these PDLs will not be affected as to their psychological and emotional aspects that will trigger them to do untoward violence and misconduct resulted from the Covid 19.

The conduct of this study by the researcher is to know if the guidelines set by the IATF are strictly followed and implemented in Balaoan District Jail.

The results of this study is hoped to benefit the following:

Balaoan District Jail. This study may help them to determine whether the Balaoan District Jail is properly implementing the IATF guideline/protocols in the agency.

Local Government Unit (LGU). This study may serve as their reference in assisting the Balaoan District Jail for the implementation IATF guidelines/protocols.

Balaoan District Jail Personnel. This study may help them maintain and oversee the effectiveness of in the implementation of the safety and health protocols set by the IATF.

Cases of Covid 19 in jail may cause violence inside jail such as riot and misconduct that will definitely affects the security of the PDLs.

II. THEORETICAL/CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Details of prison viciousness and other forms of delinquency have been dominated by three opposing models: (a) the deprivation model, (b) the importation model, and (c) the coping model. These can be integrated within Agnew’s general strain theory (GST). GST improves the deprivation model by revealing three distinctive categories of strain. GST incorporates the ingress model in hypothesizing that criminal cultural principles and associations will assembly the answer to the strains of imprisonment. And GST integrates the coping model in its importance on how social support, social capital, and human capital can dull the effects of possibly criminogenic strains. Lastly, GST is adequately broad to comprise factors (e.g., emotions, self-control) in the elucidation of prison maladjustment not enclosed by the three main models of prison inmate behavior. In short, GST offers a overall integrated framework for re- conceptualizing the understanding of prison violence and misconduct.

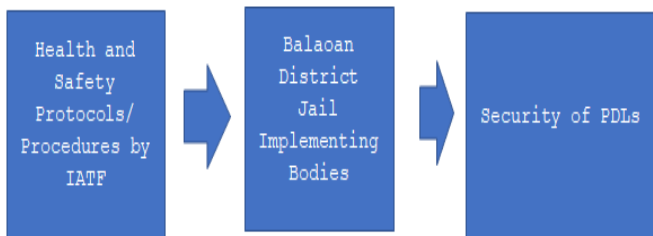


Figure 1. Research Paradigm

Research Paradigm

The research paradigm shows the health and safety protocols implemented in Balaoan District Jail and joined with the strict participation of the governing bodies of Balaoan District Jail will definitely ensure the health and security of the PDLs. This will help the Balaoan District Jail in battling the Covid-19 pandemic and will eventually guarantee the security of the PDLs in terms health and outbreak.

Statement of the Problem

This study aims to determine the impact of Covid-19 health protocols implemented on security in Balaoan District Jail.

Specifically, it seeks to answer the following questions:

1. What is the level of implementation of Covid – 19 health protocols in Balaoan District Jail?

2. What are the effects of Covid-19 health protocols to the security of PDLs in Balaoan District Jail?

III. METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the research design, methodology, population and locale, and the data analysis used in the study conducted.

Research Design and Methodology

This study used a mixed method of qualitative and quantitative research. It consists collecting and analyzing both quantitative (closed-ended) and qualitative (open-ended) data. Using rigorous procedures in collecting and analyzing data appropriate to each method’s tradition, such as ensuring the appropriate sample size for quantitative and qualitative analysis. It also involved integrating the data during data collection, analysis, or discussion. (Creswell and Plano Clark, 2011)

Further, it also involves collecting both types of data at roughly the same time; assessing information using parallel constructs for both types of data; separately analyzing both types of data; and associating results through procedures such as a side-by-side comparison in a discussion, transforming the qualitative data set into quantitative scores, or jointly displaying both forms of data. (Palinkas, Aarons, Horwitz, et al., 2011)

Population and Locale of the Study

This study will be conducted in Balaoan District Jail which is located in Antonino, Balaoan, La Union. The population of the study is composed of three (3) Administrative Personnel, two (2) Medical Personnel and nine (9) Jail Officers with total respondents of fourteen (14).

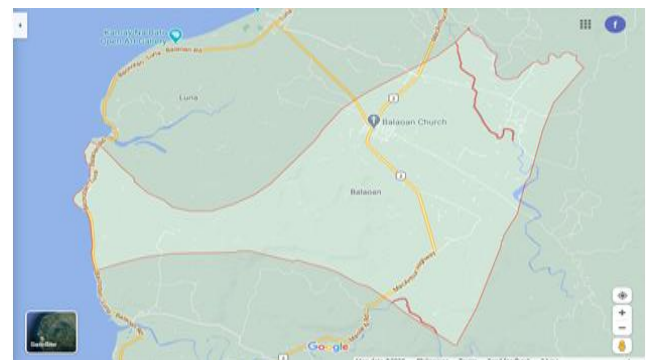


Figure 2. Locale of the Study

Table 1. Respondents by Groups

Group	Population
Administrative Personnel	3
Medical Personnel	2
Jail Officers	9
Total	14

Data Gathering Instruments

A structured survey questionnaire will be used as a main tool of the study. The questionnaires are composed of two (2) parts; Part 1 contains the Level of Implementation of Covid – 19 health protocols in Balaoan District Jail; Part 2 contains the effects of Covid-19 health protocols to the security of PDLs in Balaoan District Jail.

Prior to the formulation of questionnaires, the researchers made a request letter addressed to the Officer-in-Charge, BJMP Balaoan District Jail, Balaoan, La Union.

Data Analysis

Weighted mean was used to determine the level of implementation of Covid – 19 health protocols in Balaoan District Jail, Balaoan, La Union.

Weighted mean was computed using the formula:

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\sum fx}{n}$$

Where:

\bar{X} = weighted mean

x = item value

f = frequency associated to x

n = number of respondents

$\sum fx$ = sum of all the products of f and x or total weighted value

Categorization of Data.

The data will be gathered using survey questionnaires in order to get inputs from the Administrative Personnel, Medical Personnel and Jail Officers. The descriptive equivalent rating and the range of values are presented below.

Evaluation Scale

A. Level of implementation of Covid – 19 health protocols in Balaoan District Jail

Numerical Evaluation	Descriptive Equivalent
4.20-5.00	Highly Implemented
3.40-4.19	Implemented
2.60-3.39	Moderately Implemented
1.80-2.59	Partially Implemented
1.00-1.79	Slightly Implemented

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents analyzes and interprets the findings of the study on the Level of implementation of COVID19 health protocols in Balaoan District Jail, Balaoan, La Union.

Data Presentation

The Part 1 of the presentation of statistical data relative to the problems as earlier posited. Corresponding analysis and interpretation of these data are likewise incorporated in this portion.

Level of implementation of Covid – 19 health protocols in Balaoan District Jail, Balaoan, La Union

Tables 1 to 8 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of the gathered responses in the level of implementation of Covid – 19 health protocols in Balaoan District Jail, Balaoan, La Union.

Numerical Evaluation	Descriptive Equivalent
4.20-5.00	Highly Implemented
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1.00-1.79	Slightly Implemented

Table 1
Wearing of face mask of PDLs, visitors and Jail Personnel

	Frequency	Percentage
Highly Implemented	10	71.43
Implemented	4	28.57
Moderately Implemented	0	0
Partially Implemented	0	0
Slightly Implemented	0	0
Total:	14	100%

Table 1 shows that 71.53% of the respondents answered that the wearing of face mask of PDLs, visitors and jail personnel are highly implemented and 28.57% responded it is implemented.

As stated in the IATF guidelines, all health protocols should be strictly observed and implemented without any exemptions.

Table 2
Wearing of face shield of PDLs, visitors and Jail Personnel

	Frequency	Percentage
Highly Implemented	5	35.71
Implemented	8	57.15
Moderately Implemented	1	7.14
Partially Implemented	0	0
Slightly Implemented	0	0
Total:	14	100%

Table 2 shows that 57.15% of the respondents answered that the wearing of face mask of PDLs, visitors and jail personnel are implemented and 7.14% responded it is moderately implemented.

Table 3
Perform verbal screening and temperature check

	Frequency	Percentage
Highly Implemented	1	7.14
Implemented	13	92.86
Moderately Implemented	0	0
Partially Implemented	0	0
Slightly Implemented	0	0
Total:	14	100%

Table 3 shows that 92.86% of the respondents answered that the performing verbal screening and a temperature check are implemented and 7.14% responded it is highly implemented.

Table 4
Ensure that the receiving facility has capacity to properly quarantine or isolate the individual upon arrival

	Frequency	Percentage
Highly Implemented	1	7.14
Implemented	13	92.86
Moderately Implemented	0	0
Partially Implemented	0	0
Slightly Implemented	0	0
Total:	14	100%

Table 4 shows that 92.86% of the respondents answered that Ensuring the receiving facility has capacity to properly quarantine or isolate the individual upon arrival are implemented and 7.14% responded it is highly implemented.

Table 5
Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched, especially in common areas

	Frequency	Percentage
Highly Implemented	1	7.14
Implemented	13	92.86
Moderately Implemented	0	0
Partially Implemented	0	0
Slightly Implemented	0	0
Total:	14	100%

Table 5 shows that 92.86% of the respondents answered that Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects that are frequently touched, especially in common areas are implemented and 7.14% responded it is highly implemented.

Table 6
Staff clean shared equipment (e.g., radios, service weapons, keys, handcuffs) several times per day and when the use of the equipment has concluded.

	Frequency	Percentage
Highly Implemented	1	7.14
Implemented	13	92.86
Moderately Implemented	0	0
Partially Implemented	0	0
Slightly Implemented	0	0
Total:	14	100%

As gleaned in Table 4, 92.86% of the respondents answered that the Staff clean shared equipment several times per day and when the use of the equipment has concluded implemented and 7.14% responded it is highly implemented.

Table 7
Enforce increased space between individuals in holding cells as well as in lines and waiting areas such as intake.

	Frequency	Percentage
Highly Implemented	0	0
Implemented	10	71.42
Moderately Implemented	4	28.58
Partially Implemented	0	0
Slightly Implemented	0	0
Total:	14	100%

As shown in Table 7, 71.42% of the respondent answered that the increased space between individuals in holding cells as well as in line and waiting areas are implemented and 28.58 responded as moderately implemented.

Table 8
Encourage the PDLs to limit in-person visits in the interest of their own health and the health of their visitors for security reasons

	Frequency	Percentage
Highly Implemented	0	0
Implemented	10	71.42
Moderately Implemented	4	28.58
Partially Implemented	0	0
Slightly Implemented	0	0
Total:	14	100%

As gleaned in Table 7, 71.42% of the respondent answered that the increased space between individuals in holding cells as well as in line and waiting areas are implemented and 28.58 responded as moderately implemented.

Effects of Covid-19 health protocols to the security of PDLs in Balaoan District Jail.

Covid-19 health protocols set by the IATF really has a direct effects or impact to the security of the PDLs in Balaoan District Jail not only on health security.

As stated by the respondents, unavoidable exposure of the PDLs with Jail personnel possibly infected with the virus that might cause them to be mentally disturbed.

According to the respondents, due to the needed quarantine time of the personnel, it lessens the total strength of those who are on duty thereby increasing the threat of possible jail break or chaos.

As responded by the respondents, due to the suspended or lessened family visitation, it will increase PDLs boredom and anxiety that might lead to conflicts among them.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presents conclusion and recommendations of this research.

Conclusion

Based on the findings and analysis of data, these are the conclusions drawn:

1. The health protocols set by the IATF were being observed in Balaoan District Jail.
2. Covid-19 affects not only the health but also the mentality of the PDLs.

Recommendations

The following are the recommendations of the study:

1. Balaoan District Jail may innovate the visitation process. Strengthening the E-dalaw thru videocall is hereby recommended.
2. Hire additional personnel to supplement the needed number of Jail personnel.
3. Restrictions of personnel movement during off duty to prevent possible contact with Covid-19 positive outside.

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