

## **Barangay Officials' Coping Mechanisms during COVID-19 Pandemic in Lingayen, Pangasinan**

Angela Mae Delos Santos  
Cheska Arencel O. Bravo  
Guadalupe Q. Bartolome  
Arjay P. Cabanilla

This study intended to determine the Barangay Officials' Coping Mechanisms during Covid-19 Pandemic in Lingayen, Pangasinan. Specifically, it gathered the profile of the respondents; the challenges experienced by barangay officials during covid-19 pandemic; the coping mechanisms of barangay officials; and the strategies can be recommended to enhance the capability in coping with uncertain to difficult situations.

The descriptive research design was employed in this study, with the questionnaire serving as the primary data-gathering instrument. This design was chosen because it allows the researcher to describe systematically the current conditions and practices of the respondents. The participants of the study were barangay officials from selected barangays in Lingayen, Pangasinan, namely Barangay Poblacion, Maniboc, Libsong West, Libsong East, and Tonton. These barangays were identified as having the highest number of positive COVID-19 cases, based on data provided by Rural Health Unit I (RHU I) of Lingayen.

The respondents consisted of various barangay functionaries, including the barangay captain, seven (7) barangay councilors, and two (2) barangay health workers from each barangay. In total, there were 50 respondents who participated in the study. Their responses were collected, organized, and presented using appropriate statistical tools, particularly frequency counts, percentages, and ranking methods to provide a clear and objective interpretation of the data.

The questionnaire was the principal instrument utilized to gather the necessary data that would determine the coping mechanisms of barangay officials in Lingayen, Pangasinan during the COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure the validity and reliability of the instrument, it was subjected to a validation process conducted by experts in the field. These validators included two Department Chairpersons, two faculty members from the College of Business and Public Administration, one

For the analysis of Problem 1, frequency and percentage distribution were used to determine the demographic profile and distribution of respondents according to specific variables such as age, gender, civil status, and years of service. For Problems 2 and 3, frequency and ranking methods were applied to identify and analyze the coping mechanisms and challenges experienced by barangay officials in the performance of their duties during the height of the pandemic.

Upon careful analysis of the data, the study revealed several key findings and conclusions. Most of the barangay officials in Lingayen, Pangasinan had four to six (4–6) years of experience in public service. The majority of them were male, married, and within the age range of 39 to 48 years old. In terms of administrative functions, it was found that these officials demonstrated effective time management and organizational skills in carrying out their responsibilities amidst the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 crisis. Furthermore, in relation to their personal coping mechanisms, many respondents expressed that faith and spirituality played a vital role in maintaining their morale and perseverance. Praying for courage, strength, and hope served as one of their most significant sources of comfort and resilience as they continued to serve their constituents during the pandemic.

Overall, the study concluded that barangay officials in Lingayen exhibited strong dedication, adaptability, and commitment in fulfilling their duties despite the numerous challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Their experiences highlight the importance of effective local governance, teamwork, and emotional resilience in times of public health emergencies.

The study recommended that the Municipality Government of Lingayen may train the barangay officials in risk management, may conduct practical seminars to improve leadership styles and decision-making, and may provide seminars on discipline to constituents.