



IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL ORDINANCES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CONCEPCION, TARLAC

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Abstract: The study aimed to understand the implementation of local ordinances in the Municipality of Concepcion, Tarlac, on how these local laws establishes the rules for the operation of the local government or provides rules and regulations governing public activity in the community. This study helped to encourage the government official to formulate local laws and how these local ordinances efficiently and effectively implemented. The respondents compose of citizen and implementers were selected using sampling technique, the information/data collected using the interviews using the different platforms strengthen the paper. Moreover, the researcher also do the documentation that shows the table that under the category of Agriculture, Social Services, Budget, and Health rated as Always Implemented and for the category of Environment rated Fairly Implemented.

Based on the result of the study, Budgetary constraints, Conflicts and ambiguities in ordinance, legal aspects of local ordinance, lack of public awareness and compliance, and lack of community engagement and cooperation were the most problem encountered on the implementation of local ordinances in the Municipality of Concepcion, Tarlac.

Introduction

The public policy making process plays a central role in the lives of every person on the planet. The main purpose of the government is to have lawmakers set policy and then have government workers carry out those policies. They impact the life of every citizen, from how and when we vote to where we can park and what does and does not constitute a crime. Public policy involves actions taken by public officials and public institutions to meet the challenges of real-world issues. Public policies can differ based on political affiliation or the type of challenge under consideration. Typically, officials create public policy in response to a problem and involve what the government will do to address the problem. Public policy can take the form of a new law, city ordinance, or government regulation. The main idea of creating policy is to improve life for members of the public. Officials design policies that move the public closer to a desired state or public goal. Even if the ideas come from outside government, the creation of policy falls to public officials.

Policies define the goals of an organization and provide guidance about how to achieve objectives. When policies and procedures are well established and consistently followed, an organization can refute allegations of unfairness or legal violations that residents may file against it. Public policy is defined as a system of courses of action, regulatory MEASURES, LAWS, and funding priorities concerning a given topic promulgated by a government entity or its representatives. Numerous issues can be addressed by public policy including crime, education, foreign policy, health, and social welfare. Public policy is, in fact, the product of a public policy making process.

The Philippines, being a democratic and republican state, has three branches of government, namely: the executive, legislative, and judiciary which are co-equal and inter-dependent of each other. As regards legislation or policy making, each branch has a role to play. The legislative branch formulates laws, the executive implements the enacted laws, and the judiciary interprets the laws.

The executive branch takes the lead. The President of the Republic designs his/her platform of government or his vision for the country. On the basis of his platform or reform agenda, national policies and programs are designed. The role of the judiciary in the policy making or legislation process is the interpretation as to the legality or validity of the same. Apparently, their role is more of an indirect function. They may not be a direct participant to the process, but the knowledge of their presence and role as interpreters, would somehow remind, frame, and guard the legislators (legislative) and implementers (executive) to do their part well. Of course, their direct function as interpreters is called for when issues, disagreements, or conflicts arise from the implementation of laws, policies or programs.

As the vice mayor, serving as a policy-making body in the municipality of Concepcion, Tarlac, and to assist the local chief executive in the efficient implementations of policies and programs adopted in line with the national objectives. Review together with the sanggunian that all the local laws or ordinances being passed has a vision which indicates the bigger picture regarding the outcomes of the policy. That each local laws or ordinances will benefit the community not only today but most importantly in the future, plans and goals can be set to address certain problems in the community, instill some quality measures for economic growth, and to indicate benchmark against all actions of the municipality can be measured.

I.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The study evaluated the status of implementation of local ordinances in the Municipality of Concepcion. Specifically, this sought to answer the following questions

1. How is the status of implementation of local ordinances in the Municipality of Concepcion be described and evaluated along with:
 - 1.1 Agriculture
 - 1.2 Health
 - 1.3 Budget
 - 1.4 Education
 - 1.5 Social Services
 - 1.6 Environment
2. What are the problem encountered by the respondents on the implementation of local ordinances in the Municipality of Concepcion?
3. What measures can propose to enhance the implementation of the local ordinances in the Municipality of Concepcion?
4. What are the implications of the study to Public Administration?

Conceptual Framework

The study evaluated the status of implementation of local ordinances in the Municipality of Concepcion be described and evaluated along with: Agriculture, Health, Budget, Education, Social Services, and Environment. This also determined problem encountered by the respondents on the implementation of local ordinances, to wit measures were proposed. The study was delimited to the local ordinances implemented in the Municipality of Concepcion from the year 2018 to 2023. The study's respondents were the citizens and implementers directly involved in the implementation of the ordinances under Agriculture, Health, Budget, Education, Social Services, and Environment. Lastly, the implications of the study to Public Administration were identified.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The study utilized quantitative descriptive research design. Quantitative descriptive research design, also known as descriptive research, is a methodological approach used in social science research to systematically collect and analyze numerical data to describe, summarize, and understand a specific phenomenon. This type of research design is particularly useful for providing a comprehensive overview of a particular topic or for evaluating the implementation of local ordinances, as in the case of Concepcion, Tarlac.

Quantitative descriptive research design is a valuable tool for objectively assessing the impact of local ordinances in Concepcion, Tarlac, or any other locality. It can provide evidence-based insights that inform decision-making and help improve the effectiveness of such policies.

Local of the Study

The study was conducted in the Municipality of Concepcion, Tarlac. Balen ning Concepcion (Bayan ng Concepcion) located in Regio III, one of the largest municipalities in the province of Tarlac. In 1860, the towns of Concepcion and Magalang comprised a single town named San Bartolome (presently a barangay of Concepcion), which was a military Commandancia of Pampanga under the Spanish regime. A catastrophic flood devastated the whole settlement of San Bartolome in 1863 and its residents were left with no other choice but to abandon the place. Divided as to where they were to resettle, some went north and others went south.

Respondents of the Study

The respondent of the study was composed of Local Government officials particularly the members of the Sangguniang Bayan and ordinance implementers. Since, Local government officials directly involved in the development and enforcement of the ordinances. They can provide insights into the policymaking process and the challenges faced during implementation. In addition, Staff responsible for enforcing and implementing the ordinances, such as law enforcement officers, inspectors, and administrative personnel. They can provide information about the day-to-day activities related to ordinance enforcement. The study also considered the community members as respondents since they were directly affected by the ordinances. This group may include homeowners, business owners, renters, and other stakeholders. Surveys, interviews, or focus groups was conducted to gather their perceptions, experiences, and opinions about the ordinances.

Sampling Design

Purposive sampling was utilized in the study upon identifying the respondents. This type of sampling technique was a non-probability type which selects respondents suiting the criteria needed by the researcher. Purposive sampling, also known as judgmental or selective sampling, is a non-probabilistic sampling technique where researchers intentionally select specific individuals, groups, or elements to include in their study based on predefined criteria. This approach was often used when researchers have a clear understanding of the population and want to focus on particular characteristics or traits of interest.

Data Gathering Procedure

By means of data collection method, the researcher utilizes three (3) instruments: (1) Survey Questionnaire (2) Interview (3)

Survey Questionnaire. The researcher provided questionnaires to determine the status of implementation of the local ordinance in the Municipality of Concepcion. The respondents were required to put check on what they know on the implementation of these local ordinances, 5 is the highest and 1 is the lowest. The researcher secured the list of local ordinances implemented in the municipality from 2018-2023. The surveys provide the researcher with reliable, usable and primary data. The data comes directly from the individuals that the researcher have identified and surveys give the researcher a detailed, systematic way to view and analyze all the data.

Interview. This supplementary interview was conducted by the researcher to validate and support and answer the claims of the respondents in the survey questionnaires. The interview method helps the researcher to explain, better understand and explore research subjects' opinions, behavior and experiences. Considering that the researcher is a public servant (Vice Mayor) and head of the Sangguniang Bayan that formulates law, this interview method is an advantageous way of allowing people to speak in their own words, it helps the researcher to dispel certain preconceptions and discover issues that might have otherwise been overlooked.

Documentary analysis. Is also known as document analysis or document review, is a research method that involves the systematic examination and interpretation of documents, texts, records, or any other written,

visual, or audio materials. This method is widely used in various fields of research, including social sciences, history, business, and education, to extract information, draw insights, and make inferences from existing documents.

Data Analysis

The respondent's acted data were tabulated and arranged into tables for the tally of the total number of respondents. As a result, it was subjected to the following statistical treatment:

Frequency. Frequency refers to the number of times a particular value or category appears in a dataset. It is a count of occurrences or occurrences of a specific variable. It also describes the distribution of categorical or nominal data. For example, in a survey, you might calculate the frequency of different responses to a multiple-choice question.

Percentage. Percentage is a relative measure that expresses a part of a whole as a proportion of 100. It is calculated by taking the frequency or count of a specific category or value and dividing it by the total number of observations, then multiplying by 100.

Ranking. It involves ordering items or values in a dataset based on a specific criterion, such as magnitude, importance, or preference. Each item is assigned a position or rank relative to the others.

Mean. Is a statistical measure of central tendency used to describe the average or typical value within a set of data points. It is often referred to as the arithmetic mean and is calculated by summing all the values in a dataset and then dividing the sum by the total number of values. The mean provides a way to represent the central or average value of a dataset.

The following formulas will be used in order to present the response options of the respondents and corresponding value was assigned to get weighted mean of each item derived from the questionnaires used.

Ethical Considerations

The researcher has to ensure that responses and participants have been adequately briefed and are aware of the study's objective. Respondents can choose whether to expose their names and personal information to assure that confidential information is properly kept and safe in view of the respondent's point of view. Furthermore, the information acquired has been managed with the utmost consent and confidentiality and it can only be used for academic purposes. As stated in section 8 of Data Privacy Act of 2012, which emphasizes the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of personal information that always comes into its knowledge and possession. It is necessary to take intentional steps to protect that information.

I. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1.1. Description and Evaluation of the implementation of Local Ordinances in the Municipality of Concepcion

Presents the overall grand mean of the implementation of Local Ordinances in the Municipality of Concepcion.

The table reveals that social services achieved the highest mean of 4.91, indicating consistent implementation, as most ordinances receive a consistent rating from both clients and implementers. Nevertheless, clients pointed out issues related to delayed document processing, while implementers highlighted incomplete documents presented by clients, potentially impacting the overall document processing.

Ordinance	Grand Mean	Adjectival Description
Social Services	4.91	Always Implemented
Budget	4.45	Always Implemented
Agriculture	4.44	Always Implemented
Health	4.41	Always Implemented
Environment	1.93	Fairly Implemented
Overall Grand Mean	4.71	Always Implemented

Second is the budget with a mean of 4.45 also rated as always implemented. In general issues relative to lack of information dissemination was highlighted by the citizens which in the latter affects the implementation of the ordinance. It was suggested that to address these challenges, effective communication strategies, public engagement, and transparent enforcement practices are essential. Ensuring citizens' understanding of the

reasons behind the revisions and providing support to implementers can contribute to a smoother and more successful implementation of the revised revenue and market code.

Third, is agriculture with a mean of 4.44 also rated as always implemented. Generally, the policies in agriculture predominantly center around the reclassification of extensive land parcels. It's essential to recognize that while such reclassification can lead to enhancements in the area, there is a potential risk to neighboring communities. Delays in approving and implementing these ordinances are particularly notable, especially for industrial reclassifications intended for business use. Nevertheless, achieving clarity through effective communication among the government, the concerned company, and citizens is crucial for the approval and implementation of such ordinances.

Fourth is health also rated as always implemented with a mean of 4.41. In general, health ordinances are implemented; however, specific improvements should be made, especially in allocating a sufficient budget and raising awareness among citizens about their implementation.

Lastly, environment with a mean of 1.93 or fairly implemented. Most respondents claimed that one of the policies is not implemented while the other policy was rated as seldom implemented. One of which is the control on the use of plastic in the area which the citizens and implementers believed to be difficult since most of the good purchased in the market are wet using papers is not possible, while encouraging the use of eco-bags is an additional cost as perceived by the citizens.

2.3.2. Problems Encountered by the respondents on the implementation of local ordinances in the Municipality of Concepcion

Interviews are an accurate data collection method as it allows interviewer to ask precise questions and extract the desired information from other people. The researcher as this is face to face interaction ask in-depth questions to gain quality data for the research. When the researcher conducted the interview here were the most common problem encountered by both citizens and implementers on the implementation of local ordinances in the Municipality of Concepcion.

2.1 Limited strategies in disseminating information.

The successful implementation of various policies within the municipality is hindered by the limited strategies in disseminating information. Insufficient efforts in spreading relevant information often result in citizens being unaware of enacted policies. This lack of communication can greatly impede the effectiveness of the policies, as citizen awareness is crucial for achieving compliance. For instance, Ordinance No. 007-19, which focuses on regulating plastic use and promoting eco-friendly practices, could face challenges if information about its environmental impact is not adequately disseminated. As a result, citizens may not willingly adopt eco-friendly alternatives, thereby compromising the overall success of the ordinance. This issue is not exclusive to environmental policies; it also affects other ordinances such as market and revenue codes, TB medication services, ALS programs, and more. In these cases, citizens' lack of awareness hampers the desired outcomes of these initiatives.

2.2 Non-compliance or resistance on the revised policies

The municipality faces a significant challenge when it comes to non-compliance or resistance to revised policies. This is evident in citizens' desire for improvements in the public market before fully adhering to specific policies. The resistance often stems from perceived inconveniences or disagreements with the proposed changes, highlighting the complexity of policy acceptance within the community. In the case of Ordinance No. 007-19, which focuses on regulating plastic use and promoting eco-friendly practices, citizens may resist the use of eco-bags if they find it burdensome or inconvenient in their daily lives. This resistance showcases the tension between the community's established practices and the desired changes outlined in the policy.

Furthermore, the resistance is evident in citizens' requests for the local government unit (LGU) to enhance the public market before complying with the revised market code. This emphasizes their belief that having a well-maintained facility is crucial before considering any increase in payment. This sentiment reflects the community's expectation of receiving corresponding benefits, such as improved infrastructure, in exchange for complying with the revised policies.

2.3 Lack of awareness on the implementation of the policy

The issue of lack of awareness about policy implementation is a problem that affects different ordinances. In Ordinance No. 014-19, which deals with sewage and septage management, citizens may not know the proper ways to dispose of waste, leading to non-compliance and potential environmental dangers. To effectively

address this challenge, the Local Government Unit (LGU) needs to conduct targeted awareness campaigns to educate the community about the importance of these policies in maintaining public health and environmental sustainability.

Not only sewage and septage management, but other ordinances related to social services, market and revenue codes, TB medication services, ALS programs, and more, may also face similar challenges due to lack of awareness. For example, citizens may not be fully aware of the social services available or the specific provisions of the market and revenue codes. In the case of TB medication services or ALS programs, a lack of awareness may prevent individuals from benefiting from these important health and education initiatives. Recognizing the common issue of limited awareness, the LGU should take a comprehensive approach by integrating awareness-building efforts into its communication strategies for all implemented ordinances.

2.4 Delayed processing of payments

The issue of delayed payment processing is a recurring problem in various policies implemented by the municipality. This problem is especially prominent in social services regulations, where timely provision of incentives is crucial for the well-being of the intended beneficiaries. For instance, if beneficiaries are entitled to financial support under Ordinance No. 007-19 and there are delays in processing payments, it could negatively affect their financial stability and disrupt the positive impact of the ordinance. This emphasizes the need to streamline payment processes to ensure efficiency, transparency, and timely disbursement. Apart from social services, other policies like market and revenue codes, TB medication services, and ALS programs may also encounter challenges due to delayed payment processing. In the case of market and revenue codes, delayed payments to store renters could hinder their compliance with the codes, leading to a ripple effect on the market's effective functioning. Similarly, delayed payments for TB medication services or ALS programs may discourage healthcare providers or educators from actively participating, thereby diminishing the overall impact of these health and education initiatives.

2.5 Lack of Funds

The municipality faces significant financial challenges that hinder the effective implementation of various policies. These challenges go beyond specific ordinances and affect a wide range of initiatives. For example, in the case of Ordinance No. 007-19, which promotes eco-friendly practices, the municipality may struggle to distribute eco-bags due to financial constraints. This limitation can prevent the ordinance from achieving its objectives fully. However, it is crucial to adopt a strategic and collaborative approach to overcome these financial challenges. It is not just environmental policies that are affected; other ordinances, such as market and revenue codes, TB medication services, and ALS programs, may also face financial constraints that impact their successful implementation. Inadequate funds can hinder infrastructure improvements, marketing efforts, and the provision of essential services. To address these challenges, it is necessary to improve communication strategies, engage the community, raise awareness, streamline processes, and collaborate with external entities to secure the necessary funds. The commitment of the LGU to overcoming these challenges will greatly contribute to the successful implementation of policies and the realization of their intended benefits for the community.

The statistical analysis for the component "Knowledge" yields a Pearson correlation coefficient (r) of 0.024 and a corresponding p -value of 0.712. Hence, the null hypothesis (H_0) is accepted. It indicates that there is no statistically significant relationship or correlation observed within the dataset for the age and knowledge component. Relatively, the p -value result between age and attitude component yielded a 0.723 result which also accepts the null hypothesis. However, in terms of age and practices, the p -value result is at 0.007, thus, rejecting the null hypothesis. The result suggests that there is a significant relationship between age and health promotion practices.

The findings of this study on the relationship between age and health promotion are consistent with the broader literature on health promotion, which emphasizes the importance of understanding the determinants of health and the factors that influence health behaviors and practices. Health promotion activities focus on promoting good health and preventing illness, rather than focusing only on people who are at the highest risk of developing diseases (Sibeudo, 2021). The results of the survey align with the principles of health promotion, which emphasize the need for a holistic approach to health that considers various determinants of health, including individual behaviors, social and environmental factors, and access to healthcare services (The National Academies, 2017).

The findings of this study on the relationship between position and health promotion are consistent with previous research that has explored the relationship between knowledge, attitude, and practice in health promotion, such as a study on healthy lifestyle behaviors (Rakhshani, Mohammadi, & Gharlipour, 2023) and health promotion attitudes in preregistered nurses and a study on the impact of a school intervention on adolescents' health-related knowledge and behavior (Mousavi, Chaman, Khosravi, & Ajami, 2021).

Recommendations

The following is a list of potential recommendations based on the research's findings, and conclusions.

1. The LGU may consider revisiting the budget allocation for each sector and analyzing the extent of budget needs for each ordinance to be properly implemented.
2. The LGU may consider amending some provisions of the law, particularly those related to sanctions and penalties. This is not just to encourage participation and obedience but also to provide an avenue for discipline and the successful implementation of the policies.
3. The LGU may consider tapping or collaborating with other Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and People's Organizations (POs) in the information dissemination campaign for these ordinances. They may also collaborate with them in some activities that will benefit both sectors and the government.
4. The LGU may use other means of disseminating information beyond posting the ordinance in conspicuous places. It would be better to utilize local circulations, websites, and social media platforms to inform citizens about the new, revised, amended, and abolished ordinances.
5. The LGU may also consider reviving the municipality website where everyone can access and see all information related to the operations of the municipality. This may also serve as an avenue in enhancing the processing time of availing services in the municipality through online services.

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