



Impact Of The Enforcement Of Republic Act No. 9165 In Aparri, Cagayan

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Abstract: This study examined the impact of Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 as enforced in Barangay Macanaya, Aparri, Cagayan. Specifically, it determined the level of community awareness regarding selected commonly violated provisions of the law, assessed the perceived extent of its implementation, and identified the perceived effects of its enforcement in the community. A mixed-method descriptive research design was employed. Data were collected from thirty community respondents using a structured questionnaire anchored on Sections 5, 6, 8, 11, 15, and 16 of RA 9165. A three-point Likert scale was used to measure awareness and extent of implementation, while Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) tested significant differences. Results showed that respondents were “Very Much Aware” of the provisions of the law (overall mean = 2.61) and perceived its implementation as “Well Implemented” (overall mean = 2.67). Significant differences were found across provisions in both awareness and perceived implementation ($p < .05$). Qualitative findings revealed perceived reductions in drug-related activities and increased compliance with the law, although some respondents expressed fear associated with enforcement operations. The study concludes that enforcement of RA 9165 in the barangay is perceived as effective, but sustained community education and balanced implementation strategies are recommended.

Index Terms - Republic Act 9165, community awareness, drug law enforcement, policy implementation, Philippines

I. INTRODUCTION

Illegal drug use continues to pose significant challenges to public safety, governance, and community well-being worldwide. Governments have adopted various legal and enforcement mechanisms to address drug trafficking and substance abuse. The Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 serves as the principal legal framework governing drug prevention, control, and enforcement in the Philippines. The law imposes stringent penalties for drug-related offenses while also promoting prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation initiatives. Under this law, it created the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) as the policy-making body and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) as the implementing arm, with the Philippine National Police (PNP) playing a critical role in operational enforcement. At the barangay level, local officials and Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (BADACs) support national enforcement efforts.

Community awareness and perception of enforcement effectiveness are essential indicators of policy impact at the grassroots level. Understanding how residents perceive both the provisions and implementation of RA 9165 provides insight into the law’s practical influence on local communities. This study was conducted to assess the level of awareness of selected provisions of RA 9165 among residents of Barangay Macanaya, determine the perceived extent of its implementation, and evaluate its perceived effects in the locality.

The study tested the hypotheses that there are no significant differences in the level of awareness and in the perceived extent of implementation across selected provisions of RA 9165.

II. METHODOLOGY

This research study used both quantitative and qualitative descriptive research design approaches. The quantitative component measured the level of awareness and perceived extent of implementation of selected provisions of RA 9165, while the qualitative component explored perceived effects of its enforcement in the community.

The study was conducted in Barangay Macanaya, Aparri, Cagayan. Thirty community residents were selected using purposive quota sampling. A structured questionnaire served as the primary data-gathering instrument. The instrument was based on selected commonly violated provisions of RA 9165, specifically: Section 5 (Sale, Trading, Distribution, and Transportation of Dangerous Drugs), Section 6 (Maintenance of a Drug Den), Section 8 (Manufacture of Dangerous Drugs), Section 11 (Possession of Dangerous Drugs), Section 15 (Use of Dangerous Drugs), and Section 16 (Cultivation of Dangerous Plants). Responses were measured using a three-point Likert scale, where 3 indicated "Very Much Aware/Well Implemented," 2 indicated "Aware/Implemented," and 1 indicated "Not Aware/Not Implemented."

Permission to conduct the study was secured from barangay officials. Questionnaires were personally distributed and retrieved by the researcher. Supplemental interviews were conducted to validate and enrich survey responses. Data were analyzed using weighted means to determine levels of awareness and implementation, and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was employed to test for significant differences across provisions, while Thematic Approach was utilized in the data collected during the interview.

III. RESULTS

The findings revealed that the overall level of awareness of the respondents regarding selected provisions of RA 9165 was high, with an overall mean of 2.61 interpreted as "Very Much Aware." The highest awareness ratings were observed in Section 11 (Possession of Dangerous Drugs) and Section 15 (Use of Dangerous Drugs), both with a mean of 3.00. Lower, though still positive, ratings were recorded for Section 6 (Maintenance of a Drug Den), Section 8 (Manufacture of Dangerous Drugs), and Section 16 (Cultivation of Dangerous Plants), each with a mean of 2.33. ANOVA results indicated a statistically significant difference in awareness levels across provisions ($p < .05$), leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis.

In terms of perceived implementation, respondents assessed enforcement efforts as generally strong, with an overall mean of 2.67 interpreted as "Well Implemented." Sections 5 (Sale and Distribution) and 15 (Use of Dangerous Drugs) received the highest ratings, both with a mean of 3.00. Sections 8 (Manufacture) and 16 (Cultivation) received comparatively lower ratings, with means of 2.33. Statistical analysis showed a significant difference in perceived implementation across provisions ($p < .05$), resulting in the rejection of the second null hypothesis.

Qualitative findings identified three dominant themes regarding the effects of enforcement. First, respondents perceived a reduction in drug-related activities and described the community as more peaceful. Second, many believed that enforcement increased compliance with the law. Third, some respondents expressed fear associated with anti-drug operations, particularly due to reports of violent incidents in nearby areas. These findings suggest that while enforcement is viewed as effective, it may also generate apprehension within the community.

IV. DISCUSSION

The results indicate that residents of Barangay Macanaya possess a high level of awareness of RA 9165, particularly concerning possession and use of dangerous drugs. This may be attributed to intensified national and local anti-drug campaigns and the visibility of enforcement operations. The significant differences in awareness across provisions suggest that certain aspects of the law receive more public attention than others.

The high ratings for perceived implementation demonstrate community recognition of active enforcement efforts by law enforcement agencies. However, lower ratings for manufacture and cultivation provisions may reflect limited exposure to such cases within the locality or less visible enforcement actions in those areas. The emergence of fear as a qualitative theme highlights the need for enforcement approaches that balance strict implementation with community trust-building and rights-based policing.

V. CONCLUSION

The enforcement of Republic Act No. 9165 in Barangay Macanaya is perceived by community residents as effective. Respondents demonstrated high awareness of its provisions and assessed its implementation as generally well executed. Significant differences were observed across specific provisions in both awareness and perceived implementation. While enforcement is associated with increased peace and law compliance, it also generates some degree of fear among residents.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that government agencies strengthen community-based information and education campaigns, particularly focusing on less understood provisions of RA 9165. Continued collaboration between law enforcement, barangay officials, and community stakeholders should be encouraged to sustain awareness and compliance. Enforcement strategies should integrate prevention, rehabilitation, and human rights considerations to maintain public trust. Future studies may involve larger samples and multiple barangays to enhance generalizability of findings.

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