

Translating Public Value: A Challenge to Philippine Local Governance

Judith S. Rabacal (PhD)¹, Vermont Khan L. Juvahib (MPA,MPM,CESE,DPA)²,
Northern Negros State College of Science and Technology
Judithmsolasco1982@yahoo.com¹, vklj2016@gmail.com²

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Abstract – *The study sought to assess how public value is translated as a challenge to Philippine Local Governance, particularly in the First District of Negros Occidental. Public value is referred to in this study as the degree of responsiveness of the community towards local government programs and projects under the four (4) areas of local governance, which are fiscal administration, disaster preparedness, social protection and peace and order. The study used descriptive research design where a survey was conducted to 255 respondents who are Punong Barangays and Kagawads of the First District of Negros Occidental. The data gathered from the survey on the degree of responsiveness on the four (4) areas of governance were subjected to statistical treatment using the frequency count and percentage, mean, Mann Whitney u test and the z test. The researcher also conducted a focus group discussion, and used available social media platform to generate directed sharing of ideas among program implementers to validate survey results. Generally, the degree of responsiveness of Local Governance as assessed by the constituents were all rated as “very high degree”, in all four (4) areas individually and when taken collectively. Corresponding recommendations were identified according to the four (4) areas of local governance, namely, Fiscal Administration, Disaster Preparedness, Social Protection and Peace and Order to improve public value through government interventions which aim to uplift the life of the people in the community.*

Keywords – *Philippine local governance, fiscal administration, public value*

INTRODUCTION

Philippines have always been lagging behind on its fight against graft and corruption among public offices. According to Transparency International Index, a global corruption barometer, the Philippines ranked 101st out of 175 countries in terms of accountability and transparency in 2016. This kind of government performance creates negative perception towards government institutions which make it suffer from public approval and acceptability [1].

Public perception depends so much on the quality of governance among our public institutions. Governance is how power is exercised in the management of a country's political, economic and social resources for development [2]. Unfortunately, the systemic dysfunction of corruption as embedded in the system has kept the entire nation from moving forward and slowed down any effort to attain authentic development. There is a need then, to create and innovate public value to stir up massive support from all stakeholders.

The term “public value” as a strategic management concept was first used in Mark Moore's article Public

Value as the Focus of Strategy (Moore, 1994) and popularized with his influential book *Creating Public Value: Strategic Management in Government* (Moore, 1995). Moore argues that while several management concepts from the private sector found their way into public management such as performance measurement [3].

On looking at the local government unit's performance at the ground's level, the Seal of Good Local Governance of the Department of Interior and Local Government implemented since 2015 which is an essential performance evaluation and assessment among participating local government units that assess the quality of governance in four (4) core areas, namely, Financial Administration, Disaster Preparedness, Social protection and Peace and Order [4].

It is interesting to look into the how public value is translated among local government units in the First District of the Province of Negros Occidental in the context of the SGLG performance measurement system, as it is comprised of both component cities and municipalities with wide disparity in terms of

population, land area and income. The result for the 2017 SGLG of DILG was quite varied having three (3) local government units out of five (5) from the first district of Negros Occidental to have been conferred with the Seal.

On a personal note, this topic is chosen by the researcher in order to establish a clear relationship between the government and the people in the community in the First District of Negros Occidental, in terms of responsiveness of the government's core areas of governance and how it affects the perception of the public on the effectiveness of the government in fulfilling its mandate.

There is so much that the government is doing that the public ought to know and be aware of. It is unfortunate that the public is inclined to develop least regard towards the government because they lack the opportunity to be aware of the undertakings that the local government are doing to uplift the lives of the people in the community.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study sought to assess the degree of translation of public value as a challenge to Philippine local governance in the First District of Negros Occidental as of Assessment Year 2016.

Specifically, it aims to determine the profile of the respondents according to age, sex, and highest educational attainment, number of years in the service and classification of LGU. It also determines the degree of responsiveness of the local governance as assessed by the constituents according to the following core areas such as financial administration, disaster preparedness, social protection and peace and order. Further, this study determines if there is a significant difference in the degree of responsiveness of local governance as assessed by the constituents when grouped and compared according to the variables.

Hypothesis: There is no significant difference on the degree of responsiveness of local governance as assessed by the constituents when grouped and compared according to variables.

METHODS

This study used the descriptive research design in determining the translation of Public Value through the degree of responsiveness of the respondents in the four (4) core areas of governance. Descriptive research design is aptly used for studies that seek to describe the prevailing characteristic of particular phenomenon [5].

Moreover, descriptive research design deals with the analysis of opinions, attitude, behavior and satisfaction levels of individuals. The method is used when the subjects vary among themselves and one is interested to know the extent to which different conditions and situations are obtained among these subjects [6].

As the study discussed how the general public appraised local government units' initiatives in terms of programs and projects in the areas of local governance, it was appropriate to utilize the descriptive research design as we have analyzed and interpreted the impacts of the local governance to respective constituency and on how they were responding to needs of the local communities.

The researcher used in this method close-ended questionnaires with specific list of options and categories for the respondents to have wider understanding of the ratings.

For the current study and with the utilization of the descriptive research design, the researcher obtained a clear view of how public value is translated on the context of the degree of responsiveness of the respondents in the four (4) core areas of governance, namely, financial administration, disaster preparedness, social protection and peace and order.

Locale of the Study

The study was conducted in the First District of Negros Occidental which comprises 2 cities and 3 municipalities; namely, Cities of Escalante and San Carlos, respectively, and Municipalities of Toboso, Calatrava and Salvador Benedicto, respectively.

The First District of Negros Occidental has a total land area of 1,242.6 sq. km. that stretches from Escalante City to Salvador Benedicto with a total road length of 234.022 km. Its total population is 375,006 as of 2015 National Statistics Office data.

It is interesting to note that in terms of business and industry, both cities, though considered as component cities to the Province of Negros Occidental, yet, serve as the center of economic activities in the northernmost part of the Negros Island being the only gateways to other island provinces such as Cebu. The 3 other municipalities are relatively small towns with large areas are located in the mountainous part.

Agriculture such as fishing and farming as a form of livelihood are predominant among the municipalities and cities in the First District area.

Respondents of the Study

The respondents of this study were the two hundred fifty-five (255) randomly selected *barangay* officials of

the five Local Government Units coming from the total population of 760 *barangay* officials. Fifty-six of which came from Escalante, 48 from San Carlos City, 24 from Toboso, 108 from Calatrava and 19 from Don Salvador Benedicto.

Data Gathering Instrument

A survey questionnaire was formulated to find out how public value is translated through the degree of responsiveness according to the constituents in the four (4) core areas of governance which was distributed among the respondents.

The questionnaire consisted of two (2) parts: Part One was about the personal profile of the respondent such as age, sex, highest educational attainment, number of years in the service and classification of LGU. Part Two contained 40 items that measured the degree of responsiveness of the respondents in the four (4) core areas of governance namely, financial administration, disaster preparedness, social protection and peace and order.

For the degree of responsiveness, the respondents were given choices as follow: 4.24-5.04: Very High Degree/ Completely implemented; 3.43-4.23: High Degree/ Mostly implemented; 2.62-3.42: Moderate Degree/Modestly implemented; 1.81-2.61: Low Degree/ Hardly implemented; 1.00-1.80: Very Low Degree/ Not implemented.

Validity

Validity is the extent to which an instrument measures what it is supposed to measure and performs as it is designed to perform. It refers to the appropriateness of the content of an instrument [5].

To determine the sufficiency of content and the appropriateness of the questions, the research instrument was presented to three authorities who are considered relatively experts in this area of study.

The instrument was presented to the first validator who is a Doctor of Philosophy and a curriculum development expert of a state college in the adjacent locality. She is also involved in various community research development, thus, making her adept with the dynamics of the local community which is required for this study as it involved appraisal of the pulse of the people in the *barangays*. Not to mention her expertise in the compliance of national issuances and prescribed laws and guidelines. The second validator is an officer from the Provincial Tourism Office who is a Doctor of Public Administration. Her expertise in economic enterprise through tourism platforms is significant in

looking at impacts on various financial administration endeavors of the local government units. Tourism as an encompassing discipline, her expert inputs is very much desired to assess other areas of local governance. The third validator is a Doctor of Public Administration and a health professional. Her inputs on social protection programs, particularly on the areas of health and social welfare is of great help in validating the research instrument.

As per validation ratings result with the use of the criteria developed by Carter V. Goods and Douglas Scate, the over-all rating was at 4.9 which is interpreted as high validity.

The suggestions and recommendations of the experts and the thesis panel members were integrated in the final draft of the questionnaire. As per validation ratings result with the use of the criteria developed by Carter V. Goods and Douglas Scate, the over-all rating was at 4.9 which is interpreted as high validity.

Reliability

The reliability of a research instrument concerns the extent to which the instrument yields the same results on repeated trials. Although unreliability is present to a certain extent, there is generally be a good deal of consistency in the results of a quality

To determine the reliability of the research instrument in this study, the research conducted a reliability test to thirty (30) *barangay* officials from Escalante City and San Carlos City. The respondents of this reliability testing were not included in the conduct of the actual study. The result was subjected to Cronbach's Alpha Test via the Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS), a tool for assessing the reliability of the items and yielded a rate of 0.936 which was interpreted as "very reliable".

Data Gathering Procedure

The study and the survey questionnaires that embodied the study objectives was presented by the researcher to the thesis panel members. As the thesis panel members approved the research instrument, it was then subjected to validation and reliability testing.

The researcher sent a letter requesting for permission from the Local Chief Executives or the Mayors of the five (5) Local Government Units for the conduct of the study and the gathering of data which was duly received and approved.

A one-on-one interview with the respondents from the five (5) cities and municipalities were done in answering the questionnaire. Each item in the

questionnaire was be thoroughly discussed and explain in the local dialect. Confidentiality of the answers was highly regarded to avoid doubts and confusions.

All answers were retrieved and compiled. All data gathered were tabulated, interpreted and analyzed taking into considerations the objectives and hypotheses formulated for the study.

A letter was sent to the Mayor of Escalante City to allow the researcher to conduct a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) among key program implementers, which was duly approved. An FGD was conducted on February 21, 2018 at the ECGEM Training Center which was attended by 10 personnel from LGU Escalante and local PNP to validate the result of the data gathered. Likewise, the researcher made use of the social media platform, Facebook messaging, and created a chat group involving selected key program implementers from the First District of Negros Occidental intended to discuss results of the gathered data from the questionnaire.

Relevant inputs gathered during the FGD and the Facebook messaging chat group were integrated in the interpretation and analysis of this study. Further, the researcher also made use of available records for documentary analysis.

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Statistical Tools

Frequency and percentage distribution mean and Mann Whitney U-Test were the statistical tools used in this study. In determining the profile of the respondents in Problem 1, the frequency count and percentage were used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The survey was administered to two-hundred fifty-five (255) respondents randomly selected who were *Punong Barangays* and *Brgy. Councilors/Kagawad* of the first district of the Province of Negros Occidental who are considered to be representing the community as the recipients or receivers of all government programs and services.

They were profile according age, sex, highest educational attainment, number of years in the service, and the classification of their local government unit (LGU).

TABLE 1. RESPONDENTS PROFILE

Variable	Category	f	%
Age	younger (52 years old and below)	128	50.2
	older (53 years and above)	127	49.8
	Total	255	100.0
Sex	Male	175	68.6
	Female	80	31.4
	Total	255	100.0
Highest Educational Attainment	non-degree holder	183	71.8
	degree holder	72	28.2
	Total	255	100.0
Number of years in the Service	less than 10 years	115	45.1
	10 years and more	140	54.9
	Total	255	100.0
Classification of LGU	component city	104	40.8
	Municipality	151	59.2
	Total	255	100.0

Table 2 basically presents the profile of the respondents according to the result of the survey conducted by the researcher. For the frequency distribution based on age, 50.2% or 128 of the respondents were “Younger” of 52 years old and below while 127 respondents or 49.8% were “Older” or 53 years old and above. For sex, 175 of the respondents or 68.6% were male while 80 or 31.4% of the respondents were female. When the respondents grouped according to the Highest Educational Attainment, 183 or 71.8% belonged to group of non-degree holders while 72 or 28.2% were degree holders.

The survey also discloses that based on the Number of years in service, 115 or 45.1% of the respondents were in the group of those working less than ten (10) years while 140 respondents or 54.9% were more than (ten) 10 years in service. One hundred four of the respondents or 40.8% came from the component cities while 59.2% or 151 respondents came from the municipalities.

Table 2. Degree of Responsiveness of the Local Governance as Assessed by the Constituents in terms of Financial Administration

Indicators	Mean	Rank	Interpretation
1. Do you know the total amount of the annual general budget of your municipality/city, of your barangay?	4.66	1	Very High Degree
2. Does your city/municipality comply with the full disclosure policy of local budget and finances of the government such as posting in conspicuous places like the public market, terminals, or other crowded places so they can be read by the general public in your community?	4.34	8	Very High Degree
3. Have you participated in or heard of meetings of development councils and other government organizations that discussed the economic development in your community?	4.60	3.33	Very High Degree
4. Have you seen or observed construction of various facilities and other infrastructures development in your community, on-going and completed projects such as road widening, road construction, and construction of covered court and among others?	4.62	2	Very High Degree
5. Have you participated in any meetings that discussed budgeting or have been consulted in any proposed projects or programs in your community?	4.36	7	Very High Degree
6. Have you participated in together with other people in your community in the implementation of various projects or programs such as the establishments of cooperatives, construction projects, government internship programs, de clogging projects etc?	4.60	3.33	Very High Degree
7. Have you heard of any awards or recognitions conferred to the local government due to its good performance in financial management as manifested in your community?	4.44	6	Very High Degree
8. Do you have access to information pertaining to various transactions in your local government such as procurement process, bidding and awards as well as completion of projects which documents are duly posted in public places accessible by the public eye in your community?	4.22	9	High Degree
9. Do you have knowledge of the existence of people who audits all transactions both internally or within the local government as well as from the national agency such as the Commission on Audit as known by the people in your community?	4.11	10	High Degree
10. Do you agree with the quality of projects and programs being implemented by the local government in your community?	4.60	3.33	Very High Degree
Over all Mean	4.45		Very High Degree

Table 2 presents the degree of Responsiveness of Local Governance as assessed by the constituents in the area of Financial Administration. Eight (8) out of ten (10) items have garnered a “very high degree” while only 2 were listed as “high degree” as presented in Table 3.

Item No. 1 that pertains to the knowledge of the respondents related to the annual general budget of the municipality or city, or of the *barangay* has garnered the highest mean score which was 4.66 interpreted as “very high degree”. This particular area in the financial administration actually supports the “Full Disclosure Policy” or FDP of the of the Local Budget and Finance of the Department of Budget and Management that provides for the posting of the Annual General Budget to three conspicuous places in the municipality/city to be accessed by the general public. This implies that the LGUs of the first district of Negros Occidental has effectively complied with this provision as evidenced by the awareness of the respondents on the annual local budget.

On the other hand, the lowest mean score was 4.11, interpreted as “high degree” for Item No. 9 or “The presence of the internal audit system to review and

audit the propriety of all government transactions as well as the regular conduct of audit from the authorized auditing agency of the national government which is the Commission on Audit.”

On October 2008, the Department of Budget and Management issued the NGICS pursuant to Administrative Order No. 119 dated 29 March 1989 and Memorandum Order No. 277 dated 17 January 1990 which directs the DBM to promulgate the necessary rules, regulations and circulars for the strengthening of the internal control systems of government agencies. This included the local government units to establish their own Internal Audit System (IAS) to safeguard assets, check the accuracy and reliability of accounting data, ensure efficient, effective, ethical and economical operations, comply with laws and regulations and adhere to managerial policies.

However, most of the LGUs have taken a long time in the implementation of the said directive as evident by the findings indicated in the Audit Observation Memorandum being issued annually by the Commission on Audit representatives to the LGUs. For

Escalante City, for example, it was only in the Year 2015 that the Internal Audit System or IAS became fully functional.

Such delay of the establishment of the IAS helped contribute to the non-awareness of the community in the internal government process protocol in managing its resources.

Another item that was scored relatively low was Item No. 8 which pertains to “Knowledge and access to information pertaining to various transactions in the local government such as procurement process, bidding and awards, as well as completion of projects, which documents are duly posted in public places easily accessed by the general public.” Its mean score was 4.22, interpreted as High Degree.

Item No. 8 is among the significant items that talked about core accountability and transparency in the government affairs. Graft and corruption in the local government could be easily prevented once measures for transparency and accountability are duly in placed and systemic.

In general, financial administration area has fared well as it garnered a total mean score of 4.45 which is

interpreted as “very high degree”. It obviously implies that the respondents were updated with the general budget of the LGU or of the *barangay* as information are accessible and within the community’s reach as the information can also be found online at the FDP portal of the Department of Interior and Local Government regularly posted and updated by the focal persons of the LGU.

Table 3 presents the result of the degree of local governance as assessed by the constituents in the area of disaster preparedness. The over-all result reveals that 9 out of 10 items actually got an interpretation of “very high degree” while the other got a modest High Degree.

Item no. 1 that asked about “Knowledge of the respondent on the establishment of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office in the community with adequate manpower that looks after the preparedness and readiness of the community during emergency situations and calamities” yielded the highest mean score which was 4.77, interpreted as “very high degree”.

Table 3. Degree of Responsiveness of the Local Governance as Assessed by the Constituents in terms of Disaster Preparedness

Indicators	Mean	Rank	Interpretation
1. Have you heard or know about the establishment of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in your community with adequate manpower that takes care of the preparation and readiness during emergency situations and calamities in your community?	4.77	1	Very High Degree
2. Do you know if the LDRRMO have adequate facilities and equipment to effectively respond to risks situations such as rescue vehicles, warning devices, life saving facility, among others in your community?	4.29	9	Very High Degree
3. Do you have any idea or knowledge of pertinent disaster management plans of the city /municipality such as pre-disaster, during disaster and post disaster plans, recovery and reconstruction plans and other things in your community that the public should be able to know and participate in?	4.58	2.5	Very High Degree
4. Do you see or know any implementation /establishment of disaster mitigation facility such as early warning devices, evacuation canter, warning systems and mechanisms; etc. in your barangay?	4.58	2.5	Very High Degree
5. Do you know about the presence or establishment of a functional emergency response mechanisms such as what to do and who to call when there is a fire emergency in your barangay?	4.31	8	Very High Degree
6. Does the local government provide for the relief and subsistence assistance, medical services, and other related assistance during emergency in your barangay?	4.53	4.5	Very High Degree
7. Are emergency facility such as fire trucks, ambulance, etc. accessible and easy to call during emergencies in your barangay?	3.73	10	High Degree
8. Do you have any idea on what to do during conditions when the general public is advised to evacuate in your community?	4.39	7	Very High Degree
9. Have you observed any presence of post disaster mitigation in your barangay such as financial assistance, logistics and other services provided for by the local government in your community?	4.53	4.5	Very High Degree
10. Have you observed volunteer groups participating in Disaster Preparedness and during emergency situations in your community?	4.51	6	Very High Degree
Over all Mean	4.42		Very High Degree

Such high mean score implies that the community is already aware of the establishment of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office as all LGU's have already complied not only with the creation and operationalization of the local DRRM but also the integration of the disaster preparedness and resiliency measure to all the LGU's plans and programs.

Republic Act No. 10121 which was passed and approved in 2009 otherwise known as The Philippine Disaster Preparedness and Management Act of 2009 provides the national disaster preparedness and management framework as well institutionalizing the National Disaster and Risk Reduction Plan. It further provides for the need to strengthen the capacity of LGUs for disaster risk reduction and management through decentralized powers, responsibilities, and resources at the regional and local levels as being able to recognize the local risk patterns across the country. It also recognizes and strengthen the capacities of LGUs and communities in mitigating and preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the impact of disasters.

On the other hand, the lowest mean score for the area of Disaster Preparedness is Item no. 7 with a score of 3.73, interpreted as "high degree". This item pertains to the "Existence of emergency facility such as firetrucks and ambulances on standby in case of emergency situations, how accessible and easy to call these facilities are should the need arises." This reflects the limitations of every local government to provide adequate number of emergency response facility that may cater the needs of all *barangay* in every town or city.

For example, the Municipality Toboso would only have 2 firetrucks and 2 ambulances for a population of 42,114 as per Philippine Statistics Authority, 2015 Census of Population. It should be considered that Toboso would have *barangays* situated in the mountainous area with difficult terrains. While for Escalante, the component city would only have 3 operational firetrucks and 2 running ambulances to cater a population of 94,070 (as of May 2017, per PSA 2015 Census) and with 21 *barangays*.

The Focus Group Discussion revealed that most of the ambulances are so used up in having more than 2 or 3 routes in a day from station to Bacolod hospitals just to respond to medical referrals and other emergency situations. Unfortunately, there would be cases that the clients would resort to finding private means to

transport their patients on their as there is no other available ambulance to be used which would result to life-risk cases.

The area of Disaster Preparedness still garnered an over-all mean of 4.42, interpreted as "very high degree". This somehow validated the effort of the Local Government Unit to establish its respective LDRRM office that will address preparations and resiliency concerns of the local government down to the *barangay* level. It is important to note that some areas of the First District have been along the typhoon route of the super typhoon *Yolanda* on November 2013. Such calamity unfolded the vulnerability of the most of the parts of our country towards natural calamities thereby pumping up all national and local agencies to implement disaster risk mitigation measures as we accept the fact that the Philippines is along the hazard-prone area in the Pacific.

Degree of responsiveness of local governance as assessed by the constituents in the area of Social Protection is presented in Table 4. It is worthy to note that all items have actually scored with "very high degree". This area has an over-all mean of 4.60, still interpreted as "very high degree". This has signified the effective implementation of various social protection programs and services to all LGUs as availed by the respondents. Validating this result is the outcome of the SGLG 2017 of DILG where all cities and municipalities in the first district of Negros Occidental has passed the said area of governance.

Further, the presence of various social services and the presence of the social welfare and development in every town and city has paved the way for the effective roll out of varying programs and services. All LGUs would have financial assistance for medical services and hospitalizations, scholarship programs, assistance for the indigents and marginalized sectors, senior citizens, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), women, youth and children. LGUs and its local communities are also recipients of various national programs such as 4Ps or the Conditional Cash Transfer Program, *PAMANA* and *KALAHI* programs, as well as Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS).

Among the items that has garnered the same "very high degree", Item No. 3 that pertains to the "Accessibility and being able to avail of the services from the Rural Health Units such as vaccines for children, vitamins, maternal care or any other services as the needs arise," has garnered 4.78, which is relatively a high score.

Table 4. Degree of Responsiveness of the Local Governance as Assessed by the Constituents in terms of Social Protection

Indicators	Mean	Rank	Interpretation
1. Have you accessed or availed various social welfare and development services such as public emergency assistance, senior citizens services, among others given to those in need in the barangay.?	4.60	5.5	Very High Degree
2. Have you received prompt and timely response to situations needing social services such as fire or typhoon in your barangay?	4.38	10	Very High Degree
3. Have you visited and availed of the services of Rural Health Units such as vaccines for children, vitamins, maternal care or during illness in your community?	4.78	1	Very High Degree
4. Do you think that the health workers are competent and have full knowledge about health care and have made all health services available in the barangay?	4.73	2	Very High Degree
5. Have you availed or accessed educational assistance for your children provided for by the local government in your community?	4.49	9	Very High Degree
6. Have you observed any assistance from the LGU to your local school in the community to improve delivery of education such as covered court, construction of classroom buildings in your community.?	4.56	8	Very High Degree
7. Do you think that disadvantage sectors such as indigenous people, indigents, solo parents etc. in your barangay can easily avail or access assistance or programs from the local government.?	4.62	4	Very High Degree
8. Have the local government implement the accessibility law for easy transaction for senior citizens, pregnant women, PWD's in all offices in your community that have frontline services such as ramps for PWD's and priority lanes for citizens and pregnant women in your community?	4.65	3	Very High Degree
9. Do you have any idea on how to access crisis center services and assistance to Women and Youth at Risk (VAWC Act Implementation) for emergency cases such as domestic violence, rape cases, child abuse and others in your barangay.?	4.60	5.5	Very High Degree
10. Do you have any idea or have you availed of the Assistance to Individuals in crisis situations, a national program that aims to help people in your community during crisis situations?	4.59	7	Very High Degree
Over all Mean	4.60		Very High Degree

This expounds the presence of varying health programs within the reach of the local communities. As these health programs are being regularly monitored by the Department of Health and its area offices such as of the province and the region, the respective local health office of every local government unit is bound to comply with a massive implementation of the said health care. Most respondents could have availed of the services personally or among their families and relatives.

Vaccines, for example, are religiously administered throughout the local communities as reinforced by the schools and the *barangays*. For Escalante, 1,965 of children were vaccinated for the Year 2017, as per City Health Office Report.

Though all items received a similar interpretation of a “very high degree”, yet, the item that garnered the lowest mean score was Item No. 2 which is related to “Receiving a prompt and timely response to situations needing social services such as after an emergency situation such fire or typhoon.” It only garnered 4.38.

Taking from the *Yolanda* aftermath experience, particularly, Escalante City which was the only LGU that is situated along its path, there was hard time mobilizing the people from the city level as everyone was affected by the super typhoon. Such delay has resulted to eventual delay in the provision of social services such as relief goods and subsistence. The limitation in terms of facilities as well such as service vehicles and other related equipment for clearing has added to constraints in bringing the social services promptly to the local communities.

The national government had its equal share of accountability as even until now, not all *Yolanda*-related projects were implemented such as resettlement projects, housing programs for those who were totally affected and those houses as classified to be located along the danger zones. The subsistence assistance that is to address long term needs of those affected households were also slow to arrive and implemented. It took a couple of years before finally distributing the financial assistance intended for the households that have partially and totally damaged houses.

Table 5. Degree of Responsiveness of the Local Governance as Assessed by the Constituents in terms of Peace and Order

Indicators	Mean	Rank	Interpretation
1. Have you heard or participated in any meetings or assemblies that discuss peace and order situations of the city/municipality in your community.?	4.61	2	Very High Degree
2. Do you know of the existence of barangay peacekeeping action teams in your barangay that helps promote peace and order such as barangay tanods, force multipliers, etc.?	4.68	1	Very High Degree
3. Do you know of the existence of Peoples Law Enforcement Board as among the disciplining authorities of local police officers in your community?	4.31	6	Very High Degree
4. Do you have a quick response mechanism in the barangay for law enforcement teams during situations needing the intervention of the local police force or barangay tanod?	4.09	8	High Degree
5. Do you think your local police force have enough and adequate facilities and equipment in the enforcement of laws and security programs in your community?	4.12	7	High Degree
6. Have you actively participated in together with other members in the implementation of peace and security programs in the community.?	4.56	3	Very High Degree
7. Do you have easy access to rightful, timely and accurate information of peace and order situations in your community.?	4.55	4.5	Very High Degree
8. Do you agree with how the local police is implementing the anti-drug campaign program of the government in your community?	4.55	4.5	Very High Degree
9. Do you think petty crimes such as theft, physical injuries and others are effectively prevented in your community?	3.96	9	High Degree
10. Do you think the local police have resolved promptly arising crimes in the community?	3.85	10	High Degree
Over all Mean	4.33		Very High Degree

The results in Table 5 which presents the degree of responsiveness of Local Governance in the area of Peace and Order as assessed by the constituents varied from “high degree” to “very high degree”. Six (6) items were interpreted as “very high degree” while the remaining four (4) items garnered “high degree”. The over-all mean was 4.33 which still settled at “very high degree”. This implies the high trust rating of the respondents toward the implementation of programs and services related to peace and order. This is validated by the constant visibility of our uniformed personnel as they conduct their regular patrolling and the participation of the community in the various programs and projects spearheaded by the local Philippine National Police.

Item No. 2 that pertains to “Existence of the *barangay* peacekeeping action teams in the *barangay* that helps promote peace and order” has garnered the highest mean of 4.68 interpreted as “very high degree”. The presence of force multipliers or *barangay tanod* also boosted the capacity of the local government to maintain peace and order in the community. They are given ample support by the *barangay* and has

constantly conducting foot patrol around the community.

Among all the items, Item No. 10 that relates to “Whether or not the local police have promptly resolved the arising crimes in the community and if they were able to consistently maintain a low crime rate in the *barangay*” received the lowest mean score of 3.85, interpreted as modest “high degree”. Second lowest that was just very close with a mean score of 3.96, still interpreted as “high degree” was Item No. 9 which relates to the “effectiveness of the Local PNP to prevent petty crimes such as theft, physical injuries, and the like to take place in the community.”

As the two above-mentioned items are very much related, this signifies on the doubts of the respondents for the local police and the community law enforcement teams to have swift resolution to petty crimes committed and their capacity to prevent related incidences in the community. This is due to prevailing incidences of petty crimes that would take place every now and then. Leniency in the enforcement of local ordinances and laws contributed to the occurrence of these petty crimes and lawlessness.

Two other items have received “high degree” relatively lower compared to all the rest of the items. Item No. 4 and 5, with mean scores 4.09 and 4.12, respectively. Item No. 4 refers to the presence of quick response mechanism in the *barangays* for law enforcement teams during situations needing the intervention of the local police force or *barangay tanod*. This signifies that the community is not quite satisfied with how responsive peacekeeping forces are when a need arises in the local area. Item No. 5 refers to whether or not local police force have enough and adequate facilities and equipment in the enforcement of laws and security programs in the community such service vehicles, arms and ammunitions, communications facilities and others. Relating the two items, it is safe to assume that as the community is not quite satisfied with the response mechanisms of the peacekeeping personnel, this made the capability of the local police with regard to its various facility and crime-fighting capacity doubted upon by the local community.

Table 6 presents the difference on the degree of responsiveness of the local governance according to the variable of sex. The area of Financial Administration obtained a *p value* of 0.002 which is lower than 0.05 level of significance; therefore, the hypothesis which says that there is no significant difference in the degree of responsiveness of the Local Governance when the respondents are grouped and compared according to sex in the area of Financial Administration,” is rejected.

On the other hand, the area of Disaster Preparedness got a *p value* of 0.159 while the area of Social Protection gained a *p value* of 0.051 and the area of Peace and Order attained a *p value* of 0.069. All of the obtained values are above 0.05 Level of Significance, thus, the hypothesis that says “There is no significant difference in the Degree of Responsiveness of the Local Governance when respondents are grouped and

compared according to sex in the areas of Disaster Preparedness, Social Protection, and Peace and Order” is accepted.

Looking closely at the result of the values obtained in the area of Financial Management, the significance is best attributed to the prevailing assumptions as to the difference between male and female and on how they approach predominating circumstances.

It must also be considered that majority of the respondents were male which shows that most number of officials in the local communities are dominated by male sex.

Gender has always played an important role in local governance, particularly in the area of financial administration. By influencing the ways in which people think about administration and bureaucracy, it has become impossible to look at local governance without examining the place of the feminine and masculine dichotomy. At present, local governance remains widely segregated in regard to gender, though it has become commonplace to advocate for greater numbers of equality and non-discrimination policies. Hence, the provisions about the Gender Advocacy and Development policies, to make it sure the women’s sector is given due attention in local administration.

Taking into consideration the cultural norm and disposition, the difference between male and female, depends on how these two would approach various conditions - efficiency and objectivity or the "masculine" approach and the other on issues of social justice or the "feminine" approach.

On the other hand, the 3 other areas that have yielded a result of no significant difference when grouped or compared according to sex, implies that regardless of sex, the appreciation of the respondents on the importance of the programs and initiatives is the same.

Table 6. Difference on Degree of Responsiveness of the Local Governance as Assessed by the Constituents

Areas	Category	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks	Mann Whitney U	p-value	Interpretation
Financial Administration	male	137.3	24037.0	5363.0	0.002	Significant
	female	107.5	8603.0			
Disaster preparedness	male	132.2	23140.5	6259.5	0.159	Not Significant
	female	118.7	9499.5			
Social Protection	male	133.7	23397.0	6003.0	0.051	Not Significant
	female	115.5	9243.00			
Peace and Order	male	133.6	23386.0	6014.0	0.069	Not Significant
	female	115.68	9254.0			

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The degree of responsiveness of local governance as assessed by the constituents have generated a result of “very high degree” in all areas across given variables. Therefore, the general public in the local community has significant appreciation toward the programs and projects of the local government units under these areas of local governance. It only shows that government interventions were duly translated into public value based on the impact of programs and projects implemented in the local communities.

The Degree of Responsiveness of the Local Governance as assessed by the constituents in the four (4) areas according to variables yielded generally with “very high degree” result. Hence, LGUs’ programs and projects are encompassing across all areas where the general public has observed, accessed and availed of, and as it prompted favorable appreciation.

The degree of public value translated from the initiatives undertaken by the local government units as based upon the areas set by SGLG depends so much on the consistency, competence and responsiveness of the various programs and project as it creates impact to lives of the people in the local communities. This clearly elucidate core considerations which are legitimacy and support, public value and operational capacity of the LGUs to sustain a high quality of local governance. Though generally, all areas received a relatively favorable approval and appreciation from the

respondents, yet, certain areas were identified to still have room for improvement.

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