

# Watchkeeping the Sea: Experiences of Bantay-Dagat Volunteers

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**Abstract**—This qualitative research explores the lived experiences of Bantay Dagat Volunteers role in bridging the gap between formal law enforcement and community involvement in marine protection and in enforcing local ordinances related to marine conservation through community-based enforcement. Using in-depth interviews, the informants of this study were 10 Bantay Dagat Volunteers assigned at Bogo City, Cebu. Four (4) informants were subjected to an in-depth interview and six (6) informants for focus group discussion. The findings of this study are illustrated in emergent themes. Four (4) emergent themes described the positive and negative experiences of the informants in the implementation of local ordinances in relation to community based-enforcement in Northern Cebu. For the positive experiences, two (2) emergent themes were developed, namely Bantay Dagat Enforcers as a Community Based Enforcers and Experiencing the Restoration and Preservation of the Ocean's Abundance. For negative experiences, two (2) emergent themes were also developed, to wit: Conflict Arises During Suppression and Insufficient Equipments for Patrolling Operations. Meanwhile, two (2) emergent themes were formulated to explain the informants' coping with the challenges encountered in the performance of their duties, namely: Collaboration with the Local Police Unit and Penalties for Offenders. Finally, two (2) emergent themes were created to express the hopes and aspirations of the informants to improve the quality of work in implementing the local ordinances in relation to community-based enforcement in Northern Cebu, to wit: The Need for Annual Refresher Training and Seminars and Adequate Remuneration for the Bantay Dagat Volunteers. Based on the emergent themes identified, it underscores the importance of strong local governance, capacity building and community support in enhancing the effectiveness of community-based marine law enforcement. Recommendations includes strengthening institutional backing, improving training programs and fostering greater community participation to bolster the impact of Bantay Dagat Volunteers in the sustainable management of marine resources.

**Keywords**— Bantay Dagat Volunteers, Community-based enforcement, Phenomology, Northern Cebu, Philippines.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Philippines is an archipelagic state of more than 7,100 islands with a vast coastline and rich coastal and marine areas noted to be among the most important and biologically diverse in the world. Philippines ranks top among Asian countries with healthy resources few countries try to claim rights in our resources which the conflict rise over.

In preserving the ecological balance, the Philippines adopts the conservation and the enhancement of quality environment with the use of local governance system (Osorio, 2009). The Republic Act 10654, was enacted to prevent, deter

and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing amending Republic Act 8550 otherwise known as The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998. To enhance the conservation and management of fisheries resources in the Philippines this includes for the sustainable fisheries management, combatting illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, enhancing monitoring, control, and surveillance, supporting small-scale fishers, and strengthening governance and institutional capacity. In connection the government gave the following entities: Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and Bantay Dagat the responsibility over the protection of our natural resources especially the aquatic resources.

In relation to local ordinance in Northern Cebu for the conservation of marine resources Bantay Dagat Volunteers are tasks in carrying out the preservation of marine protected resources in their locality and it is very transparent that there are issues and challenges taking part measured their capacity and persistency in performing efficiently on their task. The following are matters that needs attention and modification: fishers are prioritizing pursuing their own self-centered interest without the consideration of the adverse effect, lack of coordination and working dynamics with the law enforcement agencies, limited resources being provided by the Local Government Unit (LGU) because of lack of enough revenues; the intrusion of other fishing vessels due to lack of monitoring apparatus because of lack of funds. Changing political will in a different administration unstable programs and approaches that are comes by different preferences and lastly the impact of lack of community engagement and cooperation where individuals are not willing to be educated about marine laws.

Corroborative efforts are needed in developing or modifying existing policies and identifying strategies in the implementation of local ordinances as Bogo City, LGU recognize and support fisher folk organizations as legitimate steward of the coastal resources. There's a need of immediate solutions in prevailing the individualistic rights of primary stakeholders of the resources. As I reside in our locality I'm objected to help the Bantay Dagat Volunteers for the implementation of community-based law enforcement. I need to involve myself in achieving established objectives for the purpose of a healthy livelihood and ecosystem.

This study certainly, will help to address transparent issues and develop strategies that will be facilitated against negatives in ensuring people's empowerment in managing territorial

coastal resources. An enhancement plan must develop with the following perspective, stakeholders must conduct a review of existing policies, identify different entities that can help, develop community-based law enforcement and, trace back the past, present, and future for the contrast of the applied approach and the developed modified approach and community orientation towards a healthy ecosystem.

As a criminologist and a faculty member, it is my firm belief to conduct this study to gain better understanding on their experiences and how they address the problems encountered as they performed their day to day function.

### *Statement of the Problem*

This study aimed to explore the lived experiences of bantay dagat volunteers in the implementation of local ordinances in relation to community based-enforcement in Northern Cebu.

Specifically, the study sought to answer to the following questions:

1. What are the experiences of the informants in the implementation of local ordinances in relation to community-based enforcement in Northern Cebu?
2. How do informants address the problem encountered in the implementation of local ordinances in relation to community-based enforcement in Northern Cebu?
3. What are the hopes and aspirations of the informants to improve their performance in the implementation of local ordinances in relation to community-based enforcement in Northern Cebu?

## II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### *Research Design*

This study used qualitative research method employing phenomenology as an approach. This phenomenological approach concentrated on the live experiences of a Bantay Dagat Volunteers.

Phenomenological is an approach to qualitative research used to describe on how human beings experience a certain phenomenon commonly. The fundamental goal of the particular phenomenon (Zhang, 2013). Basically, interviews are conducted with a group of individuals who have primary knowledge where they gain directly from the situation or experience. The interview attempts to answer two broad questions (Moustakas, 1994). What are your experiences regarding this phenomenon? What situation have you typically influenced your experiences of the phenomenon? The data is then read, reread and culled for like phrases and themes that are then grouped to form clusters of meaning (Zhang, 2013). Through this process the researcher may establish widespread ideas of the situation or experience and depth understanding of the phenomenon. It infuses an added advantage to the exploratory capability of the researcher need to explore and investigate their research study as they have the best opportunity to understand the innermost deliberation of the “lived experience” of the participants (Alase, 2019). It is an approach that is “participant- oriented” it allows the interviewees to express themselves the way see fit without any distortion and prosecution. It adopts a flexible and versatile

design to understand people’s experiences. It will provides a rich source of knowledge that can be used to provide new information about a phenomenon, promote insight about awareness of human experience (Mapp, 2008).

### *Research Environment*

This study was conducted particularly in Bogo City Province of Cebu where there are detailed bantay dagat volunteers.

Bantay Dagat headquarters is established in Siocon, Bogo City Cebu in providing security and implementing fishery laws in their respective territorial waters. There were 14 detailed personnel in Bogo City. These Bantay Dagat Volunteers conducted a consistent seaborne patrol and maintain high visibility to secure the area of responsibility.

Bogo is located on the northeastern coast of Cebu Province and has officially a city. It is a 6th class component city in the Province of Cebu, Philippines. With a population of 88,867 people according to the 2020 census. It has a total area of 103.52 km<sup>2</sup>. There are 13 coastal barangays in the city where there was a deputation training for fish wardens was held in the city for members of local bantay dagat and officials of the coastal barangays it was organized by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region 7 and the Philippine National Police Maritime Group and the Bogo City Police Station, Police Environmental Desk Office (PEDO) in charge of catering calls of emergencies. Tourist attractions that Bogo may offer are the Capitancillo Islet, Shrine of Miraculous Medal, and the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Vincent Ferrer.

### *Research Informants*

The informants of this study were 10 bantay dagat volunteers with three (3) years of experience in the actual operation in the suppression of violators of marine laws as bantay dagat volunteers of a city in Northern Cebu. The informants are detailed within the security of the jurisdictional waters of the city. They are selected based on a purposive sampling method. There were four (4) informants who are individually interviewed and for the focused group discussion are six (6) informants Bogo City, Cebu.

### *Research Instruments*

Self- made interview guide is used consisted of the following: Part 1 deals on the positive and negative experiences of the informants in the implementation of city ordinances in relation to community based enforcement in Northern Cebu, part 2 delves on how the informants addressed the problem encountered in the implementation of city ordinances in relation to community based enforcement in Northern Cebu, while Part 3 the hopes and aspiration of the informants in the implementation of city ordinances in relation to community based enforcement in Northern Cebu

Field notes and voice recorder will be used to record the responses of the informants and to ensure that detailed information is remembered from an interview.

### *Research Procedures*

After permission was granted with my research, I prepared a transmittal letter duly signed and approved by the Dean of

the Graduate School the transmittal letter was also sent to the Office of the Bantay Dagat for approval to gather data through interview. After the Head of Bantay Dagat approved the letter the conduct of the interview started.

*Data Collection.* The interview used as a method of data gathering. Through individual, focused group interview and observation is conducted to allow us to better and have deep insights on the lived experiences of the interviewee before the collection of data, transmittal letter was made first and was addressed to the Office of Bantay Dagat. Upon approval, I meet the informants to explain to them the purpose of conducting this certain study and how the interview must be done. The informants are asked to sign the consent form to signify their willingness and voluntary consent to be included in the study.

*Data Analysis.* I used Colaizzi's method in analyzing data. Utilizing the horizontalization wherein the significant statements are extracted from the transcript interview, formulated meaning is created from significant statements in order to formulate themes. Finally, from the clusters themes; the researcher created emergent themes that answer the sub-problem.

I used coding for each interview recordings to search and retrieve data. This is followed by the transcription of interviews from the audio recorder to paper, reading over the written transcript to look for similarities, and subsequently finding themes and developing categories.

To get the meaning, formal systems for the analysis of qualitative data have been developed. These systems involve: coding techniques for finding and marking the underlying ideas in the data, grouping similar kinds of information together in categories, relating different ideas and themes to one another (Rubin & Rubin, 1995).

#### *Analysis of Data*

In this study, Colaizzi's phenomenological inquiry approach was utilized in analyzing the data. With this method, significant statements were extracted from informants' responses. These have been given formulated meanings and clustered them and from where emergent themes were constructed.

This study primarily anchored on Goal Setting Theory by Edwin A. Locke (2015) and supported by Self-Efficacy Theory by Bandura (1994) and Deterrence Theory by Beccaria and Bentham (1760).

Edwin Locke (2015) proposed that intentions to work toward a goal are a vast supply of work motivation. This principle has been supported in more than one thousand studies with all kinds and stages of employees. Goals need to have specificity, commitment, challenge, and feedback to inspire others. Locke and Latham's (2015) conclusion cautioned that groups that set real looking and particular desires would produce greater overall performance and greatest consequences when contrasted to indistinct or no goals. Learning new desires differs from an intention performance aim in that the emphasis of the former is on discovering or getting to know new strategies, processes, and approaches crucial techniques that people working on new

complex tasks (Al-Khamaiseh, 2019).

Concerning the goal-performance relationship, remarks can act as a moderator. People obtained feedback, to examine their progress, revise their techniques as necessary, and trade each the amount and kind of effort they exerted towards the completion of a goal. Measures of self-efficacy were found to affect overall performance concerning the influence of concern on the goal-performance relationship (Locke & Latham, 2015).

Self-efficacy theory views about people's belief on their capabilities to produce designated levels of performance that exercise influence over events that affect their lives. Self-efficacy beliefs determine how people feel, think, motivated themselves and behave. Such beliefs produce these diverse effects through four major processes. They include cognitive, motivational, affective and selection process (Bandura, 1994). People with high assurance in their capabilities approach difficult task as challenges to be mastered rather than as threats to be avoided. Such an efficacious outlook fosters intrinsic interest and deep engrossment in activities. They set themselves challenging goals and maintain strong commitment to them. They increase and maintain their efforts in the face of setbacks. After defeats or setbacks, they swiftly regain their sense of effectiveness. They believe that failure is caused by a lack of effort or inadequate, learnable skills and knowledge. They dealt threatening situations with assurance that they can exercise control over them. Such an efficacious outlook produces personal, reduce stress and lowers vulnerability to depression. High self-efficacy beliefs positively influence one's outcome expectations and interest in a particular field or career that lead to the growth or development (Clarke, 2019).

Deterrence theory, which holds that the perception of certain, rapid, and severe punishment deters people from engaging in illicit activities. According to deterrence theory, breaking the law is inversely proportionate to the speed, certainty, and severity of punishment it presupposes that human are rational beings who are motivated primarily to avoid pain and seek pleasure, free to make choices and control behavior, knowledgeable regarding harmful behaviors, and deterred by fear of negative consequences (Taxman, 1998).

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

#### *Experiences of the Informants in the Implementation of Local Ordinances in Relation to Community based Enforcement*

##### *A. Positive Experiences*

1. Bantay Dagat Volunteers as a Community Based Enforcers. This first theme is connected on the work experience of the informants as bantay dagat volunteers. In the protection of our territorial marine resources, bantay dagat volunteers conduct regular patrol operations, enforce fishery laws and local marine ordinances governing marine conservation within the assigned area of responsibility. Bantay dagat volunteers also conduct local education and information campaigns for the awareness of the neighborhood and fisherfolks. They are engaged in community-based coastal resources management has become a popular approach to marine conservation and sustainable fisheries management this approach is that

enforcement of community management initiatives is the primary responsibility of the community and that, in most instances, they have the capability to effectively enforce locally developed regulations and rules (Crawford et al., 2010).

Unfortunately, uncontrolled and abusive use of coastal resources has resulted in significant degradation of the health and integrity of the coastal environment. According to Routine Activity theory, criminal acts as routine activity for those persons pursuing a criminal activity lifestyle. This kind of predatory crimes requires three basic elements: a suitable target, a motivated offender, and, a relative absence of suitable capable guardians (such as law enforcement officers or security guards) (Schieber et al., 1996). It is not only identified the socio-environmental aspect of the crime event but also, by focusing on routine activities, offered a model with great expressive power to explain the “ecological” nature of crime and demonstrate how elements apparently unconnected to the illegal activity may shape and determine it (or its absence) (Felson & Cohen, 1980). These things can be accomplished by combining the efforts and resources of the police, community governance, and community members. It involves all elements of the community in the search for solutions to these problems and is founded on close, mutually beneficial ties among the LGU, local police, bantay dagat volunteers and community members. The empowerment and mobilization of community residents, across sector, provide further strength to enforcement is necessary (Loots, 2008).

2. Experiencing the Restoration and Preservation of the Ocean's Abundance. This theme focuses on the good and happy experiences of the informants in the implementation of city ordinances. They have the feeling of satisfaction if they can do their tasks efficiently by patrolling, protecting marine sanctuaries, and providing education and knowledge to the community for the recovery, sustainability, and conservation of marine resources.

The theory of goal setting states that there is a wonderful linear relationship between a precise excessive purpose and task performance. Thus, the idea makes explicit that a precise high intention leads to even higher overall performance than urging humans to do their best. A goal also influences delight in that it serves as the trendy for evaluating one's performance. Goal-setting theory is an employee-engagement tactic that involves setting specific and measurable goals to improve productivity (Locke & Latham, 2015).

In addition to a person's performance, aim setting, feedback, and self-efficacy have been proven to play an indispensable role in fostering a person's subjective well-being. Self-esteem can have an effect on goal success. Employees with higher shallowness attained their desires notably extra frequently than their peers with decrease self-esteem. Goal-setting is an effective and advantageous nation variable (Latham et al., 2011).

Satisfaction is a state of fulfillment created by learning and reinforcing thoughts and behaviors that promotes a positive state of well-being. This is done by accepting that life consist of good and bad experiences and learning the best ways in which to react to challenges that we are faced with

(Psychology key, 2019). And there is reason to think that improving happiness at work is worthy and a satisfactory goal. Evidence suggests that a happy-productive worker hypothesis is maybe more true than we thought (Fisher, 2010). Those workers who have fulfilled and are satisfied in their roles are likely to carry out their job with enthusiasm and dedication and this is highly valued in most societies. Individual state of satisfaction will create a pleasant atmosphere in the organization. Satisfaction causes performance, performance causes satisfaction, and rewards cause both performance and satisfaction this are supported by various researches (Latif et al., 2013). Concerning the goal-performance relationship, remarks can act as a moderator. People obtained feedback, to examine their progress, revise their techniques as necessary, and trade each the amount and kind of effort they exerted towards the completion of a goal (Locke & Latham, 2015).

#### *B. Negative Experiences*

1. Conflict Arises During Suppression. Due to poverty, lack of economic diversification, and population growth people are highly dependent on the extraction of natural resources thus conflicts are pervasive because individuals have different opinions, ideas, and perceptions in life (Altenburg & Pegels, 2017). Our distinction is a problem therefore will develop progressive complexity. Bantay dagat volunteers encountered different issues as they are deployed in their respective jurisdiction and performed their established tasks and responsibilities. Because some citizens are not fully aware of the concept of their task and the ordinances they are implemented as bantay dagat volunteers. To avoid harmful and dangerous settlement the bantay dagat volunteers do their best to settle things through due process as it is the only safe resort and it will offer an effective remedy that can achieve a mutually advantageous agreement in resolving conflicts towards who violated the ordinances. BD have also effective communication, coordination and people's skills which they associated with their in-depth involvement in marine conservation works and benchmarking activities (Esmas, 2021).

According to self-efficacy theory individual with strong sense of efficacy enhances human accomplishment and personal well-being in many ways. People with high assurance in their capabilities approach difficult task as challenges to be mastered rather than as threats to be avoided (Clarke, 2019). Bantay dagat personnel has a high degree of competency, which includes assisting in the promotion of MPA/N system and values awareness, comprehension, and support (Esmas, 2021).

Furthermore, self-efficacy is a source of self-development and regulation, successful adaptation, self-management and change in order to achieve goals (Bandura, 1991). The bantay dagat volunteers remained committed to serve and protect the nation's habitat and fishery resources from further abuse and destruction even in the face of danger (Austin, 2003).

2. Insufficient Equipments for Patrolling Operations. This theme focused on the unpleasant experience of the bantay dagat volunteers in the implementation of city marine ordinances. Sometimes, in the performance of their day-to-day functions, Bantay dagat volunteers encounter uncooperative

and unsupportive local government units, law enforcement agencies, fisherfolks, and citizens who violated the established ordinances. Fostering community engagement and corroborated efforts are very much needed for marine conservation balancing each role, and building common needs and goals lead to a greater degree of trust and confidence for more effective working relationships.

Clear communication of missions and values may spark community interest and can encourage them to be involved in the stewardship of the activities where they feel that their involvement is valued and worthwhile (Zilinskas et al., 2019). When performance outcomes are achieved through interdependent actions indicates that support is always positive and therefore will have a beneficial effect on the work performance one of the features of the so-called high-performance teams, is that its members support and motivate each other both personally and professionally another form of support is the appreciation and rewards offered to employees (Osca et., 2005). Employee acknowledgment and rewarding on account of their group contribution is one of the most effective ways that organizations have to promote team working (Hackman & Lawler, 1971). It is very encouraging to find the community to be generally knowledgeable on the facts of the ecosystem so that they can also know the degree of danger to coastal resources brought about by a specific activity. governance does not only include institutions, but links the role of stakeholder norms to behavioral use patterns for the resource as well as stakeholder support for regulations collaborative meetings that have dealt to coastal management focusing on more productive effort and continual support from each other (Allegretti, 2012).

#### *Addressing the Problem Encountered in the Implementation of Local Ordinances in Relation to Community-based Enforcement*

1. Collaboration with the Local Police Unit. This theme is connected to how the informant's address the problems encountered in the implementation of city ordinances. e BD usually conduct patrol operations on their own, risking their safety in the process (Maderazo, 2016). Joint forces support from coast guard and maritime police is the key to good and efficient operation for that they have enough capabilities and skills for in-depth operation and to ensure adequate maritime security and safety at sea: mergers and joint operations or even joint task forces were proven effective for coastal management

Ideally, in the conduct of seaborne patrol operations, local police or other national government law enforcement officer should accompany BD. Regular meetings for the BD are necessary to facilitate effective coordination between members and other local enforcement agencies. However, effective coordination and dynamic working relations between the BD members and the local Philippine National Police (PNP) in the enforcement sites remain a challenge. BD members cite this lack of coordination as the main problem area for local law enforcement (SSG Advisors, 2016). There is this concept of merger strategy, agencies involved may play multiple roles and their respective intelligence information, manpower, technology, mobility, training, and capabilities

will be shared. Their relationship with each other is that of operational and tactical level. All the agencies involved in the merger shall have one common goal, which is, to protect the interest of the archipelago and secure national prosperity, and preserve the rich natural resources of the country for peace and order, public safety, tourism, and economic stability, in general, these rely much on the maturity level of the authorities and the demand of the key agencies in their approach of enforcement (Monje, 2012). Creating a broad spectrum of support for the bantay dagat volunteers requires all stakeholders understand and recognize its benefits and their role in the process by creating awareness among stakeholders they can be in better position to make informed choices and action embedded (Bermas & Chua, 2018).

2. Penalties for Offenders. The bantay dagat organization is eager for the violators to be accountable on their illegal actions but because the "palakasan system" is prevailing as of today and is hard to eradicate it is somehow hard for their efforts to be visible. It is seen as dangerous, especially if one aspires for better governance. To tolerate a mechanism that sets incompetence in the government shall only produce further incompetence (Casil, 2021). It's about turning the system into a merit system seeking civil servants in the Philippine bureaucracy will not be influenced by the political world but really political neutrality is difficult to preserve and would not vanished. But with the coordination between the Bantay Dagat Organization and police unit the violators provide fines for their accountability.

In the domain of environment, the public tourist affects the bantay dagat motivation and makes them to adopt an ecological behavior. In this context, it appears that when the public decision-makers consult the managers about the different ways of reducing consumption or or behaving responsibly reveal their regular responsible behavior. These authors maintain that the consumer's involvement in the process of decision making helps them change their habits. It shows that the public power exemplarity provides reliable and sufficient information to the citizens, delivers coherent discourses and takes into account the citizen's opinions (Fiorello & Bo, 2012). Good governance will strengthen the effectiveness in the implementation for achieving sustainable coastal development government policies viewed fisheries primarily as an economic resource that need to be secured from destructive human activities to sustain it as a source of revenue, food, livelihood and income to a growing population (Adan, 2011).

#### *Hopes and Aspirations of the Informants to Improve Their Performance in the Implementation of Local Ordinances in Relation to Community Based Enforcement*

1. The Need for Annual Refresher Training and Seminars. This theme focused on how important annual training and seminars are for human development in an organization. World transition from a traditional one to the contemporary one. Learning new goals differs from a goal performance goal in that the emphasis of the former is on discovering or mastering new strategies, processes, and procedures necessary strategies that people working on new complex tasks (Latham

et al., 2011). The two major components of human resource development are 1.) training and development and 2.) organization development and have critical application areas: human resource management, career development, and quality improvement (Swanson, R.A. 1995). Social learning theory proposes learning as a cognitive process that takes place socially and occurs through either observation or direct instructions often involves sharing and collaborating by encouraging sharing thoughts, ideas, experiences, and best practices, you strengthen your employees' productivity and skills which encourages a learning culture.

Social learning has always been an important part of the way we learn and retain information and the influence of both environmental and cognitive factors on learning success as well as the overall behavior of a person. One of the most effective methods to ignite one's creativity and find innovative approaches to solutions and development is recurring organizational training and seminars and brainstorming sessions (Bandura, 1991). The advent of new information technology providing easy access to more liberal ideas and the adoption of measures and takes into account changing social patterns and development more adaptive transformations in society a circumstance for the need of annual trainings, seminars and technical assistance brought for increasing public awareness to the dangers of environmental degradation and to the support for environmental protection (Loots, 2008). 2. Adequate Remuneration for the Bantay Dagat Volunteers. This theme is connected to the hopes and aspirations of a bantay dagat volunteers. A satisfied work force will create a pleasant atmosphere within the organization to perform well and attain high level of performance through productivity and efficiency has always been an organizational goal of high priority, a pleasurable or positive emotional state resulting from the appraisal of one's job incentives is an implication for the bantay dagat to perform better (Pushpakumari, 2008). Quality of living of their respective families is also a factor that can affect their performance of duties and responsibilities. Edwin Locke (2015) put forward the goal-setting theory of motivation. The theory states that goal setting is essentially linked to task performance. Goal-setting is a technique used to raise incentives for employees to complete work quickly and effectively and leads to better performance by increasing motivation and efforts, but also by increasing and improving the feedback (Latham et al., 2011).

The theory of Task Motivation and Incentives also views goals and intentions as mediators of the effects of incentives on task performance. Effects of goal-setting, feedback, and incentivizing manipulations on sustained attention (Robison et al., 2021). Also, many different factors are involved in management by objectives programs but the setting of specific goals is the cardinal element (Locke, 1978). Although goals did not entail any monetary consequences, we found that they significantly increased both production levels and effort following the fact that high monetary incentives promote higher goals, which in turn increase motivation and performance (Corgnet et al., 2015).

#### IV. SUMMARY

This study aimed to explore the lived experiences of bantay dagat volunteers in the implementation of local ordinances in relation to community based-enforcement in Northern Cebu.

Specifically, the study sought to answer to the following questions:

1. What are the experiences of the informants in the implementation of local ordinances in relation to community-based enforcement in Northern Cebu?
2. How do informants address the problem encountered in the implementation of local ordinances in relation to community-based enforcement in Northern Cebu?
3. What are the hopes and aspirations of the informants to improve their performance in the implementation of local ordinances in relation to community-based enforcement in Northern Cebu?

This is a qualitative study employing a phenomenological research design for bantay dagat volunteers. The informants of this study were 12 Bantay dagat volunteers who were detailed in the Siocon, Bogo City, Cebu. There were four (4) informants in the depth interview and six (6) informants in the focus group discussion.

#### V. FINDINGS

There were eight (8) emergent themes derived from the responses of the informants. Significant statements were extracted from the responses which resulted to create core meanings for the emergent themes. The following are the emergent themes.

For the positive experiences of the informants in the implementation of local ordinances in relation to community-based enforcement 2 themes were created: *Bantay Dagat Volunteers as a Community Based Enforcers, and Experiencing the Restoration and Preservation of the Ocean's Abundance.*

On the negative experiences of the informants in the implementation of local ordinances in relation to community-based enforcement, the following themes were created: *Conflict Arises during Suppression, and Insufficient Equipment for Patrolling Operations.*

On how do informants address the problem encountered in the implementation of local ordinances in relation to community-based enforcement the following themes emerged: *Collaboration with the Local Police Unit, and Penalties for Offenders.*

In the hopes and aspirations of the informants to improve their performance in the implementation of local ordinances in relation to community-based enforcement 2 themes were created: *The Need for Annual Refresher Training and Seminar and Adequate Remuneration for the Bantay Dagat Volunteers.*

#### VI. IMPLICATIONS

##### *Implications for Practice*

Based on the result of the study, the researcher recommends the following:

First, the bantay dagat volunteers must strengthen their information drive towards the neighborhood for them to be more aware of the concept of the laws and ordinances they are implementing. And to be accompanied by the different law enforcement authorities as they have enough knowledge and capacity to influence the attitude and behavior of the citizens. Through that, they can gain support from the citizenry.

Second, I found out that lack of support from other law enforcement agencies is the concern of the Bantay Dagat Volunteers where this known problem they should request the Local Government Unit (LGU), Coast Guard, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and community to be more aware and involved in the missions and objectives of the bantay dagat organization. Wholesome support is very much needed for a certain organization to be more efficient and effective in its functions. And the Local Government Unit (LGU) should appropriate funds for logistical supplies to equip each Bantay Dagat Volunteers with appropriate resources which are very much needed by the bantay dagat volunteers in the performance of their functions.

Third, I also found that political influence is a great factor in determining the violators' liability. For good governance to prevail in this new era this concept and tradition need to be eliminated from the idea of our citizens to avoid the stigma of corruption as it is the way and means by some authorities to get some gratuities from the violators.

Lastly, for enhancing the knowledge, skills, and capabilities of each bantay dagat volunteer, human development through conducting annual training and seminars for introducing new techniques and strategies in dealing with the implementation of the old and new ordinances is a factor for their efficiency. Training and seminars are a means for sharing concerns and exchanging ideas by the Bantay Dagat Volunteers that can be possibly used for a good approach.

### Implications for the Future Studies

First, it is recommended that there should be a study conducted exploring the impact of unsupportive community, local government unit (LGU), and law enforcement authorities on bantay dagat operations.

Second, an assessment of the skills of the bantay dagat volunteers in handling conflict during the arrest or in the implementation of the ordinances may be conducted to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses.

Third, a study on the important factors that can contribute to the efficiency of the bantay dagat volunteers in the performance of their function.

Finally, we are conducting a study on the possible programs to be established to help the bantay dagat volunteers in the protection of our marine resources.

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