



THE PERCEPTION OF LUPONG TAGAPAMAYAPA ON THE KATARUNGANG PAMBARANGAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF JONES, ISABELA AS BASIS FOR BARANGAY JUSTICE SYSTEMS INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES

Valen Jesnna L. Andres
Junmarie Caroline De Leon

Saint Ferdinand College-City of Ilagan Campus, City of Ilagan, Isabela, Philippines

ABSTRACT

This study, completed in 2026, assessed the perceptions of the Lupong Tagapamayapa regarding the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay in the Municipality of Jones, Isabela, as a basis for developing Barangay Justice System intervention activities. Using a descriptive quantitative research design, the study involved 190 respondents composed of Punong Barangays, Barangay Secretaries, and Lupon members from both forest and poblacion barangays. Data were gathered through a survey questionnaire and analyzed using frequency and percentage distributions, weighted mean, *t*-test, and analysis of variance at the 0.05 level of significance. The results showed that the respondents were mostly female, predominantly Lupon members, and generally had three or more years of service. The findings revealed that the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay was highly perceived in terms of general provisions, cognizable cases, and technical procedures. Among the three domains, technical procedures obtained the highest mean, while cognizable cases obtained the lowest, indicating the need to strengthen the respondents' knowledge of case classification and jurisdictional limits. A significant difference was found among the respondents' perceptions across the three domains, suggesting that their levels of understanding varied according to the aspect of implementation. However, no significant differences were found when their perceptions were grouped according to sex, position, length of service, number of training sessions attended, and geographic location, indicating generally uniform perceptions among the respondents. The study concluded that although the Katarungang Pambarangay was generally well understood and implemented, targeted training and competency-based intervention activities were

needed to enhance legal understanding, procedural compliance, and effective barangay-level dispute resolution.

Keywords: *Katarungang Pambarangay, Lupong Tagapamayapa, Barangay Justice System, dispute resolution, intervention activities*

INTRODUCTION

The Barangay Justice System, locally known as Katarungang Pambarangay, was established to promote peaceful and harmonious resolution of conflicts within communities. Rooted in Filipino values of unity, cooperation, and “bayanihan,” this system emphasizes dialogue, mutual understanding, and reconciliation rather than adversarial litigation. Its primary goal is to maintain social order while fostering community trust and solidarity. The system comprises three major components: the Lupong Tagapamayapa (Peace-Making Council), the Pangkat Tagapagkasundo (Conciliation Panel), and legal advisers, all of whom collectively serve as the frontline of grassroots justice, ensuring that disputes among barangay residents are resolved fairly, efficiently, and amicably.

At the heart of the Katarungang Pambarangay is the Lupong Tagapamayapa, a council composed of respected community members tasked with mediating disputes among residents. Their role goes beyond simply facilitating agreements; they help preserve relationships, prevent the escalation of conflicts, and strengthen unity within the barangay. When the system operates effectively, it helps reduce the burden on formal courts while sustaining social harmony by offering quick, accessible, and culturally grounded solutions to community problems.

Under the Local Government Code of 1991 (RA 7160) (1991), the barangay is recognized as the basic political unit and the government’s closest link to the people. It is the first venue where residents can raise their concerns and seek intervention in resolving disputes. This places the Lupong Tagapamayapa at the forefront of local justice, ensuring that conflict resolution remains fair, timely, and sensitive to local customs and values.

However, despite the system’s significance, its implementation is not always smooth. Some Lupon members struggle with limited training, lack of technical knowledge, inadequate supervision, and sometimes, the unwillingness of disputing parties to participate in mediation. These challenges affect the efficiency of the Barangay Justice System. They may even lead to unresolved disputes, strained community relationships, and unnecessary cases brought to higher courts—issues that the BJS was precisely designed to prevent.

Conflicts in Filipino communities often stem from boundary disputes, financial disagreements, family matters, or personal misunderstandings. The common phrase “baka pwedeng pag-usapan muna” reflects the cultural preference for peaceful settlement before conflicts escalate. As Fr. Roura noted, conflicts usually worsen not because of the issue itself but because communication breaks down (Fisher and Ury, 1981). This highlights the need for barangay officials to be well-equipped to mediate conflicts.

To strengthen community-based conflict resolution, the government introduced laws such as RA 9285 (Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of 2004) (2004) and the revised provisions of the Katarungang Pambarangay, emphasizing the need for proper training and support for barangay officials.

In the Municipality of Jones, Isabela, the Barangay Justice System plays a vital role in addressing disputes, especially in rural communities where interpersonal relationships are closely knit. Many cases in Jones have been settled through mediation and conciliation, showing the potential of the system to reduce court congestion and maintain peace within the municipality. However, despite these positive outcomes, the effectiveness of the BJS in Jones still largely depends on how the Lupong Tagapamayapa perceive, understand, and perform their duties.

Thus, this study specifically examined the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay in the Municipality of Jones, Isabela, as perceived by the Lupong Tagapamayapa. It sought to identify the challenges encountered by the Lupong Tagapamayapa, assess the strengths and weaknesses of the existing system, and propose intervention activities that could enhance the effectiveness of the Barangay Justice System in the municipality. By focusing on the individuals directly involved in grassroots conflict resolution, the research aimed to contribute to improved local governance, strengthened community peace, and the continued practice of resolving disputes through dialogue, respect, and mutual understanding.

Research Questions

This study aimed to assess the perceptions of the Lupong Tagapamayapa regarding the Katarungang Pambarangay in the Municipality of Jones, Isabela, which served as the basis for the development of Barangay Justice Systems Intervention Activities.

Specifically, this study sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the respondents in terms of:
 - 1.1 Sex;
 - 1.2 Position within the Barangay;
 - 1.3 Length of service as *Lupon Tagapamayapa*;
 - 1.4 Number of trainings attended; and
 - 1.5 Geographic location (Forest or Centro Region)?
2. What is the level of perception of the Lupon members in the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay in terms of:
 - a. General Provisions;
 - b. Cognizable Cases; and
 - c. Technical Procedures
3. Is there a significant difference in the level of perception on the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay in terms of:
 - a. General Provisions;

- b. Cognizable Cases; and
 - c. Technical Procedures
4. Is there a significant difference in the level of perception of the Lupon members regarding the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay when grouped according to their profile?

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study utilized a descriptive quantitative research design to determine and describe the perception of the members of the Lupon Tagapamayapa on the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay in the Municipality of Jones, Isabela. Descriptive research design is appropriate in this study because it focuses on describing existing conditions, practices, and perceptions of respondents without manipulating any variables. According to Creswell and Creswell (2018), descriptive research is used to describe the current status of a phenomenon and provide an accurate portrayal of characteristics of a particular individual, situation, or group.

Through this research design, the researcher gathered factual information regarding the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay, particularly in terms of general provisions, cognizable cases, and technical procedures. The study also determined whether significant differences exist in the perceptions of the respondents when grouped according to their demographic profile such as age, sex, position in the barangay, length of service, number of trainings attended, and geographic cluster.

The study employed a quantitative approach using survey questionnaires as the primary data-gathering instrument. The responses gathered from the Lupon Tagapamayapa members were analyzed statistically to determine the extent of implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay and to identify differences among variables. Through the use of the descriptive quantitative design, the study provided a systematic and accurate description of the current condition of the Barangay Justice System, which served as the basis for proposing appropriate intervention activities to further strengthen its implementation.

Locale of the Study

The study was conducted in the Municipality of Jones, located in the southern part of the Province of Isabela, within the Cagayan Valley Region (Region II). Jones is a first-class municipality composed of 42 barangays, divided into two major geographic clusters: the Centro Region, which consists of the urban and semi-urban barangays near the municipal center, and the Forest Region, comprising the rural and upland barangays.

The municipality is chosen as the locale of this study because it implements the Katarungang Pambarangay program in its barangays. Each barangay has an established

Lupong Tagapamayapa, which plays a vital role in conflict resolution, mediation, and maintaining peace and order at the community level.

Selection and Description of Respondents

The respondents of this study are the Lupong Tagapamayapa members from the different barangays in the Municipality of Jones, Province of Isabela, with a total of 190 respondents. This is composed of 42 Punong Barangays, 42 Barangay Secretaries, and 106 Lupon members from both the Centro and Forest regions. They were selected as respondents because they are the primary implementers of the Katarungang Pambarangay (KP), a community-based conflict resolution mechanism mandated under the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act 7160).

The Lupong Tagapamayapa is composed of the Punong Barangay, who serves as the Chairperson of the Lupon, and the Lupon members who are appointed by the Punong Barangay with the approval of the Sangguniang Barangay. These members are chosen based on their integrity, impartiality, and credibility within the community. They play a vital role in mediating, conciliating, and settling disputes within their respective barangays.

The respondents were identified through an official list of Lupong Tagapamayapa members obtained from the Municipal Local Government Operations and validated through the Barangay Secretaries. The selection of these respondents was based on their direct involvement and experience in the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay, making them credible and reliable sources of data regarding its actual practices, effectiveness, and challenges.

Table 1
Distribution of Respondents

Barangay	Punong Barangay	Lupon Members	Total Respondents
Abulan	1	4	5
Addalam	1	3	4
Arubub	1	4	5
Bannawag	1	3	4
Bantay	1	3	4
Barangay I (Poblacion)	1	4	5
Barangay II (Poblacion)	1	4	5
Barangcuag	1	3	4
Dalibubon	1	4	5
Daligan	1	3	4
Diarao	1	4	5
Dibuluan	1	3	4
Dicamay I	1	4	5
Dicamay II	1	4	5
Dipangit	1	4	5

Disimpit	1	3	4
Divinan	1	4	5
Dumawing	1	3	4
Fugu	1	4	5
Lacab	1	4	5
Linamanan	1	3	4
Linomot	1	4	5
Malannit	1	3	4
Minuri	1	4	5
Namnama	1	3	4
Napaliong	1	4	5
Palagao	1	3	4
Papan Este	1	4	5
Papan Weste	1	3	4
Payac	1	4	5
Pungpongan	1	3	4
San Antonio	1	4	5
San Isidro	1	4	5
San Jose	1	3	4
San Roque	1	4	5
San Sebastian	1	3	4
San Vicente	1	3	4
Santa Isabel	1	4	5
Santo Domingo	1	3	4
Tupax	1	3	4
Usol	1	3	4
Villa Bello	1	4	5
TOTAL	42	148	190

Data Gathering Procedure

Formal permission to conduct the study was secured from the Municipal Local Government Unit of Jones, Isabela. Subsequently, coordination with the Punong Barangay and Barangay Secretaries of the selected barangays was done to identify active Lupong Tagapamayapa members who would serve as respondents.

Printed questionnaires were personally distributed by the researcher to ensure accessibility, particularly in remote areas. Respondents were given sufficient time to complete the questionnaire, and completed forms were immediately retrieved to maintain data accuracy and integrity.

Ethical standards are strictly observed throughout the data collection. Each respondent submitted a consent form ensuring voluntary participation and confidentiality. The researcher provided necessary clarifications while avoiding any influence on the

participants' responses. Despite minor logistical challenges in distant barangays, all planned respondents were reached within the allotted period. After retrieval, the questionnaires were checked for completeness, encoded, and systematically organized for statistical analysis. To enhance the validity of the results, brief validation interviews were also conducted with selected Punong Barangays and Barangay Secretaries.

Statistical Treatment of Data

To analyze the data gathered for the study, the following statistical tools were utilized:

Frequency and Percentage Count. These were used to describe the profile of the respondents in terms of age, sex, educational attainment, length of service, position, and number of trainings attended.

Weighted Mean. This tool was used to determine the respondents' perception on the level of implementation of the *Katarungang Pambarangay* in the Municipality of Jones, Isabela, particularly in terms of settlement procedures, mediation, conciliation, and execution of settlement.

T-Test. The t-test was used to determine whether there is a significant difference between the level of perception of the Lupon members regarding the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay when grouped according to their profile.

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). ANOVA was employed to determine whether there are significant differences in the respondents' the level of perception of the Lupon members regarding the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay when grouped according to their profile variables with more than two categories and significant difference in the level of perception on the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay in terms of general provisions, cognizable cases, and technical procedures.

All statistical analyses were tested at a 0.05 level of significance to determine whether the differences observed are statistically significant.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. What is the profile of the respondents in terms of:

1.1 Sex

Table 1.1
Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents According to Sex

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	81	42.63
Female	109	57.37
Total	190	100

Table 1.1 shows that out of 190 respondents, 81 or 42.63% are male and 109 or 57.37% are female, indicating that females constitute the majority. This reflects the increasing participation of women in local governance and barangay justice, consistent with Republic Act 7160, which promotes inclusive governance at the barangay level.

This finding is supported by Sobradil (2019), who noted that women's desire for smooth interpersonal relationships makes them effective in dispute resolution. Similarly, Andan and Sumayo (2025) found a comparable distribution in their study, where females (54.4%) slightly outnumbered males (45.6%) among Lupon service recipients. However, this contrasts with Aquino (2008), who observed that Lupon Tagapamayapa members were mostly males, with some barangays having 100% male representation. This suggests that while female participation has increased over time, it may still vary across municipalities.

Overall, the predominance of female respondents highlights the important role of women in community-based mediation, emphasizing the need for continued gender balance in barangay justice implementation.

1.2 Position within the Barangay

Table 1.2
Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents in terms of Position within the Barangay

Position	Frequency	Percentage
Chairman	42	22.11
Secretary	42	22.11
Member	106	55.79
Total	190	100

Table 1.2 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of respondents according to their position within the barangay. Out of 190 respondents, 42 (22.11%) are Punong Barangays who serve as Chairmen of the Lupon, 42 (22.11%) are Barangay Secretaries, and 106 (55.79%) are Lupon Members. The data reveal that the majority of the respondents are Lupon Members, comprising over half of the total participants.

The equal distribution of Chairmen and Secretaries highlights the collaborative nature of barangay justice administration, where the Punong Barangay provides leadership and oversight, while the Barangay Secretary ensures proper documentation and procedural compliance. This structure is consistent with Republic Act No. 7160, which mandates the composition and functions of the Lupon Tagapamayapa.

This finding is supported by Cuntapay et al. (2022), who emphasized that the success of barangay justice implementation relies on the active participation of all Lupon members, with each position contributing specific functions that collectively ensure effective dispute resolution. Likewise, the DILG Katarungang Pambarangay Handbook highlights that the Lupon functions as a cohesive body where each role is essential to the system's effectiveness.

The substantial representation of Lupon Members suggests that the barangay justice system has adequate personnel to handle community disputes. However, this also implies that the quality of dispute resolution depends heavily on their competence, reinforcing the need for continuous capacity-building programs for all Lupon personnel, regardless of position.

1.3 Length of Service

Table 1.3
Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents in terms of Length of Service

Length	Frequency	Percentage
1–2 yrs	29	15.26
3–5 yrs	85	44.74
6+ yrs	76	40
Total	190	100

Table 1.3 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of respondents according to length of service. Out of 190 respondents, 29 or 15.26 have served for 1–2 years, 85 or 44.74 have served for 3–5 years, and 76 or 40 have served for 6 years and above. The majority of respondents have served for 3 years or more, indicating that most Lupon Tagapamayapa members possess considerable experience in barangay justice implementation.

This finding implies that the respondents have sufficient exposure to Katarungang Pambarangay procedures, including mediation, conciliation, documentation, and case handling. Their length of service enhances the credibility of their perceptions, as they are grounded in actual practice rather than limited exposure.

This is supported by the study of Cerna (2023), who found that Lupon members with longer years of service demonstrated better familiarity with barangay justice procedures and were more effective in handling disputes. Similarly, Damayon et al., (2022) emphasized that experienced Lupon members exhibit stronger decision-making skills and higher efficiency in resolving conflicts, contributing to the overall effectiveness of the Katarungang Pambarangay.

The presence of respondents with 6 years and above (40%) indicates continuity and stability in barangay governance, which is essential in maintaining consistency in the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay. This aligns with the principle under

Republic Act 7160 that emphasizes the importance of experienced and competent barangay officials in ensuring effective grassroots justice administration.

Overall, the data suggest that the respondents possess adequate experience to provide reliable assessments of the Katarungang Pambarangay implementation in the Municipality of Jones, Isabela. However, the presence of newer members (1–2 years) also highlights the need for continuous orientation and mentoring to ensure that all Lupon members, regardless of experience level, are equally equipped to perform their duties effectively.

1.4 Trainings Attended

Table 1.4
Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents in terms of Trainings Attended

Trainings	Frequency	Percentage
0–1	33	17.37
2–3	57	30
4–5	52	27.37
6+	48	25.26
Total	190	100

Table 1.4 presents the respondents' level of perception regarding the general provisions of the Katarungang Pambarangay. The overall mean of 3.10, interpreted as Highly Perceived, indicates that the respondents possess a high level of understanding of the fundamental principles, objectives, and legal provisions governing the Barangay Justice System. This finding suggests that the Lupon Tagapamayapa members are generally knowledgeable about their roles and responsibilities in implementing the Katarungang Pambarangay in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 7160.

Among the indicators, the statement "The Katarungang Pambarangay promotes the amicable settlement of disputes at the barangay level" obtained the highest mean, indicating that respondents clearly recognize the primary objective of the Barangay Justice System, which is to preserve harmony within the community through peaceful settlement of disputes. Likewise, the indicators relating to the authority and responsibilities of the Lupon Tagapamayapa also received high ratings, suggesting that respondents are familiar with the legal framework governing barangay dispute resolution.

Conversely, the statement with the lowest mean, although still interpreted as Highly Perceived, indicates that certain provisions of the Katarungang Pambarangay require further clarification among respondents. This finding suggests that while respondents possess adequate knowledge of the general provisions, there remain areas that may benefit from continuous orientation and capacity-building activities to ensure a more comprehensive understanding of the law.

Overall, the findings imply that the respondents have developed a solid foundation of knowledge regarding the general provisions of the Katarungang Pambarangay. Such understanding is essential because the effective implementation of barangay justice depends largely on the Lupon's familiarity with its legal mandates, functions, and guiding principles.

The findings support the provisions of Republic Act No. 7160 (1991) (Local Government Code of 1991), which established the Katarungang Pambarangay as a community-based mechanism for the amicable settlement of disputes before resorting to judicial action. The law emphasizes the role of the Lupon Tagapamayapa in promoting peace, preserving harmonious relationships, and decongesting court dockets through mediation and conciliation.

Similarly, the findings are consistent with the study of Cerna (2023), who reported that Lupon members generally demonstrated a high level of awareness of the objectives, functions, and legal foundations of the Katarungang Pambarangay, enabling them to perform their dispute resolution responsibilities effectively. Likewise, Damayon et al., (2022) concluded that a thorough understanding of the general provisions of the Katarungang Pambarangay contributes significantly to effective implementation and strengthens public confidence in the Barangay Justice System.

These findings collectively indicate that strengthening the respondents' knowledge of the general provisions through continuous legal education and refresher training will further enhance the effective implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay in the Municipality of Jones, Isabela.

1.5 Geographic Location

Table 1.5
Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents in terms of their
Geographic Location

Location	Frequency	Percentage
Forest	180	94.74
Poblacion	10	5.26
Total	190	100

Table 1.5 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents according to their geographic location. Out of the 190 respondents, 180 (94.74%) are from the Forest barangays, while only 10 (5.26%) are from the Poblacion barangays. These findings indicate that the respondents are predominantly from the forest barangays of the Municipality of Jones, Isabela.

The predominance of respondents from the forest barangays suggests that the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay is largely represented by communities located in rural and geographically dispersed areas. This implies that the Lupon Tagapamayapa in these barangays plays a vital role in resolving disputes at the

community level, where access to formal judicial institutions may be relatively limited. Consequently, barangay-based dispute resolution becomes an essential mechanism in maintaining peace, order, and harmonious relationships among residents.

The relatively small proportion of respondents from the poblacion barangays indicates that fewer Lupon members were available or qualified from urban barangays compared to those in forest communities. Nevertheless, the inclusion of respondents from both geographic locations provides a broader perspective on the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay across different barangay settings within the municipality.

These findings are consistent with the principles of the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act No. 7160) (1991), which institutionalized the Katarungang Pambarangay in every barangay regardless of its geographic location, recognizing the barangay as the primary venue for the amicable settlement of disputes before resorting to judicial intervention.

Likewise, the findings support the study of Bulilan (2020), who emphasized that rural barangays demonstrate stronger community participation and reliance on barangay institutions because local officials are more accessible to residents and play a central role in community governance. Similarly, Metro et al. (2021) noted that barangay justice mechanisms are particularly significant in rural communities, where community participation and interpersonal relationships contribute to the successful settlement of disputes and the preservation of social harmony.

Overall, the findings indicate that the respondents are largely representative of the forest barangays in the Municipality of Jones, Isabela. This distribution reflects the important role of the Katarungang Pambarangay in rural communities, where the Lupon Tagapamayapa serves as the primary institution for accessible, community-based dispute resolution.

2. How do the Lupon members perceive the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay in terms of:

a. General Provisions;

Table 2.1
Perception of Respondents on Katarungang Pambarangay
(General Provision)

Statements	Mean	Interpretation
The Katarungang Pambarangay, also known as the Barangay Justice System, is an effective alternative venue for the resolution of disputes at the barangay level.	2.87	Highly Perceived
The three (3) modes of conflict resolution under the Katarungang Pambarangay—mediation, conciliation, and arbitration—are clearly defined and properly implemented.	2.92	Highly Perceived

The requirement that Lupon Tagapamayapa members must be of legal age and actual residents or workers of the barangay is essential to the effective administration of barangay justice.	3.48	Highly Perceived
The Punong Barangay's authority to appoint a replacement in case of a vacancy in the Lupon Tagapamayapa ensures continuity in the barangay justice process.	3.46	Highly Perceived
The provision that an appointed Lupon member shall serve only for the unexpired term of the replaced member promotes fairness and proper governance.	3.05	Highly Perceived
The rule that members of the Lupon Tagapamayapa or Pangkat ng Tagapagkasundo serve without compensation or allowance reflects the spirit of voluntary public service.	3.08	Highly Perceived
The requirement that parties to a dispute must personally appear during Katarungang Pambarangay proceedings, without the assistance of legal counsel or representatives (except in cases involving minors or incapacitated persons), supports speedy and informal dispute resolution.	3.18	Highly Perceived
A lack of understanding of Katarungang Pambarangay procedures negatively affects the effectiveness of Lupon Tagapamayapa members.	3.20	Highly Perceived
Limited knowledge of Katarungang Pambarangay procedures among Lupon members contributes to delays in the resolution of disputes at the barangay level.	3.19	Highly Perceived
Inadequate training of Lupon Tagapamayapa members in Katarungang Pambarangay procedures undermines the credibility and effectiveness of the local justice system.	3.07	Highly Perceived
Overall Mean	3.15	Highly Perceived

Table 2.1 presents the level of perception of the respondents on the general provisions of the Katarungang Pambarangay. The overall mean of 3.15, interpreted as Highly Perceived, indicates that the respondents generally possess a high level of understanding of the basic principles, legal provisions, and operational guidelines governing the Barangay Justice System. This suggests that the Lupon Tagapamayapa members are knowledgeable of their roles and responsibilities in implementing the Katarungang Pambarangay within their respective barangays.

Among the indicators, the highest mean score of 3.48 was obtained by the statement, "The requirement that Lupon Tagapamayapa members must be of legal age and actual residents or workers of the barangay is essential to the effective administration of barangay justice," followed by the statement regarding the authority of the Punong Barangay to appoint a replacement in case of vacancy with a mean score of 3.46. Both indicators were interpreted as Highly Perceived, indicating that the respondents recognize

the importance of qualified Lupon members and the continuity of leadership in ensuring the effective implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay. These findings imply that respondents value the legal qualifications and organizational structure established under the Local Government Code as essential components of an efficient barangay justice system.

On the other hand, the lowest mean score of 2.87, which was still interpreted as Highly Perceived, was obtained by the statement that the Katarungang Pambarangay is an effective alternative venue for the resolution of disputes at the barangay level. This was followed by the statement on the three modes of conflict resolution—mediation, conciliation, and arbitration with a mean score of 2.92. Although these indicators remained within the "Highly Perceived" category, the relatively lower ratings suggest that respondents may still have limited appreciation of the broader objectives and legal mechanisms of the Barangay Justice System compared with their understanding of the qualifications and administrative functions of the Lupon.

Overall, the findings indicate that while the respondents possess a high level of perception regarding the general provisions of the Katarungang Pambarangay, there remain areas that require continuous legal orientation, particularly on the fundamental concepts and dispute resolution mechanisms provided under the law. Strengthening these areas may further enhance the capability of the Lupon Tagapamayapa in delivering efficient, fair, and community-based justice.

The findings are consistent with the provisions of Republic Act No. 7160 (1991), which provides the legal framework for the Katarungang Pambarangay and emphasizes the qualifications of Lupon members, the organization of the Lupon, and the use of mediation, conciliation, and arbitration in settling disputes at the barangay level. Likewise, the findings support the study of Cerna (2023), which revealed that Lupon members generally demonstrated a high level of awareness of the legal provisions and functions of the Katarungang Pambarangay, contributing to its effective implementation. Similarly, Damayon et al., (2022) emphasized that adequate knowledge of the general provisions and proper observance of barangay justice procedures significantly contribute to the effectiveness and credibility of the Barangay Justice System.

b. Cognizable Cases;

Table 2.2
Perception of Respondents on Katarungang Pambarangay In terms of Cognizable Cases

Statements	Mean	Interpretation
Cases involving violations of Republic Act No. 9165 (Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002) should not be covered by the Katarungang Pambarangay.	2.64	Highly Perceived
Disputes between public officers and employees, when related to the performance of their official	2.55	Highly Perceived

duties, should not fall under the Katarungang Pambarangay Law.		
Offenses under the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act (RA 9262) should not be subject to settlement through the Katarungang Pambarangay.	2.81	Highly Perceived
Crimes against national security and public order, even if committed within the barangay, are beyond the scope of the Katarungang Pambarangay.	2.59	Highly Perceived
Cases of swindling (estafa) should generally not be resolved through the Katarungang Pambarangay.	3.56	Very Highly Perceived
Cases of theft should not ordinarily be handled by the Katarungang Pambarangay.	3.05	Highly Perceived
Cases involving slight physical injuries and maltreatment should not always be covered by the Katarungang Pambarangay.	2.86	Highly Perceived
Cases involving graft and corruption should not be handled at the barangay level and must be referred to proper authorities.	2.90	Highly Perceived
Overall Mean	2.87	Highly Perceived

Table 2.2 presents the level of perception of the respondents on the cognizable cases under the Katarungang Pambarangay. The overall mean of 2.87, interpreted as Highly Perceived, indicates that the respondents generally possess a high level of awareness regarding the cases that may or may not be subjected to barangay conciliation. The result suggests that the respondents are knowledgeable about the jurisdictional limitations of the Katarungang Pambarangay and recognize that certain disputes should be referred to the appropriate authorities in accordance with existing laws and procedures.

Among the indicators, the highest mean score of 3.56, interpreted as Very Highly Perceived, was obtained by the statement, "*Cases of swindling (estafa) should generally not be resolved through the Katarungang Pambarangay.*" This finding indicates that most respondents perceive estafa cases as matters that are more appropriately resolved through formal legal processes rather than through barangay conciliation. Such perception may have been influenced by the nature of the offense and the respondents' understanding of the legal limitations governing the jurisdiction of the Lupong Tagapamayapa. On the other hand, the lowest mean score of 2.55, interpreted as Highly Perceived, was recorded for the statement, "*Disputes between public officers and employees, when related to the performance of their official duties, should not fall under the Katarungang Pambarangay Law.*" Although this indicator received the lowest rating, it still falls within the Highly Perceived category, indicating that the respondents generally understand that disputes involving public officials in relation to their official functions are governed by laws and procedures outside the jurisdiction of the barangay justice system.

The findings imply that the respondents possess sufficient knowledge of the jurisdictional coverage and limitations of the Katarungang Pambarangay. Such knowledge is essential in ensuring that disputes are properly classified and referred to the appropriate forum, thereby preventing the improper settlement of cases beyond the authority of the Lupong Tagapamayapa. A clear understanding of these jurisdictional boundaries likewise promotes compliance with legal procedures and strengthens the effective implementation of the barangay justice system (Cuntapay et al., 2022).

This finding is supported by Cerna (2023), who emphasized that the effective implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay largely depends on the Lupon members' knowledge of the cases that fall within and beyond their jurisdiction. Similarly, Cuntapay et al. found that a thorough understanding of the legal coverage and limitations of the Katarungang Pambarangay enables Lupon members to perform their functions more effectively and minimizes procedural errors in the handling of community disputes. However, this finding contrasts with the study of Aquino, who reported that some Lupon members experienced difficulties in determining whether certain disputes should undergo barangay conciliation, resulting in inconsistent application of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law.

Overall, the findings indicate that the respondents possess a high level of perception regarding the cognizable cases under the Katarungang Pambarangay. Their familiarity with the jurisdictional limitations of the barangay justice system contributes to the proper administration of justice at the community level by ensuring that disputes are addressed through the appropriate legal mechanisms while preserving the primary objective of the Katarungang Pambarangay to promote the speedy, peaceful, and inexpensive settlement of disputes.

Table 2.2a
Cases Handled by the Lupong Tagapamayapa in Selected Barangays of Jones, Isabela

BARANGAYS	NUMBER OF COGNIZABLE CASES	NATURE OF CASES	NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL CASES
Barangay no. 1	7	Theft, Slight Physical Injuries, VAWC Complaint	3
Barangay no. 2	6	Theft, Estafa	2
Barangay no. 3	5	Theft, Child Abuse Case	2
Barangay no. 4	8	Theft, Maltreatment	3
Barangay no. 5	6	Estafa, Theft	2
Barangay no. 6	10	Theft, VAWC, Drug-related (Referred)	4
Barangay no. 7	10	Theft, Estafa, Slight Physical Injuries	4
Barangay no. 8	9	Theft, VAWC Complaint, Maltreatment	3

Barangay no. 9	7	Estafa, Child Abuse Case	2
Barangay no. 10	5	Theft, Slight Physical Injuries	2
Barangay no. 11	4	Theft	2
Barangay no. 12	4	Theft, Estafa	1
Barangay no. 13	7	Theft, Drug-related Incident (Referred)	2
Barangay no. 14	6	Slight Physical Injuries, Maltreatment	2
Barangay no. 15	5	Theft, Child Abuse Case	1
Barangay no. 16	8	Theft, Estafa, VAWC Complaint	2
Barangay no. 17	7	Estafa, Theft	2
Barangay no. 18	6	Slight Physical Injuries, Maltreatment	2
Barangay no. 19	5	Theft	1
Barangay no. 20	7	Theft, VAWC Complaint	2
Barangay no. 21	6	Estafa, Child Abuse Case	2
Barangay no. 22	8	Theft, Slight Physical Injuries	3
Barangay no. 23	6	Estafa, Slight Physical Injuries	2
Barangay no. 24	4	Theft	1
Barangay no. 25	5	Theft, Slight Physical Injuries	2
Barangay no. 26	6	Theft, Estafa, Drug-related (Referred)	2
Barangay no. 27	10	Theft, VAWC, Drug-related Case (Referred)	4
TOTAL	164		53

The table presents the cases handled by the Lupong Tagapamayapa in selected barangays of Jones, Isabela. It shows that a total of 164 cognizable cases were encountered involving theft, estafa, slight physical injuries, maltreatment, VAWC complaints, child abuse cases, and drug-related incidents.

Theft and estafa were the most common cases, indicating that these disputes are frequently brought to the barangay level. However, drug-related cases were referred to proper law enforcement authorities, as these are beyond the jurisdiction of the Katarungang Pambarangay under RA 9165. VAWC and child abuse cases were also either referred or handled with limitations due to legal restrictions.

Out of 164 cases, only 53 were successfully settled at the barangay level, indicating a moderate effectiveness of the Lupong Tagapamayapa. This suggests that while respondents have a generally high awareness of cognizable cases under RA 7160, there are still limitations in actual implementation and case resolution.

The findings support the study of Mia et al. (2023) which reported that community-based justice systems improve access to justice and promote amicable settlement of

disputes at the grassroots level. However, the study also emphasized that implementation challenges may arise due to legal limitations, procedural requirements, and the complexity of certain disputes.

Similarly, Aertsen and Wemmers (2020) argued that the effectiveness of community justice systems depends on proper referral mechanisms and adherence to legal procedures. The referral of drug-related incidents, child abuse cases, and VAWC complaints to appropriate authorities demonstrates compliance with jurisdictional requirements and reflects responsible implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay.

The relatively low settlement rate further suggests the need for strengthened mediation skills, continuous training, and enhanced coordination with law enforcement and social welfare agencies. Such improvements may contribute to a higher success rate in resolving disputes at the barangay level while ensuring compliance with existing laws and regulations.

c. Technical Procedures

Table 2.3
Perception of Respondents on Katarungang Pambarangay in terms of Technical Procedures

Statements	Mean	Interpretation
The Lupon Tagapamayapa strictly adheres to the procedure for receiving complaints as provided under the Katarungang Pambarangay and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.	3.25	Highly Perceived
The Lupon only handles cases that are cognizable under RA 7160 (Local Government Code) within its jurisdiction.	3.36	Very Highly Perceived
The Lupon ensures that every complaint to be resolved falls under its jurisdiction before proceeding.	3.35	Very Highly Perceived
The Lupon Chairman issues summons to the parties within three (3) days upon receipt of the complaint.	3.14	Highly Perceived
Cases filed before the Lupon Chairman are settled within fifteen (15) days from the date of the first meeting.	2.92	Highly Perceived
If the complaint is not settled within fifteen (15) days, the Lupon Chairman endorses the case to the Lupon members for the creation and selection of the Pangkat ng Tagapagsundo.	3.05	Highly Perceived
If settlement fails before the Pangkat ng Tagapagsundo within forty-five (45) days, the	3.09	Highly Perceived

Pangkat automatically issues a Certificate to File Action for appropriate legal action.		
Summons, settlements, and awards are communicated in a language understood by all parties.	3.18	Highly Perceived
When disputes cannot be amicably resolved at the barangay level, the Municipal Trial Court or police intervene as required by law.	3.21	Highly Perceived
If the victim is a minor or legally incapacitated, the Lupon Chairman refers the case to the DSWD in compliance with RA 7160.	3.17	Highly Perceived
A written Record of Settlement, if successful, is signed by the parties and includes detailed arrangements and agreements.	3.11	Highly Perceived
The Lupon Chairman receives and acknowledges all written complaints submitted by individuals.	3.06	Highly Perceived
Verbal complaints are immediately documented in writing by the Lupon for proper records.	3.08	Highly Perceived
The Lupon Secretary records and maintains accurate minutes during all proceedings.	3.12	Highly Perceived
The Lupon maintains strict confidentiality of all complaints, records, and proceedings to protect the parties involved.	3.10	Highly Perceived
The Lupon observes impartiality and neutrality, ensuring that no party is favored during mediation, conciliation, or arbitration.	3.07	Highly Perceived
The Lupon provides guidance and explains the rights and obligations of parties involved in the dispute in accordance with RA 7160.	3.05	Highly Perceived
The Lupon ensures that all parties have equal opportunity to present their statements, evidence, and witnesses.	3.22	Highly Perceived
The Lupon monitors compliance of parties to the terms agreed upon in the Record of Settlement.	3.09	Highly Perceived
The Lupon conducts periodic training or orientation for members to stay updated on laws, rules, and proper procedures.	2.98	Highly Perceived
Overall Mean	3.13	Highly Perceived

Table 2.3 presents the level of perception of respondents on the technical procedures of the Katarungang Pambarangay system. The overall mean of 3.13, interpreted as “Highly Perceived,” indicates that the respondents generally have a strong awareness and positive assessment of how technical procedures are implemented within

the Lupon Tagapamayapa. This suggests that the barangay justice system is consistently observed in accordance with its mandated procedures under Republic Act No. 7160.

Among the indicators, the highest mean score of 3.36, interpreted as “Very Highly Perceived,” was obtained on the statement that the Lupon only handles cases cognizable under RA 7160 within its jurisdiction. This is closely followed by the Lupon ensuring that every complaint falls under its jurisdiction before proceeding (3.35, Very Highly Perceived) and ensuring equal opportunity for parties to present their statements, evidence, and witnesses (3.22, Highly Perceived). These findings indicate that jurisdictional limitations and procedural fairness are strongly observed, reflecting adherence to legal boundaries and due process in barangay dispute resolution.

On the other hand, the lowest mean score of 2.92, interpreted as “Highly Perceived,” was recorded on the statement that cases filed before the Lupon Chairman are settled within fifteen (15) days from the first meeting. This suggests that while procedural efficiency is generally observed, time-bound settlement of disputes may still face practical challenges such as case complexity, availability of parties, and administrative workload.

These findings are supported by the Philippines-Canada Local Government Support Program, (2004), which emphasizes that the effectiveness of barangay conciliation depends on strict compliance with jurisdictional rules, proper documentation, and adherence to prescribed timelines. Likewise, Republic Act No. 7160 (1991) underscores that disputes must first undergo barangay conciliation before escalation to courts, reinforcing the importance of procedural compliance at the local level. In addition, Cuntapay et al. (2022) noted that the efficiency of barangay justice systems is influenced by the capability of Lupon members to follow standardized procedures while balancing administrative constraints in real cases.

The overall results imply that the technical procedures of the Katarungang Pambarangay are generally well-implemented and understood by the respondents. However, the slight decline in efficiency-related indicators suggests the need for continuous capacity-building and monitoring to ensure strict adherence to procedural timelines and to further strengthen the effectiveness of the barangay justice system in delivering timely and accessible dispute resolution.

3. Is there a significant difference in the level of perception on the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay in terms of:

- a. general provisions;
- b. cognizable cases; and
- c. technical procedures

Table 3
Results of the Test of Significant Difference In The Level Of Perception On The
Implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay

Variables	Mean	p - value	Analysis	Decision	Remarks
General Provisions	3.10	P< 0.001	p < 0.05	Reject H ₀	Significant
Cognizable Cases	2.87				
Technical procedures	3.13				

Table 3 presents the results of the test of significant difference in the level of perception of respondents on the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay in terms of general provisions, cognizable cases, and technical procedures, using repeated measures Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) at a 0.05 level of significance.

The results reveal that technical procedures (M = 3.13) obtained the highest mean, followed by general provisions (M = 3.10), while cognizable cases (M = 2.87) recorded the lowest mean. Although all indicators fall under the “Highly Perceived” category, the variation in mean scores indicates that respondents demonstrate stronger familiarity with procedural processes and general guidelines than with the legal and technical aspects of case classification and jurisdiction.

The computed p-value of less than 0.001, which is lower than the 0.05 level of significance, led to the rejection of the null hypothesis. This confirms that there is a statistically significant difference in the level of perception across the three domains. Hence, the respondents’ understanding of the Katarungang Pambarangay is not uniform, but varies depending on the aspect of implementation being considered.

These findings imply that while Lupong Tagapamayapa members are generally competent in performing procedural tasks such as mediation and documentation, there is a notable gap in their understanding of cognizable cases, particularly in determining proper case classification and jurisdiction. This has important implications, as misclassification of cases may lead to improper handling, delays in dispute resolution, or unnecessary escalation to formal courts, thereby affecting the efficiency and credibility of the Barangay Justice System.

The present findings are supported by several empirical studies. Limsa and Tucay (2024) found that while Lupon members demonstrated high performance in dispute resolution, many reported insufficient training, highlighting the need for continuous capacity-building. Similarly, Cerna (2023) reported that respondents were highly aware of Katarungang Pambarangay procedures, particularly in mediation and settlement, which supports the present finding that technical procedures obtained the highest mean. However, the same study noted limitations in training, suggesting possible gaps in deeper legal understanding.

Furthermore, Damayon et al. (2022) identified that Lupon members experience difficulties in handling disputes due to lack of training and limited legal knowledge, which directly supports the lower mean obtained in cognizable cases in the present study. In the same way, studies on barangay justice systems emphasize that while implementation may generally be effective, knowledge gaps in legal scope and jurisdiction can affect the accuracy and consistency of case handling, reinforcing the implication that procedural competence must be complemented by legal understanding.

These findings are also consistent with the provisions of Republic Act No. 7160 (1991), which underscores the importance of proper case determination and adherence to jurisdictional limits in the effective implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay. The law emphasizes that correct classification of cases is essential to ensure proper handling and avoid procedural lapses.

Overall, the significant difference across the three domains confirms that while the Katarungang Pambarangay is generally well implemented, there remains a need to strengthen knowledge in cognizable cases, particularly in case classification and jurisdiction. Addressing this gap through targeted training and continuous learning initiatives may lead to a more balanced understanding, improved case handling, and a more effective and credible Barangay Justice System.

4. Is there a significant difference in the level of perception of the Lupon members regarding the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay when grouped according to their profile?

Table 4
Results of the Test of Significant Difference in the Level of Perception of the Lupon Members Regarding the Implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay When Grouped According to Their Profile

Implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay	Profile	p-value	Analysis	Decision	Remarks
General Provisions	Sex	0.610	$p > 0.05$	Accept H_0	Not Significant
	Position within the Barangay	0.699	$p > 0.05$	Accept H_0	Not Significant
	Length of service as <i>Lupon Tagapamayapa</i>	0.633	$p > 0.05$	Accept H_0	Not Significant
	Number of trainings attended	0.440	$p > 0.05$	Accept H_0	Not Significant
	Geographic location	0.773	$p > 0.05$	Accept H_0	Not Significant
Cognizable cases	Sex	0.433	$p > 0.05$	Accept H_0	Not Significant

	Position within the Barangay	0.748	$p > 0.05$	Accept H_0	Not Significant
	Length of service as <i>Lupon Tagapamayapa</i>	0.295	$p > 0.05$	Accept H_0	Not Significant
	Number of trainings attended	0.241	$p > 0.05$	Accept H_0	Not Significant
	Geographic location	0.231	$p > 0.05$	Accept H_0	Not Significant
Technical procedures	Sex	0.219	$p > 0.05$	Accept H_0	Not Significant
	Position within the Barangay	0.107	$p > 0.05$	Accept H_0	Not Significant
	Length of service as <i>Lupon Tagapamayapa</i>	0.346	$p > 0.05$	Accept H_0	Not Significant
	Number of trainings attended	0.325	$p > 0.05$	Accept H_0	Not Significant
	Geographic location	0.054	$p > 0.05$	Accept H_0	Not Significant

Table 4 presents the results of the test of significant difference in the level of perception of the Lupon Tagapamayapa members regarding the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay when grouped according to their profile variables, namely: sex, position within the barangay, length of service, number of trainings attended, and geographic location.

The results show that all computed p-values are greater than the 0.05 level of significance across the three domains—general provisions, cognizable cases, and technical procedures. This led to the acceptance of the null hypothesis in all cases, indicating that there is no statistically significant difference in the level of perception of the respondents when grouped according to their profile variables. This means that the respondents' perception of the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay is consistent and does not vary significantly regardless of their sex, position, length of service, number of trainings attended, or geographic location.

This finding implies that the Katarungang Pambarangay is implemented in a uniform and standardized manner across different groups of Lupon Tagapamayapa members. The consistency in perception suggests that the principles, procedures, and guidelines of the Barangay Justice System are commonly understood and similarly applied, regardless of individual differences among respondents. Such uniformity is essential in ensuring fairness, consistency, and reliability in the delivery of justice at the barangay level.

However, the absence of significant differences also suggests that experience, role, and training exposure do not necessarily translate into higher levels of perception or

deeper understanding. This may indicate that existing training programs and capacity-building initiatives are general in nature and may not sufficiently enhance specialized or advanced competencies among Lupon members. As a result, even those with longer service or more training do not significantly differ in perception from others, pointing to the need for more targeted and competency-based training approaches.

This result is supported by studies showing that respondents' profile variables do not necessarily affect perceptions of the Barangay Justice System. Dofeliz and Dela Peña (2021) found no significant difference in respondents' perceptions of Lupon members' performance when grouped according to sex, age, civil status, educational attainment, and occupation, suggesting that knowledge, systematic procedures, decision-making, and interpersonal performance were perceived consistently across demographic groups. Similarly, Andan and Sumayo (2025) reported that sex and employment status were not significantly associated with perceptions of Lupong Tagapamayapa effectiveness, although age showed a weak positive relationship. These findings may be attributed to the standardized nature of the Katarungang Pambarangay system, which follows prescribed procedures under the Local Government Code and is operationalized through handbook guidelines and KP forms (Philippines-Canada Local Government Support Program, 2004)

Furthermore, literature on local governance and community-based dispute resolution systems emphasizes that when policies and procedures are clearly defined and institutionalized, individual differences such as age, experience, or position tend to have minimal impact on perception and implementation. This supports the present finding that no significant differences exist across profile variables, reinforcing the idea that the Katarungang Pambarangay operates as a structured and standardized mechanism for dispute resolution at the grassroots level.

Overall, the findings indicate that the perception of Lupong Tagapamayapa members regarding the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay is uniform across profile variables, reflecting consistency in practice. However, this also highlights the need to enhance training strategies by making them more targeted and responsive to specific learning needs, in order to further strengthen the competence and effectiveness of barangay justice implementation.

A notable finding of the study is that there is no significant difference in the level of perception of the respondents when grouped according to length of service and number of trainings attended. This suggests that regardless of experience or exposure to training, respondents tend to have a similar level of understanding of the Katarungang Pambarangay.

This finding implies that while training programs are being conducted, they may be repetitive in nature or not sufficiently impactful to deepen the respondents' level of understanding beyond basic awareness. It indicates that the current training interventions may focus more on general orientation rather than enhancing critical and applied knowledge, particularly in complex areas such as case classification and procedural application.

This supports the observation that despite multiple trainings attended by some respondents, there is no corresponding increase in perception levels, highlighting a gap in the effectiveness of capacity-building initiatives. Hence, this serves as a call to action for the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to review, redesign, and enhance its training modules for the Lupong Tagapamayapa. Training programs must shift from repetitive content delivery toward more practical, case-based, and competency-driven approaches to ensure deeper understanding and improved implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay.

Conclusions

1. The Lupong Tagapamayapa in the Municipality of Jones, Isabela is composed mostly of female members, with the majority serving as Lupon members who play a primary role in mediation and conciliation, supported by experienced barangay officials.
2. The respondents possess sufficient experience and training exposure, indicating that they are generally capable of performing their roles in the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay.
3. The implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay is largely carried out in forest barangays, highlighting the significant role of rural communities in the barangay justice system.
4. The respondents have a high level of perception regarding the general provisions of the Katarungang Pambarangay, indicating a good understanding of its principles and guidelines.
5. The respondents also demonstrate a high level of perception in terms of cognizable cases; however, their understanding of case classification and jurisdiction is comparatively lower than other areas.
6. The respondents exhibit a high level of perception of technical procedures, particularly in terms of jurisdiction, documentation, and mediation processes, although there are minor gaps in procedural timelines and continuous training.
7. There is a significant difference in the level of perception across general provisions, cognizable cases, and technical procedures, indicating that respondents' understanding varies depending on the domain.
8. There is no significant difference in the level of perception when respondents are grouped according to sex, position, length of service, and geographic location, implying a uniform level of understanding among Lupon members.
9. The study further revealed that there is no significant difference in the level of perception when respondents are grouped according to length of service and number of training courses attended. This indicates that experience and participation in training programs do not necessarily translate to a deeper understanding of the Katarungang Pambarangay, suggesting possible limitations in the effectiveness and design of current training interventions.
10. Overall, while the Lupong Tagapamayapa demonstrates a high level of perception in the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay, there remains a need to strengthen specific areas, particularly in case classification and continuous capacity-building.

Recommendations

1. Barangays may promote gender-balanced participation in the Lupong Tagapamayapa to ensure diversity in perspectives and enhance the effectiveness of dispute resolution.
2. The Local Government Unit (LGU), in coordination with barangay officials, may conduct targeted workshops and seminars on case classification and jurisdictional limits, particularly focusing on cognizable cases, to address the identified knowledge gap among Lupong Tagapamayapa members. Specifically, a comprehensive action plan may be implemented, such as a Capacity Enhancement Program for Lupong Tagapamayapa, which includes: (a) a two-day workshop on case classification and jurisdictional limits with lecture-discussions and case analysis; (b) simulation and role-playing activities involving actual dispute scenarios; (c) development and distribution of quick reference guides distinguishing cognizable and non-cognizable cases; and (d) pre-test and post-test assessments to measure improvement in participants' knowledge and skills.
3. Refresher seminars may be institutionalized or regularly conducted for Lupon members to support continuous updating of knowledge, enhancement of skills, and consistency in the application of Katarungang Pambarangay procedures. These may be conducted on a quarterly basis and include updates on legal provisions, procedural changes, and practical case handling.
4. Training programs may be strengthened and standardized across all barangays, including both Centro and Forest areas, to promote uniformity in implementation and minimize disparities in practice. Standardized modules, training materials, and evaluation tools may be developed and adopted.
5. The Department of the Interior and Local Government, in partnership with Local Government Units, is strongly encouraged to revisit and enhance its training programs for Lupong Tagapamayapa members. Training modules should move beyond repetitive orientations and be redesigned into more comprehensive, case-based, and skills-oriented approaches. Emphasis should be placed on deepening legal understanding, particularly in complex areas such as cognizable cases, jurisdiction, and technical procedures. This recommendation is anchored on the finding of the study that there is no significant difference in the level of perception when respondents are grouped according to length of service and number of trainings attended, suggesting that existing training programs may not be sufficiently impactful in developing deeper levels of understanding. Hence, there is a need to shift toward competency-based and application-driven training strategies.
6. Training interventions may specifically address areas with relatively lower levels of perception, particularly the procedural requirement on the 15-day settlement period under the Katarungang Pambarangay. Greater emphasis should be given to proper timelines, case flow management, and procedural compliance to ensure

faster, more efficient, and legally sound resolution of disputes at the barangay level.

7. The LGU and concerned agencies may strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure compliance with Katarungang Pambarangay procedures, particularly in terms of timelines, documentation, and case handling. Regular assessments and feedback mechanisms may be implemented to continuously improve performance.
8. Intervention programs may be developed to balance the level of understanding across all domains of Katarungang Pambarangay implementation, ensuring that no aspect—particularly cognizable cases—is less emphasized.
9. A comprehensive Barangay Justice System Intervention Program may be proposed and implemented to address identified gaps, enhance competencies, and improve the overall effectiveness of the Katarungang Pambarangay in the Municipality of Jones, Isabela.
10. Future researchers may consider conducting further studies focusing on other aspects such as effectiveness, satisfaction of disputing parties, and long-term outcomes of the Katarungang Pambarangay to provide a more comprehensive evaluation of the Barangay Justice System.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

This study was conducted in accordance with established ethical standards in research. Prior permission was secured from the concerned local government and barangay authorities before the conduct of data gathering. The respondents were informed about the purpose of the study, the nature of their participation, and their right to voluntarily participate or withdraw at any stage without any consequence. Informed consent was obtained from all participants prior to answering the questionnaire. The confidentiality and anonymity of the respondents were strictly observed, and all gathered data were used solely for academic and research purposes. The researchers ensured that no personal information was disclosed and that the responses were treated with objectivity, respect, and integrity throughout the research process.

Acknowledgements

The completion of this undertaking would not have been possible without the invaluable support, guidance, and assistance of several individuals whose contributions are deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

The researcher would like to express sincere gratitude to Dr. Maricel A. Pascua-Ramos, Dean of the Graduate School, for granting permission to conduct this study. Heartfelt appreciation is also extended to Atty. Junmarie Caroline C. De Leon, thesis adviser, for her unwavering guidance, encouragement, and expert advice throughout the completion of this research.

The researcher also wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the panelists, Dr. Elena C. Ariola, Dr. Diosdado T. Patubo, PMsgt. Jay-R Roque, and Statistician Arcely Say, for their valuable insights, constructive comments, and professional expertise that significantly contributed to the improvement of this study.

Sincere gratitude is likewise given to the Barangay Officials and Lupong Tagapamayapa members of Jones, Isabela, for their cooperation, trust, and willingness to provide the necessary data for this study.

The researcher is also deeply grateful to her family, relatives, and friends for their continuous moral, financial, and emotional support, which served as a source of strength and inspiration.

Most especially, the researcher extends sincere appreciation to her partner, AM Zoren T. Saldares, for his constant motivation, understanding, and encouragement to keep pushing forward despite the challenges encountered throughout the research process.

Above all, to the Almighty God, the source of all knowledge and wisdom, for His endless guidance, strength, and blessings.

To all who have contributed in one way or another, thank you very much.

REFERENCES

- Aertsen, I., & Wemmers, J.-A. (2020). Restorative justice in Europe. European Forum for Restorative Justice.
- Andan, Y. A., & Sumayo, G. S. (2025). Evaluating the resolving disputes practices of Lupong Tagapamayapa: Constituents' view from Barangay Bual Sur, Midsayap, Cotabato, Philippines. *International Journal of Law Policy and Governance*, 5(1), 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.54099/ijlpg.v5i1.1347>
- Aquino, R. S. (2008). Five municipal case studies on the Philippine Barangay (Village) Mediation System. Mediators Network for Sustainable Peace, Inc. https://www.asiapacificmediationforum.org/resources/2008/28-RACHEL_S.AQUINO.pdf
- Bulilan, C. (2020). Barangay governance and community participation in the Philippines. *Philippine Journal of Public Administration*, 64(2), 88.
- Cerna, M. E. (2023). Implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay in selected barangays [Master's thesis, Isabela State University].
- Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2018). Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches. SAGE Publications.
- Cuntapay, M., Castillo, K. J., Nera, J. P., Pioquinto, J. N., & San Diego, J. (2024). The effectiveness of Katarungang Pambarangay in decreasing court workload at Barangay 170 Caloocan City. *Ascendens Asia Singapore – Bestlink College of the Philippines Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*, 4(1). <https://ojs.aaresearchindex.com/index.php/aasgbcjpmra/article/view/13948>
- Damayon, S. B., Mendoza, L. A. G., Afan, E. A., Fernando, J. A. B., Gagate, A. T., & Santua, A. B. (2022). Dispute resolutions in the lowest political unit in the Philippines: Assessment of the difficulties and innovations in the Katarungang Pambarangay system in Northern Philippines. *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science*, 6(9), 293–299. <https://rsisinternational.org/virtual-library/papers/dispute-resolutions-in-the-lowest-political-unit-in-the-philippines-assessment-of-the-difficulties-and-innovations-in-the-katarungang-pambarangay-system-in-northern-philippines/>

- Dofeliz, J. D. C. Y., & Dela Peña, R. F. (2021). Level of performance of the Lupon members under the Barangay Justice System as perceived by the constituents of the selected barangays in Municipality of Badiangan, Iloilo, Philippines. Central Philippine University. https://repository.cpu.edu.ph/bitstream/handle/20.500.12852/1990/12_Patubas_Dofeliz_JCY_2021.pdf
- Fisher, R., & Ury, W. (1981). Getting to yes: Negotiating agreement without giving in. Penguin Books.
- Limsa, M. D., & Tucay, C. A. (2024). Performance of Lupon in Barangay Mandaragat, Puerto Princesa City. European Journal of Humanities and Educational Advancements, 5(2). <https://scholarzest.com/index.php/ejhea/article/view/4341>
- Metro, G. M. O., Billones, K., & Pao, D. L. (2021, February 2). The implementation of the Barangay Justice System as a community-based dispute settlement mechanism in Barangay Mansilingan in Bacolod City: A policy review. Philippine Legal Research. <https://legalresearchph.com/2021/02/02/the-implementation-of-the-barangay-justice-system-as-a-community-based-dispute-settlement-mechanism-in-barangay-mansilingan-in-bacolod-city-a-policy-review/>
- Mia, B., Mannan, S. E., & Shrestha, A. K. (2023). Assessing the effectiveness of the Village Court (VC) system in promoting access to justice: A case study of two selected villages in Noakhali, Bangladesh. Daengku: Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Innovation, 3(3), 484–493. <https://doi.org/10.35877/454RI.daengku1712>
- Philippines-Canada Local Government Support Program. (2004). Katarungang Pambarangay: A handbook. Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panligal; Department of the Interior and Local Government. https://region5.dilg.gov.ph/attachments/article/182/Related_Laws_Katarungang_Pambarangay_Handbook.pdf
- Republic Act No. 7160, Local Government Code of 1991 (1991). https://lawphil.net/statutes/repacts/ra1991/ra_7160_1991.html
- Republic Act No. 9285, Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of 2004 (2004).
- Sobradil, M. T. (2019). The effectiveness of Barangay Pacification Council in settling disputes on the cases of women. SSRN Electronic Journal. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3528986>

APA Citation:

Andres, V. J. L. & De Leon, J. C. (2026). THE PERCEPTION OF LUPONG TAGAPAMAYAPA ON THE KATARUNGANG PAMBARANGAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF JONES, ISABELA AS BASIS FOR BARANGAY JUSTICE SYSTEMS INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES. Ignatian International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research, 4(7), 1264–1292. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.21457855>

Corresponding author: valenandres325@gmail.com