

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to know how effective the Bontoc Women's Brigade in maintaining peace and order in Bontoc, Mountain Province. Since the group received an award from the Philippine National Police during the anniversary celebration last February 2, 2007 at Camp Bado Dangwa, La Trinidad, Benguet.

Results showed that all members of the Bontoc Women's Brigade were Old ladies ages from 59 to 69 years old. Majority of the members reached elementary education and they were in the organization for six years. They patrol every night to check if there are still minors roaming beyond curfew hours. Intoxicated adults and minors roaming around are advised to go home and bar owners who refuse to follow the town's ordinance are the main problems encountered by the Women's Brigade.

According to the residents, the Bontoc Women's Brigade was very effective in maintaining peace and order problem in Bontoc, Mountain Province. The resident respondents were female and married, ages from 50 to 60 years old, with college

education. The residents had willingness to cooperate in the discipline of this unruly people of the town.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Bibliography.....	i
Abstract	i
Table of Contents.....	iii
INTRODUCTION.....	1
Background of the Study.....	1
Objective of the Study.....	2
Statement of the Study.....	3
Importance of the Study.....	3
REVIEW OF LITERATURE.....	4
METHODOLOGY.....	6
Locale and time of the Study.....	6
Respondents of the Study.....	6
Data Collection.....	6
Data to be Gathered.....	7
Data Analysis.....	7
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....	8
General Information of the Bontoc Women’s Brigade.....	8
Ways on how to Discipline Minors and Adults who are Intoxicated and Bar Owners who Refuse to Follow Ordinances.....	9

Results and Effects of Bontoc Women’s Brigade in the Area.....	9
Problems Encountered by the Women’s Brigade while on Duty.....	11
Other Activities of the Bontoc Women’s Brigade.....	12
General Information of the Residents.....	12
Results and Effects they have Observed in the Formation of the Bontoc Women’s Brigade.....	13
Problems Encountered by the Women’s Brigade while on Duty.....	15
Bontoc Women’s Brigade Help in Maintaining Peace and Order in Bontoc at Night.....	15
SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	17
Summary.....	17
Conclusions.....	18
Recommendations.....	18
LITERATURE CITED.....	20
APPENDICES.....	21
A. Communication Letter.....	22
B. Survey Questionnaire.....	23

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Bontoc, Mountain Province: The gentle old ladies that are members of Brigade have been instrumental in making the capital town generally peaceful when dusk falls.

Bontoc is the fourth class municipality and capital town of Mountain Province. Being the center of the Province, increase in population as well as certain crimes are the problems of the area. So some concerned government officials think on how to minimize these crimes and to maintain peace and order, safety and protection of its residents. One of this is the formation of the Bontoc Women's Brigade (Palangchao, 2007).

Bontoc Women's Brigade was conceptualized by Attorney Florence Taguiba, Former Mayor Louis Claver, Mr and Mrs William Aspilan and Caroline Castaneda in the year two thousand and two (2002). They started with forty members until seventy members of old gentle women whose job is to clear the streets of men drinking beyond curfew hours, ensuring that minors are safe in their homes and to see if all bars have closed at ten o'clock as stated from the town's ordinance. They patrol the streets to make sure that there are no unruly locals and foreign tourists roaming after ten o'clock p.m. These members are not paid but instead they were given batteries for their flashlights, vitamins, jackets to protect them from cold while on duty. These old gentle ladies are called the "Most feared women" (Catajan, 2006).

Bontoc Women's Brigade has showed that with unity and solidarity they could help in the peace and order problems in Bontoc. Since 2002, the Women's Brigade is helping the police to implement peace and order. Every night, they join the police in patrolling the town by inspecting karaoke bars and other establishments who are serving



liquors to ensure that there are no troubles and no minors involved in drinking (Carino, 2009).

The group was able to receive an award based on the Cordillera Police's Report during the eighteenth Philippine National Police Anniversary celebration at Camp Bado Dangwa on the 2nd of February. This was in recognition for their efforts for proving in the services to their neighbors. This was used as a security measure without the use of guns. The Philippine National Police Chief Director General Oscar Calderon handed the plaque of recognition to one of the Brigade member (Philippine news, 2007).

The peaceful condition of Bontoc at night is a proof that the Bontoc Women's Brigade has set as ideal approach in keeping the village safe and peaceful at night (Palangchao, 2007)

Objectives of the Study

The study was concerned on the Assessment of the Bontoc Women's Brigade in maintaining peace and order in Bontoc, Mountain Province.

This study was conducted to:

1. Document the social-economic profile of the respondents.
2. Document the participatory activities of the Women's Brigade in maintaining peace and order in Bontoc;
3. Identify the social effects of the Women Brigade's action in solving problems in the community; and
4. Identify the problems encountered by the Women's Brigade while on duty.



Statement of the Problem

The main concern of the study is to assess the Bontoc Women's Brigade in maintaining peace and order in Bontoc, Mountain Province.

Specifically, the study attempted to answer the following questions:

1. What are the socio- economic profiles of the respondents?
2. What are the participatory activities of the Bontoc Women's Brigade in maintaining peace and order in Bontoc?
3. What are the social effects of the Women Brigade's action in solving the problems in the community?
4. What are the problems encountered by the Bontoc Women's Brigade while on duty?

Importance of the Study

The study aimed to assess the Bontoc Women's Brigade in maintaining peace and order in Bontoc, Mountain Province. The results of the study served as the benchmark information for the future members of the organization, the people of Bontoc and other neighboring places. And assessed the contribution of the senior citizens in maintaining peace and order in Bontoc Mountain Province.



REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Bontoc Women's Brigade is a group of grandmothers but their old age do not prevent them from patrolling the streets to make sure those streets are free from unruly locals and foreign tourists. Over the years, they are efficient in breaking fights involving spirited men. With Bontoc generally peaceful at night is a proof that the Brigades have set an unconventional approach in keeping the village safe and peaceful at night (Palangchao, 2007).

The low crime incidents are both result of police and civilian works. Special mention here are the Bontoc Women's Brigade and the barangay watchmen. The anti drug councils and other civilian groups who work hard at preventing crimes (Dalog, 2007).

It took seven years before the Bontoc Women's Brigade earned the recognition they deserved from the Cordillera Regional Police Command for proving that flashlights and whistles could be sufficient in keeping the neighborhood safe from troublesome drunk men. Providing effective security need not require the use of guns all the time (Palangchao, 2007).

The Philippine National Police Chief General Oscar Calderon awards the plaque of recognition to a representative of the Bontoc Women's Brigade during the 18th PNP foundation day at Camp Bado Dangwa (Cawis, 2007).

The Brigade helped improved the peace and order situation in Bontoc. The increase in town's crime rate, mostly related to drinking alcohol, becomes the rallying point for the Brigade's formation in 2002 (Carino, 2009).



“Barangay Pro-active security Program” (BPSP) participated with the barangay officials and tanods from the 16 barangay of the capital town and the Bontoc women’s Brigade. BPSP was conceptualized by the Police Regional Office-Cordillera to enhance partnership between the PNP, local officials and the populace in the fight against lawlessness and in maintenance of peace and order (Doga-ong, 2005).

The presence of the Women’s Brigade numbering about 70 members had caused the decrease in the crime rate of Bontoc. With the good outcome C/Supt. Eugene Martin said that other municipalities in the cordillera like Mankayan Benguet have adopted the same program (Agoot, 2007).

Locals attest that the women are successful in breaking up fights and sending drunkards home because of their age and gentle prodding’s. Partygoers tend to heed the request of these senior ladies to break-up and obey curfew rules (Catajan, 2006).



METHODOLOGY

Locale and Time of the Study

The study was conducted in Bontoc which is the capital town of Mountain Province. It focused on the four barangays of Bontoc namely: Bontoc Ili, Callutit, Poblacion and Samoki.

The place was chosen as study area due to the existence of many people that made Bontoc a crowded place. Crimes are occurring fast that the officials can hardly solve it. This was one of the reasons why the Women's Brigade was organized.

The study was conducted from January to February 2010.

Respondents of the Study

The respondents were twenty Women's Brigade Members and twenty residents of Bontoc. Five members and five residents per barangay were interviewed. The secondary data to support the study were gathered from the municipal office

Data Collection

The respondents were interviewed personally by the researcher using prepared questionnaires. The researcher translated the English version of the questionnaires in local dialect. Questionnaires were floated to the four barangays of Bontoc namely: Bontoc Ili, Poblacion, Callutit, and Samoki.



Data Gathered

The data gathered were the following: personal data profile, participatory activities of the Bontoc women's Brigade, problems encountered while on duty, other activities done by the Brigades and results and effects of the Organization.

Data Analysis

The information that was gathered was consolidated, tabulated and analyzed using descriptive statistics such as percentage and frequency.



RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Socio-Economic Profile of the Members of the Bontoc Women's Brigade

The Table 1 shows that the profile of the members of the Bontoc Women's Brigade which is 100% married woman. As to the age, distribution the oldest is 74 years old and the youngest is 52 years old. The educational attainment as shown in Table 1, that 45% of the members of the organization had attended Elementary school, 30% were High school and 25% had a college education. In Table 1, 30% were in the organization for five years, 40% were six years and 30% were seven years.

Table 1. General information about the members.

PARTICULARS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Sex		
Male		
Female	20.00	100.00
TOTAL	20.00	100.00
Civil status		
Married	20.00	100.00
Single		
TOTAL	20.00	100.00
Age		
70 to 75 years old	2.00	10.00
60 to 69 years old	9.00	45.00
50 to 59 years old	9.00	45.00
TOTAL	20.00	100.00
Educational Attainment		
Elementary	9.00	45.00
High School	6.00	30.00
College	5.00	25.00
TOTAL	20.00	100.00



Table 1. continued.....

Number of years in the organization		
5 years	6.00	30.00
6 years	8.00	40.00
7 years	6.00	30.00
TOTAL	20.00	100.00

Table 2. Ways on how to control/discipline minors and intoxicated adult and bar owners.

PARTICULARS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
20. Assist them to their way home	17.00	85.00
Send them to jail	3.00	15.00
Bar owners were penalized	20.00	100.00

*multiple response

Ways on How to Control/Discipline
Minors and Adult Who are Drunk
and Bar Owners who Refuse
to Follow Ordinances

The women group makes disciplinary action to the minors by assisting the minors on their way home. Table 2 shows that 85% were given assistance by encouraging them to go home. Few minors with violent reaction were sent to jail.

The findings showed that the best way to discipline or control minors and intoxicated adults is to assist them to their way home and bar owners were penalized if they refuse to follow ordinance of the town.

Results and Effects of the Bontoc
Women's Brigade in the Community

Among the 20 respondents, 100% says that low crime rate was observed in Bontoc. The low crime rates were attributed by the low incidence of intoxication, high



peace and order situation and low incidence of minors roaming around at night. The participation of elderly women resulted to the peaceful surroundings during the night. The low incidence of public disturbance was part of the cooperation of bar owners who observed the implementation of curfew hours.

The findings showed that the Bontoc Women's Brigade was effective enough in maintaining peace and order and disciplinary measures in Bontoc.

Table 3. Results and effects of the Bontoc Women's brigade in the community

PARTICULARS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Crime rate		
Low	20.00	100.00
Medium		
High		
TOTAL	20.00	100.00
Intoxicated		
Low	14.00	70.00
Medium	6.00	30.00
High		
TOTAL	20.00	100.00
Peace and order		
Poor		
Better		
Best	20.00	100.00
TOTAL	20.00	100.00
Minors roaming at night		
Low	19.00	95.00
Medium	1.00	5.00
Hihg		
TOTAL	20.00	100.00
Public Disturbance		
Low	20.00	100.00
Medium		
High		
TOTAL	20.00	100.00



Table 3. continued.....

Observance of curfew hours among bar owners		
Strictly followed	17.00	85.00
Slightly followed	3.00	15.00
Not followed		
TOTAL	20.00	100.00

Table 4. Problems encountered by the Bontoc women's Brigade while on duty.

PARTICULARS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Conflict between intoxicated minors and adult	15.00	75.00
Conflict between bar owners	5.00	25.00
TOTAL	20.00	100.00

Problems Encountered by the Bontoc Women's Brigade while on duty

Table 4 shows the problems encountered by the Bontoc Women's Brigade while on duty. 75% of the members say they encountered conflict with intoxicated minors and adult, and 25% say they are in conflict with bar owners.

The findings showed that conflict between intoxicated adults and minors were the heaviest problem they encountered while they are on duty.



PARTICULARS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Monitoring of computer shop and billiards halls during school days	14.00	70.00
Check on permits of store owners	4.00	20.00
Counseling couples who are in trouble	2.00	10.00
TOTAL	20.00	100.00

Other Activities of the Bontoc Women's Brigade

Other activities involving women brigade include monitoring of minors in the computer shops and billiard halls during school days. They consider it as part of other activities, as table 5 shows that 70% are geared to monitoring of computer shops and billiard halls, 20% checking of permit for store owners and 10% on counseling of troubled couples.

Socio-Economic Profile of the Residents of Bontoc

Table 6 shows the profile of the residents of Bontoc in terms of sex, civil status, age and educational attainment.

Sex Majority of the 20 respondents were female (60%) and only 40% were males.

Civil status All of the residents were married (100%) as shown in table 6.

Age The youngest age among the residents is 35 years old and the oldest is 57 years old. The average age is 45 years old.

Educational attainment As shown in table 6, 55% of the residents had attended college education, 30% were able to reach high school and 15% had elementary education. The findings showed that all respondents are literate.



Table 6. General information about the residents of Bontoc.

PARTICULARS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Sex		
Male	8.00	40.00
Female	12.00	60.00
TOTAL	20.00	100.00
Civil status		
Married	20.00	100.00
Single		
TOTAL	20.00	100.00
Age		
51 to 60 years old	9.00	45.00
41 to 50 years old	9.00	45.00
31 to 40 years old	2.00	10.00
TOTAL	20.00	100.00
Educational attainment		
Elementary	3.00	15.00
High school	6.00	30.00
College	11.00	55.00
TOTAL	20.00	100.00

Result and Effects they have Observed
in the Formation of the Bontoc Women's

Table 7 shows the different results observed by the respondents in the formation of the Bontoc Women's Brigade in the community. All of the respondents say that crime rate is low, 55% commented that there is a low to intoxication problem. They say that they have the best situation in Bontoc on peace and order, 65% say there is a low incidence of minors roaming at night, 80% say low in public disturbance and they mentioned that 90% of the bar owners strictly followed the curfew hours.



Table 7. Results they observed in the formation of the Bontoc Women's Brigade

PARTICULARS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Crime rate		
Low	20.00	100.00
Medium		
High		
TOTAL	20.00	100.00
Intoxication		
Low	11.00	55.00
Medium	9.00	45.00
High		
TOTAL	20.00	100.00
Peace and order		
Poor		
Better		
Best	20.00	100.00
TOTAL	20.00	100.00
Minors roaming at night		
Low	13.00	65.00
Medium	7.00	35.00
High		
TOTAL	20.00	100.00
Public Disturbance		
Low	16.00	80.00
Medium	4.00	20.00
High	20.00	100.00
TOTAL	20.00	100.00
Observance of curfew hours among bar owners		
Strictly followed	18.00	90.00
Slightly followed	2.00	10.00
Not followed		
TOTAL	20.00	100.00



Table 8. Problems encountered by the Women's Brigade that they observed

PARTICULARS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Conflict between intoxicated minors and adults	15.00	75.00
Conflict between bar owners	5.00	25.00
TOTAL	20.00	100.00

Problems Encountered by the Bontoc Women's Brigade while on Duty

Table 8 shows the problem encountered by the Bontoc Women's Brigade while on duty. 75% of the members say they encountered conflict with intoxicated minors and adults, and 25% say they are in conflict with bar owners.

The findings showed that conflict between intoxicated minors and adults were the heaviest problem they encountered while on duty.

Bontoc Women's Brigade Help in Maintaining Peace and Order at Night

The 20 respondents agree that the Women's Brigade helped in the maintenance of peace and order in Bontoc, Mountain Province. The responses of the residents were sure that they were safe and comfortable at night, table 9.

The findings showed that the Bontoc Women's Brigade had exerted their effort in participating to maintain the peace and safety of the town



Table 9. Formulation of the Women's Brigade that made the residents comfortable and safe at night

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Yes	20	100
No		
TOTAL	20	100



SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

This study was conducted to document the participatory activities of Bontoc Women's Brigade in Bontoc Mountain Province. Identify the social beneficial effects in solving community problem. And identify problems encountered by the Bontoc Women's Brigade.

The Bontoc Women's Brigade was composed by purely female member's ranges from 50-74 years old. Most of the members are not highly educated mainly of elementary and high school. They are members of the organization for almost 5-7 years. They discipline minors who roam around at night and intoxicated people by encouraging them to go home.

In the community the Women's Brigade helped in maintaining peace and order effectively that resulted in peaceful surrounding during the night. The only problem is that they encounter conflict with intoxicated people. They also monitor computer shops and billiard halls during school days.

Reactions of the Residents in Bontoc

The residents interviewed were married, 60% female and 40% male, majority were educated.

They observed that crime rate was low due to the low incidence of intoxication and minors roaming around Bontoc at night. There is a low public disturbance due to the observance of curfew hours for bar owners and minors. So they are comfortable to rest and sleep at night



Conclusions

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were made:

1) The Bontoc Women's Brigade were above middle ages, they were all females, married, majority of them had only reached elementary education and had several years in the organization. Majority of the residents of Bontoc were middle aged, mostly females, married, and literate. The efforts of the Bontoc Women's Brigade improve the town.

2) Patrolling every night were the very best action of the Bontoc Women's Brigade or their contributions in making the town peaceful and with the help also of few policemen. They also monitor computer shops and billiard halls during school days, checks on permits of store owners and counsel couples who are in trouble.

3) Some of the residents cooperate with the Bontoc Women's Brigade in fighting the bad elements of the town.

4) The major problems they encountered were the problem on intoxicated adults and minors.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on the conclusions:

1) Policemen should be on the lead in participating with the Bontoc Women's Brigade in patrolling the town at night. They should not let the Women's Brigade patrol alone because there are some intoxicated adults and minors who act violently that these



old ladies can't control. They should be always with them so if the intoxicated adults and minors act violently so they can give immediate disciplinary action.

2) The minors, adults and bar owners should be reminded about the laws governing their limits in drinking liquor and serving liquor to avoid misunderstanding and conflicts with the Women's Brigade and policemen.

3) The residents and the law breakers should cooperate with this Bontoc Women's Brigade in maintaining the peace, order and safety situation of the town.



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APPENDICES**APPENDIX A**
Letter to the Respondents

Benguet State University
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
La Trinidad, Benguet

Dear Respondents,

This survey questionnaire is designed for obtaining correct and honest information for “The Assessment of the Bontoc Women’s Brigade in Maintaining Peace and Order in Bontoc Mountain Province,”

You have been chosen as one of the respondents of the study. Your honest response to the questionnaire will be very much appreciated. And with this, I hope that peace and order in Bontoc will remain and improve.

Thank you very much and God Bless.

Respectfully yours,

HEATHER LEX KABLUYEN
Researcher



Appendix B. Survey Questionnaire

I. Socio- economic Profile

1. Name: _____

2. Address: _____

3. Sex: _____

4. Civil Status: _____

5. Age: _____

6. Educational Attainment:

_____ Elementary

_____ High school

_____ College

_____ Vocational

7. Occupation: _____

8. Number of years in the organization: _____

II. Problems encountered and actions to discipline people

1. What are the problems you encountered while on duty?

a. Unable to discipline intoxicated men and minors

b. Conflict between the bar owners

c. Conflict between the intoxicated men and minors

d. Others (please specify)



2. Despite your age, how could you control or discipline minor who are intoxicated, bar owners and intoxicated adult who refuse to follow ordinance?

- a. Send them to jail
- b. Bar owners are given disciplinary action by giving them memorandum
- c. Assist them to their way home
- d. Other (please specify)

III. Results and effects

1. What are the result/effect in the community of the formation of the Bontoc Women's

Brigade?

- a. Crime Rate
- b. Intoxicated
- c. minors roaming
at night

	High	Medium	Low
a. Crime Rate			
b. Intoxicated			
c. minors roaming at night			

- d. public
disturbance

	Poor	Better	Best
d. public disturbance			



a. peace and order

	Strictly followed	Slightly followed	Not followed
a. Observance of curfew hours to bar owners			

IV. Other activities

1. What are their other activities in the community other than enforcing laws and ordinance?



I. Socio- economic Profile

1. Name: _____

2. Address: _____

3. Sex: _____

4. Civil Status: _____

5. Age: _____

6. Educational Attainment:

_____ Elementary

_____ High school

_____ College

_____ Vocational

7. Occupation: _____

1. What are the results/effects you have observed in the formation of the Bontoc Women's Brigade?

	High	Medium	Low
a. Crime Rate			
b. intoxicated			
d. minors roaming at night			

Poor	Better	Best
------	--------	------



e. public disturbance

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a. Peace and order

a. Observance of Curfew hours for bar owners

Strictly followed	Slightly followed	Not followed

2. What are the problems you have observed that were encountered by the Bontoc

Women's Brigade while on duty?

a. Bar owners refuse to follow rules

b. Minors are hard to discipline

c. Intoxicated people acts violently

d. Others (please specify)

3. Does the formulation of the Bontoc Women's Brigade make you comfortable at night?

YES _____

NO _____

Why? _____

