

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BALANGEN, CRISLYN F. APRIL 2011. Young Lurkers at Night: Awareness and Compliance of Selected La Trinidad High School Students on Curfew Ordinance. Benguet State University, La Trinidad, Benguet.

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to determine the awareness and compliance of selected high school students of La Trinidad, Benguet.

Specifically, it aims to determine the communication strategies of the Local Government Unit (LGU) in implementing the curfew hours for minors; to determine the awareness of the respondents on the ordinance, to determine the respondents compliance to the ordinance, to determine the reasons to the adherence and non-adherence of the respondents to the ordinance, to determine the respondents' sources of information about the curfew for minors, to determine the problems and concerns faced by the respondents and implementors regarding the ordinance and, to determine the suggestions of the respondents and implementors on the improvement of the strategies applied in implementing the ordinance.

Interview schedule, guide questionnaire and interview were used to gather data. There were 60 respondents and six key informants in the study. Tabulation, frequency and percentages were used to analyze and interpret the data.

An ordinance prohibiting minors from loitering late at night within La Trinidad, Benguet or otherwise known as the curfew for minors was amended and enacted in 2008. Results show

that most of the respondents were aware that 7PM-5AM is the curfew hours for minors while majority of the respondents were not aware of the sanction or penalty imposed for violators of the ordinance.

Strategies used in enforcing the ordinance include information drive, radio, newspapers, posting, and the ronda system where most of the respondents agreed they had observed the ronda system.

Though most complied with the ordinance, the compliance was not greatly influenced by the strategies applied by the implementing group. Respondents' top reason for their compliance is parental guidance while influence of friends was the most reason for the respondents' non-compliance to the ordinance.

Weak communication strategies applied in the implementing of the ordinance and not strict and inconsistent/irregular implementation of the ordinance and the ronda system were the top problems of the respondents regarding the ordinance while the implementors faced problems such as insufficient budget, lack of manpower, uncooperative parents/guardians, non-compliance of business owners, lack of discipline of minors and non-existent support system of the government.

It is therefore recommended that enforcing group should strengthen the implementation of the ordinance through developing a communication strategy aside from the existing strategies applied to constantly remind the community regarding the ordinance and the ordinance should be further strictly implemented and there should be civilian empowerment.

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INTRODUCTION

Rationale

Implementing ordinances to the residents especially the youth which comprises the majority of the population are deemed important not only to secure their safety and maintain peace and order but as well as to strengthen their discipline.

These ordinances are laws set forth by a governmental authority; specifically a municipal regulation.

It is in disseminating such policies or information where communication is needed to call the attention of the people and for them to make immediate actions abiding to such policies. Communication is the transmission of information, ideas, values, beliefs and attitudes from one person to another. It is the basic social process which includes all the ways by which man shares with his fellow men what are on his mind and heart (Maslog, 1998).

Information, on the other hand, is what is being communicated presented within a context that gives meaning and which leads to increase in understanding (Anonymous, 2010). These are acquired from different materials and other communication strategies.

As a first class municipality, La Trinidad implements ordinances to maintain peace and order in the community. One of which is the curfew hours for minors which is under the La Trinidad Municipal ordinance No. 2 series of 2008. The ordinance states that “curfew for minors in the town is from 7PM to 5AM.”

Section 15 of the ordinance also states that “No person below eighteen years shall loiter in the streets or public places between 7:00 PM to 5:00 AM except those returning to or going



out of their houses or schools for legitimate purpose or unless they are in company with their parents.”

Violations of the curfew hour are still constantly observed within the municipality as stated by the La Trinidad Police Women and Children’s Desk. Police reports of 2008 published in Sunstar states that La Trinidad listed the highest crime rate in Benguet (SunStar Baguio, 2008). Moreover, LT Police Women and Children’s Desk reported that crimes usually committed by minors are related to physical injuries which are mostly committed during night time.

Records show that most of the violators were high school students or were drop-outs. With this, high school students were the respondents of the study.

Given the above situation, there is a need to study the awareness and compliance of La Trinidad minors on the said ordinance. Since the different ordinances is already disseminated, an awareness and compliance level regarding the ordinance is needed to determine the effectiveness of the methods used in conveying the message to the community and to collect suggestions on how to improve the strategies to strengthen the implementation of the ordinance.

Statement of the Problem

It is necessary to conduct this inquiry to find out the degree of awareness and compliance of the residents of La Trinidad regarding the curfew for minors. Specifically, the study intended to answer the following questions:

1. What are the communication strategies of the Local Government Unit (LGU) in implementing the curfew hours?
2. How aware are the respondents on the ordinance?



3. Do the respondents comply with the ordinance?
4. What are the reasons to the respondents' adherence and non-adherence to the ordinance?
4. What are the respondents' sources of information about the ordinance?
5. What are the problems and concerns faced by the respondents and the implementors regarding the implementation of the ordinance?
6. What are the suggestions of the respondents and implementors on the improvement of the strategies applied in implementing the ordinance?

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to find out the respondents' awareness and compliance to curfew for minors. The specific objectives are:

1. to determine the communication strategies of the Local Government Unit (LGU) in implementing the curfew hours;
2. to determine the awareness of the respondents on the ordinance;
3. to determine the respondents' compliance to the ordinance;
4. to determine the reasons to the respondents' adherence and non-adherence to the ordinance;
5. to determine the respondents' sources of information about the curfew for minors;
6. to determine the problems and concerns faced by the respondents and implementors regarding the implementation of the ordinance; and
7. to determine the suggestions of the respondents and implementors on the



improvement of the strategies applied in implementing the ordinance.

Importance of the Study

The results of the study may help the Local Government Officials of La Trinidad to further improve the strategies they use in disseminating ordinances in the municipality specifically on the curfew for minors. Thus, providing the community sufficient information to keep peace and order within the locality and nearby places.

Moreover, the results will also serve as basis for the researchers or students who want to do further researches on Curfew for Minors and other related topics.

Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study is only limited in determining the La Trinidad minors' awareness and compliance to the ordinance on curfew for minors. The respondents of the study are minors who are high school students particularly the residents of Barangays Balili, Betag, Pico, and Puguis and the implementors of the said ordinance in La Trinidad.



REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Curfew for Minors

Curfews have reemerged recently as a popular option for policymakers in their efforts to deter juvenile victimization and delinquency. Imposed on and off since the turn of the century, curfews tend to receive increased attention when there is a perceived need for more stringent efforts at social control.

For example, curfew ordinances were originally enacted in the 1890's to decrease crime among immigrant youth. During World War II, curfews were perceived as an effective control for parents who were busy helping with the war effort. More recent interest in juvenile curfew ordinances came as a response to growing juvenile crime during the 1970's (OJJDP, 2010).

The Sangguniang Bayan of La Trinidad on March 4, 2008 ammended section 15 of Ordinance No. 1-2003 or the Curfew for Minors under the Children Welfare Code changing mainly the time schedule and the penalties which then now referred to as the Ordinance No. 2-2008. Section 15 of Ordinance No.2 of 2008 states that “No person below eighteen years old shall loiter in the streets or public places between Seven O’clock in the evening (7:00 pm) to Five O’clock in the morning (5:00 am), except those returning to or going out of their houses or schools for legitimate purposes or unless they are in company with their parents and guardians.

Minors who shall be caught will be referred to the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) for guidance and counseling, safekeeping for the night, and disposition in accordance to the provisions of RA 9344.

The said ordinance is a revised edition of Ordinance no.1-2003, section 15 which states that “No person below eighteen years shall loiter in the streets or public places between 10:30



PM to 3:00 AM except those returning to or going out of their houses or schools for legitimate purpose or unless they are in company with their parents.” Ordinance no.1-2003 is entitled “Providing a comprehensive children’s welfare support program of the municipality of La Trinidad, Benguet and for other purposes.”

According to La Trinidad vice mayor Romeo Salda Sr., the ordinance was revised to match with Baguio City who earlier revised the same ordinance in their locality.

Reports said the senior citizens federation asked municipalities in Benguet to strictly impose the curfew for minors, in order to shun them away from committing or becoming victims of crimes.

Implementing Strategies

Implementing Strategy gives a broad view of implementation and a thorough understanding of each piece of the implementation process so one can make more informed decisions on efficiency and effectiveness (Executive Education, 2010).

The growing awareness of communication as a basic human rights has triggered demands for greater access for existing media-communication is now seen as a two-way process and goes beyond the right to receive information to include rights to initiate and to transmit as well as the right not to communicate (Braid, 1983).

Importance of Getting Level of Awareness in Social Studies

Awareness comprises a human’s perception and cognitive reaction to a condition or event. Awareness does not necessarily imply understanding, just an ability to be conscious of;



feel or perceive. Awareness requires the ability to totally focus attention on a task or a certain thing (Anonymous, 2008).

Awareness is the process by which an innovation on technology is brought to the attention or consciousness of a community. All innovations and technologies new to a community are perceived merely as information. As information, it merely consists of message flows on innovations and technologies that are static in time and linear in nature with little implication for future action. Although sorted, analyzed and displayed in a manner or understandable in the community, information on innovations and technologies still needs to be assessed, evaluated and defined in terms of patterns and implications within the context of the communication to allow successful application (Genilo, 2004).

As noted in the study of Mercado (1986), full awareness by the government agency personnel is necessary in all development aspects, particularly agriculture, mining and manufacturing, city linkages, tourism, structural changes, housing, and infrastructure and utilities.

Information Source

Information source is a system which produces messages by making successive selections from a group of symbols (Anonymous, 2010). Information can come from virtually anywhere- personal experiences, books, articles, expert opinions, encyclopedias, television, radio, and the type of information that the community needs that will change depending on the question they are trying to answer (Anonymous, 2008).



Problems Encountered in Accessing Information

Braid enumerated some of the identified communication weaknesses of integrated development projects in the Philippines as follows: wide information gap; lack of interaction among settlements; very little interaction or linkage between urban clusters and rural areas; inadequate involvement of beneficiaries of change in project planning; inadequate feedback mechanisms; weak coordinating structure of agencies involved in the programme; lack of involvement of community organizations; and lack of utilization of existing community communication resources.

In the study of Ramos (2007), the findings states that 36.36% of her respondents answered that they do not have problems in the communication process; however 36.36% also said that the program lacks printed materials. Only 27.27% said that there is poor dissemination of information because other farmers are too busy at their farms and do not have time to relate with other farmers.

Study of Calisaan (2008) also revealed that inadequate materials to disseminate and produce IEC materials was the major problem of the beneficiaries in terms of the use of IEC materials, some of the farmer respondents also said that the materials are poorly prepared, and few said that it lacks coordination to distribute the produced materials.

Problems of Implementors in Program Implementation

Ramos (2007) found out that the problems encountered by the implementors are the lack of funds to finance the program, the lack of interest or time of the participants, poor cooperation of the participant, and the lack of personnel to properly monitor the beneficiaries.



Existing political, economic and social structures can hinder access and participation as these are primarily hierarchical and centralized in nature. Many problems in implementation were traceable to inadequacies in the planning process. For example, the lack of participation of programme implementors in plan formulation led to unrealistic plans (Braid, 1983).

Another study by Aragon (2009) showed that enforcing group encountered problem such as lack of discipline of the community and lack of cooperation among the community members.

Improvement of Communication Strategies

Braid (1983) said that the most important criterion of success in any strategy is its effectiveness in developing human resource capabilities. He added that the test of a successful communication strategy in most action programs is usually seen when a matching of demand and supply of service is achieved.

Communication links people and institutions with the goals of development. Thus, it must assist in “operationalizing” or concretizing” the abstract goals of development so that programme implementors may be able to use them in the restructuring of training, research and action strategies (Braid, 1983).

Braid and Mariano (1993) defines communication is primarily acts as catalyst in the dialogue between policy makers and the people. In this role, it mobilizes people through the transformation and values and thus, facilitates the acceptance of inventions.

A communication strategy must be directed at various levels- at opinion leaders or policy planners, group members, and the people. In this regard, it should focus on mechanisms which will encourage interaction among and between these various groups (Braid, 1983).



Communication strategies should not merely be directed to motivating or awakening people's consciousness, but also to changing the socio-economic structure in which they operate (Braid, 1983).

A communication strategy should be judged by its ability to feel the pulse of the people, to distinguish "needs" from "wants" and to effectively communicate these needs to policy makers (Braid, 1983).



METHODOLOGY

Locale and Time of the Study

The study was conducted in La Trinidad, the capital town of the province of Benguet (Figure 1). The municipality of La Trinidad is composed of 16 barangays: Alapang, Alno, Ambiong, Bahong, Balili, Beckel, Betag, Bineng, Cruz, Lubas, Pico, Poblacion, Puguis, Shilan, Tawang, and Wangal. It is bounded on the North by the municipality of Tublay, on the south by Baguio City, on the east by the Municipality of Itogon, and on the West by the Municipality of Sablan and Tuba.

The area is chosen because Curfew for Minors is implemented by the local government officials.

The study was conducted on January-February 2011.

Respondents of the Study

The respondents of the study were the residents (minors/18 yrs old and below) particularly high school students of Barangay Balili, Betag, Pico and Puguis where the most population is recorded. Fifteen respondents were chosen from each of these four barangays.

The respondents were chosen through purposive quota sampling. The criteria in choosing the respondents were as follows:

- a) should be residents of La Trinidad for not less than three years; and
- b) should have at least an idea about the curfew for minors

Moreover, the study had six key informants who are enforcing body as follows:





Figure 1. Map of Benguet showing the locale of the study



member of the Sangguniang Barangay specially the Barangay Tanods and other La Trinidad-LGU members.

Data Collection

An interview schedule was used to gather information from the respondents. Personal interview with key informants was conducted using a guide questionnaire. Interview was also used to supplement other needed information regarding the said ordinance.

Data Gathered

The data gathered were the profiles of the respondents, strategies of the Local Government Unit (LGU) in implementing the curfew hours; the awareness of the respondents on the ordinance; the compliance of the respondents to the ordinance; the reasons of the respondents' compliance and non-compliance to the ordinance; the sources of information about the ordinance; problems and concerns faced by the respondents and implementors regarding the ordinance; and the suggestions of the respondents and implementors on the improvement of the strategies applied in implementing the ordinance.

Data Analysis

The collected data were tabulated, analyzed, and interpreted using frequency and percentages.



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Table 1 presents the socio-demographic profile of the respondents according to age and sex.

Out of 60 respondents, majority of the respondents (57%) were 14-15 years old followed by 16-18 years old (25%).

The data shows that there was no equal number of female from male respondents. Majority (58%) of the respondents were male. In relation to violators males, according to the key informants, have greater number than females.

Education could be a factor in understanding the ordinance, thus, educational attainment of the respondents was considered in the study.

Table shows that all the respondents had formal education and that they can read and write. This would mean that they can read and understand the ordinance well. All of the respondents are of high school level. A key informant said that more high school students were observed to be violators of the ordinance.

Meanwhile, all of the respondents were currently studying when this study was conducted.

Implementing Strategies According to Key Informants

Information drive. The Local Government Unit (LGU) has conducted information drives during the first days of the implementation of the curfew for minors ordinance prior to its amendment in 2008. Mr. Teofilo Langgato of the Legal Service Office of the



Table 1. Socio-demographic profile of the respondents

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE	Respondents (n=60)	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Age		
12-13	11	18
14-15	34	57
16-18	15	25
Total	60	100
Sex		
Male	35	58
Female	25	42
Total	60	100
Educational Attainment		
High School level	60	100
Total	60	100

municipal government said that mass information drive included attending barangay assemblies whenever invited to announce or remind the community regarding ordinances such as the curfew for minors. Another key informant said that they did information dissemination regarding the ordinance through informing mainly the parents who attended the general assembly and the parents of the violators. Thus, the parents' participation was solicited.

Broadcast or Publication. The ordinance was announced or broadcasted in the radio through Public Service Announcement (PSA) during the first days of its implementation prior to its amendment, as stated by Langgato. These radio stations were Bombo Radyo and DZWT.

This corroborates with the study of Domeris as cited by Gatab (2009) that the use of IEC materials especially the use of media combinations like radio and television is one of the communication strategies in monitoring and implementing public safety.

Aside from broadcasting it through the radio, Langgato added that they have published it in local newspapers like the Baguio Midland Courier and Sunstar Baguio, still in 2008.



Yet, Langgato said that the ordinance was still published in newspapers when journalists came to ask regarding it.

Findings appeared similar with the study of Domingo (2008) where results of her study showed that approved ordinances were published in local newspapers or announced over local radio stations. This is supported by the provisions of the Local Government Code which states that the secretary to the Sanggunian should transmit official copies of such ordinances to the chief executive officer of the official gazette.

Posting. Aleve A. Langbis, Balili barangay kagawad, said that they have tried posting the ordinance on some areas including in their bulletin boards around their barangay to inform the community.

Ronda system. The ronda system was the actual foot patrol of the barangay officials or barangay tanods and police officers around the barangay to apprehend violators. The ronda system included securing of computer shops and establishments serving liquors around the area while at the same time informing the residents regarding the ordinances. Curfew for minors, computer shops and liquor establishments were successive, thus, the ronda system was not only for the latter but extended to the other two ordinances.

According to the key informants, most of the minors were caught at the computer shops and establishments serving alcoholic beverages, and in dark areas. Thus, most of them concentrated on these areas.

As for the ronda system, it was noted in the study that the barangays where the respondents were taken, barangay tanods and officials conducted ronda in different schedules and in different time. Mr. Langbis said that they conducted ronda randomly at their place by at



least three times a week emphasizing mainly during Fridays and Saturdays where most violators were observed loitering.

Moreover, Kagawad Melecio Basinga, chairman for Peace and Order of Barangay Pico and a key informant, said that all the tanods of their barangay about 32 of them, gathered every Saturday night to secure the Trading Post Area where most minors and drunkards were seen loitering. But all throughout the week, they conducted ronda at their own sitios together with the Civilian Volunteers.

On the other hand, a protocol set by the LGU was the basis of the Barangay officials, Police Officers and MSWDO in implementing the ordinance. Mr. Langgato showed the process of this protocol as supported by other key informants.

Minors who shall be caught by Barangay Tanods after 7PM should either be sent home or referred to the police officers. The police officers will either send the children home or refer them to the MSWDO for guidance and counseling. The MSWDO then will send the children home after the guidance and counseling with the parents.

However, this procedure was modified by some of the barangay officials where they apply case-to-case basis. Barangay Kagawad and Chairman for Peace and Order of Barangay Puguis Tyrone T. Diaz said that during foot patrols, they exempted residents who loitered later than 7PM as long as they were not doing anything wrong. Most of those who were caught were those drunk and those who were committing crimes. They referred these violators to the police officers and to MSWDO for proper intervention or sanction. Those who were just seen loitering late were assisted home after being informed and asked regarding the curfew ordinance.



Most of the key informants said they do the same thing. Barangay officials or tanods talked to the parents for advises for those who were immediately sent home. Since some parents were not aware of the said ordinance, they were likewise informed of the ordinance.

The results support what the respondents observed on how the ordinance was being implemented in the municipality.

In addition, Langgato said that they have assigned a task force to monitor the implementation of all ordinances passed by the Sangguniang Bayan including the curfew for minors ordinance. The task force was composed of the representatives from the following offices: Mayors', Legal Services, Licensing, Treasuring, Social Welfare, Health, Police and the Barangay.

During the implementation of the study, the said task force was suspended as new set of officials took office in July 2010. However, Mr. Langgato said that the ordinance was still being implemented with minimal monitoring. Likewise, the siren which resonated three times a day, the second of which calls for the curfew for minors by 7 PM, was suspended.

Awareness of the Respondents on the Strategies Applied by the Implementors

Table 2 shows the strategies applied by the enforcing groups in implementing the ordinance in the community based on the observation of the respondents. Most (54%) of the respondents claimed that the Ronda System was the number one strategy applied by the enforcing group. Ronda system was the actual foot patrol applied by barangay officials including tanods and police officers in apprehending violators. Both posting in bulletin boards and airing through radio came in second with 13%.



Only few (7%) of the respondents said that they attended information drives conducted by the LGU in their respective barangays. According to these respondents, they have attended the information drive during the first few days of its implementation during the administration of former mayor Artemio Galwan. This supports what the key informant mentioned regarding the conduct of information drives upon the amendment of the said ordinance.

Meanwhile, 35% of the respondents admitted that they have not observed any implementing strategies applied by the LGU in their respective barangays. One of them reasoned out that she just stayed home most of the time when classes were over, thus, she did not witness any of it. It is also noted in the study that most of the respondents who did not observe the implementing strategies were not aware of the content of the ordinance. Those who were aware of the content of the ordinance in this particular case were either informed through interpersonal communication between their friends, family, relatives and teachers, as observed from the data gathered.

Table 2. Awareness of the respondents on the strategies applied by the implementors

IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES	RESPONDENTS (n=60)	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Ronda System	32	54
Posting in Bulletin Boards	8	13
Announcing the ordinance over the radio	8	13
Conducting Information Drives	4	7
No Observation	21	35

*Multiple Response

Awareness of the Respondents
to the Content of the Ordinance

Generally, all respondents were aware that an ordinance on curfew for minors exists in their municipality. However, their awareness on the content varied.



Table 3 shows the awareness of the respondents to the curfew for minors ordinance content of La Trinidad, Benguet. It shows that most of the respondents (55%) were aware of the said ordinance while 45% of the respondents were not aware.

For the penalty for violating, only 22% of the respondents were aware of the penalty enforced by the Local Government Unit (LGU) to minors caught after 7 PM. According to the ordinance, minors who shall be caught will be referred to the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) for guidance and counseling, safekeeping for the night, and disposition to the provisions of RA 9344.

Meanwhile, majority (78%) of the respondents were not aware of the penalty on violating the said ordinance.

The awareness of the respondents on the content was taken by asking them specific questions regarding the ordinance. The respondents were asked if they know the exact time of the curfew. If answered correctly, they were considered aware of the curfew time. This is same true with the awareness of the respondents on the penalty.

Table 3. Awareness of the respondents on the content of the ordinance

ORDINANCE CONTENT	RESPONDENTS (n=60)			
	AWARE		NOT AWARE	
	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE (%)	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE (%)
7PM to 5AM	33	55	27	45
Penalty	13	22	47	78

Compliance of the Respondents with the Ordinance

Table 4 shows the compliance of the respondents on the ordinance on curfew for minors.

The data shows that most (60%) of the respondents complied with the ordinance. According to the respondents, especially those who were students, they were strictly asked by



their parents to go home early. Some of the respondents even revealed that they have their own curfew hours at home set by their parents as early as 6PM. This would also mean that the parents were concerned of their safety and security.

Meanwhile, 40% of the respondents admitted of not complying with the ordinance. Based on several interviews with the respondents, a lot of them went home late because they stayed late playing at the computer shops. Also, most of those who did not complied were not aware of the ordinance content in terms of the curfew time.

The data shows that the results of the percentages of the respondents were not far from each other. This would mean that a lot of minors still did not comply with the ordinance. Some of the respondents admitted that they go home late because they just wanted to stay out from home. Others said they hang-out (tambay) with their friends. This is supported by the factor contributing to their non-compliance with the ordinance which is the peer influence.

Table 4. Compliance of the respondents with the ordinance

ORDINANCE CONTENT	RESPONDENTS (n=60)			
	COMPLY		DID NOT COMPLY	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Curfew Hours:				
7 PM-5AM	36	60	24	40

Reasons of the Adherence of the Respondents to the Ordinance

Table 5 shows the reasons for the compliance or adherence of the respondents to the curfew for minors ordinance.

Out of the 36 respondents complying with the ordinance, results show that all of the respondents claimed it was their parental guidance that affected their adherence to the ordinance.



As stated earlier, some of the respondents had to go home early to beat their curfew time at home set by their parents or guardians. Also, some of them had to attend to their household chores.

Eighty six percent of the respondents said they were influenced by their friends or peers. A respondent said that she went home early like her friends as they all know the danger of going home late.

The data also showed that 80% of the respondents wanted to maintain peace and order in their community. One of the respondents said that she was afraid to go home late because she might get into trouble considering that their place was quite dangerous. Some respondents also said that peace and order could be attained by going home early to avoid unwanted fights such as gang wars.

A key informant supported this saying that curfew for minors was intensified before due to the increasing numbers of gang wars such as the controversial case of the Blood vs. Crips.

In a study posted online through wordpress, Bloods and Crips were just two gangs among the 27 listed gangs in Baguio as of July 30, 2007. As of October 2010, an article from SunStar Baguio states that Blood and Crips were still among the notorious gangs closely watched by the police force in Baguio City.

Table 5. Reasons contributing to the adherence of the respondents to the ordinance

REASONS	RESPONDENTS (n=36)	
	No.	%
Parental guidance	36	100
Influence of peers/friends	31	86
For peace and Order	29	80
To respect the dignity of my barangay	27	75
Everybody is adhering to it so I will do it, too.	25	69
Forced by Implementing Group	8	22

*Multiple responses



Furthermore, only 22% of the respondents said that they complied with the ordinance because they were forced by the implementing group. Other reasons of the respondents included respecting the dignity of their barangay and complying as influenced by others who are complying with it.

Reasons to the Non-adherence of the Respondents to the Ordinance

Table 6 presents the reasons to the non-adherence of the respondents on the ordinance.

Out of the 24 who did not comply with the ordinance, most (67%) of the respondents admitted that they were influenced by their friends or peers. A lot of them said they stayed late either playing at the computer shops or hanging-out with their friends.

Forty two percent of the respondents, on the other hand, did not comply with the ordinance due to lack of parental guidance. Some of them said that they were not strictly guarded by their parents or guardians and they could go home whatever time they

Table 6. Reasons contributing to the non-adherence of the respondents to the ordinance

REASONS	RESPONDENTS (n=24)	
	No.	%
Influence of peers/friends	16	67
Lack of parental guidance	10	42
Lack of enforcement from the implementing group	7	29

*Multiple responses

wanted.

These statements were supported by the key informants affirming that probable reasons why minors violate such laws was because of the bad influence of friends and the lack of parental guidance, among others.



Meanwhile, 29% of the respondents said that there was lack of enforcement from the implementing group. One of the respondents said that even if he stayed late, he was never caught by the enforcing group.

Sources of Information of the Respondents
Regarding the Curfew Ordinance

Table 7 presents the various sources of information of the respondents regarding the ordinance on the Curfew for Minors in La Trinidad.

Results show that 45% of the respondents were informed on the said ordinance through their family members. Thirty five percent of the respondents, on the other hand, were informed through their friends while 17% of the respondents were informed through their relatives and enforcing group composed of the Barangay tanods, Sangguniang Bayan, and police officers. This indicates that the ordinance was discussed or talked

Table 7. Sources of information of the respondents regarding the curfew ordinance

SOURCE OF INFORMATION	RESPONDENTS (n=60)	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Family Members	27	45
Friends	21	35
Relatives	10	17
Enforcing Group	10	17
Newspaper	10	17
Radio	9	15
Posted in Bulletin Boards	8	13
Teachers	2	3
Owner of Computer Shop	1	2

*Multiple Responses



about in their homes and within their discussions with their friends and relatives.

This was affirmed in the study of Gatab (2008) where results showed that all respondents' sources of information on formulated ordinances were acquired information from relatives and friends.

The data also show that the newspaper (17%) served as one of the sources of information. One respondent claimed that she read it from a local newspaper which she could no longer recall.

Other respondents added that the siren (5%) served as a reminder of the curfew.

Respondents' other sources of information were the radio, bulletin boards, teachers and owner of computer shop. However, a computer shop owner at Kilometer 5, Pico admitted that he did not really strictly prohibit minors from playing at his shop after 7PM. He added that it is up to the minor to decide to go home.

Problems and Concerns Faced by the Respondents Regarding the Curfew Ordinance

According to the data gathered from the respondents through several interviews, the problems and concerns faced by the respondents regarding the curfew for minors ordinance included the weak communication strategies applied in implementing the ordinance, not strict and inconsistent/irregular implementation of the ordinance and the ronda system, and too early curfew hour for minors. The respondents' answers were multiple and thus may create a big deal in their compliance to the ordinance.

Based on the result drawn on the awareness of the respondents regarding the ordinance content, almost half of the respondents (45%) were not aware that loitering by 7PM was not



allowed to minors. One of the respondents said that he was not aware about the ordinance and that he was never informed about it.

Most of the respondents said that there were very few sources of information regarding the ordinance. Others said that though, the Barangay officials conducted actual foot patrols at their place, it was not consistent or regular, and thus, minors were still seen loitering at night. This could be attributed to the irregular implementation of the ordinance as stated by the key informants.

The researcher together with the volunteers also tried to search for any Information-Educational Communication Material (IEC) specifically posters or notices regarding the curfew for minors ordinance in the barangays where the study was conducted. However, there was not one seen during the observation.

Kagawad Langbis of Balili said that they have once posted the copy of the ordinance in some areas of the barangay but some have been removed while some have already faded. He admitted that they have not replaced it.

According to United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA, 2011), IEC combines strategies, approaches and methods that enable individuals, families, groups, organisations and communities to play active roles in achieving, protecting and sustaining their own health. Embodied in IEC is the process of learning that empowers people to make decisions, modify behaviours and change social conditions. As such, the situation observed in the different barangays may imply that weak use of communication strategies like the use of IEC materials may lead to poor compliance or participation of the people (UNFPA, 2011). IEC materials include the poster. Thus, the use of IEC could be a great help in enforcing the ordinance further especially in calling the attention of the people.



Problems Faced by the Implementors in Enforcing the Ordinance

In implementing the curfew for minors ordinance, the enforcing group encountered problems such as insufficient budget, lack of manpower, uncooperative parents/guardians, non-compliance of business owners, lack of discipline of minors and the non-existent support system of the government.

According to the key informants Kagawad Melecio Basinga and Lupon Artemio Bangan, insufficient budget derived from the government lead to the weak implementation of the ordinance since there is not enough fund to pay the barangay tanods who enforced the ordinance.

Moreover, Barangay Secretary Moises Depalog of Betag complained about the inadequate gadgets and equipments. These statements were supported by other key informants saying there were no available transportation services to be used in patrolling especially in sending the minors home.

These statements were supported by previous studies where in the study of Ramos (2007) showed that lack of funds to finance program, poor cooperation of participants and lack of personnel to properly monitor the beneficiaries were the problems in communicating the ordinance.

On the other hand, study of Domingo (2008) stated that the lack of funds for continuous publication using media, lack of oversight committee to come up with strategies and effective means of disseminating ordinances, loss of copies posted and non-receipt of copies by concerned parties were also problems in the dissemination of ordinances in the community.

As stated earlier, minors were usually caught at computer shops and establishments serving liquors. Kagawad Tyrone T. Diaz of Puguis claimed that non-compliance of these



establishments' owners was another problem in the enforcement of the ordinance. Business owners who let minors get drunk and play late at their shops would not discipline the minors. Kagawad Diaz as supported by the rest of the key informants also stated that parents or guardians who were not cooperative was a huge factor in disciplining the minors.

Moreover, the lack of discipline of minors emerged as one of the biggest problems in the implementation of the ordinance as claimed by the key informants. Key informants added that the same persons were caught violating the ordinance. Since minors could not be penalized by neither cash nor imprisonment as provided by RA 9344, minors were confident and unafraid to violate the law over and over again. Thus, the weak support of the law in giving heavier punishments to minors to discipline them well was also a problem as stated by Kagawad Diaz.

Republic Act 9344 or otherwise known as the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act of 2006 provides that all minors aged 15 and below are exempt from criminal liability and minors aged 16 to 18 were declared exempt if they acted without discernment and modified the penalty if they did act with discernment.

Sixth District Rep. Mercedes Alvarez, a member of the House Committee on Revision of Laws, supports what the key informants said as she mentioned that this law sadly contributes to the rise in crime because there have been many reports that organized crime syndicates allegedly used minors, aged below 15, so they can get away with the crime. She also said that the present law is also to blame for the continued criminality since young offenders, after being released, keep on repeating the crime as they will not be arrested anyway (Dangcalan, 2011).



Suggestions of the Respondents and Key Informants in Improving the Enforcement of the Curfew Ordinance

Table 8 shows the suggestions of the respondents to improve the enforcement of the curfew for minors ordinance.

Thirty three percent of the respondents suggested the strict implementation of the ordinance on the curfew for minors. Alex Wacay, a respondent said that ronda or foot patrol should be actively implemented in all barangays in uniform schedule to totally ban minors from wandering around. This may solve what the key informants complained about minors at their barangays who were caught loitering at other barangays after discovering that foot patrols was scheduled in certain days at their barangays.

Table 8. Suggestions of the respondents in improving the enforcement of the curfew ordinance

SUGGESTIONS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
	n=60	(%)
Strict implementation of the curfew for minors' ordinance	20	33
More posters and other IEC materials	13	22
Conduct information drives like seminars, house-to-house and student orientation per school	7	12
More radio advertisements/ reminders	7	12
Return the siren or wang-wang	5	8

*Multiple Responses



Twelve percent of the respondents agreed that there should be more posters and other IEC materials regarding the curfew for minors' ordinance to inform and remind minors as well as parents or guardians.

Moreover, 7% of the respondents suggested that there should be more information drives conducted in the community such as seminars, house-to-house visit and orientation of students in every school.

Another 7% of the respondents suggested that there should be more radio advertisements and reminders. One of the respondent suggested that a reminder should be aired daily in the radio to remind the community regarding the ordinance.

On the other hand, 5% of the respondents agreed that the siren and car patrol should be returned to further remind minors and business establishments on the curfew hours. This indicates that communication strategies of the implementing group were weakened due to the suspension of the siren as a reminder for the ordinance.

Meanwhile, the key informants suggested additional personnel like police force, follow-up check-up to minor offenders, 24-hour open government office like the MSWDO to handle and counsel violators, wide partnership with parents, and imposing community service as penalty. These may be related to the problems they faced in enforcing the ordinance.

On the part of the LGU, Mr. Langgato enumerated their plans in strengthening the implementation of the ordinance on the curfew for minors. He said that hopefully, if the request on the revival of the task force be approved, they will hold information drives on selected ordinances like the curfew for minors. These information drives may include conducting student orientations in every school, lectures and barangay assemblies. Mr.



Langgato also added that they might return the operation of siren and that they would probably air the notice regarding the curfew ordinance on the radio.



SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The awareness and compliance of the minors on the curfew for minors ordinance of La Trinidad, Benguet was conducted to determine the communication strategies of the Local Government Unit (LGU) in implementing the curfew hours for minors; to determine the awareness of the respondents on the ordinance, to determine the respondents compliance to the ordinance, to determine the reasons to the adherence and non-adherence of the respondents to the ordinance, to determine the respondents' sources of information about the curfew for minors, to determine the problems and concerns faced by the respondents and implementors regarding the ordinance and, to determine the suggestions of the respondents and implementors on the improvement of the strategies applied in implementing the ordinance.

The study was conducted from January to February 2011.

Interview schedule, guide questionnaire and interview were used to gather data. There were 60 respondents, eleven minors aged 12-13, thirty four aged 14-15 and fifteen aged 16-18, and six key informants.

Majority (58%) were male, all of the respondents were high school students.

The six key informants who belong to the enforcing group enumerated the strategies they used in enforcing the ordinance such as information drive, radio, newspapers, posting copies of ordinances, and the ronda system or foot patrol.

As for the strategies observed by the respondents, most (54%) of the respondents agreed they had witnessed the ronda system while some (35%) observed nothing.



Most (55%) of the respondents were aware that 7PM-5AM is the curfew hours for minors while majority (78%) of the respondents were not aware of the sanction or penalty imposed for violators of the ordinance.

Majority (60%) of the respondents complied with the ordinance while 40% of the respondents did not comply with the ordinance.

As for the reasons to the respondents' adherence to the ordinance, all of the 36 respondents who complied with the ordinance reasoned parental guidance. Influence of friends/peers (67%) was the top factor for the respondents' non-adherence to the ordinance.

The respondents shared their problems and concerns regarding the ordinance such as weak communication strategies applied in the implementing of the ordinance, not strict and inconsistent/irregular implementation of the ordinance and the ronda system, and too early curfew hour for minors.

As for the problems faced by the implementors in enforcing the ordinance, the enforcing group encountered problems such as insufficient budget, lack of manpower, uncooperative parents/guardians, non-compliance of business owners, lack of discipline of minors, non-existent support system of the government.

Meanwhile, most (33%) of the respondents suggested that there should be strict implementation of the curfew for minors ordinance and 22% of the respondents suggested that there should be more I-E-C materials like leaflets and posters. For the key informants, they suggested additional personnel like police force, follow-up check-up to minor offenders, 24-hour open government office to process violators, wide partnership to parents, and imposing community service as penalty.

Conclusions



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

1. The communication strategies applied by the Local Government Unit in implementing the curfew ordinance were information drive, broadcast or publication, posting and the ronda system.
2. There is not enough awareness of the respondents to the ordinance content based on the gathered data.
3. Though most complied with the ordinance, the compliance is not greatly influenced by the strategies applied by the implementing group.
4. The respondents' top sources of information regarding the ordinance were their family members and friends.
5. There is poor communication strategies applied by the implementing group in enforcing the ordinance in terms of reminding the respondents regarding the ordinance.
6. Lack of discipline and uncooperative parents and establishments were the main problems of the implementors.
7. The suggestions of the respondents in improving the enforcement of the curfew ordinance include strict implementation of the ordinance, and more communication strategies.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusions, the following recommendations were formulated:

1. Enforcing group should strengthen the implementation of the ordinance through developing a communication strategy aside from the existing strategies applied to constantly remind the community regarding the ordinance.
2. The enforcing group should be stricter in implementing the ordinance such as conducting daily ronda or foot patrol in all barangays of La Trinidad with a uniform schedule.



3. Civilian empowerment should be implemented in the area. Parents or guardians and business establishments should help in disciplining the minors.



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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Interview Schedule

Young Lurkers at Night: Awareness and Compliance of selected La Trinidad high school students on Curfew Ordinance

I. Socio-demographic profile

Name (optional) _____

Age ____ Sex: _____ Male _____ female

Educational attainment:

_____ Elementary

_____ High School

_____ College

Occupation: _____

II. Awareness on the Content of the Ordinance

ORDINANCE CONTENT	AWARE	NOT AWARE
Loitering around 7PM to 5AM for minors is not allowed		
Minors who shall be caught will be referred to the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) for guidance and counseling, safekeeping for the night, and disposition in accordance to the provisions of RA 9344.		

III. Source of Information

1. What are your sources for information?

_____ posted in bulletin boards

_____ through the newspaper

_____ through the radio

_____ friends

_____ family members

_____ relatives



_____ enforcing group (members of Barangay tanods, Sangguniang Bayan, Police Officers)

_____ others. Pls specify: _____

Based on your observations, what strategies do the SB apply in the implementation of the said ordinance?

_____ Ronda System

_____ Posting in bulletin boards

_____ airing through the radio

_____ airing through the television

_____ others. Pls specify. _____

III. Compliance to the Ordinance

Do you adhere to the said ordinance? _____ YES _____ NO

IV. Reasons to the adherence and non-adherence of the respondents to the ordinance

1. What are the reasons to your adherence to the ordinance?

REASONS	
a) Influence of peers/friends	
b) Parental guidance	
c) Forced by the implementing group	
a) To respect the dignity of my place	
b) Everybody is adhering to it so I will do it, too	
a) For peace and order	
Others please specify:	

2. What are the reasons to your non-adherence to the ordinance?

REASONS	
a. Influence of peers/friends	
b. Lack of parental guidance	
c. Lack of enforcement from the implementing group	
Others please specify:	



V. Suggestions

What are your suggestions to improve the access of information about Curfew for Minors or the implementation of the ordinance?

APPENDIX B

Guide Questionnaire

For the Key Informants

I. Implementing Strategies

1. What strategies do you apply in implementing the said ordinance?

2. What process/es do you follow in implementing the ordinance?

II. Problems in implementing the ordinance

1. What do you think are the reasons for violating this ordinance?

2. What are the problems you encounter in implementing the ordinance?

III. Comments and Suggestions on the strategies applied by the Local Government Unit:

