



Police Investigating Crimes as Correlates of Worriedness: A Perception of Traditional Leaders

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Received Date: August 25, 2018; **Published Date:** September 01, 2018

Abstract

In any cultural setting, traditional leaders' (TL) as a role model in the society have distinct influence in the society, particularly in establishing safety and security especially at times of a situational crisis like a terror attack. Their perceptions towards a particular incidence such as process of investigating crimes are being respected. This study aimed at describing and correlating the process of investigating crimes to the level of worriedness as perceived by traditional leaders in the context of Meranao culture in the Philippines. TL perceived crime scene investigation as very important and crime scene preservation as moderately important. The processes of investigating crimes have a significant relationship with the social safety. TL role is a factor in enhancing local peace and order.

Keywords: Investigating crimes; Worriedness; Local leaders; Meranaos

Abbreviations: TL: Traditional Leaders

Introduction

In the absence of men in uniform such as police and army, traditional leaders (TL) could be interim actors in establishing peace and security. They are factors in the politics of policing [1]. In the context of Meranao culture, TL has great influence in the behavioral response of Meranaos in which particularly their perception towards the police process of crime scene investigation and preservation may influence the perceived local peace and order through channeling false information that could

create fear, anxiety, and a sense of security. Since Marawi City is in the process of rebuilding and establishing peace and security after being devastated by a terrorist attack by Maute-ISIS inspired group, TL perceptions in the work of men in uniform, particularly local policemen could be served as the representative viewpoint of Meranaos in the local towards establishing a peaceful and safe locality.

Methodology

The study employed a descriptive-correlation research design in the locale of Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, Philippines as one of the famous conflict affected areas of the country due to local terrorist outrage. There were five

(5) local area with a most number of displaced population have been selected for the reason that the issue of peace and order is a big deal. There were twenty-seven (27) exhausted the number of traditional leaders as respondents of the study, but only twenty five (25) participated. The criteria for identifying the TL were primarily based on a personal suggestion of internally displaced person (IDP) of at least fifteen (15) in every local area, secondly based on the name identified by the barangay chairman or local political leaders. A tool used in the study has undergone content validity from experts composing of three police senior officers, one a political leader (city councilor), and one psychology professor.

Construct validity is a delimitation of the questionnaire considered by the authors. Item groupings, then were based on the appraised findings from carting literature. However, reliability shows that all group of variable are in the scale of high reliability (crime investigation $\alpha=0.68$; crime, preservation ($\alpha=.72$; and, peace and order $\alpha=0.65$). The tool has been complemented with an interview using a semi-structured guide list of questions. For ethical

consideration, the authors have the participants signed informed consent after thorough and comprehensive discussion that has been translated through local language in consideration for communication barrier. The Mean and Pearson r correlation were used in the analysis and interpretation of the study.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 shows the importance of crime scene investigation as perceived by TL. It shows that the attributes of policemen that are highly given importance by the TL are being aware in doing an active ocular observation (mean=3.5), motivation in findings the identified suspect (mean=3.45), and awareness in securing tangible evidence at the crime scene (mean=3.45). However, it was perceived by TL as moderately important in employing a temporary post for a policeman (mean=3.25) and being inquisitive to bystanders (mean=3.10).

Crime Scene Investigation		Mean	Descriptive Rating
1.	Sense of awareness through active ocular observation in the crime scene	3.50	Highly Important
2.	Establishment of a temporary post of policeman on the crime scene.	3.25	Moderately Important
3.	Highly motivated in attempting to find the identified suspect.	3.35	Highly Important
4.	Policeman awareness in securing physical evidence found at the crime scene.	3.45	Highly Important
5.	Extensive verbal questioning of bystanders as possible witness of crimes in the area	3.10	Moderately Important
Average Weighted Mean		3.33	Highly Important

Table 1: Mean and Descriptive Rating of Crime Scene Investigation as perceived by TL.

Scale: 1-1.75=No Important, 1.76-2.50=Important, 2.51-3.25=Moderately Important, 3.26-4.00=Highly Important.

Based on the interview with ten TL, crime scene investigation of policemen was expressed as crucial. They associated the process as the standard approach in resolving crimes that needs to be carefully undertaken. Some of them had expressed unnecessary to employ a temporary post of the policeman as it must be at all times they be visible in the potentially identified conflict affected area. In the same manner, verbal questioning approach has been doubted by TL as a good approach in tracing the crime doer or criminal. This accord to the claim of Stanley [2] that the presence of investigator within the criminal investigation can be a strength or weakness. It can be strength if the process of investigation considers the complexity and nature of the Maranao culture. Clannish oriented culture embedded among Meranaos may have the chance to protect their relatives or close family [3] even if it is suspected criminal.

Moreover, Table 2 presented below depicting statement items for crime scene preservation has denoted four item statement as highly important (mean=3.50, 3.35, 3.30, & 3.40) while only one item considered as moderately important (mean=2.60). Crime scene preservation is a subsequent process of crime scene investigation. Based on the table, it can be deduced that crime scene preservation is described to be of under crime scene investigation relative to its importance. This means investigation has to be pursued and immediately followed by preservation. Preservation of the crime scene justified as moderate importance based on the judgment of TL that if the victim is a Meranao (e.g. Death of a victim due to the crime committed), the body must immediately a process of burial rituals – part of Meranao cultural and religious beliefs. This somehow influences the investigation process.

Crime Scene Preservation		Mean	Descriptive Rating
1.	Defying people away from the crime scene by putting police line.	3.50	Highly Important
2.	Assistance of police officers in the perimeter of the line for the preservation and protection of the crime scene.	2.60	Moderately Important
3.	The police officers secure photos or videos of the police activities while on the scene.	3.35	Highly Important
4.	Use of some forensic techniques, traces analysis for blood spatter interpretation and DNA compassion.	3.30	Highly Important
5.	Note taking of technicians in the collection of hair or fiber sample or fingerprint and footprint.	3.40	Highly Important
Average Weighted Mean		3.23	Moderately Important

Table 2: Mean and Descriptive Rating of Crime Scene Preservation as perceived by TL.

Scale: 1-1.75=No Important, 1.76-2.50=Important, 2.51-3.25=Moderately Important, 3.26-4.00=Highly Important.

Moreover, Table 3 presented below shows that TL is somewhat worried in their locale (weighted mean=2.53). They felt they are not totally safe which could be related to their chaotic experience in the siege of their hometown Marawi City [4]. They are somewhat worried about the situation to recur. Based on the interview, TL expressed

that they are worried about their safety and their families primarily because the security forces of government is not well established. They are also worried that the protector of the citizen may not be responsible for their duties and inflict harm instead.

Social Safety		Mean	Descriptive Rating
1	In our local area, I worry about: Being abducted by unknown	2.11	Somewhat worried
2	Possible assault or exchange of gunshots between Men in uniform and criminals or terrorist group	2.60	Somewhat worried
3	Criminals or terrorist to break our house	2.45	Somewhat worried
4	My family member as possible victim of a crime like (e.g. A upper case)	2.40	Somewhat worried
5	Being physically abused	3.10	Not too worried
Average Weighted Mean		2.53	Somewhat worried

Table 3: Mean and Descriptive Rating of Level of Worriedness.

Scale: 1-1.75=Very Worried, 1.76-2.50=Somewhat Worried, 2.51-3.25=Not too Worried, 3.26-4.00=Not at all Worried.

Table 4 below shows the correlation of two variables – crime scene investigation and preservation of the level of worriedness of TL. Crime scene investigation (sig =0.00) and preservation (sig.-0.01) have a significant relationship to the level of worriedness of TL. This relationship were found to be inverse and low correlation relationship (r value= -0.25 & -0.31). it means that as the crime scene investigation and preservation are constantly and professional practice by policemen somehow minimally decreases the TL level of worriedness [5].

Correlation of Variables	R	Sig.	Descriptive Rating
Crime investigation level of	-0.25	0.00	Significant
Crime preservation worriedness	-0.31	0.01	Significant

Table 4: Correlation of Variables.

Based on 0.05 alpha level of significance.

Conclusion

The process of policemen investigation and preservation of crimes is significant to the level of worriedness of the TL. It means that the actions and plans of men in uniform may have a notable psychological impact not only to TL but across all people within the locale. It is recommended that police officers collaborate with the TL in the process of investigating crimes as their insights and leadership capabilities may greatly contribute.

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