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Examining the Influence of Law Enforcement Policies, and Societal Attitudes on Public Participation in Investigations among Davao City Residence

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the levels of law enforcement policies, societal attitudes, and community participation in Davao City and examines the relationships among these variables. The study's researchers utilized descriptive research design using the predictive causation techniques. Adapted questionnaires were used to collect information on law enforcement policies, societal attitudes, and community participation. Results indicate high law enforcement policies, societal attitudes, and community participation levels among Davaoños. Furthermore, statistical analysis reveals significant relationships between law enforcement policies and community participation and societal attitudes and community participation. Key predictors of public participation include community involvement, performance, and contact and satisfaction, all of which achieved statistical significance with p-values below 0.05. Additionally, service quality and public perception emerged as significant predictors of public engagement, achieving p-values below 0.05. These findings highlight that positive perceptions of law enforcement practices and societal attitudes are instrumental in fostering community involvement in safety initiatives. The study emphasizes the importance of effective law enforcement practices and favorable public perceptions in promoting active community participation in public safety efforts in Davao City.

INTRODUCTION

The lack of public participation in criminal investigations has challenged crime prevention efforts. The effectiveness of law enforcement depends significantly on community involvement, as crime patterns are influenced by location and type, requiring strategic intervention (Leikuma-Rimicane, Ceballos, & Medina, 2022). The need for public cooperation is particularly crucial given the high prevalence of crimes against persons and property, highlighting the role of community engagement in strengthening law enforcement initiatives (Razdan, 1986). However, various barriers hinder public involvement, including the complexity of certain crimes and procedural ambiguities that create confusion among community members and officials. The challenges in defining the roles of professionals and experts in crime prevention, coupled with unclear procedural regulations, further obstruct coordination between law enforcement agencies and the public (Doroshenko, 2019; Holina & Shramko, 2024).

A notable example highlighting this issue occurred in 2018 when the Regional Trial Court (RTC) convicted Mamerto Austria, a teacher, of five counts of lasciviousness against two 11-year-old students. Despite the conviction, the case was dismissed due to a lack of willing witnesses. This situation underscores the complex issue of witness non-participation in criminal cases, raising broader concerns about public trust, human rights, and the efficacy of investigations without adequate cooperation from witnesses (Ruggeri, 2019; Nawawi, 2018). Witness non-participation has profound implications for legal outcomes and undermines public confidence in the

justice system. Research indicates that safety concerns are a significant factor; witnesses in high-stakes cases, including those handled by the International Criminal Court, often face severe risks, and existing protection programs are frequently inadequate, deterring witnesses from testifying (Irving, 2014).

Additionally, there is growing advocacy for expanding the participatory role of victims, as treating them solely as passive witnesses can lead to disengagement, while greater involvement may reduce witness withdrawal (Doak, 2005). In Europe, legal advancements aimed at safeguarding witnesses are often inadequately implemented, perpetuating mistrust in law enforcement and discouraging cooperation (Svintsytskyi, 2023). Recent judicial rulings, such as the Court of Justice of the European Union's HYA case, emphasize the need for fair trial standards that reduce reliance on untested witness statements, fostering legal confidence through enhanced protections (Bernardini & Ancona, 2023). These findings suggest that overcoming witness participation barriers requires addressing safety concerns, expanding legal rights for witnesses and victims, and ensuring fair procedural standards to bolster trust and encourage cooperation in the criminal justice system.

Public non-participation in criminal investigations is influenced by various factors, including distrust in law enforcement and exclusion from policymaking (Ojedokun, 2019). The lack of public input in creating and implementing law enforcement policies exacerbates the problem (Kamau, 2020). Developing clear, transparent policies proactively can help address misconduct and ensure that officers carry out their duties effectively. Such

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policies are essential for officer safety and addressing calls for reform across various governmental levels (Lyons *et al.*, 2017).

Moreover, societal attitudes toward law enforcement are crucial in shaping public trust and participation. Negative perceptions of procedural justice can significantly erode public confidence and discourage cooperation with law enforcement efforts, as individuals who perceive unfair treatment are less likely to engage with legal authorities (Bolger & Walters, 2019). Emphasizing fairness, dignity, and respect through procedurally just interactions can rebuild trust and foster stronger community relations, ultimately enhancing public engagement in justice (Modise, 2023).

The main objective of this study is to examine the impact of law enforcement policies and societal attitudes on public participation in investigations among Davao City residents. Specifically, the study describes the levels of law enforcement policies in terms of community involvement, safety, procedural justice, performance, and contact and satisfaction. It will also ascertain societal attitudes regarding service quality, procedural justice, legitimacy, and public perception. Furthermore, the study aims to determine the level of public participation in criminal investigations, usefulness in investigative actions, cooperation, assistance in criminal investigations, and reasons for non-participation in criminal investigations. The researchers will analyze the significant relationships between law enforcement policies and community participation and societal attitudes and community participation. Finally, the study will examine the combined influence of law enforcement policies and societal attitudes on public participation.

Aligned with existing research on community engagement and public trust in law enforcement, this study examines the interplay between law enforcement policies, societal attitudes, and public participation in criminal investigations. Guided by the Procedural Justice Theory, which emphasizes fairness, neutrality, and respect in building public trust (Thibaut & Walker, 1975), the study seeks to uncover the factors influencing public cooperation. By analyzing community involvement, safety, procedural justice, and satisfaction with law enforcement, alongside perceptions of service quality and legitimacy, this research aims to identify actionable strategies to foster public trust and engagement in Davao City. Furthermore, this study contributes to advancing Sustainable Development Goal 16, which promotes peace, justice, and strong institutions, by highlighting pathways to improve public participation in the justice system through inclusive and responsive law enforcement practices.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Design and Procedure

This study employs a quantitative research design to examine the impact of law enforcement policies and societal attitudes on public participation in investigations

among Davao City residents. A quantitative approach is chosen for this study because it allows for the systematic collection and statistical analysis of numerical data, facilitating an objective evaluation of the relationships between variables. By using structured survey questionnaires, the study can measure specific aspects of law enforcement policies, societal attitudes, and levels of public participation in a way that yields quantifiable and comparable data. This methodological choice ensures the findings are based on empirical evidence, allowing for precise assessments of how factors influence public participation in criminal investigations.

Following the outline defense, the researcher sought formal approval to conduct the study by submitting a letter of intent to relevant authorities. Upon approval, survey questionnaires was distributed to a representative sample of Davao City residents. These questionnaires gathered data on respondents' perceptions of law enforcement policies, societal attitudes, and their levels of participation in criminal investigations.

Once data collection was completed, the researcher organized and analyzed the data using various statistical methods. Measures of central tendency and dispersion, such as the mean and standard deviation, were used to provide insights into the general trends and variability within the data set. Pearson r correlation was used to determine the closeness of the variable. Multiple regression analysis was utilized to identify significant relationships and the extent to which law enforcement policies and societal attitudes predict public participation levels. This comprehensive analysis will enable the researcher to draw meaningful conclusions and make evidence-based recommendations aligned with the study's objectives.

Study Participants

This study's participants were Davao City residents aged 16 years and above. Using the Raosoft sample size calculator, the researcher has determined that 385 or more survey responses are required to achieve a confidence level of 95%, ensuring that the actual population value is within $\pm 5\%$ of the measured value. This calculation is based on the 2023 Davao City population estimate of 1,160,000 individuals aged 16 years and above (PSA, 2023). To recruit participants, the researchers will employ random sampling, which may include requesting initial participants to refer other suitable subjects, utilizing a snowball sampling technique (Oregon State University, 2017).

All respondents were provided with informed consent forms and thoroughly oriented on completing the survey questionnaire to ensure informed and voluntary participation. The researchers adhered strictly to ethical considerations, including maintaining participant confidentiality, obtaining voluntary consent, and ensuring the right to withdraw from the study at any time. By following these procedures, the study aims to gather reliable data while respecting and protecting the rights and well-being of all participants.

Materials/Instrument

The study utilized a structured questionnaire adapted from established sources to ensure validity and reliability in measuring the key variables. The questionnaire comprised three main sections: Law Enforcement Policies, Societal Attitude, and Public Participation. The section on Law Enforcement Policies was adapted from the U.S. Department of Justice, Community Oriented Policing Services (2014), focusing on respondents' perceptions and evaluations of community policing and law enforcement strategies. The Societal Attitude section was derived from the works of Tyler (2003) and Reisig and Lloyd (2009) to measure attitudes toward societal norms, trust in law enforcement, and community relationships. The Public Participation section was based on Langhorst (2019) and examined factors influencing citizens' willingness to engage in criminal investigations and community-oriented activities.

To ensure the questionnaire's content and construct validity, it was reviewed by a panel of experts. Additionally, the instrument demonstrated high internal consistency, with Cronbach's alpha coefficients of 0.89 for Law Enforcement Policies, 0.78 for Societal Attitude, and 0.87 for Public Participation. Before its final use, the instrument was pilot-tested to verify the clarity and comprehensiveness of the items, further ensuring its suitability for achieving the study's objectives.

Ethical Considerations

The researchers conducted the study following all ethical standards, adhering to rigorous protocols for managing the population and data under standardized criteria and study protocol assessments. Participation in the study was voluntary, with all respondents free to opt out at any time. The nature and purpose of the study were clearly explained to the participants, providing them ample time to decide on their involvement. Privacy and confidentiality were prioritized, ensuring the anonymity of participants and safeguarding the research data with a high level of confidentiality. The informed consent process was a central focus, as the researchers obtained full consent from participants before the study. Participants were provided with sufficient information to understand the potential consequences of their involvement and make an informed decision free from pressure or coercion.

Additionally, the researchers ensured that respondents were protected from any potential risks, including physical, psychological, or socio-economic harm. The study did not involve medical or scientific experiments that could endanger biological or environmental subjects, thereby maintaining biosafety standards. Furthermore, the research addressed ethical considerations related to focus group participation, fabrication, falsification, conflict of interest, and plagiarism, ensuring the integrity and ethical conduct of the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Level of Law Enforcement Policies in Davao City

Table 1 shows the Level of Law Enforcement Policies in Davao City, which provides an overview of the mean and standard deviation (SD) values for various aspects of law enforcement policies in Davao City. The table indicates that Community Involvement has the highest mean of 4.12 (SD = 0.72), while Procedural Justice has the lowest mean of 3.89 (SD = 0.77).

Table 1: Level of Law Enforcement Policies in Davao City

Law Enforcement Policies	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Community Involvement	4.12	0.72	High
Safety	4.04	0.69	High
Procedural Justice	3.89	0.77	High
Performance	3.94	0.75	High
Contact and Satisfaction	4.00	0.71	High
Overall Mean	4.00	0.59	High

The highest mean score for Community Involvement suggests a strong emphasis on engaging the community in law enforcement efforts. This high score may be due to the city's proactive approach to fostering community partnerships, which can enhance trust and cooperation between the police and residents. Effective community involvement is often associated with improved public perception and reduced crime rates (Tankebe, 2008). Additionally, when citizens feel they have a voice in safety measures, they may be more likely to support and comply with law enforcement policies.

The lower mean for Procedural Justice indicates potential challenges in perceived fairness and transparency within law enforcement practices. A lower score here may reflect public concerns over fairness in policing, which can impact trust and cooperation (Jackson *et al.*, 2020). Procedural justice is crucial for legitimacy; without it, communities may view enforcement as biased or inconsistent. Furthermore, challenges in training or resource limitations could hinder the consistent application of fair practices, contributing to the observed mean score.

Research highlights that community involvement in law enforcement promotes shared responsibility in crime prevention and builds stronger community relations (Lim & Kwak, 2022). On the other hand, studies emphasize that procedural justice is fundamental to ensuring compliance and legitimacy, where perceptions of fairness in policing greatly influence public support for law enforcement efforts (Tyler & Huo, 2002; Huq, 2018).

Level of Societal Attitude among Davaoños

Shown in Table 2 is the Level of Societal Attitude among Davaoños. It presents the mean scores and standard deviations (SD) for different dimensions of societal

attitudes toward law enforcement in Davao City. All dimensions, including Service Quality, Procedural Justice, Legitimacy, and Public Perception, received high ratings, with Public Perception showing the highest mean of 4.07 (SD = 0.72). At the same time, Procedural Justice has the lowest mean of 3.86 (SD = 0.79).

Table 2: Level of Societal Attitude among Davaoenos

Societal Attitude	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Service Quality	4.03	0.70	High
Procedural Justice	3.86	0.79	High
Legitimacy	4.03	0.73	High
Public Perception	4.07	0.72	High
Overall Mean	4.00	0.69	High

The high mean in Public Perception suggests that residents of Davao City generally hold favorable views of their local law enforcement, likely due to effective communication and responsiveness by the police. Consistent public engagement and transparent communication help law enforcement build trust and respect, which is crucial for community cooperation in safety initiatives (Pickett *et al.*, 2018). A positive public perception aligns with enhanced legitimacy and reliability in the community, reinforcing the role of police as respected figures within society (Gau & Paoline, 2020).

On the other hand, the lower mean in Procedural Justice indicates that, while ratings are high, there may be underlying concerns about fairness and impartiality in police practices. Procedural justice can be challenging to maintain consistently across diverse groups, as perceptions of fair treatment may vary depending on context and individual experiences (Nix *et al.*, 2015). Lower scores in procedural justice suggest that some residents seek greater transparency and equitable treatment, which are critical to sustaining trust in law enforcement (Jones *et al.*, 2021).

The research underscores that a substantial public perception of law enforcement is essential for maintaining community trust and encouraging cooperative engagement. At the same time, procedural justice remains a key factor for ensuring the perceived legitimacy and fairness of policing practices (Kruis *et al.*, 2023).

Level of Public Participation among Davaoenos

Shown in Table 3 is the Level of Public Participation among Davaoenos. The table illustrates the mean scores and standard deviations (SD) for different aspects of public involvement in law enforcement activities in Davao City. The table shows that Criminal Investigation has the highest mean of 4.37 (SD = 0.67), while Other Factors Participation has the lowest mean of 1.73 (SD = 0.80).

The high mean score for Criminal Investigation in Davao City suggests a strong willingness among residents to participate in investigative efforts, likely influenced by a sense of civic duty and trust in law enforcement. It reflects successful engagement initiatives where citizens

feel valued and see their participation as effective in supporting community safety. Research indicates that public cooperation with law enforcement tends to increase following serious crimes, such as homicides, as communities with strong ties to law enforcement are more likely to assist in crime-solving efforts (Brantingham & Uchida, 2021). It suggests that fostering trust and maintaining positive relationships between law enforcement and the public can enhance investigative processes and bolster community solidarity.

Table 3: Level of Public Participation among Davaoenos

Public Participation	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Criminal Investigation	4.37	0.67	Very High
Usefulness of Investigative Actions	4.12	0.71	High
Cooperation	4.15	0.69	High
Assistance	4.01	0.77	High
Other Factors For Participations	1.73	0.80	Very Low
Overall Mean	3.68	0.57	High

Conversely, the lower mean score for Other Factors of Participation suggests that activities outside formal investigative support, which may require more time or resources, are less appealing. It aligns with findings that indirect forms of participation—such as community-based interventions—often need more awareness and incentives to gain wider involvement (Friend *et al.*, 2020). The financial cost, time, and potential risks are among the barriers that limit participation in less structured activities, which may be perceived as less impactful or essential to immediate safety needs (Obeid, 2024).

Research indicates that public involvement in criminal investigations fosters more substantial relationships with law enforcement and enhances communal trust, creating a shared responsibility for public safety (Holder & Englezos, 2023). However, participation in less formalized roles often requires strategic engagement to increase perceived relevance and promote a holistic approach to community safety.

Significant Relationship between Law Enforcement Policies and Community Participation

Table 4 shows the significant relationship between law enforcement policies and community participation. Using Pearson *r* Correlations, it reveals that all indicators of law enforcement policies, including Community Involvement, Safety, Procedural Justice, Performance, and Contact and Satisfaction, have significant positive relationships with various aspects of community participation, such as Criminal Investigation, Usefulness of Investigative Actions, Cooperation, Assistance, and Other Factors. Further, it can be observed in the table that all the Pearson *r*-coefficients are positive, which implies that a

high perception of law enforcement policies will result in high community participation.

Table 4: Significant Relationship between Law Enforcement Policies and Community Participation

	Criminal Investigation	Usefulness of Investigative Actions	Cooperation	Assistance	Other Factors	Public Participation
Community Involvement	.370**	.474**	.465**	.387**	.285**	.504**
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Safety	.297**	.459**	.475**	.391**	.259**	.479**
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Procedural Justice	.362**	.498**	.561**	.411**	.355**	.558**
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Performance	.426**	.553**	.609**	.414**	.406**	.613**
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Contact and Satisfaction	.469**	.587**	.509**	.430**	.370**	.601**
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Law Enforcement Policies	.477**	.637**	.650**	.504**	.416**	.683**
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

This significant relationship suggests that well-implemented law enforcement policies promote community engagement, as individuals are more likely to participate when they perceive law enforcement as fair, safe, and effective. High community involvement stems from the belief that participation has a meaningful impact on crime prevention, fostering a collaborative atmosphere. Recent research has highlighted that public satisfaction and trust in law enforcement significantly enhance community willingness to engage in safety initiatives. Studies show that citizens' cooperation with police improves when police efficacy and trust-building practices are prioritized. In Guatemala, citizen cooperation increased by 55% with greater police efficacy and neighborhood trust, illustrating that effective policing reinforces public willingness to engage in community safety (Denny *et al.*, 2022). Positive, non-enforcement contact through community policing also builds trust. It enhances police legitimacy, as shown in a randomized field experiment in New Haven, where residents' willingness to cooperate with police improved after just one instance of positive interaction (Peyton *et al.*, 2019).

In contrast, findings from the Global South indicate that community policing alone may not sufficiently enhance trust or reduce crime, as structural challenges

like inconsistent policy implementation hinder long-term trust-building. These findings imply that while community policing can foster cooperation, deeper reforms may be needed to establish lasting public trust and safety (Blair *et al.*, 2021). Furthermore, fair and procedurally just policing has been linked to higher cooperation, particularly among immigrant communities, with procedural justice shown to improve trust even among traditionally less trusting populations, such as younger immigrants (Murphy & Mazerolle, 2018).

Significant Relationship between Societal Attitudes and Community Participation

Table 5 shows the significant relationship between societal attitudes and community participation. This table demonstrates that all indicators of societal attitudes—including Service Quality, Procedural Justice, Legitimacy, and Public Perception—have significant positive relationships with various forms of community participation, such as Criminal Investigation, Usefulness of Investigative Actions, Cooperation, Assistance, and Other Factors. Further, it can be observed in the table that all the Pearson r-coefficients are positive, which implies that a high perception of societal attitude will result in high community participation.

Table 5: Significant Relationship between Societal Attitudes and Community Participation

	Criminal Investigation	Usefulness of Investigative Actions	Cooperation	Assistance	Other Factors	Public Participation
Service Quality	.534**	.601**	.739**	.543**	.397**	.715**
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Procedural Justice	.450**	.556**	.654**	.493**	.360**	.639**
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Legitimacy	.485**	.525**	.714**	.512**	.338**	.653**
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Perception	.523**	.583**	.759**	.546**	.379**	.708**
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Societal Attitude	.531**	.605**	.764**	.559**	.393**	.724**
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

This relationship is evident in recent studies that highlight the role of societal attitudes in fostering active involvement. For instance, positive attitudes towards sustainable development have enhanced community participation, subsequently encouraging environmentally responsible behaviors among residents. It underscores how shared values and positive perceptions within a community can stimulate greater engagement (Cheng *et al.*, 2019). Additionally, research among migrant communities reveals that community participation increases socio-political control and fosters a stronger sense of agency, often mediated by ethnic identity. It suggests that positive societal attitudes towards inclusivity and empowerment drive individuals to engage actively in their communities (Martinez-Damia *et al.*, 2023).

Community participation has also been found to be a critical predictor of pro-environmental behavior in protected areas. This relationship implies that societal attitudes supportive of environmental stewardship can motivate local involvement, aligning personal actions with broader community goals (Zhang *et al.*, 2020). Furthermore, studies show that high levels of trust within communities enhance the quality and depth of participation, as trust fosters confidence in collective development efforts and increases engagement (Hirai, 2020). Finally, a sense of community responsibility, coupled with prosocial tendencies, strengthens participation levels, indicating that attitudes emphasizing

mutual support and collective responsibility are vital in promoting active community involvement (Deng *et al.*, 2022).

Empirical Analysis of Public Participation as Predicted by Indicators of Law Enforcement Policies

Table 6 shows the empirical analysis of public participation as predicted by indicators of law enforcement policies. Using Multiple Linear Regression Analysis reveals that Community Involvement, Performance, Contact, and Satisfaction significantly predict public participation, as indicated by their significant p-values ($p < 0.05$) and positive beta coefficients. These indicators are crucial in motivating individuals to engage actively in community safety efforts. Further, the data shows that about 48.80% of community participation in investigation can be explained by the perceived law enforcement policies.

Community involvement is significant as it reflects residents' trust and openness toward law enforcement, which directly impacts their willingness to participate. High performance in law enforcement reinforces public confidence, leading people to view their contributions as meaningful and impactful in crime prevention. Similarly, positive experiences in contact and satisfaction with law enforcement foster a sense of support and validation, encouraging community members to engage in cooperative efforts.

Table 6: Empirical Analysis of Public Participation as Predicted by Indicators of Law Enforcement Policies

	B	SE	Beta	t	p-value
(Constant)	1.455	0.168		8.674	0.000
Community Involvement	0.121	0.041	0.152	2.921	0.004
Safety	0.061	0.044	0.074	1.372	0.171
Procedural Justice	0.02	0.049	0.027	0.399	0.690
Performance	0.232	0.048	0.307	4.833	0.000
Contact and Satisfaction	0.231	0.046	0.288	5.041	0.000

$R^2 = 0.488$, $F\text{-value} = 57.593$, $p\text{-value} = 0.00$

Literature suggests that public participation in law enforcement activities, particularly in community involvement, performance, and contact satisfaction, significantly fosters community engagement. Positive police performance is linked to higher perceptions of agency trustworthiness, which enhances citizen willingness to participate in safety initiatives like neighborhood watch programs (Porumbescu *et al.*, 2019). Research also

shows that consistent and meaningful police interactions that focus on problem-solving foster community trust, with higher job satisfaction among officers engaging in community-oriented policing, reinforcing their roles as supportive figures within the community (Sytsma & Piza, 2018). Furthermore, citizen satisfaction with police services can lead to greater buy-in for addressing criminal and non-criminal issues, as citizens are more inclined to

support law enforcement initiatives when they feel their voices are valued (Merenda *et al.*, 2020). These findings support that public engagement, reinforced by trust and positive experiences with law enforcement, encourages a shared responsibility for community safety.

Empirical Analysis of Public Participation as Predicted by Indicators of Societal Attitudes

Table 7 shows the Empirical Analysis of Public Participation as Predicted by Indicators of Societal Attitudes. Using Multiple Linear Regression Analysis shows that Service Quality and Public Perception are significant predictors of public participation, with both achieving significance at a p-value less than 0.05. It

indicates that how the public perceives the quality of services provided by law enforcement and the general public perception of law enforcement strongly influences their willingness to participate in community safety efforts.

High service quality builds trust, as citizens are more likely to engage in public participation when they feel law enforcement services are effective, professional, and responsive to their needs. Positive public perception enhances the public’s belief that their involvement is worthwhile, leading to more substantial community support and cooperation. These factors reinforce a sense of safety and legitimacy, motivating individuals to contribute actively to community policing initiatives.

Table 7: Empirical Analysis of Public Participation as Predicted by Indicators of Societal Attitudes

	B	SE	Beta	t	p-value
(Constant)	1.597	0.134		11.9	0.00
Service Quality	0.332	0.066	0.409	5.026	0.00
Procedural Justice	-0.006	0.057	-0.009	-0.115	0.91
Legitimacy	0.007	0.067	0.009	0.103	0.92
Public Perception	0.289	0.071	0.365	4.072	0.00
Contact and Satisfaction	0.231	0.046	0.288	5.041	0.000

$R^2 = 0.551, F\text{-value} = 92.847, p\text{-value} = 0.00$

Recent studies affirm that public perception and service quality are crucial predictors of public participation in community initiatives, including safety programs. Research indicates that service quality directly impacts public satisfaction and motivates active involvement by reinforcing trust in government services. For instance, improving perceived service quality and aligning it with public expectations in community regeneration programs have enhanced public satisfaction and trust, increasing community involvement (Sun *et al.*, 2022). Additionally, studies show that public perception, shaped by transparent and responsive service, contributes to the public’s confidence and willingness to engage in communal efforts. As observed in the transport and housing sectors, perceived quality and safety contribute to higher participation and satisfaction levels among residents, further encouraging their participation in maintaining and supporting these services (Mardiyanto, 2018). This evidence underscores that high service quality and positive public perception build a foundation of trust and legitimacy, motivating the public to participate in initiatives that promote community welfare.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the researchers answer the following research objectives:

1. The level of law enforcement policies in Davao City is high.
2. The level of societal attitude among Davaoenos is high.

3. The level of community participation among Davaoenos is high.

4. There is a significant relationship between law enforcement policies and community participation.

5. There is a significant relationship between societal attitudes and community participation.

6. Community Involvement, Performance, Contact, and Satisfaction significantly predict public participation, as indicated by their significant p-values ($p < 0.05$) and positive beta coefficients.

7. Service Quality and Public Perception are significant predictors of public participation, achieving significance at a p-value less than 0.05.

Based on the findings, it is recommended that law enforcement agencies in Davao City continue to enhance community involvement, service quality, and public perception to foster greater public participation in safety initiatives. Emphasizing transparent, fair, and effective service delivery can build trust and encourage community members to cooperate with law enforcement actively. Training programs focused on procedural justice and positive interaction with the public could further improve perceptions of legitimacy and service quality. Additionally, consistent community outreach and satisfaction feedback mechanisms should be implemented to ensure that law enforcement is responsive to community needs, thus reinforcing a collaborative environment for crime prevention and safety. Regular assessment of these factors will help sustain a mutually beneficial relationship between the community and law enforcement.

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