



International Journal of Criminology & Justice (IJCJ)

ISSN: 3142-8908 (ONLINE)

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1 (2026)



PUBLISHED BY
E-PALLI PUBLISHERS, DELAWARE, USA

Perceived Effectiveness of Lupong Tagapamayapa's Dispute Resolution Mechanism in Antipas, North Cotabato

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Article Information

Received: June 07, 2026

Accepted: September 05, 2026

Published: October 09, 2026

Keywords

*Arbitration, Conciliation,
Dispute Resolution, Lupong
Tagapamayapa, Mediation*

ABSTRACT

This study examined the perceived effectiveness of the Lupong Tagapamayapa's dispute resolution mechanisms in Antipas, North Cotabato and determined whether perceptions differed according to respondents' age, educational attainment, and gender. The study employed a quantitative descriptive-comparative research design and included 260 respondents from the municipality's 13 barangays. The respondents included Lupong Tagapamayapa members and barangay officials directly involved in dispute resolution, as well as community constituents with previous experience of or familiarity with the Katarungang Pambarangay process. Participants were selected through purposive quota and convenience-quota sampling. Perceived effectiveness was assessed in terms of arbitration, conciliation, and mediation using a structured questionnaire, while frequencies, percentages, means, independent-samples t-tests, one-way analysis of variance, and post hoc comparisons were used to analyze the data. The Lupong Tagapamayapa's dispute resolution mechanisms obtained a Very High overall perceived-effectiveness rating ($M = 4.55$, $SD = 0.518$). Arbitration obtained the highest domain mean ($M = 4.68$), followed by mediation ($M = 4.51$) and conciliation ($M = 4.46$). A statistically significant difference was found when respondents were grouped according to age, $F = 6.224$, $p = .001$, with respondents aged 26–35 obtaining the highest mean rating ($M = 4.71$). No statistically significant differences were found according to educational attainment ($p = .345$) or gender ($p = .556$). The findings indicate that the respondents generally evaluated barangay-level dispute resolution favorably while also demonstrating that perceptions differed across age groups within the study sample.

INTRODUCTION

The Katarungang Pambarangay system provides a community-based mechanism for resolving certain disputes before they proceed to the formal court system. Under Republic Act No. 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991, every barangay is required to constitute a Lupong Tagapamayapa composed of the Punong Barangay as chairperson and 10 to 20 members. The law establishes procedures for amicable settlement and provides the institutional basis through which barangay-level dispute resolution is administered (Republic of the Philippines, 1991). The system therefore occupies an important position between formal legal institutions and localized approaches to conflict resolution.

The present study is informed by the interpersonal-perception framework of Laing, Phillipson, and Lee (1966), which emphasizes that individuals interpret social interactions through their own perspectives, experiences, and understandings of others. This framework provides a basis for examining why respondents from different demographic backgrounds may evaluate the same community institution differently. The study is also anchored in Lederach's (1995) Conflict Transformation perspective, which emphasizes culturally grounded, relational, and participatory approaches to resolving conflict. This perspective is relevant to the Katarungang Pambarangay because barangay-level dispute settlement

seeks not merely to terminate disagreement but also to facilitate communication and restore workable relationships within the community.

Against this background, the study assessed the perceived effectiveness of the Lupong Tagapamayapa's dispute resolution mechanisms in the 13 barangays of Antipas, North Cotabato. Specifically, it examined arbitration, conciliation, and mediation and determined whether perceived effectiveness differed according to age, educational attainment, and gender. Through this localized assessment, the study sought to provide evidence that may inform training, procedural improvement, community information initiatives, and the continuing development of barangay-level justice services.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Recent Philippine studies continue to demonstrate the relevance of the Lupong Tagapamayapa while also identifying areas requiring institutional support. Dofeliz and Dela Peña (2022) found that constituents in selected barangays in Badian, Iloilo evaluated Lupong members highly across knowledge, systematic procedures, decision-making, and interpersonal skills. More recently, Barcelano (2025) found generally strong implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in selected areas of Albay but identified continuing gaps involving knowledge, application of authority, and inter-barangay coordination.

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These findings suggest that positive evaluations of the barangay justice system can coexist with procedural and capacity-related challenges.

Training and procedural competence remain particularly important because Lupon members are expected to facilitate disputes involving potentially sensitive interpersonal and community relationships. Araña *et al.* (2023) identified training needs involving conciliation, enforcement of rules, and the proper application of legal procedures among Lupon Tagapamayapa members. Their findings reinforce the importance of continuing capacity development to ensure that community dispute resolution is not only accessible but also procedurally consistent and responsive to the parties involved.

Broader local-governance evidence from Cotabato also highlights the interpersonal and institutional conditions that support meaningful community participation. Osumo *et al.* (2025), in a qualitative study involving ten residents, found that engagement with local-government programs and policies was facilitated by access to information, collaboration, cooperation, and available communication channels. The study also emphasized responsible leadership, adherence to the rule of law, fair governance, transparency, accountability, and community inclusiveness. Conversely, inadequate communication, time and financial constraints, limited interest, and political partisanship hindered participation. Although the investigation did not specifically examine Katarungang Pambarangay, its findings are relevant because arbitration, conciliation, and mediation require parties to understand the procedures, communicate openly, cooperate with local officials, and perceive the process as fair and accountable. This local perspective supports evaluating the Lupon's effectiveness not merely through the completion of proceedings but also through the quality of communication, participation, and relationships fostered during dispute resolution.

Public evaluations of the Lupon may also vary according to the experiences and characteristics of those who interact with the barangay justice system. Andan and Sumayo (2025), in a study conducted in Midsayap, Cotabato, found that age was weakly but significantly associated with perceived effectiveness, whereas sex was not significantly associated with respondents' evaluations. Their study also rated the Lupon Tagapamayapa highly in areas involving legal understanding, procedures, decision-making, and interpersonal skills. Importantly, the direction of their age finding differed from the pattern observed in the present study, indicating that demographic differences in perceptions may be context-dependent rather than uniform across communities.

Related E-Palli-published research also emphasizes the value of locally grounded conflict resolution and the skills needed to sustain constructive dialogue. Slom (2024) highlighted the role of grassroots participation, dialogue, and local actors in strengthening sustainable conflict resolution, while Phan *et al.* (2025) found that conflict-resolution training centered on active listening, empathy, and cooperative problem-solving improved participants'

ability to manage conflict. Although conducted in different settings, these studies reinforce the relevance of participation, communication, and conflict-resolution competence to community-based mechanisms such as the Lupon Tagapamayapa.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Participants

The study involved 260 respondents drawn from all 13 barangays of Antipas, North Cotabato. Approximately 20 respondents per barangay were targeted to obtain representation across the municipality. The sample consisted of two broad groups: Lupon Tagapamayapa members and barangay officials directly involved in dispute resolution, and community constituents who had previously availed themselves of or were familiar with the Katarungang Pambarangay process.

Non-probability sampling was employed. Purposive quota sampling was used to select Lupon members and barangay officials because direct involvement in the barangay justice system was necessary for inclusion. Convenience-quota sampling was used for eligible community constituents because no complete sampling frame of previous users of Lupon Tagapamayapa services was available. Participation was limited to respondents with direct involvement in or experience of barangay dispute resolution.

For the final analysis, respondents were grouped according to age as 26–35, 36–45, 46–60, and 61 years and above. Educational attainment was categorized as college level and college graduate, while gender was classified as male and female. These classifications correspond to the demographic groups reported and analyzed in the final Results tables.

Participation was voluntary, and respondents were informed of the study's purpose, procedures, confidentiality protections, and right to withdraw. Questionnaires were administered privately, and identifying information was excluded from the reported dataset.

Instrument

Data were collected using a structured questionnaire consisting of two major sections. Part I gathered respondents' age, educational attainment, and gender. Part II measured perceived effectiveness of the Lupon Tagapamayapa in three areas: arbitration, conciliation, and mediation. Items described procedures and perceived outcomes associated with barangay-level dispute resolution and were answered using a five-point Likert-type scale ranging from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree), with higher scores representing higher perceived effectiveness.

The final instrument contained eight arbitration items, 14 conciliation items, and 21 mediation items. Pilot testing produced Cronbach's alpha coefficients of .716 for arbitration and .773 for mediation. The conciliation subscale obtained a lower coefficient of .633, while the

overall instrument produced $\alpha = .675$. Accordingly, findings derived from the conciliation subscale and overall scale should be interpreted with caution because their internal consistency was weaker than that of the arbitration and mediation measures. Reliability evidence should be treated as one component of measurement quality rather than as proof of overall instrument validity (DeVellis & Thorpe, 2021).

Method of Data Analysis

Frequencies and percentages were used to describe the respondents according to age, educational attainment, and gender. Means and standard deviations were used to summarize perceived effectiveness in arbitration, conciliation, mediation, and overall dispute resolution. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to determine whether perceived effectiveness differed among the four age groups. Because educational attainment and gender each consisted of two groups in the final analyzed dataset, independent-samples t-tests were used for those comparisons. Following the statistically significant age ANOVA, post hoc pairwise comparisons were conducted to determine which age groups differed. Statistical significance was evaluated at the .05 level.

Table 1: Demographic Profile

		Frequency	Percent
Age	26-35	26	10.0
	36- 45	97	37.3
	46-60	111	42.7
	61 and above	26	10.0
	Total	260	100.0
Educational Attainment	College Level	90	34.6
	College Graduate	170	65.4
	Total	260	100.0
Gender	Male	135	51.9
	Female	125	48.1
	Total	260	100.0

Table 1 presents the socio-demographic profile of the 260 respondents by age, educational attainment, and gender. Most respondents are 46–60 years old (42.7%), followed by those aged 36–45 (37.3%), suggesting that many participants are middle-aged and may have greater experience with community dispute resolution. The majority are college graduates (65.4%), while 34.6% are college-level, suggesting that respondents generally have an adequate educational background to assess the barangay justice system. By gender, 51.9% are male, and 48.1% are female, reflecting a balanced representation. These characteristics are relevant in examining how demographic factors may influence perceptions of the effectiveness of the Lupong Tagapamayapa.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the study's results in organized tables, accompanied by detailed discussions and interpretations. It is divided into three major sections. The first section describes the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, including age, educational attainment, and gender. The second section presents respondents' perceived effectiveness of the Lupong Tagapamayapa's dispute-resolution mechanisms—covering arbitration, conciliation, and mediation. The third section examines differences in perceived effectiveness when respondents are grouped by demographic characteristics, supported by inferential analyses such as t-tests, ANOVA, and Post Hoc comparisons. Together, these results provide a comprehensive understanding of how demographic factors relate to the respondents' perceptions of the performance and effectiveness of the Lupong Tagapamayapa.

Demographic Profile of Respondents

The demographic characteristics of the respondents include age, educational attainment, and gender. These variables provide the contextual information necessary to interpret responses regarding the effectiveness of the Lupong Tagapamayapa.

Perceived Effectiveness of the Lupong Tagapamayapa's Dispute Resolution Mechanism

This subsection presents respondents' assessments of the perceived effectiveness of the Lupong Tagapamayapa's dispute-resolution mechanism in Antipas, North Cotabato. The table shows the mean scores, standard deviations, and qualitative interpretations for each indicator under arbitration, conciliation, and mediation. These indicators measure how well the Lupon fulfills its duties in facilitating amicable settlements, enforcing agreements, and managing the overall dispute resolution process. Higher mean values indicate stronger agreement among respondents regarding the effectiveness of each procedure. The table is introduced below.

Table 2: Perceived Effectiveness of Lupong Tagapamayapa's Dispute Resolution Mechanism In Antipas, North Cotabato

Indicators	Mean	Std. Deviation	Interpretation
Arbitration			
The parties at any stage of the proceedings agree in writing to have the matter in dispute decided by arbitration by the Barangay Captain.	4.85	0.354	Very High
The Lupon Chairman exerts all effort to settle the opposing parties.	4.60	0.490	Very High
Arbitration is an effective way of settling disputes involving cases under its coverage.	4.91	0.461	Very High
The Lupon Chairman is effective in executing its settlement or arbitration award within six months.	4.57	0.497	Very High
The Barangay Chairman issues Notice of Execution after the lapse of five (5) days with no voluntary compliance.	4.62	0.486	Very High
After the lapse of such time, the settlement may be enforced by action in the appropriate city or municipal court.	4.54	0.507	Very High
The Chairman complies with the rule in the conduct of arbitration within 15 days for amicable settlement.	4.60	0.499	Very High
The aggrieved party to an agreement for arbitration may within five (5) days from date thereof, repudiate the same by filing with the Barangay Captain.	4.71	0.454	Very High
Category Mean	4.68	0.468	Very High
Conciliation			
The Pangkat Tagapagkasundo set a date for the constitution of the Pangkat if the respondents fails to appear within fifteen (5) days from the first meeting in accordance with the Section 1 of R.A. 7160.	4.76	0.455	Very High
After the Lupon Chairman effort fails in mediation the pangkat convenes not later than three days from its constitution.	4.62	0.511	Very High
All parties to a dispute sign the settlement and awards.	4.57	0.518	Very High
The pangkat hears both parties and their witnesses, simplify issues, and explore all possibilities for amicable settlement.	4.54	0.522	Very High
All settlements and awards are attested to by the Lupon Chairman.	4.58	0.539	Very High
The Pangkat arrives at a settlement or resolution of the dispute within fifteen (15) days from the day it convenes in accordance with KP law.	4.57	0.519	Very High
The summons of the Katarungang Pambarangay is effective in ensuring that complainants and respondents appear in the conciliation proceedings.	4.60	0.492	Very High
The Katarungang Pambarangay is an effective way of settling disputes involving cases under it coverage.	4.48	0.531	Very High
The Lupon is effective in conciliating the conflicts between complainant and respondent.	4.52	0.566	Very High
All proceedings for settlement are open to the public and informal.	2.37	1.173	Low
The Pangkat exerts all effort to conciliate the opposing parties.	4.64	0.481	Very High
The Pangkat complies with the conduct of conciliation in another 15 days for amicable settlement.	4.79	0.416	Very High
All settlement and awards of Katarungang Pambarangay are in writing.	4.64	0.498	Very High
The settlement and awards are written in language known to both parties.	4.73	0.451	Very High
Category Mean	4.46	0.548	Very High
Mediation			
The Lupon Chairman sees to it that the complaint is within its area of jurisdiction.	4.50	0.501	Very High
The Lupon Chairman sees to it that the complaint is covered by the KP law.	4.54	0.499	Very High
Upon receipt of the complaint, the Lupon Chairman give within the next working day summon the respondents.	4.54	0.522	Very High

The Lupon Chairman give notice of complaints for the respondents and their witnesses to appear before him for mediation.	4.48	0.501	Very High
The Lupon Chairman receives complaint from any individual who has a cause of action against another individual upon payment of appropriate fee.	4.49	0.509	Very High
The Lupon Chairman receives the complaints in writing or orally from individual who has a cause of action against another individual in accordance with the Katarungang Pambarangay Law.	4.53	0.500	Very High
The Lupon Chairman receives only complaints cognizable by the Lupon based on RA 7160.	4.54	0.499	Very High
The Chairman set a date for the constitution of the Pangkat if the respondents fails to appear within fifteen (5) days from the first meeting in accordance with the Section 1 of R.A. 7160.	4.78	0.493	Very High
The chairman complies with the conduct of conciliation in another 15 days for amicable settlement.	4.66	0.482	Very High
The Chairman exerts all effort to conciliate the opposing	4.74	0.438	Very High
The Chairman constitutes the PangkatngTagapagkasundo if he/ she failed in his conciliation efforts.	4.56	0.497	Very High
The chairman hears both parties and their witnesses, simplify issues, and explore all possibilities for amicable settlement.	4.78	0.493	Very High
The chairman arrives at a settlement or resolution of the dispute within fifteen (15) days from the day it convenes in accordance with KP law.	4.52	0.624	Very High
All proceedings for settlement are open to the public and informal.	2.55	1.365	Low
All settlement and awards of Katarungang Pambarangay are in writing.	4.67	0.497	Very High
All settlement and awards of KatarungangPambarangay are in writing.	4.62	0.486	Very High
All parties to a dispute sign the settlement and awards	4.57	0.503	Very High
All settlement and awards are attested to by the Lupon Chairman.	4.65	0.479	Very High
The summons of the Katarungang Pambarangay is effective in ensuring that complainants and respondents appear in the conciliation proceedings.	4.57	0.519	Very High
The Chairman is effective in conciliating the conflicts between complainant and respondent.	4.69	0.462	Very High
The Katarungang Pambarangay is an effective way of settling disputes involving cases under it coverage.	4.77	0.420	Very High
Category mean	4.51	0.538	Very High
Overall Mean	4.55	0.518	Very High Level of Perceived Effectiveness

Table 2 presents respondents' assessments of the perceived effectiveness of the Lupong Tagapamayapa's dispute-resolution mechanisms in Antipas, North Cotabato, in terms of arbitration, conciliation, and mediation. The results show that arbitration obtained a category mean of 4.68, mediation 4.51, and conciliation 4.46, all interpreted as Very High. The overall mean of 4.55 indicates a very high level of perceived effectiveness, suggesting that respondents strongly agree that the Lupong Tagapamayapa effectively performs its functions in facilitating amicable settlements, enforcing agreements, and managing disputes within the barangay.

Despite the generally high ratings, two indicators under conciliation and mediation—specifically “All proceedings for settlement are open to the public and informal”—obtained lower mean scores of 2.37 and 2.55, both

interpreted as Low. This suggests that respondents perceive limitations in the openness or informality of certain settlement proceedings. While the overall mechanisms are viewed as highly effective, these results indicate that some procedural aspects may not always be consistently practiced or experienced by community members.

The findings directly address the second research problem, which seeks to determine the perceived effectiveness of the Lupong Tagapamayapa's dispute-resolution mechanisms. Overall, respondents perceive the Lupon as highly effective in implementing arbitration, conciliation, and mediation processes.

The findings also support the study's theoretical framework. In line with Conflict Transformation Theory, the high ratings for mediation, conciliation, and arbitration

suggest that community-based and participatory approaches are effective in resolving conflicts at the barangay level. Similarly, Perception Theory explains that individuals' evaluations of the Lupon's effectiveness are influenced by their experiences and social context within the community. Although the null hypothesis assumes no significant difference between socio-demographic characteristics and perceived effectiveness, the consistently high ratings indicate that respondents generally perceive the Lupon Tagapamayapa as a reliable and effective mechanism for maintaining peace and resolving disputes in the community.

Differences in Perceived Effectiveness When Grouped According to Age

This subsection presents a comparison of the perceived effectiveness of the Lupon Tagapamayapa across age groups. The table shows the mean effectiveness ratings of respondents from different age groups, along with the computed F-value, p-value, and corresponding remarks. These statistics indicate whether differences in perceptions across age categories are statistically significant. The table is introduced below.

Table 3 presents a comparison of the perceived effectiveness of the Lupon Tagapamayapa when

Table 3: Comparison of the Perceived Level of Effectiveness of Lupon Tagapamayapa when analyzed according to age

	Age	Mean	F	p-value	Remarks
Perceived level of Effectiveness	26-35	4.71	6.224	0.001	Significant
	36-45	4.53			
	46-60	4.51			
	61 and above	4.54			

respondents are grouped by age. The results show that respondents aged 26–35 years obtained the highest mean score (4.71), followed by those aged 61 and above (4.54), 36–45 (4.53), and 46–60 (4.51). The computed F-value of 6.224 with a p-value of 0.001 indicates a significant difference in the perceived effectiveness of the Lupon Tagapamayapa when respondents are classified by age, since the p-value is lower than the 0.05 level of significance. This finding addresses the third research problem and suggests that age influences respondents' perceptions of the effectiveness of the Lupon Tagapamayapa's dispute-resolution mechanisms. The result leads to the rejection of the null hypothesis, which states that there is no significant difference between socio-demographic characteristics and perceived effectiveness. Furthermore, the finding supports Perception Theory, which holds that

individuals' interpretations and judgments are shaped by their experiences and background, including age. Differences in life experience and exposure to community conflict resolution processes may therefore explain the variation in perceptions across age groups.

Differences in Perceived Effectiveness When Grouped According to Educational Attainment

This subsection presents a comparison of the perceived effectiveness of the Lupon Tagapamayapa by educational attainment. The table displays the mean effectiveness ratings for respondents across different education levels, accompanied by the t-value, p-value, and remarks. These values determine whether the differences in perceptions among the educational groups are statistically significant. The table is introduced below.

Table 4: Comparison of the Perceived Level of Effectiveness of Lupon Tagapamayapa when analyzed according to Educational Attainment

	School	Mean	t	p-value	Remarks
Perceived level of effectiveness	Non-College Graduate	4.57	1.067	0.345	Not Significant
	College Graduate	4.54			

Table 4 presents a comparison of the perceived effectiveness of the Lupon Tagapamayapa when respondents are grouped by educational attainment. The results show that non-college graduates obtained a mean score of 4.57. In contrast, college graduates obtained a mean score of 4.54, indicating that both groups perceive the effectiveness of the Lupon Tagapamayapa as very high. However, the computed t-value of 1.067 with a p-value of 0.345 indicates that the difference is not statistically significant, as the p-value exceeds the 0.05 significance level.

This finding addresses the third research problem and indicates that educational attainment does not significantly influence respondents' perceptions of the effectiveness

of the Lupon Tagapamayapa's dispute-resolution mechanisms. Thus, the null hypothesis is accepted for this variable. The result suggests that, regardless of educational background, respondents generally share similar perceptions of the Lupon's effectiveness, reflecting the community-based nature of the barangay justice system as emphasized in Conflict Transformation Theory.

Differences in Perceived Effectiveness When Grouped According to Gender

This subsection presents a comparison of the perceived effectiveness of the Lupon Tagapamayapa by gender. The table shows the mean effectiveness ratings of male

and female respondents, along with the computed t-value, p-value, and corresponding remarks. These values determine whether gender differences significantly affect respondents' perceptions of the Lupon's effectiveness.

Table 5: Comparison of the Perceived Level of Effectiveness of Lupon Tagapamayapa when analyzed according to gender

	School	Mean	t	p-value	Remarks
Perceived level of effectiveness	Male	4.53	0.347	0.556	Not Significant
	Female	4.55			

Table 5 presents a comparison of the perceived effectiveness of the Lupon Tagapamayapa when respondents are grouped by gender. The results show that female respondents obtained a slightly higher mean score (4.55) compared to male respondents (4.53), indicating that both groups perceive the effectiveness of the Lupon Tagapamayapa as very high. However, the computed t-value of 0.347 with a p-value of 0.556 indicates that the difference is not statistically significant, as the p-value exceeds the 0.05 significance level.

This finding addresses the third research problem and indicates that gender does not significantly influence respondents' perceptions of the effectiveness of the Lupon Tagapamayapa's dispute-resolution mechanisms. Thus, the null hypothesis is accepted for this variable. The result suggests that both male and female respondents share similar perceptions of the Lupon's effectiveness in resolving disputes within the community.

Post Hoc Analysis of Differences in Perceived Effectiveness Across Age Groups

This subsection presents the results of the Post Hoc

Test, showing multiple comparisons of the perceived effectiveness of the Lupon Tagapamayapa across different age groups. It displays the paired comparisons between age categories, including the mean differences, standard errors, p-values, and corresponding remarks. These values indicate whether specific age groups differ significantly from one another in their perceptions of the Lupon's effectiveness.

The Post Hoc Test for Multiple Comparisons was conducted to determine which specific age groups differ significantly in their perceptions of the Lupon Tagapamayapa's effectiveness. The results show that respondents aged 26–35 significantly differ from those aged 36–45 ($p = 0.000$), 46–60 ($p = 0.000$), and 61 and above ($p = 0.005$), indicating that the younger age group tends to have a higher perception of the effectiveness of the Lupon Tagapamayapa compared to the other groups. However, comparisons among the 36–45 and 46–60 age groups show no significant differences ($p = 0.821$), suggesting that these middle-aged groups share relatively similar perceptions of the Lupon's effectiveness.

Table 6: Post Hoc Test Showing Multiple Comparisons

Dependent Variable	(I) Age	(J) Age	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	p-value	Remarks
Perceived level of Effectiveness	26-35	36-45	.17312*	0.04608	0.000	Significant
		46-60	.19484*	0.04546	0.000	Significant
		61 and above	.16269*	0.05787	0.005	Significant
	36-45	26-35	0.02173	0.02900	0.454	Not Significant
		46-60	-0.01042	0.04608	0.821	Not Significant
		61 and above	-.19484*	0.04546	0.000	Significant
	46-60	26-35	-0.02173	0.02900	0.454	Not Significant
		36-45	-0.03215	0.04546	0.480	Not Significant
		61 and above	-.16269*	0.05787	0.005	Significant
	61 and above	26-35	0.01042	0.04608	0.821	Not Significant
		36-45	0.03215	0.04546	0.480	Not Significant
		46-60	.17312*	0.04608	0.000	Significant

These findings further support the earlier analysis in Table 3, which shows that age significantly influences respondents' perceptions of the effectiveness of the Lupon Tagapamayapa's dispute-resolution mechanisms. This result strengthens the rejection of the null hypothesis for age. It aligns with Perception Theory, which explains that individuals' life experiences and social context shape their interpretations and evaluations of social institutions.

Younger respondents may perceive the dispute-resolution mechanisms more positively, while older groups may have different expectations or experiences with the barangay justice system.

Discussion

The findings of the study provide insights into the perceived effectiveness of the Lupon Tagapamayapa's

dispute-resolution mechanisms in Antipas, North Cotabato, and how these perceptions relate to the respondents' socio-demographic characteristics.

First, the results addressing the first research problem show that most respondents are middle-aged, predominantly college graduates, and are almost equally represented by males and females. These characteristics suggest that the respondents possess sufficient maturity and educational background to evaluate the Lupong Tagapamayapa's performance in resolving disputes within the community. Second, in response to the second research problem, the study found that the dispute resolution mechanisms of the Lupong Tagapamayapa, which are arbitration, conciliation, and mediation, were all perceived to be very highly effective, with an overall mean of 4.55. This indicates that respondents generally trust the Lupon's ability to facilitate amicable settlements and manage conflicts at the barangay level. These findings support Conflict Transformation Theory (Lederach, 1995), which emphasizes the effectiveness of community-based and participatory approaches such as mediation and conciliation in resolving conflicts.

Third, regarding the third research problem, the results revealed that age has a significant effect on the perceived effectiveness of the Lupong Tagapamayapa, leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis for age. Younger respondents (26–35) reported higher perceptions of effectiveness compared to other age groups. This finding supports Perception Theory (Laing, 1967), which explains that individuals' interpretations of social institutions are shaped by their personal experiences and background. However, the results also show that educational attainment and gender do not significantly influence respondents' perceptions of the Lupong Tagapamayapa's effectiveness. Thus, the null hypothesis is accepted for these variables, indicating that respondents generally share similar views on the effectiveness of the barangay justice system regardless of their educational level or gender.

Overall, the findings suggest that the Lupong Tagapamayapa is widely perceived as an effective community-based mechanism for dispute resolution, supporting the role of grassroots justice systems in promoting peace, fairness, and social harmony within the barangay. These results highlight the importance of strengthening local dispute resolution mechanisms in line with the objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 16, which promotes peace, justice, and strong institutions.

CONCLUSION

The Lupong Tagapamayapa's dispute resolution mechanisms in Antipas, North Cotabato were perceived as very highly effective overall ($M = 4.55$, $SD = 0.518$), with arbitration receiving the highest rating ($M = 4.68$), followed by mediation ($M = 4.51$) and conciliation ($M = 4.46$). These findings indicate generally favorable evaluations of barangay-level dispute resolution, although procedural clarity and consistency remain important areas for continued attention.

Perceived effectiveness differed significantly by age ($F = 6.224$, $p = .001$), with respondents aged 26–35 reporting the highest ratings, while no significant differences were found by educational attainment ($p = .345$) or gender ($p = .556$). The findings support continued training, clear communication, and consistent implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay procedures. Because the study used purposive and convenience-quota sampling, the results reflect the participating respondents and should not be generalized automatically to all residents of Antipas.

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