

## **Uncovering the covered: Factors affecting public service of Brgy. Officials in Brgy. Tres de Mayo, Digos City**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This study entitled, "Uncovering the Covered: Factors Affecting Public Service of Barangay Officials in Brgy. Tres de Mayo, Digos City," is concerned with developing the relationship between the citizens of the barangay and public servants. Since it has been obscurity as to why many citizens are interested in engaging in politics, thus obtaining what motives these people is the key to the study. The outcome of this study would notify the people on the motives of their barangay officials in being public servants and would serve as their basis in choosing their next Brgy. Officials. This could be helpful for such official to revisit their motives in being a public servant. As for students, this can be a source of information in determining the factors that affect any public official's public service in the government. The study used validated questions to secure responses and was designed to obtain information on the factors affecting Brgy. Officials towards public service. In conclusion, the officials aim to provide quality service and contribute adequate assistance to the people, help and serve even if it dedicates almost all their time for the betterment of the community and create good deeds for the community and at the same time, to develop the community.

*Keywords: public service, Tres De Mayo, Digos City*



## INTRODUCTION

It has always been a mystery why many people are interested in joining politics, be it in a national or local position, even though compared to other occupations, joining politics is costly, dangerous, and complicated. Yet, numerous people still want to engage and be involved with such a nature of work. Thus, knowing what motives these people is the key to this study.

People in the general administration segment is a basic mainstay of worldwide improvement. Conveyance of key open administrations, for example, social insurance, sanitation, power, and water supply, can be hampered by an unmotivated workforce, undermining open welfare.

Additionally, in numerous nations, open administrations are being given fewer assets while confronting progressively complex issues to settle. The term 'open administration' has been differently characterized as (1) government utilize individuals who work in general society organization; (2) a legislature subsidized administration; and (3) the inspiration of individuals to add to the benefit of all of society (Alam, 2014).

The vast majority at first get included in governmental issues since they dream of a decent society and are truly sufficiently optimistic about needing to draw out the vision into reality (Osler, 2009). All divisions below the regional level are called local government units (LGUs). According to the Constitution, the LGUs shall enjoy local autonomy, and in which the president exercises general provision. Congress enacted the Local Government Code of 1991, which shall provide for a more responsive and accountable local government structure instituted through a system of decentralization with effective mechanisms of recall, initiative, and referendum, allocate among the different local government unit their powers, responsibilities, and resources, and provide the qualifications, election, appointment and removal, term, salaries, powers and functions and duties of local officials, and all other matters relating to the organization and operation of local units (Local Government Code of 1991). And Barangay is considered the smallest and basic unit of the entire LGU. This is the main reason why the researcher focused the study on the Barangay Level since what happens in barangay might also be the picture of what is happening in the higher levels of government.

## METHOD

The phenomenological research study is a study that attempts to understand people's perceptions, perspectives, and understanding of a particular situation (or phenomenon). The researchers' general procedure of describing had the chief purpose of describing the officials on what motivated them or what drove them to enter into the political arena. Learning the purpose of their engagement in political matters could help future officials of the barangay act as role models in the community. Some of them were allegedly labeled falsely to participate in exchange for wealth, but as the study kept going, it emphasized that wealth is not seen in a barangay official's way of life.

The questionnaire was the major instrument used in this study to secure responses to certain questions. It was designed to obtain information on the factors affecting Brgy. Officials towards public service. Open-ended questions were used to allow the respondents to give their responses and suggestions. The researcher prepared the questionnaire and developed by reading reference materials and related studies about the effects of different factors affecting Brgy. Officials towards public service.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### *Commitment to Public Interest*

Commitment to public interest simply means serving for good and the community's welfare (Angelriac, 2013). Being a leader does not constitute a manifestation that people will become your servant. Still, rather you will serve for the people, which is the primordial role of a public servant- to serve and protect the constituents' welfare.

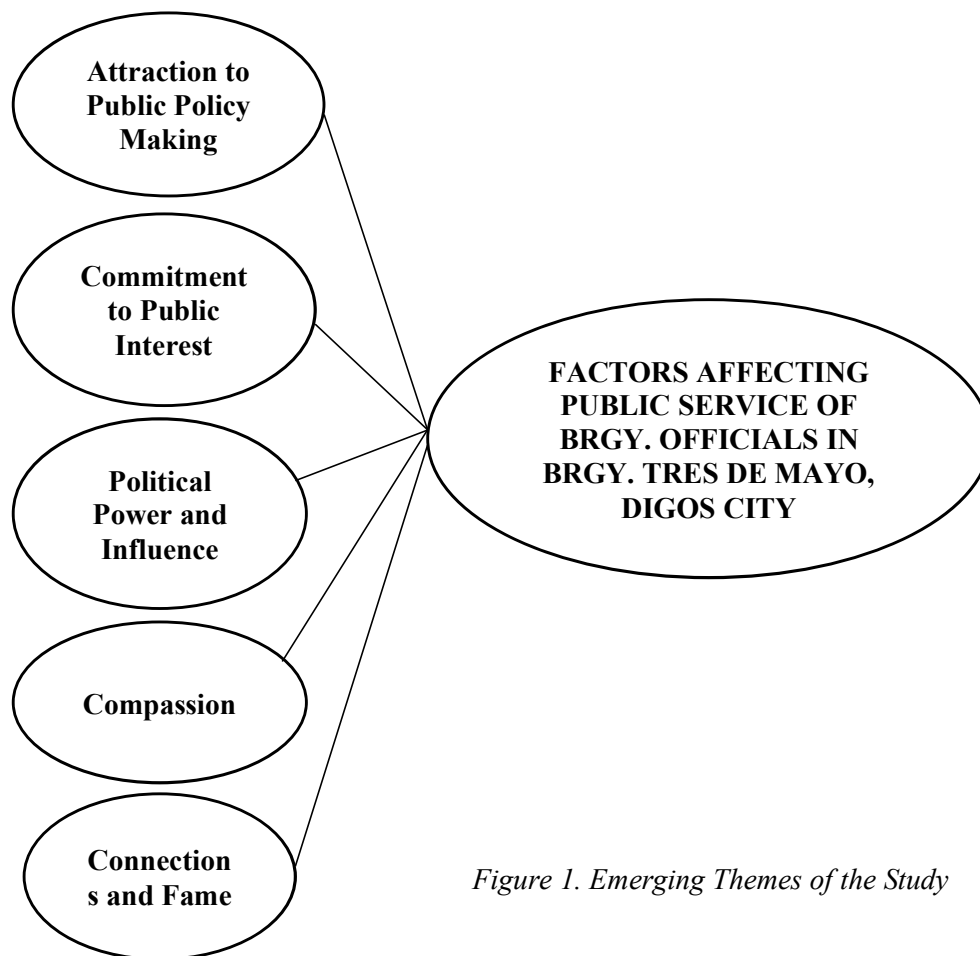
### *Compassion*

Compassion means "to suffer together." Among emotion researchers, it is defined as the feeling that arises when you are confronted with another's suffering and feel motivated to relieve that suffering. Basing on the government officials' consolidated responses during the actual interview, all of them said that being a public servant is primarily being an agent of the state in the pursuit of promoting the general welfare and maintaining social order. Thereby, they highlighted that they were always there in their times that people in the community needed their

help, such as settling conflicts that ended up with an amicable settlement instead of bringing it before the courts of justice. That is the purpose as to why the law of the land has established a barangay and its officials with its implementing law, which is the Local Government Code (LGC).

These are the factors affecting the desire of the Brgy. Officials in Tres de Mayo, according to the data gathered from the interview.: Firstly, they said that "compassion to help others" is naturally their motivation why they desire to be a public servant. Since then, they want to help those who need assistance to maintain peace and security within the community.

Secondly, the commitment to the public interest shows that they will be able to forward their legislative agenda for the public's interest if they can occupy a seat



*Figure 1. Emerging Themes of the Study*

in the barangay since that is also the main function of Brgy. Officials as a law-making body. They said that they have already passed and implemented laws concerning health, environment, and infrastructure. This is also by the third factor, which is "Attraction to public policymaking." The third factor is political power and influence. There were three Brgy. Officials said that according to power and influence were important for them, fame was not the reason they wanted to serve. So long as you will allow yourself to be a good example to the public, not to engage in any legal transactions, they will show that they respect and follow you as a leader.

On the other hand, the other two had said that power and influence are important in leading, but in terms of power, they have to rely on the person superior to them, which is the Brgy. The captain possesses high authority. In terms of influence, it is also important for them to function effectively in their duty discharge.

#### *Attraction to Public Policy Making*

Regarding their different views, they commonality in creating and implementing policies that could help their constituents. Furthermore, they stressed the Local Government Code mandate that they are mandated to serve and entertain their constituents twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week to any concerns within the community.

#### *Connection to Fame*

Lastly, about the connection and fame, three of the respondents said "no," it is not the reason why they wanted to be a public servant; hence, for them, it is not necessary; the other two respondents also said that it is not the reason why they seek a seat in the government, however according to them, reality dictates that for a politician to win in the election "connection and fame" is highly needed and hence very essential. The 2008 book "Organizational Behavior" by Steven McShane and Mary Von Glinow describes power as the ability of a person, or group of people, to influence others.

Based on the actual interviews that they were conducted, all of them had stressed out that their intent to run does not matter even in the absence of power and fame. What is more important according to them is being able to contribute and provide adequate assistance the community.

## CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATION

What causes a good development of a single community is the collaboration and the participation of government officials. To promote the common good, a person must be willing to serve the many.

We all know that the barangay is the smallest Local government unit. But on the other hand, barangay officials are also one of the most important government officials in every corner, for they are the government's front lines. They are always on duty for about twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week. The main purpose of the barangay officials' duty is to serve the public and settle disputes among the barangay district. They act as a role model to the barangay community; they are subjected only to serve and create policies that are an only concern to their respective barangays. As for the community's development, they also solicit from their constituents, with collaborations, they can attain development. But as you can see, the people in Tres de Mayo are well aware of the barangay officials' dynamic performances.

### *Implications for Further Research*

This study may only be limited to the barangay officials of Tres de Mayo, Digos City. Certain implications for future research are accurate. To gather adequate data towards your respondents, it would be most likely valuable to just interview them in actuality. As stated in the Philippine Constitution 1987 article 3 section 7 says that "the right of the people to information shall be recognized on the matter to public concern" thus, the respondents are obliged under the law to provide answers in the researcher's interview towards public service.

### *Implications of Practice*

It is the government's primary duty to protect and serve its citizens as mandated in the 1987 Philippine Constitution, Declaration of the Philippines, and State Policies. Those who seek to occupy a seat in the government, like the politicians, must make new solutions in solving the problems of its constituents for the betterment of the community. Changing the people's bad views or presumptions about those seeking a seat in the government will lead to a lack of cooperation with the government.

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