

# Dispute Resolutions in the Lowest Political Unit in the Philippines: Assessment of the Difficulties and Innovations in the Katarungang Pambarangay System in Northern Philippines

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**Abstract:** This study aimed to learn about dispute resolutions in the lowest political unit of the Philippines, particularly with the Lupon Members' firsthand experiences with the Katarungang Pambarangay. It assessed the challenges encountered and innovations implemented by the members of the Katarungang Pambarangay in the settlement of the cases in the three areas of dispute settlement. When grouped according to profile variables, significant differences in the level of difficulty were considered. This study employed both quantitative and qualitative utilizing a descriptive method in the eight selected barangays of Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya. A three-part structured questionnaire was used to gather pertinent data using frequency, mean, and t-test for paired samples and ANOVA, and thematic analysis was used to analyze the qualitative data. It was found out that the specific difficulties are: not following suggestions and agreements, lies and disrespect; failure to attend to proceedings; lack of training and compensation, and lastly, violence during proceedings. The findings of the study also include that most of the Lupon Members have difficulty regarding mediation, conciliation, and arbitration proceedings. On the other hand, there is no significant difference in the difficulty level when respondents are grouped according to data except for sex. On the significant differences, it was only in the area of seminars or training attended where significant differences existed among the study participants.

**Keywords:** Mediation, Arbitration, Conciliation, Katarungang Pambarangay

## I. INTRODUCTION

Katarungang Pambarangay is an innovation of Philippine Justice System (Martinez, n.d). It resolves conflicts at the barangay level to foster community balance and tranquility and give people from the community an effective and convenient form of justice. The importance of this study is to learn about the difficulties experienced and innovations implemented by the Katarungang Pambarangay or Barangay Justice System members. This study is significant as it will help to point out how Katarungang Pambarangay serves the community by its creation aims to increase the access to justice for people who do not want to go through adversarial and adjudicative litigation in court and to allow issues at the Barangay level to be settled quickly.

To describe concisely what the research is trying to achieve, the main objective of this study is to seek the level of difficulty of the members of the Katarungang Pambarangay in the three areas of dispute settlement under the Katarungang Pambarangay justice system, as well as to see the innovations implemented by the members in Katarungang Pambarangay to have a good grasp of the value of improving and enhancement of their Barangay Justice System.

To indicate the specific measures or directions that can be taken, the researchers would like to develop possible recommendations for helping the Katarungang Pambarangay. Specifically, its members will aid them in concluding all the necessary matters as they fulfill their functions as a member of the Katarungang Pambarangay. Moreover, this study will help improve and assist in establishing the Barangay Justice System that aspires to development and innovation in settling disputes in their respective jurisdiction.

Back in the olden days, the pillar of the Barangay Justice System lies in the fact that it was based on the local population itself and was superintended by community members using long-established methods in dispute resolution. The common practice of the Barangay Justice System was using time-honored traditions and practices of communities in settling disputes between community members. Filipinos traditionally resort to the help of older family members, community elders, or tribe leaders (*Datus* or elders) in resolving disputes between members of the same family or community [1].

Now, the Punong Barangay and Lupon Members, appointed from the Katarungang Pambarangay community, are used in the Barangay Justice System. In respect of some indigenous communities' traditional customary practices, the law of the Barangay Justice System stipulates that in communities with different traditional ways of resolving conflicts, the indigenous cultural communities' customs and traditions shall be applied. With this set-up, the disagreeing parties should feel more at ease addressing their issues and looking for solutions to their disagreements [1].

Presently, a modern Barangay is headed by the Barangay Captain, aided by the Barangay Council, composed of seven councilors and the chairman of the youth council [2]. It consists of a Barangay Justice System, where community leaders and elders provide alternative dispute resolution through mediation, conciliation, and arbitration between community members' conflicts [3].

Furthermore, the Barangay continues to be embedded in the decentralization to democratization framework. Currently, barangays serve as the basic unit of governance and leadership, delivery of services, planning and budgeting, and aggregating community-based information systems [4]. The main goal of barangay also became the center of attention, giving greater independence and autonomy to local government bodies. They can now hold elections and vote for their officials every three years. The Barangay has a history of a long struggle in shifting centralized power to a democratic level where autonomy, control over resources, and citizen engagement continue to improve.

During the Marcos Regime, the nature of the Barangays altered dramatically under the Marcos (1972-1986) rule, as he exploited them as part of his machinery-building approach to construct a more popular dictatorship. He was also instrumental in establishing the Barangay Justice System (BJS) in the Philippines, which was established by Presidential Decree (PD) NO. 1508, also known as "Establishing A System of Amicably Resolving Disputes at The Barangay Level," in 1978. Conflicts between citizens of the same city/municipality should first be brought to the Barangay for mediation or, if that fails, for conciliation [5]. No complaint, petition, action, or proceeding involving any matter within the authority of the Lupon as provided in Section 2 hereof shall be filed or instituted in court or any other government office for adjudication unless there has been a confrontation of the parties before the Lupon Chairman or the Pangkat Secretary, attested by the Lupon or Pangkat Chairman, or unless the settlement has been repudiated [6].

The goals of Katarungang Pambarangay may be traced back to the law that established it in the first place [7]. It identified four (4) Katarungang Pambarangay objectives based on its research. These include the promotion of prompt administration of justice, the reduction of indiscriminate filing of court cases, the removal of court docket congestion to improve the quality of justice delivered by the courts, and the continuation and recognition of the time-honored tradition of amicably resolving disputes at the community level. This legislation paved the way for creating the Barangay Justice System or Katarungang Pambarangay in the Philippines.

In addition, Katarungang Pambarangay was established to address inequities in access to justice, particularly among vulnerable communities. As a community-based judicial system, it ensures that the matter is resolved in a courteous, cost-effective, timely manner, where the people involved are allowed to find solutions to their problems without having to hire a lawyer.

Although the judicial system does not include the barangay justice system, the judiciary still acknowledges that strengthening the grassroots structure will favor the administration of justice by helping to clear court dockets. According to an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, every judge in the trial courts should help develop the barangay justice system. The local courts can start public education and information programs about how the barangay system operates and provide opportunities for Lupon and Pangkat officials to continue their education.

This is where the Punong Barangay comes into play; it forms the Lupon that would create the Katarungang Pambarangay within fifteen (15) days of the start of their term. For not more than three (3) weeks, notices of those names for the proposed members of the Lupon (council) would be posted in three (3) separate conspicuous places in the barangay [8].

In conjunction with that, the Punong Barangay directly implements the decisions in the Katarungang Pambarangay; as the barangay's legitimately elected leader. In his capacity as a recognized community leader, the Punong Barangay intends to represent all community members in carrying out the administrative tasks stipulated in the Katarungang Pambarangay Law [9].

With the onslaught of COVID-19, there were limitations and innovations that may have attached to the operation of the Katarungang Pambarangay as the basic dispute resolution of conflicts among community members. It was on this premise that the study was conducted.

## II. METHODOLOGY

This study used a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches in research. The quantitative part used the descriptive comparative method, which analyzes phenomena and then puts them together to find the points of differentiation and similarity [10]. This part analyzed the profile of the respondents in terms of age, sex, educational attainment, years of service, and the seminars/training the KP member attended. Additionally, this also analyzed the level of difficulty as perceived by the respondents in the three areas of dispute resolution under the Katarungang Pambarangay terms mediation, conciliation, and arbitration. Lastly, it was used to identify the significant difference in the difficulty level when respondents were grouped according to profile variables.

Meanwhile, the qualitative part used the descriptive method. This was used in the discussion of the challenges and innovations of the eighty (80) members of the Katarungang Pambarangay. The study used a survey form to collect the data from the selected Barangays of Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya. Due to the increasing numbers of cases of COVID-19 in the Philippines and the Region, the researchers strictly practiced infection prevention and control measures to help limit the spread of the virus and maintain their safety and wellness as well as the respondents. Social distancing, proper wearing of

face masks and shields, and proper hygiene were observed while gathering data.

For the analysis of data, the following were used: (1) Frequency and Percentage; (2) Mean and Standard Deviation. It was used to describe the level of agreement of the respondents to the indicators given on the challenges encountered by the Katarungang Pambarangay in the settlement of cases; (3) *t-test* and One-way ANOVA were also used to determine whether a significant difference exists in the difficulty level when respondents are grouped according to profile variables. And lastly, (4) thematic analysis was used to analyze the content of the data gathered to identify the patterns, themes, and ideas of the members of the Katarungang Pambarangay in terms of the challenges encountered and innovations implemented in mediation, conciliation, and arbitration.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

#### *Profile of the Respondents*

In terms of age, there were 24 (30%) belong to the 70 & above age bracket; 22 (28%) fall under the 60-69 age range;

19 (24%) are 60-69 and above years old, and 15 (19%) are 29-49 years old. The mean age of the respondents is 61, as shown in Table 2 above. By sex, the majority of the respondents are male. The females represent only 29 or 36.3 percent, whereas the male respondents represent 51 or 63.8 percent of their total population. In terms of educational attainment, most respondents have reached College 43 (54%) of the total population, and 19 (24%) are High School Graduates; 14 (18%) are Undergraduate (College), and 3 (4%) are Elementary School graduates; 1 (1%) finished a Master Degree. By years of service, a large majority of the respondents, comprised of 36 (45%), have long experience in years of service of 3-5 years; 19 (24%) are 6-10 years of service; 18 (22%) are less than three years of service, and 7 or 8.8 percent are 11-15 years of service. And lastly, in terms of Katarungang Pambarangay related seminars or training attended, 2 (3%) attended 1-2 seminars/training; 21 (26%) did not attend any seminars/training; 14 (17%) attended 3-5 seminars/training; only a few members, which is 3 (4%), attended ten or more seminars/training; and only 1 (1%) attended 6-10 seminars/training.

#### *Level of Difficulty in the Mediation Proceedings*

Table 1. The level of difficulty as perceived by the respondents in Mediation proceedings

Difficulties in Mediation Proceedings	N	Mean	SD	Level of Difficulty
1. Disagreement of involved parties to the suggested solution.	80	2.46	.526	Easy
2. Dealing with "hard headed" complainants or respondents.	80	2.66	.572	Difficult
3. Accommodating persons with complaint and counterclaims.	80	2.47	.573	Easy
4. Dealing with rude and arrogant complainants or respondents.	80	2.66	.635	Difficult
5. Dealing with respondents with a high community standing vs. complainants with a low socio-economic status.	80	2.59	.688	Difficult
6. Failure of the involved parties to understand the views and intents of each other's side.	80	2.63	.700	Difficult
7. Failure of the respondent to appear in the hearing.	80	2.58	.612	Difficult
8. Failure of the complainant to appear in the hearing.	80	2.53	.595	Difficult
9. Ignoring both parties, the summons relatively with their cases.	80	2.65	.638	Difficult
10. Receiving gifts, money, and tokens from involved parties.	80	3.21	.706	Difficult
Overall Mean for Mediation	80	2.64	.42985	Difficult

Legend: Very Easy: 1.00 – 1.49, Easy: 1.50 – 2.49, Difficult: 2.50 – 3.49: Very Difficult: 3.50 – 4.00

Data in Table 1 reveals that the Katarungang Pambarangay, in terms of mediation proceedings, is having difficulty, signified by the overall mean of 2.64.

Among the ten (10) items in the mediation proceedings, the first five highest mean were obtained by the receiving gifts, money, and tokens from involved parties (mean=3.21) and dealing with rude and arrogant complainants or respondents (mean=2.66), the same with dealing with "hard-headed" complainants or respondents (mean=2.66), ignoring of both parties the summons relatively with their respective cases (mean=2.65), failure of the involved parties to

understand the views and intents of each other's side (mean=2.63); and dealing with respondents with a high community standing. On the other hand, complainants with a low socio-economic status (mean=2.59), Failure of the respondents to appear in the hearing (mean=2.58), Failure of the complainant to appear in the hearing (mean=2.53), accommodating persons with complaint and counterclaims (mean=2.47), disagreement of involved parties to the suggested solution (mean=2.46) obtained the lowest mean scores.

#### *Level of Difficulty in the Conciliation Proceedings*

Table 2. The level of difficulty as perceived by the respondents in Conciliation proceedings.

Difficulty in Conciliation proceedings	Mean	SD	Level of Difficulty
1. Making parties attend meetings and scheduled hearings.	2.44	.524	Easy
2. Interviewing and interrogating the clients for the facts of the case.	2.33	.522	Easy
3. Recommending the parties to reconcile under certain Conditions.	2.49	.636	Easy
4. Difficulty in providing for other options to resolve the conflict.	2.44	.548	Easy
5. Very demanding complainant.	2.68	.591	Difficult
6. Negligence of the respondent/s to pay for the agreed sanction.	2.69	.587	Difficult
7. Failure of the respondents and complainant to comply to the agreement.	2.69	.587	Difficult
8. Involved parties are unsatisfied with the agreed way of settlement.	2.66	.655	Difficult
9. Failure of the parties to abide the decision of the Lupon.	2.64	.579	Difficult
10. The members of the Lupon unable to meet the satisfaction of the involved parties.	2.83	.569	Difficult
Overall Mean for Conciliation	2.58	.40401	Difficult

Legend: Very Easy: 1.00 – 1.49, Easy: 1.50 – 2.49, Difficult: 2.50 – 3.49: Very Difficult: 3.50 – 4.00

Table 2 reveals that these are the difficulties perceived by the respondents in terms of the problem they face in conciliation proceedings by the overall mean of 2.58.

Four of the difficulties have a mean that is perceived with the level of difficulty of easy, making parties attend meetings and scheduled hearings (mean=2.44), interviewing and interrogating the clients for the facts of the case (mean=2.33), recommending the parties reconcile under certain conditions (mean=2.49) and lastly, providing for other options to resolve the conflict (mean=2.44). While the rest of

the difficulties are perceived as the difficult, very demanding complainant (mean=2.68), negligence of the respondent/s to pay for the agreed sanction (mean=2.69), failure of the respondents and complainant to comply with the agreement (mean=2.69), involved parties are unsatisfied with the agreed way of settlement (mean=2.66), failure of the parties to abide the decision of the Lupon (mean=2.64), and lastly, the members of the Lupon unable to meet the satisfaction of the involved parties (mean=2.83).

*Level of Difficulty in the Arbitration Proceedings*

Table 3 The Level of Difficulty as Perceived by the Respondents in Arbitration Proceedings

Difficulties in Arbitration Proceedings	Mean	SD	Level of Difficulty
1. As a sole arbitrator, I am constantly concerned about misunderstanding a party’s argument or evidence.	2.64	.557	Difficult
2. As an arbitrator, my greatest worry is to find that I changed my mind about the outcome of the case mid-way through writing my award.	2.72	.573	Difficult
3. I approach every case in the same manner and try to be as detached and controlled as I can, to give every party an equal chance and not to prejudice a party who is less at ease with the process.	2.50	.574	Difficult
4. I am not familiar with the proper procedures to be done.	2.66	.655	Difficult
5. Receiving threats from the involved parties.	2.73	.693	Difficult
6. Having difficulty setting time and date for arbitration due to incompatible schedules of the involved parties.	2.50	.595	Difficult
7. Other party/s do not agree with the involvement of a third party.	2.64	.641	Difficult
8. Parties do not trust and doubt the decision of the arbitrators.	2.68	.612	Difficult
9. Lack of communication between the complainants, respondents, and arbitrators.	2.74	.670	Difficult
10. Failure of the arbitrator to give each party a reasonable opportunity of putting their case and answer that of their opponent.	2.75	.646	Difficult
Overall Mean for Arbitration	2.65	.4993	Difficult

Legend: Very Easy: 1.00 – 1.49, Easy: 1.50 – 2.49, Difficult: 2.50 – 3.49: Very Difficult: 3.50 – 4.00

As presented in table 3, these are the difficulties perceived by the respondents in terms of the problem they face in arbitration proceedings, with an overall mean of 2.65. All of the arbitration difficulties were perceived as difficult; "as a sole arbitrator, I am constantly concerned about misunderstanding a party’s argument or evidence (mean=2.64). As an arbitrator, my greatest worry is to find

that I changed my mind about the outcome of the case mid-way through writing my award (mean=2.72), I approach every case in the same manner and try to be as detached and regimented as I can, so as to give every party and equal chance, and not to prejudice a party who be less at ease with the process (mean=2.50), I am not familiar on the proper procedures to be done (mean=2.66), receiving threats from the



involved parties (mean=2.73), having a hard time in setting time and date for arbitration due to incompatible schedules of the involved parties (mean= 2.50), other party/s do not agree with the involvement of third party (mean=2.64). parties do not trust and doubt the decision of the arbitrators (mean=2.68), lack of communication between the complainants, respondents, and the arbitrator (mean=2.74), failure of the arbitrator to give each party a reasonable opportunity of putting their case and answering that of their opponent (mean=2.75).

#### *Challenges Encountered by the Katarungang Pambarangay in settlement of Cases Filed in the Three Areas of Dispute Resolution*

The Katarungang Pambarangay mediates various cases, which seem to include every type of dispute that could arise in a barangay. From these proceedings, they encounter situations that test their capabilities in handling case settlements. Responses from the participants of this study were clustered as follows:

##### *A. Not Following Suggestions and Agreements*

Fourteen (14) participants concurred that one of the challenges encountered by the Katarungang Pambarangay in settling cases was one or both of the parties not agreeing to the suggestion of the pangkat tagapamayapa or the Lupon.

Mediation of disputes in the Katarungang Pambarangay involves the advice to parties of the Punong Barangay after careful reading and review of complaints and replies of parties involve. However, there are cases where advice or decision of the Punong Barangay are not followed or parties could not agree. This leads to further conciliation of the parties. But problems arise when the parties do not follow or agree on the advice or decision of the Punong Barangay or even the Lupon Tagapamayapa.

One participant clearly stated that - *Sometimes, the parties involved do not listen to the suggestions of the Lupon.* This happens because usually, the complainants are of higher social status than the Lupon. Therefore, they usually act in a prideful way.

It is evident that the study participants that when they encounter complaints that are more educated than them, they become intimidated and insecure. As a result, they become hesitant to offer pieces of advice or alternative solutions when the previous one is rejected by complainants or respondents who are much more educated than them.

##### *B. Lies and Disrespect*

Among eighty (80) members of the Lupon, seventeen (17) answered that lying and having disrespectful respondents or complainants is one of the challenges they have encountered during settling disputes.

One participant said - *One party is telling a lie so that the true events could not be identified.* This happens because the party that lied usually is not the one favorable in the

settlement. Hence, they make things up to level the playing field. This will make the procedure longer and could become unsettled.

Though the purpose of mediation and conciliation is to arrive at an amicable settlement, it is imperative to determine the true story of the problem presented so that the mediator/conciliator can devise actions to make the one who did wrong between the parties realize their fault. They have to weigh facts given by the complainants and respondents and their witnesses, if there are any, to come up with suggestions. It is vital that they quickly favor the amicable settlement to be done. As to arbitration, the arbitrator should determine truth from lies to come up with the right decision favoring the aggrieved party.

Lying during a confrontation is also one of the Lupon members' problems. Respondents tend to lie when interrogated to cover up and keep themselves from embarrassing situations. As a result, it takes a very long time to conclude the case because their testimonies do not match. Aside from that, they try to avoid facing possible consequences, including paying penalty settlements.

##### *C. Failure to Attend to Proceedings*

The majority of the gathered responses (eighteen (18) members) also said that there are times that the involved, most notably the respondents, failed to attend the settlement proceedings or arrive later than the time scheduled.

As stated by one participant - *usually, if there are cases scheduled for settlement, one of the parties is late or fails to attend the proceedings.* Another stated - *One problem is when the respondent does not really want to attend the proceedings.* This is a reality for Barangay dispute resolutions. The Katarungang Pambarangay unlike the regular courts does not have a contempt power. Since the dispute resolution is based on the idea of voluntary resolution, the resolution is not solely dependent on the Katarungang Pambarangay but also the good faith of the complainant and the respondent.

One of the toxic Filipino cultures is the habit of delay. It has been a common practice to start things late, especially when attending hearings. One Lupon member explained that they tend to start 2 hours after the agreed time because one party is late. Although it is common in our country, other people from different parts of the world see this as disrespectful. They do not know how being late affects productivity for the entire day. This "Filipino time" is also being practiced during hearings in the barangay. During the interview, they cited that it is common for them to postpone hearings because other parties failed to attend or they are not on time to get to the barangay.

##### *D. Lack of Training and Compensation*

Eighteen (18) participants claimed that the lack of training, technical know-how, and active participation of the Lupon Tagapamayapa is also a problem in the settlement of cases in the Katarungang Pambarangay.

It was expressed by several participants that some of the Lupon members are not active. Also, one participant said that - *there are not enough seminars, which is why we cannot come up with good decisions for an amicable settlement.* Similar to such a statement was - *there is not enough technical know-how in settling cases* expressed by another participant. This is an understandable situation since the study was conducted during the height of the COVID19 pandemic. Many of the members of the Katarungang Pambarangay may have not been given the opportunity due to the pandemic.

One of the problems of being a member of a Lupon is the lack of training that will allow them to settle disputes effectively. During the interview, participants admitted that they had difficulty creating an amicable settlement due to a lack of training and seminars. Aside from they do not have time to attend seminars because it is not aligned with their schedules, seminars are only conducted once every year.

#### E. Violence during Proceedings

During proceedings, two participants responded that violence during the interrogation and hearings of cases was considered a challenge to the Katarungang Pambarangay members. It was stated by two of the participants that - *they physically assault each other because they do not want a settlement.* (Physical assault happens when the two parties see each other.)

Though there may be only two responses that correlate to the usage of violence, it is still an occurrence during the proceedings in the Katarungang Pambarangay. From what can be inferred from the responses, there seems to be physical conflict when the two parties in a dispute finally meet. Hence escalation with the use of violence may happen since the tensions are high and the two parties are at each other's throats.

#### Innovations Implemented by the Barangay in the Katarungang Pambarangay System in Terms of Settling of Disputes

##### A. Mediation

A mediation proceeding is executed by the Punong Barangay only. He is the facilitator for the two parties to come up with an amicable settlement.

One Punong Barangay who is a participant in this study pronounced - *Between the two parties, I identify the more aggressive one and ask him/her to lead the prayer for possible tempering of his/her heart.*

Another participant explained that he would execute orders and ordinances about the cases presented and create executive orders and by-laws or guidelines about the issues at hand. There could be issues settled under the Punong Barangay that were not yet included in the ordinances imposed in their barangay. One innovation set by a Punong Barangay is the inclusion of the Barangay Council members as part of the mediation proceedings. This is because the Barangay Council members were actually elected by the

community. With their position as elected officers, they may have command over the members of the community.

##### B. Conciliation

When the Punong Barangay cannot settle a dispute brought to his office, he will refer the case to a panel of three Lupon (council) members (the Pangkat or panel) for conciliation or arbitration. The three (3) members of the Pangkat (Panel) are selected from the Lupon Tagapamayapa (Peace-making Council). And from these three (3) members, they will choose the Chairman of the Lupon (council) and the Lupon (council) secretary. If there is disagreement, the position of the chairman and secretary can be chosen by a lot.

When asked about the innovations they developed for conciliation proceedings, five (5) Lupon Tagapamayapa members answered that the decision is up to the Punong Barangay or it is up to the Punong Barangay.

##### C. Arbitration

Arbitration proceedings happen when no settlement is met during the mediation and conciliation proceedings. This is officiated by the Punong Barangay, who will give an official decision or judgment depending on the statements of the two parties and their witnesses.

Most participants explained that they have not witnessed or experienced an arbitration proceeding in their barangay as they are settled in the mediation and conciliation stages. From among the respondents, no innovative process regarding arbitration was deduced. This means that innovations have not been applied yet because cases are already settled in mediation or conciliation. Moreover, as stated by one of the Punong Barangay that the researchers have interviewed, they will endorse or refer the case to the higher authority if they have difficulties resolving it.

## IV. CONCLUSIONS

Premised on the afore-cited discussions, the following conclusions were drawn. The study's participants are mostly 61 years of age, primarily male. They are college graduates, serving the Lupon in 3-5 years and with 1-2 seminars attended about dispute resolutions. The COVID19 pandemic has not hindered the delivery of basic government services by the participants. All the participants perceived that mediation, conciliation, and arbitration proceedings in the Katarungang Pambarangay were unanimously difficult. The difficulty has no bearing or influence on their age, sex, educational attainment, and years of service. However, participants who had seminars and training said that the difficulty would be less.

The challenges encountered by the members of the Katarungang Pambarangay come in the form where respondents or complainants in a dispute do not follow suggestions and agreements; lies and disrespect from the disputants; failure of the parties to attend to proceedings; lack

of training and compensation among Katarungang Pambarangay members, and violence during proceedings.

While the innovations implemented by the members of the Katarungang Pambarangay were on a case-by-case basis as to what counts as innovation. In mediation, there was an instance where the mediator chose someone to favor based on their bravado, and another was the inclusion of a barangay council member during the mediation itself. In conciliation, there were no feasible innovations implemented in this dispute resolution area. In this case, most respondents answered that it is either up to the Punong Barangay or stated that the current rules are sufficient in the conciliation. In arbitration, the participants have not experienced innovations because most cases are already resolved in the mediation and conciliation stages.

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