

Police Transparency and Community Perception of Law Enforcement Credibility: A Correlational Study

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ABSTRACT

Police transparency has become an essential component of democratic policing, influencing public trust, accountability, and institutional legitimacy. This study examined the relationship between police transparency and community perception of law enforcement credibility in selected barangays in Pagadian City, Philippines. Using a descriptive-correlational research design, data were collected from 80 respondents, including barangay officials and police personnel, through a structured questionnaire that measured police transparency indicators (media presence, community engagement, and body-worn camera use) and community perceptions of police credibility. Descriptive statistics and Kendall's tau-b correlation analysis were employed to analyze the data. Results revealed that police transparency was perceived as high (WM = 3.97), while community perception of law enforcement credibility was very high (WM = 4.67). However, correlation analysis showed no statistically significant relationship between police transparency and community perception of credibility ($\tau = 0.016$, $p = 0.888$). These findings suggest that while transparency practices are positively perceived, they do not independently determine public perceptions of police credibility. Instead, interpersonal conduct, professionalism, and procedural fairness may play more significant roles in shaping public trust. The study contributes to the policing literature by highlighting the complexity of trust formation and by providing policy recommendations to enhance police-community relations through procedural justice and sustained engagement strategies.

Keywords: police transparency, police credibility, community perception, procedural justice, body-worn cameras.

INTRODUCTION

Police transparency has emerged as a fundamental principle in democratic policing, emphasizing openness, accountability, and public access to institutional information. Transparency initiatives such as public reporting, media communication, and technological monitoring systems aim to improve police legitimacy and foster community trust (Lum et al., 2020; White & Malm, 2020; Ariel et al., 2022). Studies have shown that transparency mechanisms help reduce misconduct, improve accountability, and strengthen institutional credibility by allowing citizens to evaluate police actions objectively (Ong & Javier, 2023; Braga et al., 2021; Todak & Gaub, 2021). In democratic societies, police legitimacy is closely linked to transparency, as openness promotes trust, cooperation, and compliance with the law (Tyler & Trinkner, 2020; Jackson et al., 2021; Nix et al., 2021).

In the Philippine context, police transparency has gained increased attention due to ongoing reforms aimed at improving public confidence in law enforcement institutions. Transparency efforts such as media briefings, community outreach programs, and body-worn camera implementation have been introduced to enhance police accountability and public trust (Ong & Javier, 2023; Pacleb, 2020; Del Rosario & Cañete, 2022). However, challenges remain in ensuring consistent implementation and effective communication between police agencies and the public (Garcia & Pangilinan, 2022; Lomuntad & Ramos, 2023; Raya & Mendoza, 2021). Studies suggest that while transparency improves public perception, trust is also influenced by procedural

fairness, officer professionalism, and direct interactions with law enforcement personnel (Jackson et al., 2021; Tyler & Trinkner, 2020; Murphy et al., 2020).

Despite increased transparency initiatives, empirical evidence regarding the relationship between police transparency and public trust remains inconclusive. Some studies indicate that transparency improves legitimacy and cooperation, while others suggest that trust is more strongly influenced by fairness, professionalism, and interpersonal conduct (Lum et al., 2020; Nix et al., 2021; Todak & Gaub, 2021). Understanding the relationship between transparency and police credibility is essential for developing effective policies and strengthening community-police relations. Therefore, this study examined the relationship between police transparency and community perception of law enforcement credibility in selected barangays in Pagadian City, Philippines.

Objectives

- Describe the socio-demographic profile of the respondents in terms of age, sex, and civil status.
- Determine the level of police transparency as perceived by the respondents, specifically in terms of the presence of media, community engagement, and the use of body-worn cameras.
- Assess the level of community perception of law enforcement credibility with respect to police officers' personal qualities and character, professionalism and effectiveness, and fairness and impartiality.
- Examine whether there was a significant relationship between police transparency and community perception of law enforcement credibility.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a quantitative research approach utilizing a descriptive–correlational research design to examine the relationship between police transparency and community perception of law enforcement credibility. Quantitative research allows the objective measurement of attitudes, perceptions, and relationships between variables using statistical analysis, making it appropriate for examining institutional transparency and public trust (Creswell & Creswell, 2021; Field, 2020; Bhandari, 2023). The descriptive component was used to determine the level of police transparency and community perception of police credibility, while the correlational component was used to examine whether a statistically significant relationship existed between these variables (Lum et al., 2020; Jackson et al., 2021; Murphy et al., 2020). This design is widely used in criminology and public administration research to evaluate institutional performance and public perception, particularly in studies examining police legitimacy, accountability, and community trust (Tyler & Trinkner, 2020; Braga et al., 2021; Nix et al., 2021).

The study was conducted in five selected barangays in Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur, Philippines. A total of eighty (80) respondents participated in the study, consisting of forty (40) barangay officials and forty (40) police officers who were selected using purposive and quota sampling techniques. Purposive sampling was used to select respondents with relevant experience and knowledge of police transparency practices, while quota sampling ensured balanced representation from both community officials and law enforcement personnel (Etikan et al., 2021; Creswell & Creswell, 2021; Campbell et al., 2020). These sampling methods are appropriate for studies involving institutional perception and public administration, as they ensure the inclusion of key stakeholders who are directly involved in transparency and law enforcement processes (Lum et al., 2020; Braga et al., 2021; Ong & Javier, 2023). Data were collected using a structured self-administered questionnaire designed to measure police transparency indicators and community perception of law enforcement credibility.

The research instrument consisted of three main sections: socio-demographic profile, police transparency indicators (presence of media, community engagement, and body-worn camera use), and community perception of law enforcement credibility (personal qualities and character, professionalism and effectiveness, and fairness and impartiality). Responses were measured using a five-point Likert scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree, which is widely used in social science research to measure attitudes and perceptions reliably (Field, 2020; Creswell & Creswell, 2021; Jackson et al., 2021). Data were collected with informed consent and in accordance with ethical research standards to ensure confidentiality and voluntary participation

(Murphy et al., 2020; Tyler & Trinkner, 2020; Braga et al., 2021). Statistical analysis included frequency distribution, percentage, weighted mean, and Kendall’s tau-b correlation coefficient using SPSS software to determine the strength and significance of relationships between variables. Kendall’s tau-b is an appropriate statistical method for analyzing ordinal data and examining associations between variables in criminological and social science research (Field, 2020; Bhandari, 2023; Lum et al., 2020).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the analysis, interpretation, and discussion of the data collected to examine the level of police transparency and community perception of law enforcement credibility among respondents in selected barangays in Pagadian City. The results are organized according to the objectives of the study, beginning with the socio-demographic profile of the respondents, followed by the assessment of police transparency in terms of media presence, community engagement, and body-worn camera use, and the evaluation of community perception of law enforcement credibility in terms of personal qualities, professionalism, and fairness. Finally, the section examines the statistical relationship between police transparency and community perception of law enforcement credibility using Kendall’s tau-b correlation analysis. The presentation and interpretation of the findings are supported by relevant literature to provide a theoretical and empirical context, as statistical analysis plays a crucial role in identifying patterns, relationships, and institutional implications in policing research (Field, 2020; Creswell & Creswell, 2021; Jackson et al., 2021). Understanding these relationships contributes to the broader discourse on police legitimacy, transparency, and public trust, which are essential components of effective and accountable law enforcement (Tyler & Trinkner, 2020; Braga et al., 2021; Lum et al., 2020).

Table 1. Demographic Profile

<u>Socio – demographic profile in term of age and sex N=80</u>					
<u>Sample characteristics</u>			<u>Frequency</u>		<u>%Share</u>
<u>Age Range</u>					
22-31			44		55
32-41			28		35
42-52			8		10
<u>Sex Distributions</u>					
Male			48		60
Female			32		40

Table 1 presents the socio-demographic profile of the respondents in terms of age and sex, showing that the majority belonged to the 22–31 age group (55%), followed by those aged 32–41 (35%), and 42–52 (10%), while males constituted 60% and females 40% of the total sample. This finding indicates that the respondents were predominantly young to middle-aged adults and male, which reflects the typical demographic composition of law enforcement personnel and barangay officials, where males and individuals in early and middle adulthood often occupy frontline governance and security roles. Age and gender are important factors influencing institutional perception, as younger individuals and male respondents tend to have more active engagement with law enforcement operations and public safety programs (Jackson et al., 2021; Murphy et al., 2020; Nix et al., 2021). Furthermore, demographic characteristics influence attitudes toward police transparency and credibility, as individuals with direct involvement in governance and policing tend to have greater familiarity with institutional practices and accountability mechanisms (Lum et al., 2020; Braga et al., 2021; Tyler & Trinkner, 2020). The predominance of working-age respondents suggests that the findings reflect perceptions from individuals who are actively engaged in community and law enforcement activities, making their responses relevant for assessing institutional transparency and credibility.

Police Transparency

Table 2 Presence of media

S/N	Statements	Mean	AE
1	I notice media representatives being present during our operations in the community.	3.9	H
2	I have observed news coverage featuring our department’s activities in the past month.	4.4	VH
3	I am often interviewed by media representatives about local incidents.	3.8	H
4	I use media platforms to provide real-time updates to the public.	4.6	VH
5	I have seen news outlets report both positive and negative stories about our actions.	3.6	H
6	I participate in or observe press conferences held by our department after major events.	4.2	H
7	I have observed live media coverage during community–police engagements.	4.4	VH
8	I often hear media representatives ask critical questions during our briefings.	3.1	M
9	I have seen reporters being allowed access to crime scenes and public safety events.	3.3	M
10	I have observed changes in public opinion when there is high media presence during our operations.	3.3	M
	Weighted Mean	3.9	H

Note: 4.21-5.00 - Very High (VH); 3.41-4.20 – High (H); 2.61-3.40 – Moderate (M); 1.81-2.60 – Low (L); 1.00- 1.80 – Very Low (VL). AE – adjectival equivalence

Table 2 shows that the overall weighted mean for the presence of media was 3.9, interpreted as high, indicating that respondents perceived strong media involvement in police operations. The highest mean was recorded for the use of media platforms to provide real-time updates (4.6), while the lowest mean was observed for media representatives asking critical questions during briefings (3.1), suggesting that while media visibility and communication were strong, critical journalistic scrutiny may be less frequent. These findings highlight the important role of media in enhancing transparency by providing timely information and increasing public awareness of police activities (Lum et al., 2020; Braga et al., 2021; White & Malm, 2020). Media engagement improves institutional accountability and strengthens public trust by allowing citizens to observe police actions and evaluate institutional performance (Nix et al., 2021; Todak & Gaub, 2021; Ong & Javier, 2023). Furthermore, real-time communication through media platforms promotes openness and strengthens the relationship between law enforcement agencies and the public, contributing to increased institutional legitimacy and transparency (Jackson et al., 2021; Tyler & Trinkner, 2020; Ariel et al., 2022).

Table 3

S/N	Statements	Mean	AE
1	I participate in local events like clean-up drives or sports tournaments.	4.7	H
2	I talk directly to residents during neighborhood patrols.	3.9	H
3	I attend community forums where we listen to the concerns of citizens.	4.5	VH
4	I work with youth groups and schools in our area.	3.9	H
5	I actively seek feedback from residents.	4.3	VH
6	I am present during peaceful protests to help ensure public safety.	4.3	VH
7	I visit barangays or districts regularly, not just during emergencies.	4.2	H
8	I collaborate with local leaders during community projects.	4.4	VH
9	I promote transparency in handling community complaints.	4.2	H
10	I mentor youth in our community.	4.0	H
	Weighted Mean	4.2	H

Note: 4.21-5.00 - Very High (VH); 3.41-4.20 – High (H); 2.61-3.40 – Moderate (M); 1.81-2.60 – Low (L); 1.00- 1.80 – Very Low (VL). AE – adjectival equivalence

Table 3 reveals that the overall weighted mean for community engagement was 4.2, interpreted as high, indicating that respondents perceived active police involvement in community activities. The highest mean was observed in attending community forums (4.5), while lower but still high ratings were given to direct

interaction with residents and collaboration with youth groups (3.9). These findings emphasize the importance of community engagement in strengthening trust, cooperation, and police legitimacy. Active participation in community activities enhances transparency by fostering communication, mutual understanding, and institutional accountability (Tyler & Trinkner, 2020; Jackson et al., 2021; Murphy et al., 2020). Community engagement initiatives improve public perception of police credibility by demonstrating commitment to public service and responsiveness to community concerns (Braga et al., 2021; Lum et al., 2020; Nix et al., 2021). Furthermore, regular interaction between police and citizens strengthens procedural justice, promotes trust, and enhances institutional legitimacy, which are essential components of effective law enforcement (Todak & Gaub, 2021; Ong & Javier, 2023; Ariel et al., 2022).

Table 4 Body-worn Camera

S/N	Statements	Mean	AE
1	I wear a body camera during patrols or community events.	3.5	H
2	I have used body camera footage to clarify a situation.	3.8	H
3	I find our body-worn cameras reliable and effective in recording.	3.9	H
4	I inform citizens when my body camera is recording.	3.7	H
5	I follow protocol when activating my body-worn camera.	3.9	H
6	I ensure my body-worn camera is well-protected from the elements.	3.8	H
7	I use body camera footage as evidence in local investigations.	4.1	H
8	I have found the battery life of my body camera sufficient for a full shift.	3.8	H
9	I notice that the audio recorded by our body cameras is clear and effective.	3.7	H
10	I am proficient in using and operating my body-worn camera.	3.7	H
	Weighted Mean	3.8	H

Note: 4.21-5.00 - Very High (VH); 3.41-4.20 – High (H); 2.61-3.40 – Moderate (M); 1.81-2.60 – Low (L); 1.00-

1.80 – Very Low (VL). AE – adjectival equivalence

Table 4 indicates that the overall weighted mean for body-worn camera use was 3.8, interpreted as high, suggesting that respondents perceived body-worn cameras as actively used in police operations. The highest mean was observed in the use of body-worn cameras as evidence in investigations (4.1), while the lowest mean was recorded in wearing cameras during patrols (3.5), indicating some inconsistency in operational use. Bodyworn cameras enhance police transparency by providing objective documentation of police-civilian interactions and improving accountability (Lum et al., 2020; White & Malm, 2020; Ariel et al., 2022). The availability of video evidence strengthens investigations, reduces misconduct complaints, and improves public trust in law enforcement institutions (Braga et al., 2021; Todak & Gaub, 2021; Ong & Javier, 2023). Furthermore, bodyworn cameras promote procedural justice by ensuring transparency and protecting both officers and citizens, contributing to improved institutional credibility and accountability (Tyler & Trinkner, 2020; Jackson et al., 2021; Murphy et al., 2020).

Community’s Perception on Law Enforcement Credibility

Table 5 Personal qualities and characters

S/N	Statements	Mean	AE
1	I believe that police officers are good people who care about their community.	4.9	VH
2	I believe that police officers are dedicated to serving and protecting the public.	4.8	VH
3	I believe that police officers are committed to upholding justice and fairness.	4.6	VH
4	I believe that police officers possess strong moral character and integrity.	4.9	VH
5	I believe that police officers are compassionate and empathetic towards others.	4.6	VH
6	I believe that police officers are courageous and willing to put themselves at risk for others.	4.8	VH
7	I believe that police officers are hardworking and dedicated to their jobs.	4.9	VH
8	I believe that police officers are trustworthy and reliable members of our community.	4.7	VH

9	I believe that police officers strive to make a positive difference in people's lives.	4.6	VH
10	I believe that police officers are responsible and accountable for their actions.	4.9	VH
	Weighted Mean	4.7	VH

Note: 4.21-5.00 - Very High (VH); 3.41-4.20 – High (H); 2.61-3.40 – Moderate (M); 1.81-2.60 – Low (L);

1.00-1.80 – Very Low (VL). AE – adjectival equivalence

Table 5 shows that the overall weighted mean for personal qualities and character was 4.7, interpreted as very high, indicating strong positive perceptions of police officers’ moral integrity, responsibility, and dedication. The highest mean values were recorded for officers being responsible, hardworking, and possessing strong moral character (4.9), suggesting that respondents viewed police officers as trustworthy and committed public servants. These findings highlight the importance of officer behavior in shaping public perception, as ethical conduct and professionalism are key determinants of institutional legitimacy (Tyler & Trinkner, 2020; Jackson et al., 2021; Murphy et al., 2020). Public trust in law enforcement is strongly influenced by perceptions of fairness, accountability, and integrity, which contribute to institutional credibility (Lum et al., 2020; Braga et al., 2021; Nix et al., 2021). When police officers demonstrate professionalism and ethical behavior, they strengthen public confidence and enhance the legitimacy of law enforcement institutions (Todak & Gaub, 2021; Ong & Javier, 2023; Ariel et al., 2022).

Table 6 Professionalism and effectiveness

S/N	Statements	Mean	AE
1	I believe that police officers are highly skilled and well-trained professionals.	4.7	VH
2	I believe that police officers respond effectively to emergencies and calls for service.	4.5	VH
3	I believe that police officers make sound judgments and decisions in difficult situations.	4.5	VH
4	I believe that police officers are equipped with the necessary tools and resources to do their jobs effectively.	4.6	VH
5	I believe that police officers work collaboratively with other agencies to enhance community safety.	4.5	VH
6	I believe that police officers utilize modern technology and techniques to improve their effectiveness.	4.7	VH
7	I believe that police officers are proficient in de-escalation techniques.	4.5	VH
8	I believe that police officers are adept at conflict resolution.	5.0	VH
9	I believe that police officers are skilled in communication and interpersonal relations.	4.6	VH
10	I believe that police officers are knowledgeable about laws and procedures.	4.9	VH
	Weighted Mean	4.6	VH

Note: 4.21-5.00 - Very High (VH); 3.41-4.20 – High (H); 2.61-3.40 – Moderate (M); 1.81-2.60 – Low (L); 1.00- 1.80 – Very Low (VL). AE – adjectival equivalence

Table 6 indicates that the overall weighted mean for professionalism and effectiveness was 4.6, interpreted as very high, demonstrating strong public confidence in police competence and operational effectiveness. The highest mean was recorded for officers’ conflict resolution skills (5.0), while other indicators such as decision-making and collaboration also received very high ratings. These findings suggest that respondents viewed police officers as competent, well-trained, and capable of effectively performing their duties. Professional competence and effectiveness are essential components of police legitimacy, as citizens evaluate law enforcement based on performance, fairness, and responsiveness (Tyler & Trinkner, 2020; Jackson et al., 2021; Murphy et al., 2020). Professional policing practices enhance institutional credibility by demonstrating competence, accountability, and commitment to public safety (Lum et al., 2020; Braga et al., 2021; Nix et al., 2021). Effective conflict resolution and communication skills further strengthen public trust and enhance institutional legitimacy (Todak & Gaub, 2021; Ong & Javier, 2023; Ariel et al., 2022).

Table 7 Fairness and impartiality

Statements		<u>Mean</u>	<u>AE</u>	
1. I believe that police officers treat all members of the community fairly and without bias.		4.6		VH
2. I believe that police officers uphold the law impartially.		4.7		VH
3. I believe that police officers are accountable for their actions and subject to oversight.		4.7		VH
4. I believe that police officers are committed to equal justice for all.		4.7		VH
5. I believe that police officers strive to treat everyone with respect and dignity.		4.8		VH
Weighted Mean		<u>4.7</u>		<u>VH</u>

Note: 4.21-5.00 - Very High (VH); 3.41-4.20 – High (H); 2.61-3.40 – Moderate (M); 1.81-2.60 – Low (L); 1.00- 1.80 – Very Low (VL). AE – adjectival equivalence

Table 7 shows that the overall weighted mean for fairness and impartiality was 4.7, interpreted as very high, indicating that respondents perceived police officers as fair, respectful, and unbiased in their duties. The highest mean was recorded for treating individuals with respect and dignity (4.8), demonstrating strong public confidence in police fairness. Fairness and impartiality are essential components of procedural justice, which plays a critical role in shaping public trust and institutional legitimacy (Tyler & Trinkner, 2020; Jackson et al., 2021; Murphy et al., 2020). Citizens are more likely to trust and cooperate with police when they perceive officers as fair, respectful, and accountable (Lum et al., 2020; Braga et al., 2021; Nix et al., 2021). Respectful treatment strengthens community relationships and enhances public confidence in law enforcement institutions (Todak & Gaub, 2021; Ong & Javier, 2023; Ariel et al., 2022).

Perceived Police Transparency and Community’s Perception on law enforcement credibility

Table 8 Police transparency and Community’s Perception on law enforcement credibility		
Variables		Perception on law enforcement credibility
Presence of media	Correlation coefficient	.049
	P value	.691
Community engagement	Correlation coefficient	.110
	P value	.381
Body worn camera	Correlation coefficient	-.127
	P value	.304

Table 8 shows that the correlation between police transparency indicators and community perception of police credibility was weak and statistically non-significant, with media presence ($\tau = 0.049$, $p = 0.691$), community engagement ($\tau = 0.110$, $p = 0.381$), and body-worn camera use ($\tau = -0.127$, $p = 0.304$). These findings indicate that police transparency indicators alone did not significantly influence public perception of police credibility. Similar studies have found that transparency alone does not automatically increase public trust, as trust is influenced by multiple factors including fairness, professionalism, and interpersonal interactions (Tyler & Trinkner, 2020; Jackson et al., 2021; Murphy et al., 2020). Institutional transparency must be accompanied by ethical conduct and effective communication to enhance police legitimacy (Lum et al., 2020; Braga et al., 2021; Nix et al., 2021). These findings suggest that transparency mechanisms are necessary but not sufficient to independently determine public perception of police credibility (Todak & Gaub, 2021; Ong & Javier, 2023; Ariel et al., 2022).

Table 9

Summary on police transparency and community’s perception on law enforcement credibility.		
Variables		Perception on law enforcement credibility
Perceive police transparency	Correlation coefficient	.016
	P value	.888

Table 9 shows that the overall correlation between police transparency and community perception of law enforcement credibility was extremely weak and statistically non-significant ($\tau = 0.016$, $p = 0.888$), indicating no meaningful relationship between the variables. This suggests that while police transparency was perceived positively, it did not significantly influence public perception of police credibility. Previous research indicates that public trust in law enforcement is influenced more strongly by procedural justice, fairness, and officer conduct than transparency alone (Tyler & Trinkner, 2020; Jackson et al., 2021; Murphy et al., 2020). Transparency initiatives must be supported by ethical behavior, professionalism, and effective engagement to improve institutional legitimacy (Lum et al., 2020; Braga et al., 2021; Nix et al., 2021). These findings highlight the complexity of trust formation and emphasize that police credibility depends on multiple institutional and interpersonal factors beyond transparency alone (Todak & Gaub, 2021; Ong & Javier, 2023; Ariel et al., 2022).

Limitations

Despite the methodological rigor employed in this investigation, several limitations must be acknowledged to contextualize the findings and guide future research. First, the use of purposive and quota sampling techniques, while appropriate for ensuring the inclusion of key institutional stakeholders such as police officers and barangay officials, may introduce selection bias and limit the generalizability of the results beyond the study setting. Because these non-probability sampling methods do not provide all members of the target population with an equal chance of selection, the representativeness of the sample may be constrained, thereby affecting the external validity of the study.

Second, the inclusion of police officers as respondents in evaluating police transparency and institutional credibility may have introduced social desirability bias. Respondents who are part of the organization being evaluated may consciously or unconsciously provide more favorable responses to present their institution in a positive light or to align with perceived professional expectations. This tendency may partly explain the very high ratings observed for police credibility, particularly in areas related to moral integrity, professionalism, and fairness.

Third, the study relied exclusively on self-reported survey data collected through a structured questionnaire. While survey methods are effective for measuring perceptions and attitudes, the absence of data triangulation through complementary qualitative or objective methods, such as in-depth interviews, field observations, or analysis of institutional records, limits the ability to fully capture the complexity of transparency practices and their influence on public credibility. Self-reported data may also be subject to response bias, recall bias, or perceptual limitations, which may affect the accuracy and completeness of the findings.

Finally, the measurement of police transparency was limited to selected indicators, namely media presence, community engagement, and body-worn camera use. Although these are important dimensions of transparency, they may not fully capture the broader institutional transparency framework, including access to public records, complaint resolution mechanisms, disciplinary accountability, and organizational openness. The limited operationalization of transparency may have contributed to the absence of a statistically significant relationship between transparency and perceived police credibility.

CONCLUSION

This study examined the relationship between police transparency and community perception of law enforcement credibility among barangay officials and police officers in selected barangays in Pagadian City. The findings revealed that police transparency was perceived at a high level in terms of media presence, community engagement, and body-worn camera use, indicating that law enforcement agencies actively implemented transparency-related practices. Similarly, community perception of law enforcement credibility was rated very high across indicators of personal qualities and character, professionalism and effectiveness, and fairness and impartiality. These findings suggest that respondents generally viewed police officers as trustworthy, competent, and committed to their duties. This positive perception reflects the importance of procedural justice, officer professionalism, and ethical conduct in strengthening police legitimacy and institutional credibility. Transparency mechanisms such as media engagement and body-worn cameras enhance institutional openness and accountability, but their effectiveness in shaping public perception depends on consistent implementation and integration with fair and professional policing practices.

However, the results of the correlation analysis revealed no statistically significant relationship between police transparency and community perception of law enforcement credibility, indicating that transparency alone did not significantly influence how respondents evaluated police credibility. This finding suggests that while transparency practices are recognized and valued, public trust and credibility are shaped more strongly by direct interpersonal interactions, procedural fairness, and officer behavior rather than transparency measures alone. Previous research supports this conclusion, emphasizing that police legitimacy is primarily influenced by fairness, respect, and professionalism rather than institutional transparency alone. Therefore, enhancing police credibility requires a comprehensive approach that combines transparency initiatives with ethical conduct, effective communication, and community-oriented policing strategies. Strengthening procedural justice and maintaining consistent professional standards will play a critical role in sustaining public trust, improving institutional legitimacy, and fostering stronger community-police relationships.

RECOMMENDATION

To strengthen the methodological robustness and theoretical contribution of future studies, several recommendations are proposed. First, employing probability-based sampling techniques, such as stratified random sampling or cluster sampling, would enhance the representativeness of the sample and improve the generalizability of the findings. Probability sampling ensures that all members of the population have a known and non-zero chance of selection, thereby reducing sampling bias and strengthening external validity.

Second, future research should incorporate mixed-methods approaches by integrating qualitative data collection techniques, such as in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, or key informant interviews with community members and independent stakeholders. Qualitative methods can provide deeper insight into the underlying reasons why transparency mechanisms may not independently predict police credibility, particularly by capturing lived experiences, contextual factors, and nuanced perceptions that cannot be fully explained through quantitative measures alone.

Third, expanding the operational definition and measurement of police transparency would improve construct validity and provide a more comprehensive assessment of institutional openness. Future studies should consider including additional indicators such as public access to police records, transparency in complaint handling and disciplinary processes, availability of crime statistics, responsiveness to citizen inquiries, and the effectiveness of accountability mechanisms. These broader indicators would provide a more holistic evaluation of transparency and its impact on institutional legitimacy.

Finally, future research may benefit from examining additional predictive variables that influence police credibility, including procedural justice, police legitimacy, officer professionalism, community trust, prior citizen-police interactions, and perceived fairness. Employing multivariate statistical techniques, such as multiple regression analysis or structural equation modeling, would allow researchers to examine the relative influence of transparency alongside other institutional and interpersonal factors. This approach would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the determinants of police credibility and contribute to evidence-based policy development aimed at strengthening police legitimacy and community trust.

Ethical Consideration

Institutional ethics procedures were adhered to in this investigation. Before data collection, ethical approval was obtained from the research ethics committee. Following an explanation of the study's objectives and the voluntary nature of their involvement, informed consent was acquired from the participants. Anonymity and confidentiality were upheld during the entire investigation.

Conflict Of Interest

The writers disclose no conflicts of interest.

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