



Assessment of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in the Selected Barangays of the City of Mati, Davao Oriental

Ruther P. Manaopanao

Graduate Student, Philippine College of Criminology, Manila

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ABSTRACT

Katarungang Pambarangay Law was created to settle disputes at the Barangay level through the process of mediation, conciliation and arbitration. This study examined the level of implementation, satisfaction, and degree of seriousness of the challenges encountered in implementing the Katarungang Pambarangay Law. Two groups of respondents, 115 clients/constituents and 120 members of the Katarungang Pambarangay, were selected through purposive and complete enumeration techniques, respectively. Using a descriptive comparative and correlational research design, the results show that the level of implementation and level of satisfaction is very much implemented and very much satisfied. Moreover, clients observed a slightly serious problem encountered in their implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law, while the Lupon assessed the KP process as having no problem and functioning effectively. Moreover, there is no significant difference in the level of implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay law across mediation, conciliation, and arbitration mechanisms when described by two different groups of respondents. Similarly, there is no significant difference in the level of satisfaction in terms of conciliation and arbitration; however, there is a significant difference in terms of mediation. Likewise, there is no significant difference in the degree of seriousness of the challenges encountered across the processes of mediation, conciliation, and arbitration when assessed by the Lupon members. Conversely, there was a strong positive relationship between the level of implementation and satisfaction when described by two different groups of respondents. Hence, sustaining the efficient implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law is essential to provide the best Barangay Justice services.

Keywords: Capability enhancement; guidance designates; organizational capability; school guidance program; sequential exploratory mixed methods

INTRODUCTION

School The peaceful and accessible resolution of community disputes is an important component of effective local governance and the administration of justice. In the Philippines, not all conflicts need to immediately proceed to the formal courts because the government has institutionalized a community-based mechanism for the amicable settlement of disputes through the Katarungang Pambarangay or Barangay Justice System. Under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, the Katarungang Pambarangay provides a mechanism through which disputes between members of the community may be addressed at the barangay level through mediation, conciliation, and other prescribed procedures before judicial intervention becomes necessary. The law assigns an important role to the Punong Barangay and the Lupon Tagapamayapa in administering this system, thereby placing barangay officials at the forefront of community-level dispute resolution.

The importance of Katarungang Pambarangay lies not only in its capacity to resolve disputes but also in its potential to make justice more accessible, less costly, and more responsive to the social relationships within communities. Because barangay officials and Lupon members are situated within the communities they serve, they are in a position to understand local circumstances and facilitate settlements that may preserve relationships between disputing parties. Recent Philippine research supports the continuing relevance of this community-based justice mechanism. Sotto (2021), in an assessment of selected barangays in Legazpi City, found that the Katarungang Pambarangay was actively utilized in addressing various disputes, although the Lupon Tagapamayapa encountered difficulties in achieving amicable settlements. The study emphasized the need for

adequate knowledge, training, and continuing support for Lupon members to improve their ability to handle different types of disputes.

Similarly, more recent studies demonstrate that the effectiveness of Katarungang Pambarangay may vary depending on the administrative capacity, knowledge, and resources available to its implementers. Barcellano (2025), in examining the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in selected cities in Albay, assessed the administration of Punong Barangays in terms of case disposition, timeliness, case resolution, communication, and documentation. The study recognized the importance of administrative supervision in ensuring that the barangay justice mechanism operates according to its intended functions. This finding is particularly relevant because the effectiveness of a community-based justice system cannot be determined solely by the number of cases settled; the manner in which cases are received, mediated, documented, resolved, or referred is also essential in determining whether the system is being properly implemented.

Recent evidence from other Philippine localities further illustrates differences in the implementation and effectiveness of the system. Morales and Villacruel (2025), in their study of selected barangays in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, found generally effective implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay, particularly in terms of community participation, support from local government, peacemaker skills, accountability, and capacity development. However, the study also identified continuing concerns involving inadequate training, budgetary limitations, weak information dissemination, uneven mediation and conciliation practices, and documentation problems. These findings suggest that a barangay may have an operational justice mechanism while still experiencing institutional weaknesses that can affect the consistency and quality of dispute resolution.

The importance of examining the actual experiences and competencies of those who implement the system is also highlighted by Ampoloquio and Sabijon (2026), who explored the experiences of Pangkat ng Tagapagkasundo chairpersons in selected barangays in Catigbian, Bohol. Their findings showed that barangay mediators experience both positive and negative conditions in performing their responsibilities and emphasized the role of training, seminars, and support in improving the quality of conciliation proceedings. In a related study, Suarez and Talisayon (2026) found that although Lupon members in Borongan City were familiar with Katarungang Pambarangay procedures, gaps in their understanding remained because of insufficient training opportunities. The study further identified inadequate training, lack of motivation, and difficulties in resolving emotionally charged disputes as challenges affecting the process. These studies collectively demonstrate that knowledge of the law and procedural competence among barangay justice implementers are important considerations in assessing the actual operation of the system.

Evidence from Mindanao also underscores the continuing relevance of evaluating Katarungang Pambarangay at the local level. Sarael and Garcia (2026), in their assessment of six high-volume barangays in General Santos City, examined the system in terms of implementation, performance, procedural compliance, and actual settlement rates from 2020 to 2024. Their study treated settlement rates as an important indicator of dispute-resolution effectiveness, while also considering whether the procedures prescribed under the system were properly followed. This approach is useful because it demonstrates that assessing Katarungang Pambarangay requires consideration of both implementation processes and outcomes. Likewise, Añana, Javier, and Sarno (2024) examined awareness of the Barangay Justice System and its relationship with conflict-management skills among Lupon Tagapamayapa members in Sta. Maria, Davao Occidental, demonstrating the continuing research interest in the relationship between knowledge of the system and the capacity of barangay justice implementers.

Although these studies provide valuable evidence regarding the operation of Katarungang Pambarangay in different parts of the Philippines, their findings also reveal that implementation is context-dependent. Studies in Legazpi, Albay, Sto. Tomas, Bohol, Borongan, and General Santos identify generally similar concerns involving training, procedural compliance, documentation, resources, and the competence of Lupon members, yet the specific conditions under which the system operates differ from one locality to another. Consequently, findings from one province or city cannot automatically be generalized to another locality. This is particularly important in assessing barangays in the City of Mati, Davao Oriental, where local demographic, administrative, social, and community conditions may influence how Katarungang Pambarangay is practiced.

The relevance of the system in the Davao Region is further demonstrated by the Department of the Interior and Local Government Region XI's recognition of barangays for their performance in the Lupon Tagapamayapa

Incentives Awards. In the 2023 regional awards, a barangay from the City of Mati was recognized among the outstanding performers, illustrating that barangay justice mechanisms are an active component of local governance in the area. However, recognition or award performance does not necessarily provide a comprehensive picture of how the Katarungang Pambarangay Law is implemented across other barangays within the city. An assessment covering selected barangays may therefore provide more localized evidence concerning how the law is understood, implemented, and experienced by its principal stakeholders.

Despite the growing body of literature on Katarungang Pambarangay, a gap remains in localized empirical evidence concerning its implementation in the City of Mati, Davao Oriental. Existing studies have largely focused on other geographical settings and have examined different dimensions such as administrative supervision, awareness, settlement effectiveness, experiences of Lupon members, and implementation challenges. While these studies establish important indicators for evaluating barangay justice, they do not sufficiently explain the extent to which the Katarungang Pambarangay Law is being implemented in selected barangays of Mati, particularly from the perspective of the local stakeholders who directly participate in the process. Addressing this geographical and contextual gap is important because the effectiveness of a decentralized justice mechanism ultimately depends on how its legal requirements are translated into actual practices at the community level.

In this context, the present study aims to assess the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in selected barangays of the City of Mati, Davao Oriental. Specifically, it seeks to determine how the system is being implemented in the selected barangays and to identify the conditions, practices, and challenges that may influence its effectiveness in resolving community disputes. The findings of the study may provide empirical evidence that can assist barangay officials, members of the Lupon Tagapamayapa, the City Government of Mati, and relevant government agencies in identifying areas requiring improvement, particularly in relation to procedural compliance, capacity building, documentation, and dispute-resolution practices. Ultimately, the study may contribute to strengthening the delivery of accessible, timely, and community-based justice in the selected barangays of the City of Mati.

This study aimed to assess the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in selected barangays in the City of Mati, Davao Oriental. Specifically, it sought to determine the level of implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in terms of mediation, conciliation, and arbitration. It also aimed to determine whether there was a significant difference in the perceived level of implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law according to the respondents. Furthermore, the study sought to determine the level of satisfaction of the respondents with the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law and whether there was a significant difference in their level of satisfaction. It also examined whether there was a significant relationship between the level of implementation and the respondents' satisfaction with the Katarungang Pambarangay Law. In addition, the study aimed to determine the degree of seriousness of the challenges encountered in the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law and whether there was a significant difference in the perceived seriousness of these challenges among the respondents. Finally, based on the findings of the study, an intervention program was proposed to enhance the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in the selected barangays of the City of Mati, Davao Oriental.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study employed a quantitative descriptive, comparative, and correlational research design to assess the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in selected barangays in the City of Mati, Davao Oriental. The quantitative approach was used to gather numerical data through a structured questionnaire, which were subsequently subjected to appropriate statistical analyses to determine the level of implementation, satisfaction, and degree of seriousness of the challenges encountered in the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law. The descriptive component of the design was used to determine and describe the perceived level of implementation of the law in terms of mediation, conciliation, and arbitration, as well as the respondents' level of satisfaction and the seriousness of the challenges encountered. The comparative component was employed to determine whether significant differences existed in the respondents' perceptions of the level of implementation, satisfaction, and seriousness of challenges based on their respective respondent groups.

Meanwhile, the correlational component was utilized to determine whether a significant relationship existed between the level of implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law and the respondents' level of satisfaction. The study did not manipulate any variables; rather, it examined the existing conditions and perceptions of community members and barangay officials who had experience with the Katarungang Pambarangay process, including the Punong Barangay and members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa who perform functions related to mediation, conciliation, and arbitration. Through this research design, the study generated empirical evidence regarding the current implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law, differences in perceptions among respondent groups, the relationship between implementation and satisfaction, and the challenges encountered in the process. The findings served as the basis for developing an intervention program intended to enhance the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in the selected barangays of the City of Mati, Davao Oriental.

Population of the Study

There were two groups of respondents in this study: 115 constituents/clients who underwent the process of Katarungang Pambarangay, and 120 members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa, including the Punong barangay of the respective barangays in the City of Mati who facilitated the settlement of disputes among the parties involved. For the constituents/clients, convenience sampling was used, which is a non-probability sampling method where the respondents are selected based on their availability and willingness to participate (Arbale & Mutisya, 2024). This study is very appropriate, since the researcher only relied on the availability of the respondents based on the records of the respective barangays and their willingness to cooperate. The following inclusion criteria were used: 1) the constituents/clients are bona fide residents of a barangay in the City of Mati, Davao Oriental for at least one (1) year; 2) should have experienced undergoing the system of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law at least once; and 3) the case should have been settled and was not endorsed for further court litigation. Most of the client respondents were in the age bracket of 30-35 years of age, with a frequency of 24 or 20.87%, while the least were at the age of 18 to 23 years of age, with 8 or 6.96%. Meanwhile, there were more males (68, 59.13 %) than females (47, 40.87 %). The majority were at the college level, with a frequency of 37 or 32.17%, while the least were at the elementary level, with a frequency of 2 or 1.74%.

However, for the members of Lupong Tagapamayapa and Punong barangay, the researcher used complete enumeration techniques, also known as total population sampling, where all members are included, which allows the researcher to obtain necessary data from every respondent (Quinlan et al., 2024). Hence, this is most appropriate since there are only a few members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa that comprise a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 members per barangay. The majority of the members of the Katarungang Pambarangay respondents were in the age bracket of 54 years and above with a frequency of 53 or 44.17%, while the least was at the age bracket of 18-23 years of age with 18-23 years of age with a frequency of 1 or .83% where most of them were males with the frequency of 87 or 72.5%, while females 33 or 27.5%. Moreover, these respondents were high school graduates with a frequency of 32 or 26.67%, while the least is elementary level with the frequency of 1 or .83%

Overall, the majority of the two sets of respondents were in the age bracket of 48-53 years old with a frequency of 44 or 18.72%, while the least were in the age bracket of 18-23 years of age with a frequency of 8 or 3.83%. Meanwhile, 155 (65.96 %) and 80 (34.05 %) were male and female, respectively. Most of them were high school graduates (68 or 28.94 %), while the least were college graduates (3 or 1.28 %) across the 10 selected barangays in the City of Mati.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

This study assessed the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in selected Barangays in the City of Mati, Davao Oriental. Specifically, this study focused on the level of implementation of the mediation, conciliation, and arbitration process, satisfaction, and challenges in the context of the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay process from 2019 to 2024.

Data Gathering Tools

The instrument used in this study was a researcher-made questionnaire developed and contextualized based on

the studies of Benter (2020) and Gonzales (2022) to suit the objectives and specific context of the present study on the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in selected barangays in the City of Mati, Davao Oriental. After the questionnaire was developed, it underwent content validation and pilot testing to establish its validity and reliability. For content validation, the instrument was evaluated by a panel of three experts in the field, consisting of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) department head in the City of Mati, the President of the Association of Barangay Captains, and an Assistant Professor of Criminology from Davao Oriental State University. The experts assessed the relevance, clarity, appropriateness, and alignment of the questionnaire items with the objectives of the study and provided recommendations for necessary revisions. Following content validation, the revised questionnaire was pilot-tested among at least 20 individuals who were not included among the actual respondents of the study.

The pilot testing was conducted to assess the clarity, comprehensibility, and appropriateness of the questionnaire items and to establish their internal consistency using Cronbach's alpha. The reliability analysis was performed separately for the major constructs of the instrument, particularly the level of implementation, satisfaction, and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law. The commonly accepted minimum threshold for Cronbach's alpha is 0.70, with higher values indicating greater internal consistency. The results demonstrated that the instrument had satisfactory to excellent reliability, with the level of implementation obtaining a Cronbach's alpha of 0.961, indicating excellent internal consistency; the satisfaction scale obtaining 0.880, indicating good internal consistency; and the challenges in implementation scale obtaining 0.841, also indicating good internal consistency. These results established that the questionnaire items were sufficiently consistent for use in the actual data gathering.

The questionnaire consisted of two main parts. The first part gathered the demographic profile of the respondents, including their classification, age, sex, educational attainment, and barangay of residence or assignment. The second part utilized a four-point Likert scale to determine the respondents' perceived level of implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in terms of mediation, conciliation, and arbitration, as well as their level of satisfaction and the degree of seriousness of the challenges encountered in its implementation. The responses obtained through the four-point Likert scale provided quantitative measures that were subsequently subjected to appropriate statistical treatment in accordance with the objectives of the study. The corresponding interpretation of the four-point Likert scale is presented in the succeeding tables.

Data Gathering Procedure

The data gathering procedure of the study was conducted systematically to ensure the proper collection of accurate and relevant data. First, the researcher sought permission to conduct the study by obtaining clearance from the Dean of the Graduate School of the Philippine College of Criminology. Upon approval, a formal letter of request was submitted to the Punong Barangay of each selected barangay in the City of Mati, Davao Oriental, to secure permission to conduct the study within their respective areas. After the necessary permissions were granted, the researcher reproduced and personally administered the validated questionnaire to the designated respondents. The respondents consisted of clients from the selected barangays who had experienced or participated in the Katarungang Pambarangay process, as well as members of the Katarungang Pambarangay, including the Punong Barangay and other concerned barangay officials. Before the administration of the questionnaire, the researcher explained the purpose of the study, the contents and rating procedures of the instrument, and the respondents' rights as participants. An informed consent form was also provided and explained to ensure that participation was voluntary and that the respondents understood the nature of their involvement in the study. The respondents were instructed to answer all items honestly and were given sufficient time to complete the questionnaire. After the questionnaires were completed, the researcher personally retrieved the accomplished instruments and checked them for completeness and consistency. Questionnaires with missing or incomplete responses were identified and addressed in accordance with the established data collection procedures. The completed questionnaires were then organized, recorded, coded, and classified for statistical analysis with the assistance and guidance of a statistician. All information gathered from the respondents was treated with confidentiality and used solely for the purposes of the study.

Treatment of the Data

The data gathered in this study were treated using appropriate descriptive and inferential statistical techniques



with the assistance and guidance of a statistician. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize and describe the responses of the participants, while inferential statistics were employed to determine significant differences and relationships among the variables in accordance with the specific objectives of the study.

The mean was used to determine the average responses of the respondents and to describe the level of implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in terms of mediation, conciliation, and arbitration, the level of satisfaction with its implementation, and the degree of seriousness of the challenges encountered during its implementation. The independent samples t-test was employed to determine whether there was a significant difference between the responses of the two independent groups of respondents, particularly the clients or complainants and the members of the Katarungang Pambarangay, regarding the perceived level of implementation and level of satisfaction with the Katarungang Pambarangay Law.

Pearson's product-moment correlation coefficient (Pearson's r) was used to determine the strength and direction of the linear relationship between the perceived level of implementation and the respondents' level of satisfaction with the Katarungang Pambarangay Law.

Meanwhile, one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to determine whether there were significant differences in the respondents' perceptions regarding the degree of seriousness of the challenges encountered in the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law across the identified respondent groups or categories. The results of these statistical analyses were interpreted based on the appropriate level of significance and served as the basis for drawing conclusions and developing an intervention program to enhance the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in the selected barangays of the City of Mati, Davao Oriental.

Ethical Considerations

The study observed appropriate ethical standards throughout the research process. Prior to data collection, the researcher secured research clearance from the research committee, and the committee's comments and recommendations were duly considered and incorporated into the study. Permission to conduct the research was also obtained from the respective Punong Barangays through formal letters. Participation was entirely voluntary, and respondents were informed about the purpose, procedures, and expected involvement in the study before providing written or verbal informed consent. The researcher ensured that respondents' privacy, confidentiality, and rights were protected by keeping personal information confidential, using codes instead of names, and storing signed consent forms separately from the accomplished questionnaires. The questionnaire was presented in clear and understandable language and was administered only with the appropriate authorization. Potential minimal physical, psychological, and emotional risks were recognized and minimized through confidential and individual administration of the survey. Respondents were also informed that the findings could provide useful information on the current status of the Katarungang Pambarangay and contribute to improving its implementation and services.

Dissemination of the Research Outcome

The findings of the study were disseminated to relevant stakeholders, particularly the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the City Government of Mati, and the concerned barangays, for information, reference, and possible use in strengthening and improving the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay. The results were also presented to the concerned barangay officials to help them assess their practices and identify areas for improvement in the delivery of barangay-based dispute resolution services. In addition, the study was presented in appropriate research fora and was submitted for possible publication in a research journal to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on Katarungang Pambarangay and community-based dispute resolution.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay

This section presents the results of the data gathered from the two sets of respondents regarding the level of implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay in terms of mediation, conciliation, and arbitration.

Mediation

Table 3.1.1 presents the level of implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay law with respect to mediation in the three barangays. As indicated by the distinct group of respondents, the grand total mean was 3.48, with a verbal interpretation of "very much implemented," which means that the statements on the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay are consistently observed.

As shown in the table, the statement "The barangay provides mediation services when disputes arise" has the highest overall mean of 3.57, with verbal interpretation of very much implemented, followed by the statement "The mediation process effectively helps parties resolve their disputes with the overall mean of 3.54. The barangay actively promotes and encourages the use of mediation as an alternative to court litigation, with an overall mean of 3.50 and a verbal interpretation of "very much implemented."

Table 3.1.1 Level of Implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in Terms of Mediation

Item	Client			Lupong			Total		
	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI
1. The barangay provides mediation services when disputes arise.	3.58	0.61	VMI	3.55	0.53	VMI	3.57	0.57	VMI
2. The mediators are trained and competent to handle cases.	3.46	0.52	VMI	3.47	0.58	VMI	3.46	0.55	VMI
3. Mediation sessions are conducted fairly, impartially, and confidently.	3.37	0.58	VMI	3.50	0.55	VMI	3.43	0.57	VMI
4. The Barangay coordinates with concerned agencies when required by the case.	3.49	0.57	VMI	3.48	0.58	VMI	3.48	0.57	VMI
5. The mediator complies with the terms of settlement as agreed by both parties.	3.43	0.55	VMI	3.50	0.55	VMI	3.47	0.55	VMI
6. The mediation process effectively helps parties resolve their disputes.	3.48	0.54	VMI	3.60	0.54	VMI	3.54	0.54	VMI
7. The barangay actively promotes and encourages the use of mediation as an alternative to court litigation.	3.41	0.56	VMI	3.58	0.53	VMI	3.50	0.55	VMI
8. Information about the mediation process is readily available and accessible to the community.	3.44	0.55	VMI	3.54	0.53	VMI	3.49	0.54	VMI
9. The entire mediation process observes privacy and due process for both parties.	3.37	0.54	VMI	3.47	0.55	VMI	3.42	0.54	VMI
Grand Mean	3.45	0.56	VMI	3.52	0.55	VMI	3.48	0.55	VMI

Meanwhile, the statement "The entire mediation process observes privacy and due process for both parties has the lowest overall mean of 3.42, followed by the statement" Mediation sessions are conducted fairly, impartially, and confidently, " with the overall mean of 3.43. The mediators were trained and competent to handle cases, with an overall mean of 3.46 and a verbal interpretation of "very much implemented."

This reveals that mediation, as the initial process of settling disputes, as perceived by the different groups of respondents, is carried out consistently and is enforced properly. However, confidentiality of information during the facilitation of discussion of both parties is a concern. This may be ascribed to the barangay settings, such as spaces where disputing parties can be overheard by others. This suggests that barangays must be consistent in

the procedural aspects of mediation in providing the necessary facilities that promote a conducive environment to ensure privacy and confidentiality of communication that encourage parties to express themselves freely and honestly. In general, the barangays demonstrated a high level of implementation of the mediation process, notably in conducting actual mediation proceedings.

The success of the mediation process does not depend solely on the members of the Katarungang Pambarangay; it is a shared responsibility of the parties involved (officials and community members). Constant training, tools, and community support can lead to a more peaceful and connected community (Qadri et al., 2024).

Conciliation

Table 3.1.2 presents the level of implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay law on conciliation. As depicted by the distinct group of respondents, the grand total mean is 3.49 with a verbal interpretation of very much implemented, which means that the statements on the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay are always manifested.

As shown in the table, as described by two different sets of respondents, the statement The conciliator complies with the terms of settlement after cases have been settled has the highest overall mean of 3.53, with a verbal interpretation of very much implemented, followed by the statement Conciliation sessions are conducted fairly, respectfully, and in a proper manner; the conciliation process effectively helps parties reach an amicable agreement; and information about the conciliation process is easily accessible and understood by the community has an overall mean of 3.52 with a verbal interpretation of very much implemented. Meanwhile, the statement that the conciliators are impartial, remain neutral, and are competent in their tasks has the lowest overall mean of 3.45, followed by the statement that conciliation sessions are confidential and encourage open and honest communication, with an overall mean of 3.46. The barangay facilitates conciliation proceedings through the Pangkat to promote settlement, with an overall mean of 3.47, with the verbal interpretation of very much implemented.

Table 3.1.2 Level of Implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in Terms of Conciliation

Item	Client			Lupong			Total		
	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI
1. The barangay facilitates conciliation proceedings through the Pangkat to promote settlements.	3.48	0.57	VMI	3.47	0.53	VMI	3.47	0.55	VMI
2. The conciliators are impartial, remain neutral, and are competent in their tasks.	3.37	0.57	VMI	3.52	0.53	VMI	3.45	0.56	VMI
3. Conciliation sessions are conducted fairly, respectfully, and in a proper manner.	3.51	0.52	VMI	3.53	0.53	VMI	3.52	0.53	VMI
4. The Barangay coordinates with the concerned agencies relating to conciliation cases.	3.37	0.58	VMI	3.61	0.49	VMI	3.49	0.55	VMI
5. The conciliator complies with the terms of settlement after cases have been settled.	3.47	0.52	VMI	3.59	0.56	VMI	3.53	0.54	VMI
6. The conciliation process effectively helps parties reach an amicable agreement.	3.54	0.52	VMI	3.50	0.53	VMI	3.52	0.53	VMI

7. The barangay actively promotes and encourages conciliation before pursuing formal legal action in court.	3.46	0.52	VMI	3.52	0.53	VMI	3.49	0.53	VMI
8. Information about the conciliation process is easily accessible and understood by the community.	3.50	0.50	VMI	3.54	0.52	VMI	3.52	0.51	VMI
9. Conciliation sessions are confidential and encourage open and honest communication.	3.48	0.50	VMI	3.43	0.55	VMI	3.46	0.52	VMI
Grand Mean	3.46	0.53	VMI	3.52	0.53	VMI	3.49	0.53	VMI

This implies that conciliation as the next process through the pangkat of three individuals selected from the lupong members is consistently carried out, where both parties are given time to settle their conflicts through dialogue and mutual understanding. Moreover, the establishment of agreements between parties is highly manifested. This reflects that conciliators pay attention to reaching clear agreements that are acceptable to the parties, which indicates that conciliators translate outcomes into specific terms of agreements. However, maintaining impartiality in handling conflicts through barangay settings can be more challenging for conciliators. This suggests that in the settlement of each case, not all parties perceive conciliators as completely impartial. Thus, the process must not only focus on achieving the settlement of disputes but also ensure fairness, which builds confidence among the parties.

Conciliation is a flexible mechanism that helps review each party's position in the event that mediation fails, providing opportunities to reach mutually beneficial agreements (Donohue, 2023). Furthermore, facilitating communication between parties during the first stage of conciliation is a relatively simple task. However, maintaining adherence to the established agreements is difficult.

Arbitration

Table 3.1.3 presents the level of implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay law on arbitration. As indicated by the diverse group of respondents, the grand total mean was 3.52, with a verbal interpretation of "very much implemented," which means that the statements on the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay are consistently observed.

It can be deduced from the table, as described by two distinct groups of respondents, that the statement "The arbitration process effectively helps parties in resolving their disputes" has the highest overall mean of 3.59, with verbal interpretation of very much implemented, followed by the statement "The barangay provides access to arbitration for more complex disputes" with the overall mean of 3.58 and "Arbitration process are done in a fair, efficient, and transparent manner for all" with an overall mean of 3.55 with the verbal interpretation of very much implemented, respectively. Meanwhile, the statement "Arbitration observes the submission of legal requirements and proper endorsement of the case," with an overall mean of 3.40, is followed by the statement "Information about the rules and process of arbitration is readily available to the community," with an overall mean of 3.49. The statement "The barangay promotes and encourages parties to consider arbitration as a swift alternative to formal court proceedings" gained an overall mean of 3.50 and a verbal interpretation of "very much implemented."

This finding shows that in cases where the conciliation process did not resolve the conflict, the members of the Katarungang Pambarangay actively and progressively promoted the arbitration process rather than immediately issuing certificates to file action to proceed to the next office or organization. Similarly, this reflects that the lupong and other concerned parties uphold the use of constructive, open communication to maintain and promote peace and order in the community.

Table 3.1.3 Level of implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in Terms of Arbitration

Item	Client			Lupong			Total		
	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI
1. The barangay provides access to arbitration for more complex disputes.	3.68	0.51	VMI	3.49	0.57	VMI	3.58	0.54	VMI
2. Arbitrators are neutral, impartial, and possess relevant expertise and credibility.	3.50	0.50	VMI	3.55	0.50	VMI	3.52	0.50	VMI
3. Arbitration process are done in a fair, efficient, and transparent manner for all.	3.56	0.52	VMI	3.55	0.55	VMI	3.55	0.53	VMI
4. The Barangay coordinates with concerned agencies like courts and the prosecutor's office for arbitration.	3.55	0.55	VMI	3.49	0.55	VMI	3.52	0.55	VMI
5. The arbitrator complies with the formal arbitration agreement executed and agreed upon by the parties.	3.55	0.52	VMI	3.47	0.52	VMI	3.51	0.52	VMI
6. The arbitration process effectively helps parties in resolving their disputes.	3.58	0.51	VMI	3.59	0.51	VMI	3.59	0.51	VMI
7. The barangay promotes and encourages parties to consider arbitration as a swift alternative to formal court proceedings.	3.43	0.52	VMI	3.56	0.50	VMI	3.50	0.51	VMI
8. Information about the rules and process of arbitration is readily available to the community.	3.41	0.53	VMI	3.57	0.50	VMI	3.49	0.52	VMI
9. Arbitration observes the submission of legal requirements and proper endorsement of the case.	3.32	0.54	VMI	3.48	0.52	VMI	3.40	0.53	VMI
Grand Mean	3.51	0.52	VMI	3.53	0.52	VMI	3.52	0.52	VMI

Moreover, clients and members of Katarungang pambarangay, despite their differences in the role of the KP process, recognize arbitration as an effective means of resolving disputes at the barangay level. However, the submission of legal requirements and proper endorsement has a relatively lower rating than other arbitration mechanisms. This manifests the difference in results and procedural requirements. The process appears to be effective in settling disputes, but there is a need for improvement in proper documentation and endorsement. Therefore, proper guidance and monitoring may complement the barangays' resolve in the settlement of disputes.

Arbitration, as the final process in the Katarungang Pambarangay, focuses on helping both parties understand each other to achieve a reasonable agreement. This applies to more complex cases where the previous process is not enough. Accomplishing this process relies on a more formal and decision-focused approach rather than an emotional relationship approach (Spivack, 2025).

Summary of Level of Implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law

Table 3.1.4 presents the level of implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay law across mediation, conciliation and arbitration. As indicated by the diverse group of respondents, the grand total mean was 3.49, with a verbal interpretation of "very much implemented," which means that the statements on the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay are consistently observed.

Table 3.1.4 Summary on the Level of Implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law

Indicator	Client			Lupong			Total		
	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI
Mediation	3.45	0.56	VMI	3.52	0.55	VMI	3.48	0.55	VMI
Conciliation	3.46	0.53	VMI	3.52	0.53	VMI	3.49	0.53	VMI
Arbitration	3.51	0.52	VMI	3.53	0.52	VMI	3.52	0.52	VMI
Grand mean	3.46	0.51	VMI	3.52	0.53	VMI	3.49	0.53	VMI

As shown in the table, arbitration has the highest overall mean of 3.52, with a verbal interpretation of "very much implemented," followed by conciliation with an overall mean of 3.49. In contrast, mediation had the lowest overall mean of 3.48, with verbal interpretation being frequently implemented.

The findings reveal that the Katarungang Pambarangay Law is fully implemented in the City of Mati, indicating that members of the Katarungang Pambarangay are consistent, compliant, and follow the mechanism for amicable settlement of cases within their jurisdiction. This high level of implementation indicates that the processes are performed with a degree of consistency. However, across these indicators, it was noted that this was not uniformly implemented. Mediation, as the first step in the KP process, requires further focus to improve its effectiveness at the implementation level. Hence, the implementation, in general, is functioning as intended, but constant monitoring of areas that need improvement may help improve its effectiveness.

In contrast to this result, among the methods used to resolve disputes at the barangay level, mediation is widely implemented, followed by conciliation, while arbitration is less likely to be implemented, as it is more formal and binding (Yusoph, 2025). Katarungang Pambarangay, as a provider of justice at the local level, must not remain unchanged; rather, it needs to evolve continuously to address emerging situations and improve the features of the system that promote harmony and community well-being (Noveloso et al., 2024). Furthermore, the effective implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law depends not only on the existing procedures and institutional mechanisms but also on the administrative capacity, competence, and performance of barangay officials and members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa. Barcellano (2025) emphasized the importance of effective case disposition, timeliness, resolution, communication, and documentation in the administration of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law, while also identifying knowledge gaps and practical challenges that may hinder its effective implementation.

Analysis of Difference

This section presents the results of the differences in the perception of different groups of respondents in the level of implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay.

Table 3.2.1 depicts significant differences in the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay in mediation, conciliation, and arbitration when analyzed across the two diverse groups of respondents. As illustrated in the table, mediation has a significant value of 0.056, conciliation 0.102, and arbitration 0.602. These values exceeded the significance level of 0.05. Thus, the null hypothesis was not rejected.

Table 3.2.1 Analysis of Differences in Respondents' Perception on the Implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law

	Mediation	Conciliation	Arbitration
t-value	-1.918	-1.643	-0.522
Sig. value	0.056	0.102	0.602
Decision on H_0	Do not reject	Do not reject	Do not reject

Significant at $p < 0.05$

The results show that none of the three dispute resolution mechanisms demonstrate statistically significant differences in the implementation stage, as perceived by a diverse group of respondents. Notably, they share similar perceptions of the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay, indicating that they all perceive the KP process as well-implemented in the Barangays in the City of Mati. Consistent with the study of Romero and Romero (2026), the Katarungang Pambarangay Mechanism for settling disputes is homogeneously applied and practiced.

Level of Satisfaction of Katarungang Pambarangay

This section presents the results from two distinct groups of respondents regarding their satisfaction with the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay across mediation, conciliation, and arbitration.

Mediation Services

Table 3.3.1 presents the level of satisfaction with the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay law in terms of mediation. As reported by the different groups of respondents, the grand total mean was 3.50, with a verbal interpretation of "very much satisfied," indicating that the statements on the level of satisfaction in the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay were highly satisfactory.

It can be drawn from the table, as construed by two distinct groups of respondents, that the statement The barangay was prompt and responsive in attending to our dispute when mediation was needed has the highest overall mean of 3.58, with a verbal interpretation of very much satisfied, followed by the statement "The mediation process effectively saved us time and financial expenses compared to court litigation" with the overall mean of 3.56 and "I am satisfied with how securely the Lupon maintained the confidentiality of our sessions" with an overall mean of 3.53 with the verbal interpretation of very much satisfied respectively. Meanwhile, the statements "The barangay's coordination with other agencies resolved our case more smoothly, and "The entire process left us feeling genuinely respected and treated with dignity" have the lowest overall mean of 3.40, followed by the statement "The barangay officials and staff were highly accessible and accommodating whenever we sought guidance" with an overall mean of 3.49, and the verbal interpretation of very much satisfied.

Table 3.3.1 Level of Satisfaction in Mediation Services

Item	Client			Lupong			Total		
	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI
1. The barangay was prompt and responsive in attending to our dispute when mediation was needed.	3.67	0.51	VMS	3.50	0.58	VMS	3.58	0.55	VMS
2. The mediating official demonstrated strong competence and skill in guiding us toward a resolution.	3.53	0.50	VMS	3.48	0.53	VMS	3.50	0.52	VMS
3. I am satisfied with how securely the Lupon maintained the confidentiality of our sessions.	3.52	0.50	VMS	3.53	0.58	VMS	3.53	0.54	VMS

4. The barangay's coordination with other agencies facilitated smoother case resolution.	3.40	0.56	VMS	3.40	0.54	VMS	3.40	0.55	VMS
5. The resulting terms of settlement were fair, balanced, and satisfactory for both sides.	3.43	0.56	VMS	3.59	0.51	VMS	3.51	0.54	VMS
6. The mediation process effectively saved us time and financial expenses compared to court litigation.	3.50	0.50	VMS	3.63	0.50	VMS	3.56	0.51	VMS
7. The barangay's explanation of mediation benefits encouraged us to trust their local process.	3.41	0.54	VMS	3.60	0.51	VMS	3.51	0.53	VMS
8. The barangay officials and staff were highly accessible and accommodating whenever we sought guidance.	3.37	0.50	VMS	3.59	0.49	VMS	3.49	0.51	VMS
9. The entire process left us feeling genuinely respected and treated with dignity.	3.32	0.52	VMS	3.48	0.53	VMS	3.40	0.53	VMS
Grand Mean	3.46	0.52	VMS	3.53	0.53	VMS	3.50	0.53	VMS

The findings revealed that mediation services were positively experienced by distinct groups of respondents. This suggests that it meets the expectations of all parties involved. In particular, immediate attention to the controversy may help satisfy parties and hinder the escalation of conflicts. Nonetheless, coordination may indicate that it is not always readily available when assistance beyond barangay settings is required. Moreover, the feeling of being respected during the process does not seem to be equally perceived positively.

This suggests that satisfaction does not necessarily determine how quickly disputes are addressed, but also the quality, especially in coordination and respect for the entire process. Hence, improving cooperation with the concerned agencies and a client-centered approach to ensure a respectful process may improve the experience of the parties seeking settlements at the barangay level. Satisfaction with mediation services is formed by several aspects, as studied by Benter (2020), and clients' fulfilment reflects their experiences through the mediation process.

Conciliation Services

Table 3.3.2 presents the level of satisfaction with the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay law in terms of conciliation. As indicated by the different groups of respondents, the grand total mean is 3.50, with a verbal interpretation of "very much satisfied," which means that the statements on the level of satisfaction with the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay are highly satisfactory.

Table 3.3.2 Level of Satisfaction in Conciliation Services

Item	Client			Lupong			Total		
	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI
1. The Pangkat panel provided adequate time and structural guidance to foster a genuine reconciliation.	3.55	0.52	VMS	3.63	0.53	VMS	3.59	0.53	VMS
2. The panel members remained strictly neutral and showed no personal biases during the hearings.	3.36	0.53	VMS	3.49	0.65	VMS	3.43	0.60	VMS



3. The conciliation panel gave us a full and equal opportunity to voice our side and present our context.	3.48	0.55	VMS	3.54	0.53	VMS	3.51	0.54	VMS
4. I observed that the barangay was sincerely dedicated to coordinate with other offices to help settle our issue.	3.36	0.62	VMS	3.52	0.55	VMS	3.44	0.59	VMS
5. The Pangkat panel members remained supportive and reassuring even after the formal agreement was signed.	3.54	0.52	VMS	3.48	0.61	VMS	3.51	0.57	VMS
6. The conciliation outcome effectively restored peace and mended our relationship with our neighbor.	3.50	0.55	VMS	3.60	0.53	VMS	3.55	0.54	VMS
7. The conciliation rules and final agreement forms were easy to understand due to a clear explanation by the Lupon.	3.47	0.50	VMS	3.59	0.51	VMS	3.53	0.51	VMS
8. I felt secure and free to express the truth within the confidential conciliation room.	3.47	0.50	VMS	3.43	0.51	VMS	3.45	0.51	VMS
Grand Mean	3.46	0.54	VMS	3.54	0.55	VMS	3.50	0.55	VMS

As illustrated in the table, as detailed by two distinct groups of respondents, the statement “The Pangkat panel provided adequate time and structural guidance to foster a genuine reconciliation” has the highest overall mean of 3.59, with a verbal interpretation of very much satisfied, followed by the statement “The conciliation outcome effectively restored peace and mended our relationship with our neighbor” with an overall mean of 3.55 and “The conciliation rules and final agreement forms were easy to understand due to a clear explanation by the Lupon” with an overall mean of 3.53 with a verbal interpretation of very much satisfied, respectively. Meanwhile, the statement “The panel members remained strictly neutral and showed no personal biases during the hearings” had the lowest overall mean of 3.43, followed by the statement “I observed that the barangay was sincerely dedicated to coordinating with other offices to help settle our issue,” with an overall mean of 3.44. “I felt secure and free to express the truth within the confidential conciliation room” with an overall mean of 3.45 and a verbal interpretation of “very much satisfied.”

The results suggest that the Lupong Tagapamayapa (counsel) for both parties efficiently conducted the conciliation services. This further indicates that it is instrumental in facilitating amicable settlements, thereby promoting social harmony. Provision on panels providing time and guidance during the process may prove that conciliators are willing to assist the parties in the settlement of disputes. However, fairness during the process requires further attention, as it ensures inferior evaluation among the processes of conciliation services. This does not indicate that conciliators are biased, but clients perceptions are comparatively less favorable to the providers. This distinction is significant because conciliation requires sufficient time and guidance, as well as fairness in the process. Therefore, further reinforcement of neutrality may help increase the level of confidence of the parties involved and enhance the level of satisfaction. Bustillo and Tad-awan (2026) postulate that the success of the conciliation process is influenced by effective communication, mutual respect, fair conciliators, and emotional aptitude, which impact the community's trust.

Arbitration Services

Table 3.3.3 presents the level of satisfaction with the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay law in terms of arbitration. As indicated by the distinct groups of respondents, the grand total mean was 3.57, with a verbal interpretation of “very much satisfied,” which means that the statements on the level of satisfaction with

the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay were highly satisfactory.

The data depicted in the table, as detailed by two distinct groups of respondents, show that the statement The arbitrators display credibility, relevant expertise, and absolute impartiality. The barangay promotes arbitration by clearly explaining its rules and alternative benefits before starting the case, which had the highest overall mean of 3.63, with the verbal interpretation of very much satisfied, followed by the statement The arbitration proceedings are conducted in a fair, efficient, and transparent manner for both parties with the overall mean of 3.62, with the verbal interpretation of very much satisfied.

Table 3.3.3 Level of Satisfaction in Arbitration Services

Item	Client			Lupong			Total		
	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI
1. The barangay provides clear access to arbitration for more complex disputes.	3.46	0.50	VMS	3.59	0.49	VMS	3.53	0.50	VMS
2. The arbitrators display credibility, relevant expertise, and absolute impartiality.	3.57	0.50	VMS	3.69	0.46	VMS	3.63	0.48	VMS
3. The arbitration proceedings are conducted in a fair, efficient, and transparent manner for both parties.	3.66	0.48	VMS	3.58	0.51	VMS	3.62	0.49	VMS
4. The barangay coordinates with courts and the prosecutor's office for the official registration of the award.	3.57	0.50	VMS	3.54	0.58	VMS	3.56	0.54	VMS
5. The final arbitral award presents an honest and harmonious disposition for both parties.	3.63	0.49	VMS	3.49	0.55	VMS	3.56	0.52	VMS
6. The Lupon or Pangkat Tagapamayapa members enforce and support the arbitrations made.	3.56	0.50	VMS	3.52	0.52	VMS	3.54	0.51	VMS
7. The barangay promotes arbitration by clearly explaining its rules and alternative benefits before starting the case.	3.64	0.48	VMS	3.61	0.49	VMS	3.63	0.49	VMS
8. The arbitration observes the settlement of the case without favoring either of the adversarial parties.	3.59	0.49	VMS	3.59	0.51	VMS	3.59	0.50	VMS
9. The barangay observes the proper preparation, use, and submission of legal requirements such as endorsement letters.	3.39	0.49	VMS	3.53	0.52	VMS	3.46	0.51	VMS
Grand Mean	3.56	0.49	VMS	0.57	0.51	VMS	3.57	0.50	VMS

Meanwhile, the statement “The barangay observes the proper preparation, use, and submission of legal requirements such as endorsement letters” had the lowest overall mean of 3.46, followed by the statement “The barangay provides clear access to arbitration for more complex disputes” overall mean of 3.53 and “The Lupon or Pangkat Tagapamayapa members enforce and support the arbitrations” with an overall mean of 3.54, with the verbal interpretation of very much satisfied, respectively.

Findings reveal that whenever they reach the arbitration process, both parties have a high level of confidence in and reliability of the agreed-upon resolutions. This further suggests that the study was conducted in a way that met the expectations and impartiality of the process. This view is that arbitrators are capable of handling fair and honest hearings of disputes. Such perceptions may help disputing parties build positive experiences that influence satisfaction feedback and are willing to comply with arbitration agreements.

However, procedural gaps in complying with documentary requirements need great emphasis as they may indicate not satisfied all the time. The results showed that the perceived decision-making process was satisfactory, but complying with documentary requirements was an area that needed enhancement. Satisfaction is greatly influenced by experience (Teves, 2026), as arbitration services are regarded as highly effective for those who undergo the process.

Summary of the Respondents' Satisfaction on the Implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law

Table 3.3.4 presents the level of satisfaction with the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay law across the processes of mediation, conciliation, and arbitration. As reported by the different groups of respondents, the grand total mean was 3.52, with a verbal interpretation of "very much satisfied," indicating that the statements on the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay were highly satisfactory.

Table 3.3.4 Summary of the Respondents' Satisfaction on the Implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law

Indicator	Client			Lupong			Total		
	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI
Mediation	3.46	0.52	VMS	3.53	0.53	VMS	3.50	0.53	VMS
Conciliation	3.46	0.54	VMS	3.54	0.55	VMS	3.50	0.55	VMS
Arbitration	3.56	0.49	VMS	3.57	0.51	VMS	3.57	0.50	VMS
Grand Mean	3.49	0.51	VMS	3.54	0.46	VMS	3.52	0.52	VMS

As depicted in the table, arbitration has the highest overall mean of 3.57, with a verbal interpretation of being very much satisfied. Simultaneously, conciliation and mediation had an overall mean of 3.50, with a verbal interpretation of "very much satisfied." The findings suggest that satisfaction with the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law is high and that it is highly effective in resolving disputes. When mechanisms are compared, mediation and conciliation have the same level of satisfaction, postulating similar services experienced by either clients or providers of services. Subsequently, among the services offered, arbitrations have the highest level of satisfaction, which may be associated with the positive perception of the credibility and impartiality of the arbitrators. Hence, this reflects, as perceived by the different groups of respondents, that fairness and accessibility in the KP process are maintained efficiently, thereby fostering harmonious relationships among the parties involved.

The constituents were very satisfied with the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay, especially with how members handle the settlement of disputes, which are dependable, accessible, and responsive to the needs of their community in resolving conflicts (Ordoñez & Ordoñez, 2025). Moreover, the lupong or pangakat, in handling the process, especially in the most complicated situations, when addressed carefully, leads to constituent satisfaction (Gonzales, 2022).

3.4 Analysis of Difference

This section presents the results of the differences in the perception of different groups of respondents in the level of satisfaction during the Katarungang Pambarangay implementation.

Table 3.4.1 illustrates significant differences in satisfaction with the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay across the processes of mediation, conciliation, and arbitration when analyzed by the two groups of respondents.

As outlined in the table, mediation had a significant value of 0.047, conciliation had a significant value of 0.062, and arbitration had a value of 0.778. The mediation effect is below the 0.05 significance level, indicating that it is statistically significant and that the perceptions of the two distinct respondents differ; this may be ascribed to the varied roles, experiences, and level of participation during the mediation process, thereby rejecting the null hypothesis.

Table 3.4.1 Analysis of Differences in Respondents' Satisfaction on the Implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law

	Mediation	Conciliation	Arbitration
t-value	-2.001	-1.878	-0.269
Sig. value	0.047*	0.062	0.788
Decision on H_0	Reject	Do not reject	Do not reject

*Significant at $p < 0.05$

On the other hand, conciliation and arbitration have similar perceptions, which suggests they share a comparable assessment of how these services are carried out. Taken together, these results show that mediation services were the only mechanism that demonstrated a significant difference. This result warrants further examination because, despite the fact that three mechanisms are generally satisfied, they are not statistically. This differs from mediation. Thus, a high level of satisfaction does not result in the same group of experiences across the services offered. Generally, this aligns with Gonzales (2022), who found that both constituents and Lupong viewed the same level of satisfaction in the implementation of the Barangay Justice System. It only differs in the mediation process, as the findings indicate dissimilar perceptions among different groups of respondents.

Analysis of Relationship

This section presents the results of the relationship between the implementation and satisfaction of the Katarungang Pambarangay.

Table 3.5.1 illustrates the significant relationship between the level of implementation and satisfaction with the Katarungang Pambarangay law across the processes of mediation, conciliation, and arbitration as perceived by the different groups of respondents. The results show that there is a strong positive significance between implementation and satisfaction in the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay, with an overall coefficient value of .952 and a significant value of 0.000, which is lower than the 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected. This indicates that better implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law is strongly associated with a higher level of respondents' satisfaction, which promotes peaceful resolutions when disputes arise within the community, as it contributes to public confidence when it is efficiently implemented.

Table 3.5.1 Relationship Between Respondents' Satisfaction and the Implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law

Satisfaction		Implementation			
		Mediation	Conciliation	Arbitration	Overall
Mediation	Correlation Coef.	0.906*	0.829*	0.646*	0.899*

	Sig value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Conciliation	Correlation Coef.	0.760*	0.932*	0.715*	0.891*
	Sig value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Arbitration	Correlation Coef.	0.856*	0.829*	0.767*	0.910*
	Sig value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Overall	Correlation Coef.	0.984*	0.908*	0.753*	0.952*
	Sig value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

*Significant at $p < 0.01, .05$

This further indicates that when these three mechanisms are properly observed, perceptions of respondents are favorable to the services they receive and offer. Moreover, this result is consistent with the result of implementation, which is very much implemented, while the distinct group of respondents is likewise very much satisfied with the services provided. This consistency suggests positive experiences for those who underwent the Katarungang Pambarangay mechanism of settling disputes in barangay settings

This result aligns with the study of Ordoñez and Ordoñez (2025) and Gonzales (2022), which revealed that the better the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay (Barangay justice system), the higher the level of constituents/clients' satisfaction.

Seriousness of the Challenges Encountered in the Implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay

This section presents the results of the data gathered from the respondents regarding the challenges encountered in the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay.

Mediation

Table 3.6.1 depicts the degree of seriousness of the challenges encountered in implementing the Katarungang Pambarangay law in terms of mediation. As indicated by the different groups of respondents, the grand total mean is 1.65, with a verbal interpretation of "not a challenge/problem," which means that the statements on the degree of seriousness of the challenges encountered in the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay are not experienced. It can be gleaned from the table, as detailed by two distinct groups of respondents, that the statement Outside influence or interference from third-party individuals that derails amicable settlement had the highest overall mean of 1.71, with a verbal interpretation of not a challenge/problem, followed by the statement Ignoring or non-compliance of disputing parties with the issued summons with the overall mean of 1.69, with the verbal interpretation of not a challenge/problem. Meanwhile, the statement "Lack of funding and continuous advanced training for members to improve skills" had the lowest overall mean of 1.56, followed by the statement "Lack of required facilities or office space for confidential mediation sessions," with an overall mean of 1.63 and "Pessimistic attitude, indifference, or personal pride of clients preventing active participation." The overall mean was 1.66, with a verbal interpretation of not a challenge/problem.

Table 3.6.1 Degree of Seriousness of the Challenges in the Implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in terms of Mediation

Item	Client			Lupong			Total		
	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI
1. Lack of required facilities or office space for confidential mediation sessions.	1.95	0.26	SS	1.33	0.69	NCP	1.63	0.61	NCP

2. Pessimistic attitude, indifference, or personal pride of clients preventing active participation.	1.94	0.33	SS	1.39	0.75	NCP	1.66	0.64	NCP
3. Ignoring or non-compliance of disputing parties with the issued summons.	2.01	0.25	SS	1.38	0.70	NCP	1.69	0.62	NCP
4. Lack of funding and continuous advanced training for members to improve skills.	2.02	0.26	SS	1.12	0.37	NCP	1.56	0.55	NCP
5. Outside influence or interference from third-party individuals that derails amicable settlement.	1.97	0.18	SS	1.46	0.93	NCP	1.71	0.72	NCP
Grand Mean	1.98	0.26	SS	1.34	0.69	NCP	1.65	0.63	NCP

It can be deduced from the findings that, generally, the degree of challenges encountered in the implementation of mediation is not a problem. This suggests that providers can conduct successful mediation despite potential problems encountered during the process. However, when the responses of the two groups of respondents were examined, a significant difference was observed. Clients assessed the challenges as slightly serious, while the Lupon assessed the same challenges as not problematic. The clients' responses may be attributed to their experiences during mediation. Minor problems encountered may be apparent to them, which influences their perception. However, lupon as mediation providers may perceive the process as manageable because of their experience in handling disputes and job responsibilities involved in the process. This suggests that client perceptions are important for evaluating the mediation process. Addressing these problems may significantly enhance the user experience of mediation services in barangay settings. The efficacy of mediations and settlements greatly depends on the professionalism and non-partisan nature of barangay officers and Pangkat members (Verdad, 2024). This is attributed either to ambiguity concerning the barangay justice system's mandate or to a lack of adequate resources to sustain its functions (Laguda, 2024).

Conciliation

Table 3.6.2 depicts the degree of seriousness of the challenges encountered in the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in terms of conciliation. As indicated by the different groups of respondents, the grand total mean is 1.60, with a verbal interpretation of "not a challenge/problem," which means that the statements on the degree of seriousness of the challenges encountered in the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay are not experienced.

Table 3.6.2 Degree of Seriousness of the Challenges in the Implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in terms of Conciliation

Item	Client			Lupong			Total		
	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI
1. Lack of support and supervision from the local court and prosecution during proceedings	1.96	0.24	SS	1.38	0.71	NCP	1.66	0.61	NCP
2. Non-cooperation of community members or neighboring councils in fostering conciliation.	1.93	0.29	SS	1.43	0.76	NCP	1.67	0.63	NCP

3. Non-referral of the police on minor cases falling under the barangay conciliation jurisdiction.	1.92	0.30	SS	1.23	0.56	NCP	1.57	0.57	NCP
4. Severe emotional conflict and hostile/uncooperative behavior of clients blocking panel conciliation.	1.89	0.32	SS	1.23	0.54	NCP	1.55	0.56	NCP
5. Unavailability of support staff or secretaries to handle formal recording and documentation of sessions.	1.85	0.38	SS	1.28	0.65	NCP	1.56	0.61	NCP
Grand Mean	1.91	0.31	SS	1.31	0.64	NCP	1.60	0.59	NCP

The table illustrates, as detailed by two distinct groups of respondents, that the statement “Non-cooperation of community members or neighboring councils in fostering conciliation” had the highest overall mean of 1.67, with a verbal interpretation of not being a challenge/problem. This was followed by the statement “Lack of support and supervision from the local court and prosecution during proceedings,” with an overall mean of 1.66, and a verbal interpretation of not a challenge/problem. Meanwhile, the statement “Severe emotional conflict and hostile/uncooperative behavior of clients blocking panel conciliation” had the lowest overall mean of 1.55, followed by the statement “Unavailability of support staff or secretaries to handle formal recording and documentation of sessions,” with an overall mean of 1.56, and “Non-referral of the police on minor cases falling under the barangay conciliation jurisdiction” made an overall mean of 1.57, with the verbal interpretation of not a challenge/problem, respectively.

The findings reveal that the degree of seriousness of the challenges encountered in the KP process in terms of conciliation had varied perceptions by two diverse groups of respondents, as clients stated it was slightly serious, while the Lupong stated it was not a challenge/problem. These concerns may be attributed to a lack of support from legal services, communication barriers, or procedural concerns, while Lupong may not experience significant difficulties. Further examination is necessary to address these issues and improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of the conciliation process.

Cooperation among concerned agencies through information sharing and coordination is important in ensuring cohesive support and improving the delivery of barangay-level dispute-resolution services. Benter (2020) identified both internal and external concerns in the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay, including coordination with different agencies involved in the justice system. Such coordination is essential because effective barangay dispute resolution may require appropriate referral, communication, and support from concerned institutions. Moreover, the willingness and capacity of the parties and barangay dispute-resolution personnel to participate actively in the process may influence the effectiveness of settlement proceedings. Ampoloquio and Sabijon (2026), in their study of Pangkat ng Tagapagkasundo chairpersons, highlighted the challenges encountered in performing conciliation functions and emphasized the importance of adequate support, training, and capacity-building in improving the quality of barangay dispute-resolution services. Thus, strengthening interagency coordination, enhancing the competence of Lupong Tagapamayapa members, and encouraging the cooperation of disputing parties may contribute to more effective and responsive implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay system.

Arbitration

Table 3.6.3 depicts the degree of seriousness of the challenges encountered in implementing the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in terms of arbitration. As indicated by the different groups of respondents, the grand total mean is 1.60, with a verbal interpretation of "not a challenge/problem," which means that the statements on the degree of seriousness of the challenges encountered in the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay are not experienced.

It can be deciphered from the table, as detailed by two distinct groups of respondents, that the statement

“Incomplete number of qualified Lupon and Pangkat members ready to serve as formal arbitrators” obtained the highest overall mean of 1.60, with a verbal interpretation of not a challenge/problem, which is followed by the statement Insufficiency of required technical equipment, official forms, and logistics for arbitration proceedings and with the overall mean of 1.59, with the verbal interpretation of not a challenge/problem.

Table 3.6.3 Degree of seriousness of the Challenges in the Implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in terms of Arbitration

Item	Client			Lupong			Total		
	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI
1. Incomplete number of qualified Lupon and Pangkat members ready to serve as formal arbitrators.	1.91	0.28	SS	1.31	0.70	NCP	1.60	0.61	NCP
2. Insufficiency of required technical equipment, official forms, and logistics for arbitration proceedings.	1.77	0.43	SS	1.28	0.62	NCP	1.59	0.59	NCP
3. Open disobedience or resistance of constituents to the final binding power of arbitral awards issued by the Lupon.	1.78	0.41	SS	1.17	0.51	NCP	1.47	0.56	NCP
4. Lack of direct involvement or clear coordination with the DILG or local government unit during formal arbitration.	1.82	0.39	SS	1.18	0.53	NCP	1.49	0.57	NCP
5. Non-appropriation of funds for the legal execution and enforcement of final arbitration awards after the 15-day period.	1.82	0.39	SS	1.07	0.36	NCP	1.43	0.53	NCP
Grand Mean	1.80	0.38	SS	1.20	0.54	NCP	1.49	0.57	NCP

Meanwhile, the statement “Non-appropriation of funds for the legal execution and enforcement of final arbitration awards after the 15-day period” had the lowest overall mean of 1.43, followed by the statement “Open disobedience or resistance of constituents to the final binding power of arbitral awards issued by the Lupon,” with an overall mean of 1.47, and “Lack of direct involvement or clear coordination with the DILG or local government unit during formal arbitration” had an overall mean of 1.49, with the verbal interpretation of not a challenge/problem, respectively.

The findings reveal a disparity in the respondents’ perceptions of the KP process concerning arbitration. This is attributed to clients who may encounter difficulty with the support of the concerned agencies and the enforcement of the arbitral award of the concerned parties. Generally, arbitration functions effectively; however, there are aspects that need improvement to address the concerns of their clients, which may convert into a better user perspective of the arbitration process and be more satisfactory to the parties involved.

The effectiveness of the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay law is dependent on the cooperation of the parties involved in the process. Teves (2026) reveals that some parties, after reaching an agreement during the settlement of disputes, tend not to comply with what has been agreed, and the lupong or pangkat has limited power to enforce such agreements. This resulted in the diminishing face of the Katarungang Pambarangay law process. Strengthening the coordination of Barangay with other justice institutions to ensure that resolutions are complied with and respected.

Summary of the Respondents' seriousness of the challenges encountered in the Implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law

Table 3.6.4 shows the degree of seriousness of the challenges encountered in the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay law across the processes of mediation, conciliation, and arbitration. As detailed by the different groups of respondents, the grand total mean is 1.58, with a verbal interpretation of "not a challenge/problem," indicating that the statements on the degree of seriousness of the challenges encountered in the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay are not experienced.

Table 3.6.4 Summary of the Respondents' seriousness of the challenges encountered in the Implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law

Indicator	Client			Lupong			Total		
	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI	Mean	SD	VI
Mediation	1.98	0.26	SS	1.34	0.69	NCP	1.65	0.63	NCP
Conciliation	1.91	0.31	SS	1.31	0.64	NCP	1.60	0.59	NCP
Arbitration	1.80	0.38	SS	1.20	0.54	NCP	1.49	0.57	NCP
Grand Mean	1.89	0.31	SS	1.28	.62	NCP	1.58	0.59	NCP

As gleaned from the table, mediation has the highest overall mean of 1.65, with a verbal interpretation of not a challenge/problem. At the same time, conciliation had an overall mean of 1.60, and mediation had an overall mean of 1.49, with a verbal interpretation of "not a challenge/problem."

The findings indicate that when responses are considered collectively, they do not substantially affect KP dispute resolution mechanisms. However, individual assessment of the KP process revealed a notable difference: perceptions of the degree of seriousness of the challenges encountered were based on the employees' experiences and involvement in the KP processes.

While clients recognize some problems that may affect the processes, Lupong members perceive conflict resolution functioning well without significant problems. The results differ from those of Benter (2020), who revealed that there are serious problems encountered in the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay that affect the performance of Lupong and Pangkat members in carrying out their functions, compromising the best interests of the community they serve. However, the challenges in implementation depend on how the Lupong or Pangkat handles the varying personalities of their clients to reach a peaceful resolution. Using different approaches and trust in the authorities leads to settlements (Lupao & Alejandro, 2022).

Analysis of Differences

Table 3.7.1 shows significant differences in the seriousness of the challenges encountered in the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay across mediation, conciliation, and arbitration when analyzed based on the responses of Lupong members. As illustrated in the table, mediation has a mean of 1.34; conciliation, 1.31 and arbitration a mean of 1.20. The F-value was 2.60, with a significance value of 0.076. The findings reveal that the significant value is higher than the level of significance, which is 0.05.

Table 3.7.1 Analysis of Differences in Lupon Members' Perception on the Challenges in the Implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law

	Mean	Verbal Interpretation	F – value	Sig. value	Decision on H_o
Mediation	1.34	NCP			
Conciliation	1.31	NCP	2.60	0.076	Do not reject
Arbitration	1.20	NCP			

The results indicate that respondents have relatively similar perceptions of the three levels of conflict resolution mechanisms under Katarungang Pambarangay. Consequently, the degree of challenges associated with one mechanism may not be significantly different from those experienced in the other mechanism. Furthermore, members of the Katarungang Pambarangay may have a consistent manner of performance in their functions in the mediation, conciliation, and arbitration process, which reflects uniform application and practices.

Although the Lupon have difficulty in the process of mediation, conciliation, and arbitration, they perceive it uniformly in terms of how this system is carried out (Benter, 2020).

Proposed Intervention Program

Knowledge Advancement and Strengthening and Training for Amicable Resolution through Unified Negotiation, Guided Mediation, and Conciliation (KATARUNGAN)

Rationale

Presidential Decree 1508, also known as the Katarungang Pambarangay Law, was repealed by Republic Act 7160, also known as the Local Government Code, which was created to settle disputes at the barangay level without directly filing cases in formal court. This promotes settling disputes through mediation, conciliation, and arbitration facilitated by barangay officials, along with the Punong Barangay and Lupon Tagapamayapa.

This system is vital for harmonizing residents by providing responsive, fair, and accessible grassroots mechanisms for addressing local problems that arise between parties. Maintaining efficient and full implementation gains community trust in Barangay governance, which supports meaningful and peaceful communities. The study shows minor challenges encountered during the course of implementation, which require consideration to allow room for improvement to achieve the desired process. Hence, this permits this program.

Objectives

Generally, this program aims to sustain the efficient process of the Katarungang Pambarangay. Specifically, it seeks to address the following:

- Increase compliance with the summons issued to the parties involved.
- Advance the knowledge of mediation-conciliation proceedings
- Reject external influence during mediation-conciliation proceedings
- Strengthen coordination and technical support from legal offices

Key Result Areas	Intended Activities	Responsible office	Time frame	Expected Outcomes
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Non-compliance with issued summons	Community orientation on the legal implications of non-compliance with barangay-issued summons. Establish a summons monitoring system	Barangay council and other concerned agencies	Semi annual	90-100% attendance and compliance with issued summons
Lack of funding for advanced training	Form the Annual training for advanced mediation-conciliation conflict resolution training, and workshop with allocated funds from the barangays	Barangay council, LGU, DILG	Annually	Improved mediation-conciliation competencies for members of the Katarungang Pambarangay
Third-party Interference	Provide guiding principles for curbing unauthorized involvement and information drives on confidentiality of information and its legal implications.	Lupong Tagapamayapa, Barangay Officials and other concerned agencies	Semi annual	Rejecting external influence and more objective process
Lack of support from legal system sector	Provide regular coordination, technical consultations	Prosecution office, local courts, DILG, Barangay Officials	Annual	Inter -agency cooperation and procedural guidance

Budgetary Requirements

Items of Expenditure	Unit Cost (Php)	Total Cost (Php)
Venue and Facilities (Electricity and Sound System)	5,000 x 3 days	15,000.00
Meals and Snacks (Lunch & 2 Snacks)	250 x 120 pax x 3 days	90,000.00
Materials & Supplies (Training modules, papers, pens, folders, certificates)	150 x 120 pax	18,000.00



(tarpaulin)	1,000	1000.00
Professional Fees	3,000 x 3 pax x 3 days	9,000.00
Contingency fund	10% from total fund	15,000.00
Total		166,100.00

Note: Subject to the availability of funds from DILG and LGU

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that the Katarungang Pambarangay Law in the selected barangays of the City of Mati, Davao Oriental, was very much implemented, as perceived by the different groups of respondents. There was no significant difference between the perceptions of the two respondent groups regarding its level of implementation; hence, the null hypothesis was not rejected.

The respondents were also very much satisfied with the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law. A significant difference in satisfaction was found in the area of mediation, resulting in the rejection of the null hypothesis for this dimension, while no significant differences were found in conciliation and arbitration. Furthermore, a significant relationship existed between the level of implementation and the respondents' satisfaction with the Katarungang Pambarangay Law, leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis.

The challenges encountered in the implementation were generally perceived as not a challenge or problem, and no significant difference was found in the respondents' assessment of the seriousness of these challenges; thus, the null hypothesis was not rejected. Based on these findings, the continued strengthening of the Katarungang Pambarangay system is recommended through sustained support, capacity-building programs, training, seminars, workshops, monitoring, and technical assistance for the Lupong Tagapamayapa, particularly newly elected members.

The barangays should continue their effective practices and strengthen information dissemination regarding the importance of barangay-level dispute resolution. Coordination and collaboration among barangay officials, law enforcement agencies, courts, prosecution offices, and other concerned agencies should likewise be maintained and enhanced. Appropriate mechanisms should also be established to encourage the cooperation of disputing parties, ensure compliance with summonses, and prevent unnecessary third-party interference during settlement proceedings. Finally, the findings of this study may serve as a reference for future researchers who intend to further examine and improve the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law.

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Conflict Of Interests

The authors declare no conflict of interest, financial or non-financial that could have influenced the conduct or outcomes of this research.

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