

# Unravelling The Truth Behind the Lens: A Study on the use of Body-Worn Camera

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## INTRODUCTION

### Background of the Study

The police profession is one of the most demanding fields of public service because officers are expected to make immediate decisions in situations that involve danger, conflict, and public scrutiny. In many encounters, force may be questioned, procedures may be challenged, and competing versions of events may be offered by officers, suspects, witnesses, and community members. In this context, accountability becomes a central issue in law enforcement. Transparency is also expected. Evidence must be collected properly. Public trust must be protected. Because of these pressures, many police agencies have adopted technological tools that can help document operations more clearly and reduce uncertainty during police–citizen encounters. One of the most notable developments in this area has been the use of body-worn cameras or BWCs, which have gradually become part of modern policing systems in different countries, according to the National Institute of Justice (2022).

Body-worn cameras are intended to create a real-time audiovisual record of police encounters. Their value has often been linked to documentation, transparency, and evidentiary support. According to White and Malm (2020), BWC footage can preserve events as they unfold and reduce dependence on memory-based accounts that may be affected by stress, confusion, or perception. This point is important because police operations often occur in fast-moving environments where details can be missed or remembered differently by involved individuals. When footage is available, actions can be reviewed with greater consistency. In this sense, the camera is not only a recording device. It also functions as an accountability tool and an evidentiary aid. A key implication is that the use of BWCs may improve confidence in the accuracy of police documentation, especially in operations that later become the subject of investigation, complaint, or court review.

Several studies and policy analyses have discussed the evidentiary role of BWCs. According to Goetschel and Peha (2017), the accuracy of recorded evidence may lessen disputes that arise from conflicting accounts of police encounters. This may strengthen trust between officers and communities because events are documented in a form that can be reviewed. According to Robin and Nembhard (2022), BWCs can also record statements made by victims, witnesses, and suspects during incidents, making them useful in both investigative and prosecutorial processes. In practical terms, such usage means that the camera may help preserve details that might later be forgotten, changed, or denied. One important implication is that BWC use may support fact-finding not only during internal review but also during legal proceedings. This suggests that the technology has operational value beyond simple recording and may influence how evidence is interpreted and relied upon.

The relationship between BWCs and police accountability has also received strong attention in the literature. According to Braga et al. (2018), officers equipped with BWCs were associated with fewer complaints and fewer use-of-force reports compared with officers who did not wear cameras. e reported among camera-equipped officers. Coleman (2019) summarized agency-based findings that noted a similar pattern, reporting reductions in citizen complaints and use-of-force incidents among camera-equipped officers. According to Chapman (2018), one of the

most significant patterns observed in BWC research is the so-called civilizing effect, in which officer and citizen behavior may become more restrained when an encounter is being recorded. These findings do not mean that all problems in policing are solved by cameras. However, they suggest that recording may influence conduct during encounters. In this context, the presence of BWCs may encourage more cautious and procedural behavior from both officers and civilians.

The influence of BWCs on officer conduct is especially relevant because police legitimacy is shaped not only by outcomes but also by the way officers behave in the field. According to Jennings et al. (2014), officers who use BWCs tend to show more controlled and respectful behavior during interactions with civilians. According to Lum et al. (2020), these findings can contribute to procedural justice and improve public confidence in law enforcement when agencies already have training, supervision, and accountability systems in place. The implication is significant. BWCs may not work effectively in isolation. Their value may depend on the institutional environment in which they are used. A camera can record behavior, but policy, leadership, and enforcement of standards still matter. Therefore, BWC use may be understood as part of a larger accountability structure rather than a stand-alone solution to police misconduct, distrust, or inconsistency in the implementation of operational procedures.

The legal value of BWCs has also been emphasized in studies on prosecution and court outcomes. According to Morrow et al. (2016), cases that involved BWC footage was more likely to lead to progress in the justice process, including arrests, charges, guilty pleas, and convictions in certain contexts. According to Todak et al. (2022), the use of BWC evidence may also affect how misdemeanor cases are processed and resolved. This line of research suggests that video evidence may shape case handling, even when it does not determine outcomes in the same way across all offense categories. According to the CCJ Task Force on Policing (2021), body camera footage can support investigations, prosecutions, and defense work when properly handled. A significant pattern can be observed here. BWCs may influence not only field behavior but also the later stages of criminal justice processing, especially when the footage is preserved and managed according to accepted evidentiary standards.

The importance of video evidence in legal proceedings has been further explained by legal and criminal justice scholars. According to Blitz (2015), recorded video may provide a more stable evidentiary basis than eyewitness recollection because the footage can be replayed and examined in detail. According to White (2014), BWCs may improve transparency in judicial review by offering more direct documentation of encounters. According to Petersen et al. (2021), the presence of BWC footage was associated with increased odds of conviction in some criminal cases, which suggests that courts may place weight on video-supported accounts when determining facts. Furthermore, the UK Ministry of Justice (2022) linked the deployment of BWCs with shorter case disposition times and improved evidentiary efficiency. These findings indicate that the value of BWCs extends beyond police administration. They may also affect how legal institutions assess credibility, process cases, and manage evidentiary disputes.

Despite these benefits, BWC use has not been described as uniformly positive. Privacy concerns remain one of the most persistent issues in the literature. Dudinskaya (2020) asserts that the existence of body-worn cameras (BWCs) may diminish citizens' propensity to report suspicious activities in certain contexts due to concerns regarding the potential recording of private or sensitive information. According to Poirier et al. (2023), privacy concerns are also expressed by police officers and citizens who worry about how footage will be collected, stored, and viewed. This issue becomes more complex when vulnerable persons are involved, including victims, detainees, and bystanders. According to Lee et al. (2018), support for BWCs may coexist with demands for clearer legal safeguards on privacy. In this context, a major implication emerges. Even when BWCs are viewed as tools of accountability, their acceptance may depend on whether agencies can show that personal data are protected and that recordings are handled within clear legal and ethical limits.

Another concern in the literature is officer safety and the possibility of unintended consequences during operations. According to Sousa et al. (2016), the implementation of BWC programs involves operational challenges that extend beyond equipment issuance and include questions about program design, field use, and human behavior. According to Ariel et al. (2016), one multi-site experiment found that officers wearing body cameras experienced a higher

likelihood of assault and that use-of-force reductions were not consistently observed. Although these findings are still controversial, they hold significance as they demonstrate the complexity of BWC effects. According to L'Hoiry et al. (2023), unintended consequences can emerge depending on how policies are written and how officers activate or manage the devices in practice. Therefore, BWC implementation should not be treated as automatically beneficial in every setting. It may create gains in accountability while also introducing risks, hesitations, and operational complications that require closer examination.

Implementation barriers also appear repeatedly across international studies. According to Putra and Yazid (2021), concerns about trust, privacy, cost, and information technology systems may affect the feasibility of BWC adoption. According to Brown (2023), public concerns also arise over the release and distribution of footage, especially when there is no uniform policy governing public access. According to Tantimin and Alhakim (2024), the need for stronger regulation has also been emphasized in the Indonesian setting, where public confidence and legal safeguards must be balanced carefully. One important implication can be drawn from these studies. The success of BWCs may depend not only on the device itself but also on governance. The camera must be supported by policy, protocol, supervision, and digital evidence management. Without these, the promise of transparency may be weakened by inconsistency, uncertainty, or public distrust regarding how the technology is used and controlled.

The Philippine context gives this issue greater urgency because BWC use has been tied to police accountability, due process, and public concern over abusive operations. According to Torres-Tupas (2021), the Supreme Court rules on BWCs were issued in response to strong public calls for safeguards in the service of search and arrest warrants. The legal framework was later formalized through A.M. No. 21-06-08-SC, which provided rules on the use of body-worn cameras in the execution of warrants and stated the scope and applicability of the policy framework in police operations involving warrants (Supreme Court En Banc, 2021; A.M. No. 21-06-08-SC, 2021). In parallel, operational guidance was also reflected in police issuances such as PNP MC No. 2018-009, PNPM-DO-D-0-2-13-21, and PNP MC No. 21-2025, which outlined the purpose, rationale, and procedural expectations for BWC and alternative recording device use in police work. These issuances show that BWC use in the Philippines has become a legal and institutional matter, not merely a technological preference.

The Philippine policy environment also frames BWCs as part of transparency, accountability, and admissible evidence. According to Supreme Court En Banc (2021), the Court recognized the importance of regulating the use of cameras during warrant implementation to protect rights and preserve evidentiary integrity. According to PNPM-DO-D-0-2-13-21, the use of body-worn cameras is embedded in operational procedures as part of lawful police conduct. In addition, according to NPC Circular No. 2025-01, the processing of personal data collected through BWCs must observe data privacy safeguards, which highlights that evidence collection must also be privacy-compliant. This legal structure is significant because it shows that BWC use in the Philippines is guided by multiple institutional concerns at once. The device is linked to accountability, lawful procedure, digital evidence management, and the protection of personal information. Therefore, any assessment of BWC use in local police settings must consider both operational outcomes and regulatory compliance.

Emerging Philippine studies have begun to examine how BWCs are experienced and evaluated at the local level. According to Andrade et al. (2024), the extent of BWC implementation in selected police operations was rated very high and was associated with improved perceptions of transparency, accountability, and police–community relations. According to Corpuz et al. (2023), BWCs in Pampanga were viewed as improving transparency, accountability, and officer security without significantly reducing morale. These findings suggest that, in the Philippine context, BWCs are often regarded as tools that can improve both operational legitimacy and community trust. However, these studies also focus strongly on perceived implementation and perceived benefits. They are useful, but they do not fully settle questions about how BWC use operates across different local conditions. A key observation follows from this. Philippine evidence is growing, yet localized analysis remains uneven, and context-specific differences may matter greatly in understanding implementation, effectiveness, and operational constraints.

Other local studies show that support for BWCs is often accompanied by concerns about practical limitations. According to Tad-awan et al. (2022), body-worn cameras were viewed as helping remove doubt in police operations

and supporting transparency, yet technical issues such as battery life and concealment difficulties were also identified. According to Mercado (2024), compliance with BWC and alternative recording device policies raised concerns about procedural fairness, privacy, and data handling, which indicates that implementation quality is closely tied to policy clarity and training. According to Cueme (2024), one of the major barriers in provincial police offices is the limited budget needed to equip more personnel with BWCs, while routine use may remain difficult because of technological and logistical constraints. These studies suggest that the practical operation of BWCs may vary across police units. Therefore, BWC policies may exist formally, but their implementation may still differ depending on local readiness, available equipment, and institutional support.

The evidentiary and prosecutorial value of BWCs has also been echoed in Philippine-oriented discussions. According to Barican (2023), BWCs are especially useful in operations where victim memory or cooperation may weaken over time because the footage can preserve statements and incident details. According to Friginal et al. (2024), prosecutors and judges are reportedly more willing to move cases forward when they are provided with clear and complete BWC recordings. These findings suggest that in local practice, the camera may carry importance not only for police documentation but also for case development. Yet this also raises another issue. If legal institutions rely more heavily on BWC evidence, then implementation quality becomes even more important. Improper activation, incomplete footage, weak storage protocols, or poor training may weaken the value of the technology. Consequently, studies that focus only on adoption or only on positive perceptions may miss crucial questions about actual operational use and the challenges that shape evidentiary reliability.

At this point, the broader literature already shows that BWCs may influence officer behavior, evidence collection, legal proceedings, accountability, and public trust. It also shows that privacy, cost, data handling, training, and policy enforcement remain important concerns. However, a more specific research gap can still be identified. Much of the literature has been produced in foreign jurisdictions, while Philippine studies remain limited in number and are concentrated in selected cities or provincial offices. More importantly, there is still a lack of localized research in La Union. This gap matters because local police operations are shaped by local conditions. Resource allocation may differ. Administrative support may vary. Community expectations may not be the same across regions. According to Lawshe et al. (2022), BWC adoption and implementation can vary across contexts, which suggests that place-specific assessment is necessary. Therefore, findings from other regions cannot simply be assumed to apply fully to La Union.

A second gap can be seen in the scope of existing studies. Many available works examine only one or two aspects of BWC use, such as implementation, transparency, complaints, privacy, or officer perceptions. Fewer studies bring together the three core dimensions that are central to this inquiry: implementation, effectiveness, and challenges. This is an important limitation because these dimensions are closely connected. A camera may be formally implemented but not used consistently. It may be perceived as effective in evidence collection but still create privacy concerns or technical burdens. It may improve accountability in some operations yet remain difficult to manage in others. According to Lum et al. (2020), the effects of BWCs are complex and often depend on organizational context, policy design, and operational conditions. For this reason, a more integrated analysis is needed. A study that examines implementation, effectiveness, and challenges together may provide a more balanced and analytically useful understanding of BWC use in actual police operations.

A third gap involves stakeholder coverage. Several studies focus mainly on police officers, agency records, or community perceptions taken in general terms. Yet BWC use affects multiple actors who encounter the technology from different positions in the justice process. Police officers use the device during operations. Barangay officials may witness local enforcement activities, especially in community-based and anti-drug contexts. Prosecutors evaluate the evidentiary value of recordings. Media practitioners observe the issue through the lens of transparency, public accountability, and public communication. When these views are not considered together, the analysis may remain narrow. According to Merola et al. (2016), prosecutors have distinct views on the legal value of BWC evidence. According to Laiño et al. (2022), communities also form perceptions about police body-worn cameras in

relation to police conduct. Therefore, a multi-stakeholder approach is needed because BWC use is not experienced by a single group alone. It operates across policing, community observation, legal assessment, and public discourse.

These gaps become more significant when examined in relation to the City of San Fernando Police Station in La Union. The city is the capital of the province and the regional and administrative center of Region I. As an urban hub and a center of government activity, it carries a strong law enforcement function in Northern Luzon. Police operations conducted in this setting may include the service of warrants, anti-illegal drug operations, and other interventions that require procedural compliance and documentary support. According to the study draft and local operational data cited in the manuscript, the City of San Fernando Police Station has regularly used BWCs since the policy was operationalized by the Philippine National Police. In such a setting, BWCs may have major value for transparency, legitimacy, and evidentiary support. However, the local importance of the station does not remove the research gap. Rather, it makes the gap more pressing because a strategically important police unit deserves context-specific scholarly examination.

The local setting of San Fernando, La Union, also presents conditions that may influence how BWCs are implemented in practice. The city includes urban, suburban, and coastal communities. This means that police work may occur in varied social and physical environments. Public interactions may differ across communities. Access to personnel, equipment, and supervision may also vary depending on operational demands. In this context, one of the most important implications is that BWC use should not be assumed to function in exactly the same way as it does in larger metropolitan areas or in other provincial settings. Katz and Huff (2023) assert that situational and organizational factors can affect BWC activation and use, which can vary across incidents. This suggests that local assessment is necessary. A study grounded in the realities of the City of San Fernando Police Station may therefore provide a clearer picture of how policy is translated into actual operational practice.

We developed the present study to address these identified gaps. It focuses on the City of San Fernando Police Station and examines the level of BWC implementation in the execution of warrants, warrantless arrests, and other police operations. It also assesses the effectiveness of BWCs in relation to police officers' behavior, evidence collection, and legal proceedings. In addition, it identifies the challenges encountered by personnel in using the devices. This three-part structure is important because it allows the study to move from formal implementation to functional value and then to practical difficulty. Such sequencing may produce a more complete understanding of the technology in use. It does not assume that implementation automatically means effectiveness, nor that effectiveness eliminates operational problems. Instead, it treats BWC use as a process that must be assessed from multiple angles and within a clearly defined local context.

Another important feature of the study is its use of multiple stakeholder perspectives. Police officers are included because they are the primary users of BWCs during operations. Barangay officials are included because they may witness or participate in community-level operations where procedural visibility matters. Prosecutors are relevant because BWC footage may affect case development, assessment of legality, and evidentiary decisions. Media representatives are also important because BWCs are tied to transparency, public accountability, and the communication of law enforcement issues to the public. This stakeholder design responds directly to a weakness in many prior studies, where analysis remains centered on one group alone. By incorporating these perspectives, the study may produce a more grounded view of how BWCs are understood and evaluated across different parts of the local justice and governance environment.

In sum, the background of this study indicates that BWCs have become one of the most significant accountability tools in contemporary policing. International and Philippine studies suggest that they may improve documentation, support evidence collection, influence officer behavior, and strengthen transparency in legal proceedings. At the same time, the literature also indicates concerns involving privacy, safety, data handling, training, cost, and uneven implementation. Despite this growing body of work, a clear gap remains in the context of La Union, in integrated analysis of implementation–effectiveness–challenges, and in studies that gather insights from multiple local stakeholders. These limitations justify the conduct of the present inquiry. By focusing on the City of San Fernando

Police Station, the study seeks to contribute localized and structured evidence on how BWCs are implemented, how effective they are perceived to be, and what problems continue to shape their actual use in police operations.

### Theoretical/Conceptual Framework

The current study is anchored on several theoretical and legal frameworks to explain how body-worn cameras (BWCs) function in police operations and how their use may affect implementation, effectiveness, and operational challenges. These frameworks provide sociological, criminological, organizational, and innovation-based perspectives that help explain the use of BWCs in the field. The study specifically examines the level of implementation of BWCs in the execution of warrants, warrantless arrests, and other police operations; the level of effectiveness of BWCs in terms of police officers' behavior, evidence collection, and legal proceedings; and the challenges encountered in using BWCs. For this reason, the selected theories are not treated as general background only. They are directly linked to the variables of the study in order to explain how BWC use may shape behavior, procedure, accountability, and operational practice within the City of San Fernando Police Station.

Symbolic interactionism helps explain how the presence of a body-worn camera may influence the behavior of police officers and other persons involved in police encounters. According to Carter and Fuller (2015), people act based on the meanings they attach to objects, situations, and social interaction. In this study, the body-worn camera may be understood as a visible symbol of monitoring, accountability, and procedural expectation. Because officers know that their actions may be reviewed later, they may become more conscious of following proper procedures, managing their conduct, and dealing with civilians in a more controlled way. In the same way, civilians and suspects may also adjust their actions once they become aware that the encounter is being recorded. Thus, this theory is directly related to the variable on the **effectiveness of BWCs in terms of police officers' behavior**, as it explains how recorded presence may shape conduct, discipline, and interaction during police operations.

Routine Activity Theory provides another useful lens for the study because it explains how behavior may change when supervision and monitoring are present in actual encounters. In police operations, BWCs may serve as a form of guardianship because they document events as they occur and reduce the opportunity for misconduct, false accusations, or unrecorded actions. In this context, the camera does not merely capture evidence after an event. It may also affect the conduct of the participants during the event itself. This is especially relevant in operations such as the **execution of warrants, warrantless arrests, and other police operations**, where the presence of a recording device may encourage compliance with procedural rules and may discourage improper acts from both officers and civilians. At the same time, this theory also relates to the variables of challenges in using BWCs because the effectiveness of guardianship may depend on whether the camera is activated, functional, and properly used during actual police encounters.

Institutional theory explains how organizations adopt and sustain practices based on formal rules, professional standards, and social expectations. According to Scott (2008), institutions shape behavior through regulative, normative, and cultural-cognitive elements. In the context of this study, the adoption and use of BWCs by police agencies may be viewed as a response to legal mandates, administrative policies, and public demands for transparency and accountability. This theory is directly connected to the variable on the **implementation of BWCs**, because it explains why police personnel are expected to follow rules regarding the use of cameras during the execution of warrants, warrantless arrests, and other operations. It also helps explain why implementation may vary depending on policy clarity, training, organizational discipline, and administrative enforcement. In this sense, the theory supports the idea that BWC use is not only an individual act by police officers but also an institutional practice shaped by regulation, procedure, and organizational culture.

Diffusion of Innovations Theory further strengthens the framework by explaining how a new technology is adopted, accepted, and routinely used within an organization. According to Rogers (2003), innovation adoption passes through stages such as knowledge, persuasion, decision, implementation, and confirmation. This theory is relevant because body-worn cameras are technological tools that require acceptance, training, adaptation, and sustained

institutional support before they can become part of regular police practice. In this study, the theory is directly related to both the **implementation** and **challenges** variables. It helps explain how police personnel may adopt BWCs differently depending on awareness, perceived usefulness, operational practicality, and available support systems. It also explains why resistance, ambiguity, or technical problems may emerge during implementation. Therefore, this theory supports the analysis of how BWCs move from policy requirement to actual operational use and why difficulties may still arise even when the technology has already been formally introduced.

The study is also guided by important legal and policy frameworks that regulate the use of BWCs in the Philippines. A.M. No. 21-06-08-SC governs the use of body-worn cameras in the execution of warrants and provides the scope and applicability of such recording in police operations according to the Supreme Court En Banc (2021) and A.M. 21-06-08-SC (2021). PNP MC No. 2018-009 sets forth the operational guidelines and procedures on the use of body-worn cameras during police operations. PNP MC No. 21-2025 further updates these operational rules by covering the use of BWCs and other alternative recording devices during the implementation of warrants and warrantless arrests. In addition, NPC Circular No. 2025-01 provides rules on the processing of personal data collected through BWCs and alternative recording devices, while the Revised PNP Operational Procedures identifies the use of BWCs as a basic requirement during police operations, especially in searches and arrests. These legal bases are directly linked to the **implementation variable**, because they define when, how, and under what safeguards BWCs should be used.

By integrating these theoretical and legal perspectives, the present study develops a clearer explanation of how BWCs operate within police work. Symbolic interactionism explains the effect of BWCs on police officers' behavior. Routine Activity Theory explains the role of BWCs as a form of situational guardianship during police encounters. Institutional theory explains how organizational rules and standards influence the implementation of BWCs. The Diffusion of Innovations Theory explains how BWC technology is adopted, accepted, and challenged within police agencies. The legal frameworks, in turn, provide the formal structure that governs actual compliance in police operations. Taken together, these perspectives support the study's examination of the **implementation of BWCs, their effectiveness in terms of police officers' behavior, evidence collection, and legal proceedings, and the challenges encountered in their use** at the City of San Fernando Police Station.

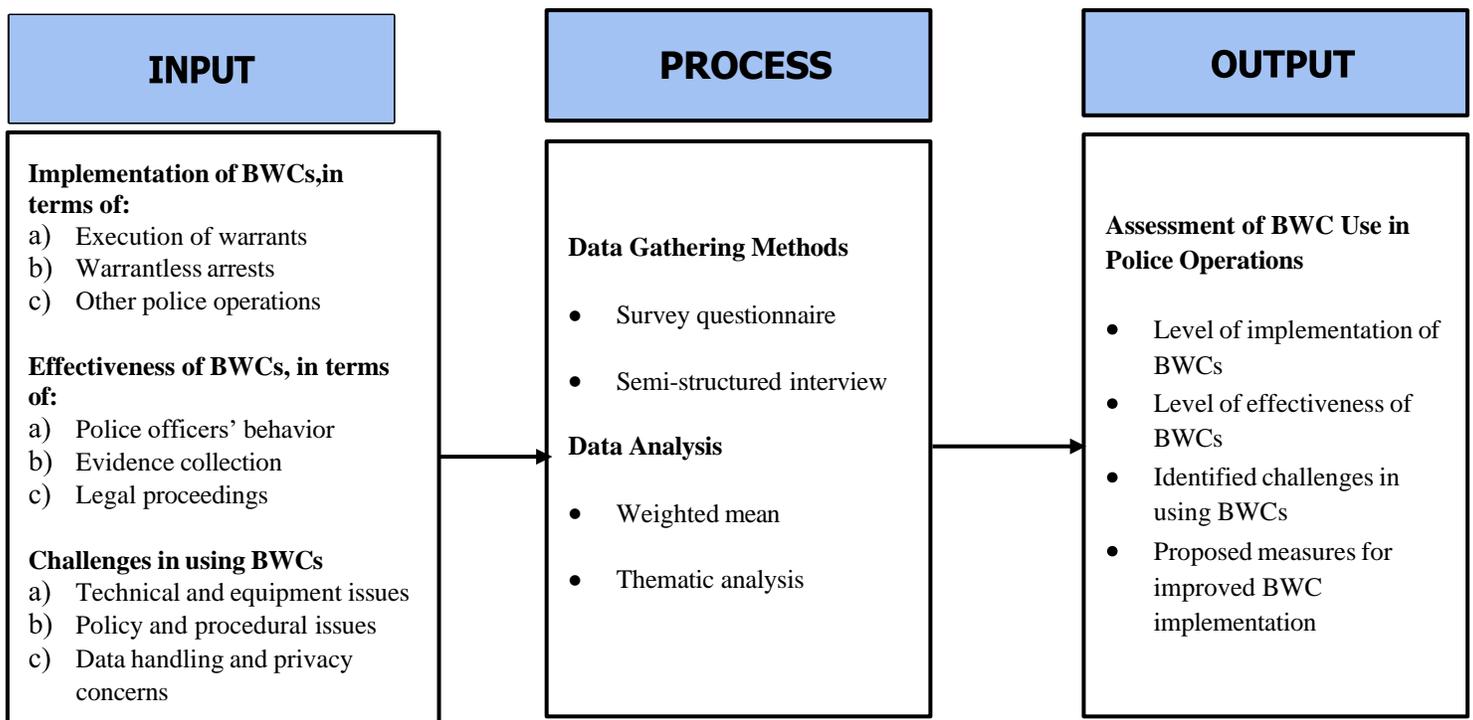


Figure 1. Paradigm of the Study

The figure above presents the paradigm of the study using the Input–Process–Output (IPO) model. The **input** frame contains the major variables of the study. These include the level of implementation of body-worn cameras in terms of execution of warrants, warrantless arrests, and other police operations; the level of effectiveness of BWCs in terms of police officers’ behavior, evidence collection, and legal proceedings; and the challenges encountered in using BWCs during police operations. These variables represent the core areas being examined to understand how BWCs are being used and how they function within the operational setting of the City of San Fernando Police Station.

The **process** frame refers to the methods used in gathering and analyzing the data needed for the study. Data were collected through survey questionnaire and semi-structured interview. The quantitative responses were analyzed using a weighted mean to determine the level of implementation and effectiveness of BWCs. On the other hand, the qualitative responses were analyzed through thematic analysis to identify the common challenges encountered by police personnel in using BWCs. Through these processes, the study was able to generate both numerical and narrative findings that support a clearer assessment of BWC use in police operations.

The **output** frame represents the expected result of the study. Based on the gathered and analyzed data, the study aims to produce an assessment of the implementation and effectiveness of body-worn cameras in police operations at the City of San Fernando Police Station, along with identification of the key challenges encountered in their use. We can develop proposed measures based on these findings to enhance policy compliance, operational use, evidence handling, and the overall implementation of BWC. In this way, the IPO model shows the logical flow of the study, from the variables being examined to the research procedures employed and finally to the practical output that may guide improvements in police operations.

### **Statement of the Problem**

This study aimed to assess the implementation and effectiveness of body-worn cameras in police operations at the City of San Fernando Police Station. Specifically, it sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the level of implementation of body-worn cameras on police operations of the City of San Fernando Police Station in terms of:
  - a. execution of warrants;
  - b. warrantless arrest of a suspect; and
  - c. other police operations?
2. What is the level of effectiveness of body-worn cameras on police operations in terms of:
  - a. Police officers’ behavior;
  - b. evidence collection; and
  - c. implications for legal proceedings?
3. What challenges do police officers face when using body-worn cameras during operations?
4. What measures can be proposed to address the problems encountered in the implementation of body-worn cameras in police operations at the City of San Fernando Police Station?

### **Importance of the Study**

The investigation into the effects of body-worn cameras (BWCs) on police operations holds serious implications for various stakeholders, such as:

**Philippine National Police.** This study helps the PNP understand how BWCs affect officers' behavior, incident response, and overall operational effectiveness. The findings will guide the PNP in effectively integrating BWCs into police operations, making or revising informed policies, and making sound administrative decisions.

**Prosecutors.** The findings may provide prosecutors with broader insight into how BWCs affect case outcomes, transparency and accountability, decision-making, and the trust between law enforcement and the prosecution pillar.

**Trial Courts.** This research will help courts improve evidence evaluation, judicial decision-making, case efficiency, and public trust. It also supports courts in adapting to the growing use of technology in law enforcement and the justice system.

**Victims.** This research may pave the way for fair treatment, safety, and validation for victims throughout the justice process. It also provides insights on how technology can protect victims' rights, ensure respectful handling, and support more effective investigations and prosecutions.

**Local Government Units.** This research will provide evidence-based insights for LGUs to develop new policies and regulations on the use of BWCs to enhance public safety and public trust. LGUs may adopt BWCs in their Public Order and Safety Offices (POSO) to enhance transparency and accountability in the enforcement of local ordinances.

**Media.** The findings of this study can provide factual data that help the media educate and inform the public about the role of BWCs during police operations, hold authorities accountable, and shape democratic discussions on police transparency and accountability.

**Community Members.** This study is important to community members because it shows how BWCs affect police-citizen interactions, trust, and accountability. Understanding these effects helps strengthen community relations, promote transparency, and improve public safety.

**Researcher.** This research will help the researcher better understand the role and impact of BWCs in police operations. As a Master of Criminal Justice student and police officer, he will deepen his understanding of how technology enhances accountability, transparency, and efficiency in law enforcement. The study will also strengthen his research, analytical, and critical thinking skills, enabling him to contribute to future policy discussions and reforms. Overall, it supports his professional growth in criminology, criminal justice, and law enforcement.

**Future Researchers.** Future researchers can build on this study's findings to explore more specific features, trends, or long-term effects of BWCs. This research provides a foundation for ongoing studies on the evolving role of BWCs in police operations.

## Definition of Terms

The following are the operational and conceptual definitions of the important terms in this study:

**Body-worn cameras (BWCs).** These are compact devices that capture and document encounters between community members and law enforcement personnel.

**Challenges.** These are the obstacles or difficulties that require one's incredible effort and determination to overcome.

**Effect.** It is the change or result that results from an action or event.

**Evidence Collection.** It is the process of systematically documenting all available objects, documents, and testimonies required for the analysis of crimes and the verification of activities.

**Legal proceeding.** It is the formal process through which legal judgments are sought and enforced.

**Level of Effectiveness.** It is the extent to which the BWCs are measured in achieving their desired outcomes in police operations.

**Level of Implementation.** It is the stage in which the guidelines, policies, and rules concerning the use of BWCs are put into practice.

**Measures.** It is a plan or course of action taken to achieve a desired purpose.

**Police Officer's Behavior.** It is the way the police officer acts or conducts themselves in response to a particular situation, especially during operations.

**Police Operations.** This refers to the duties, responsibilities, and activities that law enforcement officers undertake in the field.

**City of San Fernando Police Station (CSFPS).** It is one of the sub-units of the La Union Police Provincial Office (LUPPO) under the Police Regional Office 1 (PRO 1), which provides law enforcement services throughout the City of San Fernando, La Union.

**Warrant.** It is a legal document issued by a competent court that authorizes a police officer to take specific actions, such as arresting a person, searching a location, or seizing property.

**Warrantless Arrest.** It is an arrest made without a warrant under specific situations provided for in Rule 113 of Section 5 of the Revised Rules of Criminal Procedure.

**Unravel.** It refers to uncovering or investigating something mysterious to make it known to others.

## METHODOLOGY

This chapter discusses the methods of analysis used in this study and offers a general framework for the research. This chapter provides descriptions of the research design, scope, target population, data-gathering instrument, data collection procedures, data analysis techniques, and ethical considerations during the study.

### Research Design

This study adopted a mixed-methods research design, specifically an explanatory sequential design, integrating quantitative and qualitative research paradigms. The explanatory sequential design is handy for exploring complex research questions that require both broad statistical analysis and in-depth qualitative insights (Creswell, 2005; Sharma et al., 2023). The design consists of two distinct phases: the quantitative phase followed by the qualitative phase, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the research problem (Migiro & Magangi, 2011).

The use of a mixed-methods approach is crucial for this study, as it allows for a comprehensive examination of the effects of BWCs on police operations, combining statistical generalizations with in-depth, context-specific insights. The quantitative method was first used in this study to determine the level of implementation and effectiveness of the BWCs in police operations, followed by the qualitative method to identify the challenges police officers faced during their implementation.

This research design aligns with the study's overarching goal: to explore and assess the effects of BWCs on police operations at the City of San Fernando Police Station. Using an explanatory sequential design, the study first captured broad patterns in the data. Then it used the qualitative phase to explore further the mechanisms and

underlying factors that influence these patterns. This design provided a robust foundation for understanding the operational effects and challenges of BWC implementation in law enforcement settings.

**Population and Locale**

This study was conducted at the City of San Fernando Police Station (CSFPS), located in the City of San Fernando, La Union. The city serves as the regional and administrative center of Region I and is considered the most urbanized area in the province. Because of its role as an administrative and economic hub, the city experiences a relatively high level of police activity compared with other municipalities in the province. As a result, the CSFPS regularly conducts various law enforcement operations, including the execution of warrants, warrantless arrests, and other police interventions. In addition, the station is currently the only police station in the Province of La Union that has been issued body-worn cameras (BWCs) for operational use. Given these conditions, the City of San Fernando was considered the most appropriate locale for examining the implementation and operational use of BWCs in police activities.

The study involved eighteen (18) respondents composed of eight police officers assigned at the City of San Fernando Police Station, eight barangay officials from four selected barangays within the locality, one representative from the Department of Justice (DOJ) through the Office of the City Prosecutor of San Fernando, and one media representative from Bombo Radyo La Union. The number of respondents was limited to eighteen because only accredited individuals and trained officers are authorized to use or directly witness the implementation of body-worn cameras during police operations. In this sense, the study focused on individuals who possessed direct knowledge and relevant experience regarding the use of BWCs in actual law enforcement activities.

Table 1. Distribution of Population

<b>Participants</b>	<b>Agency/Office</b>	<b>Population</b>
Police Officers	City of San Fernando Police Station	8
Barangay Officials	Sangguniang Barangay of Sevilla, Poro, Lingsat, and Catbangan	8
Prosecutor	Office of City Prosecutor San Fernando	1
Media	Bombo Radyo La Union	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>18</b>

The police officers who participated in the study met two primary criteria. First, their duties were operational in nature, meaning that they were directly involved in field operations, such as the execution of warrants, warrantless arrests, and other police activities. Second, they had prior experience in deploying body-worn cameras during police operations within the City of San Fernando, La Union. Barangay officials were also included as respondents because their presence is often required during certain police operations, particularly in buy-bust operations and other law enforcement activities conducted within their jurisdictions. Two barangay officials were selected from each of the commonly identified areas of police operations, namely Barangay Sevilla, Barangay Poro, Barangay Lingsat, and Barangay Catbangan of the City of San Fernando.

A media representative from Bombo Radyo La Union and a prosecutor from the Office of the City Prosecutor of San Fernando were likewise included in the study. Their participation was considered relevant because both sectors may be involved in operations where the use of body-worn cameras is required or monitored. Media representatives often observe police transparency and public accountability, while prosecutors evaluate the legality of the

operational procedures undertaken by police officers and examine whether these procedures adhere to human rights standards. The participants were selected based on their experience or involvement in police operations where body-worn cameras were utilized. Their inclusion in the study was independent of personal characteristics such as sex, gender orientation, rank or position, socioeconomic status, or religion.

In selecting the respondents, the researcher employed purposive sampling. According to Nikolopoulou (2023), purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling method in which participants are deliberately selected because they possess specific characteristics or experiences relevant to the objectives of the research. This approach allows the researcher to focus on individuals who are capable of providing meaningful and informed responses regarding the phenomenon being studied. In this research, purposive sampling ensured that the selected participants had direct exposure to the use of body-worn cameras in police operations.

The use of purposive sampling also supports the goal of the study, which is to examine the implementation, effectiveness, and challenges associated with the use of BWCs during police operations of the City of San Fernando Police Station. By selecting participants who have actual experience in the operational use or observation of BWCs, the study was able to obtain information that is directly relevant to the research problem. This deliberate selection of participants increases the likelihood of obtaining reliable and context-specific insights.

Moreover, the relatively small number of respondents was considered appropriate for the study because the target participants were not drawn from the general population but from a specialized group of individuals directly involved in or exposed to BWC use in police operations. The respondents therefore functioned as key informants rather than members of a broad survey population. Through purposive sampling, the researcher ensured that the selected participants possessed relevant knowledge and experience, allowing the study to gather detailed and meaningful information regarding the operational use of body-worn cameras. This approach strengthens the credibility of the data by prioritizing participants who are most capable of providing accurate and contextually significant insights into the implementation of BWCs at the City of San Fernando Police Station.

### **Data Gathering Tool**

The data for this study were collected through semi-structured interviews and a questionnaire, which followed a mixed-methods research design. The semi-structured interview method is distinguished by a prearranged sequence of open-ended inquiries, intentionally crafted to elicit complete answers and foster in-depth conversations.

According to George (2022), a semi-structured interview offers flexibility, allowing the interviewer to explore specific topics or responses in greater detail as needed. The questionnaire method uses a series of closed-ended questions and a limited number of open-ended questions to gather data cost-effectively and efficiently from a large sample of respondents.

According to Roopa & Rani (2012), a questionnaire is the main means of collecting quantitative primary data. It enables quantitative data to be collected in a standardized way, ensuring internal consistency and coherence for analysis.

The use of these approaches is consistent with the research's primary goal: to clearly depict the influence of body-worn cameras on CSFPS police operations.

These semi-structured interviews and questionnaires consisted of pre-established questions addressing the three main inquiries outlined in the preceding chapter of this study. The questions therein were constructed based on the initial data gathered from the CSFPS and in accordance with the Revised Philippine National Police Operational Guidelines 2021, PNP MC No. 2018-009 otherwise known as “Operational Guidelines and Policies on the Use of Body Worn Camera”, PNP MC No. 21-2025 or the “Revised Operational Guidelines and Policies on the Use of Body Worn Cameras and other Alternative Recording Devices” and Supreme Court Rule A.M. No. 21-06-08-SC or the “Rules on the Use of Body-Worn Cameras in the Execution of Warrants”.

## Data Gathering Procedure

Prior to data collection, the researcher prepared and submitted formal request letters addressed to the Heads of Offices of the aforesaid four sectors from which the study population was drawn. Upon receiving permission, the researcher approached the study participants, discussed the confidentiality of their responses and the anonymity of their identities, and provided them with an explanation of the study's aim. Afterwards, the survey questionnaires and interview questions were given to them to read and prepare their answers. After consensus was reached, the researcher began the group interview session with six police officers regarding SOP 3 of the study and distributed survey questionnaires to the 18 respondents addressing SOPs 1 and 2. During the interview, the researcher posed follow-up questions to address participants' insufficient responses and to further elaborate on and fully comprehend their points.

Following the interviews and questionnaire distribution, the researcher transcribed and interpreted participants' responses to the interviews and the questionnaires to systematically analyze them and achieve the objectives of this study.

## Validity and Reliability

To ensure the reliability and validity of the data gathered and to achieve the study's purpose, the interview questions and the adapted survey questionnaire were validated.

After the construction of the data gathering instruments, they were subjected to validity testing. Respectively, the semi-structured interview questions and the survey questionnaire were subjected to content validation. It was done by the Dean of the College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE) of the Philippine College of Science and Technology (PhilCST), who is also the Governor of the Professional Criminologists Association of the Philippines (PCAP) Region 1, together with the Chiefs of Provincial Operations and Management Unit (POMU) and Provincial Intelligence Unit (PIU) of La Union Police Provincial Office (LUPPO).

These validators assessed the instruments for clarity, relevance, and appropriateness of the items to the study's purpose. Their feedback and input were used to revise and further improve the instruments. Some of their recommendations were the inclusion of cover letters in each survey questionnaire and the modification of statement number 9 in the "Other Police Operations" statements under the level of implementation of BWC.

Based on the validation results, the instrument was rated "highly valid" by the validators, with a weighted average of 3.81.

Furthermore, the survey questionnaire underwent pilot testing to determine its reliability. It involved 18 respondents in Dagupan City, Pangasinan, who shared the same characteristics as the actual target population. The pilot test results were analyzed using Cronbach's Alpha to assess internal consistency. Based on the findings, the questionnaire items had Cronbach's alpha values ranging from 0.88 to 0.94, which fall within the good-to-excellent range. With this, the researcher accepted and used the survey questionnaire to achieve the study's purpose.

Table 2. Reliability Test Results

Section	Cronbach's Alpha	Interpretation
Execution of Warrants	0.91	Excellent
Warrantless Arrest of a Suspect	0.90	Good
Other Police Operations	0.94	Excellent

Police Officers' Behavior	0.91	Excellent
Evidence Collection	0.90	Good
Implications for Legal Proceedings	0.88	Good

Interpretation Scale: 0.70-0.80 - acceptable, 0.81-0.90 - good; 0.91 above - excellent

**Data Analysis**

For data analysis and interpretation, the following statistical tools were used:

**Weighted Mean.** This descriptive statistical tool will be used to determine the level of implementation and effectiveness of body-worn cameras in police operations at the City of San Fernando Police Station.

The weighted mean was computed using this formula:

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum f x}{n}$$

Where:

$\bar{x}$  = weighted mean

x = represents the item value

f = represents the frequency associated with

n = number of respondents

$\sum f x$  = sum of all the products of x and f or total weighted value

**Thematic Analysis.** Upon completing a thorough transcription of the participants' responses, the researcher will proceed to evaluate them using thematic analysis. Caufield (2023) defines thematic analysis as a method for scrutinizing and analyzing qualitative data. Usually, it is utilized to examine a set of texts, such as an interview or transcripts. The researcher thoroughly examines the data to identify prevailing themes, subjects, concepts, and recurring patterns of importance. Upon a meticulous examination of the transcripts, the researcher will proceed to evaluate them by employing coding techniques, generating themes and categories, and engaging in thorough discussions over the resulting topics. This technique will enable the study to achieve its primary objective: elucidating the influence of body-worn cameras on police operations at the City of San Fernando Police Station. Specifically, this data analysis technique will be used to examine the challenges police officers face in implementing BWCs during police operations.

**Categorization of Data**

In accordance with its mixed-method design, this study employed both qualitative and quantitative data. Sub-problems were used to categorize the data.

In Sub-Problem 1 and Sub-Problem 2, the statistics regarding the level of implementation and the level of effectiveness of body-worn cameras were quantitative. These quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive analysis.

On the other hand, the data for Sub-Problem 3, which focused on the problems law enforcement officers encounter when implementing BWCs, were qualitative. Hence, these data were subjected to thematic analysis.

### **Evaluation Scale**

To measure the level of implementation and effectiveness of BWC, a 4-point Likert scale was used. Respondents were asked to rate the extent of implementation and effectiveness in each operational category. The scale and interpretation below were applied.

#### **Level of implementation of body-worn cameras in police operations at the San Fernando City Police Station**

<b>Numerical Evaluation</b>	<b>Descriptive Equivalent</b>
3.26-4.00	Fully Implemented
2.51-3.25	Implemented
1.76-2.50	Partially Implemented
1.00-1.75	Not Implemented

#### **Level of effectiveness of body-worn cameras on police operations of the San Fernando City Police Station**

<b>Numerical Evaluation</b>	<b>Descriptive Equivalent</b>
3.26-4.00	Very Effective
2.51-3.25	Effective
1.76-2.50	Partially Effective
1.00-1.75	Not Effective

This scale and interpretation were used to analyze responses to the statements in each sub-section of the questionnaire and to interpret the general level of implementation and effectiveness based on the composite mean score.

### **Ethical Considerations**

This study adhered to established ethical standards to safeguard the rights and welfare of the participants and to maintain the integrity of the research process. Prior to the conduct of the study, permission and approval were obtained from the appropriate authorities to ensure that the research complied with institutional and organizational policies. The participants were fully informed about the purpose of the study, the procedures involved in the interview process, and the terms and conditions of their participation. They were assured that their identities and responses would remain confidential and anonymous. Participation in the study was entirely voluntary, and respondents were informed that they could decline or withdraw from it at any time without any consequences. The researcher also made sure that all of the data he collected were only used for academic purposes. In addition, the study complied with the provisions of the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (Republic Act No. 10173), ensuring that all personal information and recorded data were handled securely and protected from unauthorized access.

Considering that the researcher is a police officer and affiliated with the organization being studied, there was a potential risk of researcher bias and perceived influence over the participants. This situation may create concerns that participants could feel obligated to participate or provide responses that align with organizational expectations.

To address this concern, the researcher took several measures to minimize bias and ensure ethical research conduct. First, the researcher maintained strict neutrality during the interviews and avoided leading questions that could influence participants' responses. Second, a standardized interview guide and questionnaire were used to ensure consistency and objectivity in data collection. Third, participants were explicitly informed that their participation was voluntary and that their responses would not affect their professional standing or relationship with the organization. Finally, any identifying information was taken out of the transcripts and final report to protect the participants' privacy.

Furthermore, the researcher practiced reflexivity throughout the research process. Reflexivity refers to the conscious effort of researchers to recognize and critically examine their own professional background, personal assumptions, and potential biases that may influence the research process. The researcher took deliberate steps to remain objective during data collection and analysis, given their professional connection to the institution under study. The researcher carefully documented interview responses, avoided interpreting statements beyond what participants expressed, and ensured that findings were grounded solely on the collected data. By maintaining transparency in the research procedures and systematically analyzing the data, the study ensured that conclusions were derived from empirical evidence rather than personal perspectives or organizational affiliations.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

This chapter presents the results of the data gathered for the study. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, specifically the weighted mean, for the quantitative responses, while thematic analysis was used for the qualitative responses obtained from the interviews. These analyses were conducted to address the main purpose of the study, which was to assess the implementation and effectiveness of body-worn cameras in police operations at the City of San Fernando Police Station.

It is important to clarify that the findings presented in this chapter primarily reflect the perceptions and experiences of the selected respondents, which include police officers, barangay officials, a prosecutor, and a media representative who have been involved in or have observed police operations where body-worn cameras were used. The results elucidate the stakeholders' perceptions regarding the implementation, efficacy, and challenges related to the utilization of body-worn cameras. The data do not represent direct observational measurements of police operations but instead provide insights based on the respondents' professional experiences and perspectives regarding the utilization of BWCs in the locale.

For the comprehensive presentation and discussion of the findings, the results are organized according to the Statement of the Problem presented in Chapter 1. The first part discusses the level of implementation of body-worn cameras in police operations, particularly in the execution of warrants, warrantless arrests, and other law enforcement activities. The second part talks about how well body-worn cameras work when it comes to police officers' behavior, gathering evidence, and going to court. The third part examines the challenges encountered by police officers in using body-worn cameras during police operations. Through this structure, the chapter provides a systematic presentation of the results that supports the objectives of the study.

### **Level of Implementation of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Operations of the City of San Fernando Police Station**

This section presents the findings on how body-worn cameras are being implemented in various police operations within the City of San Fernando Police Station. The data is based on the perspectives of key participants - including police officers, barangay officials, prosecutors, and media representatives - regarding the use of body-worn cameras during the execution of warrants, warrantless arrests, and other operational activities.

#### **Level of Implementation of Body-Worn Cameras in Terms of Execution of Warrants**

Table 3 shows how well body-worn cameras are being used, especially when it comes to executing warrants. It reflects respondents' assessments of how consistently and effectively police officers use body-worn cameras during warrant operations.

Table 3. Level of Implementation of Body-Worn Cameras in Terms of Execution of Warrants

Indicators	WM	Interpretation
1. The law enforcement officer ensures the functionality of body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices before executing a search or arrest warrant.	3.72	FI
2. The immediate supervisor checks whether body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices are properly worn and functional before warrant execution.	3.67	FI
3. The officer activates the body-worn camera from the start of the operation until the completion of the search and returns to the police station.	3.78	FI
4. The law enforcement officer informs the suspect and any present individuals that the search or arrest is being recorded.	3.61	FI
5. Body-worn cameras are used during both the execution of search warrants and warrants of arrest.	3.67	FI
6. Recordings captured during the execution of warrants are utilized as evidence, especially in cases of resistance or allegations of misconduct.	3.78	FI
7. Recordings are accessible to authorized investigating agencies, particularly in cases of alleged human rights violations.	3.78	FI
8. The data custodian downloads recordings within 24 hours from the time of recording.	3.50	FI
9. The suspect or legal counsel is present during the downloading process, and the data is encrypted to preserve integrity.	3.17	I
10. The law enforcement officer wears the camera in a clearly visible position to ensure proper coverage of events.	3.78	FI
11. Sanctions are imposed on officers who fail to use body-worn cameras or approved alternatives during warrant operations.	3.28	FI
<b>Sub mean</b>	<b>3.61</b>	<b>FI</b>

Legend: WM: Weighted Mean

FI: Fully Implemented

I: Implemented

Table 3 presents the level of implementation of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in terms of the execution of warrants. The overall sub-mean of 3.61, interpreted as "fully implemented," indicates that respondents generally perceive that the procedures governing the use of BWCs during warrant operations are consistently followed by police officers of the City of San Fernando Police Station.

Several indicators obtained the highest weighted mean of 3.78, particularly those related to the activation of BWCs from the start of the operation until completion, the use of recordings as evidence, the accessibility of recordings to authorized investigating agencies, and the proper wearing of the camera in a visible position. These results indicate that the core operational procedures of BWC usage are strongly observed during warrant implementation. The high ratings suggest that officers consistently activate the cameras during operations and ensure that recordings can serve

as reliable documentation of police activities. Such practices contribute to improved Transparency in police operations and the provision of credible evidence that may support legal proceedings are essential.

On the other hand, several indicators obtained comparatively lower weighted means, including the presence of the suspect or legal counsel during the downloading process (3.17), the imposition of sanctions on officers who fail to use BWCs (3.28), and the downloading of recordings within 24 hours (3.50). Although these indicators are still interpreted as implemented or fully implemented, the lower ratings suggest that these procedures may be less frequently observed or less visible to some respondents. These aspects typically occur after the operational phase and may involve administrative processes that are not directly witnessed by all stakeholders present during police operations.

Interview responses further clarified these findings. A warrant police non-commissioned officer explained that the presence of the suspect or legal counsel during the downloading of recordings is not mandatory unless specifically requested, which may explain why some respondents reported limited observation of this procedure. Similarly, several barangay officials indicated that their participation in operations usually ends once the suspect is brought to the police station, which limits their exposure to post-operation procedures such as data downloading and archiving.

Overall, the results indicate the widespread and consistent use of body-worn cameras during warrant operations at the City of San Fernando Police Station. The high scores on most indicators show that officers follow the rules when they turn on and use BWCs during police work. This consistent implementation supports transparency, documentation of police actions, and accountability in law enforcement operations. Similar observations have been noted in previous studies where the use of BWCs contributed to improved transparency and accountability in police practices (Andrade et al., 2024).

**Level of Implementation of Body-Worn Cameras in Terms of Warrantless Arrest of a Suspect**

Table 4 shows the level of implementation of body-worn cameras, specifically regarding warrantless arrest of a suspect. It reflects the respondents’ assessments of how consistently and effectively body-worn cameras are utilized by police officers during the conduct of arrest without warrant.

Table 4. Level of Implementation of Body-Worn Cameras in Terms of Warrantless Arrest of a Suspect

Indicator	WM	Interpretation
1. The law enforcement officer uses body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices during arrests made without a warrant.	3.56	FI
2. The recording device is activated from the moment of arrest until the suspect is brought to the police station.	3.83	FI
3. The officer checks the functionality of the recording equipment prior to making the arrest.	3.83	FI
4. In the absence of a body-worn camera, an alternative recording device is used.	3.78	FI
5. The officer informs the suspect that the arrest is being recorded.	3.72	FI
6. The suspect’s rights are observed during the arrest, and standard operating procedures are followed.	3.78	FI

7. Recordings are downloaded within 24 hours by the data custodian and properly encrypted.	3.39	FI
8. The suspect or legal counsel is present during the downloading of the data.	3.28	FI
9. Recordings are immediately turned over to the evidence custodian for safekeeping and proper disposition.	3.44	FI
10. Recordings are available to authorized investigating agencies and, where applicable, to the suspect, especially in cases of alleged rights violations.	3.56	FI
Sub mean	<b>3.62</b>	<b>FI</b>

Legend: WM: Weighted Mean                      FI: Fully Implemented

Table 4 presents the level of implementation of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in terms of warrantless arrests of suspects. The overall sub-mean of 3.62, interpreted as "fully implemented," indicates that respondents generally perceive that BWCs are consistently used by police officers during warrantless arrest operations conducted by the City of San Fernando Police Station.

Several indicators obtained the highest weighted means, particularly the activation of the recording device from the moment of arrest until the suspect is brought to the police station (3.83) and the checking of the recording equipment's functionality prior to being arrested (3.83). Other indicators with relatively high ratings include the use of alternative recording devices when BWCs are unavailable (3.78) and the observance of the suspect's rights and standard operating procedures during the arrest (3.78). These findings indicate that officers consistently ensure that recording devices are operational and actively used throughout the arrest process. The results indicate that BWCs play a crucial role in recording police actions and guaranteeing adherence to proper procedures during warrantless arrests.

On the other hand, indicators with comparatively lower weighted means include the presence of the suspect or legal counsel during the downloading of the data (3.28), the downloading of recordings within 24 hours by the data custodian (3.39), and the immediate turnover of recordings to the evidence custodian for safekeeping (3.44). Although these indicators are still interpreted as fully implemented, the lower ratings may indicate that these procedures are less frequently observed by respondents, particularly because they occur during the post-operation phase of police procedures. As a result, not all stakeholders involved in the arrest process may directly witness these administrative procedures.

Overall, the findings show that the City of San Fernando Police Station widely uses body-worn cameras during warrantless arrest operations. The consistent implementation of BWCs helps ensure that police actions are properly documented and that suspects' rights are protected during the arrest process. This practice contributes to transparency in police operations and supports the credibility of evidence generated during law enforcement activities. Previous research has indicated analogous results, implying that the utilization of body-worn cameras improves accountability and the documentation of police interactions (White & Malm, 2020).

### **Level of Implementation of Body-Worn Cameras in terms of Other Police Operations**

Table 5 shows how well body-worn cameras are being used in other police operations. Police officers consistently and effectively utilize body-worn cameras during other special police operations, according to the respondents' assessments.

Table 5. Level of Implementation of Body-Worn Cameras in terms of Other Police Operations

Indicator	WM	Interpretation
1. The immediate supervisor verifies the use and functionality of body-worn cameras or alternative recording devices before operations such as surveillance, patrol, buy-busts, or civil disturbance responses.	3.72	FI
2. The law enforcement officer used body-worn cameras or alternative devices during buy-bust operations.	3.78	FI
3. The law enforcement officer used body-worn cameras or alternative devices during raids against drug trafficking.	3.72	FI
4. The law enforcement officer used body-worn cameras or alternative devices during operations against organized crime.	3.61	FI
5. The law enforcement officer used body-worn cameras or alternative devices during hostage-taking situations.	3.44	FI
6. The law enforcement officer used body-worn cameras or alternative devices during human trafficking operations.	3.56	FI
7. The law enforcement officer used body-worn cameras or alternative devices during stakeout and surveillance missions.	3.44	FI
8. Recordings from these operations are used as evidence, especially in cases involving resistance or attacks.	3.78	FI
9. Body-worn camera recordings may be made available to other government investigating agencies, provided there is proper clearance and coordination with the Philippine National Police (PNP) during the course of the investigation.	3.56	FI
10. Officers receive sanctions for failing to use the required body-worn cameras during such operations.	3.33	FI
<b>Submean</b>	<b>3.59</b>	<b>FI</b>

Legend: WM: Weighted Mean

FI: Fully Implemented

Table 5 presents the level of implementation of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in terms of other police operations. The overall sub-mean of 3.59, interpreted as "fully implemented," indicates that respondents generally perceive that BWCs are consistently utilized in various police activities beyond warrant execution and warrantless arrests at the City of San Fernando Police Station.

Several indicators obtained the highest weighted means, particularly the use of BWCs during buy-bust operations (3.78) and the use of recordings from these operations as evidence (3.78). Other indicators with relatively high ratings include the verification of the functionality of BWCs by the immediate supervisor prior to operations (3.72) and the use of recording devices during raids against drug trafficking (3.72). These results suggest that BWCs are commonly used in operations involving direct engagement with suspects, particularly in anti-drug activities and enforcement operations. The consistent use of recording devices in these situations helps document police actions and provides reliable evidence that may support legal proceedings.

In contrast, some indicators received comparatively lower weighted means, including the imposition of sanctions on officers who fail to use BWCs (3.33) and the use of BWCs during hostage-taking situations and stakeout or surveillance missions (3.44). Although these indicators are still interpreted as fully implemented, the lower ratings may indicate that these types of operations are less frequently observed by respondents or occur less often within the study locale. As a result, some respondents may have limited direct experience in witnessing the use of BWCs during these specialized operations.

Interview responses from barangay officials and the media representative provided additional clarification. They indicated that most of the police operations they had witnessed involved buy-bust activities, while other specialized operations, such as hostage situations, stakeouts, or surveillance missions, were not commonly observed in their experience. They also noted that they had not personally witnessed any officer being sanctioned for failing to use BWCs, as the operations they observed were conducted with the use of recording devices.

Overall, the findings indicate that body-worn cameras are widely utilized in various police operations, particularly in activities that involve direct interaction with suspects. The consistent use of BWCs contributes to improved documentation of police procedures and strengthens transparency in law enforcement activities. Previous studies have reported similar observations, indicating that BWCs enhance accountability and provide valuable evidentiary support in police operations (Lum et al., 2020).

**Overall Level of Implementation of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Operations of the City of San Fernando Police Station**

Table 6 presents the overall level of implementation of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in the City of San Fernando Police Station's police operations, as assessed by the respondents. The table summarizes the extent of BWC use across three types of operations: warrant execution, warrantless arrests of suspects, and other police operations.

Table 6. Overall Level of Implementation of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Operations of the City of San Fernando Police Station

<b>Operations</b>	<b>WM</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
Execution of Warrant	3.61	FI
Warrantless Arrest of a Suspect	3.62	FI
Other Police Operations	3.59	FI
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.61</b>	<b>FI</b>

Legend: WM: Weighted Mean                      FI: Fully Implemented

Table 6 presents the overall level of implementation of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in police operations at the City of San Fernando Police Station. The results show that BWCs are fully implemented across the three operational areas, namely the execution of warrants (WM = 3.61), warrantless arrests of suspects (WM = 3.62) and other police operations (WM = 3.59). Among these areas, warrantless arrests obtained the highest weighted mean, indicating that respondents perceive the use of BWCs to be slightly more consistent during warrantless arrest operations compared to other types of police activities.

The overall mean of 3.61, interpreted as "fully implemented," indicates that the use of body-worn cameras is widely practiced during police operations conducted by the City of San Fernando Police Station. This suggests that officers generally follow the operational procedures requiring the activation and use of BWCs during law enforcement activities. The consistent use of recording devices across different operational contexts helps ensure that police

actions are properly documented and that encounters with suspects are recorded for transparency and evidentiary purposes.

Interview responses from key informants also supported these findings. A media representative explained that police officers are expected to properly use BWCs during operations because failure to document police activities may affect the credibility of evidence presented in legal proceedings. Similarly, an intelligence police non-commissioned officer stated that officers routinely check the availability and functionality of BWCs before conducting operations to ensure that the devices are ready for use.

Overall, the findings indicate that body-worn cameras have been integrated into routine police operational practices in the City of San Fernando Police Station. The consistent implementation of BWCs contributes to improved documentation of police procedures, promotes transparency in law enforcement activities, and helps strengthen accountability during police operations. Previous studies have noted similar observations, suggesting that consistent BWC implementation enhances transparency and procedural accountability in policing (White & Malm, 2020).

### **Level of Effectiveness of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Operations of the City of San Fernando Police Station**

This section outlines the findings on how effectively body-worn cameras were utilized across the City of San Fernando Police Station's various police operations. The data were derived from the perspectives of key participants - including police officers, barangay officials, prosecutors, and media representatives - regarding the effectiveness of body-worn cameras in relation to police officers' behavior, evidence collection, and implications for legal proceedings.

#### **Effectiveness of Body-Worn Cameras in terms of Police Officers' Behavior**

Table 7 shows the level of effectiveness of body-worn cameras specifically in influencing the police officers' behavior. It reflects the respondents' assessments of how body-worn cameras effectively improve police officers' conduct during operations.

Table 7. Effectiveness of Body-Worn Cameras in terms of Police Officers' Behavior

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>WM</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
The presence of body-worn cameras improves police officers' professionalism.	3.83	VE
Body-worn cameras reduce the use of excessive force by officers.	3.78	VE
Officers are more likely to follow proper procedures when being recorded.	3.67	VE
Body-worn cameras increase the accountability of police officers.	3.78	VE
There are fewer complaints filed against officers who wear body cameras.	3.72	VE
<b>Submean</b>	<b>3.76</b>	<b>VE</b>

Legend: WM: Weighted Mean                      VE: Very Effective

Table 7 presents the perceived effectiveness of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in terms of police officers' behavior. The overall sub-mean of 3.76, interpreted as "very effective" indicates that respondents generally perceive that BWCs positively influence the behavior and conduct of police officers during police operations.

The statement that the presence of body-worn cameras enhances police officers' professionalism secured the highest weighted mean (3.83) among the indicators. Other indicators that received relatively high ratings include the reduction in the use of excessive force (3.78) and the increase in police officers' accountability (3.78). These results suggest that the presence of BWCs encourages officers to maintain proper conduct and adhere to professional standards during police interactions. The awareness that their actions are being recorded may promote greater caution and discipline among officers, which can contribute to more responsible and lawful behavior during operations.

Indicators with slightly lower means include the statement that officers are more likely to follow proper procedures when being recorded (3.67) and that fewer complaints are filed against officers who wear body cameras (3.72). Although these indicators received slightly lower ratings, they are still interpreted as Very Effective, indicating that respondents generally perceive BWCs as contributing to improved adherence to operational procedures and a reduction in complaints against officers.

Overall, the findings show that police officers perceive body-worn cameras as highly effective in promoting professional and accountable behavior. The use of BWCs appears to encourage officers to follow proper procedures, maintain discipline, and avoid actions that may lead to complaints or allegations of misconduct. Similar observations have been reported in previous studies indicating that body-worn cameras contribute to improved officer accountability and reduced incidents of excessive force during police encounters (Lum et al., 2020).

**Effectiveness of Body-Worn Cameras in Terms of Evidence Collection**

Table 8 illustrates the effectiveness of body-worn cameras in evidence collection. It reflects the respondents' assessment of how body-worn cameras enhance the collection of evidence and uphold its integrity in court proceedings.

Table 8. Effectiveness of Body-Worn Cameras in Terms of Evidence Collection

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>WM</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
Body-worn cameras provide accurate documentation of events.	3.78	VE
The quality of evidence improves with the use of body-worn cameras.	3.83	VE
Video footage supports more reliable officer testimony.	3.83	VE
Body cameras help resolve conflicting accounts of incidents.	3.83	VE
Officers write more thorough reports when body camera footage is available.	3.83	VE
<b>Submean</b>	<b>3.82</b>	<b>VE</b>

Legend: WM: Weighted Mean                      VE: Very Effective

Table 8 presents the perceived effectiveness of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in terms of evidence collection. The overall sub-mean of 3.82, interpreted as "very effective," indicates that respondents generally perceive that BWCs significantly contribute to improving the quality and reliability of evidence collected during police operations.

Several indicators obtained the highest weighted mean of 3.83, particularly those stating that the quality of evidence improves with the use of BWCs, video footage supports more reliable officer testimony, body cameras help resolve conflicting accounts of incidents, and officers write more thorough reports when body camera footage is available. These findings suggest that respondents recognize the value of BWCs in providing recorded documentation that can clarify events and strengthen the credibility of police reports. The availability of video recordings allows

investigators and legal authorities to review incidents objectively, which may help verify statements and reduce disputes regarding the details of police encounters.

Meanwhile, the indicator stating that body-worn cameras provide accurate documentation of events obtained a slightly lower weighted mean of 3.78, although it is still interpreted as Very Effective. This result indicates that respondents generally agree that BWCs provide reliable visual and audio documentation of police activities. The recordings captured by BWCs help preserve details of events as they occur, which may support the preparation of reports and the presentation of evidence during investigations or court proceedings.

Overall, the findings indicate that body-worn cameras are highly effective tools for evidence collection in police operations. The consistent use of BWCs provides objective documentation of police encounters, which helps strengthen case evidence and supports the accuracy of investigative and legal processes. Similar observations have been reported in previous studies indicating that BWCs improve the reliability of recorded evidence and contribute to more transparent documentation of police activities (Lum et al., 2020).

### **Effectiveness of Body-Worn Cameras in Terms of Implications for Legal Proceedings**

Table 9 presents the effectiveness of body-worn cameras in legal proceedings. It reflects the respondents' assessment of how body-worn camera footage influences the outcomes and overall conduct of judicial processes.

Table 9. Effectiveness of Body-Worn Cameras in Terms of Implications for Legal Proceedings

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>WM</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
Body camera footage strengthens the prosecution of criminal cases.	3.83	VE
Cases are resolved more quickly when body camera footage is available.	3.83	VE
The use of body-worn cameras improves courtroom transparency.	3.89	VE
Body camera videos are reliable forms of evidence in court.	3.83	VE
Both prosecutors and defense attorneys benefit from BWC footage.	3.83	VE
<b>Submean</b>	<b>3.84</b>	<b>VE</b>

Legend: WM: Weighted Mean                      VE: Very Effective

Table 9 presents the perceived effectiveness of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in terms of their implications for legal proceedings. The overall sub-mean of 3.84, interpreted as "very effective," indicates that respondents generally perceive that BWCs significantly contribute to improving the conduct and outcomes of judicial processes. The statement that the use of body-worn cameras improves courtroom transparency received the highest weighted mean of 3.89 among the indicators, suggesting that respondents believe recorded footage provides clear and objective documentation of police encounters. The presence of video evidence allows courts to review incidents more accurately, which may help clarify disputed events and strengthen the integrity of legal proceedings.

Other indicators also got high scores, with a weighted mean of 3.83. These include statements that body camera footage makes it easier to prosecute criminals, that cases are resolved more quickly when footage is available, that body camera videos are reliable evidence in court, and that both prosecutors and defense attorneys benefit from BWC recordings. These findings suggest that respondents recognize the value of BWCs in supporting the judicial process by providing detailed visual and audio documentation of police operations. The availability of recorded

footage may assist legal professionals in verifying statements, reviewing incidents objectively, and resolving disputes regarding the circumstances of police encounters.

Overall, the findings show that people perceive body-worn cameras as highly effective in supporting legal proceedings. The consistent use of BWCs allows incidents to be documented accurately, which can strengthen evidentiary credibility and contribute to fairer and more transparent judicial outcomes. Video recordings from BWCs provide courts with objective documentation of events, helping reduce reliance on conflicting testimonies and supporting the overall reliability of evidence presented during legal proceedings. Previous studies have reported similar observations, suggesting that BWC footage enhances evidentiary transparency and bolsters the judicial process (Lum et al., 2020).

### Overall Level of Effectiveness of Body-Worn Cameras

Table 10 presents the overall effectiveness of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in shaping police officers' behavior, in evidence collection, and in their implications for legal proceedings. The table summarizes respondents' perceptions regarding how BWCs influence officers to adhere to proper protocols, ensure accurate and reliable evidence gathering, and contribute to fairer and more transparent judicial processes.

Table 10. Overall Level of Effectiveness of Body-Worn Cameras

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>WM</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
Police Officers' Behavior	3.76	VE
Evidence Collection	3.82	VE
Implications for Legal Proceedings	3.84	VE
<b>Submean</b>	<b>3.81</b>	<b>VE</b>

Legend: WM: Weighted Mean                      VE: Very Effective

Table 10 presents the overall level of effectiveness of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in police operations at the City of San Fernando Police Station. The results indicate that BWCs are very effective across the three key dimensions, namely police officers' behavior (WM = 3.76), evidence collection (WM = 3.82), and implications for legal proceedings (WM = 3.84). Among these areas, the implications for legal proceedings obtained the highest weighted mean, indicating that respondents perceive BWCs to be particularly valuable in supporting the judicial process through the provision of recorded documentation that can be used during investigations and court proceedings.

The overall sub-mean of 3.81, interpreted as Very Effective, indicates that respondents generally believe that the use of BWCs contributes significantly to improving police operational practices. The results suggest that BWCs encourage officers to maintain professional conduct, strengthen the quality and reliability of evidence collected during police operations, and support the resolution of legal cases through the availability of recorded documentation. The consistent use of BWCs during police activities allows incidents to be documented accurately, which may help clarify events and support decision-making in investigative and judicial processes.

Overall, the findings indicate that body-worn cameras serve as an important tool in enhancing police accountability, documentation, and transparency in law enforcement operations. Their use not only influences police officers' behavior but also strengthens the evidentiary value of police encounters and contributes to more transparent legal proceedings. Similar findings have been reported in previous studies indicating that BWCs improve police accountability and support the reliability of evidence used in legal processes (Lum et al., 2020).

## Challenges in the Usage of Body-Worn Cameras in Police Operations at the City of San Fernando Police Station

This section outlines the perceived challenges in the use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) during police operations at the City of San Fernando Police Station, as identified by the selected police officers. It reflects the respondents' views on the issues and difficulties encountered in the actual implementation and utilization of BWCs in their operational duties.

The table below illustrates the challenges police officers face when using body-worn cameras (BWCs) during police operations. It highlights the identified areas of concern, corresponding themes, and the frequency and percentage of responses. Selected sample responses are also included to provide contextual insights into the officers' experiences and perceptions regarding the operational use of BWCs.

The data presented herein were obtained from a group interview with six police officers from the Warrant and Intelligence Sections of the CSFPS. The respective Team Leaders of each section primarily responded. They were subsequently corroborated and concurred in by the other four police officers who were likewise present during the interview session.

Table 11. Challenges experienced while using body-worn cameras during police operations

Areas of Concern	Theme(s)	Frequency (6)	Percentage	Sample Responses
<b>Design and Visibility of the Device</b>	<b>Theme 1: Conspicuous Design Hindering Covert Operations</b>	3	50%	<b>Subject #1 (Intel PNCO):</b> “Unang challenge pag gumagamit kami ng Body-worn camera is yung dalawang ilaw na nagb-blink sa upper part niya kapag naka-on sya at kapag nagre-record na siya... Struggle sa amin yung dalawang ilaw na yun kasi halatado siya pag nagb-blink, mapapansin agad ng subject na nirerecord namin siya which is maaaring ma-compromise yung operation namin... Pangatlo, meron siyang malaking logo ng PNP na kitang kita...” “Oo, nahihirapan kaming gamitin dun sa part ng pag-blink ng ilaw niya at yung physical size niya na malaki... kaya ang ginagawa namin, tinatakpan nalang namin siya ng bote ng alak in a way na yung lens lang niya yung makikita.”
<b>System and Equipment Management</b>	<b>Theme 2: Technical and Logistical Hurdles</b>	6	100%	<b>Subject #1 (Intel PNCO):</b> “Kapag walang internet hindi mo matratransfer yung video recordings niya sa computer, tapos may docket system siya sa Crame na nagesave din dun through internet, so kapag walang internet, hindi mo matratransfer yung video recordings nya sa computer for viewing at hindi rin siya masesave sa docket system ng Crame.”

				<p><b>Subject #2 (Warrant PNCO):</b> “Yung storage nya, kasi pag nagmalfunction yung storage ng BWC, kinocontact pa yang sa Manila, sa Crame, kaya nadedelay minsan yung processing ng CD na ibibigay sa korte as part of evidence sa legal proceedings.” <b>Subject #2:</b> “Kailangan magpase-minar din sila ng ganun sa amin, para alam namin kung ano gagawin namin pag nagka-aberya yung body-worn para hindi na kailangan pang tumawag ng technician.”</p>
<p><b>Capability and Knowledge of Users</b></p>	<p><b>Theme 3: Insufficient and Superficial Training</b></p>	6	100%	<p><b>Subject #1 (Intel PNCO):</b> “May training kami dito, pero yung tinuturo lang ay kung paano siya i-switch on at paano mag-record, ganun lang... Medyo kulang lang dun sa part ng rules and detailed guidelines pertaining the use of body-worn camera, hindi masyadong naituro yun sa amin...” <b>Subject #2 (Warrant PNCO):</b> “Yes, seminars mga ganun, orientation sa pag-ooperate ng Body-worn... kailangan magpase-minar din sila sa amin kung paano i-troubleshoot yung body-worn camera, para alam namin kung ano gagawin namin pag nagka-aberya...”</p>
<p><b>Interaction with the Public During Operations</b></p>	<p><b>Theme 4: Negative Public Perception and Interaction</b></p>	6	100%	<p><b>Subject #1 (Intel PNCO):</b> “Oo, maraming times na ‘Sir, bakit kayo nagvivideo, bakit kayo nagvivideo?’ sabi nila, ang lagi nalang naming sagot sa kanila na ang BWC na ito ang nagrerecord ng buong operation... proteksyon namin ito laban sa inyo at ganun din kayo, proteksyon niyo din to laban sa amin... Ine-explain nalang namin ng ganun sa kanila...” <b>Subject #2 (Warrant PNCO):</b> “Wala naman, kasi sinasabi naman namin sa kanila na kaya namin vinevideohan kasi it’s for their protection.”</p>

### Conspicuous Design Hindering Covert Operations

This theme refers to concerns arising from the visible and easily noticeable design of body-worn cameras (BWCs), which may undermine the effectiveness of police operations that require discretion or secrecy. The findings highlight a critical contradiction between the **design characteristics of BWCs and the operational demands of covert police activities**. Respondents emphasized that the flashing light indicators, the relatively bulky structure of the

device, and the visible institutional markings may compromise operational confidentiality. In covert law-enforcement activities such as buy-bust operations, surveillance missions, and intelligence gathering, officers rely heavily on maintaining anonymity and the element of surprise. However, the conspicuous features of the camera may unintentionally alert suspects that they are being recorded, which could disrupt the planned operation or lead suspects to alter their behavior.

The Intel PNCO emphasized that the blinking green and red indicators of the device draw immediate attention during operations, making concealment difficult. Moreover, the large physical size and visible PNP logo may further expose the identity of officers conducting covert activities. As a result, officers sometimes resort to improvised solutions to prevent suspects from noticing the device, which may divert their attention during crucial operational moments. The participant explained:

“Struggle sa amin yung dalawang ilaw na yun kasi halatado siya pag nagbliblink, mapapansin agad ng subject na nirerecord namin siya which is maaaring ma-compromise yung operation namin... Pangalawang challenge is yung malaki siya, yung size niya is hindi siya basta-basta ma-coconceal. Pangatlo, meron siyang malaking logo ng PNP na kitang kita.”

These findings indicate that while BWCs are effective tools for transparency and documentation, their **design characteristics may not always align with the operational requirements of covert policing**. Officers reported that the need to manually conceal or adjust the device during operations may introduce safety risks and operational distractions. Consequently, the findings suggest the need for **specialized recording devices designed for covert law-enforcement activities**, featuring compact structures, discreet indicators, and minimal external markings.

Previous studies support these observations. Ariel et al. (2015) noted that the visibility of BWCs is intentionally designed to promote accountability and deter misconduct; however, this same feature may limit their effectiveness in covert policing situations. Similarly, Lum et al. (2019) explained that BWCs were primarily developed for overt police activities such as patrol and traffic enforcement rather than undercover operations. White and Malm (2020) also emphasized that the physical design and mounting requirements of standard BWCs may expose officers' identities during covert engagements, thereby posing operational risks and potentially compromising investigations.

### Technical and Logistical Hurdles

The second theme highlights **technical and logistical challenges encountered in the management and operation of body-worn camera systems**. Respondents indicated that the technical infrastructure supporting BWCs presents several operational limitations, particularly in terms of data transfer, storage management, and system maintenance. One of the main problems that the participants pointed out is that the device needs a stable internet connection to send recorded footage to the centralized evidence management system. When internet connectivity is unavailable or unstable, officers may experience delays in transferring video files, which in turn affects the timely processing of digital evidence.

The Warrant PNCO described how technical malfunctions in the storage system sometimes require assistance from centralized technical personnel located in Camp Crame. This process may delay the preparation of video recordings that are required for submission to courts as part of evidentiary documentation. The participant explained:

“Yung storage nya, kasi pag nagmalfunction yung storage ng BWC, kinocontact pa yan sa Manila, sa Crame, kaya nadedelay minsan yung processing ng CD na ibibigay sa korte as part of evidence sa legal proceedings.”

This situation illustrates how centralized maintenance and technical servicing may create operational bottlenecks, particularly for police units located far from national headquarters. The inability to immediately resolve technical difficulties at the local level may disrupt the chain of custody of digital evidence and delay case processing. Officers also noted that they are often not trained to resolve even minor technical difficulties, which further increases their dependence on external technical personnel.

These findings suggest that the current BWC implementation system may require stronger **technical infrastructure and decentralized support mechanisms** to ensure efficient evidence management. Improving local technical capacity and establishing dedicated support units may help reduce delays and strengthen the reliability of BWC systems during police operations.

Previous research has reported similar challenges. Terpstra et al. (2022) identified data management and technical infrastructure as major challenges in BWC implementation, particularly in relation to video uploads, storage management, and maintenance requirements. Lum et al. (2019) also observed that many modern BWC systems rely heavily on network connectivity to transfer recorded footage to centralized databases, which may create delays in areas with limited internet access. Furthermore, White and Malm (2020) emphasized that effective BWC programs require significant technological investment, including reliable storage systems, maintenance support, and trained technical personnel.

### **Insufficient and Superficial Training**

The third theme relates to **limitations in the training provided to police officers regarding the use and management of body-worn cameras**. Although respondents acknowledged that the Philippine National Police provides orientation sessions on BWC usage, the participants indicated that these training sessions primarily focus on basic device operation rather than comprehensive technical, legal, and procedural aspects of BWC implementation.

The Intel PNCO explained that the training they received mainly covered basic functions such as switching on the device and initiating recordings. However, the training sessions did not provide extensive coverage of operational guidelines, legal protocols, data management procedures, and troubleshooting techniques. The participant described this limitation as follows:

“yung tinuturo lang ay kung paano siya iswitch on at paano mag-record, ganun lang... Medyo kulang lang dun sa part ng rules and detailed guidelines pertaining the use of body-worn camera, hindi masyadong naituro yun sa amin...”

These responses indicate that officers may not be fully equipped with the knowledge necessary to manage BWCs effectively during police operations. In particular, the lack of training related to data management procedures, evidence handling protocols, and technical troubleshooting may create risks in the proper use and maintenance of the equipment. Without sufficient training, officers may unintentionally mishandle digital evidence or fail to maximize the full capabilities of the BWC system.

Furthermore, respondents noted that only selected personnel are familiar with the procedures for uploading recordings, managing storage systems, and coordinating evidence submission to courts. This concentration of technical knowledge among a limited number of personnel may create operational inefficiencies when those individuals are unavailable.

Previous studies have also emphasized the importance of comprehensive BWC training programs. Lum et al. (2019) highlighted that inadequate training may lead to improper device usage and operational errors during police encounters. Terpstra et al. (2022) also stressed that successful BWC implementation requires specialized training in device operation, maintenance, and digital evidence management. Similarly, Ballangan (2024) observed that police officers in several Philippine police units received only brief orientations on BWC usage rather than comprehensive training programs, which resulted in varying levels of competence and confidence among officers during a ctual operations.

### **Negative Public Perception and Interaction**

The final theme focuses on **challenges related to public perception and interaction during police operations involving body-worn cameras**. Although BWCs are designed to promote transparency and accountability in law

enforcement activities, respondents reported that the presence of cameras sometimes triggers suspicion or discomfort among members of the public. During police encounters, civilians occasionally question why they are being recorded, which may interrupt the flow of operations and require officers to explain the purpose of the device.

The Intel PNCO described how officers often need to clarify that the recordings are intended to protect both the officers and the civilians involved in the encounter. The participant explained:

“Oo, maraming times na ‘Sir, bakit kayo nagvivideo, bakit kayo nagvivideo?!’... Ine-explain nalang namin ng ganun sakanila na itong video na ito ay magsisilbing proteksyon sa part namin at sa part din nila...”

These interactions suggest that although BWCs are intended to enhance transparency, the lack of public awareness regarding their purpose may initially create tension between police officers and civilians. Officers reported that they often need to pause their operations to explain the role of the camera and reassure individuals that the recordings are meant to ensure accountability and protection for all parties involved.

The findings indicate that broader **community awareness initiatives** may be necessary to help the public better understand the purpose and function of BWCs. Public education campaigns explaining how the devices operate, how recordings are stored, and how privacy protections are maintained may help reduce suspicion and improve police–community interactions.

Previous research supports these observations. Lawshe et al. (2022) noted that while BWCs often encourage more measured behavior among both officers and civilians, some members of the public initially express discomfort when they realize they are being recorded. Similarly, Laiño et al. (2022) found that although communities recognize the role of BWCs in promoting accountability, concerns regarding privacy and potential misuse of recorded footage remain common. Corpuz et al. (2023) also reported that some citizens perceive BWCs primarily as surveillance tools rather than accountability mechanisms, which may influence how they interact with police officers during recorded encounters.

### Proposed measures on the problems encountered in the implementation of body-worn cameras during police operations

This section presents the proposed measures to address problems encountered in implementing body-worn cameras (BWCs) during police operations. It systematically outlines the identified areas of concern, the corresponding objectives, and the specific strategies formulated to mitigate each issue. Furthermore, the table outlines the implementation timeline, the responsible persons or units, and the expected outcomes. These proposed measures aim to enhance the functionality, reliability, and acceptance of BWCs, thereby improving operational efficiency, ensuring accountability, and fostering public trust in law enforcement practices.

Table 12. Proposed measures on the problems encountered in the implementation of body-worn cameras during police operations

AREAS OF CONCERN	OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	TIMELINE	PERSONS INVOLVED	EXPECTED OUTCOME
<b>Failure to notify the suspect that he is entitled to observe the downloading process of BWC footage.</b>	To ensure transparency and compliance with legal procedures during evidence handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct orientation and training on BWC policies, emphasizing suspects’ rights to witness downloading</li> <li>• Include a mandatory reminder in the standard operating</li> </ul>	Within 3 months	Evidence custodian, Investigating officers, Chief of Police	Increased awareness and compliance with suspects’ rights; strengthened transparency in evidence handling

		checklist before downloading			
<b>Absence of clear disciplinary sanctions and procedures for such violations</b>	To establish accountability and deter non-compliance with BWC protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement specific disciplinary policies for BWC-related violations</li> <li>Include sanctions in the PNP's internal code of conduct and operational guidelines</li> </ul>	Within 6 months	PNP Legal Service, Internal Affairs Service (IAS), Chief of Police	Clear enforcement of accountability; reduced policy violations
<b>Officers may not feel influenced by being recorded</b>	To encourage professional conduct and reinforce the behavioral impact of BWC usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct awareness programs highlighting ethical standards and the psychological impact of recording</li> <li>Recognize exemplary officers adhering to proper conduct during BWC operations</li> </ul>	Continuous / Quarterly	Station Commander, Training Division, HR Officer	Improved officer behavior and professionalism during operations
<b>Respondents might believe recordings can be tampered with or edited before being presented in court</b>	To strengthen trust and confidence in the authenticity of BWC recordings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement secure digital evidence management systems with audit trails</li> <li>Regularly demonstrate chain-of-custody protocols and hashing verification during training</li> </ul>	Within 4 months	IT Division, Evidence Custodian, Prosecutors, Investigating Officers	Enhanced integrity and public trust in BWC footage as authentic evidence
<b>Respondents doubt or are uncertain about the effectiveness of BWC recording in court processes</b>	To improve understanding of the evidentiary value of BWC recordings in legal proceedings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct joint seminars with prosecutors, judges, and police officers on the legal use of BWC footage</li> <li>Develop case studies showing successful prosecutions aided by BWC evidence</li> </ul>	Within 6 months	Prosecutors, Trial Court Representatives, Chief of Police, Training Division	Increased confidence in the use of BWC evidence; improved cooperation between law enforcement and the judiciary
<b>The obvious design and visibility of BWC are hindering</b>	To enhance the adaptability of BWCs for covert or sensitive operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procure smaller, concealable, or plain-clothed compatible BWC units</li> </ul>	2nd-3rd Quarter 2026	Police Regional Office, Logistics Division, BWC Committee	Increased operational flexibility and effectiveness

<b>covert operations</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with suppliers for discreet models suitable for surveillance</li> <li>• Establish operational protocols on when to use covert vs. overt BWCs</li> </ul>			during covert operations
<b>Internet dependency of BWC for file transfer and frequent storage malfunctions</b>	To ensure uninterrupted and efficient data storage and transfer of BWC recordings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an offline or local backup storage system</li> <li>• Upgrade bandwidth or use dedicated internet lines for BWC uploading</li> <li>• Schedule regular maintenance checks and system diagnostics</li> </ul>	1st Quarter 2026	ICT Personnel, Logistics Division, IT Division	Stable, reliable data transfer and storage system that minimizes data loss.
<b>Lack of local troubleshooting capability</b>	To improve technical self-sufficiency and reduce downtime caused by technical issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct technical skills training for designated BWC custodians</li> <li>• Partner with local IT experts for periodic technical workshops</li> <li>• Create a troubleshooting manual for common BWC errors</li> </ul>	Within 6 months (by 2nd Quarter 2026)	BWC Custodians, IT Personnel, Training Division	Enhanced technical competency and faster resolution of BWC issues
<b>Lack of seminars/training on detailed rules and legal guidelines</b>	To strengthen officers' knowledge of BWC-related laws, policies, and ethical standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct regular training and seminars on BWC legal frameworks, data privacy, and their admissibility in court</li> <li>• Integrate BWC legal modules in training programs for patrollers, intel operatives, and investigators</li> <li>• Disseminate updated guidelines</li> </ul>	Starting 1st Quarter 2026, and conducted semi-annually	Training Division, PNP Legal Service, PNP Human Rights Affairs Office	Increased legal awareness and compliance with BWC policies and regulations

		and reference materials during PICE			
<b>Civilians sometimes express discomfort and suspicion when being recorded during an operation</b>	To promote public understanding and acceptance of BWC usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct community information drives on the purpose and benefits of BWCs</li> <li>• Include BWC awareness in barangay and community meetings</li> <li>• Create a “Miranda Warning”-like notification script dedicated to police operations using BWC</li> </ul>	Continuous (Quarterly implementation starting 1st Quarter 2026)	Community Affairs Division, Public Information Office, PNP Human Rights Affairs Office, Police Officers	Improved public trust, transparency, and cooperation during BWC-assisted operations

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presents the conclusions and recommendations derived from the study's findings on the implementation and perceived effectiveness of body-worn cameras (BWCs), as well as the everyday challenges encountered in their use during police operations at the City of San Fernando Police Station. The conclusions highlight key insights from the gathered data, reflecting both the successes and limitations of current practices. The recommendations, on the other hand, are formulated to provide practical, evidence-based, and legally grounded measures that may guide policymakers, police administrators, and frontline officers in improving the utilization of BWCs.

### Conclusions

Based on the data gathered, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. The comprehensive and full implementation of BWC proves the CSFPS’s adherence to established operational guidelines pertaining to the execution of warrants, warrantless arrests, and other specialized police operations conducted within their Area of Responsibility (AOR). Likewise, it reflects the station’s commitment to transparency, accountability, and professional conduct in law enforcement.
2. The presence of BWC in police operations of CSFPS promotes greater professionalism, procedural compliance, and accountability among its officers while providing objective and tamper-proof electronic evidence that supports judicial processes, enhances case resolution, and contributes to fair and transparent legal outcomes.
3. Despite the full implementation and demonstrated effectiveness of body-worn cameras in police operations of CSFPS, BWCs still require continuous improvements, particularly in device design, technical support, comprehensive training, and sustained community engagement to address public concerns and maximize their effectiveness.

### Recommendations

Grounded on the empirical evidence of this research and the law and policy environment surrounding the use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) and alternative recording devices (ARDs) in the Philippines, the author suggests the following holistic, implementable interventions for the Philippine National Police (PNP) and City of San Fernando

Police Station (SFPS). The recommendations are drafted to be legally sound, operationally practical, and quantifiable for monitoring and evaluation. The following measures are hereby recommended.

The PNP may consider procuring smaller and more concealable body-worn cameras designed for covert operations, while remaining compliant with the pre-established technical specifications.

Operating officers may have basic maintenance and troubleshooting training for minor BWC technical problems to avoid operational downtime.

The PNP may train and certify as many technical custodians/ IT personnel as are available anytime for basic diagnostic, secure data ingestions, and chain-of-custody procedures to minimize the use of remote centralized technical support.

The PNP may conceptualize and institutionalize an elaborated training program, including operational use and limitations of BWCs, relevant rules, guidelines, and legal provisions surrounding the use of BWCs.

City of San Fernando Police Station may intensify public information campaigns and community engagement to boost public awareness regarding BWC. These can be barangay-level forums, public service announcements, and discussions with non-government organizations to clarify the dual protective role of body-worn cameras for both civilians and police officers.

City of San Fernando Police Station may construct a “Miranda Warning”-like notification script for replying to civilians inquiring about why recording is done during an operation. Such a script may also be translated into the local dialect-“iloko”.

Adopt the researcher’s proposed measures to strengthen the implementation and further improve the effectiveness of BWC during police operations, and pursue further studies to explore and validate their long-term effectiveness and impact, along with the potential problems and challenges that may emerge in the future concerning its implementation and utilization.

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