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Research Article

The Effectiveness of Wearing Body Worn Video (BWV) Camera in Police Operation in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the effectiveness of body-worn video (BWV) cameras in police operations at Cabanatuan City Police Station, Nueva Ecija, employing a descriptive research design. Utilizing the survey method within descriptive research, this study employs non-probability purposive sampling to select twenty police officers from the Operation Section. The research instrument comprises two parts: Socio-demographic profile and the level of effectiveness of wearing BWV cameras, measured on a modified four-point Likert scale. Prior to data collection, the survey questionnaire undergoes rigorous validation and a pilot test among 4th-year college criminology students. Data gathering involves obtaining necessary permits and administering questionnaires to the respondents, ensuring anonymity and privacy. Statistical treatment of data involves frequency and percentage distribution to describe the demographic profile of respondents, weighted mean to interpret the effectiveness of BWV cameras, and Pearson r to determine relationships between demographic profiles and perceived effectiveness of BWV cameras. Findings reveal that BWV cameras are perceived as highly effective in adhering to procedures, reducing complaints, and false claims of police misconduct. However, there is room for improvement in decision-making and officer safety. Demographic factors such as age, gender, rank, and years in service show no significant correlation with perceived effectiveness. Based on the conclusions drawn, recommendations include maintaining the use of BWV cameras in police operations, a standardized training program for all officers is seen as sufficient due to the positive impact across demographics. Future research should include a wider range of officers and explore public perception alongside officer perspectives for a more comprehensive understanding of BWV Camera use. This study contributes to understanding the efficacy of BWV cameras in law enforcement and provides actionable recommendations for their continued utilization and improvement in police operations.

Keywords: Effectiveness, body worn video (BWV) camera, police operation, transparency.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, technological advancements have reshaped various aspects of law enforcement, particularly in the realm of surveillance and operational procedures. Body-worn cameras have emerged as a focal point in this evolution, promising increased transparency and accountability within policing practices. While technologies like Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) systems and smartphones have found widespread acceptance, the adoption of body-worn cameras has sparked significant debate due to concerns surrounding privacy, costs, and training requirements for law enforcement personnel.

The deployment of body-worn cameras by the Philippine National Police (PNP) marks a milestone in their efforts to enhance transparency and accountability in policing operations. Equipped with features like live-streaming capabilities and tamper-proof mechanisms, these cameras aim to prevent procedural violations and unfounded accusations against officers. The footage captured by these cameras serves as valuable evidence, aiding in the resolution of legal disputes and ensuring adherence to established protocols during law enforcement activities.

Moreover, the implementation of body-worn cameras in Cabanatuan City since December 2020 has provided firsthand insights into their effectiveness in daily policing tasks, including patrols and arrests. This study seeks to assess the impact of body-worn cameras on police operations, examining factors such as demographic profiles of

officers and their experiences with the technology. The findings hold significance for various stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, criminology students, educators, and the general public, offering insights into the practical implications of using body-worn cameras in enhancing safety and accountability.

The scope of this study is limited to investigating the effectiveness of body-worn cameras among police officers in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija. It focuses on key aspects such as the impact on officer safety, perceptions of accountability, and the integration of body-worn camera footage into legal proceedings. However, it does not delve into the broader implications or potential advantages of the overall program beyond its stated objectives.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Police-Community Relations

To Serve and Protect. Service, Honor, Justice is the motto of The Philippine National Police (PNP) and adopted, in various forms, by law enforcement agencies across the Philippines. Police are to protect the communities they serve, and the majority of police officers across the Philippines perform these duties honorably every day. Police officers from across the country put their lives on the line daily to maintain order and protect citizens from crime. But time and time again we learn through the news media video coverage of police officer's application of force often does not equate the situation at hand (Sela-Shayovitz, 2015). Some videos will show officers inability to de-escalate tense situations during engagements with the public (Sela-Shayovitz, 2015).

Similarly, it is clear that some citizens' behavior toward law enforcement promulgates the use of force, often through a verbal or physical assault on the officers. Instances of uncooperative citizens abusing police officers result in aggressive arrests and use of more police force. Ariel et al. (2014) pointed out the motivation to change behaviors by using body-worn cameras aligned with the deterrence theory. Increased use of body-worn cameras is a common recommendation for reducing police-community misunderstandings. Recordings from body-worn cameras can give police supervisors, judges, reporters, and others an accurate depiction and objective evidence of what transpired during police-citizen encounters. This is a major reason for proposing the adaptation of body-worn cameras by law enforcement agencies. This theoretical construct within the theory can also help this study to assess interactions from an officer's point of view to improve accountability and positively affect police officer behavior.

Body Worn Camera Technology

Body-worn cameras attached to an officer's uniform records every activity or encounter daily (Fouche, 2014; Merola et al., 2012; Schreiber, 2013). The cameras go with officers into unintended places and can capture private conversations between officers if they do not turn off the camera (Abdollah, 2014). the cameras can capture an objective record of events, rather than forcing agencies to rely solely on written reports from officers or accounts from citizens, thereby potentially encouraging mutual accountability during encounters. Additionally, body-worn cameras are also thought to improve police conduct and transparency, especially regarding police use of force (Lum et al. 2020). This theoretical construct within the theory can also help this study to assess the efficacy of using the technological advancements that we have today as an awareness and safety of the Police Officers during their duties and operation. Body-worn cameras can be used in numerous ways.

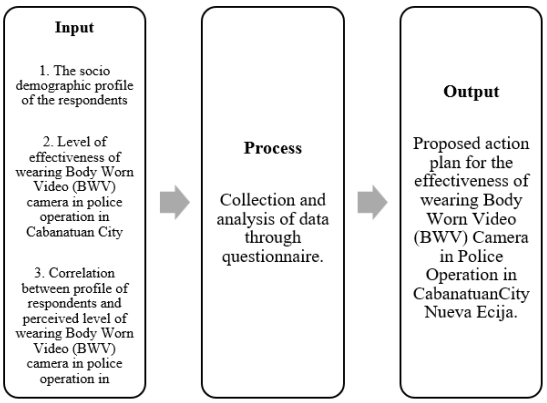

Figure 1. Research Paradigm

In this study, the researcher applied Input, Process, and Output. The input includes the respondent's socio-demographic profile, which is the age, sex, rank and years in the service, and the level of effectiveness of wearing Body Worn Video (BWV) camera in police operation in Cabanatuan City. Also, the researchers want to determine the relationship between profile and perceived level of effectiveness of wearing Body Worn Video (BWV) camera in police operation in Cabanatuan City. The researchers will use survey questionnaires as a main tool or equipment for gathering and collecting data; this will be distributed to the Police Officers of Operation Section of Cabanatuan City Police Station. Data will be gathered through survey questionnaires using hard copy questionnaires. Under the output phase, the researchers will propose measure for the effectiveness of wearing Body Worn Video (BWV) Camera in Police Operation in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija.

Statement of the problem

This study attempted to find the extent of the Effectiveness of wearing Body Worn Video (BWV) Camera in Police Operation in Cabanatuan City. Specifically, to answer the following problems:

1. What is the socio demographic profile of police officers in Cabanatuan Police Station in terms of:
    1.1 age,
    1.2 sex,
    1.3 rank and
    1.4 years in the service?
2. What is the level of effectiveness of wearing Body Worn Video (BWV) camera in police operation in Cabanatuan City?
3. Is there a significant relationship between profile of the respondents and perceived level of effectiveness on wearing Body Worn Video (BMW) camera in police operations in Cabanatuan City?
4. What action plan can be made from the findings of the study?

METHODS AND METHODOLOGY

This chapter outlines the methodology employed in the study, including the research design, population, instrumentation, validation procedures, data collection process, and statistical analysis techniques. The research design adopted for this study is descriptive in nature, chosen for its suitability in accurately portraying the target population and phenomena under investigation. The survey method was utilized as the primary means of data collection, with participants responding to statements presented in survey forms. Non-probability sampling, specifically purposive sampling, was employed to select samples from the population that aligned with the researchers' objectives. The study was conducted at the Cabanatuan City Police Station in Nueva Ecija, with the respondents consisting of twenty Police Officers from the Operation Section. Data were gathered using survey questionnaires, which were meticulously designed and validated to ensure accuracy and reliability. The questionnaires, divided into two parts, covered socio-demographic profiles and the perceived effectiveness of wearing body-worn video cameras (BWV) during police operations. Responses were recorded on a modified four-point Likert scale, ranging from "Very Effective" to "Ineffective."

To ensure the reliability and validity of the survey instrument, statements were based on the research problem and the researchers' observations. Pilot testing was conducted among fourth-year college criminology students from the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology to gather feedback for further improvements. The data gathering process involved securing necessary permits, administering questionnaires to respondents, and collecting completed forms for analysis. Permission was obtained from the Chief of Police, and personal explanations were provided to ensure respondents understood the questionnaire mechanics. Statistical treatment of data included frequency and percentage distribution to describe demographic profiles, calculated using software for accuracy. Weighted mean was employed to interpret the effectiveness of BWV in police operations, with Pearson r utilized to determine any relationships between demographic profiles and perceived effectiveness. In conclusion, meticulous attention was paid to every step of the research process, ensuring the reliability and validity of the data collected and analyzed.

RESULTS

This chapter presents the result of the study, analysis, and interpretation of data gathered from the respondents. This serves as the summary of all the answers to the questionnaire. The data collected were tallied and the following findings were derived.

Profile of the Respondents

The profile of the respondents was divided into four categories: age, gender, rank, and years in the service.

These four categories are useful in determining and grouping the respondents.

Table 1.1 Profile of the Respondents according to Age

Age	Frequency	Percentage
25-34	9	45%
35-44	10	50%
45-54	1	5%
55-65	0	0%
Total	**20**	**100%**

As reflected in table 1.1, the category of ages shows that 50% of the respondents age range from 35-44 years old and 45% of the respondents age range from 25-34 years old and only 5% respondent age from 45-54 years old.

Based on the findings, it was stated that the majority of police officers who are using body worn video cameras are range in age from 35-44 years old with a frequency of 10. The second ranges from 25-34 years old with a frequency of 9. Third is ranging from 45-54 years old with frequency of 1. It is stated that most police officers who are using body-worn video cameras are between 35 and 44 years old. This means that based on the result, the body-worn video camera is better to give to police officers who are in the operations section and range in age from 35 to 44.

Age is one of the essential characteristics of the respondents since age defines the number of years a person has lived. Police officers with ages ranging from 35 to 44 years old are the people who have a job to support their families and are more focused on their work to provide stability for themselves and their families. Unlike the age ranges from 45–54, this one got the lowest frequency and percentage, indicating that people of this age are ready to retire from their job.

Table 1.2 Profile of the Respondents according to Sex

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Female	6	30%
Male	14	70%
Total	**20**	**100%**

As shown in Table 1.2, out of 20 respondents in this study 14 were male, equivalent to 70%. In comparison, there were only six female respondents equivalent equal to 30%. Based on the gathered data, this study revealed that the police officers who are using body-worn video cameras are male. They were more capable of using body-worn video cameras and knew how to enable them and how to use them during an operation or in their daily patrols.

It implies that males were more dominant than females. However, the profile of respondents according to gender alone had no significant effect on the result of this study. This parameter was only used to determine the total frequency of respondents between male and female.

Table 1.3 Profile of the Respondents according to Rank

Rank	Frequency	Percentage
Pat	0	0%
PCpl	9	45%
PSSg	5	25%
PMSg	2	10%
PSMS	0	0%
PCMS	0	0%
PEMS	4	20%
Total	**20**	**100%**

As shown in Table 1.3, 45% of the respondents were PCpl with a frequency of 9, 25% of the respondents were PSSg with a frequency of 5, 20% of the respondents were PEMS with a frequency of 4, and 10% of the respondents are from PMSg with a frequency of 2.

The findings show that most police officers using body-worn video cameras are PCpl. According to PCpl. Bautista, they know how to enable it in their daily patrolling and when they have criminals to chase. And rank of PMSg got the lowest number of respondents with a frequency of 2 and an equivalent percentage of 10%. The data show that most of the respondents who wore body-worn video (BWV) camera in a police operation were ranked of PCpl.

Table 1.4 Profile of the Respondents according to Years in the service

Years in the service	Frequency	Percentage
1-5	0	0
6-10	13	65%
11-15	4	20%
16-20	0	0%
21-25	3	15%
Total	**20**	**100%**

As shown in table 1.4, 13 out of 20 respondents with 6-10 years in the service which is equivalent to 65%. And 4 out of 20 respondents were 11-15 years in the service, equivalent to 20% and 3 out of 20 respondents were 21-25 years in the service equivalent to 15%. It shows that 6-10 years in the service are more users of the new technology body worn video camera from the Philippine National Police. Body worn video camera enable how to use a body worn video camera, while the years in service ranges of 21-25 got the lowest number of respondents with a frequency of 3 and an equivalent percentage of 15%. The job can be important as finding fulfillment in work to overall well-being. The data show that most of the respondents, number of years in service was 6-10 years in the year of service.

The years in service will determine his/her knowledge and experience how the body worn video (BWV) camera are effective in their police operation.

Table 2 Level of effectiveness of wearing body worn video (BWV) camera in police operation in Cabanatuan City.

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Verbal Description
Using a body worn video camera, I am able to follow department procedures when I encounter members of the community.	3.60	Very Effective
Body worn video camera reduce the informal complaints of the citizens.	3.50	Very Effective
Body worn video camera reduce false claims of police misconduct.	3.50	Very Effective
Using a body worn video camera I am more productive in terms of making arrests.	3.30	Very Effective
Body worn video camera allows me to second guess in using force in response to aggression.	3.05	Effective
Body worn video camera allows to preserve footage's during crime scene investigation.	3.40	Very Effective
Wearing body worn video camera make me feel safer while on the job.	3.00	Effective
Using a body worn video camera, higher numbers of citizen complaints resolved.	3.30	Very Effective
Body worn video camera reduce the amount of time required to complete paperwork for case files.	3.15	Effective
Body worn video camera allows me to be more cautious with my words when communicating citizens.	3.20	Effective
Grand Mean	**3.30**	**Very Effective**

Legend: 4.00-3.26 Very Effective; 3.25-2.51 Effective; 2.50-1.76 Least Effective; 1.75-1.00 Not Effective at All

The results of the study on the effectiveness of wearing body-worn video (BWV) cameras in police operations in Cabanatuan City reveal several key findings. Firstly, officers reported a high level of effectiveness in following department procedures when interacting with members of the community (WM=3.60), indicating that BWV cameras positively influence adherence to protocols. This aligns with previous research suggesting that BWV enhances accountability and professionalism among officers (White, 2016). Secondly, the use of BWV cameras was found to reduce informal complaints from citizens and false claims of police misconduct (WM=3.50), indicating their effectiveness in improving community relations and reducing unwarranted allegations. Studies have shown that BWV footage can provide an objective record of interactions, leading to a decrease in complaints and litigation (Ariel et al., 2016). Thirdly, BWV cameras were reported to be very effective in preserving footage during crime scene investigations (WM=3.40), suggesting that the technology aids in law enforcement activities. This finding is consistent with research indicating that BWV can enhance evidence gathering and prosecution efforts (Hedberg et al., 2019).

However, some aspects showed lower levels of effectiveness. For instance, officers felt that BWV cameras only moderately helped them second-guess the use of force in response to aggression (WM=3.05). While BWV has been shown to potentially reduce the need for force and improve officer decision-making (Gau et al., 2017), this result indicates room for improvement in this area. Moreover, although BWV reported to be very effective in terms of making arrests while using BWV cameras (WM=3.30), officers felt only moderately safer while wearing them on the job (WM=3.00). This suggests that while BWV technology aids in evidence preservation, it may not significantly impact officers' perceived safety.

Additionally, officers reported a high level of effectiveness in resolving citizen complaints (WM=3.30) while using BWV cameras. These findings underscore the role of BWV in improving transparency and communication during police-citizen interactions. Overall, the grand mean of 3.30 suggests that BWV cameras are perceived as very effective. However, there are areas where further training or refinement of procedures may be beneficial to maximize the potential benefits of this technology.

Other aspects where the use of body worn video camera was perceived as effective include reducing the time required to complete paperwork for case files, and allowing police officers to be more cautious with their words when communicating with citizens. However, the use of body worn video camera was perceived as less effective in terms of improving productivity in making arrests and second-guessing the use of force in response to aggression.

The police officers who responded to this survey considered the use of body worn video camera as very effective. According to Caliwan, C.L., 2021, Body-worn camera equipped force will also ensure that there will be no violation in police operating procedures or human rights abuses. It will also protect PNP personnel from malicious and baseless charges. Eleazar also assured the public that the Body Worn Cameras are tamper-proof and cannot be manually turned off by policemen wearing them. The cameras capture real-time event and these are recorded in our central database. More importantly, footage taken through the Body Worn Cameras cannot be erased easily as they are only accessible at the PNP Command Center.

Significant relationship between profile of the respondents and level and perceived level of effectiveness on wearing Body Worn Video (BMW) camera in police operations in Cabanatuan City

Table 3.

Profile	**Level of effectiveness of wearing Body Worn Video (BWV) camera in police operation in Cabanatuan City**			
	r-value	***p-value***	***Interpretation***	***Decision***
Age	0.002	0.967	There is no significant correlation on level of effectiveness of wearing Body Worn Video (BWV) camera in police operation and age of the respondents	Accept the Null Hypothesis
Sex	0.030	0.601	There is no significant correlation on level of effectiveness of wearing Body Worn Video (BWV) camera in police operation and sex of the respondents	Accept the Null Hypothesis
Rank	0.016	0.774	There is no significant correlation on level of effectiveness of wearing Body Worn Video (BWV) camera in police operation and rank of the respondents	Accept the Null Hypothesis
Years in the Service	0.040	0.482	There is no significant correlation on level of effectiveness of wearing Body Worn Video (BWV) camera in police operation and years in service of the respondents	Accept the Null Hypothesis
***. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).*				
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).*				

The analysis of the significant relationship between respondent profiles and the perceived level of effectiveness of wearing Body Worn Video (BWV) cameras in police operations in Cabanatuan City reveals several key findings. Firstly, there is no significant correlation between age and the perceived effectiveness of BWV cameras ($r = 0.002$, $p = 0.967$). This indicates that regardless of age, officers perceive BWV cameras similarly in terms of their effectiveness. This aligns with existing literature suggesting that age may not be a determining factor in officers' perceptions of technology in policing (Lim et al., 2018).

Similarly, there is no significant correlation between sex and the perceived effectiveness of BWV cameras (r = 0.030, p = 0.601). This implies that both male and female officers view BWV cameras similarly in terms of their impact on police operations. Previous research has shown mixed results regarding gender differences in perceptions of policing technology, with some studies finding no significant disparities (Lum et al., 2019).

Additionally, rank and years in service also show no significant correlation with the perceived effectiveness of BWV cameras (r = 0.016, p = 0.774 for rank; r = 0.040, p = 0.482 for years in service). This suggests that regardless of rank or experience, officers perceive BWV cameras similarly. This finding is consistent with studies indicating that rank and tenure may not significantly influence officers' attitudes towards technology adoption in policing (Rothwell et al., 2017).

The acceptance of the null hypothesis in all cases indicates that demographic factors such as age, sex, rank, and years in service do not play a significant role in shaping officers' perceptions of BWV camera effectiveness. This implies that training and education initiatives related to BWV camera usage can be standardized across different demographic groups within the police force, potentially streamlining implementation efforts and ensuring consistent understanding and utilization of this technology.

Action plan proposed based from the findings of the study

Table 4

PROPOSED ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES	PROPONENT	STRATEGIES	BENEFICIARIES
Standardization of BWVCamera Training.	Develop and deliver refresher courses for all officers including the newly recruit officers on BWV usage.	Police Officers in Cabanatuan City.	Develop a comprehensive BWV training module covering standardized operating procedures, data security, and best practices. Allocate resources for training materials and instructor development.	All Cabanatuan City Police Officers.
Enhancing BWV Camera Skills for Specific Situations.	Improve officer understanding of BWV benefits in use-of-force situations and officer safety.	Police Officers in Cabanatuan City.	Train officers to utilize BWV footage for after-action reviews, de-escalation techniques, and use-of-force decision-making.	All Cabanatuan City Police Officers.
Upgrading BWV Camera Equipment and Data Storage.	Ensure data security.	Police Officers in Cabanatuan City.	Conduct a needs assessment to evaluate current BWV equipment for comfort, functionality, and data security.	All Cabanatuan City Police Officers.

DISCUSSION

In the study on the effectiveness of wearing Body Worn Video (BWV) cameras in police operations in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, the profile of respondents is crucial in understanding how demographic factors such as age, gender, rank, and years of service influence the use of BWV cameras. The analysis of these categories reveals that middle-aged officers, particularly those between 35-44 years old, are the most frequent users of BWV cameras. This group is at a pivotal stage in their careers, balancing experience with active involvement in field operations.

In terms of gender, a majority of users are male (70%), but the presence of female officers (30%) reflects that both genders are trained to use this technology, aligning with the operational roles and duties assigned to each. The rank distribution shows that BWV camera use is concentrated among mid-ranking officers like Police Corporals (PCpl), who are heavily involved in operational tasks, while higher-ranking officers are less likely to use BWV cameras, likely due to their shift toward administrative duties. Years in service also play a role, with officers in the early to mid-career stage (6-10 years) being the most frequent users, highlighting that BWV technology is essential for those actively involved in field operations.

The study found that BWV cameras are perceived as highly effective, particularly in improving adherence to procedures, reducing complaints, and preserving crime scene footage. However, the impact of BWV cameras on decision-making in use-of-force situations and officers' sense of safety was rated moderately, indicating areas for improvement in training or technology.

The analysis found no significant correlation between demographic factors and the perceived effectiveness of BWV cameras, suggesting that the technology's benefits are recognized across the board. This supports the recommendation for standardized BWV camera training and technology deployment across all ranks and demographic groups.

CONCLUSION

The study on the socio-demographic profile of police officers in Cabanatuan City reveals that the majority of respondents using BWV cameras are aged 35-44, predominantly male (70%), with the rank of Police Corporal (PCpl), and have 6-10 years of service. These officers are actively engaged in operational roles, where BWV cameras are most beneficial. The data indicates that gender, rank, and years of service did not significantly impact the perceived effectiveness of BWV cameras, suggesting that the technology is equally valuable across different demographics.

The findings show that BWV cameras are perceived as highly effective, especially in ensuring adherence to procedures, reducing complaints, and improving arrest productivity. However, areas such as decision-making during use-of-force incidents and enhancing officer safety require further focus. The absence of a significant correlation between demographic factors and perceived BWV effectiveness supports the development of standardized training for all officers. The proposed action plan includes standardizing BWV training, improving officers' skills for specific scenarios, and upgrading equipment and data storage to enhance BWV utilization across the police force.

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