

Guarding the Lost Horizon of the South: Lifeworld of the Coast Guardsman

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ABSTRACT

This research explored personnel experiences from the Coast Guard Sub-Stations at Camotes Island, Cebu. The research study employed a qualitative phenomenological approach. It utilized an interview guide to delve into the lifeworld of Philippine Coast Guard personnel as they carry out their duties and responsibilities. The researcher's criteria for informants are that they have at least two years of service to provide understanding of their experiences. Ten informants were engaged in the study, with six (6) involved in focused group discussions and four (4) interviewed individually. Researchers analyzed the data using the Colaizzi method and identified cluster themes and emergent themes that reflected their experiences. Based on the results and findings, eight emergent themes were identified. The themes include: Response to Maritime Emergencies, Navigating Safely, Limited Vessel Resources, Management of Passengers, Community Collaboration, Adherence to Safety Protocols, Boost Vessels, and Patience and Temper Control.

The study, "Guarding the Lost Horizon of the South: Lifeworld of the Coast Guardsman," explores the lifeworld experiences of Philippine Coast Guard personnel. This research aims to identify potential improvements in maritime safety and security.

Keywords: *Guarding the Lost Horizon of the South, Lifeworld of Coast Guardsman, Duties and Responsibilities*

INTRODUCTION

The Coast Guard safeguards the nation against maritime threats, including terrorism and piracy. Understanding the Coast Guard's strategies and operations becomes essential as global security challenges evolve. The agency's integration within national defense frameworks highlights its importance beyond traditional law enforcement. Researching these aspects helps policymakers and scholars evaluate and enhance maritime security measures (Smith, J., 2024).

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is a maritime law enforcement agency tasked with ensuring safety and security in the nation's waters (Gacasa et al., 2022). The functions of the Philippine Coast Guard include maritime search and rescue operations, maritime security, maritime safety, marine environmental protection, and maritime law enforcement (Force et al., 2021). A significant challenge faced by the Philippine Coast

Guard is safeguarding the country's extensive coastline and territorial waters.

The Philippines is an archipelagic nation comprised of over 7,000 islands, presenting significant challenges in effectively patrolling and securing its maritime borders (De Leon & Santos, 2021). The Coast Guard conducts various responsibilities, including essential marine search and rescue operations, to ensure the safety of individuals within the country's territorial waters. They also enforce maritime safety laws to ensure compliance with safety regulations among vessels operating in these waters, thereby preventing accidents (Bautista et al., 2023). Furthermore, the Coast Guard is responsible for monitoring and implementing laws related to marine environmental protection, such as responding to oil spills and regulating waste disposal to prevent pollution (Alcantara, 2022; Reyes & Fernandez, 2024).

The Philippines experienced a significant increase in maritime incidents in 2023. Specifically, 188 reported maritime accidents were recorded, representing a substantial 63% increase compared to the 115 incidents reported in the previous year, 2022. This increase in maritime incidents underscores the growing challenges faced by the Philippine Coast Guard in marine safety and security. The maritime occurrence in Central Visayas report indicates a rise from 18 incidents in 2022 to 23 in 2023. (Marina Statistical Report, 2023).

The Camotes Islands, also known as the Lost Horizon of the South, experience intensified weather during the Habagat season, leading to strong waves and currents, particularly near points like Tulang Point in Barangay Esperanza, San Francisco, Cebu. Most of the population residing within 60 kilometers of the coastal zones is particularly susceptible to natural disasters. The interactions between freshwater and seawater on the Island create additional complexities for maritime safety and rescue operations. Therefore, the Philippine Coast Guard's role becomes vital in enhancing maritime security, search and rescue operations, and promoting sustainable practices to protect the island's precious natural resources. Emphasizes the need for a coordinated effort between the Philippine Coast Guard and the local community to promote awareness, preparedness, and the preservation of Camotes Island's unique ecological heritage.

The Coast Guard Camotes arranges to rent a "banca, " collaborates with the Local Government Units (LGUs), or reaches out to Bantay Dagat for effective search and rescue operations. This cooperative approach ensures a swift response to maritime emergencies.

Implementing several strategies, such as securing resources and funding, investing in vessels and technologies, and improving coordination with the Local Government Unit for support, could enhance the lifeworld of the Coast Guardsman. Numerous challenges confront the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) that it must address. One of the primary issues is the limited availability of resources. These limitations can hinder the agency's capacity to effectively fulfill its diverse responsibilities (López & Ramos, 2022).

The Coast Guard must often maintain or replace its outdated vessels and assets. This aging infrastructure can significantly impact the agency's ability to respond promptly to emergencies and perform its essential functions (Dela Cruz, 2021).

Guarding the Lost Horizon of the South: The lifeworld of a Coast Guardsman may contribute to enhanced maritime safety and security measures, ultimately leading to more effective response strategies and operational efficiency in safeguarding people and waters.

Theoretical Background

This study is primarily anchored on the Resilience Theory by Garmezy (1991) and supported by the Social Support Theory by Cullen (1994), as well as the theory of Self-determination by Deci and Ryan (1985).

Resilience Theory emphasizes how individuals and groups can adapt and thrive in the face of adversity. It

applies particularly to high-stress environments, such as maritime emergencies, search and rescue operations, and responses to natural disasters. Resilient individuals maintain composure, make effective decisions, and collaborate effectively during emergencies. Research indicates that such individuals are better equipped to handle stress and recover from traumatic experiences, thereby enhancing their well-being and that of their teams (Smith et al., 2021). In contexts such as the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), the development of resilience promotes mental and emotional preparedness, organizational effectiveness, and the establishment of capable teams ready to face demanding challenges—a viewpoint supported by recent literature advocating for resilience training and mental wellness initiatives (Williams, 2024).

Social Support Theory stresses the significance of social networks and relationships in coping with challenges. This theory illustrates how support from colleagues, supervisors, or friends can enable individuals to navigate their roles effectively and maintain morale during trying situations. For the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), fostering a supportive work environment can significantly contribute to the well-being and effectiveness of its personnel, particularly during times of crisis.

Self-determination theory, proposed by Deci and Ryan (1985), posits the necessity of intrinsic motivation and the fulfillment of three basic psychological needs: autonomy, competence, and relatedness. The principles of this theory can significantly impact the motivation and performance of Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) personnel, particularly in enhancing maritime governance and safety within Philippine waters. Research focusing on the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) response times and effectiveness during emergencies, including natural disasters and search and rescue operations, provides crucial insights into operational readiness. Studies in this area analyze significant incidents and identify best practices to enhance the PCG's capabilities (Luna et al., 2021).

The Philippines' strategic geographical location and its membership in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) necessitate a more assertive role in regional security and stability. Adequate operational capacity is crucial for the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), yet it is often hampered by a lack of necessary floating equipment (Despi, 2017).

The issue of insufficient resources directly impacts the organization's operational capabilities, highlighting the importance of examining resource allocation, budgetary constraints, and the adequacy of current equipment. Studies have noted existing vessels, such as the Parola-class and Teresa Magbanua-class, as a starting point for evaluating the state of the PCG's fleet (Philippine Coast Guard's Desire for More Teresa Magbanua-Class MRRVs, 2023). Furthermore, the challenges posed by the South China Sea disputes underline the need for a robust maritime security presence and the operational demands faced by the PCG (Defense Studies, 2024).

Resilience Theory, Social Support Theory, and Self-Determination Theory offer valuable insights into enhancing the effectiveness of the Philippine Coast Guard. Resilience Theory provides a framework for understanding how Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) personnel can adapt and thrive in the face of operational challenges. Social Support Theory emphasizes the significance of collaborative relationships and resources in sustaining morale and efficacy. Ultimately, Self-Determination Theory emphasizes the crucial role of intrinsic motivation in cultivating a capable and autonomous workforce. By integrating these theories, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) can develop more effective strategies to address its challenges and enhance its operational capabilities in safeguarding maritime governance and security in the Philippines.

General Objective

This study explored the lifeworld of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) personnel in guarding the lost horizon of the South in Camotes Island, Cebu.

Specific Objectives

Specifically, this study sought to answer the following questions:

1. What are the experiences of the informants in the performance of their duties?
2. How do the informants deal with the challenges encountered in the performance of their duties?
3. What are the aspirations of the informants to improve the quality of their services?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Design. This study employed a qualitative phenomenological approach, utilizing an interview guide, to explore the lifeworld of Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) personnel.

Research Environment. The researcher conducted the study at nine Coast Guard sub-stations in Camotes Island, Cebu. One primary station overseeing the nine Coast Guard sub-stations served the Camotes Islands. These sub-stations played a vital role in ensuring maritime safety and environmental protection on the island. The following were the Coast Guard Sub-Stations: 1) Coast Guard Sub-Station Poro, 2) Coast Guard Sub-Station Altavista, 3) Coast Guard Sub-Station Esperanza, 4) Coast Guard Sub-Station San Francisco, 5) Coast Guard Sub-Station Santiago, 6) Coast Guard Sub-Station Tudela, 7) Coast Guard Sub-Station Puertobello, 8) Coast Guard Sub-Station Northern Pilar, and 9) Coast Guard Sub-Station Southern Pilar.

Research Informants. There were 10 research informants from the Philippine Coast Guard. Each participant has at least two years of experience in Camotes Island. The researcher chose six (6) informants for the focused group discussion and the remaining four (4) informants through individual interviews.

Research Instrument. The researcher used a designed interview guide (IG), which underwent validation from the adviser/dean of the graduate school and panels. The interview guide included carefully chosen questions to ensure a consistent and comprehensive exploration of the informant's experiences and insights. The researchers organized the findings into three main sections: the first section focused on both the positive and negative experiences of the informants, the second section explored how they dealt with challenges, and the final section examined the informants' aspirations for improving the implementation of maritime security. The informants signed an informed consent to participate.

Research Procedures. The researcher submitted a transmittal letter to request permission from the Coast Guard Station Camotes to access the informants and share their experiences, emphasizing the importance of their contributions to the research through face-to-face interviews. After approval, the researcher conducted preliminary interviews, and their voluntary participation was secured through an informed consent form. Data was collected through interviews with 10 informants over a month, aiming to understand the informants' personal experiences.

Data Analysis. Researchers analyzed the data obtained from participants through thematic analysis, employing Colaizzi's method. The researchers used this phenomenological approach to reveal the authentic experiences of the phenomenon under study. Colaizzi's procedure consists of seven key steps: 1) Researchers read each transcript thoroughly multiple times to understand the content comprehensively. 2) Identify significant statements that pertain to the phenomenon while documenting their page and line numbers; 3) Interpret meanings derived from these essential statements; 4) Researcher organized the formulated meanings into categories, clusters, and overarching themes; 5) Compile these findings into a detailed description of the phenomenon; 6) Outline the structural aspects of the phenomenon in active voice. 7) Validated the findings to ensure interpretations aligned with experiences (Moustakas, 1994).

Reflexivity

As a researcher in the study of “Guarding the Lost Horizon of the South: Lifeworld of the Coast Guardsman,” I recognize that my background and assumptions significantly shape both the data collection and interpretation processes. With a keen interest in understanding the duties and responsibilities of the Philippine Coast Guard, my approach is driven by empathy for the Coast Guard, as I strive to represent their experiences authentically. I also acknowledge that my knowledge of the Coast Guard may influence my interactions with participants and potentially impact my analysis of their narratives. In conducting interviews, I strive to maintain a posture of openness and curiosity, minimize bias while listening to their responses. To enhance the rigor of my research, I engage in self-reflection on how my perspectives might shape the interpretation of their lifeworld.

Ethical Consideration. The researcher emphasized the importance of confidentiality and privacy as essential components in ensuring the credibility and trustworthiness of the study. By using coded identifiers instead of names, I maintained anonymity, thereby fostering a secure environment in which informants felt comfortable sharing their experiences. This approach not only upheld the principles of justice by treating all participants equitably but also prioritized their well-being, reflecting the ethical considerations. By safeguarding personal information, I aimed to prevent any potential risks or emotional distress that could arise from disclosure, ultimately contributing to the overall integrity of the research. Through these measures, I ensured that the insights gathered from Philippine Coast Guard personnel were valuable and ethically obtained, thereby reinforcing trust in the research process.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Experiences of the Informants in the Performance of their Duties

The researcher developed four emergent themes based on their experiences while performing their duties.

Response to Maritime Emergencies:

This theme emerged from their positive experiences. It illustrated the profound sense of purpose and fulfillment that emerged from responding to distress calls and life-threatening emergencies at sea. Rescuing people revealed deep satisfaction in saving lives, and these intense experiences fostered a strong emotional bond between Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) personnel and those in need. The joy expressed by survivors, coupled with the gratitude they showed toward their rescuers, reinforced the idea that even in dire situations, a powerful connection existed that transformed fear into hope.

Informant 5 stated that:

(FGD1:SS1). (My positive experience about these distress calls is that when you need help, your eyes widen when the Coast Guard is there to rescue you. They are happy when we rescue them; we don't know for sure how long we can survive in the cold, so in time, we will respond to life; that is a risk, so in terms of this, the positive thing is he said thank you for rescuing, we can see him happy.)

The joy they experienced reveals how acknowledgment from individuals in distress can enhance their emotional state and reinforce a sense of purpose. The feeling of happiness that stems from being recognized as a lifeline in crucial moments underscores the emotional impact of their work.

The gratitude expressed by those they rescued further reinforces the emotional rewards inherent in acts of kindness. Informants derive meaning and purpose from their roles during emergencies, emphasizing that

saving lives contributes to their overall well-being. They experience a sense of fulfillment in helping distressed people, reflecting their shared sentiments and highlighting the profound impact of their work on the individuals they assist and their own sense of purpose (Watson, 2020).

Response to Maritime Emergencies closely aligns with Resilience Theory, as proposed by Garmezy (1991), which emphasizes the ability to adapt and thrive despite adversity. The presence of the Coast Guard in maritime emergencies provides not just physical safety but emotional reassurance. The joy and gratitude expressed by those rescued highlight how the Coast Guard's support transforms fear into hope, enabling survivors to regain a sense of control and stability. This connection exemplifies resilience, as individuals find strength through the assistance of their rescuers.

Navigating Safely:

Navigating safely is a positive experience revealing a profound commitment to human safety and environmental stewardship. This commitment hinges on proactive measures. They illustrate a system of checks and balances that prioritize the safety of people while simultaneously addressing vital ecological concerns.

Informant 9 stated that:

(FGD5:SS5). (One of my experiences was when we were conducting maritime patrols and curbing fishermen who were doing illegal fishing. The result is not only protecting the marine environment but also ensuring the safety of the people around it; we were able to catch and prevent the destruction of nature in the same way as ensuring safety.)

They emphasized the dual objectives of environmental protection and community safety through active engagement in maritime patrols. The personal experience underscores the crucial role of law enforcement in combating illegal fishing activities, thereby contributing significantly to the preservation of marine ecosystems.

Additionally, they note that these maritime patrols serve a dual purpose: protecting the environment while ensuring the safety of local populations. This interconnectedness suggests that a healthy marine ecosystem is crucial for the livelihoods and safety of communities that rely on these resources (Johnson, 2021). The prevention of illegal activities not only conserves natural resources but also mitigates risks associated with unsafe fishing practices, thereby enhancing community welfare.

Lastly, the informant's account emphasizes the proactive nature of law enforcement in preventing environmental destruction. The assertion that they were able to "catch and prevent" indicates a strategic approach where law enforcement is not merely reactive but anticipatory. This aligns with findings that suggest effective enforcement and preventive measures can significantly reduce environmental harm, promoting long-term sustainability (Garcia, 2019). Thus, the themes of environmental protection, community safety, and proactive law enforcement are intricately woven together in the informant's experiences, illustrating a holistic approach to maritime management.

Limited Vessel Resources:

Limitations of vessel resources hindered emergency response. Inability to secure boats when needed, especially at times like nightfall or early morning, exacerbated the situation.

Informant 5 stated that:

(FGD1:SS6). (First, human resources and boats. Sometimes, there is no one we can borrow from, and second, we cannot obtain a floating asset immediately, just in case something happens at night or dawn. Third, communication is not as prevalent here in Camotes as it is in Heminsulan. The signal is low or no

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signal. That's the three obstacles to communication. That's why it's not necessary here, especially at dawn. You can't contact the workforce sometimes because of the unstable signal.)

This challenge arises during emergency response operations, particularly in focusing on the limitations of vessel resources and the accompanying communication barriers. This data presents a perspective on how these limitations can adversely affect operational efficacy, ultimately impacting the safety and well-being of those in need.

The importance of resources, including boats, in effective emergency management, particularly on an Island. They emphasize the limitations often faced in disaster response scenarios due to communication barriers, highlighting the need for leveraging local assets to improve resilience and response times. By addressing these challenges, the research highlights the potential for developing enhanced disaster management strategies that leverage existing community resources (Zhao and Alhaj, 2024).

These limitations suggest a pressing need for improvements in both vessel availability and communication infrastructure. Research indicates that enhancing resource mobilization strategies is vital for strengthening emergency response systems in similar contexts, particularly in remote areas where access to infrastructure and services is inherently challenging (Smith & Lee, 2020; Johnson et al., 2019).

The reliance on human resources and the capability to quickly secure vessels can significantly impact the success of operational responses during emergencies. As such, investing in more robust logistical frameworks and communication technologies may not only alleviate current issues but also fortify communities against future challenges, ensuring that they are better equipped to handle crises effectively (Williams, 2021).

In essence, the identified barriers serve as a reminder of the need for comprehensive strategies that address both infrastructural deficiencies and resource management in emergency response efforts. This situation highlights the importance of planning and investment in local capacities, which are crucial for enabling remote communities to respond efficiently to emergencies and protect their populations (Smith & Lee, 2020; Johnson et al., 2019; Williams, 2021).

Management of Passenger:

The frustrations encountered when passengers disregard safety protocols amplify the challenges faced. The defiance exhibited by some passengers compels the personnel to adopt a neutral stance. This avoidance of escalation is pivotal; however, it places the responsibility for managing interactions delicately under stressful conditions on the individual. It is connected not only to adherence to safety protocols but also to the ability to engage positively with individuals who are defiant. They emphasize that the often associated with passenger behavior during peak seasons adds to the difficulty. The increased volume of passengers during holidays or peak times exacerbates the challenge, making effective communication essential in guiding individuals toward compliance.

Informant 8 narrated that:

(FGD4:SS8). (Ma'am, those passengers who are not listening to the protocol, and others who want to board immediately, so that we can assist them during holidays or peak season.)

When individuals feel disregarded or confused, they are less likely to comply with protocols, creating a cycle of non-compliance that must be navigated.

The importance of effective communication and engagement in mitigating such defiance cannot be overstated. The insights from the informants affirm this notion, suggesting that positive and clear

communication could play a vital role in fostering a cooperative atmosphere, encouraging passengers to adhere to safety standards more willingly (Hsu & Chen, 2021).

Management of passengers aligns well with Social Support Theory, as proposed by Cullen (1994). This theory emphasizes the importance of social support in helping individuals cope with stress. During busy travel periods, the need to assist passengers who are not following protocols and those who want to board immediately reflects an understanding of the role that support plays in reducing anxiety. Assisting can create a stable environment, enhance passengers' sense of community, and improve their overall experience during peak times. This proactive approach exemplifies how social support can empower individuals to navigate challenges more effectively.

Furthermore, this statement reflects the ongoing issue of passenger non-compliance with established boarding protocols, particularly during high-demand periods such as holidays. Research has shown that during peak travel seasons, there can be a significant increase in passenger anxiety and impatience, leading to challenges in the enforcement of safety regulations and boarding procedures (Miller et al., 202

The themes provided valuable insights into the essential duties and responsibilities of the Philippine Coast Guard personnel. These experiences highlight their commitment to responding to maritime emergencies and ensuring community safety.

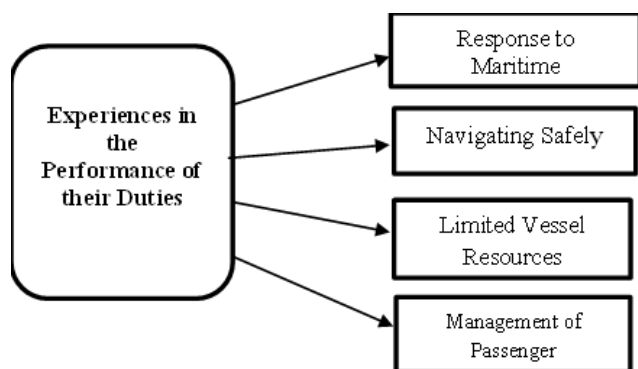


Figure 1: Experiences of the Informants in the Performance of their Duties

Informants Deal with the Challenges Encountered in the Performance of Their Duties

Community Collaboration:

Community collaboration during distress situations, where the limitations of floating assets posed significant challenges for rescue and search operations. Despite these limitations, the resilience shone through as they sought assistance from local fishermen and available resources from the Local Government Units (LGUs) and fishermen to address maritime incidents.

As per the statement of Informant 5, he said:

(FGD1:SS10). (In Camotes, ma'am, the biggest challenge is needing more equipment or floating assets. When there are distress calls and incidents, we ask for help from the fishers and borrow their boats or floating assets from the LGU if available.)

The challenges faced during maritime rescue operations and the role of community collaboration in addressing these issues. The primary theme that emerges is the need for improved resources, particularly boats, to effectively conduct rescue and search operations during distress situations.

The limitations of necessary equipment, such as boats, emphasize a systemic gap in logistical support. This not only hampers immediate response efforts but also underscores the vulnerability of this coastal community in the face of maritime emergencies. Despite these challenges, the resilience and resourcefulness are remarkably evident. They articulated a cooperative spirit, exemplified by their reliance on local fishermen and local government units (LGUs) to provide essential resources.

Community Collaboration closely aligns with Social Support Theory, as proposed by Cullen (1994), which emphasizes the importance of social support and relationships in coping with difficulties. They demonstrated resilience by forming supportive connections that facilitate collective action during distress situations.

Explored the effectiveness of community-based approaches in managing maritime rescue operations in coastal areas of the Philippines. They found that local fishermen played a crucial role in supporting rescue efforts by providing their boats and knowledge of the sea. The study emphasized the importance of building partnerships with local communities to enhance emergency response capabilities, particularly in areas where governmental resources may have been limited (Ocampo and Reyes, 2021).

Adherence to Safety Protocols:

The informants' responses illustrate their commitment to ensuring passenger compliance with safety protocols, demonstrating a proactive stance in addressing potential disruptions.

As Informant 8 said:

(FGD4:SS12). (The challenges, ma'am, are because passengers need to follow the protocol, especially those still inbound, ma'am, and outbound, ma'am, getting out on the ship.)

The importance of adherence to safety protocols among passengers, particularly in maritime settings. The emphasis on passengers "needing to follow the protocol" illustrates the necessity of compliance for ensuring safety during both inbound and outbound movements on a ship. This adherence is not merely a guideline, but a foundational aspect that guarantees the well-being of everyone on board, highlighting that safety measures are designed to protect both individual passengers and the collective community.

The compliance with safety protocols in transportation settings significantly reduces the risk of incidents and enhances overall operational performance (Lee et al., 2021).

Furthermore, this is a vital aspect to consider, as it underscores the importance of effective communication and education on safety protocols. Passengers may not fully understand the reasons behind specific measures, which can lead to non-compliance. Addressing passenger behavior through proper awareness campaigns can foster a culture of safety, thereby reducing challenges associated with protocol adherence. Understanding these challenges is crucial for stakeholders in maritime operations to develop strategies that enhance compliance while ensuring a smooth operational process (Smith, 2023).

Lastly, compliance, particularly when tied to the dynamics of inbound and outbound travel, emphasizes the moments when safety protocols must be strictly observed. As ships harbor and passengers embark or disembark, the rush and eagerness can lead to a lapse in safety procedures. The need for heightened vigilance during these transitions is underscored. In this light, the continuous reinforcement of safety protocols through training and regular updates becomes essential. The engagement of passengers in ongoing dialogues around safety can foster a more robust culture of compliance and protection onboard (Johnson & Green, 2022). Properly addressing these aspects is integral to maintaining safety in maritime transportation.

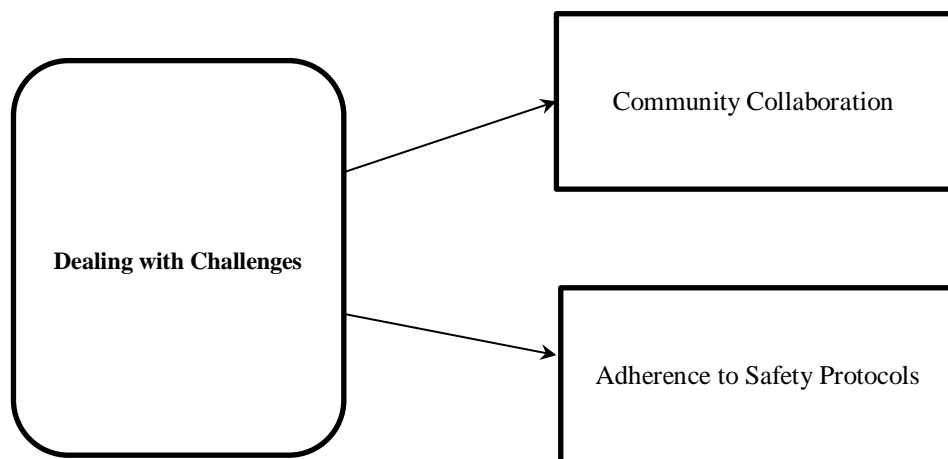


Figure 2: Informants Deal with the Challenges Encountered in the Performance of their Duties

Aspirations of the Informants to Improve the Quality of their Services

Boost Vessels:

The aspiration to enhance maritime safety highlights a call for improvement of floating assets, particularly those used for emergency responses. The need for additional small crafts and heavy-duty speedboats was the prominent topic across nearly all reactions.

The theme highlighted the urgent need for boats capable of supporting emergency operations. This plea underscores a fundamental truth: timely assistance during maritime incidents or distress calls is severely compromised without adequate vessels, posing risks to responders and the passengers they aim to protect.

Informant 9 said:

(FGD5:SS14). (We need equipment for emergencies or distress calls to provide faster assistance for everyone's safety.)

The necessity of emergency equipment for effective crisis management and response. The call for improved resources highlights the importance of preparedness in ensuring public safety. Research shows that rapid and effective response measures can significantly mitigate risks during emergencies.

The advanced emergency equipment enables first responders to react promptly, ultimately saving lives and minimizing injuries. This perspective emphasizes the pressing need for communities to prioritize acquiring the necessary tools to enhance their emergency response capabilities (Thompson and Garcia, 2021).

Moreover, the need for efficient communication during emergencies plays an integral role in the overall effectiveness of response efforts. This emphasis on equipment for distress calls aligns with findings from recent studies that illustrate how improved communication technologies foster faster and more coordinated responses.

The integration of modern communication systems into emergency management frameworks can significantly reduce response times and foster a more organized approach to crises. The implication is clear: communities that invest in both equipment and communication infrastructures are better positioned to manage emergencies effectively and safeguard the welfare of their residents (Lee et al., 2023).

Lastly, it is essential to recognize the broader impact of community involvement in emergency preparedness.

Informant 9's concern also points to how local engagement can drive improvements in safety measures. This highlights that collaborative efforts between local governments and community members can enhance the allocation of resources for emergency services, resulting in more effective responses during distress calls or maritime incidents. This collaboration ensures that equipment needs are ready and that emergency services can operate efficiently, ultimately fostering a culture of safety and preparedness within the community (Patel and Moore, 2024).

Patience and Temper Control:

Patience and Temper Control **are** the components of their professional conduct. This resonates deeply within the context of high-pressure situations that Coast Guard members frequently encounter, where their ability to manage emotions can directly influence their well-being and the overall atmosphere at the ports.

Informant 2 stated that:

(IDI2: SS17). (Patience and control temper, even though you encounter passengers who don't follow, you must execute your work well as the Philippine Coast Guard; you'll assist in the port and follow the mandate.)

The theme clearly understood that maintaining composure in the face of potential disrespect or impatience from passengers is essential for fostering a respectful and cooperative environment. The necessity of executing their duties effectively, stating, "Patient, even though you encounter passengers who don't follow, you have to execute your work well as the Philippine Coast Guard." This insight reinforces the idea that patience is not merely a virtue but a foundational element for ensuring operations run smoothly at the port.

This highlights the importance of these traits in facilitating effective behavior in challenging situations. For instance, professionals in the field of public safety often encounter situations where individuals may be uncooperative or disrespectful. Maintaining a calm demeanor allows officers to de-escalate potentially volatile encounters and uphold their duties without compromising safety or professionalism (Nelson et al., 2021).

Emphasizing the necessity of emotional regulation, cultivating patience in public service roles not only improves individual performance but also enhances the overall efficiency of the agency. A calm and controlled approach enables personnel to fulfill their mandates more effectively, such as assisting in port operations, as indicated in the provided statement. The ability to remain composed in the face of challenges directly correlates with improved decision-making and increases the likelihood of successful outcomes in community interactions (Garcia and Lopez, 2023).

Moreover, temper control is closely linked to operational effectiveness in organizational settings. Employees who exercise self-control in tense situations foster an environment of mutual respect and compliance among peers and the public. This further supports the assertion made by Informant 2, as effectively executing one's role while managing emotions reflects the professionalism expected from members of the Coast Guard. Thus, integrating patience and temper control into training and professional development programs can significantly contribute to the success of such services (Thompson and Smith, 2022).

These aspirations regarding the responses from the informants emphasize the need for additional vessels and emergency equipment to facilitate timely responses during distress situations, as well as the importance of community involvement in resource allocation. Furthermore, the informants emphasize the importance of patience and self-control in professional conduct, recognizing that maintaining composure in high-pressure situations is crucial for effective collaboration and duty execution at the port.

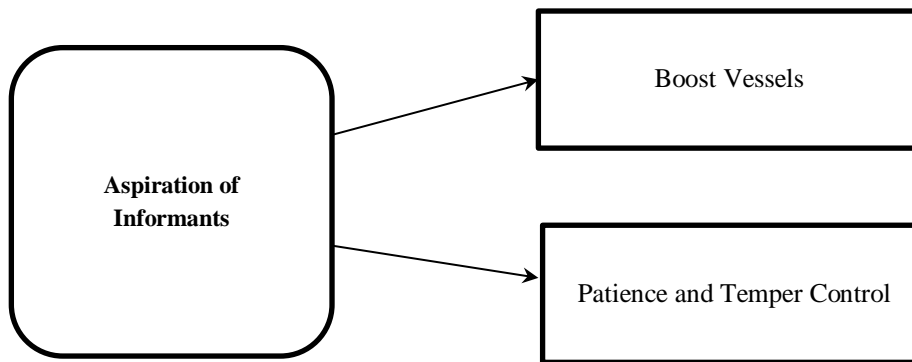


Figure 3: Aspirations of the Informants to Improve the Quality of their Services

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, the researcher concludes:

The effective enhancement of maritime emergency response operations relies on the Coast Guard, supported by local government units (LGUs), community members, and logistical resources. Local government units can provide resources and develop policies that enhance safety and environmental protection. Their support helps create a stronger framework for Coast Guard operations. Community members can contribute by maintaining open communication with the Coast Guard and sharing local knowledge that improves response efforts.

Logistical support is crucial for overcoming resource limitations in maritime operations. By ensuring adequate funding and proper resource management, LGUs and other stakeholders can enhance the effectiveness and speed of emergency responses. A collaborative approach that leverages the Coast Guard's strengths, combined with community support and logistical backing, is essential for enhancing maritime safety. This teamwork is fundamental in building strong coastal communities that are prepared to face maritime emergencies.

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