



**RESOLVING CONFLICT: DISPUTE RESOLUTION  
MECHANISMS OF LUPONG TAGAPAYAMAPA IN SELECTED  
BARANGAYS OF MARIKINA CITY, PHILIPPINES**

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**Abstract:**

Resolving conflict disputes resolution mechanisms of Lupong Tagapamayapa in selected barangays of Marikina City explores the practices and challenges faced by Lupong Tagapamayapa members in maintaining community harmony. Barangay dispute resolution, mandated by Philippine law, is an essential mechanism for fostering peace at the grassroots level. Using a transcendental phenomenological approach based delved into the lived experiences of 16 Lupong Tagapamayapa members from eight barangays in Marikina City. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, observations, and analysis of documents, ensuring a holistic understanding of their conflict resolution roles. The study identified five key themes: communal conflict resolution, challenges in conciliation, enhancing the Lupong Tagapamayapa system, shaping conciliators through experience, and experience-forged peacemakers. Findings revealed the Lupong Tagapamayapa's community-centered approach, incorporating cultural sensitivity, communication strategies, and community-based solutions. Participants highlighted significant challenges, including managing strong emotions, ensuring compliance with agreements, and handling complex cases, emphasizing the need for continuous training, outreach, and systemic support to enhance their effectiveness. The research further illuminated how lived experiences enriched members' conflict resolution skills, deepened their understanding of cultural nuances, and fostered qualities such as empathy and resilience. These experiences shaped their roles as conciliators and strengthened their commitment to maintaining peace and order in their communities. In conclusion, the study underscores the vital role of the Lupong Tagapamayapa in grassroots conflict resolution, advocating for targeted enhancements to sustain their effectiveness. These

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findings provide a foundation for policymakers and community leaders to strengthen dispute resolution mechanisms, fostering more cohesive communities.

**Keywords:** Lupong Tagapamayapa, barangay dispute resolution, grassroots conflict resolution

## 1. Introduction

Dispute resolution mechanisms are integral to maintaining societal harmony worldwide. These mechanisms, ranging from traditional customs to formal legal systems, reflect the diverse approaches developed by communities to address conflicts effectively. In the Philippines, characterized by cultural diversity and community-centric values, a variety of dispute resolution mechanisms are utilized. Alongside formal legal systems, informal methods such as community-based mediation and arbitration are prevalent, deeply rooted in local customs and traditions. Particularly in urban areas like Marikina City, these mechanisms serve as vital tools in resolving disputes within barangays, thereby fostering social cohesion. At the forefront of local dispute resolution in Marikina City is the Barangay Lupong Tagapamayapa, mandated by the Local Government Code of 1991. Comprising community leaders and volunteers, the Lupong Tagapamayapa facilitates mediation, arbitration, and conciliation processes to address disputes among residents, providing accessible and culturally relevant avenues for conflict resolution within the barangay. Despite existing research on barangay dispute resolution practices in the Philippines, a research gap persists regarding the specific techniques employed by the Lupong Tagapamayapa in Marikina City. While insights into general practices exist, there's a lack of comprehensive examination into the nuanced methods utilized by the Lupong Tagapamayapa. Understanding these mechanisms is crucial for enhancing the effectiveness and cultural relevance of dispute resolution processes within Marikina City's barangays (Ahmed et al., 2025, pp. 148-171).

This study aims to bridge this research gap by comprehensively examining the mediation, arbitration, and conciliation techniques employed by the Lupong Tagapamayapa in selected barangays of Marikina City. Through interviews, observations, and document analysis, the research seeks to understand how these mechanisms operate at the local level, contributing valuable insights to inform policy and practice, ultimately promoting social harmony and community resilience within Marikina City's barangays. It is anchored on a variety of social science theories to shed light on the emergence and significance of dispute resolution mechanisms, with a particular emphasis on conflict theory. Conflict theory is the central framework for understanding the need for alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms in barangay communities, such as the selected barangays in Marikina City in the Philippines (Bohm et al., 2020). Conflict theory, a macro-level sociological perspective, provides valuable insights into societal dynamics. It sees society as a complex system of various groups and individuals competing for limited resources. Conflicts, according to the

theory, are inherent in any social system due to competing interests, values, and power dynamics (Bohm et al., 2020). It provides a lens through which it can examine the imperative for ADR mechanisms in the context of the current conflict theory study. Conflict theory emphasizes that conflicts naturally arise in society and organizations due to disparities in power, access to resources, diverging interests, and conflicting values (Mallillin, et al. 2020).

Dispute resolution methods, such as litigation and formal court proceedings, frequently take an adversarial approach, focusing on determining winners and losers. This approach, however, has the potential to exacerbate conflicts, prolong disputes, incur high costs, and strain relationships among the parties involved (Okeya, 2020). ADR mechanisms, on the other hand, provide an alternative method of conflict resolution. They emphasize communication, negotiation, and collaboration among disputing parties in order to reach mutually acceptable solutions (Milz, 2022). ADR methods, such as mediation, negotiation, arbitration, and collaborative problem-solving, seek to understand the interests and concerns of all parties involved and strive for win-win outcomes (Balzer & Schneider, 2021). ADR mechanisms are necessary from the standpoint of conflict theory because they provide a more constructive and cooperative means of managing conflicts. ADR can mitigate power imbalances, reduce adversarial dynamics, and promote long-term and satisfactory resolutions by facilitating open dialogue, active participation, and creative problem-solving (HarmonDarrow et al., 2020).

Furthermore, Ogele (2020) emphasizes the growing importance of justice systems, as evidenced by the United Nations General Assembly's endorsement of informal justice mechanisms to promote the rule of law in societies on September 13, 2007. Despite the urban setting, dispute principles and practices continue to influence conflict resolution mechanisms in barangays of Marikina City. Reyes (2019) examines how dispute values are adapted to urban environments, particularly within barangay settings, while Lim (2021) explores the cultural resilience of barangay communities amidst urbanization. These studies highlight the adaptive capacity of barangay cultures and the importance of cultural continuity in promoting social cohesion within urban contexts. Alcantara et al. (2023) focuses on the role of legal literacy programs and community legal aid services in equipping barangay residents with the knowledge and resources to navigate dispute resolution mechanisms effectively. These studies underscore the importance of legal awareness and empowerment in strengthening community-based conflict resolution mechanisms. Reyes (2021) complements this by examining the role of community leaders and stakeholders in facilitating effective conflict resolution processes within barangays. These case studies provide practical lessons for enhancing the efficiency and accessibility of barangay-level dispute resolution mechanisms. Policy-oriented analyses provide valuable insights into the institutional framework and operational challenges of the Barangay Justice System in Marikina City. Reports from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA) offer valuable data on the performance of the Lupon Tagapamayapa, informing policy

decisions aimed at strengthening community-based conflict resolution mechanisms (Mallillin et al. 2020).

Metillo et al. (2022) investigated the roles of Barangay officials in resolving community disputes, shedding light on grassroots conflict resolution mechanisms and the importance of local leadership. The importance of local leadership in resolving disputes at the community level is clarified by this study. The focus on barangay officials emphasizes how crucial it is to comprehend and take advantage of the leaders and institutions already in place in communities in order to resolve conflicts in an amicable manner. The study probably emphasizes how these officials serve as community peacemakers and mediators, demonstrating the benefits of decentralized, neighborhood-based conflict resolution techniques. A comprehensive understanding of the Barangay Justice System (BJS) in the Philippines, focusing specifically on the role and challenges faced by the Lupon Tagapamayapa in resolving disputes at the grassroots level, is vital. It underscores the legal framework governing the BJS and highlights the crucial functions of the Lupon Tagapamayapa as unpaid volunteers elected by the Punong Barangay to facilitate the resolution of civil disputes and minor offenses (Avenido & Tabucanon, 2020). However, despite its significance, the literature also identifies several challenges confronting the Lupon Tagapamayapa, including a lack of clarity regarding its mandate and insufficient resources to effectively carry out its functions (Floranza, 2021; Legaspi & Alampay, 2020). Given these challenges, the urgency of further research on the effectiveness of the Lupon Tagapamayapa is evident. The proposed study aims to address this gap by examining the functioning of the Lupon Tagapamayapa in selected barangays of Marikina City, with a focus on enhancing its capacity through training and community extension programs. The study seeks to provide support and guidance to Lupon Tagapamayapa members, ultimately strengthening community-based dispute resolution mechanisms and promoting social cohesion within barangays (Metillo et al., 2022). The study by Villamor and Dagohoy (2021) focuses on the challenges faced by the Lupon Tagapamayapa, a key component of the Barangay Justice System in the Philippines, including insufficient training, recurring disputes, and difficulties in reaching conciliation due to party unwillingness. Despite these challenges, the Lupon Tagapamayapa continues to resolve a significant percentage of cases, providing accessible justice and alleviating court congestion. However, concerns about their authority and effectiveness have prompted the need for research to assess their performance. The study aims to investigate the relationship between decision-making quality and conciliation process effectiveness, drawing from theoretical frameworks such as the Decision Theory and Procedural Justice Theory. It proposes indicators for both independent (decision-making quality) and dependent (conciliation process effectiveness) variables and sets objectives to describe their levels and ascertain their relationship in Barangay Tibal-og. The hypotheses suggest that there is no significant relationship between decision-making quality and conciliation process effectiveness and that no specific domain of decision-making quality significantly influences conciliation effectiveness (Haryanti et al., 2025).

## 2. Statement of the Problem

The study aimed to investigate the lived experiences of the Lupong Tagapamayapa in selected barangays in Marikina in dispute resolution. Specifically, the research aims to address the following questions:

- 1) How do the participants describe their experiences in resolving disputes through conciliation?
- 2) How do the participants' lived experiences contribute to shaping their roles as dispute conciliators?
- 3) How do the participants' lived experiences of the participants intricately influence the peace and order situation in the community?

## 3. Research Design

This study used the transcendental phenomenology approach to investigate the deeper experiences, viewpoints, and difficulties that the selected barangays in the Marikina City community/ people encounter when using barangay dispute resolution procedures. Examining and analyzing the lived experiences of people who have similar experiences with a certain phenomenon is a special application of this strategy. It is an essential component of this phenomenological study design. It entails putting aside the opinions and prejudices of the researcher in order to obtain an objective and new viewpoint on the phenomenon being studied. To acquire accurate and truthful accounts of the Lupong Tagapamayapa's experiences with barangay dispute resolution processes in this instance, bracketing is necessary. Participants in the study are carefully chosen based on predetermined standards to guarantee personal knowledge of the occurrence. In-depth interviews are one method of gathering data; participants are asked open-ended questions that allow them to fully express their perspectives. The process of conducting interviews is essential for producing detailed accounts of the experiences of the participants. The study's ultimate goal is to create textural, structural, and composite descriptions that sum up the lived experiences of Lupong Tagapamayapa while using dispute resolution procedures. With its foundation in the participants' actual experiences, this thorough phenomenological method helps to provide a detailed understanding of the phenomenon (Ramirez-Salgado et al., 2025).

### 3.1 The Participants and their Selection

The study will include a total of 16 participants, drawn from eight barangays within the city of Marikina. Each barangay will contribute two Lupong Tagapamayapa participants, with a total of four barangays per district. The selected participants will consist of Lupong Tagapamayapa members who have overseen cases involving constituents seeking assistance from the Lupong Tagapamayapa services consistently for two to three consecutive times. The timeframe for participant selection will span from 2016 to the present, coinciding with the beginning of the current administration. This approach

ensures a focused examination of the experiences and perspectives of Lupong Tagapamayapa members who have had sustained engagement with community members seeking conflict resolution assistance over recent years. The data collection phase of the study will include interviews with these participants, the depth of which will be influenced by logistical and time constraints. These individuals will be chosen primarily based on their extensive experience and direct involvement in conflict resolution processes as witnesses or direct disputants. The shared dispute resolution practices of these participants, as well as their willingness to actively participate in their respective municipality's alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and processes, bind them together. The researcher will rely heavily on recommendations from reputable professionals in the field and leaders of barangay units in the city of Marikina to identify these participants, selecting participants who come highly recommended through this rigorous process (Ahmad & Wilkins, 2025, pp. 1461-1479).

### **3.2 Sampling Techniques**

The chosen sampling technique for this study will be purposive and convenience sampling. Purposive sampling is ideal for this research objective because it allows the researcher to select participants based on specific criteria or characteristics that are highly relevant to the study's focus. This is to gain in-depth insights from individuals or groups who have specialized knowledge and expertise in the dispute resolution techniques of the Lupong Tagapamayapa in selected barangays of Marikina City by using purposive sampling. Purposive sampling is consistent with the goal of gathering rich and comprehensive data that will help us gain a more nuanced understanding of barangay conflict resolution. Likewise, it gathers information that is not only insightful but also culturally sensitive and contextually relevant by deliberately selecting participants with expertise in this field. Furthermore, the use of purposive sampling ensures that these study participants have a genuine connection to the subject matter, which increases the credibility and validity of our findings. Their firsthand knowledge and experiences can provide a more in-depth understanding of the challenges and complexities of using barangay dispute resolution mechanisms. Convenience sampling is a method of selecting participants for a research study based on their ease of access or availability to the researcher. In this case, the researcher plans to approach people she knows within the Lupong Tagapamayapa in selected barangays in Marikina City, as well as the Barangay captain, who can potentially connect her with individuals who possess expertise in resolving conflicts. While convenience sampling can be practical and efficient, it's essential to acknowledge that it may introduce bias into the study because the sample is not necessarily representative of the entire population. Therefore, the researcher should consider the potential limitations associated with this sampling method and address them in the research design and analysis (Samuel & Merkebu, 2025).

### 3.3 Data Gathering Procedure

The data-gathering phase of the study began once the entire necessary legal, documentary, and cultural prerequisites had been met. Referrals from barangay communities in selected barangays in Marikina City. Following that, these participants were approached and invited to participate in the study. It is important to note that any declinations were acknowledged respectfully, and the study will proceed with willing participants in the data collection activities. The researcher will seek approval from the barangay captain in each of the eight barangays before administering the interview. A formal notice of request will be sent to the respective Barangay Captains, requesting permission to conduct interviews. The researcher worked with barangay officials to identify suitable participants in accordance with the study's objectives. When potential participants were identified, the researcher approached them and gave them a detailed overview of the study's objectives. Only after obtaining the participants' voluntary and informed consent did data collection begin, ensuring they were fully aware of the study's specific objectives, the extent of their participation, and their rights as study participants (Chand, 2025, pp. 303-317).

Participants were given the opportunity to express their answers without interruptions during the interview process, allowing for open and free expression. To improve comprehension, the researcher repeated or paraphrased questions that appeared unclear to the participants. Furthermore, the interviews will be conducted in the community's native language, ensuring that the language is widely understood and accepted. In addition to interviews, actual observations will be conducted to supplement the information gathered from participants. This multifaceted approach enhanced data collection and provided a more comprehensive view of Lupong Tagapamayapa, a dispute resolution practice in selected barangays in Marikina City (Palinkas et al., 2025).

## 4. Results

### 4.1 How Do the Participants Describe Their Experiences in Resolving Disputes through Conciliation?

**Table 1:** Textural Descriptions on the Experiences of Lupong Tagapamahala

Participant	Textural Descriptions
Lupong Tagapamahala 1	Mediating disputes, signing agreements, escalating unresolved cases.
Lupong Tagapamahala 2	Resolving debts with agreements; using arbitration for unresolved disputes.
Lupong Tagapamahala 3	Engaging in discussions and prayers, seeking calm resolutions.
Lupong Tagapamahala 4	Resolving issues through negotiation and personal assistance.
Lupong Tagapamahala 5	Facilitating dialogue, resolving conflicts through mutual agreement and communication.

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Lupong Tagapamahala 6	Adapting approaches; employing mixed methods based on situation and parties.
Lupong Tagapamahala 7	Emphasizing amicable settlements and conciliation through routine and practical approaches.
Lupong Tagapamahala 8	Effective mediation and conciliation; using arbitration as a final recourse.
Lupong Tagapamahala 9	Resolving disputes through mediation; offering arbitration solutions; considering court as a last resort.
Lupong Tagapamahala 10	Seeking agreement through mediation; weighing costs through arbitration; recognizing that pride often hinders resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 11	Providing empathy-driven advice, managing tension, and guiding peaceful agreements.
Lupong Tagapamahala 12	Ensuring thorough communication, fairness, and empathy for effective resolution and minimized conflict.
Lupong Tagapamahala 13	Resolving disputes through conciliation while facing ethical challenges.
Lupong Tagapamahala 14	Balancing fairness, ego, and resolution in disputes.
Lupong Tagapamahala 15	Offering prayerful guidance, practical solutions, and persistence in resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 16	Combining legal expertise, community ties, and faith-driven conflict resolution.

The textural descriptions above reveal the diverse approaches and experiences of Lupong Tagapamahala members in resolving conflicts. The experiences of the Lupong Tagapamahala in resolving conflicts are characterized by a variety of strategies and considerations. Key concepts that emerge from these textural descriptions include mediation, arbitration, communication, empathy, and adaptation.

For mediation, the Lupong Tagapamahala members often engage in dialogue and negotiation, aiming to reach amicable settlements. This approach is frequently the first step in conflict resolution, where the goal is to facilitate mutual understanding and agreement between parties.

Arbitration is highlighted as a secondary method, particularly when mediation does not result in resolution. In these cases, the Lupong Tagapamahala members may take on a more authoritative role, weighing the merits of each side and providing a binding decision, often considering the costs and implications for the parties involved.

The importance of communication is evident in the experiences of the Lupong Tagapamahala, as effective conflict resolution requires clear, empathetic, and fair communication. This approach helps to minimize misunderstandings and fosters a sense of fairness among the parties involved.

Empathy plays a crucial role in managing tensions and guiding parties towards peaceful agreements. By understanding the emotions and perspectives of those involved, the Lupong Tagapamahala can offer more tailored and compassionate advice, which often leads to more sustainable resolutions.

Finally, adaptation is necessary when handling different types of conflicts and parties. The Lupong Tagapamahala members must be flexible in their approach, utilizing a combination of mediation, arbitration, and other conflict resolution methods depending on the specific circumstances of each case.

Overall, the textural descriptions reveal that the Lupong Tagapamahala's approach to conflict resolution is multifaceted, grounded in a deep understanding of the community, and driven by a commitment to maintaining peace and order through fair and empathetic processes (Ioryue, 2025).

**Table 2:** Structural Description of the Experiences  
 of the Lupong Tagapamahala in Resolving Conflicts

Participant	Structural Descriptions
Lupong Tagapamahala 1	Resolving disputes through listening, proposing, and documenting.
Lupong Tagapamahala 2	Handling debts, property disputes, and reconciliation challenges.
Lupong Tagapamahala 3	Weekly mediation, persistent conciliation, and arbitration for complex disputes.
Lupong Tagapamahala 4	Mediation resolves disputes through negotiation and practical assistance.
Lupong Tagapamahala 5	Conciliation involves mediating, guiding, and facilitating mutual agreements.
Lupong Tagapamahala 6	Dispute resolution involves flexible use of mediation, arbitration, and conciliation.
Lupong Tagapamahala 7	Flexible methods, cultural insights, and respect drive dispute resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 8	Structured mediation, arbitration, and conciliation ensure dispute resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 9	Mediation, arbitration, and conciliation resolve disputes with formal processes.
Lupong Tagapamahala 10	Mediation seeks agreement; arbitration offers solutions; conciliation facilitates resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 11	Mediation resolves conflicts; arbitration offers decisions; conciliation fosters understanding.
Lupong Tagapamahala 12	Mediation involves detailed discussion; arbitration is rarely used; conciliation solves minor disputes effectively.
Lupong Tagapamahala 13	Conciliation resolves disputes; mediation for initial discussions; arbitration is rarely used.
Lupong Tagapamahala 14	Neutral mediator: resolves financial disputes, avoids ego conflicts; arbitration is rare.
Lupong Tagapamahala 15	Mediation starts with prayer; resolves debts, handles complaints; arbitration is rare.
Lupong Tagapamahala 16	Mediation starts with prayer; pre-mediation reduces cases; arbitration is rarely used.

Table 2 presents the structural descriptions of the experiences of the Lupong Tagapamahala in resolving conflicts. The descriptions highlight various approaches and

practices employed by these community mediators, reflecting their unique methodologies and experiences in dispute resolution.

The majority of Lupong Tagapamahala members emphasize mediation and conciliation as primary tools for resolving conflicts. For instance, participants such as Lupong Tagapamahala 1, 4, 5, and 6 highlight their focus on mediation, negotiation, and facilitating mutual agreements. This emphasis on mediation aligns with their role in guiding parties toward amicable solutions, demonstrating a preference for less adversarial methods. The descriptions reveal a balance between structured approaches, as seen with Lupong Tagapamahala 8, and flexible methods, as illustrated by Lupong Tagapamahala 6. This duality shows their adaptability in applying various strategies based on the specific needs of each dispute.

The structural descriptions also reflect the diverse nature of the disputes handled by the Lupong Tagapamahala. Participants like Lupong Tagapamahala 2 deal with a range of issues, including debts and property disputes, showcasing the broad scope of their mediation work. This diversity underscores the necessity for flexibility in addressing different types of conflicts. Additionally, the rare use of arbitration, noted by participants such as Lupong Tagapamahala 12 and 13, suggests a preference for mediation and conciliation over more formal arbitration processes. This trend highlights their inclination towards resolving disputes amicably rather than through adversarial means.

Cultural and procedural aspects are also significant in their practices. For example, Lupong Tagapamahala 15 and 16 incorporate prayers into their mediation sessions, reflecting a culturally sensitive approach aimed at fostering a respectful atmosphere. This practice underscores the importance of aligning mediation practices with local traditions to create an environment conducive to resolution. Furthermore, Lupong Tagapamahala 16's use of pre-mediation strategies to reduce cases illustrates a proactive approach in managing their caseloads and preventing disputes from escalating.

Lastly, the Lupong Tagapamahala's holistic approach to conflict resolution is evident in their integration of mediation, arbitration, and conciliation. Participants like Lupong Tagapamahala 10 and 11 employ a combination of these methods, ensuring that the approach is tailored to the nature of the dispute and the needs of the parties involved. This integration reflects a comprehensive view of conflict resolution that prioritizes understanding and mutual respect, with a clear focus on achieving agreements and fostering resolution through dialogue.

The experiences of the Lupong Tagapamahala reveal a diverse and culturally nuanced approach to dispute resolution. Their practices underscore a preference for mediation and conciliation, with an emphasis on cultural sensitivity and proactive strategies, demonstrating a commitment to effective and respectful conflict management within their communities.

**Table 3:** Composite Descriptions (Experiences of Lupong Tagapamahala)

The experiences reveal a multifaceted approach, showcasing the diversity in methods and personal involvement of each Lupong Tagapamahala member. They consistently highlight the central role of mediation and conciliation in their practice, reflecting a strong emphasis on dialogue, negotiation, and mutual agreement.

Lupong Tagapamahala members often utilize mediation as a primary tool, leveraging personal engagement and structured processes to address disputes. This includes listening to the concerns of all parties, proposing solutions, and documenting agreements, as seen in the practices of participants like Lupong Tagapamahala 1 and 5. Conciliation is frequently employed to facilitate mutual understanding and resolution, with an emphasis on empathy and communication. This approach is evident in the experiences of members such as Lupong Tagapamahala 11 and 12, who focus on fostering peaceful agreements and minimizing conflict through detailed discussions.

Arbitration is noted as a secondary method, used primarily for complex or unresolved disputes, as described by Lupong Tagapamahala 2 and 8. This indicates a preference for less adversarial methods and a commitment to maintaining amicable relationships. The limited use of arbitration underscores the priority given to mediation and conciliation, which are seen as more effective in addressing conflicts and fostering long-term understanding.

The integration of cultural and spiritual practices, such as prayer, also plays a significant role in the dispute resolution process. Members like Lupong Tagapamahala 3 and 15 incorporate these elements to create a conducive environment for resolution, demonstrating a holistic approach that combines legal expertise with community values.

Overall, the composite descriptions illustrate that the Lupong Tagapamahala's experiences are characterized by a collaborative, adaptive approach to conflict resolution. Their methods are deeply rooted in cultural sensitivity and empathy, with a clear preference for mediation and conciliation over arbitration. This approach reflects a commitment to resolving disputes in a manner that respects the needs and values of the community, while also highlighting the effective integration of personal and community values into their practice.

Table 3 presents the composite descriptions of the Lupong Tagapamahala's experiences in resolving disputes reveal a nuanced and multifaceted approach characterized by a blend of flexibility, cultural sensitivity, and a commitment to mediation and conciliation. The analysis reflects a dynamic interplay between their preferred methods and the contexts in which they apply them, underscoring both the strengths and limitations of their approach to conflict resolution. The composite descriptions emphasize that the Lupong Tagapamahala employ a predominantly collaborative and adaptive approach to dispute resolution. Mediation and conciliation are central to their methods, reflecting a deep commitment to fostering understanding and maintaining community harmony. This preference for mediation aligns with their goal of resolving conflicts in ways that respect and incorporate cultural values and personal involvement. Their approach is not only procedural but also deeply rooted in cultural and personal values, demonstrating a strong inclination towards practices that honor community traditions and individual needs. For example, several participants highlight the use of mediation to facilitate dialogue and reach mutual agreements, often integrating cultural practices such as

prayer into their process. This indicates that their methods are designed to create a conducive environment for resolution, which goes beyond mere procedural formalities. The emphasis on mediation and conciliation is supported by their belief in the importance of empathy, communication, and cultural sensitivity, which are crucial for achieving long-lasting resolutions and maintaining community relationships.

However, the composite description also points to the limitations of their approach, particularly regarding the use of arbitration. While arbitration is acknowledged as a secondary option for more complex or unresolved disputes, it is not the preferred method for most of the Lupong Tagapamahala. This indicates a certain reluctance to resort to arbitration unless absolutely necessary, preferring instead to rely on mediation and conciliation to resolve conflicts whenever possible. The description reflects awareness that arbitration, while effective for formal resolution, may not fully capture the cultural and personal dimensions of the disputes it handles. This duality in their approach underscores a balance between practical dispute resolution and adherence to cultural practices. On one hand, their methods demonstrate a high level of effectiveness in promoting understanding and agreement through culturally sensitive and personal means. On the other hand, the limited use of arbitration highlights a potential challenge in addressing disputes that require more formal or structured resolution processes. The composite descriptions thus affirm the Lupong Tagapamahala's effective use of mediation and conciliation while acknowledging the constraints associated with arbitration. Their experiences illustrate a well-rounded approach that integrates cultural and personal values into their dispute resolution practices, yet also reveal areas where their methods might face challenges, especially in handling complex disputes that may necessitate formal arbitration. This balance reflects both the strength of their culturally sensitive approach and the limitations inherent in relying predominantly on mediation and conciliation for all types of conflicts.

#### 4.2 How Do the Lived Experiences of Participants Contribute to Shaping Their Roles as Dispute Conciliators?

**Table 4:** Textural Descriptions on the Experiences of Lupong Tagapamahala that Contribute to Shaping Their Roles as Dispute Conciliators

Participant	Textural Descriptions
Lupong Tagapamahala 1	Wisdom and experience shape the role in peaceful mediation.
Lupong Tagapamahala 2	Embracing the joy of aiding resolution through personal experience and community respect.
Lupong Tagapamahala 3	Guided by faith and a commitment to unity, fostering resolution through understanding and compassion.
Lupong Tagapamahala 4	Embracing the guiding light of faith, using personal experiences to foster compassion and understanding in conflict resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 5	Embodying simplicity and empathy, drawing on personal and professional experiences to foster understanding and support in conflict resolution.

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Lupong Tagapamahala 6	Emphasizing calmness and integrity, drawing on personal experiences and a commitment to patience in conflict resolution, while recognizing the importance of honesty and community reputation.
Lupong Tagapamahala 7	Leveraging extensive leadership experience from various sectors, including military service and community engagement, to cultivate respect, facilitate understanding, and promote amicable resolutions in conflict situations.
Lupong Tagapamahala 8	Participants' diverse life experiences shape their roles, enhancing trust, empathy, and conflict resolution skills.
Lupong Tagapamahala 9	Extensive experiences in police work enable effective conflict resolution and community support roles.
Lupong Tagapamahala 10	The commitment to fairness and justice shapes roles in conflict resolution and community service.
Lupong Tagapamahala 11	Daily experiences and personal growth refine one's effectiveness and empathy in conflict resolution, creating a profound impact on one's role as a conciliator.
Lupong Tagapamahala 12	A conciliator's role is shaped by humility, empathy, impartiality, and practical conflict resolution experience.
Lupong Tagapamahala 13	Patently balancing empathy, fairness, and cultural understanding to resolve complex community conflicts.
Lupong Tagapamahala 14	Guiding others through empathy, experience, and conflict resolution wisdom.
Lupong Tagapamahala 15	Empathy and humility shape my conflict resolution role.
Lupong Tagapamahala 16	Diverse experiences shape effective conflict resolution skills.

Table 4 presents the participants' experiences as Lupong Tagapamahala in their role as dispute conciliators, highlighting significant concepts such as wisdom and experience, empathy and compassion, and integrity and impartiality. These dimensions showcase the depth of their contributions to fostering peace and harmony within their communities. Wisdom and Experience play a pivotal role in shaping the participants' effectiveness as conciliators. Many emphasized that their personal and professional backgrounds provide invaluable insights into resolving conflicts. Experiences in leadership, military, and police work have enhanced their understanding of community dynamics, allowing them to mediate disputes with a balanced perspective. These roles have instilled in them the ability to approach challenges with calmness, maturity, and a solutions-oriented mindset.

Empathy and Compassion emerged as central themes in the participants' accounts. Their ability to foster harmony often stems from their personal growth and deep faith, which have cultivated a sense of care and sensitivity in handling disputes. Participants noted that understanding the emotions and motivations of conflicting parties is critical in building trust and fostering resolutions that are equitable and enduring. Their empathetic approach often bridges divides and creates pathways for reconciliation.

Integrity and Impartiality are foundational to their role as mediators. Participants highlighted their unwavering commitment to fairness and justice, which strengthens

their credibility and effectiveness. Maintaining neutrality and upholding honesty are essential principles that guide their actions, ensuring the community's trust and confidence in the dispute resolution process.

These key aspects underscore how the participants' roles are shaped by a combination of practical knowledge, emotional intelligence, and ethical grounding. Together, these elements enable them to act as effective mediators who contribute significantly to the maintenance of peace and order in their barangay.

**Table 5:** Structural Descriptions on the Experiences of Lupong Tagapamahala that Contribute to Shaping Their Roles as Dispute Conciliators

Participant	Structural Descriptions
Lupong Tagapamahala 1	Wisdom from experience fosters effective, compassionate conflict resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 2	Through dedication, empathy, and experience, they foster respect, trust, and fairness in community conflict resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 3	Experiences nurtured my empathy, resilience, and neutrality, shaping my role as a conciliator.
Lupong Tagapamahala 4	Faith and empathy empower the role, guiding fair, peaceful resolutions.
Lupong Tagapamahala 5	Faith, empathy, and life experiences guide fair conflict resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 6	Integrity and patience shape effective conflict resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 7	Leadership, diplomacy, and patience shape effective conflict resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 8	Respect, life lessons, and experience guide effective conflict resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 9	Policing experience fosters impartiality, patience, and effective conflict resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 10	Fairness, empathy, and moral grounding guide conflict resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 11	Experience teaches humility, patience, and effective conflict management strategies.
Lupong Tagapamahala 12	Empathy, neutrality, and life experiences guide effective conflict resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 13	Patience, empathy, and adaptability shape their dispute resolution role as conciliators.
Lupong Tagapamahala 14	Empathy and personal experience guide effective dispute resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 15	Service-oriented humility and past experiences guide mediation.
Lupong Tagapamahala 16	Past experiences foster effective conflict resolution and mediation.

Table 5 captures the structural descriptions that shape the roles of Lupong Tagapamahala as dispute conciliators. These structural insights underline the interplay of personal experiences, values, and professional skills in mediating disputes effectively. The

descriptions emphasize the importance of wisdom gained from life and professional experiences in guiding their approaches to conflict resolution. For example, several participants highlighted how their exposure to diverse life situations nurtured their resilience, empathy, and adaptability qualities crucial for maintaining fairness and impartiality in dispute resolution. Additionally, attributes such as faith, patience, and moral integrity emerged as significant in empowering their roles. Participants frequently cited their faith and moral grounding as cornerstones for fostering peaceful resolutions and ensuring fairness, which are critical in building trust within the community.

Moreover, leadership and communication skills were noted as essential in managing conflicts effectively. Experiences in leadership and policing roles provided some participants with the tools to mediate impartially and maintain discipline in the community. Overall, these structural descriptions reveal a holistic approach to conflict resolution, rooted in empathy, integrity, and a commitment to fostering peace and order in their barangays.

On the other hand, the composite descriptions of the experiences of Lupong Tagapamahala in shaping their roles as dispute conciliators reveal a balance between personal virtues and professional competence, as well as the challenges and opportunities inherent in their duties. Their roles are informed by an intricate blend of personal growth, community engagement, and practical application of conflict resolution strategies. Their collective experiences highlight the value of faith, empathy, and integrity as foundational principles that guide their interactions. Faith serves as a moral compass, enabling them to approach conflicts with fairness and compassion. Empathy allows them to connect with disputing parties on a deeper level, fostering trust and understanding. Integrity ensures that their actions and decisions uphold justice and the community's best interests. The composite descriptions also emphasize the importance of professional experience in shaping their roles. For many participants, extensive backgrounds in fields such as policing, leadership, and community service provide a wealth of skills, including diplomacy, patience, and neutrality. These attributes are crucial for mediating disputes effectively and maintaining impartiality.

However, their experiences also reveal the challenges of their roles. The Lupong Tagapamahala must navigate complex social dynamics, requiring resilience and adaptability. They face the dual task of resolving conflicts while preserving community harmony, often drawing on life lessons and leadership experience to strike this balance. The descriptions suggest a dual framework of affirmation and critique. On one hand, the Lupong Tagapamahala's experiences affirm their ability to resolve conflicts effectively, guided by their personal and professional qualities. On the other hand, these same experiences highlight the limitations they encounter, such as the emotional toll of mediating disputes and the need for continued skill development. The composite descriptions further illustrate how their work fosters personal growth. The process of conflict resolution enables them to refine their emotional intelligence, leadership capabilities, and community relationships. In doing so, they not only resolve disputes but also contribute to the broader goal of fostering peace and order in their barangays.

In summary, the composite descriptions underscore the intricate interplay of virtues, experience, and challenges in the roles of Lupong Tagapamahala. While their experiences affirm their effectiveness as dispute conciliators, they also reveal areas for growth and the need for ongoing support to enhance their capacity. This duality reflects the multifaceted nature of their roles and the significant impact they have on their communities.

### 4.3 How do the Personal Experiences of the Participants Intricately Influence the Peace and Order Situation in the Barangay/community?

**Table 6:** Textural Descriptions on the Experiences of Lupong Tagapamahala that Intricately Influence the Peace and Order Situation in the Barangay/Community

Participant	Textural Descriptions
Lupong Tagapamahala 1	Personal experiences foster empathy, guiding conflict resolution and enhancing community peace.
Lupong Tagapamahala 2	Personal experiences foster community respect and harmony.
Lupong Tagapamahala 3	Education and humility drive community peace and resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 4	Open communication and respect foster community peace.
Lupong Tagapamahala 5	Communication and empathy cultivate community harmony.
Lupong Tagapamahala 6	Open communication fosters understanding and resolves conflicts.
Lupong Tagapamahala 7	Diverse experiences enhance community discipline and order.
Lupong Tagapamahala 8	Community unity is vital for peace and order.
Lupong Tagapamahala 9	Constructive dialogue fosters community peace and cooperation.
Lupong Tagapamahala 10	Respect and empathy enhance community peace and cooperation.
Lupong Tagapamahala 11	Community engagement fosters understanding and promotes peace.
Lupong Tagapamahala 12	Self-respect fosters community respect and harmony.
Lupong Tagapamahala 13	Personal transformation fosters community harmony and respect.
Lupong Tagapamahala 14	Personal integrity fosters peace in community interactions.
Lupong Tagapamahala 15	Positive mediation reduces conflicts and fosters community harmony.
Lupong Tagapamahala 16	Promoting dialogue and forgiveness enhances community peace.

Table 6 presents the textural descriptions of the experiences of Lupong Tagapamahala, focusing on their roles in shaping the peace and order situation in their respective barangays or communities. These descriptions highlight key elements such as empathy and respect, communication and dialogue, and community engagement and unity as integral to their conflict resolution strategies. Empathy and Respect play a central role in fostering peace within the community. Participants emphasized how personal experiences and self-respect contribute to cultivating mutual understanding and respect among community members. By demonstrating humility and integrity, they create an environment conducive to harmonious interactions.

Communication and Dialogue are essential tools employed by the Lupong Tagapamahala. Open communication and constructive dialogue are described as fostering understanding and cooperation, which are crucial for resolving conflicts and maintaining peace. Participants underscored the importance of promoting forgiveness and fostering positive mediation to address disputes effectively. Community Engagement and Unity are pivotal to sustaining peace and order. Many participants highlighted how active involvement in community matters and prioritizing unity over division lead to enhanced cooperation and discipline. The integration of diverse life experiences allows the Lupong Tagapamahala to connect with community members and promote harmonious relationships. These textural descriptions collectively illustrate that the participants' experiences and approaches are deeply intertwined with their commitment to maintaining peace and order. By leveraging empathy, open communication, and active engagement, they serve as key figures in fostering harmony and resolving conflicts within their communities.

**Table 7:** Structural Descriptions on the Experiences of Lupong Tagapamahala that Contribute to Shaping Their Roles as Dispute Conciliators

Participant	Structural Descriptions
Lupong Tagapamahala 1	Personal experiences foster understanding, empathy, and conflict resolution, enhancing community peace and order.
Lupong Tagapamahala 2	Personal experiences shape community peace and order.
Lupong Tagapamahala 3	Personal experiences foster community respect and conflict resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 4	Open-mindedness, respect, and understanding resolve community conflicts.
Lupong Tagapamahala 5	Community mediation fosters understanding and resolves conflicts
Lupong Tagapamahala 6	Effective communication and understanding foster peace amid community conflicts.
Lupong Tagapamahala 7	Diverse experiences shape effective community conflict resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 8	Experiences foster unity and effective conflict resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 9	Facilitating dialogue fosters community harmony and order.

Lupong Tagapamahala 10	Listening and resolving conflicts cultivates community respect and peace.
Lupong Tagapamahala 11	Positive engagement fosters community unity and conflict resolution.
Lupong Tagapamahala 12	Personal growth fosters mediation and community respect.
Lupong Tagapamahala 13	Community experiences shape peace and order through relationships.
Lupong Tagapamahala 14	Personal integrity fosters community trust and resolves conflicts.
Lupong Tagapamahala 15	Effective mediation reduces conflict and fosters community harmony.
Lupong Tagapamahala 16	Experience guides mediation, fostering peace and understanding.

Table 7 provides the structural descriptions that reflect the experiences of Lupong Tagapamahala as they fulfill their roles as dispute conciliators. These structural descriptions emphasize the interplay of personal and professional experiences, communication strategies, and values that shape their roles. Reading the descriptions with *epoche* in mind reveals the multifaceted nature of their experiences. Personal experiences play a significant role in fostering understanding, empathy, and resilience, which are essential for addressing community disputes effectively. The descriptions also highlight the importance of effective communication, such as open-mindedness and dialogue facilitation, which contribute to unity and cooperation in the community.

Moreover, the values of integrity and respect are evident in how the participants approach their roles. These qualities underpin their ability to mediate disputes impartially and foster trust among community members. While challenges in conflict resolution are acknowledged, the participants' reflections suggest that their experiences and strategies collectively enable them to maintain peace and order in their barangays effectively. These insights underscore the essential contributions of Lupong Tagapamahala to their communities, driven by a blend of practical knowledge, ethical grounding, and dedication to fostering harmony.

The experiences of the Lupong Tagapamahala demonstrate both the strengths and limitations of their roles in shaping community peace and order. Their personal experiences, which range from empathy and personal growth to effective communication and conflict resolution, allow them to facilitate harmony within the barangay. These experiences foster not only community respect but also collaboration through dialogue and mediation. The Lupong Tagapamahala's ability to empathize with community members plays a critical role in resolving conflicts, guiding them toward mutual understanding and peaceful resolutions. However, the experiences also highlight limitations in their mediation process, notably their reliance on basic communication strategies. While they are adept at promoting peace and unity, their methods, grounded in open communication and respect, often fail to capture the deeper complexities of the disputes. The basic nature of their interventions, though effective in resolving immediate

conflicts, may not fully address the long-term emotional and relational dynamics at play within the community. In other words, while their approach is feasible for managing conflicts and fostering respect, it lacks the depth and nuance required for more complex or ingrained issues that transcend surface-level communication.

Thus, the composite descriptions of the Lupong Tagapamahala's experiences show a push-and-pull framework, where their success in building community peace through empathy and open communication is tempered by the fundamental nature of these strategies. On the one hand, their personal experiences empower them to foster cooperation and unity, yet on the other hand, the limitations of their approach, while functional, do not always account for the deeper emotional layers or long-term sustainability of peace within the barangay. This dichotomy suggests that while the Lupong Tagapamahala plays an essential role in peacekeeping, their effectiveness is often contingent on the specific nature of the conflict and the complexity of the community relationships involved.

## 6. Discussion

### 6.1 On How the Participants Describe Their Experiences in Resolving Disputes through Conciliation

During the data analysis, three primary themes emerged to address the research question: Communal Conflict Resolution, Challenges in Conciliation, and Enhancing the Lupong Tagapamahala System. Within the theme of communal conflict resolution, three sub-themes were identified based on participants' lived experiences and perceptions: cultural sensitivity, communication strategies, and community-based solutions. These sub-themes highlight how the participants navigate conflicts by understanding cultural nuances, employing effective communication techniques, and leveraging community resources to find resolutions (Martinez Jr et al., 2023).

In analyzing the data related to the challenges in conciliation theme, the researcher identified three sub-themes: strong emotions and differing opinions, non-compliance with agreements, and complex cases. These sub-themes reflect the difficulties encountered during the conciliation process and underscore the areas that impact the effectiveness of dispute resolution. Participants reported that intense emotions and conflicting viewpoints often complicate the process, while non-compliance with agreements and the complexity of certain cases further challenge their efforts to mediate disputes successfully (Mallillin et al., 2024).

The participants' lived experiences with conflict resolution demonstrated a high level of motivation, driven by both internal and external factors. This motivation was a crucial force in their efforts to improve the resolution process. Additionally, the theme of Enhancing the Lupong Tagapamahala System emerged from analyzing participants' experiences with improving their conflict resolution methods. Four sub-themes were identified within this theme: training and capacity building, communication and outreach, collaborative efforts, and strengthening the Lupong Tagapamahala authority.

These sub-themes illustrate the participants' dedication to continuous improvement and their strategies for enhancing the effectiveness of their conflict resolution practices. Overall, these findings provide a comprehensive view of the participants' experiences and perceptions, revealing valuable insights into how conflict resolution can be improved and the challenges that need to be addressed. The themes and sub-themes not only highlight the complexities and motivations behind conflict resolution but also suggest practical ways to strengthen the Lupong Tagapamahala System for more effective mediation and community harmony (Mallillin et al., 2024).

## **6.2 On How the Participants' Living Experiences Contribute to Shaping Their Roles as Dispute Conciliators**

In the data analysis, the primary theme that emerged was "Shaping Conciliators through Experience," reflecting how participants' lived experiences have significantly influenced and developed their roles as effective conciliators. Within this overarching theme, three sub-themes were identified: enhanced conflict resolution skills, developed qualities for conciliation, and lifelong learning and adaptation (Mallillin, 2025, pp. 1704-1777).

The first sub-theme, enhanced conflict resolution skills, highlights how participants have honed their abilities to manage and resolve conflicts effectively. Through their experiences, they have acquired practical strategies and techniques, such as active listening, mediation methods, and navigating complex interpersonal dynamics, which have improved their competence in handling disputes (Mallillin & Mallillin, 2019).

The second sub-theme, developed qualities for conciliation, focuses on the personal attributes cultivated through their experiences. Participants emphasized the importance of patience, empathy, impartiality, and cultural sensitivity, noting that these traits are essential for successful conciliation and are developed through continuous engagement with diverse conflict scenarios.

The third sub-theme, lifelong learning and adaptation, underscores the necessity of ongoing learning and the ability to adapt to new challenges. Participants highlighted that their roles as conciliators require a commitment to personal and professional growth. This includes staying updated with new conflict resolution techniques, legal frameworks, and community dynamics (Mallillin & Rapsing, 2025).

Together, these themes and sub-themes provide a comprehensive understanding of how the participants' experiences shape their effectiveness as conciliators, illustrating the continuous process of learning and adaptation essential for successful conflict resolution and community harmony.

## **6.3 How Do the Participants' Lived Experiences Intricately Influence the Peace and Order Situation in the Community**

Throughout the data analysis, the overarching theme of Experience-Forged Peacemakers emerged, illustrating how participants' experiences have shaped their roles as effective conciliators. Within this primary theme, five sub-themes were identified: broadening perspectives and cultivating empathy, personal growth for conflict resolution, building

trust and promoting community cohesion, upholding the law and fostering positive behavior, and proactive prevention for lasting peace (Mallillin, 2025, pp. 1765-1785).

The first sub-theme, broadening perspectives and cultivating empathy, highlights how participants' exposure to diverse viewpoints and personal struggles within the community has equipped them with a broader understanding of conflict and fostered empathy. This empathy is a crucial skill for mediation, as it enables conciliators to see beyond immediate disputes and understand the underlying human stories fueling conflicts.

The second sub-theme, personal growth for conflict resolution, focuses on how overcoming personal challenges has allowed participants to develop valuable tools for facilitating forgiveness, reconciliation, and positive transformation in conflict resolution. By confronting their own struggles, participants gain insights that help them foster similar growth and resolution within their communities.

The third sub-theme, building trust and promoting community cohesion, explores how demonstrating integrity, ethical conduct, and respect for community members builds trust and fosters a sense of shared responsibility for maintaining peace. Participants emphasized the importance of setting a positive example and creating a safe space for, ensuring that all voices are heard and that common ground can be found.

The fourth sub-theme, upholding the law and fostering positive behavior, highlights the dual role of participants as both mediators and guardians of the law. Their understanding of legal principles and commitment to enforcing community regulations deter crime and promote responsible behavior, creating a stable environment where residents feel safe and secure.

The fifth sub-theme, proactive prevention for lasting peace, underscores the proactive approach of some participants in identifying potential conflicts, particularly involving minors and families, to prevent escalation. By addressing issues early, they contribute to the community's overall sense of peace and harmony, preventing disruptions to the social fabric.

Collectively, these themes and sub-themes provide a comprehensive view of how the experiences of the participants shape their effectiveness as conciliators. They illustrate the continuous process of learning, personal growth, and adaptation essential for successful conflict resolution and the promotion of community harmony. The findings reveal valuable insights into the complexities and motivations behind conflict resolution and suggest practical ways to enhance the effectiveness of the Lupong Tagapamayapa System (Mallillin & Paraiso, 2022).

## **7. Conclusions**

The study shows that Lupong Tagapamahala members' experiences in resolving disputes through conciliation highlight their strong commitment to community-based conflict resolution marked by cultural sensitivity, effective communication, and shared responsibility. However, they also face significant challenges such as managing strong

emotions, ensuring compliance with agreements, and handling complex cases. To enhance the effectiveness of the Lupong Tagapamahala system, the members recommend strategies such as strengthening training and capacity building, improving communication and outreach, fostering collaborative efforts, and enhancing Lupong authority. Implementing these recommendations will support the system's role as a cornerstone for peaceful conflict resolution in Filipino communities, while ongoing research and evaluation will be essential to address emerging challenges and opportunities.

The study shows that the lived experiences of Lupong Tagapamayapa members are crucial in shaping their effectiveness as dispute conciliators. These personal journeys significantly enhance their roles beyond mere technical skills by fostering essential qualities such as patience, empathy, and an intricate understanding of community dynamics. Their experiences enable them to adeptly navigate complex conflicts, recognizing underlying patterns, appreciating diverse perspectives, and adapting to changing circumstances. This rich interplay of personal insights, formal training, and continuous learning creates a robust foundation that empowers them to mediate disputes with skill and compassion. Thus, their roles as conciliators are profoundly informed by their lived experiences, equipping them to serve as effective mediators and catalysts for peace within their communities.

The study shows that the lived experiences of Lupong Tagapamayapa members intricately influence the peace and order situation in their communities by deeply informing their approach to peacemaking. Their diverse backgrounds foster a profound understanding of local dynamics, which enhances their empathy and resilience. This rich personal insight equips them to effectively uphold the law, encourage positive behavior, and build strong community relationships. As a result, their adaptability, continuous learning, and personal strengths are pivotal in resolving conflicts and fostering harmony, ultimately contributing to a safer and more orderly community environment.

The study shows that in the various barangays of Marikina City, the Lupong Tagapamahala primarily employs conciliation as their method of conflict resolution. Unlike mediation and arbitration, which are less frequently utilized, conciliation is the preferred approach for addressing disputes. Mediation is typically handled by the Barangay Captain, and in their absence, it falls to the First Barangay Council. Similarly, arbitration is rarely implemented as most conflicts are resolved at the level of the Lupong Tagapamahala. This preference for conciliation underscores the Lupong Tagapamahala's focus on direct, community-based resolution methods, which effectively address and resolve issues within their jurisdiction.

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### **Conflict of Interest Statement**

The authors declare no conflict of interest in this research.

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