TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRUST TOWARDS THE POLICE AS PERCEIVED BY RESIDENTS OF SELECTED BARANGAY IN DAVAO CITY, PHILIPPINES

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Abstract:

This study examines the perceptions of transparency, accountability, and trust among residents of Davao City towards the local police force. Using a quantitative technique, the researchers surveyed residents of selected barangay in Davao City. The findings reveal a high level of perceived transparency, with residents indicating a strong belief in the openness of police operations and interactions. Similarly, the study indicates a very high level of perceived accountability among residents, reflecting confidence in the police force's responsibility for their actions and conduct. Moreover, residents exhibit a robust trust in the police force, attributed to effective community policing initiatives and visible efforts by law enforcement to engage positively with the community. Overall, residents hold a positive perception of the police force, emphasizing the importance of maintaining transparency, accountability, and trust to foster cooperation and ensure public safety. The demographic profiles of the respondents do not show a significant difference in their perceived trust. Statistical analyses further highlight the significant relationships between transparency, accountability, and trust, with transparency and accountability emerging as strong predictors of trust. These findings underscore the crucial role of transparency and accountability in shaping perceptions of law enforcement agencies among community members.

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1. Introduction

In communities worldwide, inequitable policing practices have significantly diminished public trust and raised questions about the legitimacy of local law enforcement agencies (Smith, 2020; Jones & Brown, 2021). Consequently, there is a growing effort among these agencies to rebuild these relationships. Broad reform initiatives are playing a crucial role in enhancing transparency within law enforcement and establishing accountable police policies (Doe, 2019; Public Safety Institute, 2023). Simultaneously, agencies are increasingly involving the community in their operations, seeking input to shape policing priorities and enforcement strategies (Johnson *et al.*, 2022). This collaborative approach not only fosters mutual understanding but also strengthens community confidence in law enforcement practices (Adams, 2020; Lee & White, 2021).

Currently, Nigeria is grappling with an increasing crime problem that poses a significant threat to its sovereignty, security, and development. Although the police are constitutionally empowered to ensure general security, public safety, and peace, the quality of security they provide is far from satisfactory. In many instances, their actions undermine the law, endanger citizens, and tarnish the reputation of the police institution they represent (Innes, 2021; Miachi, 2022).

Unequal enforcement methods have damaged public confidence and called into question the authority of local law enforcement in communities across the world. To strengthen their bonds with the communities they serve, many look for novel approaches according to Aristovnik (2020). The connection between the community and the police is founded on a systematic interaction between law enforcement and all citizens. Police duties extend beyond just enforcing laws; they also involve addressing a wide variety of community issues. The shift from traditional policing to community policing is a worldwide trend, and the Nigerian police are part of this movement. In fact, the community-police relationship, both as a philosophy and a practice, is a crucial means for implementing police reforms (Dirikx & Bulck, 2020). However, one of the most significant effects on the public may be a greater understanding of how police—from the department to the individual officer level—operate.

A useful way to conceptualize the relationship between the police and the community is as a kind of social contract whereby community members consent to give up some rights in return for protection. Because agencies have a great deal of discretionary power and depend heavily on public confidence, this contract may be seen as a delicate dance. In the end, police transparency is necessary to win over communities' trust (Lusczynski, 2022). According to a recent survey, misperceptions about how police work has been made worse by 42 percent of Americans who believe that law enforcement's lack of transparency has damaged their opinion of the department.

Community members will be curious as to why something was done in a particular way if it didn't appear right, seemed odd, or maybe seemed aggressive or violent. And if it was carried out correctly in accordance with the instruction, the law, and the rules that an organization ought to establish for itself—policies that uphold human dignity and compassion, among other things—it should be easy to explain what happened. If that is the case, accountability must be maintained (Murad, 2022).

Delaney (2020) said the public could find and connect with the neighborhood community policing officer, provide feedback on an encounter with an officer or police employee, and, with Hub Premium, find and sign up for community policing events—all of which are made possible by the Police Transparency solution, which aids law enforcement agencies in better engaging their communities. Law enforcement agencies can use the Police Transparency solution to provide a range of capabilities that aid in open communication with the public, publicize your organization's activities, show accountability when using force, show that the workforce you hire reflects the diversity of the community, and involve the public in helping to solve issues and improve policing services.

Donald (2021) explains that community-oriented policing involves collaboration between the community and the police to create a safe and secure environment for everyone. This approach to policing encourages active participation from citizens in managing their own affairs. Through a strong community-police relationship, the police are viewed not as outsiders or sources of danger but as partners in development. Donald also emphasized that scholars have extensively discussed the strained relationship between the police and the public. Law enforcement organizations that wish to strengthen ties with the communities they serve, foster more public confidence, and promote transparency generally adopt police transparency. According to Mentel (2020), openness is crucial for good police-community relations. In the event of a serious incident, authorities should work to provide the public with as much information as they can as soon as possible to avoid giving the impression that information is being withheld from them on purpose. Numerous potential reasons for issues in the police-public interaction are overlooked when police personnel's faith in the public is not evaluated. Effectiveness is not only an essential element of legitimacy and trust in the police but also a product of them. If citizens do not trust the police, they will be less willing to cooperate, which may affect the effectiveness of its service (Fedina *et al.*, 2020).

Public trust in institutions like the police is based on individuals' perceptions, evaluations, and expectations of their actions, behavior, and performance. As people acquire direct and indirect information and experiences with policing, their views on police trustworthiness, and consequently their willingness to trust (or be vulnerable to) the police, evolve. Both personal and second-hand experiences play a crucial role in this process. Notably, negative experiences tend to have a more significant impact than positive ones (for a summary, see Oliveira *et al.*, 2021).

The term "*public trust in the police*" denotes the public's confidence in police officers to perform their duties professionally and ethically (Hardin, 2022, p. 31). It also

encompasses the belief that the police have the public's best interests at heart and can act appropriately in various situations (Hardin, 2022). Trustworthiness is crucial for police agencies because citizens typically have limited knowledge of police procedures and lack the expertise to assess police performance (Jackson *et al.*, 2021). A policing strategy centered on citizens, such as community policing, depends on consistent information sharing with the public to meet its objectives. This approach emphasizes fostering close relationships between the police and local communities (Casey, 2022). Community policing, which promotes an engagement-based strategy, can boost public confidence, while information sharing, in turn, enhances community policing (Reisig, 2023). Concerning procedural justice, it is essential to recognize the connection between the quality of interactions between police officers and the public and the effect this can have on public confidence. This is especially crucial for promoting information sharing between the police and the community (Bottoms and Tankebe, 2020).

One approach recommended by the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing is for law enforcement agencies to foster a culture of transparency and accountability to enhance public trust and legitimacy (President's Task Force, 2021, p. 1). The President's Task Force emphasized that fostering a culture of transparency and accountability is crucial for building public trust and legitimacy. Transparency enables public oversight and promotes integrity and competence, while accountability involves admitting to misconduct and abuses of power. Despite Fleming and McLaughlin's (2021) concerns that intrusive accountability measures might be used instead of addressing the root causes of the trust crisis, public oversight and accountability are particularly vital in safeguarding minority concerns about inappropriate police behavior.

Organizational Transparency Theory suggests that organizations, including police departments, can build trust with their stakeholders by being open, honest, and transparent in their operations and communications. Perceived transparency can be seen as a mechanism through which accountability practices are communicated to the community, thereby affecting trust. It was suggested by the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing (2021) that police chiefs' endeavor to "*establish a culture of transparency and accountability in order to build public trust and accountability*".

The study's conceptual framework shown in Figure 1, focuses on transparency and accountability as independent variables, with trust as the dependent variable. And Moderator variable of age, sex, and years living in Davao City. By examining these relationships, the study aims to understand how accountability and transparency influence trust in police organizations, informing strategies to enhance public confidence and community cooperation.
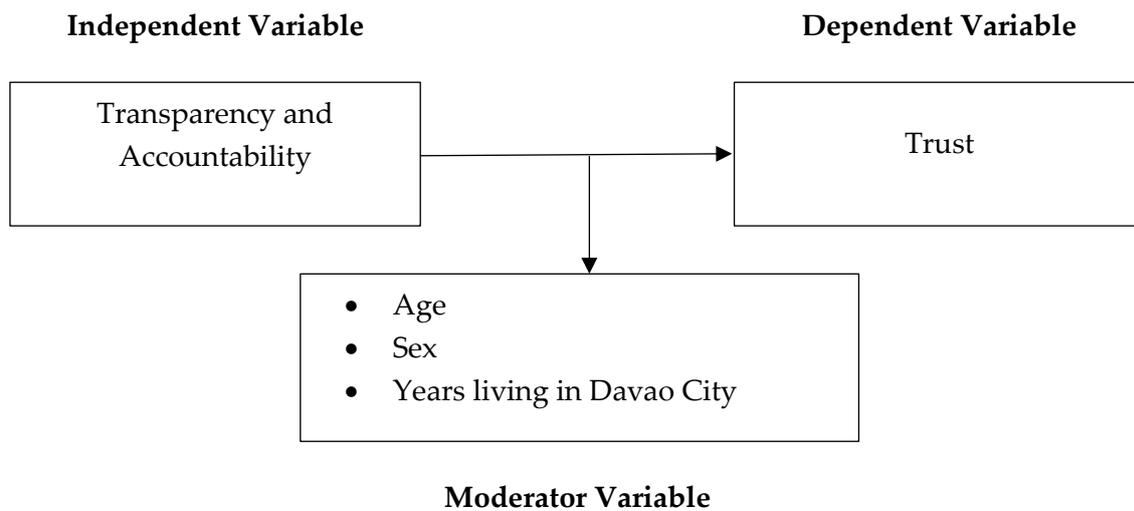
Independent Variable   **Dependent Variable**

Moderator Variable

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework Illustrating the Study's Variables

The primary goal of this research is to conduct a quantitative analysis examining how accountability and transparency influence trust as perceived by the residents of Davao. Specifically, the study aims to assess the levels of accountability, transparency, and trust among Davaoeños. The researchers are particularly interested in investigating whether demographic profiles significantly affect perceived trust. This study seeks to establish the relationships between accountability, transparency, and trust among Davaoeños. Furthermore, it aims to determine the significant influence of accountability and transparency towards trust within this population.

The study aims to promote openness of Police transparency, uphold the rule of law, protect individual rights, strengthen community-police relations, and contribute to the overall well-being of society. The importance of this study lies in its exploration of critical aspects of law enforcement and community relations. By examining the perceptions of Davaoeños regarding transparency, accountability, and trust in the police force, the study provides valuable insights into the dynamics of police-community interactions in the city. Understanding these perceptions is essential for law enforcement agencies to enhance their effectiveness, legitimacy, and trustworthiness in the eyes of the public. Furthermore, the findings of the study can inform policymaking and strategic initiatives aimed at improving police transparency, accountability, and trust-building efforts. Ultimately, by addressing the concerns and expectations of the community, law enforcement agencies can foster stronger partnerships, enhance public safety, and promote social cohesion in Davao City.

2. Methods

2.1 Design and Procedure
The study utilized a quantitative, non-experimental research design characterized by its emphasis on numerical data, logical analysis, and an objective viewpoint. Quantitative

research systematically investigates phenomena by collecting measurable data and applying statistical, mathematical, or computational techniques. It involved the use of sampling methods and the distribution of online surveys, polls, and questionnaires to gather information from current and potential clients (Fleetwood, 2023). The chosen research design for this study was correlational research, a type of non-experimental research that entailed measuring two variables (either binary or continuous) and analyzing the statistical relationship between them, with minimal or no attempt to control for extraneous factors (Jhangiani *et al.*, 2019).

The research strictly adhered to ethical standards, and participation was entirely voluntary. All individuals involved in the research and the respondents had the option to receive the research survey questionnaire and could choose not to respond or take part. Personal information, such as names, ages, and programs, was kept confidential. Each participant was provided with both verbal and written consent forms, which outlined the research's goals and the potential risks and benefits of participation.

2.2 Research Participants

The respondents of our research were the members of a community. It included everyone who lived, worked, and played in the communities (Peterson, 2022). The research aimed to focus on the local community members. Respondents were chosen through a straightforward random sampling method, ensuring that everyone living in the community had an equal opportunity to be selected. The process commenced with the submission of a letter of intent to the dean of the college department. A total of 200 participants were chosen at random to complete the research questionnaires.

Simple random sampling was a strategy that used an unbiased selection process to give each population member an equal opportunity to be chosen. Each person in the sample was assigned a number, and the sample was then picked at random (Simkus, 2022).

2.3 Research Instruments

In this study, the researchers utilized a survey questionnaire adapted from the study of Dennis P. Rosenbaum, Amie M. Schuck, Lisa M. Graziano, and Cody D. Stephen (2008), to examine the transparency, accountability, and trust of the police as perceived by Davaoeños. The researchers gave survey questionnaires to Davaoeños to collect data. The researchers used a rubric to assist in gathering data, depending on the study data. The Likert scale was an assessment technique utilized in questionnaires to determine respondents' attitudes, opinions, or feelings. The response categories were frequently coded numerically, so the numerical values had to be set for the research, such as 1 = strongly agree, 2 = agree, etc. The research variable's correlation with factors was evaluated using Cronbach's alpha measurement, while construct validity was employed to validate the research. Reliability was assessed by examining internal consistency. The researchers employed both descriptive and inferential statistics to analyze the results,

focusing on mean and standard deviation as measures to assess Davaoeños' perceptions of police transparency, accountability, and trust.

3. Results and Discussion

This section presents the findings and discusses the implications derived from analyzing and interpreting the data collected, following a random sampling and descriptive research design. The study examined several key aspects: the level of accountability, transparency, and trust among Davaoeños towards the police force, along with exploring the significant relationship between accountability and trust and investigating whether perceived transparency mediates the relationship between accountability and trust among Davaoeños.

3.1 Demographic Profile of the Respondents

In these tables, the sex, age, and duration of residence in Davao City of the 300 survey respondents are presented. The demographic characteristics are analyzed to provide a comprehensive overview of the sample population.

Table 1: Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Profile	f	%
Age		
No Response	1	0.33
18 years and below	11	3.67
19-21 years old	53	17.67
22-24 years old	64	21.33
25-27 years old	35	11.67
28-30 years old	136	45.33
Total	**300**	**100.00**
Sex		
Male	161	53.67
Female	139	46.33
Total	**300**	**100.00**
Years lived in Davao City		
1-2 years	13	4.33
3-4 years	34	11.33
5-6 years	55	18.33
7-8 years	43	14.33
9-10 years and above	155	51.67
Total	**300**	**100.00**

Through rigorous examination, the research provides valuable insights into what makes policing effective and fosters good relationships between citizens and police in Davao City. Moreover, by looking into how people perceive transparency within the police force, the study offers important information that can help shape policies and improve

the relationship between police and the community. Ultimately, this can lead to a safer and more trusting environment for everyone who lives in Davao City.

The majority of respondents fall within the 28-30 years old age group, comprising 45.33% of the total sample. This is a significant portion compared to other age groups, indicating that the sample population is relatively young, with a substantial concentration in the late twenties. The next largest groups are those aged 22-24 years (21.33%) and 19-21 years (17.67%). The smallest representation is from those aged 18 years and below, at only 3.67%. This distribution suggests a focus on young adults, particularly those in their late twenties.

Male respondents constitute a marginally larger portion of the sample (53.67%) compared to female respondents (46.33%). The near parity in gender distribution ensures a balanced representation of perspectives from both sexes, although there is a marginally higher participation rate from males. More than half of the respondents (51.67%) have lived in Davao City for 9-10 years or more. This indicates a significant proportion of the sample has long-term experience and familiarity with the city, which can provide deeper insights and more informed responses regarding the context of living in Davao City. The least represented group is those who have lived in the city for 1-2 years (4.33%), suggesting that recent movers are a small fraction of the sample. The other groups (3-4 years, 5-6 years, and 7-8 years) are more evenly distributed, collectively accounting for 44% of the respondents.

The demographic profile indicates a sample with a strong representation of young adults, a slight male majority, and a significant portion with long-term residency in Davao City. This demographic mix is likely to provide insights that are particularly relevant to the experiences and perspectives of young adults and long-term residents. The slight male predominance should be considered when interpreting findings, as it may influence perspectives on gender-related issues. Overall, the demographic diversity in terms of age and years lived in the city will contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the respondents' views and experiences.

3.2 The Level of Transparency of Police as Perceived by Davaoeños

Table 2 shows the level of transparency as perceived by Davaoeños, with an overall mean of 4.28 (SD = 0.77), which indicates that the transparency of Davaoeños towards police is highly manifested. The results from Table 2 indicate that residents of Davao City perceive the police force as highly transparent in various aspects of their conduct. With an overall mean score of 4.28 (SD = 0.77), there is a strong consensus among respondents regarding the transparency of the police. This perception extends to the operations and interactions of the police with the community, as indicated by consistently high mean scores across all variables.

Table 2: Level of Perceived Transparency

Variable	Mean	SD	Interpretation
1. The police in Davao City effectively communicate their actions and decisions to the public.	4.18	0.99	High
2. The police in Davao City are open and honest about their activities and operations.	4.23	0.91	Very High
3. The police in Davao City are transparent about their policies and procedures.	4.25	0.93	Very High
4. The police in Davao City provide accurate and timely information to the public.	4.26	0.92	Very High
5. The police in Davao City are transparent about their budget allocation and resource management.	4.18	0.98	High
6. The perceived transparency of the police in Davao City in their operations and decision-making process is being assessed.	4.28	0.89	Very High
7. I know how transparent the police in Davao City are in handling complaints and investigations.	4.25	0.93	Very High
8. The police in Davao City maintain transparency and accountability to prevent or measure corruption and misconduct.	4.22	0.99	Very High
9. The recruitment and selection process of new police officers in Davao City is perceived to be transparent.	4.19	1.01	High
Overall	**4.04**	**0.77**	**High**

Several factors contribute to this perceived transparency. Proactive communication strategies, community engagement initiatives, and the implementation of citywide security policies all play a role. These efforts are part of broader Police Transparency solutions aimed at fostering open communication, publicizing police activities, ensuring accountability in the use of force, promoting workforce diversity, and actively involving the community in policing matters (Delaney, 2020).

The findings underscore the importance of maintaining and enhancing transparency between law enforcement agencies and the public. By doing so, trust and cooperation can be fostered, contributing to a safer and more cohesive community. As such, prioritizing efforts to sustain and improve police-community transparency should be a key focus for law enforcement agencies in Davao City.

3.3 The Level of Accountability of Police as Perceived by Davaoeños

Table 3 shows the level of accountability as perceived by Davaoeños. Overall, the findings signified a promising aspect of a very high level of accountability manifested by the respondents, with a mean rating of 4.26 (SD = 0.7). This indicates a promising aspect of a very high level of perceived accountability among Davaoeños towards the police force.

Table 3: Level of Perceived Accountability

Variable	Mean	SD	Interpretation
1. The police in Davao City take responsibility for their actions and decisions.	4.16	1.01	High
2. The police in Davao City hold themselves accountable for any mistakes or wrongdoing.	4.21	0.98	Very High
3. The police in Davao City respond to community feedback and concerns.	4.22	0.92	Very High
4. The police in Davao City handle complaints and reports from the public.	4.26	0.90	Very High
5. The police in Davao City are accountable to the community they serve.	4.24	0.90	Very High
6. The police in Davao City are accountable for ensuring the safety and security of all individuals, regardless of their background or social status.	4.28	0.91	Very High
7. The police in Davao City are accountable for addressing instances of excessive use of force or abuse of power.	4.31	0.93	Very High
8. The police in Davao City are accountable for addressing instances of misconduct or corruption within their ranks.	4.34	0.90	Very High
9. The police in Davao City are accountable for their actions and behaviors.	4.28	1.01	Very High
Overall	**4.26**	**0.78**	**Very High**

These results suggest that residents of Davao City generally perceive the police force as highly accountable for their actions and conduct. The consistently high mean scores across all variables reflect a strong belief among respondents in the accountability of the police force. Building upon these findings, it become evident that fostering transparency within the police force could further strengthen this perceived accountability and, consequently, bolster trust among the community. By enhancing transparency measures, such as open communication, disclosing information about police activities, and promoting accountability in decision processes, authorities can cultivate a greater sense of trust and cooperation between police and the public.

The high level of perceived accountability could be attributed to several factors, including stringent internal oversight mechanisms within the police department, transparent disciplinary procedures, and effective mechanisms for addressing complaints and grievances from the community. The results showed a very high level of perceived accountability among Davaoeños regarding the police force, indicating that strengthening police-community trust through transparent and accountable practices is essential for promoting public safety and cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the community.

3.4 The Level of Trust towards the Police as Perceived by Davaoeños

Table 4 shows the level of trust as perceived by Davaoeños. Overall, the findings signified a promising aspect of a very high level of trust manifested by the respondents, with a mean rating of 4.32 (SD = 0.72).

Table 4: Level of Perceived Trust towards the Police as Perceived by Davaoeños

Variable	Mean	SD	Interpretation
1. I trust that the police in Davao City will act in the best interest of the community.	4.31	0.89	Very High
2. I trust that the police in Davao City will treat all individuals fairly and without bias.	4.32	0.81	Very High
3. I trust that the police in Davao City will protect the rights and safety of all individuals.	4.25	0.89	Very High
4. I trust that the police in Davao City will build positive relationships with the community.	4.33	0.87	Very High
5. I trust that the police in Davao City will maintain law and order in the community.	4.34	0.91	Very High
6. The police in Davao City to uphold the law and protect the community to a high extent.	4.36	0.85	Very High
7. The trustworthiness of the police in Davao City in terms of respecting individual rights and treating all individuals fairly and equally.	4.35	0.85	Very High
8. Efforts made by the police in Davao City to build trust and positive relationships with the community are highly satisfactory.	4.32	0.92	Very High
9. The police in Davao City are highly trustworthy in maintaining confidentiality and protecting the privacy of individuals during investigations or interactions.	4.31	0.90	Very High
Overall	**4.32**	**0.72**	**Very High**

The findings indicate a promising aspect of a very high level of trust perceived by Davaoeños towards the police force, with an overall mean score of 4.32 (SD = 0.72). These results suggest that residents of Davao City generally hold a strong trust in the police force. The consistently high mean scores across all variables indicate a robust belief among respondents in the trustworthiness of the police. The high level of perceived trust is attributed to various factors, including effective community policing initiatives, the visible presence of law enforcement in neighborhoods, and proactive efforts by the police to engage with the community in a positive and respectful manner.

The findings suggest a very high level of perceived trust among Davaoeños towards the police force, indicating that strengthening trust between law enforcement agencies and the community is crucial for fostering cooperation, promoting public safety, and ensuring effective policing strategies.

3.5 The Level Overall Perception of Davaoeños towards Police

Table 5 shows the overall perception of Davaoeños towards the Police. Overall, the findings signified a promising aspect of a very high level of trust manifested by the respondents, with a mean rating of 4.41 (SD = 0.73). The overall findings indicate a promising aspect of a very high level of overall perception towards the police among Davaoeños. These results suggest that residents of Davao City hold a strong and positive perception of the police force. The consistently high mean scores across all variables indicate a robust belief among respondents in various aspects of policing, including trust, accountability, and transparency.

Table 5: Level of Overall Perception of Trust among Davaoeños towards Police

Variable	Mean	SD	Descriptive Interpretation
1. Overall, I perceive the police in Davao City to be transparent.	4.42	0.86	Very High
2. Overall, I perceive the police in Davao City to be accountable.	4.38	0.86	Very High
3. Overall, I perceive the police in Davao City to be trustworthy.	4.42	0.83	Very High
4. Overall, the level of transparency demonstrated by the police in Davao City is satisfactory.	4.40	0.82	Very High
5. Overall, the police in Davao City will take appropriate action when they make mistakes or engage in misconduct.	4.35	0.89	Very High
6. The Davao City police work with other governmental agencies and groups to combat crime and maintain public safety in the community.	4.40	0.90	Very High
7. The police in Davao City addressed concerns and feedback from the community.	4.41	0.92	Very High
8. The police in Davao City communicate with the public regarding their activities and initiatives.	4.45	0.86	Very High
9. The police in Davao City are consistent in enforcing laws and regulations.	4.44	0.91	Very High
Overall	**4.41**	**0.73**	**Very High**

The extremely high level of overall perception could be attributed to several factors, including effective community policing strategies, visible efforts by the police to address public concerns, and proactive engagement with the community to build trust and cooperation. The findings suggest a very high level of overall perception among Davaoeños towards the police force, indicating that strengthening the relationship between law enforcement agencies and the community is essential for promoting public safety, trust, and cooperation.

3.6 Significant Relationship between Transparency, Accountability, and Trust

Table 6 presents the significant relationships between perceptions of transparency, accountability, and trust among respondents. The relation of the perception of transparency and trust shows a strong positive correlation between the perception of transparency and trust (r = 0.72). This indicates that as the perceived transparency of law enforcement agencies increases, so does the level of trust among the community. This finding suggests that transparency in police operations and interactions fosters trust within the community. There is a strong positive correlation between the perception of accountability and trust (r = 0.76). This implies that when individuals perceive law enforcement agencies as being more accountable for their actions, they tend to have higher levels of trust in them. This underscores the importance of accountability mechanisms in building and maintaining trust between the police and the community.

Table 6. Significant Relationship between Transparency, Accountability, and Trust

Independent Variable	Dependent Variable	
	Perception of Trust	Overall Perception of Trust
Perception of Transparency	0.72*	0.61*
Perception of Accountability	0.76*	0.67*

*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level.

When considering the overall perception of trust, both transparency and accountability show significant positive correlations (r = 0.61 and r = 0.67). This suggests that the combined effect of transparency and accountability contributes significantly to the overall level of trust in law enforcement agencies. These findings highlight the interconnectedness of transparency, accountability, and trust in shaping perceptions of law enforcement among community members (Lusczynski, 2022). President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing (2015) recommended that police leaders work to "*establish a culture of transparency and accountability in order to build public trust and accountability*". To embrace a culture of transparency, law enforcement agencies should make all department policies available for public review and regularly post information about stops, summonses, arrests, reported crimes, and other law enforcement data aggregated by demographics on the department's website.

3.7 Test of Significant Difference of Trust when Analyzed According to Age, Sex, and Length of Stay in Davao City

Shown in Table 7.A is the test of significant differences in trust when analyzed according to sex. The analysis of the perception of trust among different age groups reveals no significant differences. The mean scores for trust perception range from 4.19 to 4.27, with standard deviations between 0.09 and 0.25.

Table 7: Significant Difference of Trust when analyzed
according to age, sex, and length of stay in Davao City

A. Age

Trust	Age	Mean	SD	F-value	P-value
Perception of Trust	18 years-old	4.26	0.11	1.395	0.236
	19-21 years old	4.21	0.11		
	22-24 years old	4.22	0.09		
	25-27 years old	4.27	0.23		
	28-30 years old	4.19	0.25		
General Perception	18 years-old	4.75	0.33	1.29	0.274
	19-21 years old	4.45	0.61		
	22-24 years old	4.27	0.72		
	25-27 years old	4.39	0.78		
	28-30 years old	4.44	0.77		

B. Sex

Trust	Sex	Mean	SD	F-value	P-value
Perception of Trust	Female	4.21	0.23	0.278	0.788
	Male	4.21	0.15		
General Perception	Female	4.41	0.79	0.082	0.934
	Male	4.40	0.66		

C. Length of Stay

Trust	Length of Stay	Mean	SD	F-value	P-value
Perception of Trust	1-2 years	4.23	0.13	0.821	0.512
	3-4 years	4.23	0.09		
	5-6 years	4.21	0.11		
	7-8 years	4.25	0.19		
	9-10 years	4.19	0.24		
General Perception	1-2 years	4.51	0.47	1.068	0.373
	3-4 years	4.61	0.50		
	5-6 years	4.29	0.74		
	7-8 years	4.42	0.62		
	9-10 years	4.39	0.81		

Similarly, general perception scores vary from 4.27 to 4.75, with standard deviations from 0.33 to 0.78. The F-values for both trust perception and general perception are 1.395 and 1.29, respectively, with corresponding p-values of 0.236 and 0.274, indicating no statistically significant differences across age groups.

In Table 7.B, the researchers test whether there is a significant difference in trust when analyzed according to sex. When examining the perception of trust between sexes, both females and males have identical mean scores of 4.21, with standard deviations of 0.23 and 0.15, respectively. The general perception scores are also very close, with females scoring a mean of 4.41 and males 4.40 and standard deviations of 0.79 and 0.66, respectively. The F-values for trust perception and general perception are 0.278 and 0.082,

with p-values of 0.788 and 0.934, showing no statistically significant differences between sexes.

Table 7.C shows the test of significant difference of trust when analyzed according to length of stay. The perception of trust based on the length of stay in Davao City also shows no significant differences. Mean scores range from 4.19 to 4.25, with standard deviations between 0.09 and 0.24. General perception scores range from 4.29 to 4.61, with standard deviations from 0.47 to 0.81. The F-values for trust perception and general perception are 0.821 and 1.068, with p-values of 0.512 and 0.373, respectively, indicating no statistically significant differences based on the length of stay.

Overall, the data indicates a uniform perception of trust and general perception among respondents, regardless of their age, sex, or length of stay in Davao City. This consistency suggests that demographic factors such as age, gender, and duration of residence do not significantly influence trust and general perception within this sample population. This uniformity might reflect a stable and consistent environment that shapes these perceptions across diverse demographic groups.

3.8 Empirical Analysis of Trust as Predicted by Transparency and Accountability

Table 8 presents the results of the empirical analysis examining the impact of transparency and accountability on the prediction of trust. Both the perception of transparency and the perception of accountability emerge as significant predictors of trust because they play complementary roles in shaping public perceptions and attitudes towards law enforcement (p-value<0.05). This means that how individuals perceive transparency and accountability of the police force influences their level of trust in them. Transparency, referring to the openness and accessibility of information within police organizations, fosters trust by promoting clear communication and community engagement. Accountability, on the other hand, demonstrates that police agencies are held responsible for their actions, enhancing trust by showing responsiveness to community concerns. Both transparency and accountability play complementary roles in building and maintaining trust between law enforcement and the public, highlighting their importance in shaping perceptions of legitimacy and effectiveness. President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing (2015) advised that to embrace a culture of transparency, law enforcement agencies should make all department policies available for public review and regularly post on the department's website information about stops, summonses, arrests, reported crime, and other law enforcement data aggregated by demographics.

Table 8: Empirical Analysis of Trust as Predicted by Transparency and Accountability

	B	SE	*B*	p-value
(Constant)	0.956	0.152		0.00
Perception of Transparency	0.339	0.049	0.361	0.00
Perception of Accountability	0.455	0.048	0.491	0.00

R squared = 0.632
F-value = 254.95; p-value = 0.00

The regression coefficients (B) for transparency and accountability are 0.339 and 0.455, respectively. These coefficients indicate that for every one-unit increase in perceived transparency, trust is predicted to increase by 0.339 units, while for every one-unit increase in perceived accountability, trust is predicted to increase by 0.455 units. The regression coefficients for both transparency and accountability are statistically significant, with p-values less than 0.01. This indicates a strong level of confidence in the relationship between these variables and trust.

The results underscore the importance of both transparency and accountability in predicting levels of trust in law enforcement agencies. Individuals who perceive greater transparency and accountability within these agencies are more likely to trust them. These findings align with theoretical expectations and previous research suggesting that transparency and accountability are essential elements in building and maintaining trust in institutions (World Litigation Forum, 2023).

3.9 Empirical Analysis of Overall Perception of Trust as Predicted by Transparency and Accountability

Table 9 displays the results of the empirical analysis investigating how perceptions of transparency and accountability influence the general perception of trust. The table shows that the perception of transparency and perception of accountability emerge as significant predictors of the general perception of trust (p-value<0.05), highlighting their crucial role in shaping attitudes towards law enforcement. When people view the police force as transparent and accountable, they're more likely to trust them. Transparency fosters understanding and involvement, while accountability creates confidence that misconduct will be addressed (Beshi & Kaur, 2019).

The regression coefficients (B) indicate that for every one-unit increase in perceived transparency, the general perception of trust increases by 0.24 units, while for every one-unit increase in perceived accountability, the general perception of trust increases by 0.454 units. The regression coefficients for both transparency and accountability are statistically significant, with p-values less than 0.01, indicating a strong level of confidence in their relationships with the general perception of trust.

Table 9: Empirical Analysis of Overall Perception of
Trust as Predicted by Transparency and Accountability

	B	SE	*B*	P-value
(Constant)	1.46	0.181		0.00
Perception of Transparency	0.24	0.058	0.255	0.00
Perception of Accountability	0.454	0.057	0.486	0.00

R squared = 0.483
F-value = 138.70; p-value = 0.0

These results highlight the significant impact of both transparency and accountability on the general perception of trust in law enforcement agencies. Individuals who perceive greater transparency and accountability within these agencies are more likely to have a

positive general perception of trust towards them. Strengthening transparency and accountability mechanisms within these can not only enhance public confidence but also promote greater cooperation between communities and law enforcement, ultimately leading to a safer and more resilient society (Beshi & Kaur, 2019).

4. Conclusion and Recommendation

The study offers insights into how Davaoeños perceive the transparency, accountability, and trustworthiness of the police force. The findings reveal a positive perception among Davaoeños toward the police force regarding transparency, accountability, and trust. Residents generally view the police as highly transparent, accountable for their actions, and trustworthy, indicating a strong belief in the integrity and effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in Davao City.

Residents perceive the police force in Davao City as highly transparent, as evidenced by consistently high mean scores across various aspects of police conduct. Factors such as proactive communication strategies and community engagement initiatives contribute to this perception. The perceived level of accountability among Davaoeños toward the police force is very high, indicating a robust belief that the police are accountable for their actions and conduct. Residents also hold strong trust in the police force, reflecting a positive perception of trustworthiness across various aspects of policing. Effective community policing initiatives and visible efforts by the police to engage with the community contribute to this high level of perceived trust. Overall, the findings indicate a positive perception across these variables, reflecting a strong belief in the transparency, accountability, and trustworthiness of the police.

The researchers found that the demographic profile of the respondents does not show a significant difference in trust as perceived by the Davaoenos. The study also highlights the significant relationship between transparency, accountability, and trust, with transparency and accountability positively correlated with trust. These findings underscore the importance of transparency and accountability in building and maintaining trust between law enforcement agencies and the community. Empirical analyses also confirm the predictive power of transparency and accountability on trust, further emphasizing their importance in shaping the perceptions of law enforcement agencies.

The following findings establish a baseline for researchers to provide valuable recommendations.

Community members in Davao City can play a crucial role in fostering positive relations with law enforcement by actively engaging in police-community initiatives and supporting transparency efforts. By participating in community policing programs and neighborhood watch initiatives, residents can better understand law enforcement practices and challenges, thereby contributing to trust-building efforts. Law enforcement agencies, in turn, should prioritize accountability measures by implementing robust internal oversight mechanisms and transparent disciplinary procedures. Proactive

engagement with the community, coupled with transparent communication of police operations and policies, is essential for building public confidence and cooperation. Schools can also contribute by integrating civic education into their curricula, empowering students to become informed and active participants in their communities. By promoting dialogue between students and law enforcement officers and supporting youth-led initiatives, schools can help nurture positive relationships between young people and the police. Future researchers should consider interdisciplinary approaches to studying transparency, accountability, and trust in law enforcement, conducting longitudinal studies and comparative analyses to inform policy recommendations and best practices on a broader scale.

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