

Knowledge and Engagement on Procurement Laws and Processes among Barangay Officials in a Local Government Unit

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ABSTRACT: This study examined the knowledge and engagement of barangay officials in procurement laws and processes in the Municipality of Anilao, Iloilo, as basis for an enhanced capability development training program. It employed a quantitative-qualitative correlational research design involving barangay officials, members of the Barangay Procurement Committee, treasurers, secretaries, and Sangguniang Kabataan officials. Data were gathered through structured survey questionnaires and interview guides and analyzed using descriptive statistics, Spearman's rho, and thematic analysis. Findings revealed that respondents demonstrated a moderate level of knowledge and training on procurement laws and a moderate level of engagement in procurement activities. Engagement was stronger in planning, monitoring, and inspection tasks, while lower participation was observed in technical areas such as contract negotiation, documentation, and post-procurement activities. A moderate positive relationship was found between procurement knowledge and engagement, indicating that higher knowledge levels are associated with greater participation in procurement processes. Qualitative results supported these findings, showing uneven training exposure, reliance on key officials, and dependence on informal learning and external guidance. The study concludes that strengthening procurement knowledge can enhance engagement in procurement activities. It recommends targeted and continuous capacity-building programs, improved institutional support, and strengthened training initiatives to enhance compliance, transparency, and efficiency in barangay procurement systems.

KEYWORDS: Procurement law, barangay officials, engagement, local governance, Philippines

I. INTRODUCTION

The barangay, as the smallest political and administrative unit in the Philippines, serves as a frontline institution in delivering basic services and implementing government programs at the community level. Among its essential functions is procurement, which encompasses the acquisition of goods, infrastructure projects, and consulting services necessary for local development. Effective procurement practices are fundamental to ensuring that public resources are utilized efficiently, services are delivered promptly, and governance remains transparent and accountable. In the Philippines, procurement is governed by Republic Act No. 9184, also known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, which provides a standardized framework emphasizing transparency, competitiveness, accountability, and streamlined procedures across all levels of government (Government Procurement Policy Board [GPPB], 2019). Subsequent reforms and amendments further reinforce these principles to improve procurement systems and public sector performance.

Despite the presence of a comprehensive legal and institutional framework, procurement implementation at the barangay level continues to encounter significant challenges. These include limited technical expertise among procurement personnel, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and constrained financial and technological resources. Such constraints hinder compliance with procurement laws and increase the risks of inefficiencies, delays, and potential irregularities, ultimately affecting service delivery and community development outcomes (World Bank, 2020). In particular, access to and utilization of digital procurement platforms, such as the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), remain uneven across barangays due to infrastructure and capacity limitations, further complicating efforts to enhance transparency and efficiency (Asian Development Bank [ADB], 2018).

These issues are evident in the municipality of Anilao, Iloilo, where barangays demonstrate varying levels of procurement capability. While some barangays have adopted effective procurement practices, others face difficulties arising from inadequate training, limited resources, and insufficient access to digital tools. Previous studies highlight that effective procurement management contributes to cost efficiency, optimal resource allocation, and increased public trust in government institutions (Transparency International, 2022). Addressing these disparities requires strengthening both individual competencies and institutional capacities through targeted interventions, including continuous training, professional development, and collaboration with oversight bodies such as the Commission on Audit and local government units. Such efforts are essential in promoting accountability, transparency, and sustainable governance practices.

This study is grounded in established theoretical perspectives that explain the dynamics of procurement capability and governance. Good Governance Theory underscores the importance of transparency, accountability, and efficiency in public administration, principles that are embedded in procurement laws and practices (Transparency International, 2022). Institutional Theory further explains that organizations, including barangays, must align their structures and processes with established rules and norms, such as Republic Act No. 9184 and Republic Act No. 12009, to achieve legitimacy and ensure compliance (Scott, 2014). Complementing these perspectives, the Capacity Development Framework emphasizes the need to enhance both individual competencies and institutional systems to achieve sustainable development outcomes (United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], 2009). The Systems Theory of Governance also provides a holistic view by positioning procurement as a critical subsystem that influences overall governance performance, resource utilization, and public trust.

Building on these theoretical foundations, this study recognizes that the capabilities of barangay officials are shaped by their knowledge of procurement laws, and level of engagement in procurement activities. Knowledge of procurement laws, particularly Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, reflects the extent to which officials understand the legal and procedural requirements governing procurement. Meanwhile, engagement in procurement processes—covering planning, bidding, evaluation, and implementation—indicates the degree of their active participation and practical application of such knowledge. Existing literature suggests that adequate knowledge and active engagement are essential in promoting transparency, accountability, and efficiency in procurement systems (World Bank, 2020).

The current study examines the relationships among knowledge and engagement, and how these, in turn, affect procurement capability. It also investigates whether significant differences exist in the levels of knowledge and engagement among barangay officials and whether a significant relationship exists between these two key variables. Anchored on the null hypotheses that no significant relationships exist, the study provides a systematic assessment of procurement capabilities among barangay officials in Anilao, Iloilo.

The primary purpose of this study is to assess the knowledge and engagement of barangay officials in procurement laws and processes. The identified gaps, strengths, and areas for improvement, the study aims to generate evidence-based recommendations that will strengthen compliance with procurement laws, improve efficiency in procurement practices, and enhance overall governance at the barangay level.

The contribution of this study lies in its practical and policy-oriented implications for local governance. For policymakers and local government units, it provides empirical evidence to support targeted training programs and institutional reforms that enhance procurement efficiency and compliance (World Bank, 2020). For barangay officials and leaders, it highlights the importance of mentorship, standardized procedures, and continuous professional development in improving procurement performance (United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], 2019). It also underscores the role of youth participation, particularly among Sangguniang Kabataan officials, in promoting inclusive and transparent governance (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD], 2021). Furthermore, the study emphasizes the importance of administrative capacity and digital competency in ensuring effective procurement operations (Asian Development Bank, 2018), as well as the value of community participation and transparency mechanisms in strengthening public trust and accountability (Transparency International, 2022).

The study is confined to barangay officials involved in procurement activities in the municipality of Anilao, Iloilo, focusing on their demographic profile, knowledge of procurement laws, and level of engagement in procurement processes. It relies primarily on self-reported data collected through survey questionnaires and does not extend to evaluating actual procurement outcomes such as project performance or audit results. Additionally, the findings are context-specific and may not be generalized to other municipalities or levels of government. Nonetheless, the study provides a focused and meaningful analysis of procurement capability at the grassroots level, offering valuable insights for improving governance practices and service delivery in local communities.

II. METHODS

The study employed a mixed quantitative-qualitative and correlational research design to examine the level of knowledge, and level of engagement of barangay officials in procurement processes. The quantitative component was used to measure and describe respondents' level of knowledge and training on procurement laws, and their level of engagement in procurement activities. This allowed the researcher to generate measurable data that could be statistically analyzed. The correlational component was utilized to examine the relationship between respondents' knowledge of procurement laws and their level of engagement in procurement processes, thereby identifying whether a significant association exists between the two variables.

The study was conducted in the Municipality of Anilao, Iloilo, a fourth-class municipality composed of several barangays that function as primary units of local governance responsible for delivering basic services and implementing government programs. The locale was selected due to its representativeness of rural

municipalities in the Philippines, where barangays operate under similar administrative and resource conditions. It also provides a relevant setting for examining procurement practices, as barangays in the area exhibit varying levels of compliance, technical capacity, and access to procurement systems such as the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS). The accessibility of respondents and the researcher's familiarity with the area further facilitated efficient data collection and supported the reliability of the gathered information.

The respondents of the study were barangay officials and personnel directly involved in procurement activities within the 21 barangays of Anilao, Iloilo. These included Barangay Captains, members of the Barangay Procurement Committee (BPC), barangay treasurers, secretaries, and Sangguniang Kabataan officials, with a total population of 183 intended respondents. However, only 108 respondents who voluntarily accomplished the survey questionnaire, while 8 participated in in-depth interviews. These participants were selected due to their direct involvement in procurement planning, implementation, evaluation, and documentation, making them suitable sources of data regarding procurement knowledge and engagement.

Data were gathered using a structured survey questionnaire and an interview guide. The questionnaire consisted of two sections: level of knowledge and training on procurement laws such as Republic Act No. 9184 and Republic Act No. 12009, and level of engagement in procurement processes including planning, bidding, and monitoring. Responses were measured using a four-point scale. The interview guide contained open-ended questions designed to explore respondents' experiences, challenges, and perceptions of procurement practices. The integration of both instruments allowed for the collection of comprehensive quantitative and qualitative data (Creswell, 2018; Miles, Huberman, & Saldaña, 2019).

The data gathering procedure began with securing approval from the Municipal Mayor of Anilao, Iloilo, and coordination with barangay officials. The researcher personally administered the questionnaires and explained the purpose of the study while ensuring informed consent, confidentiality, and voluntary participation. Completed questionnaires were retrieved and followed by scheduled interviews with selected key informants. All interviews were audio-recorded with permission and transcribed verbatim. Ethical standards were strictly observed throughout the process, including confidentiality, anonymity, and secure handling of data.

For data analysis, quantitative data were encoded and analyzed using SPSS version 25. Descriptive statistics such as mean, and standard deviation were used to describe levels of knowledge and engagement (Creswell, 2018). To test correlation, the Spearman's rank-order correlation was used to determine the relationship between knowledge and engagement at a 0.05 level of significance. Qualitative data from interviews were analyzed using thematic analysis to identify recurring patterns and insights related to procurement practices, challenges, and experiences (Miles, Huberman, & Saldaña, 2019). Findings from both methods were integrated to provide a comprehensive interpretation of barangay procurement capabilities.

Ethical considerations were strictly observed throughout the study. Participation was voluntary, and informed consent was obtained from all respondents. Confidentiality and anonymity were ensured by using codes instead of names, and all data were securely stored and used solely for academic purposes. The researcher ensured that no harm, coercion, or deception occurred during data collection, and that all responses were reported honestly and accurately, upholding the integrity of the research process.

III. RESULTS

Level of Knowledge

The results of the study are presented based on the research objectives, focusing on the respondents' level of knowledge and training on procurement law, as well as the supporting qualitative findings. The data are organized using descriptive statistics, supported by thematic presentation of interview responses, to provide a clear and objective report of outcomes without interpretation.

The findings show that, as a whole, the respondents obtained an overall mean score of 2.87 (SD = 0.683), described as "Knowledgeable," indicating that barangay officials generally have an adequate level of knowledge and training on procurement law. Across the 20 indicators, all items were consistently rated within the "Knowledgeable" description, with mean scores ranging from 2.72 to 3.02. The highest-rated indicator was "I believe that procurement law is integral to ensuring transparency in government projects" (M = 3.02), followed by "I feel well-equipped to handle procurement-related legal issues" (M = 2.99), and "I am able to identify potential legal risks in procurement processes" (M = 2.98). On the other hand, the lowest-rated indicator was "I know how to handle procurement records in accordance with auditing and legal requirements" (M = 2.72), followed by "I can explain the key provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)" (M = 2.76), and "I can interpret and apply procurement guidelines issued by the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB)" (M = 2.76).

Table 1 presents the detailed distribution of respondents' level of knowledge and training on procurement law.

Table 7: Level of Engagement in Procurement Process

No	Statement	Mean	SD	Description
1	I understand the key principles and objectives of Republic Act 9184 (Government Procurement Reform Act).	2.84	0.909	Knowledgeable
2	I am familiar with the different modes of procurement allowed under the law.	2.87	0.855	Knowledgeable
3	I can explain the key provisions of RA 9184 and its IRR.	2.76	0.885	Knowledgeable
4	I can describe the standard process of competitive bidding.	2.84	0.898	Knowledgeable
5	I know the legal thresholds for procurement and alternative methods.	2.80	0.873	Knowledgeable
6	I can identify the roles of the BAC as mandated by law.	2.97	0.814	Knowledgeable
7	I am aware of the consequences of non-compliance.	2.89	0.777	Knowledgeable
8	I feel well-equipped to handle procurement-related legal issues.	2.99	0.803	Knowledgeable
9	My understanding of procurement law is sufficient for my role.	2.88	0.840	Knowledgeable
10	I actively seek to improve my knowledge of procurement law.	2.94	0.708	Knowledgeable
11	I believe procurement law ensures transparency in government projects.	3.02	0.749	Knowledgeable
12	I can identify potential legal risks in procurement processes.	2.98	0.761	Knowledgeable
13	I am confident in handling procurement disputes.	2.79	0.786	Knowledgeable
14	My colleagues and I share knowledge about procurement law.	2.80	0.794	Knowledgeable
15	My understanding contributes to procurement practices.	2.86	0.767	Knowledgeable
16	I understand rules on advertisement and posting of bids.	2.85	0.807	Knowledgeable
17	I can differentiate eligibility requirements and specifications.	2.94	0.895	Knowledgeable
18	I am aware of sanctions for procurement violations.	2.80	0.925	Knowledgeable
19	I know how to handle procurement records properly.	2.72	0.936	Knowledgeable
20	I can interpret GPPB procurement guidelines.	2.76	0.863	Knowledgeable
	Overall Level of Knowledge and Trainings	2.87	0.683	Knowledgeable

The qualitative findings further present variations in procurement knowledge among respondents. Several participants indicated that procurement responsibilities are concentrated among specific officials. Respondents 2 and 3 stated that “all our procurement was done by the Barangay Captain, Committee on Appropriation, Secretary and Treasurer... if we need something, we just request and they handle everything,” while respondent 5 stated, “I understand a little bit of procurement law but rather not explain it.” These responses reflect differences in the extent of familiarity with procurement concepts among barangay personnel.

In terms of training exposure, multiple respondents reported limited or outdated training experiences. Respondent 1 stated, “I haven’t attended any training or seminar ever since I assumed position... for more than 9 years,” while respondents 2 and 3 noted that only selected officials attended seminars “from the previous administration 5 years ago.” Respondents 7 and 8 similarly reported attending training approximately six years ago. Additional responses indicated a perceived need for updated training, as respondents 2 and 3 expressed awareness of the transition to updated procurement law provisions but reported insufficient preparation.

The data also show reliance on informal learning sources. Respondent 4 stated, “I am still learning the procurement process through multimedia platforms,” and further noted using online sources and consultations with other personnel for guidance. These responses correspond with the lower-rated indicator on handling procurement records (M = 2.72), which reflects technical documentation processes.

Regarding engagement-related observations, respondents reported varying levels of participation depending on assigned roles. Respondent 1 indicated active participation in planning and implementation but limited involvement in documentation, while respondent 4 reported full participation as treasurer. Respondents 6 and 8 indicated participation limited mainly to planning activities.

Several respondents also directly stated perceived gaps in capacity. Respondent 1 noted a lack of training opportunities, respondent 2 and 3 stated that “most of us don’t have the capacity even in understanding the law,” while respondent 4 emphasized the need for training to ensure transparency and accountability. Respondent 7 also highlighted the need for computer literacy support.

These findings are consistent with related studies indicating that procurement knowledge in local government units is often derived from experiential learning rather than structured training, resulting in uneven levels of competency among personnel (Dadzie et al., 2024; Laftouhi et al., 2023). Similar observations were reported in governance studies showing that deficiencies in formal training contribute to gaps in documentation, legal interpretation, and compliance despite self-reported knowledge levels (Batuna & Ordoñez, 2025; Pastorfide, 2026).

Level of Engagement

The results of the study are presented in relation to the respondents’ level of engagement in the procurement process, supported by both quantitative and qualitative data. The findings are reported objectively using descriptive statistics and thematic summaries in accordance with the research objectives.

The quantitative results show that, as a whole, the respondents obtained an overall mean score of 2.87 (SD = 0.776), described as “Often Engaged,” indicating that barangay officials frequently participate in procurement-related activities but not in a fully consistent or comprehensive manner across all stages. Table 2 presents the detailed distribution of responses across the 20 indicators of procurement engagement.

Table 2: Level of Engagement in Procurement Process

No.	Statement	M	SD	Description
1	I am actively involved in the planning stage of the procurement process in the Barangay.	3.10	0.808	Often Engaged
2	I participate in supplier selection and evaluation.	2.85	0.895	Often Engaged
3	I am involved in contract negotiations with suppliers.	2.68	1.040	Often Engaged
4	I take part in monitoring and evaluating supplier performance during contract execution.	2.80	0.935	Often Engaged
5	I assist in the development of procurement policies and procedures.	2.87	0.908	Often Engaged
6	I participate in the drafting and review of procurement documents.	2.86	0.942	Often Engaged
7	I frequently interact with suppliers during the procurement process.	2.74	1.045	Often Engaged
8	I am involved in post-purchase activities.	2.65	0.979	Often Engaged
9	I participate in the evaluation or inspection of goods and services.	3.12	0.862	Often Engaged
10	I have regular interactions with senior management regarding procurement decisions.	2.75	0.855	Often Engaged
11	I provide inputs in crafting the Annual Procurement Plan (APP).	2.83	0.952	Often Engaged
12	I collaborate with other departments to identify procurement needs.	2.81	0.822	Often Engaged
13	I am regularly consulted when there are procurement issues or concerns.	2.92	0.898	Often Engaged
14	I provide input during the procurement review and audit process.	2.81	0.939	Often Engaged
15	I contribute to ensuring that procurement is transparent and fair.	2.94	0.812	Often Engaged
16	I am involved in the preparation of procurement documents.	2.87	0.938	Often Engaged
17	I ensure procurement transactions follow proper processes and timelines.	2.87	0.887	Often Engaged
18	I take part in the conduct or supervision of public bidding in accordance with RA 9184.	2.86	0.901	Often Engaged
19	I attend procurement-related meetings and contribute to decision-making.	3.05	0.858	Often Engaged
20	I regularly attend training or capacity-building sessions related to procurement.	2.93	0.934	Often Engaged
	Engagement in Procurement Process (Overall)	2.87	0.776	Often Engaged

The results indicate that the highest mean scores were observed in “participation in the evaluation or inspection of goods and services” (M = 3.12), “active involvement in the planning stage” (M = 3.10), and “attendance in procurement-related meetings and decision-making” (M = 3.05). These indicators reflect stronger engagement in planning, monitoring, and participatory activities. In contrast, lower mean scores were recorded

in “post-purchase activities such as contract closure and supplier feedback” (M = 2.65), “contract negotiations with suppliers” (M = 2.68), and “interaction with suppliers during procurement” (M = 2.74), indicating comparatively lower participation in technical and external-facing procurement functions.

The qualitative findings support the quantitative results by identifying recurring patterns in respondents’ procurement involvement. Several respondents described participation that is limited to specific stages of the procurement process. One respondent stated, “in planning and processing I am active but when it comes to documents, I am not well versed,” while another noted that “we participated in the planning, but the process and documentation still performed by the same person.” These statements reflect uneven participation across procurement activities.

Other responses highlight centralized procurement roles within barangay offices. One respondent stated, “all our procurement was done by the Barangay Captain, Committee on Appropriation, Secretary and Treasurer,” indicating that procurement responsibilities are concentrated among specific officials. Another respondent added that they “rely on the Liga ng mga Barangay employees to guide us during the process since we lack proper training,” showing dependence on external assistance during procurement activities.

The findings also show that respondents are more actively engaged in operational tasks such as inspection and monitoring. Statements such as “I supervise the project personally to ensure that the program of works be followed” and “we were securing that the materials delivered was of quality and in exact quantity” indicate involvement in implementation and oversight functions. Engagement in ensuring transparency is also reflected in responses stating that respondents contribute to fairness and compliance in procurement processes.

In terms of training and capacity-related engagement, respondents reported limited participation in formal capacity-building activities. One respondent stated, “I haven’t attended any training or seminar ever since I assumed position,” while another shared, “I am still learning the procurement process through multimedia platforms.” Other respondents expressed the need for training, including statements such as “we need training to understand the Procurement Law” and “training in procurement law is what we need to ensure transparency and accountability.”

The results are consistent with related literature indicating that procurement engagement is influenced by knowledge and training levels, where limited capacity results in restricted participation in complex procurement tasks such as bidding and contract management (Mutangili, 2024). Similarly, findings in public procurement studies reported that officials with higher training exposure demonstrate broader engagement across procurement stages, while those with limited training participate primarily in assigned or basic functions (Journal of Public Procurement, 2025). Further, Donnelly and Lowe (2025) noted that engagement increases when officials have sufficient technical knowledge and institutional support, particularly in procurement planning and monitoring activities.

Corelation of Knowledge and Engagement

The results of the correlation analysis between Knowledge of Procurement Law (KPL) and Engagement in the Procurement Process (EPP) are presented using Spearman’s rank-order correlation coefficient. Table 3 shows the relationship between the two variables based on data gathered from 108 respondents.

Table 3: Spearman’s Rank-Order Correlation

Variable	1	2
1. Knowledge of Procurement Law (KPL)	—	.428**
2. Engagement in Procurement Process (EPP)	.428**	—

Note. N = 108. Spearman’s rho coefficients are reported.
 **p < .01 (2-tailed).

The results indicate a Spearman’s rho value of 0.428, showing a moderate positive correlation between knowledge of procurement law and engagement in the procurement process. The relationship is statistically significant at the 0.01 level (p = 0.000), based on 108 respondents.

Qualitative findings further present related responses from interviews. One respondent stated, “I follow the procurement procedures taught by the Employees in the Liga ng mga Barangay Office and seek guidance and approval during the process,” while another respondent stated, “I would like to undergo training in procurement to enhance and strengthen our capabilities as SK officials, equipping us for more effective public service in the future.” These responses reflect reported reliance on procedural knowledge and expressed interest in training related to procurement processes.

The qualitative data further show that respondents described participation in procurement activities in relation to their understanding of procedures and guidance received during implementation, as reflected in statements involving adherence to procurement processes and requests for training support (Mutangili, 2024).

IV. DISCUSSIONS

The findings of the study provide a comprehensive understanding of the knowledge, engagement, and relationship between procurement law awareness and participation in procurement processes among barangay officials in Anilao, Iloilo. The results show that respondents generally demonstrate a moderate level of knowledge and training on procurement law, which reflects a basic understanding of procurement principles and procedures under Republic Act No. 9184 and related policies. This finding indicates that while barangay officials possess foundational knowledge necessary for their roles, their understanding is not yet at a level that ensures full mastery of legal provisions, technical procedures, and compliance mechanisms required in public procurement.

The results further reveal that respondents exhibit a moderate level of engagement in procurement activities, indicating that they are actively involved in certain stages of the procurement process such as planning, meetings, and inspection activities. However, participation is less consistent in more technical and procedural tasks such as contract negotiation, documentation, and post-procurement activities. This pattern suggests that engagement is present but unevenly distributed across procurement functions, which is consistent with the organizational structure of barangay governance where responsibilities are often concentrated among designated officials.

A key finding of the study is the presence of a positive relationship between knowledge of procurement law and engagement in procurement processes. This result indicates that higher levels of understanding of procurement laws and procedures are associated with greater involvement in procurement activities. This suggests that knowledge serves as an enabling factor that supports active participation, particularly in planning, evaluation, and monitoring functions. The relationship highlights the importance of legal and procedural awareness in strengthening the capacity of barangay officials to engage meaningfully in procurement activities.

The findings of this study are consistent with previous research emphasizing the role of knowledge and training in enhancing procurement performance. Mutangili (2024) found that procurement participation is strongly influenced by individuals' understanding of procurement laws, where limited knowledge results in restricted engagement and reliance on a few trained personnel. Similarly, the Journal of Public Procurement (2025) reported that officials with higher training exposure demonstrate broader participation across procurement stages, while those with limited training tend to engage only in basic or assigned tasks. Donnelly and Lowe (2025) further emphasized that procurement engagement improves when officials possess both technical knowledge and institutional support, reinforcing the current finding that knowledge is directly associated with participation.

The qualitative findings support and expand these results by showing that procurement knowledge and engagement are often shaped by practical experience, role assignment, and informal learning. Respondents reported reliance on guidance from experienced personnel and external sources, as well as limited access to formal training opportunities. These conditions indicate that procurement knowledge is often acquired through experience rather than structured learning, which aligns with studies showing that local government officials frequently depend on experiential learning and peer support in the absence of continuous capacity-building programs (Dadzie et al., 2024; Laftouhi et al., 2023). This also reflects findings that uneven training opportunities contribute to disparities in procurement competence within public institutions.

The implications of these findings highlight the need to strengthen capacity-building initiatives at the barangay level. The moderate level of knowledge and engagement suggests that while barangay officials are involved in procurement processes, there is still a need to enhance their technical competence, legal understanding, and procedural confidence. Strengthening training programs on procurement law, documentation, and digital procurement systems is essential to improving both compliance and participation. Additionally, the positive relationship between knowledge and engagement implies that improving legal awareness is likely to increase active involvement in procurement activities, thereby enhancing transparency, accountability, and efficiency in local governance.

From a theoretical perspective, the findings support the principles of Good Governance Theory and Capacity Development Framework, which emphasize that effective governance is achieved through knowledgeable and actively engaged public officials. The results also reinforce Institutional Theory, which suggests that compliance with formal rules and procedures is strengthened through proper understanding and institutional support. The study contributes to existing knowledge by providing empirical evidence at the barangay level, demonstrating how knowledge directly influences engagement in procurement processes within local governance structures.

V. CONCLUSION

The study highlights the importance of procurement knowledge and engagement among barangay officials as essential components of effective local governance. The findings show that barangay officials generally possess a moderate level of knowledge and training on procurement laws and exhibit a moderate level

of engagement in procurement processes. This indicates that while participation in procurement activities is present, it is not yet fully comprehensive or consistently applied across all stages of the procurement cycle. The results further demonstrate a positive relationship between knowledge of procurement law and engagement in procurement activities, suggesting that increased understanding of legal and procedural requirements is associated with more active involvement in procurement functions.

One of the key advantages of this study is that it provides empirical evidence on the current state of procurement capability at the barangay level, offering a clearer understanding of how knowledge and engagement interact within local governance structures. It also contributes practical insights that can guide the development of targeted training programs aimed at strengthening procurement competencies among barangay officials. The identification of specific areas where knowledge and participation are limited, the study supports the design of more focused and responsive capacity-building interventions that can improve transparency, accountability, and efficiency in public procurement.

However, the study also has limitations that should be considered. The findings are based primarily on self-reported data, which may not fully capture actual behavior or performance in procurement processes. In addition, the scope of the study is limited to selected barangays in the Municipality of Anilao, Iloilo, which may restrict the generalizability of the results to other local government units with different contexts, resources, or administrative systems. The study also does not measure actual procurement outcomes such as efficiency, cost-effectiveness, or compliance audit results, which could provide a more comprehensive assessment of procurement performance.

Despite these limitations, the study has important practical applications. The findings can serve as a basis for strengthening capacity development programs for barangay officials, particularly in improving their understanding of procurement laws and enhancing their participation in procurement-related responsibilities. It also supports the need for continuous training, mentorship, and institutional support systems to ensure that procurement processes are carried out effectively and in accordance with established legal frameworks. Furthermore, the results may guide local government units and policymakers in designing interventions that promote consistent engagement and improved compliance in procurement practices.

The study emphasizes that strengthening procurement knowledge plays a vital role in improving engagement and reinforcing governance at the barangay level. Addressing gaps in training and participation enables barangay institutions to progress toward more transparent, accountable, and efficient procurement systems that better support community development goals.

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