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LEVEL OF AWARENESS AND EXTENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ORDINANCES IMPLEMENTED BY THE MUNICIPALITY OF CALANASAN: AN ASSESSMENT

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Abstract

This study examined the awareness and implementation of municipal ordinances in Calanasan, Apayao (2023–2025), focusing on education, healthcare, criminal justice, social services, and the environment. Using a descriptive-correlational design, 180 local officials were surveyed. Results showed high awareness and strong implementation, especially in ordinances on health, sanitation, tobacco control, gender-based violence, and environmental protection. Educational attainment significantly influenced awareness and implementation, while age, sex, civil status, and ethnicity did not. Despite positive findings, gaps remain in policy dissemination and enforcement. The study recommends enhancing information campaigns, increasing enforcement resources, training local officials, and fostering collaboration with civil society to ensure more inclusive and effective local governance.

Keywords: local governance, policy implementation, ordinance awareness, municipal development

INTRODUCTION

Public policy plays a vital role in shaping the lives of individuals by addressing societal challenges through laws, ordinances, and regulations (Anderson, 2015). In the Philippines, policy-making is anchored in the Local Government Code (LGC) of 1991, which empowers local government units (LGUs) to enact ordinances and implement programs responsive to local needs (De Vera, 2016). As frontline implementers of national policies and creators of

localized laws, LGUs like the Municipality of Calanasan are crucial in promoting development, delivering public services, and fostering inclusive governance (Bautista, 2019).

Despite the LGC's promise of autonomy, challenges such as limited institutional capacity, poor policy dissemination, and weak monitoring mechanisms persist (Tanyag, 2018; Diaz, 2021).

Awareness and active community participation remain critical for effective implementation, as residents are less likely to support policies they do not understand (Roxas, 2020; Carreon & Fernandez, 2017). To address such gaps, Calanasan initiated governance innovations, including the establishment of five field offices through Municipal Ordinance No. 03-2010 under the leadership of the late Mayor Elias K. Bulut. This was aimed at decentralizing service delivery in key areas such as health, education, and agriculture.

In 2022, the Sangguniang Bayan, led by Mayor Shamir M. Bulut, reorganized these clusters into eight by virtue of Municipal Resolution No. 38-2022 to enhance service accessibility. However, questions remain regarding the extent of policy awareness and implementation across barangays. As public policies are only as effective as their execution, this study seeks to assess the level of awareness and degree of implementation of municipal ordinances in Calanasan, Apayao from 2023 to 2025. Grounded in the LGC framework, the study highlights the interplay of governance, civic engagement, and policy mechanisms in advancing local development and accountability (Santos, 2018; Cruz, 2019).

Statement of the Problem

This study assessed the level of awareness and extent of implementation of ordinances in the Municipality of Calanasan, Apayao. Specifically, it sought answers to the following questions:

1. What is the profile of respondents in terms of:
 - 1.1 Age
 - 1.2 Sex
 - 1.3 Civil Status
 - 1.4 Highest Educational Attainment
 - 1.5 Position
 - 1.6 Length in Service
 - 1.7 Barangay and
 - 1.8 Ethnicity.
2. What is the level of awareness on ordinances implemented for the year 2023 to 2025 along:
 - 2.1 Education
 - 2.2 Healthcare
 - 2.3 Criminal Justice
 - 2.4 Social Services
 - 2.5 Environmental Concerns and others.
3. What is the extent of implementation on ordinances implemented for the year 2023 to 2025 along:
 - 3.1 Education
 - 3.2 Healthcare
 - 3.3 Criminal Justice
 - 3.4 Social Services
 - 3.5 Environmental Concerns and others.
4. Is there a significant relationship between the profile of respondents and the level of awareness on the ordinances implemented?
5. Is there a significant relationship between the profile of respondents and the extent of implementation of ordinances implemented?
6. Is there a significant relationship between the level of awareness and the extent of implementation of ordinances implemented?

Methodology

This study employed a quantitative descriptive-correlational research design to assess the level of awareness and extent of implementation of local ordinances in the Municipality of Calanasan, Apayao. Stratified sampling was used to select 180 respondents across 20 barangays, comprising 20 Punong Barangays, 140 Barangay Kagawads, and 20 SK Chairmen. The study utilized a researcher-made survey questionnaire with three parts: respondent demographics, awareness of ordinances, and extent of implementation. Ordinances assessed covered areas such as education, healthcare, criminal justice, social services, and environmental concerns. The locale of the study, Calanasan, is a mountainous municipality in Apayao with 18 regular and 2 administrative barangays. Official permissions were secured from municipal and barangay authorities, and approved ordinances from 2023 to 2025 were reviewed to inform the survey content.

Data gathering involved the distribution and retrieval of questionnaires, with responses rated on a 5-point Likert scale. Frequency and percentage distribution were used to analyze demographic data, while descriptive statistics were employed to summarize awareness and implementation levels. The Chi-square test and Pearson's *r* were applied to determine significant relationships between respondents' profiles, levels of awareness, and the extent of ordinance implementation. Ethical procedures were strictly followed—participants gave informed consent and retained the right to anonymity. Confidentiality of responses was ensured, and data collected were used exclusively for academic purposes in accordance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (Section 8). This systematic methodology enabled the researcher to draw evidence-based conclusions about policy awareness and implementation within the local governance context.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section of the study presents the data gathered, analyzed, and interpreted in answers to the problems raised. The data were based on the responses given by the respondents through the distribution of survey questionnaire.

Table 3. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents in Terms of Age

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
61 and above	24	13%
51 – 60	42	23%
41 – 50	46	26%
31 – 40	40	22%
21 – 30	28	16%
Total	180	100%

Table 3 reveals that the majority of the respondents belong to the 41–50 age group, comprising 26% ($n = 46$) of the total sample. This is followed by the 51–60 age group, which represents 23% ($n = 42$), and the 31–40 age group, accounting for 22% ($n = 40$). Respondents aged 21–30 constitute 16% ($n = 28$), while those aged 61 and above represent the smallest proportion, at 13% ($n = 24$). These findings suggest that the respondent population is predominantly composed of individuals in midlife, particularly those between the ages of 31 and 60.

Table 4. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents in Terms of Sex

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	120	67%
Female	60	33%
Total	180	100%

Table 4 shows the distribution of respondents by sex, which reveals that a majority are male, accounting for 67% (n = 120) of the total sample. Female respondents comprise 33% (n = 60). These results indicate a notable gender imbalance within the sample, with male participants significantly outnumbering their female counterparts.

Table 5. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents in Terms of Civil Status

Civil Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single	41	23%
Married	133	74%
Separated/Annulled	3	2%
Widow/er	3	2%
Total	180	100%

In Table 5, the distribution of respondents by civil status reveals that the majority are married, representing 74% (n = 133) of the sample. Single individuals constitute 23% (n = 41), while those who are separated or annulled, as well as widowed or widowers, each make up 2% (n = 3) of the total sample. These findings suggest that the respondent population is predominantly composed of married individuals, with a smaller proportion of single, separated, or widowed participants.

Table 6. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents in Terms of Highest Educational Attainment

Highest Educational Attainment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Elementary Graduate	25	14%
High School Graduate	92	51%
Vocational Education	9	5%
College Graduate	50	28%
Masters Graduate	1	1%
Post Graduate	3	2%
Total	180	100%

Table 6 reveals that most respondents are high school graduates (51%, n = 92), followed by college graduates (28%, n = 50), elementary graduates (14%, n = 25), vocational graduates (5%, n = 9), with only a few holding master's (1%, n = 1) or post-graduate degrees (2%, n = 3). This indicates a predominance of secondary and post-secondary education among respondents. This trend aligns with Dela Cruz and Santos (2021) and Smith and Johnson (2022), who observed that rural communities generally have more high school or vocational graduates, influencing how effectively

local ordinances and public awareness initiatives are received and implemented.

Table 7. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents in Terms of Position

Position	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Punong Barangay	20	11%
Barangay Kagawad	140	78%
SK Chairman	20	11%
Total	180	100%

As can be gleaned in Table 7, the distribution of respondents by position reveals that the majority are Barangay Kagawads, comprising 78% (n = 140) of the sample. Both the Punong Barangay and SK Chairman positions are equally represented, each accounting for 11% (n = 20). These results indicate that the respondent group is predominantly composed of Barangay Kagawads, with a smaller representation of those holding the positions of Punong Barangay and SK Chairman.

Table 8. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents in Terms of Length in Service

Length in Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
12 years and above	9	5%
9 to 11 years	32	18%
6 to 8 years	43	24%
3 to 5 years	34	19%
Below 3 years	62	34%
Total	180	100%

Table 8 shows that the majority have served for less than 3 years, representing 34% (n = 62) of the sample. Those with 6 to 8 years of service follow closely, comprising 24% (n = 43). Respondents with 3 to 5 years of service make up 19% (n = 34), while 18% (n = 32) have served between 9 to 11 years. Only 5% (n = 9) have 12 or more years of service. These results suggest that a significant proportion of respondents are relatively new to their positions, with a smaller number having extensive experience in local governance.

Table 9. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents in Terms of Barangay

Barangay	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bucarot	9	5%
Butao	9	5%
Cadaclan	9	5%
Don Roque Ablan Sr	9	5%
Eleazar	9	5%
Eva	9	5%
Ferdinand	9	5%
Kabugawan	9	5%
Langnao	9	5%
Macalino	9	5%

Naguilian	9	5%
Namaltugan	9	5%
Ninoy Aquino Jr	9	5%
Parina	9	5%
Poblacion	9	5%
Sabangan	9	5%
Sta. Elena	9	5%
Sta. Filomena	9	5%
Tanglagan	9	5%
Tubongan	9	5%
Total	180	100%

The distribution of respondents across the different barangays shows an even representation, with each barangay contributing 5% (n = 9) to the total sample. The barangays included in the study are Bucarot, Butao, Cadaclan, Don Roque Ablan Sr, Eleazar, Eva, Ferdinand, Kabugawan, Langnao, Macalino, Naguilian, Namaltugan, Ninoy Aquino Jr, Parina, Poblacion, Sabangan, Sta. Elena, Sta. Filomena, Tanglagan, and Tubongan. This uniform distribution suggests that the sample is evenly spread across all barangays in the municipality of Calanasan, ensuring a balanced representation from each local community.

Table 10. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents in Terms of Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Isnag	133	74%
Igorot	10	6%
Ilocano	37	21%
Total	180	100%

Table 10 shows that the Isnag ethnic group is significantly overrepresented, comprising 74% of the sample, followed by Ilocano (21%) and Igorot (6%). This mirrors broader regional trends in Northern Luzon, where the Isnag are dominant, particularly in Calanasan. The overrepresentation of Isnag respondents suggests that local policies and ordinances should align with their cultural values and traditions to enhance effectiveness. Meanwhile, the smaller representation of Ilocano and Igorot groups highlights the need for inclusive governance to ensure their perspectives are considered. These findings support the work of López and Sarmiento (2022) and Ramos (2021), who emphasize culturally contextualized policy-making in homogeneous areas. Conversely, García (2020) argues that ethnically diverse regions face greater challenges in crafting inclusive policies due to varying cultural needs. Together, these insights highlight the dual necessity of cultural sensitivity for majority groups like the Isnag and inclusivity for minority groups to ensure equitable governance in Calanasan.

Table 11. level of awareness on ordinances implemented for fiscal year 2023 to present, along with Education, Healthcare, Criminal Justice, Social Services, Environmental Concerns and others.

Education	Mean	Descriptive Value
1. Municipal Ordinance No. 10-2024: “An ordinance instituting the conduct of an Annual Education Summit in the municipality, appropriating funds, and for other purpose”	3.73	Highly Aware
2. Municipal Ordinance No. 23-2023: “An ordinance declaring First Friday of October every year as Official Teachers’ Day in the Municipality of Calanasan, Apayao”	3.86	Highly Aware
Composite Mean	3.79	Highly Aware
Healthcare		
3. Municipal Ordinance No. 03-2024: “An ordinance implementing the Zero Open Defecation (ZOD) Policy in Calanasan, imposing fines and penalties for violations, and providing funds thereof”	4.24	Extremely Aware
4. Municipal Ordinance No. 07-2024: “An ordinance regulating the sale, distribution, use, and communication of vaporized nicotine and non-nicotine products, and novel tobacco products in the municipality, amending for this purpose Municipal Ordinance No. 12-2019”	4.13	Highly Aware
5. Municipal Ordinance No. 17-2024: “An ordinance institutionalizing the Public Servants’ Health and Wellness Program of the municipal government of Calanasan, Apayao, adopting for this purpose the policies to govern the programs’ implementation and appropriating funds thereof.”	3.71	Highly Aware
6. Municipal Ordinance No. 20-2024: “An ordinance institutionalizing the 'First 1,000 Days Program' in this municipality to ensure the provision of nutrition and all essential and specific interventions for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children 0-23 months, adopting for this purpose the Magnanay Act of 2018.”	3.77	Highly Aware
Composite Mean	3.96	Highly Aware

Criminal Justice		
7. Municipal Ordinance No. 15-2024: “An ordinance establishing a protocol in handling and responding to Gender-based Violence and Cases in the municipality of Calanasan, Apayao”	4.24	Extremely Aware
Composite Mean	4.24	Extremely Aware
Other Social Services		
8. Municipal Ordinance No.10-2023: “An ordinance institutionalizing the Purok System in the delivery of development programs in every barangay within the municipality of Calanasan, Apayao”	3.97	Highly Aware
9. Municipal Ordinance No. 14-2023: “An ordinance enacting the Updated Gender and Development (GAD) Code of the municipality of Calanasan, Province of Apayao”	4.27	Extremely Aware
10. Municipal Ordinance No. 18-2023: “An ordinance establishing the guidelines for the creation of Sister Municipality or Town Twinning relations by this municipality with other local, national, or international local government entity.”	3.47	Highly Aware
11. Municipal Ordinance No. 19-2023: “An ordinance localizing the implementation of Republic Act 11861 also known as an Act providing for benefits and privileges to Solo Parents and their children, appropriating fund therefore and other purposes.”	4.31	Extremely Aware
12. Municipal Ordinance No. 21-2023: “An ordinance mandating the implementation of Comprehensive and Sustainable Programs for the Senior Citizens, otherwise known as the Senior Citizens Code of Calanasan, Apayao and for other purposes”	4.26	Extremely Aware
13. Municipal Ordinance No. 4-2024: “An ordinance adopting the increase of the Social Pension of Indigent Senior Citizens in the Municipality of Calanasan from five hundred pesos (500.00) to one thousand pesos (1,000.00) a month and authorize the provision of an additional social pension of five hundred pesos (500.00) a month to indigent Senior Citizens reaching the age of seventy (70)”	4.26	Extremely Aware
14. Municipal Ordinance No. 22-2023: “An ordinance enacting the Children’s Code of the municipality of Calanasan, Apayao” *Curfew Hours for Minors etc.	4.26	Extremely Aware
15. Municipal Ordinance No. 11-2024: “An ordinance institutionalizing the establishment and operation of a Calanasan Municipal Teen Center, Teen Centers in each barangay of the municipality as well as in all high schools of within Calanasan, providing its policies and guidelines and appropriating funds therefor, and for other purposes”	3.74	Highly Aware
Composite Mean	4.07	Highly Aware
Land Use and Environmental Concerns		
16. Municipal Ordinance No. 07-2023: “An ordinance enhancing the policies and mechanisms governing the Collection of Garbage in the municipality, amending for this purpose section 6 of Municipal Ordinance No.7-2006, and for other purposes”	4.16	Highly Aware
17. Municipal Ordinance No. 08-2023: “An ordinance adopting the Calanasan Tourism, Culture and the Arts Code of the Municipality of Calanasan, Province of Apayao”	4.30	Extremely Aware
18. Municipal Ordinance No. 14-2024: “An ordinance enhancing the “Bantay ASF sa Barangay Program or the BABAy ASF Program of Calanasan”, amending for this purpose Municipal Ordinance No.21-2021”	4.29	Extremely Aware
19. Municipal Ordinance No. 21-2024: “An ordinance enhancing the Lapat Ordinance of Calanasan, mandating the identification and establishment of Fish Sanctuaries and/or breeding ponds in specific locations along the rivers	4.37	Extremely Aware

and streams within the territorial jurisdiction of the municipality.”		
20. Municipal Ordinance No. 22-2024: “An ordinance providing for the development and promotion of Farm Tourism in the Municipality of Calanasan and appropriating funds thereof”	4.09	Highly Aware
21. Municipal Ordinance No. 2-2025: “An ordinance updating the Zoning Regulations in the municipality of Calanasan, Apayao, providing for the administration and enforcement, amending for this purpose municipal ordinance no.10-2017, and for other purposes”	4.35	Extremely Aware
Composite Mean	4.26	Extremely Aware
Grand Mean	4.08	Highly Aware

The findings in Table 11 show a high level of awareness among Calanasan residents regarding municipal ordinances, particularly in Healthcare, Criminal Justice, Social Services, and Environmental Concerns, with composite means between 3.71 and 4.37. Notable examples include strong awareness of healthcare ordinances such as the Zero Open Defecation Policy (4.24) and the regulation of vaporized nicotine products (4.13), reflecting national health priorities (Santos et al., 2020; De Guzman, 2022). Similarly, the ordinance addressing gender-based violence (4.24) demonstrates community support for protective measures, consistent with findings by Navarro et al. (2021). High awareness of social service ordinances—like the Senior Citizens Code (4.26) and GAD Code update (4.27)—underscores engagement with marginalized sectors,

aligning with Rico and Mendoza (2019). Environmental ordinances, such as improved garbage collection (4.16) and farm tourism promotion (4.09), further highlight local sustainability efforts, as supported by Ramos and Arboleda (2023). However, despite high awareness, implementation may vary. Vargas and Paloma (2021) caution that awareness doesn’t always equate to compliance, especially when enforcement and resources are limited. Overall, residents show strong knowledge of ordinances, crucial for effective governance, but continued efforts in implementation, participation, and enforcement are necessary. Future studies should examine the gap between awareness and actual policy compliance.

Table 12. Extent of Implementation on Ordinances Implemented for Fiscal Year 2023 to Present along Education, Healthcare, Criminal Justice, Social Services, Environmental Concerns and others.

Education	Mean	Descriptive Value
1. Municipal Ordinance No. 10-2024: “An ordinance instituting the conduct of an Annual Education Summit in the municipality, appropriating funds, and for other purpose”	3.97	Highly Implemented
2. Municipal Ordinance No. 23-2023: “An ordinance declaring the First Friday of October every year as Official Teachers’ Day in the Municipality of Calanasan, Apayao”	4.07	Highly Implemented
Composite Mean	4.02	Highly Implemented
Healthcare		
3. Municipal Ordinance No. 03-2024: “An ordinance implementing the Zero Open Defecation (ZOD) Policy in Calanasan, imposing fines and penalties for violations, and providing funds thereof”	4.27	Extremely Implemented
4. Municipal Ordinance No. 07-2024: “An ordinance regulating the sale, distribution, use, and communication of vaporized nicotine and non-nicotine products, and novel tobacco products in the municipality, amending for this purpose Municipal Ordinance No. 12-2019”	4.11	Highly Implemented
5. Municipal Ordinance No. 17-2024: “An ordinance institutionalizing the Public Servants’ Health and Wellness Program of the municipal government of Calanasan, Apayao, adopting for this purpose the policies to govern the programs’ implementation and appropriating funds thereof”	3.95	Highly Implemented
6. Municipal Ordinance No. 20-2024: “An ordinance institutionalizing the “First 1,000 Days Program” in this municipality to ensure the provision of nutrition and all essential and specific interventions for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children 0-23 months, adopting for this purpose the Magnanay Act of 2018”	3.93	Highly Implemented
Composite Mean	4.06	Highly Implemented
Criminal Justice		
7. Municipal Ordinance No. 15-2024:	4.32	Extremely Implemented

“An ordinance establishing a protocol in handling and responding to Gender-based Violence and Cases in the municipality of Calanasan, Apayao”		
Composite Mean	4.32	Extremely Implemented
Other Social Services		
8. Municipal Ordinance No.10-2023: “An ordinance institutionalizing the Purok System in the delivery of development programs in every barangay within the municipality of Calanasan, Apayao”	4.11	Highly Implemented
9. Municipal Ordinance No. 14-2023: “An ordinance enacting the Updated Gender and Development (GAD) Code of the municipality of Calanasan, Province of Apayao”	4.26	Extremely Implemented
10. Municipal Ordinance No. 18-2023: “An ordinance establishing the guidelines for the creation of Sister Municipality or Town Twinning relations by this municipality with other local, national, or international local government entity”	3.49	Highly Implemented
11. Municipal Ordinance No. 19-2023: “An ordinance localizing the implementation of Republic Act 11861 also known as an Act providing for benefits and privileges to Solo Parents and their children, appropriating fund therefore and other purposes”	4.33	Extremely Implemented
12. Municipal Ordinance No. 21-2023: “An ordinance mandating the implementation of Comprehensive and Sustainable Programs for the Senior Citizens otherwise known as the Senior Citizens Code of Calanasan, Apayao and for other purposes”	4.32	Extremely Implemented
13. Municipal Ordinance No. 4-2024: “An ordinance adopting the increase of the Social Pension of Indigent Senior Citizens in the Municipality of Calanasan from five hundred pesos (500.00) to one thousand pesos (1,000.00) a month and authorize the provision of an additional social pension of five hundred pesos (500.00) a month to indigent Senior Citizens reaching the age of seventy (70)”	4.24	Extremely Implemented
14. Municipal Ordinance No. 22-2023: “An ordinance enacting the Children’s Code of the municipality of Calanasan, Apayao” *Curfew Hours for Minors etc.	4.16	Highly Implemented
15. Municipal Ordinance No. 11-2024: “An ordinance institutionalizing the establishment and operation of a Calanasan Municipal Teen Center, Teen Centers in each barangay of the municipality as well as in all high schools of within Calanasan, providing its policies and guidelines and appropriating funds therefor, and for other purposes”	3.80	Highly Implemented
Composite Mean	4.09	Highly Implemented
Land Use and Environmental Concerns		
16. Municipal Ordinance No. 07-2023: “An ordinance enhancing the policies and mechanisms governing the Collection of Garbage in the municipality, amending for this purpose section 6 of Municipal Ordinance No.7-2006, and for other purposes”	4.16	Highly Implemented
17. Municipal Ordinance No. 08-2023: “An ordinance adopting the Calanasan Tourism, Culture and the Arts Code of the Municipality of Calanasan, Province of Apayao”	4.35	Extremely Aware
18. Municipal Ordinance No. 14-2024: “An ordinance enhancing the “Bantay ASF sa Barangay Program or the BABAY ASF Program of Calanasan”, amending for this purpose Municipal Ordinance No.21-2021”	4.30	Extremely Implemented
19. Municipal Ordinance No. 21-2024: “An ordinance enhancing the Lapat Ordinance of Calanasan, mandating the identification and establishment of Fish Sanctuaries and/or breeding ponds in specific locations along the rivers and streams within the territorial jurisdiction of the municipality”	4.34	Extremely Implemented
20. Municipal Ordinance No. 22-2024:	4.12	Highly Implemented

“An ordinance providing for the development and promotion of Farm Tourism in the Municipality of Calanasan and appropriating funds thereof”		
21. Municipal Ordinance No. 2-2025: “An ordinance updating the Zoning Regulations in the municipality of Calanasan, Apayao, providing for the administration and enforcement, amending for this purpose municipal ordinance no.10-2017, and for other purposes”	4.31	Extremely Implemented
Composite Mean	4.26	Extremely Implemented
Grand Mean	4.14	Highly Implemented

Table 12 reveals a high extent of ordinance implementation in Calanasan from 2023 to the present, with a Grand Mean of 4.14, indicating that municipal governance is effectively translating legislative priorities into action. In education, ordinances like the Annual Education Summit (3.97) and Official Teachers’ Day (4.07) reflect support for learning and align with DepEd policies, which, as Dela Cruz and Mercado (2023) note, boost engagement and outcomes. Healthcare ordinances also show strong implementation, particularly the Zero Open Defecation Policy (4.27) and tobacco regulation (4.11), underscoring the LGU’s proactive stance on sanitation and public health, consistent with Fernandez and Palma (2021) and SDG targets (UNDP, 2022).

In criminal justice, the high implementation of gender-based violence protocols (4.32) indicates strong community protection

efforts, supported by Castro et al. (2021), who link gender-sensitive governance to greater safety. Social services ordinances, such as those for solo parents (4.33) and senior citizens (4.32), show commitment to vulnerable groups, resonating with Sarmiento and Ignacio (2022). Environmental efforts also stand out, with ordinances on fish sanctuaries (4.34) and cultural tourism (4.35), aligning with Aquino and Alvarez’s (2021) findings on eco-policy benefits.

Overall, Calanasan demonstrates strong ordinance implementation across sectors, reflecting both local priorities and national development goals. While results are promising, long-term success will depend on enforcement, participation, and resource support. As Romero and Castillo (2023) suggest, ongoing evaluation and local leadership are key to sustaining these achievements.

Table 13. Test on the significant relationship between the profile of respondents and level of awareness on the ordinances implemented.

	Profile of Respondents	Pearson’s r	p-values	Remarks
Level of Awareness	Age	0.032 ^{ns}	0.672	No significant correlation
	Sex	-0.110 ^{ns}	0.143	No Significant correlation
	Civil Status	0.081 ^{ns}	0.279	No Significant correlation
	Highest Educational Attainment	0.159*	0.033	Positive Correlation
	Position	-0.077 ^{ns}	0.304	No Significant correlation
	Length of Service	0.089 ^{ns}	0.233	No Significant correlation
	Barangay	0.097 ^{ns}	0.194	No Significant correlation
	Ethnicity	-0.105 ^{ns}	0.160	No Significant correlation

^{ns} Not significant

* Significant at 5%

Table 13 reveals that among the various demographic variables examined, only “Highest Educational Attainment” shows a significant relationship with awareness of municipal ordinances in Calanasan. Age, sex, civil status, position, length of service, barangay, and ethnicity all have p-values above 0.05, indicating no statistically significant correlation. Their Pearson’s r values are weak or negative, suggesting little to no meaningful relationship with ordinance awareness.

In contrast, educational attainment has a statistically significant positive correlation ($r = 0.159$, $p = 0.033$), implying that individuals with higher education levels are more aware of local ordinances. This supports Gonzales and Garcia’s (2020) findings that education enhances access to information and civic engagement.

The lack of significant correlation among other demographic factors may reflect the strong communal information-sharing practices in rural areas. As Reyes and Alvarado (2021) explain,

high social cohesion in such communities often ensures widespread awareness regardless of individual traits. Similarly, the absence of correlation between position and awareness might indicate that official roles do not guarantee deeper engagement with local policies (Baluyut & Mercado, 2020).

Moreover, ethnicity does not significantly influence awareness in this context, possibly due to uniform dissemination practices. This differs from Villar’s (2021) findings, which highlight ethnicity as a factor in political participation in more diverse regions.

Overall, the results underscore education’s vital role in fostering civic awareness. Future research could investigate how communication methods and public engagement strategies affect awareness across different demographic groups.

Table 14. Test on the significant relationship between the profile of the respondents and extent of implementation of ordinances implemented.

	Profile of Respondents	Pearson's r	p-values	Remarks
Extent of Implementation	Age	-0.034 ^{ns}	0.650	No significant correlation
	Sex	-0.066 ^{ns}	0.381	No Significant correlation
	Civil Status	0.010 ^{ns}	0.894	No Significant correlation
	Highest Educational Attainment	0.197**	0.008	Positive Correlation
	Position	0.045 ^{ns}	0.544	No Significant correlation
	Length of Service	0.015 ^{ns}	0.841	No Significant correlation
	Barangay	0.086 ^{ns}	0.254	No Significant correlation
	Ethnicity	-0.074 ^{ns}	0.327	No Significant correlation

^{ns} Not Significant

** Significant at 5%

Table 14 reveals that among respondents' demographic profiles, only Highest Educational Attainment has a statistically significant relationship with the extent of ordinance implementation in Calanasan ($r = 0.197$, $p = 0.008$). This indicates that individuals with higher education levels are more likely to perceive greater implementation of ordinances, supporting Salazar and Ramos (2021), who emphasized education's role in civic engagement and understanding of local governance.

Other variables—age, sex, civil status, position, length of service, barangay, and ethnicity—show no significant correlation, suggesting these factors do not influence perceptions of ordinance implementation. This aligns with Fernandez and Palma (2020), who found that official roles do not necessarily equate to implementation effectiveness in rural areas. Similarly, Santos and Pardo (2022) argue that institutional support and local government action play a more decisive role than personal demographics in ordinance execution. These findings highlight the critical role of education in strengthening policy implementation.

Table 15. Test on the significant relationship between the level of awareness and extent of implementation of ordinances implemented.

	Pearson's r	p-values	Remarks
Level of Awareness vs Extent of Implementation	0.866**	<0.001	Positive Correlation

** Significant at 1%

Table 15 shows a strong, statistically significant positive correlation between awareness and implementation of ordinances in Calanasan ($r = 0.866$, $p < 0.001$). This suggests that higher public awareness leads to greater ordinance implementation, supporting the knowledge-action gap theory (Yap & Dizon, 2020). Informed communities are more likely to support and advocate for enforcement, making awareness a key factor in effective local governance (Santos & Bautista, 2021). The findings underscore the importance of sustained education and information campaigns, aligning with Alvarado and Cuenca's (2021) study linking public awareness to successful ordinance implementation.

Conclusion

His study reveals that the Municipality of Calanasan has made notable strides in promoting public awareness and implementing

local ordinances, particularly in healthcare, criminal justice, social services, and environmental protection. The high awareness among residents has contributed to the effective execution of these policies, reflecting strong local governance. However, translating awareness into consistent compliance remains a challenge, especially in areas with weaker enforcement systems.

The significant link between higher educational attainment and increased awareness and implementation underscores the importance of education in fostering civic engagement. Enhancing educational programs and broadening access to information are essential for sustaining effective ordinance implementation. Moving forward, future research should examine how different modes of information dissemination influence public engagement and compliance with local laws.

Recommendations

To enhance ordinance implementation in Calanasan, the MLGU should intensify public education campaigns using diverse platforms such as forums, radio, posters, and social media—especially targeting remote and marginalized groups. Enforcement must be strengthened through regular monitoring, stricter penalties, and a clear reporting system. Increased allocation of resources and staff training is essential for effective implementation. Municipal officials should undergo continuous capacity-building to improve coordination and ordinance knowledge. Lastly, partnerships with civil society organizations must be strengthened to bridge implementation gaps, support community mobilization, and ensure inclusive and sustained compliance with local ordinances.

Declaration of No Conflict of Interest

The author hereby states that there is no conflict of interest and this article is her original work.

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