

Assessing Community Resilience to COVID-19 in Barangay Bayog, Los Baños, Laguna: Insights from the Youth



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Abstract

The youth, who comprise a significant portion of the population, remain highly susceptible to disaster risks. While a growing body of literature examines their perspectives on such risks, few studies focus on their overall perception of community resilience, especially in peri-urban areas. This study addresses this gap through a case study of youth in Barangay Bayog, Los Baños, Laguna — a peri-urban community on the outskirts of Metro Manila. Using a sequential mixed-methods research design, the study assessed the perceived levels of community resilience among youth, as well as the factors that affect their perspective. Findings reveal that community resilience is multifaceted, and a sense of belonging and equitable distribution of resources during disasters are crucial in reinforcing it. In addition to outlining future research directions, the study provided seven recommendations focused on adopting systems thinking and enhancing youth engagement in disaster risk management (DRM). Finally, this research contributes to the literature that links youth perception and participation in DRM to operationalize holistic and multi-sectoral collaboration, promoting community resilience.

Keywords: disaster risk management, pandemic, youth, community resilience, disasters

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1. Introduction

1.1 Why study young people's perspectives and roles in community resilience?

There are around 30 million young people aged 10-24 years old, comprising 28% of the Philippine population (UNFPA Philippines, 2025). Such large numbers indicate that these segments of the population are disproportionately affected by disasters, while also holding potential to play a critical role in achieving community resilience (Khorram-Manesh, 2017). Despite the growing



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interest in resilience-building among young people, scholarly knowledge on the topic remains limited, especially in low- and middle-income countries (Vostanis et al., 2020). Some of the studies done include the role of youth organizations on urban resilience, e.g., science clubs, university-based organizations (Fernandez & Shaw, 2015; Fernandez & Shaw, 2016; Landicho, 2025), formal participation in governmental bodies (Fernandez & Shaw, 2013), and crisis-related activities of young people during disasters (Lacerna et al., 2023; Rosario, 2022). Lacking in the literature is the perspective of the youth on community resilience and the factors that influence their outlook.

These insights are critical in designing and enhancing institutional arrangements for youth participation in disaster risk management. Peri-urban areas, such as Laguna, Philippines, may particularly benefit from these, where rural areas intersect with the dynamics of neighboring metropolitan areas (Buxton, 2022). Areas like Laguna and neighboring provinces are not only major economic drivers in the country (Montalvo, 2025) but also face intersecting risks – both nature-induced and those related to public health. Research on the perspectives of young people regarding pandemics is crucial, as scientists have discovered that these global phenomena are more prevalent than initially thought and may occur more frequently in the future (Penn, 2021). Peri-urban areas are particularly vulnerable due to their proximity to large metropolitan areas, and the role the youth play in conceptualizing and addressing these risks is important. As such, this study seeks to address this gap in the literature by assessing community resilience to COVID-19 in a peri-urban context in Brgy. Bayog, Los Baños, Laguna – with focus on the perspectives of the youth. Specifically, it seeks to (a) determine the perceived level of community resilience in the barangay; (b) examine factors that affect community resilience; and (c) provide policy recommendations.

The study has several contributions to existing literature. First, it attempts to look at youth perspectives on community resilience as a whole. Rather than focusing on specific organizations or segments of the youth sector, the study encompassed multiple groups of young people within the selected barangay, adopting a multidimensional perspective. Second, the discussion is situated in a peri-urban context, a growing and burgeoning region in low- and middle-income countries that have heightened exposure to pandemics due to their proximity to metropolitan centers and increasing population. The study's findings generated specific policy recommendations and suggestions for future research. All of which are geared toward strengthening the understanding of youth perspectives on community resilience and guide policy pathways for meaningful youth engagements during disasters, particularly pandemics such as COVID-19.

1.2 Conceptualizing Community Resilience

Community resilience has been conceptualized in various ways. Brown and Kulig (1996) describe it at a more micro level, defining it as the ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or sustained life stress. Meanwhile, Sonn and Fisher (1998) propose a more meso-level interpretation, referring to community resilience as the process through which mediating structures (such as schools, peer groups, and family) and activity settings moderate the impact of oppressive systems. Paton and Johnston (2001) argue that it is the capability to bounce back and to use physical and economic resources to aid recovery following exposure to hazards effectively. A broader definition was provided by Ganor and Ben-Lavy (2003), who stated that it involves the development of material, physical, socio-political, socio-cultural, and psychological resources that promote the safety of residents and buffer against adversity. Two other known definitions were provided by Coles and Buckle (2004) and Pfefferbaum et al. (2007). Coles and Buckle (2004) believed that community resilience is related to the capacities, skills, and

knowledge that enable it to participate fully in the recovery process following disasters. Meanwhile, Pfefferbaum et al. (2007) refer to it as the responsibility of community members to take meaningful, deliberate, collective action to remedy the impact of a problem, including the ability to interpret the environment, intervene, and move on. The Young Foundation (2012) expanded the concept of community capacities that comprise resilience to include tangible assets, such as good transportation links and proximity to services and facilities, while also emphasizing intangibles, including the quality of social ties and community support. The Conjoint Community Resilience Measure (CCRM) assesses community resilience by considering the roles of leadership, collective efficacy, preparedness, place attachment, and social trust (Leykin et al., 2013). However, the dynamics surrounding COVID-19, which brought to the fore the value of information and communication, as well as connection and caring in the midst of social isolation, suggested that another framework may be more suitable for pandemic contexts.

The Communities Advancing Resilience Toolkit (CART) framework appears to be a more holistic approach to examining community resilience. It is a theory-based and evidence-informed approach, as it can be used to facilitate evaluation, feedback, planning, and action (Pfefferbaum et al., 2013). The framework states that socio-demographic variables, including age, sex, location, years of residency, and employment status, may influence perceived levels of community resilience. Such data can be expressed both in quantitative and qualitative terms. Resilience is considered a multidimensional phenomenon resulting from the combination of social variables (connection and caring, transformative potential) and material/structural factors (disaster management, resources, and information and communication). Understanding the level of resilience and dynamics can serve as a basis for formulating recommendations to improve policies related to community resilience, especially the youth sector. CART is also advantageous due to its ease in facilitating a toolkit that caters to peri-urban contexts.

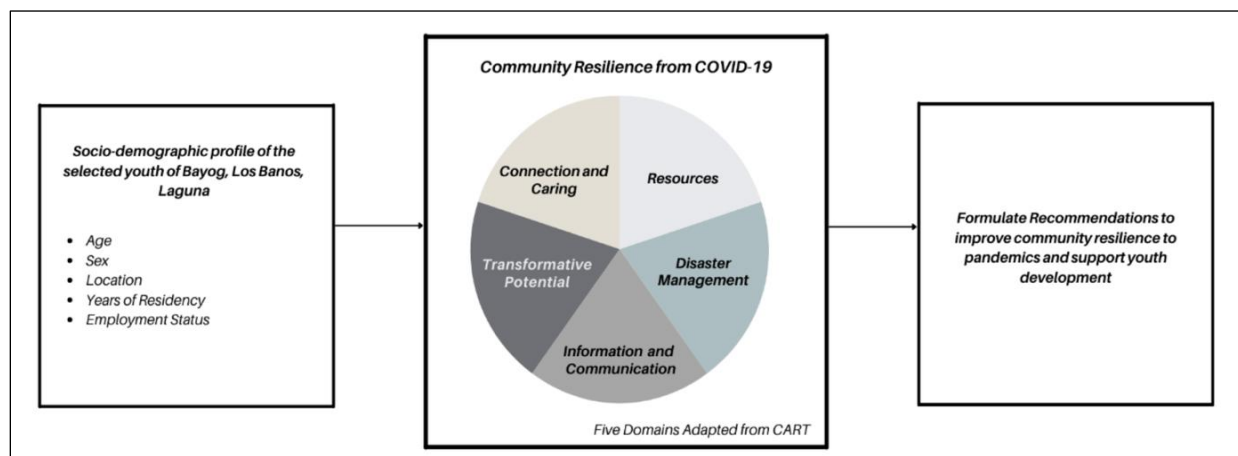


Figure 1. Modified Communities Advancing Resilience Toolkit (CART) Framework

1.2 Scope and Limitation

Inherent in a case study design, several limitations emerged in this study. First and most apparent was the limitation in generalizing the levels of community resilience (1) within the community and (2) across other peri-urban contexts in the Philippines. Although the study helped address some gaps in the literature by linking youth perspectives with overall community resilience, it is worth noting that the youth perspective provides a limited view of the entire community, as it only encompasses one sector of the community. Second, a significant portion of the quantitative data



was presented using descriptive statistics. Cramer's V test was used to examine the relationship between individual variables and community resilience. While this may help determine factors influencing community resilience, it lacks the exhaustive explanatory power that exists in more complex models, such as those using multinomial logistic regression and related tests. Third, a single risk scenario in the use of CART also means that community resilience was explicitly measured in the case of COVID-19, which may or may not be applicable in multi-risk scenarios, such as a pandemic co-occurring with flooding or an earthquake, a common phenomenon in the Philippines. Fourth, the use of Key Informant Interviews (KII) and desk review may help clarify policy and community dynamics, but have limited explanatory power in understanding variance in the quantitative data compared to ethnographic research, e.g., when asked in the survey, the majority (60%) of the community members answered that the barangay is resilient. However, a more detailed analysis revealed that three of the five CART indicators indicated low levels of resilience. These theoretical and methodological limitations informed the generation of recommendations for policy development and future studies.

2. Methodology

2.1 Study Area

Barangay Bayog is one of the 14 barangays in the Municipality of Los Baños, Laguna. It has a total land area of 327.8 hectares, with 153 hectares allocated for agriculture, while the remaining area is designated for residential use (see Figure 2). There are four districts in the barangay, namely: Tagpuan, Silangan, Kanluran, and Dangka Ilaya. There are 11,613 residents in Bayog, constituting 10.07% of the population in Los Baños, of which young people aged 15-24 number around 932 individuals (Barangay Integrated Development Plan, 2019).

Bayog was chosen as a site for the case study because it is located in a peri-urban context, which refers to regions surrounding metropolitan areas characterized by numerous landscape features and characteristics (Mortoja et al., 2020). The barangay is straddled between the more rural areas in Laguna and Metropolitan Manila. This is a critical factor, as peri-urban areas have heightened exposure to health risks due to their proximity to large metropolitan areas, which can serve as entry points for global pandemics. Their burgeoning population also entailed increased exposure to pandemic risks, such as food security issues (Padmaja et al., 2022). Furthermore, urban planning strategies have focused on shifting large populations from overcrowded areas to these peri-urban areas. This further heightens the need to understand levels and dynamics of community resilience in these contexts. Second, Bayog is a mid-sized barangay with a population of 11,613. This may be representative of other peri-urban areas in the country and give clues to the dynamics affecting community resilience in these areas.

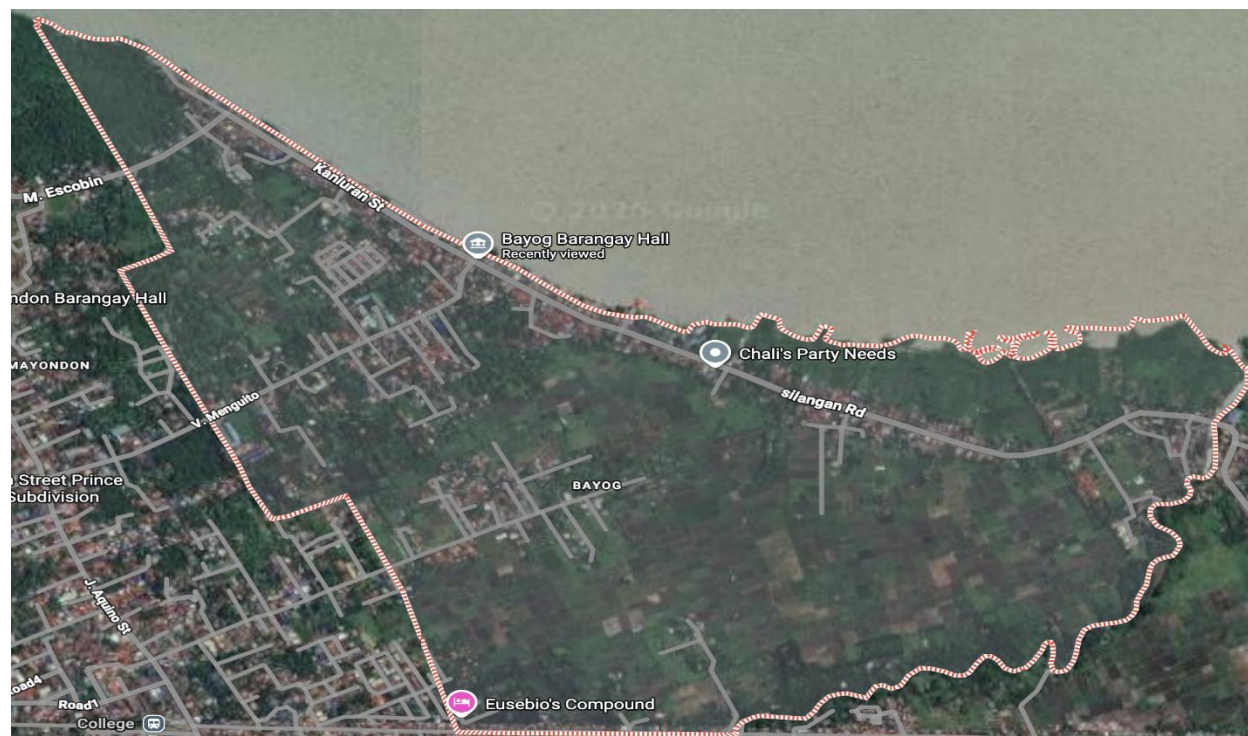


Figure 2. Map of Barangay Bayog, Los Baños, Laguna (Google Maps, 2025)

2.2 Research Design

An exploratory sequential research design was followed in this study. A desk review was done before proceeding to the key informant interview (KII) and survey. The use of mixed methods ensures that the study capitalizes on the strengths of both quantitative and qualitative research designs (National Institutes of Health Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, 2018). The study is exploratory, as it began with a desk review, which helped frame the questions for the KII. Insights from the desk review, alongside key informants (KIs), were critical in understanding the dynamics related to community resilience in the barangay and also helped in designing the survey.

For the desk review, two primary documents were examined, namely the Barangay Integrated Development Plan (BIDP) and the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (BDRRMP) of Bayog. Content analysis was done to organize the insights gathered from these documents. Meanwhile, a total of five key informants were interviewed in the study. The criteria are for them to have at least 1-2 years in service in the barangay and be directly involved in the COVID-19 programs of Bayog. The key informants were the (1) barangay captain, (2 & 3) two barangay health workers, (4) head of Health and Sanitation Committee, and (5) *Sangguniang Kabataan* chairperson. Thematic analysis was used to process data from the KII. Finally, for the survey, a quota sampling method was employed, resulting in a total of 170 respondents aged 15 to 24. The sampling error is 0.09, and the confidence level is 95%. Data was processed using frequency distribution, Spearman's correlation, and Binomial Linear Regression using Jamovi as a statistical software.

Ethical considerations were adhered to in accordance with the protocols established by the University of the Philippines, as well as Republic Act No. 10173, also known as the "Data Privacy



Act of 2012". In particular, the researchers observed the following principles: (1) informed consent, (2) privacy and confidentiality, (3) safety, (4) respect for dignity, and (5) anonymity. Participants were introduced to the study objectives and informed of the confidentiality clause before the commencement of the interview or survey. Informed consent was obtained in written form. All electronic and audio transcripts were stored in secure premises.

3 Results and Discussion: Youth Perspectives on Community Resilience

The discussion in this section is structured into three. First, the perceived level of community resilience was discussed. Second, factors affecting community resilience were examined. Third and finally, a series of policy recommendations was made. This differs from the recommendation sections that follow the conclusion, as they focus more on the theoretical and methodological design of future research.

3.1 Perceived Level of Community Resilience in the Barangay

Four themes emerged when survey respondents were asked about the common definitions of community resilience. First is the (1) Ability to withstand or recover from shocks (39.2%). Respondents believed that this has something to do with their community's ability to deal with adverse situations, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. They also associate community resilience with (2) disaster preparedness (25.8%) or their collective ability to prepare for disasters, pandemics, or other concerns that may occur in their barangay. Meanwhile, less than a quarter associated it with social cohesion (22.5%) or the idea that the community should be united and follow policies prescribed by local authorities. Finally, more than a tenth (12.5%) linked community resilience to good governance, or the ability of leaders to focus on and prioritize the day-to-day health and general well-being of the community, thereby mitigating the negative impacts of disasters.

These themes are not mutually exclusive, as they often overlap with one another. One KI noted how social cohesion and disaster preparedness are often interlinked with the ability to withstand or recover from shocks.

...nagtutulungan ang mga taga-Bayog. Noong panahong napakaraming cases nung nag-peak ang COVID-19, may mga pamilya at indibidwal na nagsagawa ng mga food drives, nag-distribute ng hygiene kit. At noong nauso ang community pantry, may naggawa rin nito sa ating barangay. [People in Bayog help each other. When COVID-19 cases are high or at their peak, there are families who conduct food drives and hygiene kit distribution. Even when community pantries became a trend, people are still doing it in the barangay].

The study's findings present interesting parallels and yield different results from existing literature. Studies have shown that social cohesion is strongly related to resilience (Townshend et al., 2014); however, less than a quarter of respondents acknowledged this in Bayog. Timing may be a critical dimension in explaining the data, as the survey was conducted two years after the COVID-19 pandemic began in the Philippines. Empirical evidence shows that social cohesion may be linked strongly to resilience shortly after a disaster strikes, but its effect begins to wane in the long run (Sobhaninia, 2023).

In terms of the CART domain, it can be said that the overall perception of young people was that of Brgy. Bayog had moderate levels of community resilience. Only two out of the five major indicators had statements with scores above 50%: (1) disaster management and (2) information

and communication (see Table 1). In terms of connection and sharing, a little less than half (48.8%) of the respondents felt a sense of belongingness to their community. Meanwhile, 38.2% stated that their community treats them fairly regardless of background. These data may shed light on how a sense of belongingness may not be directly related to perceptions of resilience in cases of disasters with longer durations, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. One study linked the sense of belongingness with high perceptions of resilience, which is also considered a measure of well-being and academic motivation (Andreadis & Marshall, 2025). The perception of unfair treatment also supports evidence that COVID-19 has exacerbated social inequalities in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) such as the Philippines (Tatcho, 2021). In Bayog, respondents reported that many did not receive sufficient ayuda (assistance), either in terms of food packs, financial assistance, or both.

Resources are also a critical factor in community resilience. Less than half (48.2%) of respondents believe that people in the community know how to access resources to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, more than a third (34.1%) think that their community has effective leaders. These findings, particularly regarding the perception of community leaders, contradict the existing literature on how communities often distinguish between local and national governments in pandemic responses. Local leaders are generally perceived as more effective in responding to the pandemic compared to national figures, and key to this effectiveness is the attribution of honesty, credibility, and empathy in their communication with stakeholders (Abrams et al., 2021). However, in the case of Bayog, such perceptions were lower. It is peculiar that, two years on from the COVID-19 pandemic, the majority (60.6%) of respondents consider their barangay to be a resilient community. Such dissonance may be explained by the fact that resilience is often perceived as a personal trait rather than a collective one (Oducado et al., 2021). This disconnect in the findings presents an opportunity for further clarification in future studies.

Perceptions of effectiveness by local leaders may be linked to transformative potential. In Bayog, around one in two (49.4%) reported communicating with their leaders to provide feedback, and less than a third (32.9%) stated that the barangay learns from past disasters. Citizen feedback is a critical component of good governance (Oe & Yamaoka, 2024). However, as young people in Bayog consider learning from past disasters as low, it appears that the quality of the feedback process was generally low. To improve governance mechanisms, the quality of feedback mechanisms has to be strengthened, and effective practices should be institutionalized. In the classic study of Tolbert and Zucker (1996), they highlighted the fact that institutional arrangements are bound to fail without critical factors (e.g., presence of champions, interorganizational monitoring, communicating the effectiveness of such institutional arrangements) to ensure that these reforms are passed across generational actors or, in other words, institutionalized.

Disaster management scored the highest among CART indicators. Almost two-thirds (67.7%) of the respondents stated that the community is trying to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. Perceptions of community action can be high due to constant government activities, such as patrols made by the barangay during the pandemic. KIs noted that the barangay tried to warn people who were not following COVID-19 protocols. Despite these, there were surges in infections, such as in October 2021, when Bayog had around 281 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Anticipatory planning for future disasters has been noted by less than half (42.4%) of the respondents. This could be attributed to the national government's own lack of preparedness for future pandemics, which in turn affects local government units (Boyles et al., 2022).

Finally, in terms of information and communication, more than half (54.1%) said that the community disseminates information related to COVID-19. KIs shared that barangay health



workers (BHWs) played a critical role in communicating information related to the pandemic. However, more than a third (37.6%) reported that they could communicate their concerns openly with public officials. This relates to domain three findings, wherein learning from past disasters is hindered by the lack of open communication with local officials, due to residents' hesitation in providing feedback openly to their political leaders.

Table 1. Domain Statements That Received the Highest and Lowest Percentage Of Agreement

Domain	Statement	Highest % of Agreement	Statement	Lowest % of Agreement
(1) Connection and Caring	People in this community feel a sense of belonging.	48.8%	My community treats people fairly, regardless of their background.	38.2%
(2) Resources	People in this community know where to go to get things done.	48.2%	My community has effective leaders.	34.1%
(3) Transformative Potential	People in my community communicate with leaders who can help improve the community.	49.4 %	My community examines its successes and failures to learn from the past.	32.9%
(4) Disaster Management [COVID-19]	My community tries to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic.	67.7%	My community actively prepares for future pandemics and disasters.	42.4%
(5) Information and Communication	My community disseminates information regarding COVID-19.	54.1%	People in my community can openly communicate their issues and concerns to our public officials.	37.6%

3.2 Factors Affecting Community Resilience

The Cramer's V coefficients were computed to determine if the factors have a significant relationship with the CART domains (see Table 2). It should be noted that the employment status was simplified, where respondents who were employed, full-time students, or student-athletes were grouped into the category "Employed." Those who were unemployed remained as "Unemployed." Furthermore, regarding community participation, the statements "Abides by COVID-19 protocols" and "Participated in COVID-19 initiatives" were not included in the regression analysis, as the former was removed since 99.4% of respondents abide by the

protocols, making it not a differentiating factor. In contrast, the latter has a high correlation with the other statement “being a volunteer in COVID-19 initiatives,” and including it will become a redundant variable.

The highlight in the analysis is that one of the variables showed a strong relationship. The majority had weak to moderate relationships. Those that exhibited the highest level of relationship are volunteering in COVID-19 initiatives (0.282) and participation in related initiatives (0.282), which are linked to the information and communication domain. This supports findings on the role of youth engagement in disaster risk management at both institutional (school) and community levels (Landicho, 2025). Location (0.258) is also moderately related to improved information and communication. This means that those farther from the center of barangays have less access to information and thus necessitate increased prioritization in times of disaster.

Some peculiarities in the data exist. First, it was observed that helping disseminate COVID-19 information has a very weak relationship ($r = 0.0709$) with the information and communication domain. This may warrant further investigation into other studies. This may be indicative of the quality of information being disseminated or of the fact that the very people in charge of facilitating information during the pandemic are uninformed about the relevant facts on COVID-19.

Second, employment has a very weak relationship (0.0776) with transformative potential. It may mean that employment status plays a relatively minor role in perceptions of the importance of community initiatives related to the pandemic. This is even though many people faced employment difficulties during the pandemic (Abugamza et al., 2024), which would have likely influenced people’s perception of the need for collective action. There is a fascinating insight during Typhoon Haiyan that may explain such phenomena. While the push for collective action, such as Bayanihan, was strong immediately after the disaster, people tend to revert to individualistic behavior, leading to a collective action problem in the long run (Su et al., 2023).

Finally, awareness of community resilience is not significantly affected by connections and caring (0.0883), resources (0.0883), or disaster management (0.0883). This may highlight again the idea that resilience can be viewed from a personal standpoint (Oducado et al., 2021) rather than a communal one. The personnel are more visible than the collective, especially considering social isolation resulting from government-enforced mobility controls during the pandemic. This runs counter to common narratives of communitarian understanding of resilience in the Philippines. However, this may support Su et al.’s (2023) insights on how communitarian perspectives waned through time post-disaster.



Table 2. Cramer's V on Factors Per Domains

Cramer's V	Connection and Caring	Resources	Transformative Potential	Disaster Management [COVID-19]	Information and Communication
Demographics					
Sex	0.226	0.226	0.202	0.226	0.176
Location	0.239	0.239	0.144	0.239	0.252
Employment Status	0.115	0.115	0.0776	0.115	0.135
Community Participation					
Health Kit Helps disseminate COVID-19 information	0.131	0.131	0.129	0.131	0.168
Volunteered in COVID-19 initiatives	0.137	0.137	0.191	0.137	0.0709
Participated in COVID-19 initiatives	0.192	0.192	0.182	0.192	0.268
Awareness on Community Resilience	0.196	0.196	0.183	0.196	0.282
	0.0883	0.0883	0.155	0.0883	0.120

*NOTE: Numbers in bold are the factors that have a weak relationship

Cramer's V Qualitative Interpretation: <0.1 Weak 0.1,0.3 Moderate >0.3 Strong

3.3 Policy Recommendations Based on the Findings of the Study

The study highlighted at least seven significant findings that yield policy recommendations. First, it supports perspectives on the multi-dimensionality of community resilience, even from the perspective of young people (Shevell & Denov, 2021). Individual factors intersect with structural variables in shaping perspectives on community resilience. It highlights even more the need for systems thinking in examining complex problems, such as pandemics, and in finding practical solutions to these issues. However, it is critical to translate systems thinking into institutional arrangements (Eeldenrink et al., 2020) that resonate with local policymakers, especially at the barangay level. Considerations may include setting system boundaries, the type and magnitude of disturbance, and timescales (Helfgott, 2018).

This is where, second, the value of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary bodies of knowledge, such as human ecology, global health, sustainability science, and public administration, comes into play. Understanding multi-dimensionality requires thinking across or beyond disciplines and engaging sectors beyond academia (e.g., local policymakers, women's groups, NGOs) (Dangcalan et al., 2020; Dapito et al., 2023; Dyball, 2010). Crucial to this is the development of specialized social-ecological tools, frameworks, indices, and policy designs that account for multidimensionality across scales (Dangcalan et al., 2024).

Third, the findings highlighted the value of engaging young people in disaster risk management (Efuribe et al., 2020). There is a moderate relationship between youth engagement and the quality

of information related to the pandemic. Engagement modalities may take the form of existing institutional arrangements, such as the Sangguniang Kabataan, or be facilitated through student-led organizations in schools and other volunteer groups (Fernandez & Shaw, 2015, 2016).

Fourth, it was shown that several young people engage directly with policymakers. However, the quality of feedback mechanisms is low. Many of them felt that they could not engage in open and honest discussions with policymakers. Taking into account power asymmetries (Nesrallah et al., 2023), systemic marginalization (Asad et al., 2025) and existing governance structures, different modalities can be explored including using social media as a feedback tool (Chan et al., 2020) on how local governments are faring in managing disasters and solicit information on what ways can be done to prevent or better manage future pandemics.

Fifth, preparedness for future pandemics is important. The data shows, however, that the national government plays a key role in this (Duong et al., 2022) as local government units often seek guidance from higher authorities to manage disasters. Determining lessons on how to operationalize an inter-agency task force during COVID-19 may help design better governance arrangements for future pandemics. Promising institutional designs, including inter-local cooperation among LGUs, could help in managing risks such as pandemics that transcend local political boundaries (Berse, 2024).

Sixth, the study supports insights on the critical role of community health systems in community resilience during the pandemic (Ballard et al., 2020). Young people noted that BHWs are at the forefront of information and communication campaigns against the pandemic. Supporting barangay health systems is, therefore, crucial in preparing for future pandemics.

Seventh, the data also provide insights into the limitations of indigenous coping mechanisms in supporting community resilience. Bayanihan and indigenous mechanisms may be effective in the aftermath of disasters, but their impact may wane over time (Su et al., 2023). Amidst disasters with longer duration, institutional preparedness and reforms are more imperative than relying on indigenous and individual ways of coping.

4 Conclusion and Recommendations for Future Studies

4.1. Conclusion

The study revealed several key insights into the perspectives of young people on community resilience. At the same time, the context was in Brgy. Bayog, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines, has many insights that have ramifications beyond the barangay. First, it was found that while the majority of respondents reported that Bayog was resilient against the COVID-19 pandemic, the barangay scored low in resilience domains in CART for three out of five indicators. This entails further methodological interrogations on how to capture perceptions of community resilience, how questions are framed, and the design of nuanced instruments to capture its complex conceptualizations within communities. Nonetheless, the study found that less than half of the respondents felt a sense of belongingness in their communities and noted that *ayuda* or government assistance during the pandemic was unfairly distributed. The study's data contradicts some findings in the literature, as young people in Bayog consider their local leaders to be effective. In contrast, similar studies often indicate higher trust among leaders who are closest to community members. The length or duration of COVID-19 may be a critical factor, as longer disasters require sustained, competent leadership over several years, which is fundamentally different from shorter-term hydro-meteorological hazards. It was also found that while almost half



of the respondents communicated with their local leaders, the majority of them felt they could not open up authentically to air their concerns with their leaders. Such affects the quality of government feedback needed to improve governance mechanisms during the pandemic. Nonetheless, two-thirds of young people said there is a continuous government response to the pandemic in the form of patrols. However, the number of government activities is not proportional to the community's ability to learn from past disasters, which respondents rate as low. Finally, the critical role of community health systems was emphasized in the study, particularly that of Barangay Health Workers.

Second, a significant finding was the analysis of factors affecting community resilience. Direct engagement of young people through volunteerism and participation in community activities was a moderately strong predictor of increased understanding of COVID-19 risks and protocols. Peculiar findings emerged in the data; however, participating in information dissemination had a minimal effect on the information and communication domain. While this may be subject to further scrutiny, this may entail that the very people disseminating COVID-19 information were ill-equipped to provide correct information.

Finally, seven policy recommendations were made. These include looking at youth perspectives from a (1) multi-dimensional perspective, (2) the use of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary perspectives in understanding these interfaces, (3) the value of engaging young people in disaster risk management, (4) strengthening feedback mechanisms in governance systems during disasters, (5) the important role of national government in setting directions for preparedness from future pandemics, (6) the need for enhancement of community health systems, and (7) the need for institutional change to support community resilience.

4.2. Recommendations for Future Studies

Given the study's limitations, several recommendations were made. First, given the inherent limitations of a case study, future studies may focus on a multi-sectoral analysis of community resilience within a barangay or across different barangays, municipalities, and other relevant political units. Second, prospective studies may also benefit from the use of more advanced statistical analyses, such as multinomial regression, among others, to assess the relationship between all relevant variables and community resilience. Third, tools other than CART may be used to assess community resilience, particularly those that integrate multi-risk scenarios, which will be helpful in understanding and addressing complex disasters common in the Philippines. Fourth, ethnographic studies may yield more explanatory potential in addressing variance in statistical findings and help create a fuller picture of understanding the dynamics of community resilience.

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Declaration of Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest in this study.

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