

Public Response and Involvement to ECQ and Vaccination Amidst COVID-19 Crisis in Bicol Region: An Analysis on Institutionalizing Post-Pandemic Community Behavior Towards Inclusive Economic Growth

Ariel N. Delfino

Abstract

The economic condition of a specific country has been defied amid the COVID-19 crisis. Yet, post-pandemic community behavior has not been analyzed to probably institutionalize to help gradually recover the economy. As a result, this paper aimed to address that gap by examining the public response and involvement in enhanced community quarantine and vaccination in the Bicol Region. This study used a quantitative research method through a causal-correlational research design. The findings indicate that institutionalization of post-pandemic community behavior is highly likely due to Bicolanos' active involvement in community activities during the implementation of ECQ and vaccination in the region. Kurt Lewin's change management model and inclusive socio-economic and political institutions model can be used to execute policies that the government demands to implement pluralistically. However, the policymaking body may consider the age, average household monthly income, and level of awareness of local people when formulating post-pandemic community behavioral policies because these variables significantly influence their community involvement decisions.

Keywords: *community behavior, economy, COVID-19, pandemic, vaccination*

Article History:

Received: August 11, 2022

Accepted: November 15, 2022

Revised: September 30, 2022

Published online: December, 6 2022

Suggested Citation:

Delfino, A.N. (2022). Public Response and Involvement to ECQ and Vaccination Amidst COVID-19 Crisis in Bicol Region: An Analysis on Institutionalizing Post-Pandemic Community Behavior Towards Inclusive Economic Growth. *The Research Probe*, Volume 2 Issue 2, pp. 118 - 124.

About the author:

Assistant Professor, Partido State University

**This paper is a finalist in the International Research Competitions 2022, Category 3 Graduate*



© The author (s). Published by Institute of Industry and Academic Research Incorporated.

This is an open-access article published under the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY 4.0) license, which grants anyone to reproduce, redistribute and transform, commercially or non-commercially, with proper attribution. Read full license details here: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

Introduction

Economy is the heart and soul of every country. It is the large set of interconnected production, consumption, and exchange activities that contribute to how scarce resources are allocated. The production, consumption, and distribution of goods and services are used to meet the needs of those who live and work in the economy, also known as an economic system (Kenton, 2022). However, in the last quarter of 2019, the world's economic system is challenged by the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, which relentlessly stimulates all walks of life (physical-health, social, environmental, psychological, and economic aspects) up to this day. As a result, COVID-19 has wreaked far more economic havoc than any recent disease outbreak or economic crisis (Shretta, 2020; Haruhiko, 2020). Economic recovery could be rapid (the International Monetary Fund (IMF) currently forecasts that the world's economies will grow by 5.8% in 2021) (IMF, 2020), but it will require decisive and effective action to control the disease and restore economic activity, including global value chains (Lucas, 2020).

According to Sen (2021), as economies grow, states can tax that revenue to gain the capacity and resources needed to provide the public goods and services that their citizens require, such as healthcare, education, social protection and basic public services. People in developing countries, such as the Philippines, must, however, increase their efforts to achieve effective economic recovery in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. To realize this, Filipinos must establish or institutionalize a post-pandemic community behavior in which everyone can engage in normal economic activities (production, consumption and distribution of goods and services) without compromising their health conditions or status due to COVID-19 virus. Thus, this paper aims to fill that gap by analyzing the institutionalization of post-pandemic community behavior in the case of Bicolanos through determining the public response and involvement to enhanced community quarantine and vaccination roll-out amidst the COVID-19 crisis.

Methodology

The quantitative method was used in this study following a causal-correlational research design. The quantitative data emerged from the respondents' replies using a questionnaire checklist pertaining to their responses and involvement in ECQ and vaccination roll-out implemented by local government units during COVID-19 crisis. Furthermore, the data examined its institutionalization in the direction of inclusive economic growth. This study used

purposive sampling in conjunction with the convenience sampling technique to allow the available respondents to answer to the questions posed via google form. Convenience sampling is a non-probability sampling method that the sample is chosen by the researcher rather than drawn at random, so not all members of the population have an equal chance of participating in the study (Simkus, 2022). With this, 117 respondents were willingly responded to the request. They are all 18 years old and above, and answered regardless of their status quo as long as they experienced ECQ and were affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

Findings

The majority of the Bicolano respondents are 98.30% vaccinated with 2 doses/jabs and boosters. They have positive attitude toward their ability to stay at home during ECQ, except of not being able to get powdered milk, diapers or other important items for a baby in their family, unable to get healthcare or prescription drugs that they need, and unable to care for disabled and elderly people in their home. In terms of school closures and working from home, the majority of the respondents respond positively to the statements provided. When it comes to public or community involvement, majority of them are willing to participate in any activity that health and community authorities are asked to implement. Furthermore, using the point-biserial correlation coefficient, it revealed that school closure and working from home during ECQ have significant association with respondents' community involvement decisions, similar to some of the public response statements on the ability to stay at home. The age, average monthly household income and level of awareness, on the other hand, have significant influence on respondents' decision to participate or not in community activities during ECQ, with 0.06, 0.005, and 0.004 level of significance, respectively, which are less than 0.10 and 0.05.

Conclusion

Bicolanos are well-known for their resilience in natural disasters, particularly during rainy seasons in the country, wherein Bicol region is frequently hit by strong typhoons. As a result, Bicolanos have established resiliency in the face of natural calamities. However, the COVID-19 crisis tested their resiliency, negatively impacting their economic conditions. Thus, the institutionalization of post-pandemic community behavior in the Bicol region, anchored from the preventive measures implemented during ECQ as well as the mandatory of COVID-19 vaccination, is highly likely to be implemented at the community level to help the country's

gradual recovery of inclusive regional and national economic growth. But this suggestion is in a case-to-case basis. With this, it is critical to discourse how the Kurt Lewin Change Management model can be used to alter Bicolanos' behavior, specifically in the implementation of post-pandemic community behavior or practices. The development of post-pandemic community policies may assist local residents in motivating and preparing for community behavioral change. Following that, community behavioral change involves the formation of new attitudes, beliefs and behaviors as new ideas or practices are implemented within a community or country. An inclusive political institution model may be implemented in this part to encourage Bicolanos to participate and engage in the execution of newly developed post-pandemic community behavior or practices. A sufficiently centralized and inclusive political structure may provide public participation in the community's institutionalization of new beliefs, attitudes and behaviors. In the refreezing stage, a new community behavioral change will be institutionalized and integrated into the community cultural system. In this regard, Bicolanos may be much more resilient once post-pandemic community behavior is applied, even if new variants of COVID-related viruses emerge. As a result of Bicolanos' participation in this recommendation, there will undoubtedly be regional and national inclusive socioeconomic growth. Furthermore, effective regional actions require reaching out to multiple partners and engaging with different actors across common goals. This paper also suggests that other variables and concepts be used in future researches to analyze the creation, formulation, and implementation of post-pandemic community behavior. Applicable approaches may be investigated in order to properly implement the policies related to this topic.

References

- Acemoglu, D. & Robinson, J. (2012). *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty*. Crown Publisher, USA.
- Altares, P.S., Copo, A.R.I, Gabuyo, Y.A., Laddaran, A.T. Yao, A.M.S.D. (2005). *Elementary Statistics with Computer Applications*. Rex Book Store Inc., Manila, Philippines.
- Blendon, R.J., Koonin, L.M., Benson, J.M., Cetron, M.S., Pollard, W.E., Mitchell, E.W., Weldon, K.J., & Herrmann, M.J. (2008). Public response to community mitigation measures for pandemic influenza. *Policy Review*, 14 (5), 778-786.
- Calimon, D. & Masangkay, M. (2020). Philippines: Enhanced Community Quarantine. A Global Compliance News- Blog by Baker McKenzie. Retrieved from:

<https://www.globalcompliancenews.com/2020/04/24/enhanced-community-quarantine-ph-covid19-25032020/>

- Carter, B. (2014). *Inclusive Institutions: Top Guide*. GSDRC Applied Knowledge Services. Birmingham, UK: University of Birmingham. Retrieved from: <http://www.gsdrc.org/docs/open/inclusiveinstitutionstg.pdf>
- Creswell, J.W. (2014). *Research Design-Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*. SAGE Publications. Printed in the United States of America.
- Cummings, S., Bridgman, T. & Brown, K.G. (2016). Unfreezing change as three steps: Rethinking Kurt Lewin's legacy for change management. *Human Relations*, 69 (1), 33-60.
- Department of Health (DOH) (2022). *COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard*. Retrieved from: <https://doh.gov.ph/vaccines>
- Gopinath, G (2020). *The Great Lockdown; Worst Economic Downturn Since the Great Depression*. Retrieved from IMF blog website: <https://blogs.imf.org/2020/04/14/the-great-lockdown-worst-economic-downturn-since-the-great-depression/>
- Hapal, K. (2021). The Philippines' COVID-19 response: Securitising the pandemic and disciplining the pasaway. *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs*, 40(2), 224-244. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1868103421994>
- Haruhiko, K. (2020). *COVID-19 and the global economy: impact and challenges from Asia's perspective*. Speech at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the National Association for Business Economics. Bank of Japan. Retrieved from <https://www.bis.org/review/r201007d.pdf>
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) (2020). *World Economic Outlook: Chapter 1: The Great Lockdown*. Retrieved from: <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2020/04/14/weo-april-2020>
- Jaffee, D. (1998). *Levels of Socio-economic Development Theory*. Praeger Publishers. Westport, Connecticut.
- Kenton, W. (2022). *Economy*. Investopedia. Retrieved from: <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/e/economy.asp>
- Lucas, B. (2020). Impacts of COVID-19 on inclusive economic growth in middle-income countries. Helpdesk Report, Knowledge, Evidence, and Learning for Development. Retrieved from: <https://gsdrc.org/publications/impacts-of-covid-19-on-inclusive-economic-growth-in-middle-income-countries/>

- Martin, P. Y. (2004). Gender as a social institution. *Social Forces*, 82 (4), pp. 1249-1273. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3598436>
- Official Gazette (2020). *Inter-agency task force for the management of emerging infectious diseases resolution no. 41*. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2020/05may/20200529-IATF-RESOLUTION-NO-41.pdf>
- Papageorge, N. W., Zahn, M. V., Belot, M., van den Broek-Altenburg, Ofreneo, R.E. (2020). *COVID-19 Pandemic Case Study; Philippines*. Published by the Heinrich-Boll-Stiftung European Union, Brussels, December 2020. Retrieved from: <https://eu.boell.org/en/2020/12/10/covid-19-pandemic-case-study-philippines>
- Pajaron, M. & Vasquez, G.N.A. (2021). *How effective is community quarantine in the Philippines? A quasi-experimental analysis*, GLO Discussion Paper, No 782, Global Labor Organization (GLO), Essen. Retrieved from: <https://www.econstor.eu/handle/10419/230315>
- Sen, K. (2021) *Blog- Why should I care about economic growth? United Nations University- UNU-WIDER*. Retrieved from: <https://www.wider.unu.edu/publication/why-should-i-care-about-economic-growth>
- Shi, G., Zhong, X. He, W., Liu, H., Liu X., & Ma, M. (2021). Factors influencing protective behavior in the post-COVID-19 period in China: a cross-sectional study. *Environmental health and Preventive Medicine*, 26 (95), 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12199-021-01015-2>
- Shinozaki, S. & Rao, L.N. (2021). *COVID-19 Impact on Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises under the Lockdown: Evidence from a Rapid Survey in the Philippines*. ADBI Working Paper Series, No. 1216. Asian Development Bank Institute. Tokyo, Japan. Retrieved from: <https://www.adb.org/publications/covid-19-impact-msme-under-lockdown-evidence-rapid-survey-philippines>
- Shretta, R. (2020). *The economic impact of COVID-19*. Retrieved from Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health, Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford website: <https://www.tropicalmedicine.ox.ac.uk/news/the-economic-impact-of-covid-19>
- Simkus, J. (2022). *Convenience Sampling: Definition, Method and Examples*. Retrieved from: <https://www.simplypsychology.org/convenience-sampling.html>

- Sjberg L. (2007). Emotions and risk perception. *Risk Manage.* 2007; 9(4):223–37. <https://doi.org/10.1057/palgrave.rm.8250038>.
- The Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (2021). Centering Communities in Pandemic Preparedness and Response. Background Paper 10. Retrieved from: <https://theindependentpanel.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Background-paper-10-community-involvement.pdf>
- Turalde, J. (2020). *Putting the ‘community’ back in the enhanced community quarantine*. Rappler Philippines. Retrieved from: <https://www.rappler.com/moveph/256500-opinion-misunderstood-community-engaging-filipinos-coronavirus-pandemic/>
- United Nations (n.d.). *COVID-19: Towards an Inclusive, Resilient and Green Recovery-Building Back Better Through Regional Cooperation*. Retrieved from: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/45551-covid-19-towards-inclusive-resilient-and-green-recovery-building-back-better>
- Worldometer (2022). *Coronavirus cases in the Philippines*. Retrieved from: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/philippines/>