

# Local Legislators' Awareness and Adoption of Parliamentary Procedures in the 5th District of Camarines Sur

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Good governance is observed when the lawmakers, local legislative bodies, and the smallest unit of the society, are not only knowledgeable of the law but, most importantly, know how to participate in the local legislative processes in addressing the needs of the community they serve. This study aimed to determine the awareness level and extent of adoption on concepts of parliamentary procedures of community officials in the Fifth District of Camarines Sur, Philippines, and whether a relationship exists between the two. By using descriptive and correlational research designs among 360 respondents in the 40 communities, findings of the study revealed that local legislators have a high awareness level on the fundamental principles of parliamentary procedures, quorum, and sessions, which resulted in a high adoption rate. However, low awareness levels on concepts of the order of business, votes, and motions led to a low adoption rate. Capacitating the local legislators through the conduct of training, extension programs, and a simplified guidebook will improve community legislative practices that will redound to the benefit of the citizens.

**Key words:** *Public administration, local governance, barangay, community, parliamentary procedure, descriptive design, Philippines.*



## Introduction

The majority of governments around the world are mostly democratic and are increasingly democracies in their very essence. In the Philippines, almost three decades after the enactment of the Local Government Code of 1991 that decentralised powers from the national government and devolved services to local governments, the law has to fulfil its promise of building self-reliant communities that contribute to national development.

Due to these devolved powers and authority, the local government in the Philippines was given wide latitude to make vital decisions in governing their local communities. Barangay governance plays a vital role in the empowerment of the local government units in the country. This is linked with the leader's accountability, fairness, and transparency in the exercise of duties and functions as a servant in his community (Boysillo, 2016).

With the fast-paced development in the country as well as in the rest of the world, the need to strengthen the concept of Parliamentary Procedure is a necessity. An indispensable activity of the government's branches is decision making via the conduct of meetings. It is through meetings that social, political, and economic problems are tackled and resolved, and the principles of democracy, which is the rule of the majority and the protection of the minority rights. This protection extends to the indigenous groups, women, and other marginalised sectors. However, residing in the legislature is the function to make laws where the conduct of meetings becomes a routine (Fitzpatrick, 2010).

Erickson (2012) states, "How well legislature executes power depends upon the processes and procedures it follows." Without the parliamentary procedure, it would be impossible for the legislative bodies to deliver their functions of legislation, representation, and oversight. Regrettably, in these broad aspects, according to Tsekpo and Hudson (2009), "in many developing countries as well as in many developed countries, parliaments are weak, ineffective and marginalized." Parliamentary strengthening now becomes a need, at least in the gamut of parliamentary procedure (Yin, 2009). Parliamentary procedure, an ever-changing democratic practice, is the systematic conduct of meetings. It is a system that has its own principles, order of business, and motions that facilitate order and ways of disposing of a motion, designed to lessen the use of time and to establish decorum.

Furthermore, Bach (2008) established that Parliamentary Procedure saves time, policy, and cost while ensuring the quality of the meeting. First, its rules lend order, stability, and predictability to how the assembly does its work; second, the rules define how much protection the opposition and political minorities in the assembly have against a majority that might be tempted to abuse its power. Third, the rules allocate responsibilities among the members of the



assembly and the organisational units they form within it, such as party groups and communities.

In the advent of deepening political dynamics and the upsurge of local autonomy and decentralisation, the need to present, in a scientific yet understandable way, the rules and procedures is one of the many issues facing new public servants who should govern as a deliberative group. It will bring into focus the potentiality of group opinion for shaping larger decisions in any organisation whose authority emanates from the will of the majority. Simply stated, establishing the background of parliamentary law will make the understanding of rules of order easier for everyone.

Since public administration desires the best statecraft for the improvement of government affairs and the perpetuation of real democracy, including local legislation, this research endeavours to look into the awareness and adoption of the Parliamentary Procedure concepts in the 5<sup>th</sup> district of Camarines Sur and to provide Intervention program/s and recommendations for local legislators as bases in helping communities become robust and self-sustaining, and to have competent leaders that can promote the general welfare of the public, especially at the grassroots level. The researcher believes that this will also address the concern of the College in producing a sound research-based extension program that can be introduced in the community that CSPC is mandated to serve.

## **Objectives**

The main objective of the research is to measure the degree of awareness and adoption of the Parliamentary Procedure among the selected barangays in the 5th District of Camarines Sur.

The study was framed around six (6) specific objectives, to wit:

1. Determine the profile of the respondents in terms of age, sex, number of years in service, and educational qualification.
2. Measure the level of awareness of the elected officials on Parliamentary Procedure concepts.
3. Determine the extent to which the elected officials adopt the Parliamentary Procedure concepts.
4. Identify the significant relationship between the profile of the respondents and their:
  - a. level of awareness;
  - b. the extent of adoption.
5. Verify if there exists a significant relationship between the level of awareness and extent of adoption.

- Propose Intervention Programs and recommendations to enhance or improve awareness and adoption of Parliamentary Procedure.

## Methods

This study combines elements of descriptive and correlational research designs based on the survey research paradigms of Cohen, Manion, and Morrison (2007). This research is descriptive statistics are used to translate independent variables such as age, sex, educational background and a number of years in service, and describe how the respondents articulated their level of awareness and extent of adoption on the concepts of parliamentary procedure. The correlational research design was also used to test the relationship of the independent variables to make a reliable assessment of the relationship between the profile of the respondents and their level of awareness, and extent of adoption. A quantitative method, particularly the use of survey questionnaires, was utilised to fulfil the objectives 1, 2, and 3.

The primary data collection instrument was a 4-page self-completion questionnaire, which was designed following the guidelines recommended by Babbie (2013). The questionnaire was pre-tested with a group of elected SK members officially enrolled in CSPC Buhi Extension Campus before it was distributed to the study population to avoid ambiguous questions or errors (grammatical, typographical, or ordering) as suggested in (Cohen et al., 2007). The questionnaire was distributed directly to the Office of the Punong Barangay to seek approval for the conduct. The respondents of the study are the elected barangay officials in the Municipality of Nabua and Buhi, as shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1:** Respondents of the Study

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>No. of barangays</b>	<b>50% of the barangays</b>	<b>X 9 Barangay Officials</b>
Buhi	38	19	171
Nabua	42	21	189
Total	80	40	360

From the total 40 barangays, a total of 360 respondents who were the elected barangay officials were the target respondents of the study, but only 333 approved to participate. Respondents were the elected Punong barangays, Sannguniang barangays, and SK Chairpersons in the 40 barangays, which are considered the locale of the study.

The collected quantitative data was analysed and integrated together to complete the findings of the study. The statistical techniques adopted in analysing the survey data included the use



of Weighted Mean to determine the level of awareness and extent of adoption of Parliamentary Procedure among the local barangay officials. Likert scaling technique is mostly used for measuring people's attitudes and perceptions through the use of standardised response categories in survey questionnaires (Babbie, 2013).

Finally, correlation analyses were considered to determine the significant relationship between the profile of the respondents and their level of awareness, the extent of adoption, and their level of awareness and extent of adoption. To establish if a relationship exists, the researcher adopted a statistical correlation test using the Chi-Square test of independence to answer the relationships between the profile of the respondents and their level of awareness and the profile of the respondents and their extent of adoption.

To answer the 5th objective on the relationship between the level of awareness and extent of adoption, the researcher used Spearman-rank order of correlation. According to Puth and Neuh (2015), the Spearman Rank Order Correlation Coefficient ( $r_s$ ) is the most preferred correlation test when the variables to be considered are ordinal. Since the variables to be measured in this study are ordinal, such as age, sex, educational qualification and number of years in the service and the concepts of parliamentary procedures, Spearman's correlation was considered the most suitable technique in the analysis of the quantitative data generated from the survey questionnaire.

For this paper, the researcher expresses that the null hypothesis  $H_0$ , which is that there is no significant relationship between the compared variables. The computed p-value determines how probable it is to accept or reject the  $H_0$ . This means that when the p-value is more than 0.05, there is strong statistical evidence against the  $H_0$  and that the  $r_s$  result is significant. Therefore,  $H_0$  is rejected.

## **Results and Discussion**

### ***Profile of the Respondents***

The dependent variables below are presented to show how closely the sample mirrors the elected barangay officials in the two (2) municipalities in the 5<sup>th</sup> District of Camarines Sur. The profile of the respondents as to age, sex, number of years elected as barangay official, educational qualifications and profession/occupation were used to test the association or relationship with variables concerning the parliamentary procedure, which can provide specific recommendations or actions to improve the legislative process in the barangays.

**Table 2:** Profile of the Respondents

<b>Age</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Less than 20	36	10.8%
21-30	46	13.84%
31-40	53	15.91%
41-50	61	18.32%
51-60	85	25.52%
61-70	52	15.61%
<b>Sex</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Male	176	52.85%
Female	157	47.15%
<b>Years in Service</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Less than 1 year	93	27.93%
1-3 years	61	18.32%
3-6 years	92	27.62%
6-9 years	87	26.13%
<b>Educational Qualification</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
High School Graduate	39	11.71%
College Graduate	143	42.94%
College Undergraduate	132	39.64%
Graduate Studies	19	5.71%

As shown in Table 2, 85 or 25.52% of the respondents were aged 51-60 years old, 61 or 18.32% were either 41-45, almost the same number of respondents aged between 31-40 and 61-70, and a small number of respondents were less than 20 years of age.

The majority of the respondents are male, with 176 or 52.85% out of the total respondents, and 47.15% are female. Though a bigger number of men constitutes the barangay level, a rising number of women in politics is also noteworthy with its increasing number over the years.

In terms of years elected in public office, 93 or 27.93% have been in service for less than 1 year, and 92 or 27.62% have been in service for 3-6 years, and about a slightly lower percentage (18.32%) of respondents have 1-3 years of experience as a barangay official.

143 or 43% of the respondents were College Graduates, and a slightly lower percentage (39%) were College undergraduates, 12% were High School graduates, while a very small percentage of 6% have pursued Graduate Studies. The educational qualification for barangay officials does not even require a degree in College. Still, the basic requirement to run for public office is that the candidate can read and write, is a registered voter, and has been a resident of the barangay where he intends to serve for at least six (6) months immediately preceding the election.



As provided in Republic Act No. 10742 or the SK Reform Act of 2015, candidates for Sangguniang Kabataan have to be between 18 to 24 years old on the day of the election to qualify. Also, for Sangguniang Barangay, age qualification remains at least 18 years old on the day of the election (Commission on Election, 2018). Aside from the age qualification, other qualifications for members of the Sangguniang Barangays are that they are citizens of the Philippines, a registered voter in the barangay where he intends to be elected, a resident therein for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the day of the election, are able to read and write Filipino or any other local language or dialect, and are of at least 18 years of age. Data shows that participation in barangay governance is spread across all ages.

The participation of women in local governance is present in all three essential areas: as voters, policymakers, and as members of decision-making bodies. The representation and participation of women in local governance are directly linked to the advancement of women and is a basic requirement in the journey towards gender equality. (Kurebwa, 2006). Moreover, their entry into politics is often motivated and facilitated by male relatives and friends who have access to politics or who are in politics themselves. A 1992 study conducted by Dr. Socorro L. Reyes of the Center for Legislative Development (CLD) revealed that fourteen (14) women members of Congress "believe their blood relationship with a male politician helped them win their electoral seat ... through the use of the latter's political machinery, their knowledge of campaign tactics and strategies, and the family's political name." Interviews further revealed that their entry into electoral politics was largely motivated by their desire to continue a "family tradition." These findings corroborate the result of the study.

In American elections (Trounstine, 2013), there is a better chance of winning for incumbents than a challenger. While political scientists have provided considerable evidence of this pattern at all levels of government, the source of the advantage (and the degree to which it is viewed as nefarious) remains debatable. Previous research on this topic can be categorised as representing three different views of the incumbency advantage. First, some scholars have argued that the apparent advantage is really a selection effect; incumbents are ex ante better politicians (Jacobson and Kernell 1981). Others have argued that it is incumbents' actions in office, their records of service, which increase their probability of election (Fenno 1978). Both of these views are encouraging; regardless of the reason for winning, the re-election of incumbents reflects the success of representative democracy. A third, less optimistic possibility is that incumbents, once elected, become entrenched regardless of their performance in office (Key 1949). In this view, incumbents implement or take advantage of institutional structures that decrease the contestability of the electoral arena.

It can be concluded from the table above that, by and large, the respondents were progressive in education and have embraced higher education, which is so important today to create a

knowledge-based society. Education increases one's knowledge of politics, both by enhancing one's ability to acquire, organise, and retain political information and by increasing one's motivation to acquire such information (Garber, 2006). The better educated are not only more aware politically, but they take comparatively more interest in it, and it provides direct exposure to political information by widening the scope of one's acquaintance with political facts. Those who are more educated may learn more about politics and political issues than less educated individuals. This may be because, through education, people get the capacity necessary to understand and process political information.

### **Level of Awareness and Extent of Adoption of Parliamentary Procedures**

The second objective of the study is to determine the level of awareness and extent of adoption of Parliamentary procedures among the elected barangay officials in the 5th District of Camarines Sur. The following aspects of parliamentary procedures were considered: Fundamental principles of parliamentary procedure, meetings and sessions, quorum, votes and voting, and motion.

#### ***Fundamental Principles of Parliamentary Procedures***

The principal aims and functions of parliamentary procedure are to maintain decorum, ascertain the will of the majority, and facilitate the orderly and harmonious transaction of business of the assembly. This systematic procedure of doing business is observed in most of the deliberative assemblies of the world, and while it may vary in some minor respect in some countries, it serves the same purpose everywhere.

**Table 3:** Level of Awareness and Extent of Adoption on the Fundamental Principles of Parliamentary Procedure

<b>Fundamental Procedures of Parliamentary Procedures</b>	<b>Awareness Level</b>		<b>Adoption Level</b>	
	<b>Weighted Mean</b>	<b>Verbal Interpretation</b>	<b>Weighted Mean</b>	<b>Verbal Interpretation</b>
Members have equal rights and obligations.	<b>3.20</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>3.20</b>	<b>To a High Extent</b>
The majority rules at all times.	<b>3.08</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>3.19</b>	<b>To a High Extent</b>
The minority must be protected.	<b>2.58</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>2.96</b>	<b>To a High Extent</b>

One subject is brought before the assembly at a time or singularity of the subject.	<b>2.43</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>2.41</b>	<b>To a Low extent</b>
All questions are entitled to a full and free debate before they are submitted to a vote.	<b>2.24</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>2.42</b>	<b>To a Low Extent</b>
Every motion brought before the assembly is voted upon for proper disposition.	<b>1.93</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>2.31</b>	<b>To a Low Extent</b>
Group interest prevails at all times.	<b>2.69</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>3.32</b>	<b>To a Very high Extent</b>
The presiding officer does not take sides during debates.	<b>2.32</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>2.41</b>	<b>To a Low Extent</b>
The presiding officer relinquishes his chair to a member when he wants to participate in the deliberation of the meeting.	<b>1.87</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>2.09</b>	<b>To a Low Extent</b>
The presiding officer can vote in case of a tie.	<b>3.18</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>3.36</b>	<b>To a Very High Extent</b>
<b>Average Weighted Mean</b>	<b>2.55</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>2.77</b>	<b>To a High Extent</b>

This shows that the respondents have a **high level of awareness** on the principles: members have equal rights and obligations with a WM of 3.20; the presiding officer can vote in case of tie with a WM of 3.18; the majority rules at all times with a WM of 3.08; group interest prevails at all times, 2.69; and the minority must be protected, 2.58.

In terms of the **extent of adoption**, it shows that the respondents have **to a high extent** adopted some of the basic principles of parliamentary procedures such as: the presiding officer can vote in case of a tie, with a WM of 3.36; and, Group interest prevails at all times with a WM of 3.32. **To a high extent**, some principles are also adopted by the local officials. With a WM of 3.20, it shows that the principle of equal rights and obligations among members is **adopted to a high extent**, majority rules at all times, with a WM of 3.19; and minority is always protected, 2.96.

From the responses gathered, it can be gleaned that the respondents have a **high level of awareness** on the fundamental principles of parliamentary procedure with a computed average weighted mean of 2.55. They also have a **high extent of adoption** on the fundamental principles of parliamentary procedure with a WM of 2.77.

The findings are congruent to the study of Manuel P. Malingan III, “Syncretic Analysis of Ifugao Parliamentary Procedure Practices” (2016). In his document analysis and actual observation of the SB practices, he found that aspects in the tenets of parliamentary procedure such as order of business and decorum, practice is adherent to the Robert’s Rule of Order, although deviations from said standard as well as from any Western standard include mainly the ways of disposing motions which are considered to be the heart of Western parliamentary procedure. Instead, the Sanggunian practice consensus-decision making and from time to time, the initial application of simplified motions.

### ***Meetings and Sessions***

In parliamentary practice, the term meeting denotes a gathering or assembly of the members of an organisation for any length of time during which there is unbroken deliberation except perhaps, for occasional and brief period of recess. The term session, on the other hand, denotes either a single meeting or a series of meetings which may take place for any length of time.

**Table 4:** Level of Awareness and Extent of Adoption on Meetings/Sessions and Quorum

<b>Meetings and Sessions</b>	<b>Awareness Level</b>		<b>Adoption Level</b>	
	<b>Weighted Mean</b>	<b>Verbal Interpretation</b>	<b>Weighted Mean</b>	<b>Verbal Interpretation</b>
The meeting is done on a regular basis and based on the approved schedule.	<b>3.24</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>3.22</b>	<b>To a high extent</b>
Special meetings are done to discuss an important topic indicated in the agenda called for by the presiding officer.	<b>1.89</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>2.36</b>	<b>To a low extent</b>
Members of the barangay are presumed to know the schedule of the regular meeting days and may not be served with notices to convene.	<b>3.21</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>3.19</b>	<b>To a high extent</b>
Only members in good standing should be counted in the determination of a quorum	<b>2.43</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>2.48</b>	<b>To a low extent</b>
When a minority group abandoned the meeting after the determination of a quorum, the meeting or session may continue.	<b>2.36</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>2.46</b>	<b>To a low extent</b>
<b>Average Weighted Mean</b>	<b>2.626</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>2.74</b>	<b>High</b>

Table 4 shows the level of awareness and adoption in meetings/sessions and quorum as a component of parliamentary procedure. It shows that the respondents' level of awareness on the conduct of regular meetings on an approved schedule is 3.24 or **High** and that members of the barangays presumed to know the scheduled meeting even without notice to convene with a WM of 3.21 or **High**. However, there is low awareness on the concepts that special meetings are done to discuss important topics indicated in the agenda with a WM of 1.89; only members in good standing should be counted in the determination of quorum, 2.43; and when the minority group abandoned the meeting after the determination of a quorum, the meeting or session may continue, 2.36.

Despite other indicators having a low level of awareness, the average weighted mean as to the level of awareness on meetings and sessions is 2.55 or a verbal interpretation of **High awareness level**.

In terms of adoption level, it shows that the respondents have a **high extent of adoption** on meeting the conduct of regular meetings based on approved schedule and the presumption of the conduct of regular meetings, despite the absence of notice with a weighted mean of 3.22 and 3.19 respectively. From the responses, it can be gleaned that the adoption level on the conduct of meetings and sessions is **high**, with an average weighted mean of 2.75.

### *Votes and Voting*

**Table 5:** Level of Awareness and Extent of Adoption on Votes and Voting

Votes and Voting	Awareness Level		Adoption Level	
	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation
The Majority vote means one-half plus one of the legal votes cast. This is sometimes called a simple or bare majority.	3.20	High	3.65	To a very high extent
The one receiving the largest number of votes is said to have a plurality vote.	3.20	High	3.56	To a very high extent
In case of a tie, the voting should continue until it results in an election or a choice. But if the voting is on	3.16	High	3.52	To a very high extent

a motion and a tie occurs, the motion is declared lost.				
The presiding officer may vote to break the tie.	<b>3.21</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>3.53</b>	<b>To a very high extent</b>
While it is the right of every eligible member to vote on any question before the assembly, it is equally a prerogative to abstain from voting.	<b>1.92</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>2.16</b>	<b>To a low extent</b>
<b>Average Weighted Mean</b>	<b>2.94</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>3.28</b>	<b>To a High Extent</b>

The respondents were asked of their awareness level and adoption level on votes and voting, and it was revealed that there is a **high level of awareness and to a very high extent level of adoption** with an average weighted mean of 2.94 and 3.28, respectively. Concepts on votes and voting that registered a high level of awareness and high extent of adoption are the following: majority votes mean one-half plus one of the legal votes cast, the one receiving the largest number of votes is said to have a plurality vote, the presiding officer may vote only to break the tie, and in case of a tie, the voting should continue until it results in an election or a choice. However, it was recorded that there is a **low level of awareness and low extent of adoption** on the statement that while it is the right of every eligible member to vote on any question before the assembly, it is equally a prerogative to abstain from voting with a WM of 1.92 or **low level of awareness**, and 2.16 or low extent of adoption.

This suggests that respondents are fully confident with how votes and voting are done and are practiced to a high extent in matters affecting barangay concerns.

### ***Motion***

**Table 6:** Level of Awareness and Extent of Adoption on Motion

<b>Motions</b>	<b>Awareness Level</b>		<b>Adoption Level</b>	
	<b>Weighted Mean</b>	<b>Verbal Interpretation</b>	<b>Weighted Mean</b>	<b>Verbal Interpretation</b>
A motion is a formal proposal that the assembly either adopt a certain view or take a certain action on a question pending before it.	<b>2.13</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>2.32</b>	<b>To a low extent</b>
A motion is identified by the prefatory phrase, "I move that," which is equivalent to saying, "I propose that."	<b>2.51</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>2.43</b>	<b>To a low extent</b>

The main motion requires only a majority vote, as a rule, and is subject to the application of all other motions.	2.31	Low	2.48	To a low extent
All motions are debatable except those that are procedural in character and are generally decided by the Chair	2.32	Low	2.44	To a low extent
Before the motion can be deliberated upon, it should be seconded by saying, "I second the motion."	3.18	High	2.45	To a low extent
<b>Average Weighted Mean</b>	<b>2.49</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>2.42</b>	<b>Low</b>

Table 6 shows the level of awareness and extent of adoption of the Barangay Officials in terms of Motion as a component of Parliamentary Procedure. A motion is a procedure required by parliamentary law for the transaction of business in a deliberative assembly. It is a formal proposal that the assembly either adopt a certain view or take a certain action on a question pending before the assembly.

Even if respondents have exhibited a high level of awareness on the statements, 'A motion is identified by the prefatory phrase, 'I move that, which is equivalent to saying, I propose that..' with a WM of 2.51 and 'Before the motion can be deliberated upon, it should be seconded by saying, 'I second the motion,' with a WM of 3.18 or **high level of awareness**, there is the **low extent of adoption on these concepts** with a recorded WM of 2.43 and 2.45 respectively.

Overall, the Likert Scale shows that the average weighted mean in terms of Motion is 2.49 for the level of awareness and 2.42 for the extent of adoption. This implies that barangay officials are not fully confident and have not fully practiced the concepts on Motion in the deliberation of barangay meetings and sessions.

The powers, duties, and functions of the chief executive and the Sangguniang Barangay are enumerated under Section 389 of RA 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991. The SB, as the local legislative body of the barangay, is the one given the power to make local laws called barangay ordinances. Among the important provisions are Section 48 to 59 on Local Legislation; Section 391 and 392 on the Powers, Duties, and Functions of the Sangguniang Barangay; Section 132 on the power to impose a tax, fee, charges or to generate revenues, to be exercised by the Sangguniang barangay through an ordinance; Section 152 on the Scope of Taxing Powers of the Barangays is operationalised through an ordinance; Section 153 – 155 – Common Revenue Raising Powers of LGUs (done through the passage of ordinance); and, Section 329 – 334 – Barangay Budgets. The exercise of these functions can be translated during sessions and meetings, and the use of Motions to deliberate matters will aid the barangay officials.

**Table 7:** The significant relationship between the profile and the level of awareness and extent of adoption on the use of Parliamentary Procedure concepts

Profile	Fundamental Principles of Parliamentary P						Meetings/Sessions & Quorum						Votes and Voting						Motion					
	Awareness			Adoption			Awareness			Adoption			Awareness			Adoption			Awareness			Adoption		
	p-value	Decision on Ho	I	p-value	Decision on Ho	I	p-value	Decision on Ho	I	p-value	Decision on Ho	I	p-value	Decision on Ho	I	p-value	Decision on Ho	I	p-value	Decision on Ho	I	p-value	Decision on Ho	I
Age	0.087	Accept	NS	0.755	Accept	NS	0.206	Accept	NS	0.0431	Reject	S	0.0106	Reject	S	0.1017	Accept	NS	0.0257	Reject	S	0.0106	Reject	S
Sex	0.366	Accept	NS	0.3664	Accept	NS	0.147	Accept	NS	0.1682	Accept	NS	0.3372	Accept	NS	0.0829	Accept	NS	0.0654	Accept	NS	0.3372	Accept	NS
Years in Service	0.005	Reject	S	0.003	Reject	S	0.003	Reject	S	0.0029	Reject	S	0.005	Reject	S	0	Reject	S	0	Reject	S	0.005	Reject	S
Educational Qualification	0	Reject	S	0	Reject	S	0	Reject	S	0	Reject	S	0	Reject	S	0	Reject	S	0	Reject	S	0	Reject	S

Table 7 presents the relationship between the profile of the respondents along with age, sex, years in service, and educational qualification with their awareness level and extent of adoption along with the fundamental principles of parliamentary procedures and concepts, meetings/session & quorum, votes and voting and motion.

It is noteworthy that years in service and educational qualification have consistently displayed a significant relationship to the awareness and adoption of the fundamental principles of parliamentary procedures and concepts on meeting/sessions & quorum, order of business, votes, and voting and motion since the p-value is less than 0.05.

On the other hand, when sex was correlated to the local legislators' awareness and adoption of Parliamentary procedure concepts, the null hypothesis was accepted since the p-value is higher than 0.05. Therefore, there is no significant relationship between sex and awareness and adoption rate to the concepts of parliamentary procedures concepts.

Moreover, age has exhibited varied significance to the local legislators' awareness and adoption rate to Parliamentary Procedure. It rejected the null hypothesis on the relationship between age and awareness of Motion. Hence, a relationship exists. However, age is not significant to the awareness and adoption level to the fundamental principles of Parliamentary Procedure, awareness to meetings/session, and adoption level to votes and voting.

According to Ergun (2007), educational qualification is the key concept in transporting, interpreting, and redefining knowledge. Education and training for the public leadership capacity building and training of administrators at various administration levels is very important for the realisation of an accountable, transparent, effective, and efficient public service. Whatever the administrative system of a country, these characteristics have to be taken into account in the development and training of administrators. Every administrator has to be effective, and his/her attitude towards global and environmental changes must be in harmony

with the realities of his/her country. All public administration education and training programs must start from this framework.

The most important ‘academic’ skill for parliamentary work appears to be the ability to handle large amounts of information, with the particular orientation, specialisation, and content of education. However, legislators without a college education can be as competent as their colleagues with respect to the same positive skills since the harnessing of skills often associated with formal education can be acquired in alternative ways.

**Table 8:** Relationship between Level of Awareness and Extent of Adoption on Parliamentary Procedure Concepts

	Computed r	Degree of Freedom	Tabular $r_{0.05}$	p-value	Decision on $H_0$	Interpretation
Fundamental Principles of Parliamentary Procedure	0.8997	9	0.600	0.0004	Reject	Significant
Meetings/Sessions & Quorum	1.0000	4	1.000	0.0000	Reject	Significant
Votes and Voting	0.6669	4	1.000	0.2189	Accept	Not Significant
Motion	0.3000	4	1.000	0.6238	Accept	Not Significant

Data shows that the null hypothesis was rejected. Hence, there is a significant relationship between the level of awareness and extent of adoption along with fundamental principles of parliamentary procedure, since the computed value is greater than the tabular value; and along with meetings/sessions and quorum, there is equal value for the computer and tabular. Hence, there exists a perfect positive correlation.

On the other hand, the null hypothesis was accepted on the level of awareness and extent of adoption along with votes and voting and motion. Hence, there exists a negative relationship since the p-value is greater than 0.05. It can be inferred that the respondents’ level of awareness is not, in a way, related to their extent of adoption. Data reveals that the respondents’ level of awareness on the fundamental principles of parliamentary procedures, meetings, and sessions and quorum has a significant relationship to the extent of adoption on these parliamentary concepts. However, the level of awareness on the order of business and voting does not seem to matter to the extent of adoption. Similar to motion, the level of awareness does not seem to be important for the respondents’ extent of adoption.

### ***Proposed Recommendations***

Respondents were asked as to their recommendations to improve and enhance their Parliamentary Procedure practices in delivering basic legislative services to the barangay. It was revealed that training on basic parliamentary procedure was their first choice.

**Table 9:** Proposed Recommendations

<b>Proposed Recommendations</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Training on Basic Parliamentary Procedure	289	86.79%	1
Simplified Book on Parliamentary Procedure	285	85.58%	2
Crash Course for Barangay Officials on Local Governance	270	81.08%	3
Training on Planning and Budgeting system	272	81.68%	4
Training on Katarungang Pambarangay Law	269	80.78%	5
Training on Public Speaking	235	70.57%	6
Immersion and Actual Observation on the conduct of meetings and sessions	190	57.05%	7
Training on Making Minutes and Committee Reports	126	37.84%	8
Seminar on Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards of public officials	125	37.53%	9
Training on Federalism	51	15.31%	10

In an interview conducted, training on the parliamentary procedure will capacitate them to be adept with the formalities of training, the order of business, and the process of proposing changes in the assembly. Second, they will find it helpful to have a simplified book on parliamentary procedures. When asked as to what would be in the book, they responded that procedures for the conduct of meetings, assembly, manner of voting, motion, and minutes preparation be included. Aside from training on parliamentary procedure, they also deemed it wise to have a crash course on local governance, training on the conduct of planning and budgeting, and 5<sup>th</sup> in rank is the training on Katarungang Pambarangay Law followed by training to improve their public speaking skills.

Section 16 of the Local Government Code of 1991 states that every local government unit such as the barangay exercises the powers expressly granted by law, and those necessarily implied



therefrom, as well as the powers necessary, appropriate or incidental for its efficient and effective governance and those which are essential to the promotion of general welfare.

There is a need for these public officials to possess a more thorough, complete or at the very least adequate knowledge to meet the demands of their constituencies and in making them truly functional. They must also possess the necessary professional training and competencies that will keep them confident and knowledgeable in their duties.

### **Conclusions**

Barangay legislators are a mixture of experienced young and old politically inclined, and educationally qualified members of the community. There is a rise in women power in local politics.

Barangay legislators do not have mastery of all the concepts of Parliamentary Procedure to discharge their legislative functions effectively. Although they have exhibited high awareness level and extent of adoption on the fundamental principles of parliamentary procedures, concepts of meetings/sessions, quorum and votes/voting, they exhibited a low extent of adoption on Motions as a concept of parliamentary procedure

Age, Years in service, and Educational background affect knowledge, mastery, and adoption of the concepts of Parliamentary Procedure.

A clamour for learning is evident among barangay legislators to capacitate themselves and effectively discharge legislative functions.

### **Recommendations**

The College may look into possible collaboration and partnership with the different barangays through the Department of Interior and Local Government to capacitate local legislators and increase awareness and adoption of Parliamentary Procedures.

As noted in the result of the proposed recommendation by the respondents, training can be conducted through the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences. The proposed training design, the LEAD Program for Barangay Officials or the Leadership Executive Advancement Program, can be a springboard to enhance their legislative awareness.

The A-B-C of Parliamentary Procedure: A Simplified Guidebook for Local Legislators as an output of this research may be translated to the Bicol dialect for easier understanding by the local legislators.



A qualitative study can be conducted to assess the proficiency level of local legislators after introducing the LEAD Program.

Another capacity-building program can be organised to help barangays officials to provide the needs and basic services of their constituents effectively.



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