

Chapter 2

Review of Related Literatures

This chapter presents the body of local and foreign literature that supports and informs the present study. It discusses published works that examine the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay system, the handling of community-level disputes, and the role of grassroots justice mechanisms in maintaining social order.

2.1 Local Literature

Local research on the Katarungang Pambarangay and community-level conflict resolution in the Philippines provides a substantial foundation for understanding how disputes are managed within barangays. These studies explore the experiences of barangay officials, the participation of residents, the effectiveness of mediation processes, and the challenges that arise in implementing the Barangay Justice System. By examining these works, the study gains insight into the practical realities of conflict handling at the grassroots level, as well as the recurring administrative, procedural, and cultural issues that shape the outcomes of local dispute resolution.

Studies on the Katarungang Pambarangay (KP) consistently highlight both its usefulness and the gaps that appear in day-to-day implementation. In Quezon City, one study documented how barangay mediation remains the first stop for residents experiencing domestic or neighborhood conflict. The researchers found that while KP is perceived as effective, the process often suffers from low attendance of disputing

parties and inconsistent case follow-up (Bestlink College Researchers, 2024). This mirrors patterns seen in many urban barangays where caseloads are high and documentation practices vary widely.

A similar evaluation in Tarlac emphasized the grassroots peace-building role of the KP system. Almazan (2025) explained that residents value the barangays' capacity to settle disputes informally, especially those involving families or neighbors, which are culturally sensitive. However, limited training among Lupon members and lack of resources continue to weaken procedural consistency. His findings support the need for continuous capacity building at the barangay level.

Furthermore, in Ilocos Sur, Cerna (2023) assessed KP implementation and highlighted that while most barangay officials know the legal framework of the system, many have not undergone formal mediator training. This results in variations in how mediation or conciliation is performed, affecting fairness and efficiency. Her study suggested that improving mediator competence could significantly raise settlement success rates.

However, documentation issues also surfaced in Northern Luzon. Damayon et al. (2022) found notable inconsistencies across barangays regarding record-keeping, case logging, and issuance of settlement forms. These gaps make it difficult to track repeat offenders, recurring conflicts, and compliance with settlements. Despite these

weaknesses, community trust in barangay mediation remained high, showing the importance of KP as the primary conflict-resolution venue in local governance.

In addition, The internal work experiences of Lupon Tagapamayapa members were explored by Verdad (2024), who reported that mediators face emotional burdens, role ambiguity, and minimal institutional incentives. According to the study, Lupon members often mediate conflicts involving their own neighbors or relatives, which intensifies stress and complicates decision-making. Verdad highlighted the need for psychological support and structured workloads.

A study by Silliman University researchers strengthened this point, noting that barangay officials responsible for KP are often overwhelmed due to the simultaneous administrative tasks they handle (Tiu & Malayang, 2018). The researchers observed that high caseloads and lack of formal training constrain officials from fully applying the step-by-step KP procedures, leading to delays or informal shortcuts.

Finally, a research in Cagayan de Oro by Gonzales (2020) showed that KP processes are more effective in barangays where residents have high awareness of their rights and responsibilities. Gonzales found that well-informed residents tend to comply with mediation schedules and agreements more consistently, demonstrating that community awareness campaigns help strengthen the barangay justice system.

Overall, the local studies consistently show that while the Katarungang Pambarangay system remains an essential mechanism for resolving disputes at the grassroots level, its effectiveness varies significantly across communities. Factors such as mediator training, administrative support, documentation practices, and residents' awareness strongly influence how cases are handled.

These findings highlight persistent gaps in the barangay justice system and emphasize the importance of examining how specific communities—such as the barangays of Libertad—document conflicts, manage case frequency, and follow proper resolution procedures.

The recurring issues identified in local literature reinforce the need for a focused analysis of how KP functions on the ground and where improvements can be made

2.2 Foreign Literatures

International literature on community-based and informal justice systems offers valuable comparative perspectives that help frame the Philippine experience within a broader global context. Research from other countries highlights how culturally

grounded mediation, village-level conflict mechanisms, and alternative dispute-resolution structures operate outside formal courts. These studies provide useful benchmarks for understanding the strengths and limitations of grassroots justice models, allowing the present study to situate the Katarungang Pambarangay within wider discussions on community governance and conflict management.

Comparative research in Southeast Asia shows similar strengths and challenges among community-based justice systems. In Thailand and Indonesia, for example, village-level mediation structures handle disputes using culturally embedded processes. Glubwila et al. (2021) found that these systems work best when mediators are trained and supported by local institutions, mirroring the Philippine experience under KP. Their cross-country analysis emphasized the need for consistent documentation and procedural clarity.

In Indonesia, Haq et al. (2023) examined how community mediation helped resolve pandemic-related conflicts, especially in vulnerable rural areas. The authors explained that mediation provided fast, low-cost conflict relief when formal courts were inaccessible. They also noted that community trust is a decisive factor—reinforcing the idea that dispute-resolution systems rooted in local culture, like KP, are often more effective at maintaining social stability.

Sainul et al. (2024) studied traditional non-litigation mechanisms, particularly in handling family disputes through customary mediation. Their findings revealed that incorporating cultural norms into conflict resolution promotes compliance and strengthens community cohesion. This parallels the KP's emphasis on amicable settlement, suggesting that culturally grounded mediation remains a powerful tool for community peace-building across Asia.

The foreign literatures further strengthens the understanding that community-based justice systems share common strengths and challenges across different countries. Successful implementation depends on cultural alignment, trust in local mediators, institutional support, and consistent documentation—factors echoed in the Philippine experience. These international insights support the relevance of analyzing the KP's actual practice in Libertad, showing that grassroots conflict resolution is most effective when structured procedures, trained mediators, and community engagement work together. The parallels found in other nations confirm that enhancing local justice mechanisms is a global priority, and they provide valuable benchmarks for evaluating and improving barangay-level conflict resolution.