

RESEARCH ARTICLE: The state of good governance amongst barangays: The case of Jolo municipality

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ABSTRACT. This study explores the perceptions of local governance in the barangays of Jolo, Sulu, Philippines, focusing on the effectiveness of barangay-level governance in delivering basic social services. We surveyed residents to assess their views on key governance dimensions: Accountability, Direction, Fairness, Legitimacy & Voice, and Performance. The findings reveal generally positive perceptions, with respondents rating most aspects as "Good" or "Very Good," suggesting a high level of trust in local leaders. However, the study also uncovers a complex relationship between socioeconomic factors and perceptions of governance. While demographic factors such as gender, age, and civil status did not significantly influence perceptions, educational attainment and income did, with lower-income respondents expressing more favorable views than their higher-income counterparts. This finding challenges the expected positive correlation between good governance and income distribution, as posited by Nguyen et al. (2019). Furthermore, the study revealed strong positive correlations among the different governance dimensions, highlighting their interconnectedness and the potential for positive spillover effects. These findings underscore the importance of a holistic approach to local governance, emphasizing the need for inclusive strategies that address the diverse needs of the community, particularly in relation to socioeconomic factors. The research advocates for further investigation into the factors influencing these perceptions, particularly in relation to income levels and educational backgrounds, to inform targeted interventions that enhance local governance effectiveness and community engagement.

KEYWORDS: *good governance, social perception, local government, dimensions of governance*

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Introduction

The efficiency of the national government in meeting the goal of social development programs lies on the efficiency of the local government units to deliver the basic social services to the local constituents, vis-à-vis the governance in barangay level. Atienza and Go (2023) believed that wide disparities in local governments' performance across the country persist which became evident during the pandemic. This study seeks to examine the state of good governance amongst barangays particularly in the municipality of Jolo, Sulu.

There are reasons to believe that some countries in world have failed in achieving their millennial development goals due to quality of their governance (UN Development Program). The strength of local governance, albeit barangay level, its prudence in the exercise of powers and responsibilities derived from devolved functions may tantamount to municipal, provincial, regional and even national growth.

The Philippine Local Government Code of 1991 (R.A. 7160) mandates local government units (LGUs) to handle responsibilities devolved from national agencies, ensuring efficient basic service delivery. The Quality Governance Program (Q-Gov) aims to enhance local administration, professionalize staff, improve public service delivery, and promote transparency and accountability within LGUs (Bueno, 2019, citing Mohammed). LGU performance, particularly at the barangay level, is evaluated using the UNDP's five principles of good governance: accountability, direction, fairness, legitimacy and voice, and performance (Bueno, 2019, citing Graham, Amos, and Plumptre). These principles, encompassing transparency, strategic vision, equity, rule of law, participation, consensus, responsiveness, effectiveness, and efficiency, are context-dependent and highlight both the outcomes and processes of governance. This study assesses the extent of barangay governance in Jolo, Sulu, based on the perceptions of barangay council members, youth, business leaders, religious figures, and government employees regarding these five key principles.

Effective governance in the Philippines necessitates political reforms and policies to mitigate socio-economic disparities, a crucial element for genuine democratization (Tadem, 2019). This is demonstrably achieved through strategic human resource management (HRM) practices—including robust performance management, capacity building, and transparent recruitment—which significantly enhance good governance principles, as evidenced by their positive impact in Zamboanga City (Valerio, 2024). At the local level, the benefits of good governance are clear: in Makati City, improved barangay-level governance leads to better service delivery and enhanced community access (Flores, 2019), while in Nueva Ecija, principles such as citizen participation, accountability, and transparency demonstrably improve legislative performance and organizational effectiveness within local legislative chambers (Gabriel & Gutierrez, 2017). These examples highlight the multifaceted advantages of strong governance across various Philippine cities, impacting both socio-economic equity and the efficiency of public services.

This study aims to understand the perception of citizens on the situation of local governance municipality of Jolo, Sulu and be able to frame policies that would further reinforce a more effective government.

Research Questions

1. What is the profile of respondents in terms of:
 - a. Gender;
 - b. Age;
 - c. Civil status;
 - d. Educational attainment; and
 - e. Average monthly family income?
2. What is the extent of local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu in terms of:
 - a. Accountability;
 - b. Direction;
 - c. Fairness;
 - d. Legitimacy and voice; and

- e. Performance?
- 3. Is there a significant difference in extent of local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu in terms of Accountability, Direction, Fairness, legitimacy and voice, and performance when data are grouped according to:
 - a. Gender;
 - b. Age;
 - c. Marital status;
 - d. Educational attainment; and
 - e. Average monthly family income?
- 4. Is there a significant correlation between the levels of local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu in terms of Accountability, Direction, Fairness, legitimacy and voice, and performance?

Literature Review

Foreign Studies and Literature

Schiavo-campo and Sundaram (n.d.) argue against blindly adopting foreign public administration models, emphasizing the need for context-specific analysis informed by international best practices and lessons learned from other nations' mistakes. Their work highlights that effective public administration reform isn't inherently prescribed but rather requires a thorough understanding of local conditions. The ultimate goal of comprehensive reform is a government capable of consistently delivering high-quality public services, improving access for disadvantaged groups, streamlining processes for the private sector, and effectively implementing economic and other governmental policies (Puspitasari & Santoso, 2023). However, the authors acknowledge the inherent risks of reform, noting that changes may worsen an already reasonably functioning system, while radical overhauls may be necessary in cases of severe weakness or corruption.

Nelson (2016) argued that a localized approach to governance analysis offers a crucial lens for strengthening local government. Focusing on South Africa, his study utilized the local governance environment as a framework to examine past failures and ongoing transformations. This environmental perspective facilitated the identification of numerous institutional deficiencies within municipalities, highlighting the need for context-specific solutions to address systemic weaknesses. The study's focus on the local level provides a detailed understanding of the challenges and opportunities for improving governance effectiveness and responsiveness.

Good governance is crucial for creating adaptable political frameworks that drive economic competitiveness and sustainable social progress (Yu, 2017). It integrates the rule of law and democracy, and is characterized by six core principles: properness, transparency, participation, effectiveness, accountability, and the upholding of human rights (Addink, 2019). This multifaceted concept acts as a vital counterbalance between government institutions, addressing legislative shortfalls and preventing corruption and mismanagement (Surenda, 2017). Good governance fosters equitable development, complementing sound economic policies, and is achieved through the collaborative efforts of monetary, political, and regulatory experts, thereby building trust between government and citizens (Agrawal, 2019).

Local Studies and Literature

Several studies have examined the effectiveness of barangay governance in the Philippines, exploring its alignment with the Local Government Code's vision of self-reliant communities contributing to national development. Bueno et al. (2019) assessed barangay governance in a city, evaluating accountability, direction, fairness, legitimacy, and performance as perceived by

barangay officials. Boysillo (2017) investigated the governance of barangay chairpersons in Ubay, Bohol, finding that strong leadership, characterized by fairness, transparency, and accountability, correlated with satisfactory public service delivery. This research supports the Local Government Code's aim of increased local autonomy. Monocay and Mejica (2020) analyzed governance performance across barangays in a highly urbanized city, comparing social services, peace and order, disaster management, and environmental management based on income and population. Finally, Capuno (2005) explored the relationship between governance quality and local development since the 1991 fiscal decentralization policy, finding uneven development linked to inconsistent governance quality. While decentralization spurred innovations, participation remained limited, and initial economic conditions significantly influenced governance effectiveness, suggesting a cycle of poverty and misgovernance in some areas. These studies collectively highlight the complex interplay between governance, local autonomy, and development in the Philippines.

Effective governance is crucial for higher education institutions to successfully integrate sustainable development into their strategic planning (Filho et al., 2020). This integration requires careful consideration of various factors, mirroring the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, where online education necessitated a reconfiguration of assessment practices to maintain quality and integrity while adhering to health protocols (Chavez, 2023b). Just as successful pandemic-era education required attention to multiple variables (knowledge, attitudes, socioeconomic status, experience, and hobbies influencing student outcomes), successful integration of sustainable development goals requires a holistic approach, encompassing transparent decision-making, equitable resource allocation, and accountability to stakeholders (Garil, 2024). Good governance, therefore, provides the framework for navigating these complexities and ensuring that the institution's commitment to sustainability is both effective and impactful.

In highly urbanized areas such as Iligan and Cagayan de Oro, e-governance facilitates efficient delivery of essential services—administrative, economic, health, and infrastructural—strengthening democratic principles in public administration (Pabatang-Hussein, 2023). This commitment to efficient service delivery is mirrored in the accommodation industry, where Filipino customer service professionals demonstrate dedication, warmth, and effective communication, fostering trust and contributing to the sector's success (Mendoza, 2023). Even in the dynamic environment of online commerce in Zamboanga City, good governance principles are reflected in the practices of live sellers who prioritize building trust through storytelling, emotional engagement, and active listening, demonstrating responsiveness and accountability to their customers (Cuilan, 2024). These examples highlight how good governance, in its various forms, contributes to economic growth, improved public services, and enhanced citizen trust across different sectors and regions of the Philippines.

Methodology

This chapter details the study's methodology, including the research design, philosophical framework, researcher's role, participant selection, data collection and analysis, and measures to ensure trustworthiness and ethical conduct.

1. Population and Sampling Design

This study used a descriptive research design, a common approach for examining relationships between variables (Turale, 2020). It investigated local governance in Jolo Municipality, focusing on: the socio-demographic profiles of barangay representatives; the extent of local governance; variations in governance levels across barangays; and correlations between

governance aspects (accountability, direction, fairness, legitimacy and voice, and performance). Employing purposive sampling, a non-probability method frequently used in qualitative research (Chavez, 2022; Nikolopoulou, 2023), 100 participants were selected based on availability to ensure representation across gender, age, marital status, education, and income. This targeted approach ensured the inclusion of diverse perspectives within the research sample.

2. Research Instruments

Data on barangay governance in Jolo, Sulu, were collected using a survey questionnaire administered to barangay council members, youth, business leaders, religious leaders, and government employees. The questionnaire, adapted from Bueno et al.'s (2019) work and reviewed by two Sulu State College faculty members, gathered demographic information and assessed perceptions of local governance across accountability, direction, fairness, legitimacy and voice, and performance. This approach aimed to capture both quantitative and qualitative aspects of governance, allowing for statistical analysis of responses to identify trends and patterns.

3. Data Gathering Procedure

This study utilized a multi-step data gathering procedure. First, necessary permits for questionnaire administration were obtained from the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies, Sulu State College, and the barangay captains of the eight (8) barangays in the Municipality of Jolo. Second, the researcher personally conducted the launching, administration, and retrieval of questionnaires from sector representatives; these questionnaires provided primary quantitative data to address the research questions. Finally, supplementary data enriching the theoretical and conceptual frameworks were gathered through library and internet research. The combination of these data sources allowed for a comprehensive analysis.

4. Data Analysis Process

This study employed descriptive and inferential statistical analyses to allow the researcher to summarize data and generalize findings (Sullivan-Bolyai & Bova 2014). Respondent profiles were described using frequency counts and percentages. Means and standard deviations measured the extent of local governance. Differences in local governance were analyzed using independent samples t-tests (for gender) and one-way ANOVAs (for age, marital status, education, and income). A 5-point Likert scale interpreted the results: 5 (4.50-5.00) = Excellent (Very High Extent); 4 (3.50-4.49) = Very Good (High Extent); 3 (2.50-3.49) = Good (Moderate Extent); 2 (1.50-2.49) = Bad (Low Extent); 1 (1.00-1.49) = Very Bad (Very Low Extent).

Results and Discussion

Question 1. What is demographic profile of respondents in terms of 1.1 Gender, 1.2 Age, 1.3 Civil status, 1.4 Educational attainment and, 1.5 Average monthly family income?

Gender

Table 1.1 Demographic profile of respondents in terms of Gender

Gender	Number of Respondents	Percent
Male	39	39.0%
Female	61	61.0%
Total	100	100%

Table 1.1 The sample comprised 100 respondents, with a slight majority (61%) being female and the remaining 39% male.

Age

Table 1.2 Demographic profile of respondents in terms of age

Age	Number of Respondents	Percent
30 years old & below	34	34.0%
31-40 years old	38	38.0%
41-50 years old	26	26.0%
51 years old & above	2	2.0%
Total	100	100%

Table 1.2 Respondent ages were concentrated in younger brackets. The largest proportions were 31-40 years old (38%) and 30 years old and under (34%), with smaller percentages in the 41-50 (26%) and 51+ (2%) age ranges.

Civil Status

Table 1.3 Demographic profile of respondents in terms of Civil Status

Civil Status	Number of Respondents	Percent
Single	35	35.0%
Married	60	60.0%
Separated	2	2.0%
Widowed	3	3.0%
Total	100	100%

Table 1.3 Married respondents constituted the largest group (60%), followed by single respondents (35%), with a small number reporting separated (2%) or widowed (3%) status.

Educational Attainment

Table 1.4 Demographic profile of respondents in terms of Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	Number of Respondents	Percent
Elementary	1	1.0%
High School	7	7.0%
Bachelor's degree	60	60.0%
Master's degree	28	28.0%
Doctorate degree	4	4.0%
Total	100	100%

Table 1.4 The majority of respondents (60%) held bachelor's degrees. Additional respondents had master's degrees (28%), while a smaller number had high school (7%), doctorate (4%), or elementary (1%) education. The sample showed a high proportion of college-educated individuals.

Average Family Monthly Income

Table 1.5 Demographic profile of respondents in terms of Average Monthly Family Income

Average Monthly Family Income	Number of Respondents	Percent
10,000.00 & below	29	29.0%
10,100.00 – 20,000.00	23	23.0%
21,000.00 – 30,000.00	28	28.0%
31,000.00 – 40,000.00	14	14.0%
41,000.00 & above	6	6.0%
Total	100	100%

Table 1.5 presents the demographic profile of respondents in terms of average monthly family income. This table reveals that out of 100 respondents, 29 (29.0%) are having 10,000.00 & below, 28 (28.0%) are having 21,000.00 to 30,000.00, 23 (23.0%) are having 10,100.00 to 20,000.00, 14 (14.0%) are 31,000.00 to 40,000.00, and 6 (6.0%) are having 41,000.00 & above. This means that, in this study, more than one-half of the respondents are having 10,000.00 & below and 21,000.00 to 30,000.00 ranges of family income. This result implies that, there is significant number of respondents whose family income is pegged at the lower brackets.

Question 2. What is the extent of local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu in terms of 2.1 Accountability, 2.2 Direction, 2.3 Fairness, 2.4 Legitimacy and voice, and 2.5 Performance?

Accountability

Table 2.1 Extent of local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu in terms of Accountability

	Statements	Mean	S.D.	Rating
1	Public access to government financial information is ensured.	3.6600	.87870	Very Good
2	Government operations, decision-making, and consultations with stakeholders are transparent and inclusive.	3.4600	.86946	Good
3	Budget information is disseminated clearly and accessibly to the public via multiple platforms.	3.3400	.84351	Good
4	Public forums are held to solicit community input on budgetary priorities.	3.2600	1.02119	Good
5	The agency maintains consistent communication with the public regarding its activities and progress..	3.2700	.87450	Good
Total Weighted Mean		3.3980	.74590	Good

Legend: (5) 4.50-5.00=Excellent; (4) 3.50-4.49=Very Good; (3) 2.50- 3.49=Good; (2) 1.50- 2.49=Bad; (1) 1.00-1.49=Very Bad

Table 2.1 shows the extent of local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu in terms of Accountability. Under this category, respondents have a total weighted mean score of 3.3980 with a standard deviation of 0.74590, rated as “Good”. This result indicates that respondents perceive a good extent of local governance in Jolo, Sulu, in terms of accountability. This suggests that citizens may have a high level of trust in their local leaders. This trust could, in turn, enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of public services, fostering a more collaborative and responsive relationship between the government and its constituents (Irawati et al., 2024). Improved accountability might also lead to increased citizen participation in local governance and a stronger sense of community ownership.

Direction

Table 2.2 Extent of local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu in terms of Direction

	Statements	Mean	S.D.	Rating
1	Government initiatives are designed for long-term impact, practicality, and relevance.	3.5100	.84680	Very Good
2	A sustained commitment to good governance is demonstrated through strategic planning and a clear understanding of its requirements.	3.4100	.76667	Good
3	All government projects are driven by clearly defined objectives and a results-oriented approach.	3.4700	.84632	Good
4	Investment in human capital is prioritized through support for education and development initiatives.	3.5200	.92638	Very Good

5	Beneficial programs are maintained consistently, irrespective of political changes.	3.3700	.93911	Good
Total Weighted Mean		3.4560	.67215	Good

Legend: (5) 4.50-5.00=Excellent; (4) 3.50-4.49=Very Good; (3) 2.50- 3.49=Good; (2) 1.50- 2.49=Bad; (1) 1.00-1.49=Very Bad

Table 2.2 shows the extent of local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu in terms of Direction. Under this category, respondents have total weighted mean score of 3.4560 with standard deviation of .67215 which is rated as “Good”. This result indicates that respondents perceive that there is a good extent of local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu in terms of direction. This is a good indication of goal-oriented governance. A study by Hofstad et al. (2021) states that goal-setting can lead to productivity-focused collaboration and clear goals in a urban climate governance.

Fairness

Table 2.3 Extent of local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu in terms of Fairness

	Statements	Mean	S.D.	Rating
1	Equitable access to essential services—healthcare, education, sanitation, and infrastructure—is ensured.	3.6900	.96080	Very Good
2	Gender equality is a high priority, with issues addressed with careful attention.	3.4100	.92217	Good
3	Rules and regulations are applied fairly and consistently.	3.6500	1.01876	Very Good
4	Guarantees property and personal rights; and achieves some sort of social stability.	3.3700	.88369	Good
5	Crime and violence are actively addressed and countered within the barangay.	3.7700	.93046	Very Good
Total Weighted Mean		3.5780	.79894	Very Good

Legend: (5) 4.50-5.00=Excellent; (4) 3.50-4.49=Very Good; (3) 2.50- 3.49=Good; (2) 1.50- 2.49=Bad; (1) 1.00-1.49=Very Bad

Table 2.3 Barangay governance in Jolo, Sulu, received a "Very Good" rating (weighted mean 3.5780, standard deviation 0.79894) for fairness, indicating positive perceptions among respondents.

Boysillo's (2017) research in Ubay, Bohol, demonstrated a positive correlation between increased Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) funding and the implementation of barangay programs and projects. The study also found that most barangay chairpersons provided highly satisfactory public services, reinforcing fairness, transparency, and accountability.

Legitimacy

Table 2.4 Extent of local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu in terms of Legitimacy

	Statements	Mean	S.D.	Rating
1	Local government policies actively promote civil society engagement in barangay development.	3.4400	.84471	Good
2	Collaboration with civil society and the private sector is fostered to boost barangay employment.	3.6700	1.00559	Very Good

3	Mass media is utilized to build public support for key strategic decisions.	3.5300	1.01956	Very Good
4	Public forums facilitate stakeholder engagement on community issues.	3.5200	.92638	Very Good
5	Disputes are resolved through mediation to achieve consensus and, when feasible, inform policy and procedures.	3.4500	.95743	Good
Total Weighted Mean		3.5220	.81892	Very Good

Legend: (5) 4.50-5.00=Excellent; (4) 3.50-4.49=Very Good; (3) 2.50- 3.49=Good; (2) 1.50- 2.49=Bad; (1) 1.00-1.49=Very Bad

Table 2.4 Barangay governance in Jolo, Sulu, received a "Very Good" rating (weighted mean 3.5220, standard deviation 0.81892) for legitimacy, reflecting positive respondent perceptions.

Monocay and Mejica's (2020) research in a highly urbanized city found that participating barangays generally demonstrated high governance performance across social services, peace and order, disaster management, and environmental management. However, lower-income and less populated barangays showed only average performance in environmental management.

Performance

Table 2.5 Extent of local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu in terms of Performance

	Statements	Mean	S.D.	Rating
1	Effective systems are in place to receive, address, and resolve public concerns.	3.6100	.99387	Very Good
2	Capacity-building workshops and training support self-employment initiatives for urban poor communities.	3.5100	.97954	Very Good
3	Regular community meetings and consultations identify resident needs and priorities.	3.5500	.95743	Very Good
4	Resident participation is actively encouraged in barangay development efforts.	3.5600	.93550	Very Good
5	Barangay cleanliness is maintained.	3.4500	1.14922	Good
Total Weighted Mean		3.5360	.81495	Very Good

Legend: (5) 4.50-5.00=Excellent; (4) 3.50-4.49=Very Good; (3) 2.50- 3.49=Good; (2) 1.50- 2.49=Bad; (1) 1.00-1.49=Very Bad

Table 2.5 Barangay governance in Jolo, Sulu, achieved a "Very Good" rating for performance (weighted mean 3.5360, standard deviation 0.81495), based on respondent perceptions. This can imply that the leaders are listening to citizen feedback. This is particularly important in order for a continuous improvement in public services (Minelli & Ruffini 2018).

Question 3. Is there a significant difference in extent of local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu in terms of Accountability, Direction, Fairness, Legitimacy and voice, and Performance when data are grouped according to 3.1 Gender, 3.2 Age, 3.3 Marital status, 3.4 Educational attainment and 3.5 Average monthly family income?

Grouped By Gender

Table 3.1 Difference in the local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu in terms of Accountability, Direction, Fairness, legitimacy and voice, and Performance when data are grouped according to Gender

VARIABLES		Mean	S. D.	Mean Difference	<i>t</i>	Sig.	Description
Accountability	Male	3.5077	.76481	.17982	1.178	.242	Not Significant
	Female	3.3279	.73124				
Direction	Male	3.5487	.71040	.15200	1.104	.272	Not Significant
	Female	3.3967	.64549				
Fairness	Male	3.6308	.81762	.08651	.526	.600	Not Significant
	Female	3.5443	.79173				
Legitimacy and voice	Male	3.5128	.73096	-.01505	-.089	.929	Not Significant
	Female	3.5279	.87638				
Performance	Male	3.5641	.71946	.04607	.274	.784	Not Significant
	Female	3.5180	.87588				

*Significant at alpha 0.05

Table 3.1 No statistically significant gender differences ($p > .05$) were found in perceptions of barangay governance across accountability, direction, fairness, legitimacy and voice, and performance in Jolo, Sulu. This corroborates the research of Chavez et al. (2023c) and suggests that gender does not significantly influence perceptions of local governance in this context. However, this finding might be influenced by the absence of an "imbalance of roles" treatment in the study design. If gender roles are not equally distributed within the community, perceptions of governance might be subtly biased, even if not statistically significant in this particular analysis. Further research incorporating a focus on the distribution of power and responsibility between genders could provide a more nuanced understanding of this relationship.

Grouped By Age

Table 3.2 Difference in the local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu in terms of Accountability, Direction, Fairness, legitimacy and voice, and Performance when data are grouped according to Age

SOURCES VARIATION	OF	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Description
Accountability	Between Groups	2.378	3	.793	1.444	.235	Not Significant
	Within Groups	52.702	96	.549			
	Total	55.080	99				
Direction	Between Groups	2.543	3	.848	1.929	.130	Not Significant
	Within Groups	42.183	96	.439			
	Total	44.726	99				
Fairness	Between Groups	2.416	3	.805	1.272	.288	Not Significant
	Within Groups	60.775	96	.633			
	Total	63.192	99				
Legitimacy and voice	Between Groups	1.213	3	.404	.596	.619	Not Significant
	Within Groups	65.178	96	.679			
	Total	66.392	99				
Performance	Between Groups	1.419	3	.473	.706	.551	Not Significant
	Within Groups	64.331	96	.670			

Total	65.750	99
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*Significant at alpha 0.05

Table 3.2 Perceptions of barangay governance in Jolo, Sulu, showed no statistically significant differences ($p > .05$) across age groups for accountability, direction, fairness, legitimacy and voice, or performance. This indicates consistent views on governance regardless of age. This finding is encouraging, indicating a potentially high level of political awareness among younger generations, who are actively engaged in understanding and evaluating local governance. This aligns with the findings of Chavez et al. (2024a), which highlight the potential of young leaders to foster community engagement and development through creative, innovative, and responsive approaches. The consistent perceptions across age groups suggest that effective communication and engagement strategies by local governments are reaching and resonating with all age demographics.

Grouped By Civil Status

Table 3.3 Difference in the local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu in terms of Accountability, Direction, Fairness, legitimacy and voice, and Performance when data are grouped according to Civil Status

SOURCES OF VARIATION	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Description
Accountability	Between Groups Within Groups Total	3 96 99	.591 .555	1.064	.368	Not Significant
Direction	Between Groups Within Groups Total	3 96 99	.214 .459	.466	.707	Not Significant
Fairness	Between Groups Within Groups Total	3 96 99	1.150 .622	1.848	.144	Not Significant
Legitimacy and voice	Between Groups Within Groups Total	3 96 99	3.052 .596	5.118*	.003	Significant
Performance	Between Groups Within Groups Total	3 96 99	3.994 .560	7.131*	.000	Significant

*Significant at alpha 0.05

Table 3.3 presents the differences in perceptions of local governance (Accountability, Direction, Fairness, Legitimacy & Voice, and Performance) among respondents grouped by civil status. While the F-values for Legitimacy and Performance were significant at $\alpha = .05$, indicating differences in perceptions based on civil status for these two aspects, the other governance aspects showed no significant differences ($p > .05$). Generally, respondents' perceptions of local governance did not vary significantly across different civil statuses. This aligns with the findings of Chavez et al. (2024b), which demonstrated that a woman worker's civil status does not

significantly affect her awareness of rights under the Magna Carta for Women. The lack of significant differences in most governance aspects across civil statuses suggests that access to information and engagement with local governance is relatively equitable regardless of marital status or other civil relationships. However, the significant differences found in Legitimacy and Performance warrant further investigation to understand the specific factors influencing these variations.

Grouped By Educational Attainment

Table 3.4 Difference in the local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu in terms of Accountability, Direction, Fairness, legitimacy and voice, and Performance when data are grouped according to Educational Attainment

SOURCES OF VARIATION	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Description
Accountability	Between Groups	7.109	4	1.777	3.520	.010
	Within Groups	47.970	95	.505		
	Total	55.080	99			
Direction	Between Groups	8.164	4	2.041	5.303	.001
	Within Groups	36.562	95	.385		
	Total	44.726	99			
Fairness	Between Groups	5.443	4	1.361	2.238	.071
	Within Groups	57.749	95	.608		
	Total	63.192	99			
Legitimacy and voice	Between Groups	7.057	4	1.764	2.825	.029
	Within Groups	59.334	95	.625		
	Total	66.392	99			
Performance	Between Groups	7.201	4	1.800	2.921	.025
	Within Groups	58.549	95	.616		
	Total	65.750	99			

*Significant at alpha 0.05

Table 3.4 presents the differences in perceptions of local governance (Accountability, Direction, Fairness, Legitimacy & Voice, and Performance) among respondents grouped by educational attainment. While perceptions of Fairness showed no significant difference ($p > .05$), significant differences ($p < .05$) were found for Accountability, Direction, Legitimacy & Voice, and Performance across different educational attainment levels. This indicates that educational attainment significantly influences how respondents perceive local governance. This aligns with the findings of Murro et al. (2023), which suggest that the lack of government support for parents with low educational attainment during the pandemic, forcing them to shoulder the burden of their children's education, might have shaped their perceptions of the local governing body. The significant differences observed across educational levels highlight the importance of considering educational background when analyzing perceptions of governance and suggest the need for

targeted communication strategies to ensure that individuals with varying levels of education have access to and understand information about local governance.

Post Hoc test to determine which groups subsumed under the sub-categories of the extent of local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu was not performed because at least one group has fewer than two cases.

Grouped By Average Family Monthly Income

Table 3.5 Difference in the local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu in terms of Accountability, Direction, Fairness, legitimacy and voice, and Performance when data are grouped according to Average Family Monthly Income

SOURCES OF VARIATION		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Description
Accountability	Between Groups	3.154	4	.789	1.443	.226	Not Significant
	Within Groups	51.925	95	.547			
	Total	55.080	99				
Direction	Between Groups	6.497	4	1.624	4.037	.005	Significant
	Within Groups	38.229	95	.402			
	Total	44.726	99				
Fairness	Between Groups	4.348	4	1.087	1.755	.144	Not Significant
	Within Groups	58.844	95	.619			
	Total	63.192	99				
Legitimacy and voice	Between Groups	8.622	4	2.156	3.545	.010	Significant
	Within Groups	57.770	95	.608			
	Total	66.392	99				
Performance	Between Groups	19.603	4	4.901	10.088	.000	Significant
	Within Groups	46.148	95	.486			
	Total	65.750	99				

*Significant at alpha 0.05

Table 3.5 presents the differences in perceptions of local governance (Accountability, Direction, Fairness, Legitimacy & Voice, and Performance) among respondents grouped by average monthly family income. While perceptions of Accountability and Fairness showed no significant difference ($p > .05$), significant differences ($p < .05$) were found for Direction, Legitimacy & Voice, and Performance across different income levels. This indicates that average monthly family income significantly influences how respondents perceive certain aspects of local governance. This finding is consistent with the broader impacts of economic hardship highlighted by Chavez et al. (2023a), which showed how the pandemic's impact on women educators' income and economic activities led to increased worry about necessities, children's education, and healthcare costs. The significant differences in perceptions of governance across income levels suggest that economic security plays a crucial role in shaping views on local governance

effectiveness. Policies and programs aimed at improving economic well-being may also indirectly improve perceptions of and satisfaction with local governance.

A Post Hoc Analysis utilizing Scheffe's Test was performed to identify differences in mean scores related to Legitimacy of voice and Performance among groups classified by average monthly family income, as perceived by barangay sector representatives in Jolo, Sulu.

Table 3.5.1 Different levels of mean in areas subsumed under Legitimacy of voice and Performance as perceived by sector representatives

Dependent Variable	(I) Grouping by Average Monthly Family Income	(J) Grouping by Average Monthly Family Income	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.
<i>Legitimacy of voice</i>	10,000.00 & below	10,100.00 - 20,000.00	.22369	.21773	.900
		21,000.00 - 30,000.00	.60443	.20661	.082
		31,000.00 - 40,000.00	.80443*	.25378	.047
		41,000.00 & above	.34253	.34974	.915
Dependent Variable	(I) Grouping by Average Monthly Family Income	(J) Grouping by Average Monthly Family Income	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.
<i>Performance</i>	10,000.00 & below	10,100.00 - 20,000.00	.40780	.19460	.362
		21,000.00 - 30,000.00	.98916*	.18466	.000
		31,000.00 - 40,000.00	1.14631*	.22682	.000
		41,000.00 & above	.60345	.31259	.449

* The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

Table 3.5.1 shows that respondents with a monthly family income of ₱10,000 or less had significantly higher mean scores than the ₱31,000-₱40,000 group in both "Legitimacy of Voice" and "Performance" aspects of local governance. Specifically, the mean difference for "Legitimacy of Voice" was 0.80443 (SE = 0.25378, $p = 0.047$), and for "Performance," it was 1.14631 (SE = 0.22682, $p < 0.001$). Both differences are significant at $\alpha = 0.05$. Importantly, no other income groups showed a statistically significant difference in perception compared to the ₱31,000-₱40,000 group.

These findings stand in contrast to the study by Nguyen et al. (2019), which posited that good governance could have a positive impact on income distribution and poverty reduction. Nguyen et al. suggested that effective governance should foster equitable resource allocation and enhance the overall well-being of lower-income groups. However, the results from this study indicate that lower-income respondents perceive local governance more favorably than those with higher incomes, which may suggest an unexpected relationship. This discrepancy could imply that despite the theoretical benefits of good governance in improving income distribution, actual perceptions of governance effectiveness do not align with these expectations in the context of Jolo, Sulu. Further investigation may be needed to understand the underlying factors contributing to this divergence.

Question 4. Is there a significant correlation among the levels of local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu in terms of Accountability, Direction, Fairness, legitimacy and voice, and performance?

Table 4 Correlation between the extent of sub-categories of local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu

Variables		Pearson <i>r</i>	Sig	N	Description
Dependent	Independent				
Accountability	Direction	.809*	.000	100	Very High
	Fairness	.700*	.000	100	Very High
	Legitimacy and voice	.780*	.000	100	Very High
Direction	Performance	.651*	.000	100	High
	Fairness	.835*	.000	100	Very High
	Legitimacy and voice	.771*	.000	100	Very High
Fairness	Performance	.701*	.000	100	Very High
	Legitimacy and voice	.801*	.000	100	Very High
	Performance	.717*	.000	100	Very High
Legitimacy and voice	Performance	.818*	.000	100	Very High

*Correlation Coefficient is significant at alpha .05

Correlation Coefficient Scales Adopted from Hopkins, Will (2002): 0.0-0.1=Nearly Zero; 0.1-0.30=Low; .3-0.50=Moderate; .5-0.7-0=High; .7-0.9= Very High; 0.9-1=Nearly Perfect

Table 4 presents the correlation among the sub-categories of local governance of the barangays in the Municipality of Jolo, Sulu, in terms of Accountability, Direction, Fairness, Legitimacy & Voice, and Performance. The computed Pearson Correlation Coefficients (Pearson *r*) indicate significant correlations at $\alpha = 0.05$. Analysis of local governance in Jolo, Sulu's barangays reveals very high positive correlations among these dimensions. This strong interrelationship suggests that respondents who perceive one aspect positively (e.g., high Accountability) tend to perceive others positively as well. The strength of these correlations indicates a close relationship between these dimensions of local governance.

This correlation is further supported by the study conducted by Kataraş (2021), which found that governance and democracy exhibit a high correlation and significant effects among their respective sub-dimensions. Kataraş emphasized that effective governance promotes democratic values and principles, which in turn positively influences the perceptions of various governance aspects. This reinforces the notion that improvements in one area of governance can lead to enhanced perceptions across multiple dimensions. Thus, the findings from both studies highlight the importance of a holistic approach to governance, where strengthening one component can have beneficial ripple effects on others, ultimately contributing to improved governance outcomes within the community.

Conclusion

This study reveals generally positive perceptions of local governance in Jolo, Sulu's barangays, with Accountability, Direction, Fairness, Legitimacy & Voice, and Performance receiving favorable ratings. While gender, age, and civil status did not significantly influence these perceptions, educational attainment and income did, notably with lower-income respondents viewing governance more favorably than higher-income counterparts. Strong positive correlations among governance dimensions highlight their interconnectedness, suggesting that improvements in one area positively affect others. These findings suggest that while local governance is generally

well-regarded, further research is needed to understand the nuanced relationship between socioeconomic factors and governance perceptions, paving the way for more targeted interventions to enhance community engagement and overall governance effectiveness.

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