

# Awareness and Compliance in the Civil Registration of Residents in a Municipality of Negros Occidental

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## Article history

Submitted: 26 October 2020

Revised: 5 November 2020

Accepted: 16 November 2020

## Keywords

Public Administration

Civil Registration

Vital Events

Awareness

Compliance

Descriptive-Correlational

Negros Occidental

Philippines

**Introduction.** Civil registration is a continuous procedure, which aims to establish permanent records of individual vital events from the day it was born to the day it dies. Every country has its compulsory and universal recording process of important events about their population. Civil registration intends to institute a citizen's legal documents and form primary sources of vital statistics. The Philippines is governed by Act No. 3753 or the Civil Registry Law, which mandates that all vital events should be registered. Timely registration of vital events such as birth, marriage, and death is very important and crucial for government policy-making and programs. Hence, this study assessed residents' awareness of and compliance with civil registration of vital events. Also, it explored the challenges encountered by residents in the registration of vital events mandated by law.

**Methods.** This quantitative study used descriptive, comparative and correlational research design to assess, compare, and correlate awareness and compliance in the civil registration of vital events as mandated under Republic Act 3753 also known as the Philippine Civil Registry Law. Three hundred seventy-six (376) residents of a municipality in Negros Occidental participated in the study. They were determined using a stratified random sampling. A validated and reliability-tested researcher-made instrument was used to generate data. Mean, Standard Deviation, frequency count, percentage, Mann Whitney U test, Kruskal-Wallis, and Spearman rank correlation were utilized in analyzing the data.

**Results.** The findings showed that the level of awareness of the residents in civil registration is high in all vital events. Their extent of compliance was high, but only to birth and marriage and low on death. When assessed according to the respondents' demographics, the findings revealed a significant difference between awareness and compliance of the residents when grouped according to sex and educational attainment. When residents are grouped according to age, distance, and income, no significant difference was revealed in their level of awareness and extent of compliance. However, the results revealed a significant relationship between the level of awareness and extent of compliance in the civil registration of residents in a municipality in Negros Occidental. Having no possession of a valid identification card posed as the top challenge of the residents in complying with the registration of vital events.

**Conclusion.** Based on the findings, the residents exhibited a high level of awareness of the civil registration of vital events: birth, marriage, and death. They demonstrated great extent of compliance with the civil registration of vital events in birth and marriage but poor on death. Sex and educational attainment influence the residents' level of awareness of and extent of compliance with the civil registration of vital events. Females and those with high educational attainment are more aware and compliant. The residents' challenges they encountered or reason for non-registration or delayed registration of vital events were lack of valid identification card, high cost of transportation, and time unavailability.

**Practical Value of the Paper.** The paper contributes to the studies on the awareness and compliance in civil registration. The results may be used as a basis for designing an enhancement program on civil registration. Also, future researchers who wish to conduct further study in civil registration of vital events with different demographics or focusing on death registration.

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