



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN ILOCOS NORTE

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The study investigated the level of awareness of Local Government Officials in Ilocos Norte. It likewise attempted to determine the environment-related ordinances in each Municipality, the extent of implementation of these ordinances, and the environmental programs/ activities conducted by the local government units.

This descriptive-survey study utilized a questionnaire to gather pertinent data from the local government officials which include all Sangguniang Bayan Members, SK Presidents, ABC Presidents, Municipal Development Council Officers, DILG, and Sanitary Inspectors. Records review was done to access the environment-related ordinance and programs/ activities of each municipality. Frequency counts and weighted means were used to analyze the data gathered.

Results showed that the local government officials are much aware of the issues pertaining to environmental protection and management. This rating is consistently supported by the individual ratings of each of the statement pertaining to the environmental concern and paradigms. This findings signifies that the officials are aware of the environmental concerns but not knowledge about it. Their level of awareness may contribute to how they perceive the present status of the global environment today considering the threats faced by millions of people.

Several ordinances were made and implemented by each of the municipalities of Ilocos Norte to promote the continuous preservation of the country resources. The environment-related ordinances include the Environmental Code which comprise resolutions pertaining to the strict implementation of laws on the preservation of the environment more specifically the continuous preservation of the unique flora and fauna, thus promote a healthy place for living. The environment-related programs/ activities being implemented by the municipalities, on the other hand, include Comprehensive Solid Waste Management, Coastal Resource Management, and Water and Sanitation. Some of these activities are under the Tourism and Nursery Development Project of the municipalities as governed by the Provincial Laws. The awareness level of the local government officials manifest their efforts and knowledge of the proper upkeep of the environment, thus, their roles are salient in the formulation of policies and guidelines which enhance the attainment of sustainable development through environmental advocacy.