

The Use of Body-Worn Camera by Police Officers During Operation: A Case Study

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Abstract— The use of body-worn camera (BWC) is now an essential policing technology with the mandate of improving transparency, accountability, and collaboration between the public and the police. This study was conducted to investigate the use of BWC by police, including its advantages, drawbacks, and relevance in professional practice. Through qualitative case study research design, data were collected from semi-structured interviews with a total of ten (10) purposively chosen police officers in Ozamiz City who regularly use BWCs during their field operations. Six major themes emerged from the research findings: (1) Enhancement of Transparency, Accountability, and Professionalism, (2) Strengthening of Evidence Collection and Legal Processes, (3) Legal, Ethical, and Privacy Concerns, (4) Technical Limitations of Body-Worn Cameras, (5) Proper and Consistent Use of Body-Worn Cameras, and (6) Awareness of Professional Conduct and Accountability. The findings emphasized the importance of BWCs to enhance transparency, accountability, and ethical policing and to enhance evidence handling and public trust. Despite their positive benefits, challenges from privacy concerns, technical problems, and uneven implementation are still hindrances to their optimal use. The overall conclusion of this research is that BWCs, when well implemented and sustained, can greatly enhance police operations and community relations. Prioritization of explicit policies, ongoing training, standardized deployment, and technical enhancements are encouraged in order to optimize the benefits and facilitate the sustainable application of body-worn cameras within policing.

Keywords— accountability, body-worn camera, evidence collection, law enforcement, legal and ethical concerns, ozamis city, police operations, professionalism.

INTRODUCTION

Policing has undergone dramatic changes over the past decades with the fast development of technology that has revolutionized conventional law enforcement practices to more effective, data-based practices (Yu & Carroll, 2022). Contemporary policing now involves the use of an array of digital tools like surveillance systems, data analysis software, mobile communication devices, and real-time monitoring technologies that facilitate improved operational effectiveness and decision-making (Bacalu, 2021). Across the world, law enforcement agencies have adopted these technologies to enhance crime prevention, make their operations more transparent, and enhance public safety policies (Laufs & Borrión, 2022). From predictive policing strategies in the US to the extensive application of facial recognition in nations such as China, technology's integration has emerged as a characteristic of modern policing systems (Haley, 2025). These technologies indicate a worldwide shift toward smarter, accountable, and technologically advanced law enforcement agencies (Neto, 2021). Body-worn cameras (BWCs) refer to handheld, wearable audio-visual recorders that are usually attached to a police officer's chest, shoulder, or glasses (Seguin, 2019). They are employed while

patrolling, stopping vehicles, making arrests, and other in-field operations to record officer-public encounters (Campos, 2024). Through the simultaneous recording of both audio and video, BWCs offer an objective account of events, which can be accessed later for investigative, training, or legal reasons (McCluskey & Uchida, 2023). Their application has increasingly become common across numerous police forces globally as part of the measures aimed at promoting accountability and ensuring the legal behavior of officers and civilians alike (Lum et al., 2019).

METHODS

This research utilized a qualitative case study design to explore the lived experiences of police officers who used body-worn cameras (BWCs) during field operations. This study was conducted in Ozamiz City, a coastal component city in Misamis Occidental, Northern Mindanao, lies at the entrance of Panguil Bay, serving as a gateway to Northwestern Mindanao. The participants of the study are the police officers assigned in Ozamiz City, community members, and case-related stakeholders., and the number was determined by data saturation. Data were collected from police officers in Ozamiz City through a self-constructed interview guide,

which was reviewed and finalized with the panel members. Informed consent was obtained from all participants, ensuring they participated voluntarily and understood the purpose of the study. Participants were assured that confidentiality would be respected, with stern measures taken to ensure their privacy and anonymity were safeguarded during the research process. The six steps of Yin's (2009) case study process were utilized in this study to investigate the experiences and views of police officers on the use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in operations in Ozamiz City. The key insights gained from the data analysis were highlighted during this concluding stage regarding body-worn cameras enhancing police-community trust, improved evidence integrity, and increasing accountability in law enforcement operations. The findings thus formed the core in formulating recommendations for enhancing proper utilization, policy implementation, and ethical management of BWCs. The conclusion highlights the need to ensure the cameras are turned on consistently, better technical support, and clear policies that can ensure BWCs serve the purpose of enhancing transparency, professionalism, and public confidence in policing.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Enhancement of Transparency, Accountability, and Professionalism

Body-worn cameras go a long way in ensuring accountability and transparency in policing through documentation of operations in the form of video footage that is strictly for evidence and legal purpose (Magaloni et al., 2023). Such footage ensures the privacy of the parties involved, as their misuse for purposes such as posting online would not be feasible. That their actions are being monitored and reviewed serves to prompt the officers to act responsibly as they carry out their duties. Consequently, the technology encourages professionalism and reinforces ethical practice in policing (Yu, and Carroll, 2022). In addition, body-worn cameras construct public trust by demonstrating that police operations are open to observation. Access to impartial, live footage enhances the credibility of police actions and facilitates equal and effective judicial proceedings (Boivin, and Gendron, 2021). Neutral recordings present factual descriptions that can support or contradict witness testimonies, thus increasing the accuracy of case verdicts. Generally, the effective utilization of body-worn cameras improves accountability with built trust in law enforcement strategies (Braga et al., 2021). These are evident in the

responses of the participants during the interview conducted.

"It also provides accountability and transparency. However, the footage is not meant for social media posting. The recordings are strictly for evidence and legal purposes only, to protect the privacy of individuals involved." (P4)

"Knowing that police officers wear body-worn cameras greatly enhances my trust and confidence during police operations, because it shows transparency and proves that they are doing their job properly since they are being monitored by the camera itself." (C2)

"When used in compliance with laws, body worn camera can be used to support fair and efficient legal proceedings as it provides real time footage of incidents offering unbiased accounts of events. This helps in corroborating or contradicting witness, increased transparency, encouraging officer accountability, knowing their actions are being recorded." (A1)

Thus, it emphasize that the body-worn cameras are powerful tools for promoting integrity, accountability, and transparency in policing, yet their true effectiveness relies on responsible, consistent, and ethical implementation within the law enforcement system (Ariel et al., 2023). Their impact is maximized when supported by clear operational policies, continuous officer training, and strict data management protocols that ensure their use remains within legal and evidentiary boundaries. When managed properly, BWCs not only reinforce institutional credibility and public trust but also uphold the highest standards of professionalism, fostering a culture of ethical conduct and fairness in modern policing.

Procedural Justice Theory offers a valuable views for understanding how body-worn cameras (BWCs) enhance transparency, accountability, and professionalism in policing. The theory emphasizes that public trust depends on fair, respectful, and transparent procedures, not just outcomes. BWCs embody these principles by ensuring neutrality through objective documentation of police-citizen encounters, giving voice to all parties, and encouraging officers to act with professionalism and respect (Ariel et al., 2023). In promoting fairness and openness, BWCs strengthen institutional accountability and foster public confidence in law enforcement. This underscores the importance of clear policies, proper training, and responsible data management to maximize their effectiveness and ensure

that justice is carried out through transparent and ethical policing practices(Afzal & Panagiotopoulos, 2024).

It implies that body-worn cameras play a crucial role in strengthening accountability and transparency by ensuring that video recordings are used solely for evidence and legal purposes, safeguarding the privacy of individuals involve(Saxena, 2025). This demonstrates that the technology is not intended for public display or entertainment, but rather for reinforcing professionalism and integrity in law enforcement operations. The presence of cameras also sets clear boundaries for officers, encouraging them to maintain ethical behavior in every interaction(Löfstrand, and Backman, 2021).On the other hand, the use of body-worn cameras also fosters greater public trust and confidence in law enforcement. Knowing that police operations are recorded provides reassurance that officers are carrying out their duties fairly and in compliance with established protocols(Alda, and Dammert, 2024). Furthermore, the availability of real-time, unbiased footage strengthens the legal process by offering objective evidence that can confirm or challenge witness accounts. This combination of transparency and accountability ultimately improves the credibility of policing practices(Afzal, and Panagiotopoulos, 2024).

Strengthening of Evidence Collection and Legal Processes

The use of body-worn cameras enhances evidence collection and legal proceedings through instantaneous, unprejudiced video and audio recordings of police interactions that can be used as valid testimony in court(Petersen et al., 2021). The recordings guarantee the integrity of the evidence collected, lower the chances of contradicting testimonies, and safeguard the police and the public from unfounded accusations like evidence tampering or abuse of suspects during arrest. In our research, body-worn cameras guaranteed that all procedural steps were clearly recorded, enabling case filings to be validated with genuine video proof while encouraging compliance with due process(Braga et al., 2021). Such practice improves the credibility of law enforcement officers and maintains fairness and transparency in the justice system.

“Without this technology, police officers are often vulnerable to accusations such as planting evidence. However, with the availability of video footage, we can provide solid proof that the procedures conducted were legitimate and lawful.” (P1)

“The issue of ‘planting of evidence’ has been eliminated because everything is clearly recorded.” (C1)

“Body camera footage, have significantly impacted prosecutions cases as it best corroborate the testimony of the police officers.” (A1)

The research establishes that body-worn cameras are an essential tool for the precision and reliability of police procedures and evidence gathering(Alda, and Dammert, 2024). The views of police officers, the lawyer, and members of the community are consistent in that they see BWC recordings acting as unbiased witnesses that minimize human error and avoid the possible misuse of power. The video serves as an impartial record that is able to substantiate or refute allegations, thus reducing bias and conflicts in the course of investigations and prosecutions. In addition, having body-worn cameras encourages professionalism in police officers and assists legal professionals in ascertaining the validity of testimonies(Magaloni et al.,2023). This indicates that incorporating BWCs in the police ensures a more significant link between procedural justice and public trust in the justice system.

According to Procedural Justice Theory, the success of BWCs is that they make it possible to ensure fairness, transparency, and impartiality in police procedures. The use of video evidence makes procedures be seen as independent and unbiased, and this enhances institutional legitimacy. If the public feels that the police operations are operating with accountability and integrity, they tend to respect and cooperate with the authority more. Therefore, BWCs are a means to enhance procedural justice by making behavior subject to review and critique.The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) also provides insight into the positive effect of BWCs since their implementation is contingent on perceived usefulness and ease of use. Officers and institutions perceive BWCs as useful because they enhance the collection of evidence, defend against fabricated accusations, and enhance professional reputation in court. This sense of usefulness encourages repeated uptake and adoption of the technology into daily practice. At the end of the day, BWCs are not just technological advancement but also an avenue for supporting trust, integrity, and effectiveness in contemporary policing.

The implication of such findings reflects the important place of body-worn cameras in ensuring transparency, fairness, and accountability in judicial and law

enforcement proceedings. Their regular use guarantees the safety of both officers and civilians by offering verifiable proof in support of lawful and ethical behavior. Law enforcement must incorporate evident policies surrounding the activation, data storage, and handling of body-worn camera videos to assure evidence integrity and to avoid abuse. Ongoing training and oversight must be maintained to guarantee proper use. In conclusion, body-worn cameras enhance the credibility of policing and increase public confidence in the justice system by upholding that truth and accountability be at the heart of policing practice.

Legal, Ethical, and Privacy Concerns

The deployment of body-worn cameras (BWCs) on law enforcement officials raises sophisticated legal, ethical, and privacy issues that require cautious handling to ensure both openness and the safeguarding of personal right(Poirier, Charbonneau, and Boivin, 2023). Although BWCs have been found to be indispensable in guaranteeing accountability, their ongoing record function can interfere with the privacy of civilians, particularly during vulnerable situations like domestic violence, searches, or contact with minors. The recordings are thus to be employed solely for evidentiary and legal use, with secure data protection and confidentiality practices in place(Saxena, 2025). This tension between openness and secrecy highlights the need for detailed operation guidelines, legal requirements, and ethical principles that specify under what circumstances and how BWCs can be switched on. Under this research, such concerns bring to light that success in implementing BWC hinges not only on technology capability but also on adherence to the privacy, human dignity, and rule of law.

"There are limitations with the BWC. Not all situations can be recorded because we also need to respect the privacy of individuals, especially in sensitive cases." (P5)

"Sometimes, the narrations in the affidavit slightly contradicts what was recorded in the body-worn camera." (A1)

The study indicates that the use of body-worn cameras in policing calls for not just technical and operational control but a solid ethical foundation as well. The contributions of the participants emphasize that although transparency is crucial for accountability, unregulated recording may violate private life, especially in matters involving vulnerable groups or

sensitive information. Discrepancies between written statements and recorded evidence can also erode trust in the justice process unless resolved appropriately. These issues point to the need for legal certainty, ethical judgment, and consistency in dealing with BWC footage. Officers need to be trained not just in the technical application of the cameras but also in ethical judgment, knowing when to record and when recording will do more harm than good. This tension between openness and privacy is essential to upholding both justice and human rights.

In accordance to the Procedural Justice Theory, these issues highlight the significance of being fair, respectful, and neutral in policing actions. Protecting privacy rights while utilizing BWCs assists in upholding the notion that officials are acting fairly and dealing with people with respect. If the deployment of cameras violates personal rights, the institution's legitimacy can be jeopardized, destroying the trust they are meant to establish. By honoring privacy and complying with laws and ethical codes, BWCs can enhance procedural justice instead of undermining it.

The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) is also insightful in this regard, as the acceptance by officers and institutions of BWCs is not just based on their utility but also on the ability of the technology to be used responsibly. If it were seen as intrusive and subject to legal contradiction, their adoption can be derailed, even though they are useful in enhancing accountability. Yet, with transparent policies, ethical standards, and privacy protections in place, BWCs are more apt to be viewed as useful and reliable tools. This manner of addressing legal and ethical constraints makes the technology both more useful and adopted over time.

The implication of the findings is that body-worn camera implementation success hinges on establishing clear policies and robust ethical standards for their use. Police forces need to come up with in-depth protocols on when cameras are activated, where data is stored, and how access to the recordings is granted. Periodic legal and ethical training must be compulsory for officers to make them aware of the implications of their recording sensitive events. Additionally, public educational programs can make citizens aware of their rights regarding the use of BWCs. A balance between transparency and privacy guarantees that though accountability is enhanced, individual liberties are still secured ultimately building confidence, impartiality, and professionalism in policing procedures.

Technical Limitations of Body-Worn Camera

The theme Technical Limitations of Body-Worn Cameras points to the ongoing issues of police officers and members of the public concerning the dependability and operational capability of BWCs (Poirier et al., 2023). Throughout the interview, a number of participants which consist of seven police officers, one lawyer, and two members of the public, indicated their issues of concern about technicality that impede the efficiency of the gadgets.

The participants' statements portray a mutual issue of concern regarding the technical constraints of body-worn cameras (BWCs) that impinge on their reliability in police operations. Participant P1 highlighted that the device's short battery life, small storage capacity, and dependence on the internet constantly cut into continuous recording, while Participant P5 added that the battery quickly runs out and depends on favorable weather conditions that will not get affected by rain. In the same vein, Participant C2 noted that the camera occasionally ceases to work once the battery is low, and this affects the recording of key events.

These quotes illustrate how although BWCs are intended to guarantee transparency and accountability, technical problems impede their optimum functionality. If recordings are either incomplete or abruptly cut off at key stages, it raises questions about the efficacy of the evidence and can give rise to distrust among citizens. Hence, these operational shortcomings need to be addressed so that BWCs always fulfill their role of delivering credible and continuous evidence in police operations.

"One challenge is the requirement for internet connectivity... Another limitation is battery life; with a full charge, the device can last approximately three hours of continuous recording. Storage issues also arise at times. When the memory becomes full, the device cannot store additional footage." (P1)

"As for limitations, one problem is that the battery drains quickly. Sometimes, it also gets affected easily by the rain." (P5)

"The main limitation of body-worn cameras is the battery life. There are times when the device runs low on power or stops functioning, so it is important to check whether it is fully operational..." (C2)

In terms of the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), these restrictions have a direct bearing on how the user

believes a body-worn camera will assist in their work and how easy it is to use. When the devices are prone to frequent malfunction or inattention during recording major incidents, their reliability is lost, and officers might be discouraged from fully trusting or adopting the technology. Technical enhancement will have to take center stage if BWCs are to be effectively implemented in everyday policing in order to boost the confidence of users and cause continuous functioning. This makes innovation and support systems a major factor in consolidating the implementation of such technologies.

Concurrently, the Procedural Justice Theory holds that trust in police and perceptions of fairness are inseparable from the reliability and predictability of procedures. Technical breakdowns that interrupt recording taint the credibility of both the evidence and the officers' conduct and undermine public trust. To maintain legitimacy and accountability, it is required that BWCs operate effectively and continuously, guaranteeing that legal procedures are transparent and in adherence to ideals of justice. Solving these technical limitations is thus crucial not just to enhance efficiency in operations but also to shore up public trust in the justice system.

The implications of such a theme underscore the necessity of investment in more advanced, long-lasting, and robust body-worn camera systems. Police units should focus on units with greater battery life, increased memory storage capacity, and robust connectivity that can withstand different environments, particularly in rural or remote locations. Institutionalization of regular maintenance, software updating, and user training should be implemented to reduce technical faults. By overcoming these shortcomings, police departments can increase the reliability of operations, maintain procedural justice, and build trust in the community—guaranteeing that body-worn cameras are actually fulfilling their role as transparency and accountability tools.

Proper and Consistent Use of Body-Worn Cameras

The Proper and Consistent Use of Body-Worn Cameras theme identifies the need for disciplined and standardized deployment of BWCs to promote transparency, accountability, and evidence reliability. All seven police officers, one attorney, and two community members in the study noted that the effectiveness of BWCs relies not only on technology but also on responsible and regular use by officers.

“Officers are constantly reminded to turn on their cameras prior to any operation to allow full documentation.” (Police 1)

“Body-worn camera should only be strictly use for official work” (Police 2)

“The cameras should be kept on during the entire operation until officers get back to the station in order that all actions will be recorded and traceable.” (Community 3)

These quotes in general indicate that ongoing and appropriate utilization of BWCs not only enhances the credibility of evidence but also avoids accusations of misconduct or manipulation of evidence. When officers stick to procedure at all times, it instills public trust as what Participant C1 indicated that widespread camera use breeds confidence in the police. Conversely, inconsistency in recording generates suspicion and mistrust, as observed by Participant C2. Thus, strict adherence to operating procedures in employing BWCs is crucial in enhancing professionalism, safeguarding officers against false allegations, and making each encounter depict integrity and transparency. These assertions cumulatively show that constant activation and employment of BWCs in official capacities are paramount to fostering trust and accountability.

“Even before the operation begins, during the briefing stage, our lead officer consistently reminds us that it is mandatory to turn on our body-worn cameras to ensure continuous recording.” (P1)

“For fellow officers, the main takeaway is that BWCs should be used consistently and responsibly. They are not meant for casual use but should be applied in official incidents such as buy-bust operations, serving warrants, and the arrest of wanted individuals.” (P2)

“The lesson that police officers should learn is that body-worn cameras must be turned on before and during the operation, and only turned off once they have returned to the station. This ensures that the entire process is recorded and transparent.” (C2)

The findings emphasize that the proper and consistent use of body-worn cameras is crucial to ensuring their effectiveness in promoting accountability and transparency in police operations. Activating BWCs from the start of an operation and keeping them on until completion guarantees continuity in documentation, strengthens the credibility of evidence in legal

proceedings, and minimizes disputes that could arise from incomplete records. This disciplined practice highlights that the success of BWCs lies not only in the technology itself but also in officers’ responsible and standardized use of the devices.

From the perspective of the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), consistent usage reinforces officers’ perception of BWCs as useful and reliable tools for enhancing job performance, particularly in safeguarding against false accusations and producing quality evidence. The ease of integrating camera activation into standard procedures also increases the likelihood of long-term acceptance and habitual use among officers.

Meanwhile, under the Procedural Justice Theory, consistent activation of BWCs aligns with principles of fairness, neutrality, and transparency in policing. Continuous recording demonstrates impartiality and ensures that procedures are carried out in a manner that fosters trust and legitimacy in law enforcement. By adhering to proper use, officers reinforce the perception that their actions are accountable and respectful of both institutional standards and public expectations.

The implications of this theme are that law enforcement agencies need to institutionalize firm policies requiring mandatory activation of BWCs on all public interactions. Recurrent training and oversight must be done to make sure officers comprehend both the operational and ethical implications of effective camera use. Automatic activation mechanisms, like those tied to patrol lights or weapon draws, might further reduce human mistakes. Consistency in application bolsters transparency, builds public trust, and maintains the professionalism of the police force ensuring that BWCs fulfill their purpose as effective instruments of justice and accountability.

Awareness of Professional Conduct and Accountability

Awareness of Professional Conduct and Accountability explores the ways in which the availability and deployment of body-worn cameras (BWCs) promote ethical responsibility and self-discipline in police officers (Dodd et al., 2023). In the current study, involving seven police officers, one attorney, and two community members, participants uniformly underscored that constantly being recorded is a reminder to officers to remain within ethical and procedural bounds. BWCs function as a behavioral check, encouraging officers to maintain professionalism,

composure, and respect during their interactions with the public. The awareness that actions are being documented creates a heightened sense of responsibility, reducing tendencies toward misconduct and ensuring adherence to legal standards (Guerrero-Dib et al., 2020).

The interviewees' remarks emphatically highlight that the use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) promotes professionalism, discipline, and respect between the police and citizens. Participant P1 accepted that recording being done reminds officers to stay calm and professional, while Participant P5 pointed out that the presence of the camera "keeps us in check," reminding them to maintain ethical behavior. Also, Participant A1 noted that recognition of being watched encourages more respectful talk and compliance with due process on the part of officers. From the point of view of the public, Participant C1 felt safer when officers wear BWCs, viewing it as guarantee of good behavior, and Participant C2 further noted that individuals also behave better when they are aware they are under record.

These are in tandem with the interview answers of Participants P1, C1, and A1, which underscore that BWCs provide a second layer of accountability that forces officers to conduct themselves within legal and ethical limits. The fact that their conduct is recorded deters abuse and reiterates obedience with procedure. Analytically, this sense of awareness triggers self-policing on the part of officers to decline in cases of abuse of authority and improve transparency in operations. Concurrently, the public feels assured that real-time video can act as unbiased evidence in cases or investigations. BWCs therefore work as both a preventive and corrective measure encouraging legal policing, safeguarding citizens' rights, and enhancing police-citizen trust through persistent accountability and professionalism. Analytically, the evidence shows that consciousness facilitated by BWCs promotes professionalism by enforcing self-control among officers. The ongoing observation prevents cases of excessive use of force, verbal misconduct, or failure to adhere to procedures, as officers become aware that any misconduct would invoke disciplinary or judicial measures. This increased self-policing results in enhanced police-public relationships, minimized complaints, and increased institutional credibility. Additionally, the accountability facilitated by BWC recordings ensures disputes are settled objectively, based on evidence-backed confirmation rather than personal testimony. Therefore, BWCs are preventive as

well as corrective measures in upholding ethical policing.

"The presence of the BWC adds another layer of accountability, compelling officers to conduct themselves with discipline and in accordance with the law." (P1)

"Yes, with body-worn cameras, some police officers are less likely to abuse their power since their actions are being recorded... The way they collect evidence can be seen. The issue of 'planting of evidence' has been eliminated because everything is clearly recorded." (C1)

"When used in compliance with laws, body-worn cameras can be used to support fair and efficient legal proceedings as it provides real time footage of incidents offering unbiased accounts of events. This helps in corroborating or contradicting witness statements, increasing transparency, and encouraging officer accountability, knowing their actions are being recorded; thereby, ensuring the protection of every person's rights enshrined in the constitution." (A1)

The findings reveal that the presence of body-worn cameras (BWCs) significantly influences police officers' awareness of professional conduct and accountability in their daily duties. Knowing that their actions and interactions are being recorded encourages officers to adhere more closely to the law, follow standard operating procedures, and treat individuals with fairness and respect. This increased vigilance reduces room for misconduct, abuse of authority, or tampering with evidence, but at the same time, facilitates that police actions are transparent and traceable through recorded evidence. In such a manner, BWCs serve as both a deterrent to immorality and as a way to enhance the integrity of policing procedure.

From the perspective of the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), this result demonstrates how BWCs are viewed by officers as beneficial tools that not only shield them from being falsely accused but also aid their professional reputation. The ease with which BWCs can be incorporated into daily operations amplifies their acceptance, solidifying a culture of discipline in which officers adopt the technology as a protector for themselves and the public they serve. By emphasizing usefulness in the facilitation of accountability and ease of use in actual use, TAM can account for why BWCs are becoming more widely incorporated into routine law enforcement practice.

Procedural Justice Theory perspective, the ongoing recording of interactions promotes transparency and impartiality, building both public confidence and institutional legitimacy. BWCs ensure that actions are conducted in a way that can be audited independently, building a greater feeling of fairness to the public. This incites cooperation between the police and the community since individuals feel that officers are responsive, respectful, and impartial in action. Overall, BWCs assist in instilling ethical behavior in regular policing by promoting accountability, maintaining procedural justice, and enabling the legitimacy of law enforcement agencies.

The implications of this topic are that law enforcement agencies need to place greater emphasis on ongoing training in ethical standards and accountability, incorporating BWCs not just as monitoring devices but as professional development tools. Review of recorded footage can be utilized for performance measurement, mentoring, and encouraging best practices. Additionally, the fortification of institutional policies ensuring transparency and ethical behavior will maintain public trust and guarantee officers to carry out their responsibilities with integrity and respect. Finally, the integration of BWCs as tools for accountability helps build a more trustworthy, professional, and community-focused police force.

CONCLUSION

The study reveals that body-worn cameras (BWCs) significantly contribute to enhancing transparency, accountability, and professionalism within law enforcement. They serve as vital tools for strengthening evidence collection and supporting legal processes by providing objective and reliable documentation of police activities. However, the study also uncovers challenges related to legal, ethical, and privacy concerns, as well as technical limitations such as equipment malfunction, storage issues, and inadequate training. These difficulties often stem from inconsistent implementation and limited institutional support. Despite these challenges, the proper and consistent use of BWCs fosters a culture of professionalism, integrity, and ethical awareness among police officers, reinforcing public trust in law enforcement. It underscores that the true effectiveness of BWCs depends not merely on their presence but on how responsibly they are managed, guided by clear policies, continuous training, and a strong commitment to transparency and accountability in every police operation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In line with the finding, it is recommended that the Philippine National Police (PNP) strengthen its policies and operational guidelines to ensure the proper, consistent, and ethical use of body-worn cameras. Regular training and capacity-building programs should be conducted to enhance officers' technical competence, legal awareness, and professionalism in handling BWC footage. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and policymakers should also establish clear data protection and accountability measures to prevent misuse and ensure transparency. Furthermore, law enforcement training institutions should integrate BWC usage into their curriculum to prepare future officers for responsible and lawful application of this technology, thereby fostering public trust and strengthening the credibility of police operations.

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