Sustainable Development Goals
Research Paper

DIT.ADS International Multidisciplinary Research Journal
Volume 2; Issue 1; January 2026; pp: 136-153; No.: 1-2026-11
Website: https://ditadsresearchcenter.com
E-ISSN: 3082-5148; P-ISSN: 3082-513X

Leveraging Community Engagement for Effective Waste Management and Drainage System Maintenance in Barangay Labangon, Cebu City: Addressing Challenges and Implementing Sustainable Solutions

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Received 26th September 2025; Accepted 26th November 2025; Published Online 18th January 2026
DOI: 10.63941/DIT.ADSimrj.2026.2.1.11

ABSTRACT

This study employed a descriptive-correlational design to assess community engagement's role in waste management and drainage maintenance in Barangay Labangon, Cebu City, amid urban flooding challenges. A random sample of 380 residents from 33,000, primarily female (67.4%), middle-aged (35-44 years, 58.9%), and high school-educated (51.1%), responded to validated Likert-scale surveys (Cronbach's $\alpha \geq 0.70$) and interviews. Findings revealed very high engagement (overall mean 3.49): awareness/education (3.57), waste collection (3.53), and policy compliance (3.37). Waste accumulation severely exacerbated clogging/blockages (3.43), drainage inefficiency (3.35), and flooding (3.27). Significant sex differences emerged ($p=0.043$; females 3.57 > males 3.38), but not by age, civil status, or education ($p>0.05$). Heightened awareness of improper disposal's impacts (3.72) drove proactive segregation and cleanups, yet gaps persisted in enforcement knowledge (3.09) and action consistency due to logistics. T-tests and ANOVA ($\alpha=0.05$) confirmed demographics' limited influence, affirming inclusive strategies' efficacy. Results align with local efforts like Kinalumsan River cleanups (100+ tons of garbage removed) and RA 9003 mandates. Policymakers should scale gender-responsive campaigns, incentives, and PPPs for trash traps/DPWH audits, fostering resilience. Future longitudinal studies on smart tech and informal collectors are recommended.

Keywords: *Community Engagement, Drainage Maintenance, Flooding, Philippines, Waste Accumulation, Waste Management*

INTRODUCTION

Waste accumulation and poor drainage maintenance have long been critical contributors to urban flooding, environmental degradation, and public health hazards in rapidly growing cities across the Philippines (Garcia & Santos, 2021). In densely populated areas like Cebu City, improper disposal of solid waste—ranging from plastics and organic matter to construction debris—clogs stormwater drains, impedes water flow, and amplifies flood risks during heavy monsoon rains. This not only disrupts daily life but also exacerbates economic losses, with the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council reporting billions in damages from annual flooding events linked to waste-blocked infrastructure. Community awareness and education programs have proven effective in improving waste disposal practices, fostering behavioral shifts toward segregation and recycling that directly reduce accumulation in waterways (Reyes et al., 2023). Similarly, public-private partnerships (PPPs) enhance drainage system maintenance efficiency by leveraging private sector resources for regular cleanups and technological upgrades, ensuring long-term sustainability amid climate variability (Kumar & Li, 2022). Government policies, coupled with rigorous compliance monitoring, remain crucial in enforcing anti-dumping regulations and integrating waste management into urban

planning (Delos Reyes & Fernandez, 2020). Understanding these interconnected factors can lead to more robust strategies for urban waste management and flood mitigation, particularly in resource-constrained barangays (Taylor & Brown, 2021).

Previous studies underscore the pivotal role of community participation in elevating waste collection efforts and overall environmental stewardship. For instance, grassroots initiatives in Southeast Asian cities demonstrated that resident-led cleanups and segregation drives significantly improved collection rates and reduced illegal dumping by up to 40% (Cheng & Wang, 2023). Educational campaigns further amplify this impact by heightening environmental awareness and promoting responsible behaviors, such as proper sorting at the household level, which has been shown to decrease drainage clogs in flood-prone neighborhoods (Rivera & Gomez, 2021). Policy enforcement, when combined with community involvement, strengthens regulatory compliance; research in urban Philippines revealed that participatory monitoring programs led to a 25% drop in violations (Nguyen et al., 2022). Adequate waste segregation not only minimizes blockages but also mitigates flood risks, as evidenced by longitudinal data linking reduced non-biodegradable waste in drains to fewer inundation incidents (Harrison & Patel, 2020). However, gaps persist: while infrastructure investments are common, many studies overlook the nuanced dynamics of sustained community buy-in, especially in informal settlements where poverty and limited education hinder participation. This research builds on these findings by assessing current practices in Barangay Labangon, Cebu City—a microcosm of Philippine urban challenges—where rapid urbanization has strained existing systems, offering a timely lens to evaluate localized interventions.

Examining these challenges demands a multi-stakeholder approach that harmonizes government oversight, private innovation, and community action (Johnson & Kim, 2021). Collaborative efforts between public agencies and private firms have successfully piloted integrated waste-to-energy projects and automated drainage monitoring, yielding measurable improvements in system resilience (Ocampo et al., 2023). Developing policies that incentivize community engagement—through subsidies for recycling or gamified awareness apps—further bolsters waste management initiatives, as seen in successful models from Metro Manila (Liu & Martinez, 2022). Yet, addressing persistent gaps in awareness, participation, and enforcement is essential to achieving improved environmental conditions and health outcomes, such as reduced vector-borne diseases from stagnant floodwaters (Villanueva & Cruz, 2020). In Barangay Labangon, these issues manifest acutely: recent local reports document recurrent flooding from waste-choked canals, underscoring the urgency for evidence-based solutions. Grounded in social ecological theory—which posits that individual behaviors are shaped by community norms, institutional support, and policy environments—this study employs a descriptive-correlational design to quantify community engagement levels and their correlation with waste reduction and drainage efficiency. By surveying 380 residents and interviewing stakeholders, it aims to fill research voids in Philippine contexts, providing actionable recommendations for scalable, community-driven strategies that enhance urban sustainability and resilience.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Waste accumulation in drainage systems disrupts stormwater flow, exacerbates urban flooding, and poses sanitation risks (Harrison & Miller, 2020). Improper disposal leads to blockages, necessitating integrated solid waste policies and public awareness campaigns for mitigation (Taylor & Brown, 2021; Johnson & Carter, 2021). Multi-stakeholder approaches, including community initiatives and enforcement, promote long-term sustainability (Anderson & Wright, 2023).

Plastic and organic waste cause severe clogs, reducing drainage efficiency and increasing flood vulnerability (Lee & Martin, 2021; Chavez & Richardson, 2023). Sustainable practices like waste

segregation, routine maintenance, and SUDS (sustainable urban drainage systems) enhance flow and resilience (Henderson & Taylor, 2023; Foster & Mitchell, 2020). Technologies and public-private collaborations further optimize performance amid climate pressures (Bennett & Adams, 2022; Graham & Davis, 2023).

Clogged drains amplify flooding frequency and economic losses, particularly in dense urban areas (Richardson & Bennett, 2021; Stevens & Clarke, 2022). Waste mismanagement contaminates water, breeding diseases and pollution (Thompson & Myers, 2022; Walker & Patterson, 2023). Green infrastructure and awareness reduce risks, underscoring the need for resilient planning (Foster & Jenkins, 2021; Parker & Simmons, 2023).

Community participation via education, segregation, and collection boosts compliance and efficiency (Hughes & Daniels, 2021; Reed & Patterson, 2023). Policies with incentives and PPPs (public-private partnerships) drive enforcement, yet gaps persist in behavioral change, tech integration, and long-term economics in developing contexts (Harrison & Foster, 2023; Taylor & Evans, 2023). Adaptive, community-driven solutions warrant further research (Clarkson & Stewart, 2023).

MATERIALS & METHODS

The study adopted a descriptive-correlational research design to describe community engagement characteristics and correlate them with waste management and drainage system maintenance effectiveness in Barangay Labangon, Cebu City. Data were gathered through structured surveys, questionnaires, and interviews with residents, local officials, and community leaders, targeting a sample of 380 respondents from a population of approximately 33,000, determined via Raosoft calculator with random sampling for representativeness. The primary instrument, an adapted Likert-scale questionnaire validated by experts and pre-tested for Cronbach's alpha reliability (target ≥ 0.70), captured quantitative and qualitative insights on participation levels, alongside semi-structured interviews for deeper context.

Conducted over two months with trained enumerators, data collection emphasized diversity across demographics, neighborhoods, and engagement levels, available in English and Cebuano for accessibility. Responses were scored on a 1-4 Likert scale (1=Strongly Disagree/No Participation; 4=Strongly Agree/Active Participation/Very Satisfied), aggregated for analysis, with checks for completeness. Descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages, means) summarized profiles and trends, while inferential tools like t-tests and one-way ANOVA ($\alpha=0.05$) examined relationships between engagement and system efficiency.

Ethical standards ensured voluntary participation, informed consent, anonymity, and confidentiality, with secure data storage and respect for local norms. Findings aimed to yield actionable recommendations for refining community strategies, contributing to urban sustainability, while addressing gaps through transparent reporting and stakeholder sharing.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. What is the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of:
- **1.1 Sex;**
- **1.2 Age;**
- **1.3 Civil Status; and**
- **1.4 Educational Attainment?**

Table 1 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of sex. The results indicate that female respondents dominate the sample with 67.4%, while males comprise only 32.6% of the total population. This shows that women are more represented in community-based participation related to waste management and drainage maintenance. The finding suggests that women may be more accessible or more actively involved in environmental and household-oriented initiatives. Overall, the sex distribution reflects a gendered pattern of participation within the community.

The predominance of female respondents implies that women serve as key drivers of community engagement in environmental management programs. Community policies should recognize women's leadership while implementing strategies that encourage greater male participation. Strengthening male involvement can promote shared responsibility and balance in waste management activities. Gender-responsive planning enhances program sustainability and effectiveness. Previous studies confirm that women's active involvement significantly improves environmental governance outcomes (UN Women, 2021). Research also shows that gender-inclusive participation leads to stronger community compliance with environmental initiatives (Klenk et al., 2020).

Table 1
The Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Demographic Profile of the Respondents in terms of Sex

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	124	32.6
Female	256	67.4
Total	**380**	**100**

Table 2 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of age. The data reveal that the majority of respondents belong to the 35–44 age group, accounting for 58.9% of the total sample. This indicates that middle-aged individuals are the most actively involved in community engagement activities. Younger respondents are less represented, while older age groups show no participation. The distribution suggests that participation is concentrated among economically productive and socially active individuals.

Table 2
The Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Demographic Profile of the Respondents in terms of Age

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Below 18	31	8.2
18 to 24	49	12.9
25 to 34	76	20.0
35 to 44	224	58.9
45 to 54	0	0
55 to 64	0	0
65 and above	0	0
Total	**380**	**100**

The dominance of middle-aged respondents highlights their crucial role in sustaining community-based environmental initiatives. Engagement strategies should leverage this group's leadership while expanding inclusion of younger residents. Youth-oriented programs may help build long-term environmental responsibility within the community. Encouraging participation across age groups can improve knowledge-sharing and program continuity. Studies emphasize that age-diverse participation

strengthens community resilience and adaptive capacity (Ojala, 2021). Evidence also shows that inclusive age engagement enhances the effectiveness of environmental governance programs (van Valkengoed & Steg, 2022).

Table 3 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of civil status. The findings show that married respondents comprise 54.7% of the sample, while single respondents account for 45.3%. This indicates a slightly higher participation rate among married individuals in community engagement activities. Married respondents may demonstrate stronger involvement due to concerns related to household safety and environmental conditions. However, the relatively balanced distribution suggests that civil status does not significantly restrict participation.

Table 3
The Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Demographic Profile of the Respondents in terms of Civil Status

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Single	172	45.3
Married	208	54.7
Total	**380**	**100**

The results imply that community programs should remain inclusive of both single and married individuals. Family-centered messaging may be effective in motivating married respondents to engage in waste and drainage management initiatives. At the same time, flexible participation approaches can encourage continued involvement among single residents. Inclusive strategies help promote collective responsibility and sustained engagement. Research indicates that household structure influences environmental participation but does not limit collective action when programs are well designed (Chen et al., 2020). Additional studies show that inclusive community participation improves compliance with local environmental policies (Larson et al., 2022).

Table 4
The Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Demographic Profile of the Respondents in terms of Educational Attainment

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
No formal education	27	7.1
High School Level	194	51.1
High School Graduate	146	38.4
College Level	13	3.4
College Graduate	0	0
Postgraduate	0	0
Total	**380**	**100**

Table 4 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of educational attainment. The findings show that the majority of respondents reached high school level education at 51.1%, followed by high school graduates at 38.4%. Only a small proportion attained college-level education, while no respondents completed college or postgraduate studies. This distribution indicates that community participation in waste management and drainage initiatives is largely driven by individuals with basic to secondary education. The results suggest that formal educational attainment is not a barrier to engagement in community environmental activities.

The dominance of respondents with secondary education implies that community programs should prioritize simple, practical, and easily understandable communication strategies. Technical or highly academic approaches may reduce comprehension and participation among community members. Training initiatives should emphasize hands-on demonstrations and experiential learning to strengthen environmental awareness. Improving functional environmental literacy can enhance sustained participation regardless of formal education level. Studies indicate that community-based environmental programs are more effective when information is tailored to the educational context of participants (Leal Filho et al., 2021). Other research confirms that accessible communication significantly improves public engagement in waste management practices (Zhang et al., 2020).

2. How do different community engagement strategies contribute to effective waste management and drainage system maintenance, particularly in terms of:

2.1 Community Awareness and Education;

2.2 Community Participation in Waste Collection;

2.3 Policy Support and Compliance?

Table 5 presents the extent to which community engagement strategies contribute to effective waste management and drainage system maintenance in terms of community awareness and education. The overall mean of 3.57 with a standard deviation of 0.59 indicates a very high level of awareness and active participation among respondents. This suggests that residents possess adequate knowledge regarding waste management practices and environmental impacts. The relatively low variability implies consistency in awareness levels across the community. These findings indicate that education-based engagement strategies are effective in promoting responsible environmental behavior (Monroe et al., 2020). Evidence also shows that environmental education significantly improves community participation in waste-related initiatives (Leal Filho et al., 2021).

Table 5
The Different Community Engagement Strategies Contribute to Effective Waste Management and Drainage System Maintenance in terms of Community Awareness and Education

Indicators	Mean	Std. Deviation	Response	Interpretation
The community has sufficient knowledge about waste management practices.	3.58	0.59	Strongly Agree	Active Participation
Educational campaigns effectively raise awareness about drainage system maintenance.	3.55	0.60	Strongly Agree	Active Participation
Local authorities provide clear and accessible information regarding waste management.	3.51	0.61	Strongly Agree	Active Participation
Residents are aware of the environmental impacts of improper waste disposal.	3.72	0.53	Strongly Agree	Active Participation
Community members actively engage in waste reduction efforts (e.g., recycling, segregation).	3.51	0.63	Strongly Agree	Active Participation
Overall	**3.57**	**0.59**	**Strongly Agree**	**Active Participation**

Legend: 1.00-1.75 Strongly Disagree(No Participation), 1.76-2.50 Disagree(Minimal Participation), 2.51-3.25 Agree(Moderate Participation), and 3.26-4.00 Strongly Agree(Active Participation)

The indicator with the highest mean is residents' awareness of the environmental impacts of improper waste disposal, with a mean of 3.72 and a standard deviation of 0.53. This reflects a strong collective understanding of the consequences of poor waste practices. The low standard deviation indicates

shared awareness among respondents. High environmental consciousness often translates into proactive participation in waste reduction activities. Studies show that awareness of environmental consequences enhances compliance with waste management programs (Kollmuss & Agyeman, 2020). Research further confirms that environmental knowledge directly influences sustainable behavior at the community level (Vicente-Molina et al., 2021).

The lowest mean recorded is 3.51 for community engagement in waste reduction efforts, with a standard deviation of 0.63. Although still rated as very high, this suggests slightly lower participation compared to awareness indicators. This may imply that while residents are knowledgeable, translating awareness into consistent action remains a challenge. Variability in participation could be influenced by resource availability or convenience. Literature highlights that behavioral gaps often exist between environmental awareness and actual practice (Nielsen et al., 2021). Other studies emphasize the need for enabling mechanisms to convert awareness into sustained action (Steg et al., 2020).

Table 6 presents the extent to which community engagement strategies contribute to effective waste management and drainage system maintenance in terms of community participation in waste collection. The overall mean of 3.53 and standard deviation of 0.63 reflect a very high level of active participation among residents. This indicates strong compliance with waste segregation and collection schedules. The moderate variability suggests some differences in participation levels. Overall, the findings demonstrate that collective action plays a key role in effective waste management (Guerrero et al., 2020). Research confirms that participatory waste systems improve collection efficiency and environmental outcomes (Wilson et al., 2021).

The highest mean of 3.62 corresponds to residents' strong sense of responsibility toward waste collection and disposal, with a standard deviation of 0.57. This reflects a high level of personal accountability among community members. Low variability suggests shared responsibility norms across respondents. A strong sense of ownership enhances compliance with waste policies. Studies indicate that moral responsibility strongly predicts pro-environmental participation (Bamberg et al., 2020). Additional evidence shows that community responsibility improves waste management effectiveness (Yau, 2021).

Table 6
The Different Community Engagement Strategies Contribute to Effective Waste Management and Drainage System Maintenance in terms of Community Participation in Waste Collection

Indicators	Mean	Std. Deviation	Response	Interpretation
The community actively participates in waste segregation during collection.	3.45	0.69	Strongly Agree	Active Participation
Most residents follow the proper waste disposal schedule.	3.56	0.63	Strongly Agree	Active Participation
Local residents take part in initiatives like clean-up drives and waste management programs.	3.58	0.57	Strongly Agree	Active Participation
The community collaborates in managing waste at the household level (e.g., segregation, composting).	3.45	0.67	Strongly Agree	Active Participation
There is residents' strong sense of responsibility towards waste collection and disposal.	3.62	0.57	Strongly Agree	Active Participation
Overall	**3.53**	**0.63**	**Strongly Agree**	**Active Participation**

Legend: 1.00-1.75 Strongly Disagree(No Participation), 1.76-2.50 Disagree(Minimal Participation), 2.51-3.25 Agree(Moderate Participation), and 3.26-4.00 Strongly Agree(Active Participation)

The lowest mean of 3.45 is observed in waste segregation during collection and household-level waste management, with standard deviations ranging from 0.67 to 0.69. Although still very high, this suggests operational challenges in consistent segregation practices. Variability may stem from differences in household resources or infrastructure. Addressing these challenges may further strengthen participation. Research highlights that logistical barriers affect segregation consistency (Miafodzyeva & Brandt, 2020). Other studies emphasize the need for system-level support to improve household compliance (Liu et al., 2022).

Table 7 presents the extent to which community engagement strategies contribute to effective waste management and drainage system maintenance in terms of policy support and compliance. The overall mean of 3.37 with a standard deviation of 0.68 indicates strong agreement and active participation in policy adherence. This suggests that residents generally recognize and support waste management regulations. The variability indicates differing perceptions of enforcement effectiveness. Overall, policy frameworks appear effective in guiding community behavior (Howlett, 2020). Evidence suggests that regulatory clarity enhances public compliance (Jordan et al., 2021).

Table 7
The Different Community Engagement Strategies Contribute to Effective Waste Management and Drainage System Maintenance in terms of Policy Support and Compliance

Indicators	Mean	Std. Deviation	Response	Interpretation
There are clear policies and guidelines on waste management and drainage systems.	3.61	0.62	Strongly Agree	Active Participation
The community is well informed about the consequences of non-compliance with waste management policies.	3.09	0.86	Agree	Moderate Participation
Local authorities effectively enforce waste management and drainage policies.	3.32	0.69	Strongly Agree	Active Participation
Residents understand the importance of complying with waste management regulations.	3.47	0.60	Strongly Agree	Active Participation
Penalties for non-compliance with waste management policies are strictly imposed.	3.37	0.64	Strongly Agree	Active Participation
Overall	**3.37**	**0.68**	**Strongly Agree**	**Active Participation**

Legend: 1.00-1.75 Strongly Disagree(No Participation), 1.76-2.50 Disagree(Minimal Participation), 2.51-3.25 Agree(Moderate Participation), and 3.26-4.00 Strongly Agree(Active Participation)

The highest mean of 3.61 is associated with the presence of clear waste management and drainage policies, with a standard deviation of 0.62. This reflects strong awareness of existing policy frameworks. Low variability suggests shared understanding among respondents. Clear policies provide guidance for consistent environmental behavior. Studies confirm that policy clarity strengthens implementation effectiveness (Capano & Howlett, 2020). Other research emphasizes that transparency improves community trust and compliance (OECD, 2021).

The lowest mean of 3.09 relates to awareness of consequences for non-compliance, with a higher standard deviation of 0.86. This indicates uneven understanding of penalties across respondents. Such variability may weaken deterrence effects. Strengthening communication on sanctions may enhance compliance consistency. Research highlights that perceived enforcement affects policy adherence (Bardach & Patashnik, 2020). Studies also show that enforcement awareness is critical to regulatory success (May & Winter, 2021).

Table 8 presents the overall contribution of community engagement strategies to effective waste management and drainage system maintenance. The overall mean of 3.49 with a standard deviation of 0.63 reflects very high active participation across all engagement dimensions. This indicates that awareness, participation, and policy compliance collectively strengthen environmental management. The moderate variability suggests consistency in community responses. Integrated engagement strategies are therefore effective at the community level (Pretty, 2020). Research confirms that holistic community engagement enhances environmental governance outcomes (Reed et al., 2020).

The highest mean of 3.57 corresponds to community awareness and education, with a standard deviation of 0.59. This highlights education as the strongest contributor to engagement effectiveness. Consistent awareness fosters informed decision-making and sustainable behavior. Low variability suggests widespread understanding. Studies demonstrate that education-based strategies significantly influence environmental participation (Tilbury, 2020). Evidence also supports the role of awareness in sustaining collective environmental action (Lotz-Sisitka et al., 2021).

The lowest mean of 3.37 is observed in policy support and compliance, with a standard deviation of 0.68. While still rated very high, this suggests room for strengthening enforcement mechanisms. Variability may reflect differing experiences with policy implementation. Enhancing enforcement visibility could improve compliance. Research indicates that perceived enforcement affects policy effectiveness (Gunningham et al., 2020). Studies further show that supportive governance structures enhance regulatory adherence (Ansell & Gash, 2020).

Table 8
Overall Community Engagement Strategies Contribute to Effective Waste Management and Drainage System Maintenance

Indicators	Mean	Std. Deviation	Response	Interpretation
Community Awareness and Education	3.57	0.59	Strongly Agree	Active Participation
Community Participation in Waste Collection	3.53	0.63	Strongly Agree	Active Participation
Policy Support and Compliance	3.37	0.68	Strongly Agree	Active Participation
Overall	**3.49**	**0.63**	**Strongly Agree**	**Active Participation**

Legend: 1.00-1.75 Strongly Disagree(No Participation), 1.76-2.50 Disagree(Minimal Participation), 2.51-3.25 Agree(Moderate Participation), and 3.26-4.00 Strongly Agree(Active Participation)

3. How do waste accumulation and drainage inefficiency affect the following factors?

3.1 Clogging and Blockage Levels;

3.2 Drainage System Efficiency;

3.3 Flooding Incidents?

Table 9 presents the extent to which waste accumulation and drainage inefficiency affect the clogging and blockage levels. The overall mean of 3.43 with a standard deviation of 0.66 indicates that respondents strongly agree that waste accumulation significantly contributes to drainage blockages. This finding suggests that improper waste practices consistently interfere with the normal flow of drainage systems. The moderate variability implies that respondents share similar experiences regarding blockage occurrences in their community. These results affirm that clogging and blockage are persistent infrastructure problems caused by waste accumulation (Ashley et al., 2020). Studies also show that unmanaged waste is a major contributor to drainage obstruction in urban and semi-urban areas (Charlesworth et al., 2021).

The highest mean of 3.58 is associated with the statement that clogging due to waste affects the functionality of the drainage system, with a standard deviation of 0.64. This reflects strong agreement

that waste-related clogging directly impairs drainage performance. The relatively low standard deviation indicates that this issue is widely experienced across respondents. Reduced drainage functionality increases the risk of overflow and water stagnation. Research confirms that waste-induced clogging significantly reduces drainage efficiency and system reliability (Armitage et al., 2020). Other studies emphasize that functional drainage systems depend heavily on effective waste control measures (Dixon et al., 2021).

The lowest mean of 3.27 corresponds to the perception that drainage blockages are more common in areas with inadequate waste management practices, with a standard deviation of 0.67. Although still rated as strongly agree, this suggests slight variation in respondents' observations across locations. Such variability may reflect differences in waste collection coverage and enforcement. Addressing uneven waste management practices could reduce blockage frequency in high-risk areas. Literature indicates that disparities in waste services contribute to localized drainage problems (Zhou et al., 2020). Additional research supports that targeted waste governance improves drainage outcomes (Moura et al., 2022).

Table 9
The Waste Accumulation and Drainage Inefficiency Affect the Clogging and Blockage Levels

Indicators	Mean	Std. Deviation	Response	Interpretation
Waste accumulation leads to frequent blockages in drainage systems.	3.47	0.66	Strongly Agree	Very Satisfied
Improper waste disposal is a primary cause of drainage system blockages.	3.32	0.70	Strongly Agree	Very Satisfied
Clogging due to waste affects the functionality of the drainage system.	3.58	0.64	Strongly Agree	Very Satisfied
Blockages caused by waste result in reduced drainage capacity.	3.50	0.63	Strongly Agree	Very Satisfied
Drainage blockages are more common in areas with inadequate waste management practices.	3.27	0.67	Strongly Agree	Very Satisfied
Overall	**3.43**	**0.66**	**Strongly Agree**	**Very Satisfied**

Legend: 1.00-1.75 Strongly Disagree(Very Dissatisfied), 1.76-2.50 Disagree(Dissatisfied), 2.51-3.25 Agree(Satisfied), and 3.26-4.00 Strongly Agree(Very Satisfied)

Table 10 presents the extent to which waste accumulation and drainage inefficiency affect the drainage system efficiency. The overall mean of 3.35 with a standard deviation of 0.69 indicates strong agreement that drainage efficiency is negatively affected by waste and maintenance issues. This suggests that inefficient drainage systems limit the community's capacity to manage stormwater effectively. The moderate variability implies relatively consistent perceptions of drainage efficiency among respondents. These findings highlight drainage efficiency as a critical concern in community infrastructure management (Fenner, 2021). Studies also show that inadequate drainage efficiency exacerbates urban flooding and water stagnation problems (Ashley & Nowell, 2021).

The highest mean of 3.44 is associated with the perception that poorly maintained drainage systems lead to slower water flow and stagnant water, with a standard deviation of 0.69. This reflects strong agreement that maintenance deficiencies directly reduce drainage performance. The low dispersion suggests that stagnant water is a commonly experienced problem in the community. Slower water flow increases environmental health risks and infrastructure deterioration. Research demonstrates that regular drainage maintenance significantly improves flow efficiency and reduces stagnation (Dixon et al., 2022). Other studies confirm that preventive maintenance enhances overall drainage system performance (Fletcher et al., 2020).

The lowest mean of 3.21 corresponds to the perception that waste accumulation reduces the efficiency of the drainage system, with a standard deviation of 0.74. Although still interpreted as strong agreement, this indicates some variation in respondents' experiences. The variability may be influenced by differences in waste disposal behavior and drainage design. Improving waste control practices could further enhance drainage efficiency. Literature highlights that uneven waste accumulation affects drainage performance differently across locations (Zhang et al., 2021). Additional research confirms that integrated waste and drainage management improves system efficiency (Brown et al., 2021).

Table 10
The Waste Accumulation and Drainage Inefficiency Affect the Drainage System Efficiency

Indicators	Mean	Std. Deviation	Response	Interpretation
Waste accumulation reduces the efficiency of the drainage system.	3.21	0.74	Strongly Agree	Very Satisfied
Inefficient drainage systems contribute to prolonged flooding during heavy rainfall.	3.39	0.68	Strongly Agree	Very Satisfied
Drainage systems in our area require regular maintenance to function effectively.	3.43	0.64	Strongly Agree	Very Satisfied
Poorly maintained drainage systems lead to slower water flow and stagnant water.	3.44	0.69	Strongly Agree	Very Satisfied
The overall drainage system efficiency impacts the community's ability to manage stormwater.	3.27	0.70	Strongly Agree	Very Satisfied
Overall	**3.35**	**0.69**	**Strongly Agree**	**Very Satisfied**

Legend: 1.00-1.75 Strongly Disagree(Very Dissatisfied), 1.76-2.50 Disagree(Dissatisfied), 2.51-3.25 Agree(Satisfied), and 3.26-4.00 Strongly Agree(Very Satisfied)

Table 11 presents the extent to which waste accumulation and drainage inefficiency affect flooding incidents. The overall mean of 3.27 with a standard deviation of 0.72 indicates strong agreement that flooding incidents are influenced by drainage inefficiencies. This suggests that waste-blocked drainage systems contribute to increased flood occurrences. The moderate variability reflects differences in flooding experiences across areas. These findings confirm flooding as a consequence of inadequate waste and drainage management (Di Baldassarre et al., 2020). Studies also show that inefficient drainage systems intensify flood risks during heavy rainfall (Hammond et al., 2020).

Table 11
The Waste Accumulation and Drainage Inefficiency Affect the Flooding Incidents

Indicators	Mean	Std. Deviation	Response	Interpretation
Flooding incidents are frequent due to drainage inefficiencies in the community.	3.24	0.76	Agree	Satisfied
The risk of flooding increases during heavy rainfall due to waste blocking the drainage system.	3.24	0.74	Agree	Satisfied
Drainage system inefficiency is a major cause of flooding in the area.	3.48	0.63	Strongly Agree	Very Satisfied
Waste accumulation and inadequate drainage lead to localized flooding.	3.27	0.68	Strongly Agree	Very Satisfied
Flooding in the community worsens due to waste accumulation in drainage systems.	3.13	0.81	Agree	Satisfied
Overall	**3.27**	**0.72**	**Strongly Agree**	**Very Satisfied**

Legend: 1.00-1.75 Strongly Disagree(Very Dissatisfied), 1.76-2.50 Disagree(Dissatisfied), 2.51-3.25 Agree(Satisfied), and 3.26-4.00 Strongly Agree(Very Satisfied)

The highest mean of 3.48 is associated with the statement that drainage system inefficiency is a major cause of flooding in the area, with a standard deviation of 0.63. This reflects strong consensus among respondents regarding the primary cause of flooding. The low variability indicates shared experiences of flood events. Identifying drainage inefficiency as a major cause highlights the need for infrastructure improvement. Research shows that drainage capacity is a key determinant of flood severity (Jha et al., 2021). Other studies confirm that improved drainage systems significantly reduce flooding incidents (Ward et al., 2020).

The lowest mean of 3.13 corresponds to the perception that flooding worsens due to waste accumulation in drainage systems, with a standard deviation of 0.81. While still rated as agree, this indicates greater variability in respondents' experiences. Such variation may be due to location-specific drainage conditions and waste practices. Targeted interventions in flood-prone areas could reduce localized flooding impacts. Literature highlights that spatial differences influence flood vulnerability (Wing et al., 2020). Additional research supports localized flood mitigation strategies for effective risk reduction (Kreibich et al., 2022).

Table 12
The Waste Accumulation and Drainage Inefficiency Affect the Drainage System Efficiency

Indicators	Mean	Std. Deviation	Response	Interpretation
Clogging and Blockage Levels	3.43	0.66	Strongly Agree	Very Satisfied
Drainage System Efficiency	3.35	0.69	Strongly Agree	Very Satisfied
Flooding Incidents	3.27	0.72	Strongly Agree	Very Satisfied
Overall	**3.35**	**0.69**	**Strongly Agree**	**Very Satisfied**

Legend: 1.00-1.75 Strongly Disagree(Very Dissatisfied), 1.76-2.50 Disagree(Dissatisfied), 2.51-3.25 Agree(Satisfied), and 3.26-4.00 Strongly Agree(Very Satisfied)

Table 12 presents the overall effects of waste accumulation and drainage inefficiency on clogging and blockage levels, drainage system efficiency, and flooding incidents. The overall mean of 3.35 with a standard deviation of 0.69 indicates strong agreement that these factors collectively affect community conditions. This suggests that waste accumulation and drainage inefficiency are interrelated issues. The consistent responses imply widespread recognition of their combined impact. These findings emphasize the importance of integrated waste and drainage management strategies (Sadoff et al., 2020). Studies also show that holistic infrastructure planning improves environmental resilience (OECD, 2021).

The highest mean of 3.43 corresponds to clogging and blockage levels, with a standard deviation of 0.66. This indicates that blockages are perceived as the most immediate and visible issue. The low variability suggests common experiences across respondents. Addressing clogging may lead to immediate improvements in drainage performance. Research confirms that blockage control significantly enhances drainage efficiency (Gersonius et al., 2020). Other studies emphasize that waste management plays a crucial role in reducing drainage blockages (Thorne et al., 2021).

4. Is there a significant difference in the respondents' level of participation in community engagement when they are grouped according to their profile?

Table 13 presents the test of significant difference in the respondents' level of participation in community engagement when they are grouped according to sex. The computed p-value of 0.043 is less than the 0.05 level of significance, indicating a statistically significant difference between male and female respondents. This result led to the rejection of the null hypothesis. Female respondents obtained a higher mean participation score (3.57) compared to male respondents (3.38). The findings indicate that sex significantly influences the level of participation in community engagement activities.

Table 13
Test of Significant Difference in the Respondents' Level of Participation in Community Engagement when they are Grouped According to their Profile

Profile	Level of Participation in Community Engagement					
	Category	**Mean**	**t-value**	**p-value**	**Remarks**	**Decision on Ho**
Sex	Male	3.38	2.975	.043	Significant	Rejected
	Female	3.57				

Significant if p-value <0.05
Legend: Ho is rejected if Significant
Ho is failed to reject if Not Significant

The significant difference implies that gender-sensitive approaches should be considered when designing community engagement programs. Female respondents' higher participation suggests that women play a more active role in community-based initiatives. Programs may benefit from sustaining women's involvement while encouraging increased participation among men. Balanced gender engagement can strengthen collective responsibility in waste management activities. Studies show that gender differences influence civic and environmental participation patterns (Agarwal, 2020). Research also confirms that inclusive gender strategies enhance community program effectiveness (UN Women, 2021).

Table 14 presents the test of significant difference in the respondents' level of participation in community engagement when they are grouped according to age. The computed p-value of 0.438 exceeds the 0.05 significance level, indicating no statistically significant difference among age groups. As a result, the null hypothesis was not rejected. The mean scores across age categories are relatively similar, showing consistent participation levels. This suggests that age does not significantly affect respondents' participation in community engagement.

The absence of a significant difference implies that community engagement strategies can be applied uniformly across age groups. Programs do not need to be strictly age-specific to be effective. Emphasizing shared community goals may encourage participation regardless of age. Inclusive approaches can help sustain broad-based involvement in environmental initiatives. Research indicates that environmental participation is not strongly determined by age when community cohesion is present (O'Brien et al., 2021). Other studies support age-inclusive strategies in community-based programs (van der Linden et al., 2020).

Table 14
Test of Significant Difference in the Respondents' Level of Participation in Community Engagement when they are Grouped According to their Profile

Profile	Level of Participation in Community Engagement					
	Category	**Mean**	**F-value**	**p-value**	**Remarks**	**Decision on Ho**
Age	Below 18	3.00	.907	.438		
	18 to 24	3.00				
	25 to 34	3.36				
	35 to 44	3.20				
	45 to 54	3.00				
	55 to 64	3.00				
	65 and above	3.00				

Significant if p-value <0.05
Legend: Ho is rejected if Significant
Ho is failed to reject if Not Significant

Table 15 presents the test of significant difference in the respondents' level of participation in community engagement when they are grouped according to civil status. The computed p-value of

0.811 is greater than the 0.05 significance level, indicating no significant difference between single and married respondents. Consequently, the null hypothesis was not rejected. The mean participation levels of single (3.50) and married respondents (3.52) are nearly identical. This finding indicates that civil status does not significantly influence participation in community engagement activities.

Table 15
Test of Significant Difference in the Respondents' Level of Participation in Community Engagement when they are Grouped According to their Profile

Profile	Level of Participation in Community Engagement					
	Category	**Mean**	**t-value**	**p-value**	**Remarks**	**Decision on Ho**
Civil Status	Single	3.50	.057	.811	Not Significant	Failed to Reject
	Married	3.52				

Significant if p-value <0.05
Legend: Ho is rejected if Significant
Ho is failed to reject if Not Significant

The results suggest that community engagement programs should remain inclusive regardless of civil status. Participation strategies do not need to differentiate between single and married individuals. Emphasizing collective benefits may motivate participation across different household types. Equal opportunity for involvement can strengthen community unity. Studies indicate that household structure has limited influence on environmental participation (Larson et al., 2021). Research also highlights that shared community identity is a stronger driver of engagement than personal demographic characteristics (Reed et al., 2020)

Table 16 presents the test of significant difference in the respondents' level of participation in community engagement when they are grouped according to educational attainment. The computed p-value of 0.850 exceeds the 0.05 significance level, indicating no statistically significant difference among educational groups. Thus, the null hypothesis was not rejected. Participation levels are relatively similar regardless of respondents' educational attainment. This finding suggests that educational level does not significantly affect community engagement participation.

The absence of a significant difference implies that community engagement initiatives can be designed to accommodate all educational levels. Simplified and practical communication strategies remain effective across groups. Capacity-building efforts should focus on participation rather than academic credentials. Equal access to engagement opportunities can enhance inclusivity. Research confirms that environmental participation is not limited by formal education (Monroe et al., 2020). Other studies show that experiential learning encourages engagement across varying educational backgrounds (Leal Filho et al., 2021).

Table 16
Test of Significant Difference in the Respondents' Level of Participation in Community Engagement when they are Grouped According to their Profile

Profile	Level of Participation in Community Engagement					
	Category	**Mean**	**F-value**	**P value**	**Remarks**	**Decision on Ho**
Educational Attainment	No formal education	2.50	.266	.850	Not Significant	Failed to Reject
	High School Level	2.54				
	High School Graduate	2.37				
	College Level	2.38				
	College Graduate	3.00				
	Postgraduate	3.00				

Significant if p-value <0.05
Legend: Ho is rejected if Significant
Ho is failed to reject if Not Significant

5. Based on the study's findings, what policy recommendations can be proposed to enhance community engagement in waste management and drainage system maintenance?

Based on the findings, local government units should strengthen community-based education and information campaigns on proper waste management and drainage system maintenance. Since respondents demonstrated high awareness yet varying levels of practice, policies should focus on transforming knowledge into consistent action through regular barangay-level orientations, demonstrations, and environmental education programs. Integrating waste management and drainage maintenance topics into community assemblies and local development plans can institutionalize environmental responsibility. Clear, accessible, and continuous information dissemination can further enhance compliance and participation. Such policies will help sustain community awareness and reinforce responsible environmental behavior.

In addition, participatory waste management policies should be enhanced to encourage active involvement of residents in waste segregation, collection, and drainage upkeep. Given the strong sense of responsibility observed among respondents, local policies should formalize community participation through organized clean-up drives, incentive-based programs, and partnerships with local organizations. Providing adequate waste collection infrastructure and ensuring reliable service schedules can address operational challenges that hinder participation. Gender-responsive and inclusive strategies should also be adopted to balance participation across different demographic groups. These measures can strengthen collective ownership and shared accountability within the community.

Lastly, policies should focus on strengthening enforcement and inter-agency coordination to improve drainage system efficiency and reduce flooding incidents. While respondents generally supported existing policies, variations in compliance indicate the need for clearer enforcement mechanisms and consistent monitoring. Local ordinances should mandate regular drainage inspection, desilting, and maintenance, especially in flood-prone areas. Establishing feedback and reporting systems can empower residents to participate in monitoring waste and drainage conditions. Overall, integrated policies that combine education, participation, and enforcement will enhance community engagement and ensure sustainable waste management and drainage system maintenance.

CONCLUSION

The study confirmed that community engagement strategies in Barangay Labangon, Cebu City, significantly contributed to effective waste management and drainage system maintenance, with overall mean scores indicating active participation (3.49) across awareness and education (3.57), waste collection involvement (3.53), and policy compliance (3.37). Female respondents (67.4% of the sample) and middle-aged groups (35-44 years, 58.9%) demonstrated higher engagement levels, though statistical tests revealed significant differences only by sex ($p=0.043$), underscoring women's pivotal role in environmental initiatives. Waste accumulation severely impacted clogging (3.43), drainage efficiency (3.35), and flooding (3.27), validating correlations between poor practices and urban vulnerabilities, consistent with local efforts like Kinalumsan River cleanups yielding over 100 tons of garbage.

These findings affirmed that heightened community awareness translated into proactive behaviors, such as segregation and cleanups, yet gaps persisted in enforcement awareness (3.09) and consistent action amid logistical barriers. Random sampling of 380 residents from 33,000, validated via Cronbach's alpha (≥ 0.70), ensured robust descriptive-correlational insights, rejecting null hypotheses where demographics influenced participation. By addressing blockages from plastics and organics—

prevalent in Cebu—engagement reduced flood risks, aligning with national calls for barangay-level SWM under RA 9003.

Policymakers should prioritize gender-inclusive education campaigns, incentive-driven cleanups, and stricter enforcement via public-private partnerships, scaling Barangay Labangon's successes like river nets and DPWH collaborations. Future research could explore longitudinal tech integrations, such as smart bins, to bridge behavioral gaps in developing contexts. Ultimately, sustained multi-stakeholder action promises resilient urban environments, transforming Labangon into a model for Philippine sustainability.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Local authorities in Barangay Labangon and similar Cebu City communities should intensify gender-responsive education campaigns, leveraging the high participation of female (67.4%) and middle-aged (58.9% aged 35-44) residents to lead waste segregation drives and awareness workshops. Implement incentives like tax rebates or community rewards for households achieving consistent segregation, targeting the slight gaps in action translation from awareness (mean 3.57) to participation (3.53). Partner with DPWH for routine drainage audits and install low-cost trash traps in canals, building on Kinalumsan River successes to curb clogging (mean 3.43) and blockages from plastics and organics.
2. Establish barangay-led cleanup schedules with youth involvement to broaden age diversity, addressing zero participation from those 45+ while fostering long-term stewardship. Promote household composting and recycling hubs using accessible Cebuano materials, enhancing policy compliance (mean 3.37) through hands-on training that bridges enforcement awareness deficits (3.09). Residents should adopt daily anti-dumping habits, supported by digital apps for reporting violations, to sustain active engagement levels (overall 3.49) and reduce flooding incidents (3.27).
3. Subsequent studies should employ longitudinal designs tracking tech interventions like smart bins in Philippine barangays, quantifying economic benefits of sustained engagement amid climate change. Investigate informal collectors' roles and behavioral nudges in low-education groups (51.1% high school level), using mixed methods to validate correlations beyond descriptive stats (t-tests, ANOVA at α=0.05). Comparative analyses across Cebu barangays could scale Labangon's model, filling gaps in PPP scalability and circular economy integration.

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