

Anti-Violence against Women and Their Children: An Institutional Multi-Stakeholder Action Plan

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Abstract: The study showed the level of awareness of the respondents to Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act of 2004 according to age, civil status, educational attainment and length of service. Data presented a descriptive rating of “high” for age, civil status and length of service and “very high” according to educational attainment. Level of advocacy is said to “very high” among respondents who are young, single and with higher educational attainment. While those who are older, and with low educational attainment achieved a descriptive rating of “high”. Level of actualization of respondents has a descriptive rating of “high” regardless of their age, civil status, years in service and educational attainment. There is a significant difference between the level of awareness and the level of advocacy, between level of awareness and actualization and between level of advocacy and actualization. The researchers recommends the initiation, intensification of trainings and programs that would enrich the understanding of the public regarding the RA 9262 and human rights. That these policy should be included in learning institutions as initial step for the knowledge expansions on this issue especially of woman and parents; that there would be exhaustive info dissemination and monitoring on this policy implementation.

Keywords: Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act, human rights.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Constitution on Republic Act 9262 of 2004 Article I, Section 2 known as “The Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children” stipulates that the State values the dignity of women and children and guarantees full respect for human rights emphasizing the need to protect the family and its members particularly women and children, from violence and threats to their personal safety and security. Thus, the State shall exert efforts to address violence committed against women and children in keeping with the fundamental freedom guaranteed under the Constitution and the Provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination Against Women, Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights instruments of which the Philippines is a party.

In the Philippines, newspapers, radios and social media are consistently flooded by heinous crimes majority of which involved violence against women and children. The 2013 National Demographic and Health Survey showed women ages 15 to 49 years old experienced physical violence since age 15, sexual violence and emotional, physical or sexual abuse on the part of married women. Reasons of these abuses for married women are usually suspicion of being unfaithful, alcoholic husband and domestic violence. On the other hand, reports from the Philippine National Police revealed that rape ranked 3rd among all Violence against Women (VAW) from 2004 -2012. The number of Child Abuse Cases handled by the Department of Social Welfare & Development in 2014 on women under 18 years old, bared that 3168 girls experienced abuse of which 131 of them were babies under 12 months, 1,149 girls were sexually abused, and 448 cases

involved incest. These statistics disclosed that men were used to inflict violence against women of any ages and from all walks of life. It also became a crucial mechanism to limit women's right and freedoms and prevent women from fully enjoying their economic, social and political rights. These implications deteriorated the stability of the basic foundation unit of the society – the family.

To support the Republic Act 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004), different learning institutions made their way to ensure the safety of women and girls within and around educational institutions, through exhaustive implementation of different preventive measures against sexual harassment, forcible words maltreatment, humiliation and abandonment. Despite of the presence of such policy however, abuses and deprivation of rights to women continuously happen which affects their psychological domain resulting to low self-esteem, loss of self- motivation, diminished impetus towards her career pathway and worse falling on the pit of depression. Many women submitted to either insanity, nervous breakdown or suicidal attempts caused by the pains of being maltreated by other people. Above the accusations and complains of the victims, however, only few were properly addressed and given due justice.

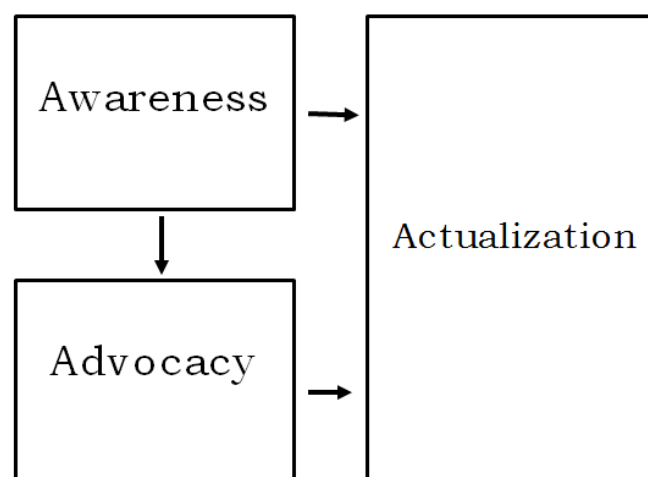
From these situations arise the desire of the researchers to determine the Awareness, Advocacy and Actualization of the Republic Act 9262 (Anti –Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004)” as viewed from the perspectives of School Teachers. Findings from the study, provides huge importance for the holistic and moral security of a woman, in uplifting her self-esteem and providing her positive attitudes towards life.

2. PARADIGM

In this study, the relationships among variables such as awareness, advocacy and actualization as independent variables are measured in terms of their relationship to one another. These feature the status of the Republic Act 9262 popularly known as Violence against Women and their Children Act of 2004 amidst of so many wrongdoings that happened in a community. The women and children themselves are the identified victims in these situations. The awareness on the said Republic Act, how they support it and to what extent they actualize what they know serve as the variables that would resolve the questions pertained to the study. Considerably, the awareness of the Secondary Public School Teachers, with their knowledge or advocacy as to a greater extent, the actualization on this Republic Act as well as their related practices is factor influencing the aforementioned variables.

The point of view on “Learned helplessness” theory and the Social Learning Theory of Bandura expresses the reactions, attitudes and behavior of women when confronted with violence. Such reactions towards violence can be traced usually to the environment where they are exposed to, and towards the people surrounding them. At consistent encounter with “bad” experiences, the huge tendency to imitate or copy these behavior becomes obvious unconscious of whether it is good or bad. Merging these insights, the level or extent as to awareness, advocacy and actualization can be determined. In the same manner, mentioned areas are considered in determining whether or not significant difference and relationship exist among the respondents.

PARADIGM FIGURE:



STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Generally, the study aimed to find out School Teachers Awareness, Advocacy, and Actualization of the Republic Act 9262 (Anti –Violence Against Women and their Children Children Act of 2004) during the School Year 2016-2017.

Specifically, the study sought to find the following:

1. What is the profile of the respondents on the following variables?
 - a. age;
 - b. civil status;
 - c. educational attainment; and,
 - d. length of service?
2. What is the level of awareness of the teachers according to the following areas?
3. What is the level of awareness of teachers according to the aforementioned variables?
4. What is the level of advocacy of the teachers according to the aforementioned areas?
5. What is the level of advocacy of the teachers according to the aforementioned variables?
6. What is the level of actualization of teachers in the following aforementioned areas?
7. What is the level of actualization of the teachers according to aforementioned variables?
8. Is there a significant difference in the level of awareness of the teachers on R.A. 9262 when group according to aforementioned variables?
9. Is there a significant difference in the level of advocacy of the teachers on R.A. 9262 when grouped and compared to the aforementioned variables?
10. Is there a significant difference in the level of actualization of the Teachers on R.A. 9262 when group and compared to the aforementioned variables?
11. Is there a significant relationship between the level of awareness and the level of advocacy?
12. Is there a significant relationship between the level of awareness and actualization?
13. Is there a significant relationship between the level of advocacy and actualization?

3. RESEARCH DESIGN

The study employed the descriptive research design in determining the extent of awareness, advocacy, and actualization of R.A 9262 (Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004) implementation in the Philippines. Descriptive research design is utilized for the purpose of accurately portraying a population that has been chosen because of some specific characteristics. At the same time, it describes the real situations occurring at the time the study is conducted. It is also used to determine the extent or direction of attitudes and behaviors (Cristobal and Cristobal, 2013).

Hence, descriptive research design is appropriate for this study since aside from the descriptions of actual situations, it also aims to gather more information about characteristics of the population within the present field of investigation and it assist in making professional judgments.

RESPONDENTS:

The respondents of this study are regular, permanent fulltime female teachers presently teaching. Records from the District offices were used to access to target population employed during the School -Year 2016-2017.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUES:

To obtain the number of the teachers that participated in this research study, the researcher resorted to simple random sampling. A Simple Random Sampling (also referred to as Random Sampling) as the purest and the most straightforward

probability sampling strategy. It is also the most popular method for choosing a sample among population for a wide range of purposes. In simple random sampling, each member of population is equally likely to be chosen as part of the sample. It has been stated that “the logic behind simple random sampling is that it removes bias from the selection procedure and should result in representative samples”.

To determine the sample size, researcher’s used Slovin's Formula “When it is not possible to study an entire population (such as the population of the United States), a smaller sample is taken using a random sampling technique. Slovin's formula allows a researcher to sample the population with a desired degree of accuracy. It gives the researcher an idea of how large his sample size needs to be to ensure a reasonable accuracy of results.” (Ellen, 2015).

4. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

From the gathered data, the researcher has formulated the following findings;

1. On the Profile of the Respondents

- 1.1 Fifty-four percent (54%) of the total respondents are 34 years old and below,
- 1.2 Sixty one percent (61%) of the sample population are married,
- 1.3 Seventy eight percent (78%) of whom had acquired the Bachelor’s degree with MA units
- 1.4 Sixty three percent (63%) of them rendered maximum of 8 years in service.

2. On the Level of Awareness of the Teachers on Republic Act 9262

The first three in rank are:

- a. “Causing physical harm to a woman or child” with a mean of 4.42 interpreted as “very high”.
- b. “Threatening to cause a woman or child physical harm” reflected mean of 4.28 interpreted as “very high”.
- c. “Placing the woman or a child in fear of imminent physical harm” with a mean of 4.24 interpreted as “high”

3. On the Level of Awareness of the Teachers on Republic Act 9262 According to Civil Status

The first three in rank are:

- a. “Causing physical harm to a woman or a child” with a mean of 4.35 to single and 4.47 to married and they are both interpreted as “very high”.
- b. “Threatening to cause a woman or a child physical harm” with a mean of 4.18 to single interpreted as “high” and the 4.34 to married interpreted as “very high”.
- c. “Attempting to cause a woman or a child physical harm” with a mean of 4.13 to single interpreted as “high” and the 4.29 to married interpreted as “very high”.

4. On the Level of Awareness of Teachers on Republic Act 9262 According to Educational attainment

The first three in rank are:

- a. “Causing physical harm to a woman or a child” with a lower mean of 4.35 and higher mean of 4.67 both interpreted as “very high”.
- b. “Threatening to cause a woman or a child physical harm” with a lower mean of 4.23 and higher mean of 4.47 both interpreted as “very high”.
- c. “Attempting to cause a woman or a child physical harm” with a lower mean of 4.15 interpreted as “high” and higher mean of 4.49 interpreted as “very high”.

5. On the Level of Awareness of the Teachers on Republic Act 9262 According to Length of Service

The first three in rank are:

- a. “Causing physical harm to a woman or a child” with a shorter mean of 4.43 and longer mean of 4.42 both interpreted as “very high”.

b. "Threatening to cause a woman or a child physical harm" with a shorter mean of 4.27 and longer mean of 4.28 both interpreted as "very high".

c. "Attempting to cause a woman or a child physical harm" with a shorter mean of 4.22 interpreted as "high" and longer mean of 4.24 interpreted as "very high".

6. On the Level of Advocacy of the Teachers on Republic Act 9262

The first three in rank are:

a. "Raising male consciousness on gender inequality" with a mean of 4.31 interpreted as "very high".

b. "Applying for a court order of protection for violent husbands/partners to stay away from the aggrieved women and/or children" with a mean of 4.27 interpreted as "very high".

c. "Reporting a blotter on a woman and child experiencing violence" with a mean of 4.24 interpreted as "very high".

7. On the Level of Advocacy of the Teachers on Republic Act 9262 According to Age

The first three in rank are:

a. "Raising male consciousness on gender inequality" with a younger mean of 4.36 interpreted as "very high" and older mean of 4.26 interpreted as "high".

b. "Applying for a court order of protection for violent husbands/partners to stay away from the aggrieved women and/or children" with a younger mean of 4.33 interpreted as "very high" and older mean of 4.20 interpreted as "high".

c. "Reporting a blotter on a woman and child experiencing violence" with a younger mean of 4.40 interpreted as "very high" and older mean of 4.04 interpreted as "high".

8. On the Level of Advocacy of the Teachers on Republic Act 9262 According to Civil Status

The first three in rank are:

a. "Participating in small groups advocating public sensitivity on violence against women and children" with single mean of 4.35 interpreted as "very high" and married mean 4.17 interpreted as "high"

b. "Providing opportunities for women and children to know about the full content of R.A. 9262" with single mean of 4.32 interpreted as "very high" and married mean of 4.21 interpreted as "very high".

c. "Reporting a blotter on a woman and child experiencing violence" with single mean of 4.29 interpreted as "very high" and married mean of 4.21 interpreted as "very high".

9. On the Level of Advocacy of the Teachers on Republic Act 9262 According to Educational Attainment

The first three in rank are:

a. "Raising male consciousness on gender inequality" with lower mean of 4.25 interpreted as "very high" and higher mean 4.53 interpreted as "very high".

b. "Providing assistance to women experiencing harassment in the workplace to seek healthier environment to work on" with lower mean of 4.23 interpreted as "very high" and higher mean of 4.37 interpreted as "very high".

c. "Providing opportunities for women and children to know about the full content of R.A. 9262" with lower mean of 4.30 interpreted as "very high" and higher mean of 4.44 interpreted as "very high".

10. On the Level of Advocacy of the Teachers on Republic Act 9262 According to Length of Service

The first three in rank are:

a. "Participating in small groups advocating public sensitivity on violence against women and children" with shorter mean of 4.37 interpreted as "very high" and longer mean 4.01 interpreted as "high".

b. "Raising male consciousness on gender inequality" with shorter mean of 4.35 interpreted as "very high" and longer mean 4.26 interpreted as "very high".

c. "Providing opportunities for women and children to know about the full content of R.A. 9262" with lower mean of 4.35 interpreted as "very high" and higher mean of 4.09 interpreted as "high".

11. On the Level of Actualization of the Teachers on Republic Act 9262

The first three in rank are:

- a. "Provide information of physical harm done to you" with a mean of 4.21 interpreted as "high".
- b. "Stop an abuser from sexually attacking oneself or another women or child" with a mean of 4.15 interpreted as "high".
- c. "Provide information about rape, sexual harassment, act of lasciviousness against own person or against other women or children" with a mean of 4.14 interpreted as "high".

12. On the Level of Actualization of the Teachers on Republic Act 9262 According to Age

The first three in rank are:

- a. "Provide information of physical harm done to you" with a younger mean of 4.23 interpreted as "very high" and older mean of 4.19 interpreted as "high".
- b. "Stop an abuser from forcing oneself or another women or child to do indecent acts and/or make indecent films/shows" with a younger mean of 4.21 interpreted as "high" and older mean of 3.97 interpreted as "high".
- c. "Stop an abuser from sexually attacking oneself or another women or child" with a younger mean of 4.20 interpreted as "high" and older mean of 4.09 interpreted as "high".

13. On the Level of Actualization of the Teachers on Republic Act 9262 According to Civil Status

The first three in rank are:

- a. "Provide information of physical harm done to you" with single mean of 4.16 interpreted as "high" and married mean 4.25 interpreted as "very high"
- b. "Provide information on incidence of women or children treated as sex objects" with single mean of 4.10 interpreted as "high" and married mean of 4.13 interpreted as "high".
- c. "Stop an abuser from forcing oneself or another women or child to do indecent acts and/or make indecent films/shows" with single mean of 4.09 interpreted as "high" and married mean of 4.11 interpreted as "very high".

14. On the Level of Actualization of the Teachers on Republic Act 9262 According to Educational Attainment

The first three in rank are:

- a. "Provide information of physical harm done to you" with lower mean of 4.14 interpreted as "high" and higher mean 4.47 interpreted as "very high".
- b. "Stop an abuser from sexually attacking oneself or another women or child" with lower mean of 4.10 interpreted as "high" and higher mean of 4.30 interpreted as "very high".
- c. "Provide information about rape, sexual harassment, act of lasciviousness against own person or against other women or children" with lower mean of 4.05 interpreted as "high" and higher mean of 4.44 interpreted as "very high".

15. On the Level of Actualization of the Teachers on Republic Act 9262 According to Length of Service

The first three in rank are:

- a. "Provide information of physical harm done to you" with shorter mean of 4.23 interpreted as "high" and longer mean 4.18 interpreted as "very high".
- b. "Stop an abuser from sexually attacking oneself or another women or child" with shorter mean of 4.17 interpreted as "high" and longer mean 4.11 interpreted as "high".
- c. "Stop an abuser from forcing oneself or another women or child to do indecent acts and/or make indecent films/shows" with lower mean of 4.11 interpreted as "high" and higher mean of 3.99 interpreted as "high".

16. On the Difference in the Level of Awareness of the Teachers on Republic Act 9262

The level of awareness according to age, civil status and length of services are “not significant” therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted. Whereas the variable on educational attainment is interpreted as significant at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, null hypothesis was accepted. Violence is understood to be integrated in women’s life, It appears in different forms and under any circumstances. The data gathered would show that age, civil status, and length of service does not influence how the public values R.A 9262.

17. On the Difference in the Level of Advocacy of Teachers on Republic Act 9262

The age and educational attainment are significant when it comes to differences in the level of advocacy according to aforementioned variables. While civil status and length of services rendered appear to be not significant. The fact that age really matters when it comes to advocating RA 9262, it is a reality that younger respondents tend to be more aggressive when it comes to VAW much more if they have attained higher educational attainment. Knowledgeable enough about the full content of RA 9262 allow them to gain impetus in pursuing and asserting their rights in the society.

Married women tend to be more “silent” about domestic violence. She regards being hit, slap or kick by her husband as part of the “authority” of her husband as Head of the family. This traditional concept keeps most women submissive even to the extent of depriving her from economic opportunities or engaging in social affairs.

18. On the Difference in the Level of Actualization of Teachers on Republic Act 9262

It showed that when age is taken into consideration there was no significant difference on the Level of Actualization of the Teachers on Republic Act 9262. As seen in the data table, null hypothesis was accepted. On the other hand, for civil status, evidently showed no significant difference in the Level of Actualization of Teachers on Republic Act 9262. Therefore, null hypothesis was accepted. For the Length of Service, there is greater than the level of significance was obtained the null hypothesis was accepted.

And lastly For educational attainment null hypothesis was rejected, Educational attainment of the respondents is significant when it comes to level of actualization. The fact that these respondents are able to understand in full context the RA 9262 gives them also the huge opportunity to express such knowledge into actions and words. The prevalence of anti-violence manifests the truthiness’ of what the public have understood about RA 9262. Furthermore, the significant role of having higher educational attainment indicates that sufficient knowledge to rely on makes a woman confident of her rights and brave enough to hamper the undesirable acts inflicted upon them.

19. On the Relationship Between the Level of Awareness and Advocacy of the Teachers on Republic Act 9262

In terms of relationship between the level of awareness and advocacy of the respondents on RA 9262 implies that there is a significant relationship among them. Being aware of the RA 9262 and its full context able a woman to give full support also to the policy. This means that woman knowledgeable to the law is likely the one who is very sensitive to undesirable behavior and demeaning words imposed upon them. Hence, the null hypothesis which states that “there is no significant relationship between the level of awareness and the level of advocacy” is rejected.

20. On the Relationship between the Level of Awareness and Actualization of the Teachers on Republic Act 9262

In terms of relationship between the awareness and actualization, a significant rating was revealed. With awareness comes the intense actualization because of the fact that there is already a full knowledge and information about the issue. Hence, the null hypothesis which states that “there is no significant relationship between the level of awareness and actualization” is rejected.

21. On the Relationship between the Level of Advocacy and Actualization of the Teachers on Republic Act 9262

In terms of relationship between the level of advocacy and actualization on RA 9262, the result is said to be significant. One way of giving support to the policy is to put everything into actions. Thus, the anti-violence organization gradually exploding to air out their resentment to violence against women and children. Hence, the null hypothesis which states that “there is no significant relationship between the level of advocacy and actualization” is rejected.

22. A program is crafted for educators on Awareness, Advocacy and Actualization of R.A.9262

1. General Objectives

- a. Increase the knowledge and awareness of the school about human rights and legal rights.
- b. Intensify information dissemination on RA 9262.

2. Project Activities

The following steps will be initiated to attain the desired objectives:

- a. Present the proposed program for VAW to the School Head and seek for approval to conduct a professional meeting with local government officials, PTA officers, stakeholders, DSWD and police authorities and School Guidance Counselor.
- b. Conduct orientation to students and teachers as part of wide information dissemination on RA 9262.
- c. Organize training workshops for local women leaders on human rights and legal rights at the grassroots level.
- d. Organize campaigns and symposium for men to respect and protect women.
- e. Proposed a yearly Awareness campaigns through street shows, rallies and meetings at grassroots-level.
- f. Ask for assistance from the local government and DSWD in the organization of livelihood skill development and marketing training for housewives with no work.

3. Development

At the end of the program, at least 85% of the women in the community would be knowledgeable about the RA 9262.

A. Program Content

During and after the implementation of the program, 85% of the program content significant to the awareness of women about RA 9262 particularly at school level are considered as follows:

1. Conduct relevant trainings for teachers, student leaders and club/organization and homeroom officers about RA 9262.
2. Formulate innovative programs for public awareness on RA 9262 integrated as part of school activity.

B. Program Management

The proposed program is set to introduce and enhance awareness on the full context of RA 9262 and human rights. The said program will last for at least 3-days to one week and will discuss matters about RA 9262 and other human rights pertained to women and children hereto. Local Government Officials, DSWD, Barangay Officials and Police authorities will convene and set the appropriate actions on this matter. Upon the closure of the program, monitoring team will be established to evaluate the implementation. Such evaluation will be analyzed to determine the appropriateness and exigency of the program in the field.

C. Funding Sources

The program requires resources to which the implementer decides to propose a budget presented to the Principal along with the letter for approval. Letters of solicitation will also be given to the PTA and stakeholders to defray possible expenses of the program.

D. Evaluation

After a thorough monitoring and interpretation of the data gathered, an evaluation will be undertaken in order to measure the extent of implications of the proposed program for reduction of VAW in the community.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, the researcher has arrived at the following conclusions.

1. Level of awareness of the respondents to RA 9262 according to age, civil status, educational attainment and length of service, data presented a descriptive rating of “high” for age, civil status and length of service and “very high” according to educational attainment.

2. Level of advocacy is said to “very high” among respondents who are young, single and with higher educational attainment. While those who are older, and with low educational attainment achieved a descriptive rating of “high”.
3. Level of actualization of respondents has a descriptive rating of “high” regardless of their age, civil status, years in service and educational attainment.
4. Level of awareness of the Public School Teachers on R.A. 9262 when group according to aforementioned variables namely age, civil status and length of service has no significant difference but gain a significant difference when it comes to educational attainment.
5. Age and educational attainment of respondents create a significant difference in the level of advocacy while civil status and length of service appraised as “not significant”.
6. There is a significant relationship between the level of awareness and the level of advocacy.
7. There is a significant relationship between the level of awareness and actualization among respondents of the study.
8. There is a significant relationship between the level of advocacy and actualization of the respondents.

6. RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings and the conclusions the researcher has arrived at the following recommendations;

On Awareness

“On the physical harm, restrictions, threats, coercion, deprivation of economic and social opportunities, rape, stalking and engaging in conduct that causes emotional distress”.

National Government along with the local government units should intensify the conduct of programs and related activities that would not only eliminate the occurrence of VAW in the society but increase the public awareness about human rights.

“On the intensification of knowledge and involvement of proper authorities, on the handling of VAW related cases”.

Should take or undergo intensive trainings and workshops on strategies in handling violent related cases or as situation arises.

“On economic and social opportunities, legal support and engagement in professional jobs of women and children”.

Public especially women and parents should be provided with sufficient trainings that are inclined to empowerment and augmenting their self-esteem and values to society.

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