

# **MALE PARTNER'S AWARENESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN GUIMARAS**

**Jo Ann T. Gerada,  
Violeta C. Efondo  
Kert D. Pillora**

**Abstract** Violence Against Women (VAW) appears as one of the country's pervasive social problems. According to the 2008 National Demographic and Health Survey conducted by the National Statistics Office, one in five Filipino women age 15-48 had experienced physical violence since age 15. It is indeed alarming that despite efforts to address the concern, Violence Against Women (VAW) persists. This study was conducted to determine the level of awareness of male partners in the implementation of Anti Violence Against Women. A descriptive research design was employed in this study. Participants size is 350 male partners determined through stratified random sampling of the married and live-in partner in the province of Guimaras. A researcher made questionnaire was utilized in this study which consists of personal profile and awareness on the implementation of violence against women. The statistical tools used were frequency count, percentage and T-test. Respondents were mostly classified as young adult having ages 18-35 years old, majority were high school graduates. Majority was high school graduates, catholic, married and have permanent job. As a whole respondent has been very aware which implies that implementation of violence against women was widely disseminated throughout the five (5) municipalities of the Province of Guimaras. The level of awareness in the implementation of violence against women among the respondents were dependent in the civil status of the male partners, separated partners were noted to have highest mean which may indicate that violence against women could be the reason of separation.

**Keywords:** Male Partners, Level of Awareness, Violence Againsts Women, Guimaras

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Background/Rationale**

The Section 2 of R.A.9262 specifically states that the State values the dignity of women and children and guarantees full respect for human rights. The State also recognizes the need to protect the family and its members particularly women and children, from violence and threats to their personal safety and security.

Violence Against Women (VAW) appears as one of the country's pervasive social problems. According to the 2008 National Demographic and Health Survey conducted by the National Statistics Office, one in five Filipino women age 15-48 had experienced physical violence since age 15. It is indeed alarming that despite efforts to address the concern, Violence Against Women (VAW) persists. Violence Against Women (VAW) is deemed to be closely linked with the unequal power relationship between women case and men otherwise known as "gender-based violence". Societal norms and traditions dictate people to think men are the leaders, pursuers, providers, and take on dominant roles in society while women are nurtures, men's companions and supporters, and take on subordinate roles in society. This perception leads to men in gaining more power over women.

At their homes, some women are accused of being "naggers" or neglectful of their duties as wives that is why they are beaten by their spouses. Rape sometimes attributed to a raped women's "flirtatious" ways. A woman filling for sexual harassment, in some instances is blame for being malicious by interpreting her employer's appreciation of her good looks. These are just some of the realities that contribute to the vulnerability of Filipino women to Violence against Women (VAW). An even greater problem is the lack of concrete information to show the extent of Violence against Woman (VAW) in the county as many cases of Violence against Women (VAW) often go unreported due to women victim's "culture of silence". Many of the victims are ashamed to relate their experiences while other tend to dismiss their ordeal as a result of their lack of faith in the country's Justice System caused by frustration over the lack of result in filling complaints.

Several Government mechanisms have already been put in place to address Violence Against Women (VAW). Non-government organizations also take part in this crusade. It is uncertain when this trend will totally diminish in the Philippines setting, but as long as current efforts to fight Violence Against Woman (VAW) are sustained, hope could be set high.

At their homes, some women are accused of being "naggers" or neglectful of their duties as wives that is why they are beaten by their spouses. Rape sometimes attributed to a raped women's "flirtatious" ways. A woman filling for sexual harassment, in some instances is blame for being malicious by interpreting her employer's appreciation of her good looks. These are just some of the realities that contribute to the vulnerability of Filipino women to Violence against Women (VAW). An even greater problem is the lack of concrete information to show the extent of Violence against Woman (VAW)

in the county as many cases of Violence against Women (VAW) often go unreported due to women victim's "culture of silence". Many of the victims are ashamed to relate their experiences while other tend to dismiss their ordeal as a result of their lack of faith in the country's Justice System caused by frustration over the lack of result in filing complaints.

Several Government mechanisms have already been put in place to address Violence Against Women (VAW). Non-government organizations also take part in this crusade. It is uncertain when this trend will totally diminish in the Philippines setting, but as long as current efforts to fight Violence Against Woman (VAW) are sustained, hope could be set high. More and more women in the Philippines are being abused and subjected to acts of violence, with one in five women aged 15 to 49 found to have experienced physical violence, while one in ten women have experienced sexual violence.

This finding, a result of the National Statistics Office's National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), was shared by WeDpro in the end-of-project conference for The Red AVP (Anti-Violence Project), short for Private and Public Faces of Violence Against Women: Addressing Domestic Violence and Trafficking In the Urban Poor Communities and Entertainment Centers of Angeles City and Olongapo City. Because of these alarming data, WeDpro, with the support of the European Union, embarked on The Red AVP, which are identified factors constraining the effective implementation of anti-trafficking and anti-violence against women and children (VAWC) laws in Angeles City and Olongapo City. The project also endeavored to build the capacities of stakeholders to address the identified factors hindering the protection and fulfillment of the right against trafficking and violence. WeDpro noted that cases of violence against women and children have risen over the years, despite the passage of Republic Act (R.A.) 9208 in 2003, which sought to eliminate and punish human trafficking and established the necessary institutional mechanisms for the protection and support of trafficked persons, as well as R.A. 9262, the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004, which granted the government the right to intervene in case of household violence or abuse against women and children. "The implementation gap in this country continues to remain particularly glaring," noted Lila Ramos Shahani, Assistant Secretary of the National Anti-Poverty Commission. "Violence against women and trafficking are overt manifestations of gender inequality in the Philippines and its prevalence in our patriarchal culture."

WeDpro's research report "Surviving Violence and Trafficking: Stories of Women & Youth of Angeles & Olongapo Cities", a result of The Red AVP, determined the factors that have hindered the implementation of anti-violence and trafficking laws. Among these are the lack of support mechanisms, both material and human resources, in Barangays and LGUs; the lack of fiscals in Family Courts and the ensuing inefficiency of the government's prosecution service; political constraints such as the change of leadership in LGUs and lack of women's organizations that sustain anti-VAWC programs; and beliefs and attitudes that perpetuate violence such as the community's view that abused and trafficked survivors are "willing" victims.

To hurdle these challenges, WeDpro determined that that barangays, local government units (LGUs), civil society groups, the media and the community must all work together to stop violence against women and children. Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Chairperson Loretta Ann "Etta" Rosales declared her support for WeDpro, saying, "My priorities include revitalizing the Philippine human rights infrastructure, nurturing a strong human rights culture, and building strong partnerships with the civil society and NGOs. These include further strengthening our centers on women and children. We should all work together to protect, respect and fulfill the human rights of every single Filipino"

Angeles Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan echoed the need for different stakeholders to cooperate and collaborate. "The problem is just too big, its roots too deep, for us to defeat alone. We need the support of civil society organizations, the national government, and the international community...Trafficking and violence against women and children are related to many other issues and social problems, especially poverty, lack of education, law enforcement, corruption and many others. In other words, only a holistic approach could contain it," he said ([www.wedprophils.org/redavp-research-reports](http://www.wedprophils.org/redavp-research-reports)).

## **Statement of the problem**

This study was conducted to determine the level of awareness of male partners in the implementation of R.A. 9262 Anti Violence Against Women and their Children Specifically, this study sought answer the following questions:

1. What is the profile of respondents according to variables such as age, educational attainment, religion, civil status and employment status?
2. What is the level of awareness of male partners in the implementation of Violence Against Women (VAW) in the province of Guimaras when grouped as to variables such as age, educational attainment, religion, civil status and employment status?
3. Is there a significant difference in the level of awareness among male partners in the implementation of RA 9262 taken as a whole, and categorized according to variable?

## METHODOLOGY

### Research Design

The descriptive method of research was employed in this study. It comprised and concerned with collecting and describing a set of data for the awareness of male partners on in the implementation of Violence Against Women. A survey was used to gather information of a field to correct practices, trends and norms to find out the evaluation on the Awareness of Male Partner's in the Implementation of Violence Againsts Women (VAW).

### Locale of the study

The locale of the study will be conducted in the province of Guimaras.

### Respondents of the Study

The respondent of the study are the Male Partners in the province of Guimaras. The respondent of the study was determined through stratified random sampling of the married and live-in partner in the province of Guimaras.

### Data Gathering Instrument

The data needed in the study was gathered using the researchers prepared questionnaire. The questionnaire are composed of three (2) parts, part 1 is on the respondent's profile, and part 2 is on the awareness in the implementation of Violence Against Women (VAW).

### Data Gathering Procedure

The researcher seeks approval from the office of the Research and Extension Services. Next, the researcher sends a transmittal letter to the office of the Punong Barangay of the selected locality asking permission and approval to conduct research.

The questionnaires was reproduced and personally administered to the respondents. Aside from written instruction, oral instruction was supplemented for the assistance and guidance of the respondents in answering the questionnaire. The raw data that was gathered tallied and collated.

### Statistical tools used in the study

Frequency Count. The frequency count was used to determine the number of respondents for each variable and the number for each response in every item.

Mean. The mean of item was computed to determine the awareness of the respondents when they are taken as a whole group when classified according to categories of variable.

T-test was used to assess whether the means of the variable are statistically different from each other.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Profile of the respondents

The profile of the respondents shows that 38.9% were classified as young adult having ages 18-35 years old, 37.1% were classified adult having ages raging from 35-59 years old and 9.7% were senior those were 60years old and above. Majority or 36.3% were high school graduates, 27.1% were college graduates, 14% are high school level, 9.7% are high school level, 7.4% are elementary graduate, 4.6 % are elementary level, 0.6% gain vocational training and 1 or 0.3% were not educated. When group according to religion 306 or 87.4 % were catholic and 44 or 12.6% are non-catholic. As to the civil status of the respondents, 226 or 64.6% were married, 104 or 29.7% were single, 12 or 3.4% were separated and 8 or 2.3% are widower. When categorize according to employment status 136 or 38.9% have permanent job, 92 or 26.3% were casual, 78 or 22.3% does contractual job, 19 or 5.4% are students, and another 19 or 5.4% don't have a job, 3 or 0.9% were retired and another 3 serves as barangay official or by term as shown in

Table 1.

**Table 1. Profile of the Respondents**

Profile		Frequency	Percent
Age	Young adult (18-35 y/o)	136	38.9
	Adult (36-59 y/o)	130	37.1
	Senior (60 & above)	34	9.7
Educational Attainment	College Grad	95	27.1
	College level	34	9.7
	Vocational	2	.6
	High Sch Grad	127	36.3
	High Sch Level	49	14.0
	Elem Grad	26	7.4
	Elem Level	16	4.6
	none	1	.3
Religion	Catholic	306	87.4
	Non-Catholic	44	12.6
Civil Status	Single	104	29.7
	Married	226	64.6
	Separated	12	3.4
	Widow/er	8	2.3
Employment Status	By Term	3	.9
	Casual	92	26.3
	Contractual	78	22.3
	None	19	5.4
	Permanent	136	38.9
	Retired	3	.9
	Student	19	5.4

### Level of Awareness

Table 2 shows the level of awareness of the male partners in the implementation of violence against woman. In terms of age, all respondents are very aware of the implementation of violence against women, respondents classified as senior has the highest mean value. In terms of location, all respondents were very aware and municipality of Buenavista has the highest mean value of 2.64. Both Catholic and non-Catholic respondents were very aware with mean result of 2.51. When categorized according to civil status, single, married and separated are very aware while widow were aware of the implementation. In terms of educational attainment elementary graduate shows that they are aware while the rest of the respondents are very aware. The respondents are very aware of the implementation of violence against women when categorized according to employment status, but respondents without education were aware of the implementation.

When taken as a whole respondent has a general weighted mean of 2.51 which interpreted as very aware. This data implies that the implementations of violence against women were widely disseminated throughout the five (5) municipalities of the Province of Guimaras.

Table 2. Level of Awareness of Male Partners in the Implementation of Violence Against Women

Profile		Total Mean	Interpretation
Age	Young adult (18-35 y/o)	2.47	very aware
	Adult (36-59 y/o)	2.50	very aware
	Senior (60 & above)	2.67	very aware
Address	Sibunag	2.53	very aware
	San Lorenzo	2.49	very aware
	Buнависта	2.64	very aware
	Jordan	2.39	very aware
	Nueva Valencia	2.51	very aware
Religion	Catholic	2.51	very aware
	Non-Catholic	2.51	very aware
Civil Status	Single	2.48	very aware
	Married	2.54	very aware
	Separated	2.64	very aware
	Widow/er	1.86	aware
Educational Attainment	None	2.50	very aware
	Elem level	2.58	very aware
	Elem grad	2.29	aware
	High School level	2.48	very aware
	High School grad	2.56	very aware
	College level	2.42	very aware
	College grad	2.56	very aware
	Vocational	2.70	very aware
Employment Status	By Term	2.65	very aware
	Casual	2.49	very aware
	Contractual	2.59	very aware
	None	2.19	aware
	Permanent	2.53	very aware
	Retired	2.50	very aware
	Student	2.65	very aware
Total		2.51	very aware

Legend: 1.0-1.67- Not Aware; 1.68-2.33- Aware; 2.34-3.00- Very Aware

### Significant difference in the level of awareness and profile of male partners in the implementation of RA 9262

Table 3 illustrate the significant difference between the level of awareness and profile of male partners in the implementation of RA 9262. It was tested at .05 level of significance. The results showed that there was a significant difference between the civil status and level of awareness while profile such as age, address, educational attainment and employment status were not significant with the level of awareness.

This data implies that the level of awareness in the implementation of violence against women among the respondents were dependent in the civil status of the male partners which shows that those separated has a highest mean value which may indicate that violence against women could be the reason of separation.

**Table 3. Significant Difference between the Level of Awareness in the Implementation of Violence Against Women and the Profile of the Respondents**

Profile		Mean	tab-value	p-value	Interpretation
Age	Young adult (18-35 y/o)	2.47			
	Adult (36-59 y/o)	2.50	5.484	0.064	Not significant
	Senior (60 & above)	2.67			
Address	Sibunag	2.53			
	San Lorenzo	2.49	0.053	0.974	Not significant
	Buenavista	2.64			
	Jordan	2.39			
	Nueva Valencia	2.51			
Catholic	2.51	871.00			
Religion (z-value)	Non-Catholic		2.51		
Civil Status	Single	2.48	8.708	0.033	Significant
	Married	2.54			
	Separated	2.64			
	Widow/er	1.86			
Educational Attainment	None	2.50	8.733	0.272	Not significant
	Elem level	2.58			
	Elem grad	2.29			
	High School level	2.48			
	High School grad	2.56			
	College level	2.42			
	College grad	2.56			
Employment Status	Vocational	2.70	11.179	0.192	Not significant
	By Term	2.50			
	Casual	2.19			
	Contractual	1.85			
	None	1.24			
	Permanent	1.50			
	Retired	1.73			
Student	2.00				

*\*p<0.05 level of significance*

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings, the following conclusions are drawn.

1. Respondents were mostly classified as young adult having ages 18-35 years old, majority were high school graduates. Majorities were high school graduates, catholic, married and have permanent job.
2. As a whole respondent has were very aware. This data implies that the implementation of violence against women was widely disseminated throughout the five (5) municipalities of the Province of Guimaras.
3. The level of awareness in the implementation of violence against women among the respondents were dependent in the civil status of the male partners which shows that those separated has a highest mean value which may indicate that violence against women could be the reason of separation.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. There must be a continuous program on the information campaign on the RA 9262 Violence Against Women and Their Children to achieve zero crime rate on Violence Against Women and Children.

## REFERENCES

- Anuradha Chelliah and Carol John.  
A Handbook on Understanding Domestic Violence. Education and Research Association For Consumers, Malaysia
- D'OLIVEIRA Ana Flàvia Pires Lucas and Lilia Blima Schraiber.  
"Violence against women in Brazil: overview, gaps and challenges". Expert paper, prepared for Violence against women: Statistical overview, challenges and gaps in data collection and methodology and approaches for overcoming them - Expert Group Meeting. UN Division for the Advancement of Women, Geneva:
- Donnay, F. Maternal,  
Survival in developing countries: what has been done, what can be achieved in the next decade. International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics 70:89–97 (2000).
- Erulka, Annabel S.  
The Experience of Sexual Coercion Among Young People in Kenya. International Family Planning Perspectives. Volume 30, Number 4,
- Gender Violence in Schools. Community Development Research. (March 2006) Layda, Rachele,  
—Girlfriend Battering. Gender Violence: Its-Socio Cultural Dimensions. University of the Philippines– Center for Women's Studies. (2001)
- PANOS. Beyond Victims and Villain:  
Addressing Sexual Violence in the Education Sector. The Panos Intitute, London. (2003)
- Pallitto CC and O'Campo P,  
Community level effects of gender inequality on intimate partner violence and unintended pregnancy in Colombia: testing the feminist perspective. Social Science & Medicine. (1997)
- Population Report. Issues in World Health:  
Ending Violence Against Women. Volume XXVII, Number 4. (1999)
- Raymundo, Corazon.  
Young Adult Fertility Survey Study, YAFSS 3. University of the Philippines Population Institute. (2004)
- "School Girl"; Voices and Choices: Women write on women; Women's Feature Services.(2005)  
Sobritchea, Carolyn I.; et. al. Gender Violence: Its Socio-Cultural Dimension. University of the Philippines – Center for Women Studies. 2001
- Parish, W.L., et al.  
Intimate Partner Violence in China: National Prevalence, Risk Factors and Associated Health Problems. International Family Planning Perspectives. Volume 30, Number 4, December 2004.
- Republic Act 9262: anti-violence against women and their children act of 2004.  
Retrieved from  
<http://www.pcw.gov.ph/publication/republic-act-9262-anti-violence-against-women-and-their-children-act-2004-and-implementing-rules-and-regulations> on February 2016.
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE / INTIMATE PARTNER ABUSE.  
Retrieve from  
[https://www.crisiscenter.org/pdfs/Intimate\\_Partner\\_Abuse\\_Inside\\_the\\_Home\\_doc.pdf](https://www.crisiscenter.org/pdfs/Intimate_Partner_Abuse_Inside_the_Home_doc.pdf) on February 2016.
- "Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action:  
Report of the Secretary-General" (E/CN.6/2000/PC/2).
- Violence Against Women.  
Retrieve from <http://www.infoforhealth.org/pr/l11/l11chap2.shtml#top> on February 2016.