Womens’ Awareness on the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004 (R.A. 9262) in barangay Washington, Surigao City

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ABSTRACT: This study aimed to determine the Womens’ Awareness on RA 9262 or the Anti-Violence against women and their Children Act in Barangay Washington in Surigao City. This research sought to answer the level of awareness as to Sexual, Psychological or Emotional, Physical and Economic Abuse and also the significant difference when they grouped by age, civil status, educational attainment and occupation. The researcher utilized the descriptive survey design and administered the tool to 227 women household resided in barangay Washington. Based on the results of the study, the following findings were formulated: As to profile, 47 (20.70) aged 26-30 years old; however, the least number was 56-60 years old with four (1.76). As to civil status, married had 121 (53.30); while, divorced had four (4) 1.76. As to educational attainment, college graduate had 102(44.93); while, vocational with 4 or (1.76). As to occupation, majority was employed in public sector 97(42.73). As to the level of awareness on RA 9262, participants were fully aware of the provisions on Sexual Abuse (M: 3.31, SD: 0.91) and aware on the provisions on Psychological and Emotional, Physical, and Economic Abuse. As to significant difference, when participants were grouped by age, there was significant difference on Physical Abuse (p-value 0.017); however, no significant difference on the provisions on Sexual, Psychological/emotional abuse, and Economic Abuse. As to Civil Status, there was no significant difference on the provisions on Sexual, Psychological or Emotional Abuse, Physical, and Economic. As to Educational attainment, there was significant difference on Sexual Abuse (p-value 0.004); however, no significant difference on the provisions of Psychological or emotional, Physical and Economic Abuse. As to occupation, there was no significant difference on the provisions on Sexual, Psychological or Emotional, Physical and Economic Abuse. Based on the findings of the study, the conclusions were drawn. In brgy.Washington, the women citizens were fully aware of RA 9262 (Anti-Violence against Women and Children) on the provisions of Physical Abuse because they knew that there were corresponding punishments against any person who committed sexual abuse and most reported cases as to records were related to sexual abuse. So assistance by way of giving advice was provided. However, they were only aware on the provisions on Psychological or Emotional Abuse, Physical and Economic, even if the barangay and CSWD had documented symposiums conducted; cases related to these were rarely reported to barangay and to CSWD. Recommendations were: the Local Government Unit particularly the City Welfare Development Program in coordination with the barangay officials should ensure that the citizens fully understand the provision of the RA 9262 law particularly on Psychological and Emotional, Physical and Economic Abuse by conducting symposiums during barangay gatherings or activities.

Keywords: RA-9262 Anti-Violence against Women and Children, Sexual Abuse, Psychological/Emotional Abuse, Physical Abuse and Economic Abuse

INTRODUCTION

Violence against Women and their Children Act of 2004 defined as a grave violation of human rights. Its impact ranges from immediate to long-term multiple physical, sexual and mental consequences for women and girls, including death. It negatively affects women’s general well-being and prevents women from fully participating in...
society. Violence not only has negative consequences for women but also their families, the community and the country at large. It has tremendous costs, from greater health care and legal expenses and losses in productivity, affecting national budgets and overall development (Guanzon, 2012). Caparas M. (2012) mentioned that the violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation, and it is perhaps the most pervasive. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. As long as it continues, it claimed to be making real progress towards equality, development and peace.

In the published journal of Hadap, (2014) on the Implementation of the Law on Anti-Violence against Women and their Children in Malabon City: An Assessment, the law was signed to protect the welfare of housewives and all the women and their children and value the dignity of women and children in respect to human rights for personal safety and security. The most common local problems in anti-violence against women and children includes: rape, domestic violence stalking, sexual harassment, human trafficking, forced prostitution, etc. There are many complaints of violations of violence against women and children as recorded in the barangay and CSWD office in Surigao City: Physical Abused: slapping, kicking, restraining, hitting, choking; domestic violence honor killing, acid throwing, stalking, Sexual Abuse: rape, sexual harassment, human trafficking, Psychological Emotional Abused: verbal abuse, social abuse, and socioeconomic abuse.

Reported cases on Physical Abuse in Barangay Washington, Surigao City showed decreasing from 2015-2019. As to record, 2015 has 10 cases, 2016 has 8 cases, 2017 has 9 cases, 2018 has 6 cases and 2019 has 1 case. This decreasing number of reports per year reveals that majority of women citizens’ high low awareness on Republic Act 9262 Anti Violence against Women and Children Act.

This reason captured the interest of the researcher to find out the level of awareness of women’s citizens on RA 9262 (Anti-Violence against Women and Children Act) and proposed Information Campaign Drive Plan through brochure.

Framework of the Study

The study was anchored on RA. 9262 known as Violence against Women and their Children Act of 2004. “This refers to any act or a series of acts committed by any person against a woman who is his wife, former wife, or against a woman with whom the person has or had a sexual or dating relationship, or with whom he has a common child, or against her child whether legitimate or illegitimate, within or without the family abode which result in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological harm or suffering, or economic abuse including threats of such acts, battery, assault, coercion, harassment or arbitrary deprivation of liberty.

Specifically, the study determined the profile of the respondents, the IEC materials encountered by respondents in acquiring awareness regarding the Violence in RA 9262, and the significant relationship between the profile and the level of awareness. Figure 1 shows the conceptual framework of the study.
Statement of the Problem

This study would determine the Women’s Awareness on RA 9262 or the Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act in Barangay Washington in Surigao City. Specifically, it sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of:
   1.1 age;
   1.2 civil status;
   1.3 highest educational attainment; and
   1.4 Occupation?

2. What is the Respondents’ Level of Awareness on RA 9262 in the context of:
   2.1 sexual abuse;
   2.2 psychological/emotional abuse;
   2.3 physical abuse; and
   2.4 Economic abuse?

3. Is there significant difference between the level of Awareness on RA 9262 - Anti Violence against Women and Children when grouped according to profile?

4. Based on the results of the study, what information campaign drive plan maybe proposed?

Hypothesis

At 0.05 level of significance, there were significant differences on the level of awareness on Physical abuse when grouped by age and on Sexual Abuse when grouped by Educational Attainment. However, no significant difference on Sexual, Psychological and Economic Abuse when grouped by Age; no significant difference on on Sexual, Psychological and Physical and Economic Abuse when grouped by Civil Status and Occupation, and no significant difference on Psychological, Physical and Economic Abuse when grouped by Educational Attainment.

Significance of the Study

The findings of the study would contribute and would benefit the following:

City Social Welfare and Development. The findings of the study would give information to the office of CSWD on the awareness level so the office could make a plan to provide information campaign drive plan in order to ascertain the problem.

PNP Womens’ Desk Officers. The findings of the study would provide data as to number of cases reported and complained received to the barangay. This would give feedback to the PNP particularly the womens’ desk to take action on the womens’ awareness on RA 9262.

Barangay Washington. The findings of the study would give baseline report to the office so the officials in coordination with the office of CSWD could initiate actions by planning a symposium to its citizens on information campaign drive on RA 9262-Anti-Violence against Women and Children.

Women Citizens of Brgy. Washington. The findings of the study would give them idea to attend to the information campaign drive of joint actions of CSWD and barangay Washington for this would give additional inputs on the provisions of the law. Through this information campaign, each woman would become educated of this law and exercise rights against societal abuses.

Future Researchers. The findings of the study would give idea to the future researchers to expand the survey not only Barangay Washington, but also including the other neighboring Barangay (Taft and San Juan) so the results would be compared to propose solutions to related to awareness problems. Another, they could also review the results to find-out the factors of neglecting incidents towards VAWC cases.
Scope and Limitation of the Study

This research aimed to find out the Women’s Awareness on RA 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004) of Selected Residents of Barangay Washington, Surigao City. The participants of the study were 227 women household resided in barangay. Convenient Sampling was employed. The study conducted first semester, SY: 2020-2021 in Barangay Washington.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This section presents previous studies, articles, and much other information from published journal and internet that are related to the study at hand.

Violence against women in Asian countries revealed that Gender Inequality and Vulnerability are Risk of Violence that is based on traditional, economic, social and cultural factors. The major characteristics of women are that they are in the structural weaker position in all societies: educationally, occupationally, and economically. This almost guarantees the economic dependency on men and/or poverty. On the other hand, being born female ensures a double struggle to access basic services. Because gender bias is a social and cultural construction, it has existed since the men and women were young. This unquestioned gender inequality, especially in terms of the gender role difference between men and women can influence and even attract violence (Astbury, 2003).

According to Caparas and Amparado (2012), the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004 (Anti-VAWC Act) is the result of a decade of advocacy of victim-survivors, women’s human rights advocates and organizations, women legislators, government agencies and the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women. The broad definition of VAW in the law was patterned after the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women which refers to any act committed by any person against a woman, a wife, a former wife, or against a woman with whom the person has or had a sexual or dating relationship or with whom he has a common child, or against her child whether legitimate or illegitimate, within or without the family abode, which resulted to physical, sexual, psychological harm or suffering, or economic abuse including threats of such acts, battery, assault, harassment or arbitrary deprivation of liberty.

Sexual Abuse

A broad subject that should be addressed without prejudice is sexual abuse, and the definition of sexual abuse varies across the globe. In addition, girls, teenagers, adults, men and women from diverse cultures and backgrounds are exposed to sexual assault. Rape is one of the most common crimes against women in the Philippines. It is a form of sexual abuse to women most specifically regardless of age. There are 1354 women and children survivors of domestic abuse receiving medical treatment from obstetrics and gynecology residents and attending staff in the Women and Children Safety Unit at the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center. Thirty-nine percent of these patients were sexually assaulted; their peak age was 11-20 years. Nearly 75% of the sexual predators were from outside of their household. Victims of rape are increasingly reporting their rapes and confronting the perpetrators. Women are becoming more independent and educated, which is increasing their likelihood to report the abuses they experienced. (Acebes-Escobal, 2017).

Although rapes have become more frequently reported, many go unreported or have the complaint files withdrawn due to the perception of family honour being compromised. Tilak, (2013) added that women frequently do not receive justice for their rapes, because police often do not give a fair hearing, and/or medical evidence is often unrecorded which makes it easy for offenders to get away with their crimes under the current laws. There are also other forms of sexual abuses to women without having forced intercourse. One of which is sharing sexually inappropriate images or videos.
In fact, Ranada (2020) cited reported cases of Sexual Abuse that have been very common in the Philippines. Even popular celebrities were victims of sharing nude photos and videos online. Bribing woman for money or any other luxury materials in exchange for sex to fulfill their sexual desires, molesting female using sexual gestures, intentional denigrating comments or behaviours are also other forms of sexual abuse to women.

Physical Abuse

Physical violence can involve things such as punching, kicking, pulling hair, pinching, scratching, shaking, and giving too much or not enough medication to someone when someone physically causes pain. If someone intends to punch or kick someone deliberately to inflict injury to him or her, an example of physical violence occurs. Women and children are very prone to this kind of abuse. There were reported cases involving physical abuse against women and children particularly during the nationwide lockdown amidst pandemic. The 804 reported cases come from all over the country, pertaining to violations of RA 9262 or Anti VAWC. During the lockdown, the number of confirmed cases was smaller than the number reported in previous months. During those months, cases were already on a downward trend. (Ranada, 2020).

Additionally, Geneva (2003) emphasized that Physical violence, whether inside or outside the family or in an intimate relationship, is a criminal act. In order to protect from physical violence, the police have the power and jurisdiction. There are always ways to report if someone in a position of influence or authority physically violate. Physical violence, even though it occurs only once, no one should be entitled to do harm. Physical violence may have lifelong consequences for your mental and physical health. Physical violence, including heart attacks, high blood pressure, and digestive problems, can cause many chronic (long-lasting) health problems. Women who are abused are often more likely to experience depression, anxiety, or eating disorders. This is where psychological and emotional abuse comes in.

Psychological/Emotional Abuse

More emotional abuse incidents are unreported every year because most people who suffer emotional abuse are not aware that it is happening. Emotional violence, although undefined, affects more individuals every day because they do not know they are being exploited. Abuse is any conduct that is used by intimidation, humiliation, and verbal or physical assault to manipulate another human being. Emotional abuse is defined as systematic, patterned and chronic abuse that is used by the perpetrator to lower a victim’s morale. Typically, the violence is frequent enough that the survivor internalizes it. This leaves the victim feeling scared, unimportant, untrusting, emotionally deprived, and unlovable. Survivors of this type of violence find it difficult to understand why they feel so bad. (Munro, 2000).

Economic Abuse

A study conducted by Herman (2020) on Damage of Economic Abuse found out that a wide variety of acts are available that qualify as economic exploitation. The extreme end includes a partner who manages the household finances fully. The other partner has to give up his paychecks, cannot access bank accounts, and even for required expenses, such as food, has to struggle for money. Forms of economic exploitation also involve making transactions on a partner's credit card without their permission and making all financial decisions without the other person's input.

In addition, Parmita Das (2019) conducted a study on the Analysis of the Phenomenon of Economic Abuse, the data revealed that refusing to support basic family needs is also one of the many forms of economic abuse. By restricting partner's access to household resources, regulating resource allocation, and tracking how resources are used, abusive partners exercise power. Often, if the spouse is working, abusers may force them to hand over their paycheck, depriving them of access to their own income; sometimes, without their permission, abusers may spend the money of the victims and manipulate their economic money. The lack of accountability in the household's financial decisions leaves victims helpless and makes the power imbalance worse. For example, by withholding the resources required by the victim to afford to see a doctor or receive medical treatment, the perpetrator can hinder the victim's ability to heal or become independent from them. She added that preventing women in engaging in any
legitimate profession, occupation, business or activity or controlling the victim’s own money properties or solely controlling the conjugal or common money or properties is also a form of economic abuse.

Abusers can employ techniques of sabotage to inhibit victims' educational pursuits, employability, or job performance. At work, women received insufficient remuneration for work carried out equal to the value of men, were overworked and underpaid, and were used beyond the contractual arrangement for unpaid work. Unfortunately, economic violence leads to poverty worsening and compromises women's educational achievement and growth opportunities. The work skills and wage-earning power required to support themselves and their children are not available to certain victims of economic violence. Victims may experience a sharp decrease in living standards or become reliant on government assistance after leaving their abuser. In certain cases, victims are held legally liable for the loss of assets and debt accrued because of the economically abusive actions of the defendant. Their financial stability and future prospects are limited by this. Coerced economic crimes, which are crimes committed under pressure to help achieve a financial or professional benefit, often lead to the arrest of the survivors themselves, creating unnecessary economic security obstacles, thus failing to keep the real perpetrators responsible for their acts.

According to the 2008 Statistical Report of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCFRW), violence against women (VAW) cases in the Philippines rose to 21 percent from the 2007 report. With the implementation of the Republic Act 9262 (RA 9262) or the Anti Violence against Women and Children Act of 2004, it is alarming that the number of violations against women’s rights did not decrease and has in fact risen.

In addition, Legarda (2011) presented the published data during the Women’s month celebration in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. Violation of R.A. 9262 ranked second at 17.8 percent. However, data covered only a six-year period starting from its implementation in 2004. Among the regions, Region 11 (Davao) posted the highest reported VAW cases from January to December 2009 with 2,653 cases accounting 28% of the total reported VAW cases nationwide. NCR comes next at 1,393 (14.7%) reported VAW cases followed by Region 7 (Central Visayas) with 1,123 reported VAW cases or 11.8 % of the total reported VAW cases nationwide.

Atty. Legarda, emphasized in her message that by not knowing the laws and legislation regarding family matters, wives become hopeless in front of judges in Courts. This leads them to lose their cases, even though they could have easily won if they were more aware of their rights.” Hence, this study was conducted to be able to determine the awareness and perception of housewives regarding R.A. 9262 otherwise known as the Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act of 2004.

A milestone in the advocacy to eliminate VAW was the passage of Republic Act No. 9262 or the Anti-Violence against Women and Their Children Act of 2004. This was signed into law last March 8, 2004 during the celebration of “International Women’s Day.

RA 9262 penalizes the commission of violence against women and their children (VAWC). It provides for penalties for violence committed against his child whether legitimate or illegitimate, within or without the family abode, which results in (or is likely to result in) physical or psychological harm or suffering. In addition, economic abuses including threats of such acts, battery, assault, coercion, harassment or arbitrary deprivation of liberty are penalized. Among others, it provides for the security of the complainant and her family through the protection orders from the barangay and court.

Furthermore, it recognizes the battered woman syndrome (BWS) which refers to a scientifically defined pattern of psychological or behavioral symptoms found in women living in abusive relationships as a result of cumulative abuse, as an acceptable defense for actions committed by a victim as a result of battering.

Violence against women and girls has many faces. This ranges from violence perceived as less harmful such as psychological violence and extreme forms of violence that include sexual and physical violence. (Ochab, E.
U., Nov. 2017) 38% of Indian men admit they have physically abused partners. (ICRW.org.) The Indian government has taken measures to try to reduce domestic violence through legislation such as the Protection of Women for Domestic Violence Act 2005.

McKinsey researchers found that one of every two U.S. women has been a victim of sexual violence while one in every three has experienced violence from an intimate partner. The latter number is consistent with the average in 95 other countries McKinsey looked at, but that's not to say we’re doing okay. While the rates of violence are on par with some places in the world, they are much higher than in countries we consider to be America’s developmental peers. In Canada, for example only 6% of women report being victims of violence, notes KwelinEllingurd, lead author of the report. (Zarya, 2016)

Intimate partner abuse (IPV) is recognized internationally as a breach of human rights and public health (Campbell, 2002; Garcia-Moreno, Jansen, Ellsberg, Heise, & Watts, 2006; Tjaden& Thoennes, 2000). Violent crimes against intimate partners, current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends, are more commonly committed against women as currently indexed; these include deadly (homicide) and non-lethal (rape, assault) types (Catalano, 2000). Abusive behaviour, however, does not always require tangible abuse. Distinctions must be made between physical violence/abuse and emotional or psychological abuse, historically the most studied and detectable type. Emotional abuse is any non-physical conduct or action intended to dominate, subdue, punish or isolate another person with embarrassment or fear (Engel, 2002).

According to statistics published by WHO, 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical or sexual violence at some point in their lives. Worse, the numbers are as high as 70% of women in certain regions. Approximately 120 million girls have experienced sexual violence. (Ochab, 2017)

Initial surveys as part of UN Women’s safe cities programme show that 80-90% of women report incidences of sexual harassment in public city spaces (rates for men who report sexual harassment are lower, but still troubling). That is as many as four out five women you pass on the street, meet on the train, or sit with in the work canteen. The figure in Europe was one in two women in 2014. The widely quoted lifetime prevalence of violence against women is one in three but if we broaden the definition to take into account sexual harassment, this figure may be as many as two in three women – or perhaps higher. (Sen, 2018)

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women classifies violence against women into three categories: that occurring in the family, that occurring within the general community, and that perpetrated or condoned by the State. The term sexual harassment is used in defining violence occurring in general community, which is defined as: “Physical, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution.”

Women across the world have put abusers on notice- they demonstrated what zero tolerance looks like to victims of sexual harassment. Unlike so many previous times, employers, allies in the media and the UN need to make common cause. This is a moment where our best collective efforts may make a real shift in the culture that enables or shuts down gender inequality and discrimination. Will this see a step change towards ending violence? The answer is in our hands. Women have imagined this world; states have heard the call- now we must all make it real. (Sen, 2018)

One Billion Rising campaign is calling on women and men to rise up and demand and end to violence against women. It has estimated that one in three women will be beaten or raped in her lifetime – that is 1 billion women. This year’s campaign is calling for justice for survivors of gender violence. (Shearlaw, 2014)

In April 2012, the Senate voted to reauthorize the Violence against Women Act, and the House subsequently passed its own measure (omitting provisions of the Senate bill that would protect gays, Native
Americans living in reservations, and illegal immigrants who are victims of domestic violence. Reconciliation of the two bills was stymied by procedural measures, leaving the re-authorized of VAWA was not brought up for a vote in the House.

Violence against children takes many forms. Some of these, such as trafficking or organized sexual exploitation receive extensive media coverage. Others are more insidious and less easily identifiable. Violence against children occurs in places that should be havens for children, such as the school, the family or in residential institutions thus, the so-called “circle of trust”. Violence is often shrouded in secrecy. In many European countries, society tolerates and even approves some recurrent forms of violence against children, such as corporal punishment as a form of intra-family violence.

A UNICEF report details a devastating scale and severity of violence against children and adolescents worldwide. Children of all ages are experiencing some form of violence, at home, at school and their communities. One out of four children under the age of 5 – roughly 176 million kids – are living with mother whose partner is violent. Nearly half of all 1- and 2-years-olds in the 30 countries studied are disciplined with a shake, a slap or other form of physical punishment. (Buechner, 2017)

An important part of addressing violence is the generation of reliable data making violence more visible, revealing its hidden nature and initiating the process off breaking down social acceptance of its various forms. Protecting children from violence is a priority of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Five goals and nine specific targets are indeed related to violence and abuse, including trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation, harmful practices such as child marriage and the worst forms of child labour. They, furthermore, promote safe public spaces as well as safe and non-violent learning environments.

In recent years, there has been a considerable increase in research highlighting the impact of domestic violence and abuses on children and young people. Studies show that for children who live with fear, violence and abuse, there can be wide-reaching effects these range from psychological and emotional harm, and physical responses (such as bedwetting and poor immune systems) to educational and social impacts (school non-attendance and social isolation), and relationship difficulties. UNICEF estimates that 300 million children worldwide are subjected to violence, abuse and exploitation on a daily basis. Millions more children remain at risk due to inadequate protection.

Violence in many forms is preventable. There is a strong relationship between levels of violence and modifiable factors such as concentrated poverty, income and gender inequality, the harmful use of alcohol, and the absence of safe, stable, and nurturing relationships between children and parents. Strategies addressing the underlying causes of violence can be effective in preventing violence.

**Synthesis of the Review.** The literatures cited show relevance with the present study for these materials gave information regarding the RA 9262-Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act of 2004. Specifically, the readings shed the light on the specific provision of the law namely: Sexual Abuse, Physical Abuse, Psychological Abuse and Economic Abuse. The citations were similar to the present study in the sense that these covered the discussions on the different provisions of the law, which is the coverage of RA 9262. On Sexual Abuse, three (3) authors cited cases of rape as frequently reported complaint but withdrawn due to the perception of family honour had been compromised. On Physical Abuse, two (2) author reported smaller number or downward trends of cases. On Psychological Abuse, one author believed that most people suffered emotional abuse are not aware. On Economic Abuse, ten (10) authors’ discussed the abuses including threats of such acts, battery, assault, coercion, harassment or arbitrary deprivation of liberty are penalized.

On the other hand, the cited pieces of literatures were different from the present study because some topics dealt on the societal issues of violations experienced and published in different articles which described the abuses
experienced by the citizens. Moreover, the citations were different in terms of locale, the participants and the time on which this study was conducted.

METHOD
Research Design

This research employed the descriptive survey method of research to determine the women’s level of awareness on RA 9262-Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004) in Barangay Washington, Surigao City. The researcher aimed to be the most appropriate design

Respondents

The researcher utilized the convenient purposive sampling technique to determine the number of the participants. This was the most appropriate sampling technique for the researcher decided to survey all as described in the population but only 227 participants responded to answer the survey guide questionnaire.

Research Instrument

This study utilized a researcher-made questionnaire. Part 1 surveyed the socio- demographic profile of the participants (Civil Status, Educational Attainment, and Occupation). Part 2 answered the Women’s Level of Awareness on RA 9262-Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act of 2004) in Barangay Washington, Surigao City.

Data Gathering Procedure

Baseline data such as records on the complaints on RA 9262 Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004) in Barangay Washington were consolidated. Survey questionnaire was validated and letters were sent to the participants prior to tool administration. Retrieval of questionnaires were done after 2 days of giving deadlines to the participant. Distributions and retrieval were done through house-to-house visitation scheme.

Data Analysis

To analyze the results gathered in the study, the following statistical tools were used: 
* Frequency Count and Percentage Distribution. This research tool was utilized to determine the number of participants with regard to their age, civil status, educational attainment and occupation 
* Mean (M) and Standard Deviation (SD). This research tool was used to determine the Women’s level of Awareness as to: Sexual abuse, age, civil status, educational attainment, and occupation.

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). This tool was used to determine the significant difference of the Women’s level of Awareness on RA 9296 with respect to their profile.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This research aimed to find-out the Women’s Awareness on RA 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004) of Selected Residents of Barangay Washington, Surigao City. This research sought to answer the level of awareness as to Sexual Abuse, Psychological or Emotional Abuse, Physical and Economic
Abuse and also the significant difference when they grouped by age, civil status, educational attainment and occupation. The researcher utilized the descriptive survey design and administered the tool to 227 women household residents in barangay Washington that were gathered and tabulated.

Based on the results of the study, the following findings were formulated:

1. As to profile of the participants, the most number were 47 (20.70%) in the age bracket of 26-30 years old.; however, the least number had the age bracket of 56-60 years old with four or 1.76%. As to civil status, married had the highest number of participants comprising the 121 or 53.30% ; while divorced had the least number with four (4) or 1.76 %. As to educational attainment, college graduate had the highest number of participants with 102 or 44.93%; while, vocational with 4 or 1.76%. As to occupation, majority were employed in public sector with 97 or 42.73%.

2. As to the level of awareness on RA 9262, participants were fully aware of the provisions on Sexual Abuse (M: 3.31, SD: 0.91) and aware on the provisions of Psychological and Emotional abuse with (M: 2.89, SD: 0.81), Physical Abuse with (M: 3.08, SD: 0.83), and Economic Abuse with the (M: 2.92, SD: 0.82).

3. As to significant difference, when participants were grouped according to age, there was significant difference on Physical Abuse (p-value 0.017); however, no significant difference on the provisions of Sexual Abuse (p-value 0.094), psychological/emotional abuse (p-value 0.130) and Economic Abuse (p-value 0.443). As to Civil Status, there was no significant difference on the provisions on Sexual Abuse (p-value 0.162), Psychological or Emotional Abuse (p-value 0.320), Physical Abuse (p-value 0.650), and Economic Abuse (p-value 0.493). As to Educational attainment, there was significant difference on Sexual Abuse ( p-value 0.004); however, no significant difference on the provisions of Psychological or emotional abuse with (p-value 0.594), Physical Abuse with (p-value 0.650), and Economic Abuse with (p-value 0.202). As to occupation, there was no significant difference on the provisions on Sexual Abuse (p-value 0.084), Psychological or Emotional Abuse (p-value 0.115), Physical Abuse (p-value 0.493) and Economic Abuse (p-value 0.054).

Conclusions

Based on the findings of the study, the conclusions were drawn. In barangay Washington, the residents were fully aware of RA 9262 known as Violence against Women and Children on the provisions of Physical Abuse because women knew that there were corresponding punishments against any person who committed sexual abuse towards women and children and most reported cases as to records in the barangay and endorsed to City Social Welfare Development office are related to sexual abuse. So assistance by way of giving advice or orientation when filing the case should be provided. However, they were only aware on the provisions on Psychological or Emotional Abuse. Physical and Economic, even if the barangay and CSWD had documented conducted symposiums; cases related to these were rarely reported to barangay and to CSWD.

Recommendations

Guided by the findings and conclusions of the study, the following concerns were forwarded as recommendations.

1. The Local Government Unit particularly the City Welfare Development Program and barangay officials in coordination with the barangay officials should ensure that the citizens fully understand the provision of the RA 9262 law particularly on Psychological and Emotional Abuse, Physical Abuse and Economic Abuse by conducting symposiums during barangay gatherings or activities.

2. To the barangay officials who suggested to come up with a brochure as a supplementary means to educate the citizens of barangay Washington, they should help take in-charge of the printing and the distribution of the brochure with the help of purok-chairman.

3. To the future researchers, the data gathered were only limited to barangay Washington, so they should expand the data gathering to other barangays such San Juan and Taft to compare the level of Awareness on RA 9262 “Violence Against Women and Children”.

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