

# **Awareness on Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children in the Municipality of Bayambang**

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**Abstract –** This study aim to ascertain the level of Awareness on Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children in the Municipality of Bayambang. Specifically, this study sought to determine the profile of the respondents in terms of age, sex, civil status, highest educational attainment, monthly income, number of children and occupation/profession; as well as the level of awareness on the implementation of RA 9262 in terms of the following: nature/character of the law; acts constituting violence against women and their children; and filing process penalties, and consequences.

The researchers applied descriptive method using the questionnaire as the main data gathering to ascertain the level of awareness on the implementation of RA 9262 in the Municipality of Bayambang.

The respondents perceived the existence of RA 9262 in the Municipality of Bayambang as "Aware".

Furthermore, the Local Government Unit in the Municipality of Bayambang should continue to intensify the implementation of RA 9262 to protect the women and children particularly the young ones and defenseless through the initiative of barangay officials, DSWD and the Children and Women's Desk Section of the PNP.

**Keywords –** awareness, children, RA 9262, violence, women

## **INTRODUCTION**

One out of four married women ranging from age 15 to 49 years old are said to be the victims of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse from their spouse or partner. According to the latest reports from Philippine Statistics Authority, 20% of women have ever encountered emotional abuse, 14% have experienced physical abuse, and 5% have experienced sexual abuse from their present, former husband or partner. ([psa.gov.ph/content/one-four-women](http://psa.gov.ph/content/one-four-women))

There are many different types of violence against women existing for a very long time. Philippines has laws in place to protect women's rights and stop violence against them and in order to increase its call to action for this situations, the government has developed campaigns and activities that can possibly decrease the number of violence. But in spite of this, Philippines is still one of the nations with the highest number of violent crimes against women. The rapidly rising levels of violence against women have a negative impact not only for the victims but also to the victims' families, households, and communities and also affects the productivity and economy of societal setting. (*Bernarte et., al, 2018*)

As stated in Section 2 of the Philippine Constitution, Declaration of Policy, which affirms the

state's commitment to protecting all human rights and value for the human dignity of women and children, the State is aware of the need to protect the family and its members from aggression and threats to their personal safety and security, particularly women and children.

Additionally, the State shall make actions aimed at preventing violence against women and children. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention to eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other international human rights agreements to which the Philippines is a signatory all declare the same thing.

What considered to be violence against women and children is "any act or a series of acts against a woman who is his wife, former wife, against a woman with whom he has or had a sexual or dating relationship, or against her child, whether legitimate or illegitimate, within or outside of the family abode, which results in physical, sexual, or psychological harm" in Republic Act No. 9262, also known as the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act (VAWC) of 2004. Violence is seen in different forms, such as threatening, beating, assault, coercion, or willful denial of liberty.

Women are the primary caregivers for both children and the elderly. Thus, International studies also

show that women take the lead in assisting the family in adjusting to new realities and problems as a society's economic and political structure change. Women have a crucial role in enabling changes in family life and are probably the main originator of outside support. (<https://globalvolunteers.org/global-role-of-women/>)

In the Philippines, based on the Philippine National Demographic and Health Survey from 2017, one in four Filipino women between the ages of 15 and 49 reported having been physically, emotionally or sexually abused by a spouse or partner. Authorities disclose in June 2021 that this problem has risen since Covid-19 lockdowns began in March last year. (<https://www.ucanews.com/new/domestic-violence-all-the-age-in->

In the Municipality of Bayambang, Department of Social Welfare Office reported 17 cases of abused women and children from the year 2019. While on the year 2020 during lockdown there were 23 reported cases.

Moreover, based on the data of Bayambang Police Station from the year 2019 they had received 49 reported drop cases of gender based violence filed at the court. In the year 2020, there were 27 reported drop cases of gender based violence. All of the said cases in each year are all total cases of RA 9262 from Women and Children Protection Desk.

The researchers inspired by this situation to find out how well-known Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children is in the Municipality of Bayambang.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study determined the Awareness on Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children in the Municipality of Bayambang.

Specifically, it sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the respondents in terms of:

- 1.1 Age;
- 1.2 Sex;
- 1.3 Civil Status;
- 1.4 Highest Educational Attainment;
- 1.5 Monthly Income;
- 1.6 Number of children; and
- 1.7 Occupation/Profession?

2. What is the level of awareness on the implementation of RA 9262 in terms of:

2.1 Nature/character of the law;

2.2 Acts constituting violence against women and their children;

2.3 Filing Process, Penalties, and Consequences?

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Research Design

This study used descriptive survey method of research. The descriptive method of research analyzes, interprets, and reports the present status of their subject; it is concerned with the practices that prevail beliefs, processes that are going on and effects that are developing (Ariola, 2006).

Since this study focused on determining the awareness of Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children in Bayambang, the descriptive research is the most appropriate method to be used. In particular, this study aimed to explain the awareness on Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children in top five barangay with a highest number of cases in regard to RA 9262.

#### Sources of the data

The respondents of this study were composed of 354 male and female among households member in top 5 barangays with the highest number of cases of Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children in Bayambang.

The five (5) barangays with the highest number of Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children are the following: Hermoza, Bical Norte, Bacnono, Sancagulis and Amancosiling Norte.

Moreover, Slovin's formula was used by the researchers to determine the sample size. With the use of the formula and with 0.05 as the margin of error (e), there were 354 respondents who were randomly selected from the identified 5 barangays in Bayambang.

Therefore, 12 percent of the total of population of 5 barangays was used as the sample respondents. The sample proportion was also be justified by the fact that a smaller proportion is enough for a bigger population.

Table 1. Distribution of the Respondents

Barangay	N	n
Hermoza	857	100
Bical Norte	848	99
Bacnono	570	66
Sancagulis	477	56
Amancosiling	286	33
Norte		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3 038</b>	<b>354</b>

Source: Bayambang Police Station

### Data Gathering Instruments

The data gathering tool used in this study was the questionnaire checklist. The questionnaire consisting of 25 items was adapted from the study of Panerio Conrado and Edmundo Albay in their study entitled Awareness of Women to Violence against Women and Their Children. The questionnaire was categorized into two (2) parts: Part One includes the questionnaire about the profile of the respondents: age, sex, civil status, highest educational attainment, and monthly income, number of children, occupation/profession. Part Two includes the questionnaire about the level of awareness of the respondents in Anti-Violence against Women and Their Children in regards with nature/character of the law, acts constituting violence against women and their children; filing process, penalties, and consequences.

### Statistical Treatment of Data

To deal on the profile of the respondents, frequency counts and percentage distribution was used.

The weighted mean was used to determine the level of awareness of anti-violence against women and their children in the municipality of Bayambang.

The Likert Scale was used to interpret the results.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The salient findings of the study are as follows:

1. In terms of age, the findings showed that most of the respondents are between the ages of 28-37 years old 95 or 27.12. In relation to their sex, the study found out that most of the respondents are female with 183 or 51.69 percent. As to their civil status, the findings showed that majority of them are married with 229 or 64.31. As to their highest education attainment, the finding shows that most of the respondents are high school graduates with 152 or 42.94. In terms of their monthly income, most of them have a monthly income that is more than Php

1,000.00 or less than Php 10, 000.00 with 282 or 76.88. As to their number of children, the findings showed that most of them have a number of children with 1-3 bracket with 202 or 57.06. In terms of their occupation/profession, the findings revealed that most of the respondents are housewife with 73 or 20.62.

2. With regards to the level of awareness on the implementation of RA 9262 in terms of:

a) In the matter of Nature/Character of the law, majority of the respondents were aware to all items under nature character of the law in RA 9262.

b) In the matter of Acts Constituting Violence Against Women and Children, the majority of respondents were aware to all items under acts constituting violence against women and children in RA 9262.

c) In the matter of Filing Process, Penalties and Consequences, the majority of the respondents were aware of all items under filing process, penalties and consequences in RA 9262.

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. Most of the respondents are belong to the age bracket of 28-37 years old, female, married, high school graduate, receiving the monthly income of Php 1, 000.00 – 10, 000.00, have a 1-3 number of children and housewife.

2. A majority of the respondents are “aware” on the level of awareness on the implementation of RA 9262 in the area of nature/character of the law.

3. The findings revealed that most of the respondents were “aware” on acts constituting violence against women and children

4. Based on the data, the majority of respondents were “aware” on filing process, penalties and consequences

Based on the significant findings and the conclusions drawn, the following recommendations are advanced.

1. The respondents of the study should have a quarterly session of VAWC program implemented by their respective barangay to raise more their understanding and information on the said law regardless

of their age, sex, civil status, highest educational attainment and occupation/profession.

2. The Barangay officials must continue to acquire adequate trainings and seminars also on how to deal with VAWC concerns.

3. The Local Government Unit in the Municipality of Bayambang should intensify the implementation of RA 9262 to protect women and children particularly the young ones and defenseless through the initiative of barangay officials, DSWD and the Children and Women's Desk Section of the PNP.

4. The Barangay officials should hold an annual seminars in regards to Anti-VAWC Law to teach women and children about their rights and protection.

5. The Local Government of Bayambang in coordination with the Women and Children Desk Police Personnel and Barangay officials should have formal seminars annually to provide comprehensive knowledge about the content/substance of Anti-VAWC Law.

6. The Barangay officials must disseminate and distribute flyers or pamphlets containing the Anti-Violence Act so that, even if people are unable to attend some kind of seminars, at least they are aware about the said law.

7. Parallel study should be conducted to ascertain the results of this study.

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