

Knowledge and Attitudes on Violence against Women of Residents in Ugac Norte, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan Valley, Philippines

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Abstract

Original Research Article

The study assessed the extent of knowledge and attitudes of women on Ugac Norte, Tuguegarao City, and Cagayan on Violence against Women (VAW). The study adopted a descriptive correlational research design and inferential statistics to answer questions concerning knowledge and attitudes. Using Slovin's formula with 0.05 as a margin of error to compute for the sample size, 350 respondents were selected. The questionnaire has three categories: the first part was used to determine socio-demographic profile of the respondents, the second part contains 16 questions to assess the extent of knowledge of the respondents regarding general information about VAW, and the last part involves questions used to determine the attitudes of the respondents towards prevention and intervention on VAW. Results were validated using face to face interview when respondents were asked questions similar to the questionnaire used. Majority of the respondents are moderately knowledgeable towards the general information about VAW and shows a positive attitude towards intervention against VAW. Age and educational attainment of the respondents showed a significant effect on their knowledge and attitude towards VAW. It is concluded that the extent of knowledge of women places a significant effect on their extent of attitude towards it. Thus, the higher the knowledge of the respondents on the general information about VAW, the better their attitude towards it.

Keywords: Violence against Women; Knowledge; Attitudes; Descriptive correlational; Philippines.

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INTRODUCTION

Violence against women (VAW) is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development, and peace. It both violates and impairs the satisfaction of women to their human rights and fundamental freedom. In the societies, women are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse that cuts across lines of income, age, educational attainment, the status of relationship and type of family [1]. The low social-economic status of women can be both a cause and a consequence of this violence.

Violence against Women has existed for many years in many different forms. Global estimates published by the World Health Organization (WHO) indicate that about 1 in 3 (35%) of the women worldwide have experienced either physical or sexual partner violence or non-sexual partner violence at some point in their lives. A 2013 analysis conducted by WHO states a continuous increase worldwide in terms of physical and sexual violence. Based on the preliminary findings of the 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), one in four (26%) ever-married women aged 15-49 have experienced physical, sexual

or emotional violence by their husband or partner. One in five (20%) women has experienced emotional violence, 14% had experienced physical violence, and 5% had experienced sexual violence by their current or most recent husband or partner.

At the World Health Assembly in May 2016, Member States endorsed a global plan of action on strengthening the role of the health systems in addressing interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls and children. For the past months of the year 2016, much symposium had been made for the promotion of the VAW free community. Zonta International of Tuguegarao City, one of the women's clubs, focuses on empowering women employing knowing their rights against abuses that they might experience.

The study aimed to determine the extent of knowledge and attitudes of the community on VAW. In collaboration with the Philippine National Police (PNP) of Tuguegarao, the researchers were able to determine the barangay in Tuguegarao which has the highest cases of VAW. Based on the tallied data from January to May 2017, most VAW cases are due to increased alcohol

consumption of their husband or partner; tricycle drivers did most. Physical abuse contained the highest reported cases, and Barangay Ugac Norte contained the highest cases of violence among women with a total of thirteen cases.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Design

The study made use of descriptive correlational research design and inferential statistics to answer the questions concerning Knowledge and Attitudes.

Locale and Duration of the Study

This study conducted within the vicinity in Ugac Norte, Tuguegarao City for assessment and gathering data. It was performed for six months, starting from January until May 2017.

Respondents

The respondents of this study were women residents of Barangay Ugac Norte, Tuguegarao City. Using the Slovin's formula with 0.05 as the margin of error to compute for the sample size, 350 respondents were selected.

Sampling Technique

Purposive sampling was used, and the respondents were chosen based on their following inclusion criteria: those who were present and were

willing to participate during the actual survey and married women in Church, Civil or have Live-in partners. The respondents are informed about the general objectives of the research and were guided that not writing their names in the questionnaire is optimal in order to ensure the confidentiality of the information provided.

Instrumentation

The researchers used a developed and validated questionnaire in this study to determine the socio-demographic profile of the respondents and know the extent of their knowledge and attitudes on VAW.

Data analysis

Descriptive statistics, such as means and frequency were used in the analysis. Chi-square and one-way ANOVA using SPSS were used in evaluating the relationship between the level of knowledge of the respondents towards Violence against Women and attitudes and their relationship with the profile variables.

The mean was given a scale and descriptive values to describe the extent of knowledge of the residents. The range of scale used is as follows:

The mean was given a scale and descriptive values to describe the extent of attitudes of the residents. The range of scale used was as follows:

Points	Ranges	Interpretation
5	4.20-5.00	Highly knowledgeable
4	3.40-4.19	Moderately Knowledgeable
3	2.60-3.39	Neither/ Nor Knowledgeable
2	1.80-2.59	Slightly Knowledgeable
1	1.00-1.79	Not Knowledgeable

Points	Ranges	Interpretation
5	4.50-5.00	Strongly Agree
4	3.50-4.49	Agree
3	2.50-3.49	Neutral
2	1.50-2.49	Disagree
1	1.00-1.49	Strongly Disagree

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Survey Questionnaire was administered to 350 respondents of Ugac Norte, Tuguegarao City. The findings are as follows:

Table 1.1 shows that most of the respondents fall under the age of the range 46-55. This further suggest that the majority of the women in Ugac Norte are in the mid ages making them aware of long-term violence which causes a shift in the women perception towards a violent partner, with no associated reclamation of power from within the violent relationship in accordance to a study conducted by Keeling and his colleagues [2]. It also reveals that only

37 of the women respondents are age 16 to 25 years old, while 41 of them aged above 65 years old. Most of the respondents have extended families or those that let two or more family live in one house.

The distribution of educational attainment of the respondent shows that most of them only finished high school level. With this, the level of education effects chances of finding a job or occupation; thus, a reason for unemployment. In the distribution of occupation, the majority of them are unemployed. As reflected, the lack of education affects a women's capacity to seek, to get employment and to have an income. The World Bank stated that economic

independence is related not only in women's capacity to spend, save, acquire property and invest but also in the

freedom to get out of abusive domestic relationships particularly economic violence.

Table-1.1: Cross-tabulation of the respondents' profile when grouped according to their Age, Type of Family, Occupation, and Status of Relationship

Age		Type of Family		Educational Attainment							Occupation			Relationship		
		N	E	EL	EG	HL	HG	CL	CG	V	BC	WC	N	Ch	Ci	Li
16-25	37	18	20	0	0	9	9	0	10	0	5	0	5	0	1	4
26-35	47	27	12	0	0	5	0	6	1	0	6	4	29	5	30	4
36-45	76	46	42	11	2	17	13	11	21	3	27	7	24	14	58	5
46-55	92	42	51	12	1	11	4	10	13	0	24	0	69	35	58	0
56-65	57	18	41	12	8	14	4	5	10	2	16	1	41	29	24	6
65 up	41	10	33	18	0	5	8	3	8	0	9	2	32	31	6	6

Table-1.2: Cross Tabulation of the respondents' profile when grouped according to their monthly income and zone

Monthly income (in pesos)	Zone							Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1000-10000	29	21	26	31	28	26	24	185
11000-20000	3	6	10	1	6	5	2	33
21000-30000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31000-40000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
41000-50000	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
None	18	22	14	18	16	19	23	130

Table-2 Mean Distribution of Variables according to Knowledge on the intervention of VAW

K	Statements	Mean	Interpretation
1	A woman has the right to be aware of the Law concerning the 9262 known as the Violence Against Women Act.	3.7553	Moderately knowledgeable
2	The RA 9262 is a law that protects the rights of women from violence.	3.5354	Moderately knowledgeable
3	All kinds of violence against women should be reported.	3.7987	Moderately knowledgeable
4	Physical violence between couples is a private matter and should be handled within the family.	2.3776	Slightly knowledgeable
5	Only professionals can address violence against women.	3.4876	Knowledgeable
6	Abusive behavior between couples usually ends when it is reported.	3.9895	Moderately knowledgeable
7	It is my responsibility to intervene or do something when I see violence against women.	2.5186	Knowledgeable
8	Empowering the rights of women will provide them relief from the said violence.	3.7200	Moderately knowledgeable
9	If there is a problem with violence against women, only professionals like police officers and guidance counselors can do something about the problem.	3.3452	Knowledgeable
10	When people talk about violence against women, it often seems like they are picking on men.	3.9514	Moderately knowledgeable
11	Violence against women often results when there is too much drinking of alcohol.	3.6686	Moderately knowledgeable
12	A decline in moral values is one of the leading causes of violence against women.	2.9686	Knowledgeable
13	A woman should find a way to help her partner to earn a living.	3.6971	Moderately knowledgeable
14	If women want to go to see their relatives or friends, she needs permission from their partner.	3.6143	Moderately knowledgeable
15	Couples should share equally in household chores if they are both working outside the home.	3.2857	Knowledgeable
16	A woman must obey her partner.	3.2966	Knowledgeable
	Overall Mean	3.4381	Moderately knowledgeable

Table 1.2 shows that most of the respondents receive 1,000 to 10,000 a month. This is per our

findings that most of them are either unemployed or in a blue-collar job. A few landed on white collar jobs

(Lawyer, Doctor, Accountant) which contributes a better salary. Majority of the respondents having a monthly income of 1,000 to 10,000 are under zone 4. In studies, women with low or no income are exposed to greater violence [3]. The lower a woman’s income, the worse her bargaining power and the higher the level of partner violence. Consequently, as a woman’s income increases, domestic violence against her declines [4-7]. Also, poor women are more likely to live in high crime and violent neighborhoods, increasing their exposure to violence [8].

Table 2 illustrates that the majority of the respondents are moderately knowledgeable. In the Philippines, laws and policies had been made in addressing and eliminating VAW such as Magna Carta of Women in which it is stated that women have the right to know her rights as a human being and seeks to eliminate violence and discrimination among Filipino women by recognizing, respecting, protecting, fulfilling, and promoting their rights. Republic Act No. 9262 is "Anti-Violence against Women and their children translated to Anti-Violence against Women Act of 2004", is an act protecting women.

Table-3: Relationship between the respondents’ profile when grouped according to different socioeconomic profile and their knowledge towards VAW

Knowledge	p-value			
	Age	Type of Family	Educational Attainment	Occupation
K1	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.039
K2	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.003
K3	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.162
K4	0.000	0.028	0.000	0.000
K5	0.015	0.333	0.000	0.002
K6	0.000	0.009	0.000	0.833
K7	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.001
K8	0.000	0.904	0.000	0.000
K9	0.000	0.441	0.001	0.000
K10	0.000	0.031	0.000	0.000
K11	0.000	0.414	0.000	0.000
K12	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.000
K13	0.001	0.144	0.000	0.000
K14	0.002	0.006	0.000	0.380
K15	0.000	0.269	0.000	0.333
K16	0.000	0.179	0.000	0.020

Table 3 reveals that there is a significant difference between the respondents’ profile in terms of age, type of family, educational attainment and occupation and their response on question K1. This means that their responses were significantly not similar when asked about the first time they heard of VAW.

They said that they have only heard about VAW the year immediately preceding the conduct of the study. This response is understandable because VAW is a re-emerging concern which started in the 1990s and re-emerged in 2004. They mostly acquired information from friends or relatives.

Table-4: Mean Distribution of Variables according to attitude on the intervention of VAW

K	Statements	Mean	Interpretation
1	If I witnessed an incident of violence against women, I would call the police.	3.9687	Agree
2	If I witnessed an incident of violence in my neighborhood, I would personally intervene.	3.9800	Agree
3	I am responsible to do something to address violence against women.	3.2257	Neutral
4	I will raise awareness about violence against women.	3.5343	Agree
5	I will encourage my friend who experienced violence to end the relationship.	3.6143	Agree
6	I will end my friendship with my friend if she keeps on seeing the person who violated her.	3.2857	Neutral
7	I will tell my parent/guardian if I Experienced violence.	2.7943	Neutral
8	I have the right to express my opinion even if my partner disagrees with it.	3.9000	Agree
9	I have a role in helping reduce violence against women.	3.9400	Agree
10	I want to help, but I have no idea what I can do to make a difference in reducing violence against women.	3.8429	Agree
	Overall Mean	3.5723	Agree

There is a significant difference between knowledge of the respondents on question K2 to the different socioeconomic profile. Since most of them are college graduates, they are more aware and informed about it. Based on the occupation of the respondents, the majority of them are in the nuclear type of family. In this case, nuclear types of family are more knowledgeable in terms of the possibility of abuse by their partner.

Another significant difference was seen in K4, K7, and K10 which implies that the level of educational attainment affected their knowledge about the issue.

Table 4 shows that majority of the respondents believed that they have a responsibility to each other in

the community. In the locale, organizations such as Women Club and Zonta Club of Central Tuguegarao City help promote a VAW-free community through a series of activities and seminars. Respondents who answered neutrally in terms of responsibilities to do something to address violence against women were worried to put another responsibility into their lives that they could not handle but agreed to raise awareness about violence against women. Most of the respondents agreed that they have a right to express their opinion even if their partner disagreed because they believed that it is a human right to have freedom in life. Unfortunately, although most respondents emphasized their roles to help reduce violence against women, they have little to no idea what they can do to help.

Table-5: Relationship between the respondents' profile when grouped according to different Socioeconomic profile and their attitude towards VAW

Attitude	p-value			
	Age	Type of Family	Educational Attainment	Occupation
A1	0.000	0.089	0.000	0.001
A2	0.000	0.003	0.000	0.060
A3	0.000	0.043	0.000	0.000
A4	0.000	0.992	0.000	0.000
A5	0.000	0.012	0.000	0.102
A6	0.000	0.583	0.000	0.006
A7	0.003	0.121	0.000	0.000
A8	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.556
A9	0.000	0.008	0.000	0.032
A10	0.000	0.002	0.003	0.001

Table 5 generally reveals that the higher the age and education attained, the more positive their view toward VAW. There is a significant difference between the respondents' profile in terms of age, educational attainment and occupation and their response on A1, A6, and A7. Most agree that VAW is an important issue in the community. Age, type of family, and educational attainment of the respondents had a significant difference on A2, A5, and A8 since news and announcement of the Department of Health [9] highlighted that violence in a relationship tend to follow a cyclical pattern, tension building and serious battered then repeating. Most who have seen this report strongly agreed that they would intervene when they witness an incident of violence. Since the majority of the respondents are 36-45 years of age and are college graduates, they are more updated through different forms of media. There is a significant difference

between all profile parameters and their response to A3, A4, A9, and A10 because most are aware of VAW. They knew that abused women might use defense mechanisms to cope with the relationship, such as minimizing, keeping silent, and in denial, therefore most agrees that they have to help. The attitude towards abuse may be linked to Filipino nature wherein abuse in any form is not socially-acceptable and gained various criticisms in the past decades.

Type of family showed no significant difference in A1, A4, A6, and A7 since most are in nuclear type wherein victims of VAW are discriminated within the family. The occupation had no significant difference in A2, A5, and A8. According to the majority, women who suffered from abuse should not be stigmatized and must be guided appropriately.

Table-6: Test of the significant relationship between respondents' knowledge and attitude

	X2-value	p-value	Decision
Knowledge and Attitudes	2261.645	0.000	Reject Ho

Table 6 shows the relationship of knowledge and attitude of the respondents which has been supported with 0.05 level of significance. This reveals that there is a significant difference between knowledge and attitude of the respondents towards VAW

intervention. Based on the findings, knowledge plays a significant effect on the attitude of respondents. This means that the higher knowledge of the respondents on the general information about VAW, the better their attitude towards VAW intervention.

CONCLUSION

Overall, this study provides information on the knowledge and attitudes of the residents of Ugac Norte towards the intervention of violence against women. Generally, among the three hundred fifty (350) respondents of Ugac Norte, Tuguegarao City, the majority are moderately knowledgeable on the general information about VAW and shows a positive attitude when agreed to the intervention on it. The age and educational attainment of the respondents show a significant difference in the knowledge towards general information about VAW intervention. These also show a significant difference in the attitudes of the respondents towards it. There is a significant difference between the knowledge of the respondents toward the general information and their attitude towards violence against women. Based on the findings discussed, it is concluded that the extent of knowledge of women places a significant effect on their extent of attitude towards it. Thus, the higher the knowledge of the respondents on the general information about VAW, the better their attitude towards it.

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