

## Original Research Article

# Awareness of Women on VAWC (RA 9262): Basis for Information Dissemination on Women's Rights Program

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### ABSTRACT

The Republic Act No. 9262 otherwise known as Anti-Violence against Women and Their Children Act of 2004 provides the legal framework of the country's effort to address violence committed against women and children in keeping with the fundamental freedom guaranteed under the Constitution and the Provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This study determined the awareness of RA9262 among women of barangay Dagupan, Luna, Apayao. This study used the descriptive methods. There were 202 respondents who were selected through purposive sampling with the criteria that must be at least 18 years old and living with a partner or husband. Majority of the respondents were 25-65 years old, married, has 0-3 children, high school graduate and with a monthly income of 5,001- 10,000.00. Most of the respondents expressed that they have acquired awareness on intimate partner violence from watching television. Majority of the respondents were aware of the intimate partner violence in RA 9262. There was a significant relationship between the modes of Information, Education and Communication (IEC), civil status, number of children and educational attainment and level of awareness of the respondents on RA 9262. This study concludes that full awareness on RA 9262 through the modes of IEC is necessary to ensure protection of women and their children.

*Keywords: RA 9262; women; children; intimate partner violence; violence against women and their children.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Republic Act No. 9262 otherwise known as Anti-Violence against Women and Their Children Act of 2004 provides the legal framework of the country's effort to address violence committed against women and children in **charge** with the fundamental freedom guaranteed under the Constitution and the Provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Violence against women and children is a **serious abuse** 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 **inhibits** women from fully participating in society. Violence not only has negative **significances** for women but also their families, the community and the country at large **(1)**.

Intimate partner violence is a major public health problem affecting thousands of women each year. This kind of violence involves abuse of female partners which is the most widespread form of family violence. The assault against women and their children result in physical injuries and sexual trauma, as well as emotional and psychological problems which are often severe and long lasting **(2)**.

In the Philippines, as elsewhere in the world, the data on violence against women and their children (VAWC) is a growing public health concern. Cases of this incident is rampant especially when the country was put into Enhanced Community Quarantine brought about by the COVID 19 pandemic. In the province of Apayao, there were reported cases of violence against women and children in which the perpetrator is the husband and father respectively. In barangay Dagupan where this study was conducted, five reported cases of violence against the wife was reported during the implementation of enhanced community quarantine which was implemented from March 17 to April 15, 2020.

Many cases of violence are not reported because of the lack or low awareness of women and children on the provisions of the RA 9262 known as Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Law. The incident continues to balloon if the women and children are not properly educated on the provisions of the law.

### 1.1 Problem Statement

The study aims to determine the women's awareness on Republic Act 9262, the Anti - Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004.

Specifically, it aims to describe and assess the respondents in terms of the following:

1. Profile of the respondents in terms of: age, civil status, number of children, educational attainment, present work, monthly family income and sources of IEC;
2. Level of awareness on intimate partner violence in RA 9262;
3. Relationship between the sources of IEC materials and level of awareness of the respondents;
4. Relationship between the profile and level of awareness on intimate partner violence in RA 9262;

5. Perceived seminar and training need to alleviate their condition; and
6. Perception on government agencies needed to provide help and support.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Locale of the Study**

The study was conducted at barangay Dagupan Luna, Apayao, Philippines. Dagupan is the biggest barangay in Luna in terms of land area and population. It has seven purok or sitio. Each sitio is headed by a barangay Kagawad who oversee the welfare of the people residing within the area.

### **2.2 Research Design**

A Descriptive method was used. Data was collected through the use of questionnaires and informal interviews. A Focus Group Discussion participated by the respondents was conducted to validate the results. After the conduct of the FGD, the results will be finalized and will be presented to the concerned agencies for possible support for the respondents.

### **2.3 Respondents/informants research participants of the study**

There were two hundred two (202) respondents of the study. There were twenty-nine respondents for every purok or sitio. They were randomly chosen from the list of women members in the barangay. These women are married, single, and with live-in partner who were randomly selected from the list or names of all women residing in the barangay.

### **2.4 Research Instrument**

This study utilizes a questionnaire adopted from the studies **(3)(4)**. The questionnaire is composed of four parts. The first part deals with the profile of the respondents which includes the age, civil status, number of children, highest educational attainment and the sources of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials encountered by respondents in acquiring awareness regarding the Intimate Partner Violence in RA 9262. This part of the questionnaire was made by the researcher. The second part is composed of 25 statements which determined the level of awareness of the respondents on RA 9262. The statements were adopted from the study conducted by Mauro Allan Padua Amparado of the University of Cebu on Women's Awareness on the Law on Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children published in JPAIR Multidisciplinary Research, 2012. The statements are the provisions of the law. These were written out in English. There were no modifications done, however, the researcher translated the statements into Iloko, the vernacular of the respondents. In this part, the respondents were instructed to place a

check mark to the corresponding number that appropriately determines their level of awareness regarding the law. During the interview proper, the questions were articulated depending upon the comprehension level of the respondents. The third part consists of the perceived training needs to alleviate the conditions of the respondents. The respondents were asked to check multiple responses based on their needs. This part of the questionnaire was adopted from the study conducted by Arneil G. Gabriel on Indigenous Women and the Law: The consciousness of marginalized women in the Philippines, Asian Journal of Women's Studies published in 2017. The fourth part deals about the Government agency needed to provide support to training and seminars. The agencies were identified by the researcher and these are the agencies present in the province of Apayao where the study was conducted.

## 2.5 Data Gathering

Random Sampling was conducted to identify the respondents. The name of the respondents per purok or sitio was drawn from a box. There were seven boxes as there are seven purok in the barangay. The following steps below were conducted:

1. A request letter was sent to the Punong barangay asking permission to conduct the study.
2. Identification of respondents thru simple random sampling procedure.
3. Conduct of interview using the survey questionnaire and observation.
4. Data Analysis and Interpretation of results.
5. Focus group Discussion was conducted to validate the results.
6. Inputting of FGD result.
7. Presentation of the final result to the respondents and concerned agencies.

## 2.6 Data Analysis

The data were analyzed using the following statistical tools: Frequency counts, percentage and weighted mean. The awareness of the respondents was described using the score points as follows:

Score Points	Description
1-1.66	Not Aware
1.67- 2.33	Less Aware
2.34-3.0	Aware

Likewise, to measure the relationship between the sources of IEC materials and level of awareness of the respondents and the relationship between the profile and level of

awareness on intimate partner violence in RA 9262, the phi – coefficient is used to measure the strength of association between the variables. It is used to test the association between the variables.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Profile of the Respondents

Table 1 shows the profile of the respondents in terms of: age, civil status, number of children, educational attainment, present work, monthly family income. It also shows the sources of Information and Education on the provisions of RA 9262. To be omitted?

As gleaned in Table 1, majority or 78.71% of the respondents are 26-65 years old while 19.80% are of 18-25 years old. This shows that majority of the respondents are in their middle age.

Majority or 71.29% are married while 11.88% are single with live-in partner. In terms of the number of children, 82.18% has 1-3 children while 15.84% has 4-6 children.

In terms of educational attainment, 35.15% are High School graduate while 18.31% are College graduate. Majority of the respondents or 54.95% are earning less than five thousand (5,000.00) a month while 24.26% are earning 5,001.00 to 10,000.00 in a month.

The respondents' source of information regarding Violence Against women and children is through watching television programs and campaign activities, while the source of the 67.82% respondents are barangay meetings.

Table 1. Profile of the Respondents

VARIABLES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
AGE		
18-25	40	19.80
26-65	159	78.71
66 & above	3	1.49

Total	202	
CIVIL STATUS		
Single	19	9.40
With Live-in Partner	24	11.88
Married	144	71.29
Widow	7	3.47
Separated	8	3.96
Total	202	
NUMBER OF CHILDREN		
0-3	166	82.18
4-6	32	15.84
7-9	3	1.49
More than 9	1	0.49
Total	202	
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
Elementary Level	24	11.88
Elementary graduate	10	4.95
High School level	35	17.33
High School graduate	71	35.15
College level	25	12.38
College Graduate	37	18.31
Total	202	
MONTHLY FAMILY INCOME		
Less than 5,000.00	111	54.95
PhP 5,001-10,000.00	49	24.26
PhP 10,001- 20,000.00	26	12.87
More than 20,000.00	16	7.92
Total	202	
SOURCE OF IEC*		
Television	164	81.19
Social media	136	67.33
Radio	8	3.96
Barangay Meetings	137	67.82
Print Media	1	0.49

\*multiple responses

### 3.2 Awareness on intimate partner violence

Table 2 presents the awareness of the residents on intimate partner violence in RA 9262. The respondents were less aware on the following indicators: (1) If the courts have proven that the offender is guilty of the crime, he may be imprisoned and will be obliged to pay a fine in the amount of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (Php100,000.00) but not more than three hundred thousand pesos (Php300,000.00); (2) The offender will be obliged to undergo mandatory psychological counseling or psychiatric treatment and shall report compliance to the court; (3) Any victim who suffers from BWS should be diagnosed by a psychiatric expert or a clinical psychologist. This will also help the victim in obtaining a just decision in her case; (4) The relief granted under a protection order serves the purpose of safeguarding the victim from further harm, minimizing any disruption in the victim's daily life, and facilitating the opportunity and ability of the victim to independently regain control over her life. The provisions of the protection order shall be enforced by law enforcement agencies; (5) Economic abuse refers to acts that make or attempt to make a woman financially dependent which includes, but is not limited to the following: withdrawal of financial support or preventing the victim from engaging in any legitimate profession, occupation, business or activity, except in cases wherein the other spouse/partner objects on valid, serious and moral grounds as defined in Article 73 of the Family Code; and (6) It is acknowledged that women who have retaliated against their partners or who commit violence as a form of self-defense may have suffered from battered women syndrome (BWS).

It is revealed that victims of intimate partner violence experienced emotional health effects such as depression, anxiety, alcohol and drug abuse and posttraumatic stress disorder including body pains, digestive disorders and even sexually transmitted diseases **(5)**. Many women who have experienced intimate partner violence develop a recognized pattern of psychological symptoms called battered women syndrome. These symptoms are usually transient but are observed in a recognizable pattern in women who have been physically, sexually, or seriously psychologically abused by their partner. Components of battered women syndrome are consistent with psychiatric treatment syndrome. It is usual for abused women to experience flashbacks to the violent incidents, and when the intrusive memories are too overwhelming. The statistics and consequences of violence and abuse require nurses to prepare for collaboration necessary to the coordination of effective interventions with victims and perpetrators of violence and abuse **(6)**.

Furthermore, the table illustrated that the respondents have less awareness on the protection and relief granted to victims of intimate partner violence as well as the penalty for the perpetrator and the mandatory psychiatric or psychological treatment that an abuser must undergo according to the Republic Act 9262. This implies that awareness on IPV on the Republic Act 9262 needs to be strengthened further. In the Philippines, 19% of women have experienced physical or sexual violence, yet only six percent report to a formal source **(7)**. Common reasons for not reporting and seeking formal help include shame and stigma, lack of awareness or access to services, distrust of health workers, financial barriers, cultural beliefs, fear of the offender, and fear of discrimination and stereotyping from law enforcers **(8)**.

For reporting behavior, NDHS **(7)** found that among the women who have experienced physical or sexual violence, only one out of three (34%) sought help to stop the violence. 25% of the women have disclosed the incident to someone but did not seek help, while 41% have never sought help or told anyone. This means that 3 out of 5 women suffer in silence. The survey found that the women in the age group of 20-24 are the most likely to seek help. However, only six percent of the women sought help from the police – a figure quite close to the seven percent found in a study **(8)**. The women more commonly turn to their own family, friends, or neighbors for help. Despite the low turnout for reporting to the police, there is a high awareness of available government services for help. Over 80% of the women knew that they could seek help from the Department of Social Welfare, the local Violence Against Women desks, or the Philippine National Police Women and Children Protection Desk **(7)**. The low reporting numbers despite the high level of awareness of available services could reflect a distrust in the public system **(8)**.

Strong awareness of the Republic Act will only be obtained by way of mass media, conferences, and seminars, referrals, and information relayed through individuals and non-government institutions **(6)**. This measure can help to empower women to disclose any form of violence that they experienced.

Table 2. Respondents' level of awareness on intimate partner violence in RA 9262

Statements	Weighted Mean	Descriptive Value
1. The law seeks to address the prevalence of violence against women and children (VAWC), abuses on women and their children by their intimate partners like husband or ex-husband, live-in partner or ex-live in partner, boyfriend/girlfriend or exboyfriend/ ex-girlfriend, dating partner or ex-dating	2.43	Aware

partner.		
2. Violence against women and children (VAWC) is classified as a public crime.	2.64	Aware
3. Violence against women and children (VAWC) 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.	2.53	Aware
4. Physical violence refers to acts that include bodily or physical harm.	2.43	Aware
5. Sexual violence refers to an act which is sexual in nature, committed against a woman or her child. It includes , but is not limited to: Rape, sexual harassment, acts of lasciviousness, treating a woman or her child as a sex object, making demeaning and sexually suggestive remarks, physically attacking the sexual parts of the victim's body, forcing her/him to watch obscene publications and indecent shows, forcing the woman or her child to do indecent acts and/or make films thereof, forcing the wife and mistress/lover to live in the conjugal home or sleep together in the same room with the abuser;	2.46	Aware
6. Sexual violence includes but is not limited to acts causing or attempting to cause the victim to engage in any sexual activity by force, threat of force, physical or other harm or threat of physical or other harm or coercion;	2.35	Aware
7. Sexual violence includes prostituting the woman or child.	2.48	Aware
8. Psychological violence refers to acts or omissions causing or likely to cause mental or emotional suffering of the victim such as but not limited to intimidation, harassment, stalking, damage to property, public ridicule or humiliation, repeated verbal abuse and mental infidelity;	2.36	Aware
9. Psychological violence includes causing or allowing the victim to witness the physical, sexual or psychological abuse of a member of the family to which the victim belongs, or to witness pornography in any form or to witness abusive injury to pets, or to unlawful or unwanted deprivation of the right to custody and/ or visitation of common children;	2.36	Aware
10. Economic abuse refers to acts that make or attempt to make a woman financially dependent which includes, but is not limited to the following: withdrawal of financial support or preventing the victim from engaging in any	2.28	Less Aware

legitimate profession, occupation, business or activity, except in cases wherein the other spouse/partner objects on valid, serious and moral grounds as defined in Article 73 of the Family Code;		
11. Economic abuse includes deprivation or threat of deprivation of financial resources and the right to the use and enjoyment of the conjugal, community or property owned in common;	2.33	Less Aware
12. Economic abuse includes destroying household property;	2.35	Aware
13. Economic abuse includes controlling the victim's own money or properties or solely controlling the conjugal money or properties;	2.36	Aware
14. A dating relationship refers to a situation wherein the parties live as husband and wife without the benefit of marriage or are romantically involved over time and on a continuing basis during the course of the relationship;	2.34	Aware
15. Sexual relations refer to a single sexual act which may or may not result in the bearing of a common child;	2.53	Aware
16. Women are allowed to secure village protection order and/ or temporary or permanent protection order from the courts;	2.61	Aware
17. Women can also file an independent civil action for damages and criminal action for the violation of RA 9262;	2.45	Aware
18. A Protection Order is prescribed in the Anti-VAWC Act to prevent further abuse of or violence against a woman. It also provides her relief from the said abuse or violence;	2.48	Aware
19. The relief granted under a protection order serves the purpose of safeguarding the victim from further harm, minimizing any disruption in the victim's daily life, and facilitating the opportunity and ability of the victim to independently regain control over her life. The provisions of the protection order shall be enforced by law enforcement agencies;	2.26	Less Aware
20. Anyone of the following may also file the protection order in behalf of the victim/s: Parent or guardian; grandparents, children and grandchildren; relatives (aunts, uncles, cousins, in-laws); local officials and DSWD social workers; police, lawyers, councilors, punong village or village kagawad; therapists and health care providers (nurses, doctors, village health workers); any two people who come from the city or municipality where VAWC happened and who have personal knowledge of the crime;	2.34	Aware
21. It is acknowledged that women who have retaliated against their partners or who commit violence as a form of self defense may have suffered from battered women syndrome (BWS);	2.28	Less Aware

22. Battered women syndrome refers to a scientifically defined pattern of psychological and behavioral symptoms found in women living in battering relationships as a result of cumulative abuse;	2.31	Less Aware
23. Any victim who suffers from BWS should be diagnosed by a psychiatric expert or a clinical psychologist. This will also help the victim in obtaining a just decision in her case;	2.26	Less Aware
24. If the courts have proven that the offender is guilty of the crime, he may be imprisoned and will be obliged to pay a fine in the amount of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (Php100,000.00) but not more than three hundred thousand pesos (Php300,000.00);	1.95	Less Aware
25. The offender will be obliged to undergo mandatory psychological counseling or psychiatric treatment and shall report compliance to the court.	2.24	Less Aware

### 3.3 Relationship between the sources of IEC materials and level of awareness of the respondents

Table 3 reveals that the source of Information Education Campaign (IEC) and level of awareness has moderate relationship which is indicated by the phi value of 0.412 and the association is significant with a p value of 0.012 which is greater than  $\alpha=0.05$ .

This finding is supported by Bandura who postulated that behavior occurs as a result of the interplay of cognitive and environmental factors (9). Bandura further explains that learning occurs by simply observing and that one of the basic models of observational learning is the symbolic model, which involves real or fictional characters displaying behaviors in books, films, television programs, or online media (6). Similarly, according to health belief model, cues to action are also modifying factors and are provided by activities such as mass media campaigns, advice from others, and literature such as newspaper or magazine article. The likelihood of taking a recommended preventive health action is thus a composite of individual perceptions and modifying factors (6).

Furthermore, the use of social media for the prevention of violence against women from India (the "Must Bol" campaign), China (the "17 Man" campaign) and Viet Nam (the 'Love Journey' campaign) emphasized that there are many ways that social media can be used in communication campaigns aimed at preventing Violence Against Women (10). Underlying the successes of each campaign, however, is the idea that social media can only be one part of the spectrum of interventions that are needed to prevent VAW. The three campaigns generally found that social media can be an effective way of mobilizing youth and promoting

discussion and reflection around key topics, modeling positive behaviours and guiding target audiences to positive solutions. Each of the three campaigns resulted in varying levels of awareness, attitudinal, behaviour and/or social norm change. However, there was little evidence that social media alone could be effective in changing a lifetime of gender socialization, rather, it could serve as the starting point for such changes. Attitudinal or behavioural changes are more effectively brought about through interpersonal activities. Thus, when social media work is connected to other interventions, it can be a very powerful tool to foster change. It is in this way that social media can support the overarching goal of preventing violence against women and their children.

Table 3. Relationship between the sources of IEC materials and level of awareness of the respondents.

Variables	Phi- Value	P- value	Interpretation
Source of IEC	0.412	0.012	Significant relationship at $\alpha=0.05$

### 3.4 Relationship between the profile and level of awareness on intimate partner violence

The relationship between the profile of the respondents and the level of their awareness of intimate partner violence in RA 9262 is presented in table 4. The table reveals that age and level of awareness has a very little relationship and the association is not significant. Civil status and level of awareness have moderate relationship and the association is significant at .05 level of significance. Family size and level of awareness has a very little relationship and the association is not significant. Educational attainment and level of awareness has a moderate relationship and the association is significant; and Monthly income and level of awareness has a moderate relationship and the association is significant at .05 level of significance.

Different studies have shown mixed results on the relationship or effect of education, age, work or economic empowerment, urbanization, and wealth to the exposure and risk of intimate partner violence (IPV). Education generally has a positive effect on decreasing risk and high awareness of intimate partner violence **(11)**. Similarly, increasing age decreases the risk of IPV suggest that increasing age leads to more autonomy, less dependence on the partners, more experience to avoid situations that elicit abuse, and more support from the kin and family, which in turn decreases the exposure to IPV **(12)**. Vyas and Watts (2009) found that wealth and higher socioeconomic status (SES) is mostly a protective factor from IPV **(13)**. However, it is possible that victims from higher SES are less likely to report IPV due to stigma **(14)**.

The age affected the occurrence of VAW. However, UN Women and Spark believed that there is a difference in terms of reporting, as older women are more aware of the violation and have more opportunity to report. Children, on the other hand, are the most vulnerable age group. According to UN Women: there is an observation that yes, adult women are more able to report, especially if they're more aware that it is a violation. But for younger girls, girl children, first it's really more on their awareness if ... what is happening is a violation ... In terms of reporting as well, they are in the context where they would NEED someone else like an adult, a family member would support them. But there is also a question whether they would tell their parents or their adult family members – especially if the perpetrator is also a family member. Spark believed that the lack of education can be a contributing factor to VAW. Less educated people receive less economic opportunities, leaving them to remain in poverty. This could lead people to monetize abuse out of desperation. The respondent stated that “it’s also a consequence of poverty, ... [and] it’s still intertwined with how the development of our country has been slow and [how] the marginalized communities have been disregarded or left behind” (12).

Table 4. Relationship between the profile of the respondents and level of awareness of intimate partner violence in RA 9262.

Variables	Phi - Value	P - value	Interpretation
Age and level of awareness	0.185	0.140	No significant relationship at $\alpha=0.05$
Civil Status and level of awareness	0.324	0.007	Significant relationship at $\alpha=0.05$
Family size and level of awareness	0.187	0.318	Significant relationship at $\alpha=0.05$
Educational attainment and level of awareness	0.614	0.000	Significant relationship at $\alpha=0.05$
Monthly income and level of awareness	0.612	0.081	Significant relationship at $\alpha=0.05$

### 3.5 Perceived seminar and training needs

Table 5 shows the seminars and training needs of the respondents. Among the top five are the following: (1) program on women’s rights; (2) child protection; (3) Livelihood training; (4) Criminal Justice System; and 5) proper procedure in handling cases of domestic violence.

The Focus group Discussion was conducted with the barangay officials and majority of the respondents were present. The researcher sent a letter to the Punong Barangay asking permission to conduct the discussion.

During the conduct of the Focus Group Discussion in which the result were presented to the respondents, majority of them stated that they need training in order to alleviate their socio-economic condition and to gain more information regarding women’s rights so that they can empower themselves and become productive member of the community.

One of the respondent stated [ *“kayatmi met a manayunan pay ti ammomi tapno saan kami a makalak-am iti panangirurumen ken maprotektaran mi dagiti annak mi”*]

[ We want to improve ourselves so we can empower ourselves and protect our children].

Furthermore, majority of the respondents believed that economic empowerment plays a crucial role in encouraging a woman to escape an abusive situation. Many women in the Philippine society, especially in the lower socioeconomic status, are financially dependent on their husbands/partners, which makes it difficult to leave the relationship if he is also the perpetrator. The women have no means to support their children and have limited opportunities to earn a living. According to UN Women, “economic empowerment is integral in women finding their autonomy and being able to get out of the abusive situations.” (12).

Table 5. Perceived Seminar and Training Needs

	Frequency	Rank
Training program on women’s rights	194	1
Seminar on child protection	193	2
Livelihood training	188	3
Seminar on Criminal Justice System	173	4
Seminar on proper procedure in handling cases of domestic violence	152	5
Seminar on barangay peace and order	149	6
Training workshop for community defense strategy	145	7
Training on basic Reproductive Health Bill	137	8
Seminar workshop to barangay officials on management Information System	128	9
Training for Barangay Health Workers	110	10

### 3.6 Perception on government agencies needed to provide help and support

The government agencies needed to provide support to trainings and seminars is seen in

table 6.

Non-government organizations and women's human rights advocates also contribute a significant role in addressing VAWC. The various government services rely on the expertise NGOs for training and crafting programs (Foundation for Media Alternatives [FMA] & Association for Progressive Communication [APC], 2013; Santos, 2009). Each government agency has different functions to address violence against women and children in accordance with the law. At the ground level, the Women and Children's Desks required in each Local Government Unit (LGU) are the first to receive reports about VAWC. The PNP and the NBI are in charge of investigatory services and procedures for reported VAWC cases, while the DOH provides medical services, and the DOJ assists with legal and prosecution services. The DSWD provides psychosocial and rehabilitation services, as well as temporary shelters, and the LGUs, under the DILG, are also tasked to work with the DSWD in recovery and livelihood assistance for the victims upon release from the rehabilitation centers (Foundation for Media Alternatives [FMA] & Association for Progressive Communication [APC], 2013; SALIGAN, 2007).

Table 6. Government Agency needed to provide support to trainings and seminars

Government Agency	Frequency	Rank
Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)	190	1
Philippine National Police (PNP)	171	2
Department of Health (DOH)	169	3
National Commission on the Rule of Filipino Women (NCRFW)	63	4
State Universities and Colleges (SUCs)	61	5
Department of Education (DEpEd)	60	6
Commission on Human Rights (CHR)	59	7
Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)	58	8
Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC)	57	9
Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)	55	10
Department of Justice (DOJ)	53	11
Civil Service Commission (CSC)	52	12

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The data shows that majority of the respondents are of 26-65 years old, married, the number of children ranges from 1-3, college graduate and the monthly income is less than 5, 000.00. The main sources of awareness on the provisions of RA 9262 are television, barangay meetings and social media.

The respondents level of awareness are low on the following : punishment of the offender ; the offender undergo mandatory psychological counseling or psychiatric treatment and shall report compliance to the court; the victim is entitled for a protection order until she can regain control over her life which shall be enforced by law enforcement agencies; women who have retaliated against their partners or who commit violence as a form of self-defense may have suffered from battered women syndrome; and economic abuse is a moral ground for VAW.

The source of Information Education Campaign (IEC) and level of awareness has moderate relationship.

The age and level of awareness has a very little relationship and the association is not significant. Civil status and level of awareness have moderate relationship and the association is significant. Family size and level of awareness has a very little relationship and the association is not significant. Educational attainment and level of awareness has a moderate relationship and the association is significant; and Monthly income and level of awareness has a moderate relationship and the association is significant.

The training needs of the respondents is a manifestation that they really want to deepen their knowledge regarding their rights in order to protect themselves to any form of violence. They also need livelihood training in order to alleviate their condition and be more aware of their rights as women.

The DSWD, PNP, DOH, NCRFW has the highest demand agencies to conduct seminar training to the respondents or the women of barangay Dagupan.

#### CONSENT

The author declared that 'written informed consent was obtained from the respondent for publication of this case report and accompanying images. A copy of the written consent is available for review by the Editorial office/Chief Editor/Editorial Board members of this journal.

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## APPENDIX

### Appendix 1: Questionnaire

#### Part 1: profile of the Respondents

Name (Optional) : \_\_\_\_\_

Age : ( ) 18-25 (young adult) ( ) 25-65 (adult)

Civil status : ( ) Single with live-in partner ( ) Married ( ) Separated

Number of children : ( ) 0-3 ( ) 4-6 ( ) 7-9

Educational attainment : ( ) Elementary level ( ) Elementary graduate  
( ) High school level ( ) High school graduate  
( ) College level ( ) College graduate

Monthly family income : ( ) Less than PhP 5,000.00 ( ) PhP 5,001-10,000.00  
( ) PhP 10,001.00-20,000.00 ( ) More than PhP  
20,000.00

Sources of IEC : ( ) Television ( ) Radio ( ) Print Media  
( ) Social media ( ) Barangay Meetings  
( ) Others, please specify

**Part 2. Awareness on intimate partner violence in RA 9262**

- 1- Not aware
- 2- Aware
- 3- Strongly aware

Statements
1. The law seeks to address the prevalence of violence against women and children (VAWC), abuses on women and their children by their intimate partners like husband or ex-husband, live-in partner or ex-live in partner, boyfriend/girlfriend or exboyfriend/ ex-girlfriend, dating partner or ex-dating partner.
2. Violence against women and children (VAWC) is classified as a public crime.
3. Violence against women and children (VAWC) 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.
4. Physical violence refers to acts that include bodily or physical harm.
5. Sexual violence refers to an act which is sexual in nature, committed against a woman or her child. It includes , but is not limited to: Rape, sexual harassment, acts of lasciviousness, treating a woman or her child as a sex object, making demeaning and sexually suggestive remarks, physically attacking the sexual parts of the victim's body, forcing her/him to watch obscene publications and indecent shows, forcing the woman or her child to do indecent acts and/or make films thereof, forcing the wife and mistress/lover to live in the conjugal home or sleep together in the same room with the abuser;

6. Sexual violence includes but is not limited to acts causing or attempting to cause the victim to engage in any sexual activity by force, threat of force, physical or other harm or threat of physical or other harm or coercion;
7. Sexual violence includes prostituting the woman or child.
8. Psychological violence refers to acts or omissions causing or likely to cause mental or emotional suffering of the victim such as but not limited to intimidation, harassment, stalking, damage to property, public ridicule or humiliation, repeated verbal abuse and mental infidelity;
9. Psychological violence includes causing or allowing the victim to witness the physical, sexual or psychological abuse of a member of the family to which the victim belongs, or to witness pornography in any form or to witness abusive injury to pets, or to unlawful or unwanted deprivation of the right to custody and/ or visitation of common children;
10. Economic abuse refers to acts that make or attempt to make a woman financially dependent which includes, but is not limited to the following: withdrawal of financial support or preventing the victim from engaging in any legitimate profession, occupation, business or activity, except in cases wherein the other spouse/partner objects on valid, serious and moral grounds as defined in Article 73 of the Family Code;
11. Economic abuse includes deprivation or threat of deprivation of financial resources and the right to the use and enjoyment of the conjugal, community or property owned in common;
12. Economic abuse includes destroying household property;
13. Economic abuse includes controlling the victim's own money or properties or solely controlling the conjugal money or properties;
15. Sexual relations refer to a single sexual act which may or may not result in the bearing of a common child;
16. Women are allowed to secure village protection order and/ or temporary or permanent protection order from the courts;
17. Women can also file an independent civil action for damages and criminal action for the violation of RA 9262;

18. A Protection Order is prescribed in the Anti-VAWC Act to prevent further abuse of or violence against a woman. It also provides her relief from the said abuse or violence;

### Part 3. Perceived Seminar and Training Needs

	Yes	No
1. Seminar on child abuse		
2. Training program on women's rights		
3. Livelihood Training for women and children		
4. Seminar workshop to barangay officials		
5. Seminar-workshop on proper procedure observed in handling domestic violence cases		
6. Training on Basic Reproductive Health Bill		
7. Training for Barangay Health Workers		
8. Training workshop for barangay peace and order		
9. Training workshop for community defense strategy		
10. Training workshop on rights to ancestral domains		
11. Training workshop on Criminal Justice System		

### Part 4. Government agency needed to provide support to training and seminars

Government Agency	Rank
1. Department of Social Welfare and development	
2. National Commission on the Rule of Filipino Women (NCRFW)	
3. Civil Service Commission (CSC)	
4. Commission on Human Rights (CHR)	
5. Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC)	
6. Department of Justice (DOJ)	
7. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)	
8. Philippine National Police (PNP)	
9. Department of Health (DOH)	
10. Department of Education (DEpEd)	
11. Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)	
12. National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)	
13. State Universities and Colleges (SUCs)	