



Extent of violation of republic Act 9262 (Anti-Violence against women and their children) among women in the municipalities of second District of Oriental Mindoro

Ciedelle Piol Salazar

Mindoro State University, Labasan, Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro, Philippines

* Corresponding Author: **Ciedelle Piol-Salazar**

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Abstract

Violence against women is the most shameful human rights violation and is perhaps the most pervasive. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture, or wealth. If it continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress towards equality, development, and peace. This study aims to determine the extent of violations against women in the Second District of Oriental Mindoro. The researcher used the descriptive method of research, with a questionnaire as the major data-gathering tool. The results showed that the respondents experienced physical and psychological abuse to a great extent. Economic problems are the usual cause of violence against the respondents. An information dissemination campaign may be conducted to empower women in exercising their rights and reduce domestic violence committed against them.

Keywords: Violence, women, physical abuse, economic abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse

Introduction

Violations against women are a worldwide phenomenon. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that half of all women who die from homicide are killed by their current or former husbands or partners. In the Philippines, while the documentation of all forms of violations against women has yet to be achieved, existing data indicates that violations against women are a pervasive social problem. Due to the sensitivity of the issues and their impact on women and their families, many cases of violence against women often go unreported.

Since 1995, violence against women (VAW) has captured the attention of the government and legislators in the Philippines, propelled by the demand of a growing women's human rights movement and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, as well as other international conventions. Progressive reforms in laws protecting women were brought about by several factors. In fact, the 1987 Constitution has specific provisions on the rights of women and fundamental equality before the law of men and women.

Before special laws addressing VAW were passed, women could only resort to the Revised Penal Code for offenses committed against them by their husbands, such as physical injuries or attempted or frustrated parricide. If committed by their intimate partners, they could be charged with physical injuries, attempted or frustrated homicide, or rape. A woman could not charge her husband with rape. There was no offense of "battering," so that the offense would fall under "physical injuries." There was no offense called "sexual harassment," and instead, such acts would fall under "Acts of Lasciviousness." There was no recognition of crimes against women as gender-based violence.

Since 1995, there have been six (6) laws on VAW in the Philippines, and a Family Courts Act that provides for the jurisdiction of Family Courts in cases involving domestic violence, violence against women, and cases wherein the complainant or defendant is a child. These are the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995, the Anti-Rape Act of 1997; the Rape Victims Assistance Act; an Act Declaring Unlawful the Matching of Filipino Mail Order Brides to Foreigners; the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003; and the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004.

Republic Act No. 9262 of 2004, or the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children, provides protection for abused women and their children against their partners or former male partners or those with whom they had or are having a dating relationship. 2004 (hereinafter referred to as the "Anti-VAWC Act") is the result of a decade of advocacy by victim-survivors, women's human rights advocates and organizations, women legislators, government agencies, and the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women. The passage of this law marks the state's compliance with its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which the Philippines ratified in 1981, and the Optional Protocol on the CEDAW, which was ratified by the Philippine Senate in 2003.

The broad definition of VAW in the law was patterned after the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and refers to "any act or 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 results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological, or suffering, or economic abuse, including threats of such acts, battery, assault, coercion, harassment or arbitrary deprivation of liberty." It covers all forms of violence, such as physical, sexual, psychological, and economic.

Republic Act No. 9262 is gender-specific, protecting the rights of women only and their children. It penalizes the commission of violence against women and their children in the context of domestic violence in intimate relationships. Women who are physically weak and helpless to protect themselves are especially vulnerable to abuse. Abused women are more likely to suffer from depression, anxiety, psychosomatic symptoms, eating problems, sexual dysfunction, and reproductive health complications.

Women can get out of this vicious cycle if they are empowered and supported by various institutions, especially those at the local level. The law provides for the security of the complainant and her family through the a ailment of barangay temporary or permanent protection orders. This clearly identifies the duties of Local Government Units (LGUs) officials in providing the necessary protection and support services to VAWC victims. Under Section 47 of IRR of R.A. 9262, the barangay officials shall strictly observe the steps in handling VAWC cases.

Towards this end, the state exerts 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, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other international human rights instruments to which the Philippines is a party.

Materials and methods

The researcher used a quantitative descriptive design. A purposive selection was considered in this study. A total of 105 women who were identified as victims of violence from the seven municipalities in Second District of Oriental

Mindoro from 2018-2019 participated the study.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Percentage Distribution of Respondents According to Age

Age	Frequency	Percentage
55 above	10	10
45-54	11	10
35-44	23	22
25-34	36	34
15-24	25	24
Total	105	100

Table 1 shows that 36 among the victims are aged between 25 to 34 years old. It is noted that at this young age, women were already victim of violence.

This implies that most of the respondents are of legal age. They are expected to decide independently and make good judgment because they are considered adults and mothers.

Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Respondents According to Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	Frequency	Percentage
Elementary	27	26
High School	45	43
College	33	31
Total	105	100

As revealed, 43% of the victims of R.A. 9262 are high school graduates. It also shows that college graduates were also victims of violence against women, which comprised 31% of the participants.

Respondents who were high school graduates may have had limited knowledge of the law on violence against women and their children. They also have limited exposure to the Republic Act because after they graduated high school, they worked in different skilled jobs.

Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Respondents According to Monthly Income

Monthly Income	Frequency	Percentage
40,000.00-60,000.00	1	.95
20,001.00-39,000.00	1	.95
10,0001-20,000.00	16	15
Below 10,000.00	87	83
Total	105	100

Among the victim respondents, there are 83% receiving a monthly income of not more than Php 10,000.00. This indicates that domestic situation appears in household of low income earned.

Table 4: Percentage Distribution of Respondents According to Employment Status

Employment Status	Frequency	Percentage
Employed	58	55
Self-Employed	18	17
Unemployed	29	28
Total	105	100

Most of the respondents are employed and victims of violence. Regardless of the employment status, women are probable victim of the violence.

Table 5: Level of Awareness of Women on R.A. 9262

Level	Frequency	Percentage
Very much	3	2.86
Much	15	14.28
Aware	28	26.67
Less Aware	39	37.14
Not at all	20	19.05
Total	105	100

Average Weighted Mean = 2.45 = Less Aware

Most of the women victims are less aware of the provisions of R.A. 9262. Data revealed that almost one half of women victim are not educated by the R.A. This implies that the information dissemination of the government of R.A 9262 is not that extensive.

Common Violations Committed Against the Respondent Victims

Respondent victims of R.A. 9262 revealed some violations commonly committed against them.

Table 6: Extent to which R.A. 9262 was Committed Against the Respondents in Terms of Psychological Abuse

Psychological Abuse	Mean	Description
Ridicule or humiliation in public	3.51	GE
Baseless jealousy	3.83	GE
Infidelity	3.33	ME
Threatening to harm you or inflict pain on you	3.50	ME
Overall Weighted Mean	2.54	GE

GE-Great Extent, ME-Moderate Extent

Baseless jealousy was the common cause of psychological violence committed against the victim respondents.

In the recent UNICEF East Asia report, an estimated 62.8% lifetime prevalence of psychological violence happened primarily in the home or community environments. This kind of violence is rooted in different forms of abuse.

Table 7: Extent to which R.A. 9262 was Committed Against the Respondents in Terms of Physical Abuse

Physical Abuse	Mean	Description
Battery	3.52	GE
Assaults	3.61	GE
Coercion	3.46	GE
Unwanted deprivation of the physical needs such as food, etc.	2.61	ME
Overall Weighted Mean	3.3	ME

Table 10: Test of Significant Relationship between the respondent's profile and Extent of Violation on R.A. 9262 in terms of Psychological Abuse

Items	r- Value	Degree of Relation	t-value	Decision	Interpretation
Age	0.11	Low	1.123	Accept Ho	NS
Educational Attainment	0.38	Moderate	4.507	Reject Ho	S
Annual Income	0.59	Substantial	9.185	Reject Ho	S
Employment Status	0.15	Low	1.55	Accept Ho	NS
Awareness of RA 9262	0.18	Low	1.88	Accept Ho	NS

It can be seen in the table, that the violation committed an RA 9262 against women in terms of psychological abuse is significantly related with the respondents' educational attainment with moderate and computed t-value of 4.507 as it exceeds the tab t² value of 1.967 and with annual income

In terms of physical violence, victim respondents experienced with a great extent assaults from their husbands or live-in partners.

Domestic violence and abuse are used for one purpose only, to gain and maintain total control over a person. According to the 2017 Philippine Statistics Authority report, one in four Filipino women aged 15–49 was a victim of emotional, physical, or sexual violence by their husband or partner. Despite the effort to address this kind of violence against women, the same kind continues to persist.

Table 8: Extent to which R.A. 9262 was Committed Against the Respondents in Terms of Sexual Abuse

Sexual Abuse	Mean	Description
Sexual Harassment	2.55	ME
Facing you to do indecent acts and filming and taking pictures of them	2.12	LE
Making or sexually obscene or suggestive remarks	2.23	LE
Forcing you to live in the conjugal home or sleep together	3.13	LE
Overall Weighted Mean	2.25	LE

A scrutiny of the table shows that victim respondents also experienced sexual abuse but to a lesser extent. Among sexual abuses, victim respondents suffered to a moderate extent from sexual harassment. While the result of the findings of the National Demographic and Health Survey revealed that sexual violence decreased, the VAW still needs urgent attention from implementers of the law.

Table 9: Extent to which R.A. 9262 was Committed Against the Respondents in Terms of Economic Abuse

Economic Abuse	Mean	Description
Withdrawal of financial support	3.01	ME
Controlling your own money or property	2.98	ME
Destroying household property	3.69	GE
Deprivation of the right to use or enjoy the conjugal property owned in common	3.70	ME
Overall Weighted Mean	3.1	ME

Victim respondents admitted that they suffer economic abuses to a moderate extent. Among the forms of economic abuse, they were deprived of the right to use or enjoy the conjugal property owned in common to a great extent.

In the report of the Philippine Commission on Women, there is no concrete data showing the extent of violations against women as there are silent victims who are ashamed to relate their experiences and others who tend not to file a case because of their lack of faith in our justice system.

with comp r value of 0.51 or substantial and comp t-value of 9.185 against tab t value of 1.96 at 0.05 LS.

This finding suggests that education and financial situation in the family influence and/or relate to psychological violence perpetrated by middle partners against female respondents.

Table 11: Test of Significant Relationship between the respondent's profile and Extent of Violation on R.A. 9262 in terms of Physical Abuse

Items	r-Value	Degree of Relation	t-value	Decision	Interpretation
Age	0.17	Low	1.77	Accept Ho	NS
Educational Attainment	0.18	Low	1.89	Accept Ho	NS
Annual Income	0.70	High	13.93	Reject Ho	S
Employment Status	0.15	Low	1.56	Accept Ho	NS
Awareness of RA 9262	0.65	High	11.42	Reject Ho	S

As revealed, annual income is found significantly related with physical violence with r value of 0.70 or high and comp t-value of 13.93 against the tab. T value of 1.96 at 0.05 L.S. Similarly respondent awareness of RA 9262 is ground to be significantly related with r value of 0.65 or high and computed value of 11.42 as against the tab t^2 value of 1.96 at

0.05 LS.

This finding implies that even women who receive high salaries are probable victims of physical violence. Similarly, even if they are aware or not, these women may also be victims of physical violence by their partners.

Table 12: Test of Significant Relationship between the respondent's profile and Extent of Violation on R.A. 9262 in terms of Sexual Abuse

Items	r-Value	Degree of Relation	t-value	Decision	Interpretation
Age	0.09	Very Low	0.92	Accept Ho	NS
Educational Attainment	0.17	Very Low	1.77	Accept Ho	S
Annual Income	0.10	Very Low	1.02	Accept Ho	NS
Employment Status	0.87	Very high	36.32	Reject Ho	S
Awareness of RA 9262	0.53	Moderate	7.48	Reject Ho	S

A scrutiny of the table revealed that employment status has significant correlation with sexual violence with value of 0.87 or very high and comp t-value of 36.32 and the respondent's level of awareness on the RA 9262 with or value of 0.53 or moderate with compt. T-value of 7.48 of which exceeded the

tab t-value of 1.96 at 0.05 LS.

This finding that even women who have good employment and those who have a high level of knowledge of RA 9262 could suffer sexual violence from their partners or husbands is forced.

Table 13: Test of Significant Relationship between the respondent's profile and Extent of Violation on R.A. 9262 in terms of Economic Abuse

Items	r-Value	Degree of Relation	t-value	Decision	Interpretation
Age	0.46	Low	1.66	Accept Ho	NS
Educational Attainment	0.13	Low	1.34	Accept Ho	NS
Annual Income	0.67	High	12.34	Reject Ho	S
Employment Status	0.87	High	36.32	Reject Ho	S
Awareness of RA 9262	0.18	Very Low	1.88	Accept Ho	NS

It is obvious that the annual income with r value of 0.67 or high and comp t value of 12.23 and employment status of respondents with r value of 0.87 or high and computed t value of 36.32 have significant relationship with the extent they suffer from husband for economic abuse.

Table 14: Common Causes of Violence Committed Against Women Respondents

Common Causes of violence	Mean	Description
Influence of Liquor	3.55	ME
Third party or other woman	3.36	ME
Financial problem	3.73	ME
Jealousy	3.60	ME
Overall Weighted Mean	3.56	ME

It revealed that as for women victims of RA 9262, financial problems are the foremost reason for violence committed against them. This revelation somehow applies due to the economic situation in the market and the high cost of living almost every Filipino is experiencing. This is very evident that domestic problems are the main reason for committing such violence. This is why justice is not undermined.

Table 15: Extent to Which R.A. 9262 was Committed Against the Respondents in Terms of Actions Taken by the Respondents

Actions Taken by the Respondents	Mean	Description
Filed a Case	4.18	ME
Complaint to the Brgy. Official	4.35	ME
Asked help from parents or nuclear family	3.85	GE
Requested BPO	3.70	ME
Overall Weighted Mean	4.02	ME

Among the actions of the victim respondents, filing a complaint before the barangay is the most common action taken by them against their husband or partner. Women's empowerment must be one of the priorities of local government. Public awareness and campaigns on women's rights are a must to prevent and combat all forms of gender-based violence.

Conclusion

The victim respondents of violations against women are ordinary housewives or live-in partners and are not knowledgeable of their rights regarding violations of R.A. 9262.

Most of them had psychological, physical, and economic violence from their partners. The lack of awareness among women of the anti-violence act against women, or R.A. 9262, deprived them of their rights. Regardless of their education and employment, victim respondents suffered several abuses within their household. The Barangay affairs office is the first government unit that may help victims of violence of all types inside their homes.

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