

The Spousal Violence on Women in Cabanatuan City

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Abstract— One of the prominent domestic crimes committed today is spousal violence, according to National Statistics Authority based on the preliminary results from the 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) one in four (26%) ever-married women aged 15 to 49 has ever experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their husband or partner. Hence, this study aimed at determining the spousal violence on women in Cabanatuan City. Police Officers assigned to Women and Children Protection Desk and Social Workers from the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Cabanatuan City were the respondents of the study. The study is Descriptive in nature. Registration Method was used in data gathering. For the Data treatment and analysis, frequency count, percentages and ranking were utilized. The results of the study from data gathered from both the Police officers and social workers revealed that, the spousal violence on women in Cabanatuan City is primarily economic violence and the least is sexual violence.

Keywords— Spousal violence, Implications, Safety and Security, Women Empowerment, and Human Rights.

I. INTRODUCTION

Violence against women have increased significantly within recent years, mostly spousal violence in nature. According to National Statistics Authority based on the preliminary results from the 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) one in four (26%) ever-married women aged 15 to 49 has ever experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their husband or partner. Most of Filipino women believe and perceive their experiences as normal and part of being married or being in a romantic relationship since it is rooted in our Filipino culture. Women as wife, mother and home maker should be someone who is submissive, caring, loving, understanding, and forgiving. Higher rates of violence are expected to be more prevalent in cultures that encourage objectification of women, thus making them appear inferior to men. (Ramiro, et.al, 2016) Men on the other hand as heads of the family, breadwinners, and decision makers are accepted by society as someone that should be followed, served and have the last say on

everything especially regarding domestic issues and concerns. The comparative advantage of men in the public arena translates to their greater power in the household, the ability to contribute to household income is the key to household balance of power. Contribution is measured in terms of monetary units. Non-monetary contribution like doing the household chores does not advance one's position in the household power structure. (Alcantara, 2014). Patriarchy is still much evident in the Philippine Culture.

Culture dictates the definition, perception and acceptability of one's role in the society. Culture acceptability often made practices and actions a non-violation of one's rights. Women in developing countries experience higher rates of violence than those in developed countries. Violence against women is perceived as a symptom of the historically unequal power relationship between men and women, and this imbalance has led to pervasive cultural stereotypes and attitudes that perpetuate a cycle of violence.

Spousal Violence is viewed and accepted as an intimate partner violence (IPV) (HIndin & Adair, 2012) thus making women believe that it is part of being in a relationship and is normal.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The research study aimed to determine the spousal violence experienced by women in Cabanatuan City as reported in the Department of Social Welfare and Development and Police Station-Women and Children Protection Desk in Cabanatuan City for the period of January 2018 to November 2019. The nature of spousal violence was also determined and used as a basis in proposing support activities and programs to improve women situation and somehow empower them.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is descriptive in nature since its focus was determining the spousal violence experienced by women in Cabanatuan City and its nature. The instrument utilized was the Registration method since the data came from the Police Officers assigned to Women and Children Protection Desk and Social Workers from the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Cabanatuan City which showed that there were 53 cases of spousal violence. The above mentioned sources of data were the respondents of the study. For the Data treatment and analysis, frequency count, percentages and ranking were used.

IV. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The basis of the study was the 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) from National Statistics Authority as stated, spousal violence may be in the forms of: physical violence; sexual violence; emotional violence; and economic violence.

As stated also in Republic Act. 9262 Section 2, Violence against Women and Children:

It is hereby declared that the State values the dignity of women and children and guarantees full respect for human rights. The State also recognizes the need to protect the family and its members particularly women and children, from violence and threats to their personal safety and security. Towards this end, the State shall exert efforts to address violence committed against women and children in

keeping with the fundamental freedoms 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, Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights instruments of which the Philippines is a party.

Thus, the study focused on the recorded spousal violence on women and its nature based on how the Police Officers assigned to Women and Children Protection Desk and Social Workers from the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Cabanatuan City assessed and categorized the reported cases. The result of the study was used as a basis in proposing support activities and programs to improve women situation and somehow empower them.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The reported spousal violence in Cabanatuan City as reported in the Police Officers assigned to Women and Children Protection Desk and Social Workers from the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Cabanatuan City is presented as follows:

Table.1: Spousal Violence

ITEM	f	%	Ranking
Physical Violence	16	30.19%	2
Sexual Violence	1	1.89%	4
Psychological Violence	10	18.87%	3
Economic Violence	26	49.05%	1
	53	100.00%	

The result shows that spousal violence are reported in the Police Department and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, majority of the reported cases were categorized as Economic violence in which it ranked first with a percentage of 49.05% and the least reported category of spousal violence was sexual abuse with a percentage of 1.89%.

This means that, majority of the victims experienced economic violence for majority of the cases concern with child custody, child support, adoption and the like. Most of the victims felt that they are financially dependent with their aggressors and on the other hand the aggressors also believe and made them believe that the

victims' fate are on their hands. This is also the reason why they often took advantage of this and used it against their victims.

Based on the Gender Statistics on Labor and Employment conducted by the Philippine Statistics Office year 2017, there is a gender employment gap of 28.6% in which men employment is 76.4% compared to women employment which is only 47.8%.

As stated also from the above source, in terms of Labor Force Participation Rate by Region and Sex, in the Philippines, in region III, there are 2,922,000 employed men which is 75.7% and 1,626,000 employed women which is 41.8%., this shows that there is also a gender employment gap of 33.9% which is much higher than the overall gender gap.

The statistics also shows that in terms of employed, married, and head of the family, there are 14,085,000 men and 787,000 women, which means that men employed, married and head of the family is 13,298,000 higher than women employed, married, and head of the family.

These only show that more women are financially dependent on men with regards to family financial standing since men has greater earning and economic capability than women which make them more superior in the relationship and somehow make the situation inferior to women and to their vulnerability to abuse especially regarding financial support which is economic abuse.

According to Kaur & Garg, (2007) Economic dependence has been found to be the central reason. Without the ability to sustain themselves economically women are forced to stay in abusive relationships and are not able to be free from violence.

When victims start to have realization of their situation, their married or intimate relationship often reached the brink of break up, and most of the time it is when the economic abuse become highest. The aggressors used it to threaten the victim so, the victim will stay in the relationship or when the aggressors feel that it's too late, they just use it to get even with the victim. Men can use family law and child support processes as a way of directly or indirectly controlling their former partner and undermining her financial security and self-reliance. (Natalier, 2015)

Separation now a days is so common which made the situation also vulnerable for economic abuse. Conflict in separating and divorcing couples is common especially

during property and child custody negotiations (Walker, 2004).

In totality, men's economic superiority give them a sense of entitlement over women.

VI. CONCLUSION

As viewed on the above mentioned results of the study, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. There were 53 reported spousal violence in Cabanatuan City; and
2. Economic Violence is the most reported spousal violence.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Proposed Support Activities and Program

Based on the Results of the study the following Support Activities may be proposed:

Initiating Community Extension Activities and tapping Departments which are competent to provide the assistance needed, such as:

- a. Development and dissemination of printed materials, and audio-visual campaign messages which highlight positive image of women, and relationships;
- b. Creation of support groups for battered women which will help them build self efficacy, and livelihood skills;
- c. Offer free Para legal consultation and recommendations; and
- d. Establishing a tangible support and family-centered responses to enhance socio-economic equality.

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