



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

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## **Author's contribution**

*The sole author designed, analysed, interpreted and prepared the manuscript.*

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## **ABSTRACT**

The study aims to determine the awareness of women on Republic Act 9262, the Anti -Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004. It also aims to describe the profile of the respondents in terms of: age, civil status, number of children, educational attainment, present work, monthly family income and sources of IEC; the level of awareness on intimate partner violence in RA 9262; the relationship between the sources of IEC materials and level of awareness of the respondents; the relationship between the profile and level of awareness on intimate partner violence in RA 9262; the perceived seminar and training need to alleviate their condition; and the perception on government agencies needed to provide help and support.

The methodology was quantitative. Purposive sampling was used to identify 202 respondents who were at least 18 years old and living with a partner or husband. The majority of respondents were 25-65 years old, married, with 0-3 children, a high school degree, and a monthly salary of 5,001-10,000.00. The respondents stated that they learned about intimate partner abuse by watching television. The majority of respondents were aware of RA 9262's reference to intimate relationship abuse. On RA 9262, there was a strong association between the respondents' forms of information, education, and communication (IEC), civil status, number of children, educational achievement, and degree of awareness. This study shows that comprehensive knowledge of RA 9262 through IEC modalities is required to ensure the safety of women and children. Training program on women's rights, seminar on child protection and livelihood training are the top three perceived training needs

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of the respondents in which the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of Health (DOH) and State Universities and Colleges (SUC) are the government agencies needed to provide the trainings needs of the respondents.

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

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Republic Act No. 9262, also known as the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004, establishes the legal framework for the country's efforts to address violence against women and children in accordance with the fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

“Violence against women and children is a serious violation of human rights. It has a wide variety of medical, sexual, and emotional implications for women and girls, including death. It has a negative impact on women's overall well-being and prohibits women from fully participating in society. Violence has harmful implications not only for women, but also for their families, communities, and the country as a whole” [1].

“Intimate partner abuse is a significant public health issue that affects thousands of women each year. This type of violence involves the maltreatment of female partners, which is the most common type of family violence. Assaults on women and their children result in physical injuries, sexual trauma, and emotional and psychological difficulties that are frequently severe and long-lasting” [2].

Data on violence against women and their children (VAWC) is an increasing public health problem in the Philippines, as it is everywhere in the globe. Cases of this incidence are common, especially since the country was placed under Enhanced Community Quarantine as a result of the COVID 19 epidemic. There have been documented incidences of violence against women and children in the province of Apayao, with the perpetrators being the husband and father, respectively. Five recorded incidences of violence against the wife were reported in barangay Dagupan, where this study was done, during the implementation of enhanced community quarantine, which took place from March 17 to April 15, 2020.

Many incidents of abuse go unreported because women and children are unaware of the provisions of the RA 9262, also known as the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Law. If the women and children are not adequately informed on the terms of the law, the occurrence will worsen.

### 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 answer the following questions:

1. What is the 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. What is the level of awareness on intimate partner violence in RA 9262?
3. What is the relationship between the sources of IEC materials and level of awareness of the respondents?
4. What is the relationship between the profile and level of awareness on intimate partner violence in RA 9262?
5. What the perceived seminar and training need to alleviate their condition?
6. What are the perceived 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

The research made use of quantitative method. Data were gathered through the use of questionnaires.

## 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. The name of the women per purok or sitio was listed and was put in a box. There were seven boxes as there are seven purok in the barangay. In choosing the respondents, twenty nine (29) names were drawn from each box to complete the number of respondents. Through this, the respondents were randomly chosen.

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 used a questionnaire adapted from previous investigations [3,4]. The questionnaire is divided into four sections. The first section deals with the respondents' profile, which includes their age, civil status, number of children, maximum educational attainment, and the sources of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials used to raise awareness about Intimate Partner Violence in RA 9262. The researcher created this section of the questionnaire. The second section is made up of 25 statements that indicated the respondents' degree of knowledge on RA 9262. The statements were derived from the research performed 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 were typed out in English. There were no changes made; nevertheless, the researcher translated the remarks into Iloko, the respondents' vernacular. In this section, respondents were told to put a check mark next to the number that best represents their degree of legal understanding. The questions were explained during the interview based on the respondents' understanding level. The final

section comprises of the respondents' perceived training needs to improve their circumstances. Respondents were asked to tick several options based on their requirements. This section of the questionnaire was adapted from Arneil G. Gabriel's 2017 article on Indigenous Women and the Law: The Consciousness of Marginalized Women in the Philippines, published in Asian Journal of Women's Studies. The fourth section discusses the government agencies required to support training and seminars. The researchers identified the agencies, which are located in the province of Apayao, where the study was done.

## 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. Data Analysis and Interpretation of results.

## 2.6 Data Analysis

The data were analyzed using the following statistical tools: Frequency counts and percentage was employed in identifying the profile of the respondents. Weighted Mean was used to measure the level of awareness of the women on the provisions of RA 9262. 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

Similarly, the phi – coefficient was used to measure the strength of association between the variables in RA 9262 to measure the relationship between the sources of IEC materials and respondents' level of awareness, as well as the relationship between the profile and respondents' level of awareness on intimate partner violence. It is used to test the relationship between variables.

Moreover, frequency and rank were employed to identify the Government Agency perceived by the respondents to provide support to trainings and seminars.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Profile of the Respondents

Table 1 represents the respondents' demographics in terms of age, civil status, number of children, educational attainment, current employment, and monthly family income.

It also includes information and educational resources about the requirements of RA 9262.

According to the data, the majority of respondents (78.71%) are between the ages of 26 and 65, while 19.80 percent are between the ages of 18 and 25. This demonstrates that the majority of responders are in their forties.

The majority, 71.29 percent, are married, with 11.88 percent single with a live-in partner. In terms of kid population, 82.18 percent have 1-3 children, while 15.84 percent have 4-6 children.

**Table 1. Profile of the respondents**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
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

In terms of educational achievement, 35.15 percent have completed high school, while 18.31 percent have completed college. The majority of respondents, 54.95 percent, make less than php 5,000.00 per month, while 24.26 percent earn \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 per month.

The respondents get their knowledge on violence against women and children from television programs and campaign activities, whereas barangay meetings get it from 67.82 percent of them.

### **3.2 Awareness on Intimate Partner Violence**

Table 2 shows the residents' knowledge of intimate relationship violence in RA 9262. The respondents were less aware of the following indicators: [1]. "If the courts find the offender guilty of the crime, he may be imprisoned and must pay a fine 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 must undergo mandatory psychological counseling or psychiatric treatment and must report compliance to the court"; [3] "Anyone suffering from BWS should be evaluated by a psychiatric professional or a clinical psychologist. This will also assist the victim in obtaining a fair decision in her case"; [4] "The relief granted under a protection order serves the purpose of protecting the victim from further harm, minimizing disruption in the victim's daily life, and facilitating the victim's opportunity and ability to independently regain control over her life. Law enforcement authorities will execute the conditions of the protective order" [5]. "Economic abuse refers to acts that make or attempt to make a woman financially dependent, which includes, but is not limited to, withdrawing financial support or preventing the victim from engaging in any legitimate profession, occupation, business, or activity, except in cases where the other spouse/partner objects on valid, serious, and moral grounds as defined in Article 73 of the Family Code; and It is acknowledged that women who have retaliated (BWS)" [6].

"Victims of intimate partner violence have been shown to have emotional health impacts such as depression, anxiety, alcohol and drug misuse, and posttraumatic stress disorder, as well as bodily aches, digestive issues, and even sexually transmitted illnesses" [5]. Many women who have suffered intimate partner abuse develop battered women syndrome, a documented pattern of

psychiatric disorders. These symptoms are often temporary, but they appear in a predictable sequence in women who have been physically, sexually, or severely mentally abused by their spouse. Components of abused women syndrome are similar to those found in psychiatric treatment syndrome. It is common for abused women to have flashbacks to violent occurrences, especially when the intrusive memories become too overwhelming. Because of the statistics and repercussions of violence and abuse, nurses must prepare for the teamwork required to coordinate successful interventions with victims and perpetrators of violence and abuse [6].

"Furthermore, the table revealed that respondents are less aware of the protection and relief provided to victims of intimate partner violence, as well as the penalty for the perpetrator and the mandatory psychiatric or psychological treatment that an abuser is required to undergo under Republic Act 9262. This suggests that public knowledge of IPV under Republic Act 9262 should be increased. In the Philippines, 19% of women have been victims of physical or sexual assault, yet only 6% report it to a formal source" [7]. "Shame and stigma, a lack of information or access to resources, distrust of health practitioners, financial constraints, cultural beliefs, fear of the offender, and fear of prejudice and stereotyping from law enforcement are all common reasons for not reporting and seeking official aid" [8].

"In terms of reporting behavior, NDHS [7] discovered that among women who had suffered physical or sexual violence, just one in three (34%) sought aid to cease the violence. 25 percent of the women notified someone about the event but did not seek aid, while 41 percent never sought help or told anybody. This indicates that three out of every five women suffer in silence. According to the report, women aged 20 to 24 are the most likely to seek aid. However, just 6% of the women requested police assistance, which is quite similar to the 7% observed in another research" [8]. "Women are more likely to seek assistance from their own family, friends, or neighbors. Despite the low rate of police reporting, there is a strong knowledge of accessible government options for assistance. Over 80% of the women were aware that they might seek assistance from the Department of Social Welfare, local Violence Against Women offices, or the Philippine National Police Women and Children Protection Desk" [7]. "Despite a

high degree of awareness of available services, the low reporting numbers may suggest a lack of faith in the public system” [8].

“Only via mass media, conferences and seminars, recommendations, and information

communicated through people and non-governmental organizations can the Republic Act be widely known” [6]. This policy can serve to empower women by allowing them to reveal any sort of abuse they have encountered.

**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 partner.	2.43	Aware
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 legitimate profession, occupation, business or activity,	2.28	Less Aware

Statements	Weighted Mean	Descriptive Value
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 shows that the source of the Information Education Campaign (IEC) and the degree of awareness have a moderate link, as demonstrated by the phi value of 0.412, and the correlation is significant, as evidenced by the p value of 0.012, which is larger than  $\alpha=0.05$ .

This conclusion is supported by Bandura's theory that behavior is caused by the interaction of cognitive and environmental variables [9]. "Bandura goes on to say that learning happens simply by witnessing, and that one of the fundamental models of observational learning is the symbolic model, which comprises real or fictitious people demonstrating actions in books, films, television shows, or online media" [6]. "Similarly, signals to action are modifying elements in the health belief model and are offered by activities such as mass media campaigns, counsel from others, and literature such as a newspaper or magazine article. Individual views and moderating variables influence the chance of taking a suggested preventive health intervention" [6].

Furthermore, the use of social media for the prevention of violence against women in India (the "Must Bol" campaign), China (the "17 Man" campaign), and Vietnam (the "Love Journey" campaign) demonstrated that there are numerous ways that social media can be used in communication campaigns aimed at preventing Violence Against Women [10]. The understanding that social media can only be one aspect of the spectrum of actions needed to prevent VAW is at the heart of each campaign's success. In summary, the three campaigns discovered that social media may be an effective tool for organizing adolescents, fostering conversation and reflection on crucial themes, modeling healthy behaviors, and pointing target audiences to positive answers. Each of the three initiatives achieved varied degrees of awareness, attitudinal, behavioral, and/or societal norm change. However, there was no evidence that social media alone could reverse a lifetime of gender socialization; rather, it may act as a

springboard for such changes. Interpersonal activities are more successful in bringing about behavioral or attitude changes. As a result, when social media activity is linked to other interventions, it may be a highly potent instrument for promoting change. In this approach, social media can help to achieve the broader objective of avoiding violence against women and children.

### 3.4 Relationship between the Profile and Level of Awareness on Intimate Partner Violence

Table 4 shows the association between the respondents' demographics and their level of knowledge of intimate partner abuse in RA 9262. The table shows that there is very little link between age and level of consciousness, and the relationship is not substantial. The link between civil status and level of awareness is modest, and the correlation is significant at the 0.05 level of significance. The link between family size and degree of consciousness is very weak and insignificant. The link between educational attainment and degree of awareness is moderate and significant; and the relationship between monthly income and level of awareness is moderate and significant at the 0.05 level of significance.

"Various research have produced conflicting findings about the relationship or influence of education, age, job or economic empowerment, urbanization, and affluence on the exposure and risk of intimate partner violence (IPV). In general, education has a good influence on lowering the risk and raising awareness of intimate partner abuse" [11]. "Similarly, increasing age reduces the likelihood of IPV, implying that growing age leads to more autonomy, less reliance on partners, more experience avoiding settings that elicit abuse, and more support from relatives and family, all of which reduces exposure to IPV" [12]. "According to Vyas and Watts (2009), income and better socioeconomic status (SES) are generally protective factors against IPV" [13]. However, victims from better socioeconomic backgrounds may be less likely to disclose IPV owing to stigma [14].

**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 $\alpha=0.05$



The incidence of VAW was influenced by age. UN Women and Spark, on the other hand, argue that there is a difference in reporting because elder women are more aware of the violation and have more opportunities to report it. In contrast, children are the most susceptible age group. According to UN Women, mature women are more likely to report violations, particularly if they are aware of the infraction. However, for younger girls, female children, it is really more on their knowledge whether... what is occurring is a violation... In terms of reporting, they are in the setting where they would NEED someone else to assist them, such as an adult or a family member. However, it is unclear if kids would inform their parents or other adult family members, particularly if the offender is also a family member. Spark thought that a lack of education may be a role in VAW. Less educated individuals have fewer economic prospects, which keeps them in poverty. Out of desperation, this might lead to individuals monetizing abuse. According to the answer, "it's also a result of poverty,... [and] it's still connected with how our country's growth has been delayed and [how] underprivileged populations have been ignored or left behind" [12].

### 3.5 Perceived Seminar and Training Needs

Table 5 displays the respondents' perceived seminar and training needs. Among the top five are: (1) a women's rights program; (2) child protection; (3) livelihood training; (4) the criminal justice system; and (5) correct process in dealing with situations of domestic abuse.

During the Focus Group Discussion, where the results were presented to the respondents, the majority of them stated that they need training to

improve their socioeconomic situation and to learn more about women's rights so that they can empower themselves and become productive members of the community.

One of the respondents 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, the majority of respondents stated that economic empowerment is critical in motivating a woman to leave an abusive relationship. Many women in Philippine society, particularly those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, are financially reliant on their husbands/partners, making it difficult to leave the relationship if he is also the offender. The mothers have no way of supporting their children and little options to earn a living. According to UN Women, "economic empowerment is critical in women gaining autonomy and escaping abusive relationships" [12].

### 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

**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 $\alpha=0.05$

**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

**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
National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)	51	13

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).

**4. CONCLUSION**

According to the statistics, the majority of respondents are between the ages of 26 and 65,

married, with 1-3 children, a college degree, and a monthly salary of less than \$5,000.00. Television, barangay meetings, and social media are the primary sources of information on the provisions of RA 9262.

The respondents level of awareness are low on the following : punishment of the offender ; The victim is entitled to a protection order until she can regain control of 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 association between the source of the Information Education Campaign (IEC) and the level of awareness is modest.

The link between age and level of consciousness is very weak and insignificant. The link between civil status and level of awareness is modest and considerable. The link between family size and degree of consciousness is very weak and

insignificant. Monthly income and degree of awareness have a moderate link that is significant; and educational achievement and level of awareness have a moderate relationship that is significant.

The respondents' training needs demonstrate that they sincerely desire to expand their understanding of their rights in order to defend themselves from any sort of harm. They also require livelihood training to improve their situation and become more conscious of their rights as women.

The DSWD, PNP, DOH, and NCRFW are the most in demand agencies to provide seminar training for responders or women in Dagupan.

## CONSENT

The author declared that 'written informed consent was obtained from the respondent for publication and accompanying images'.

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## COMPETING INTERESTS

Author has declared that no competing interests exist.

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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

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#### Statements

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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.

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2. Violence against women and children (VAWC) is classified as a public crime.

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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.

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4. Physical violence refers to acts that include bodily or physical harm.

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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;

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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;

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7. Sexual violence includes prostituting the woman or child.

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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

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**Statements**

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)	

<b>Government Agency</b>	<b>Rank</b>
10. Department of Education (DEpEd)	
11. Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)	
12. National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)	
13. State Universities and Colleges (SUCs)	

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