

Gender-Based Violence in Communities: An Examination of Prevalence Awareness and Official Responses

Kyza L. Quimpan*

Southern Leyte State University-Tomas Oppus, Philippines

Email: kyngquimpan17@gmail.com

Hazel T. Pantuan

Sogod National High School, Philippines

Email: hazelmaytagoon@gmail.com

Vicente S. Betarmos, Jr.

Southern Leyte State University-Tomas Oppus, Philippines

Email: vbetarmos@southernleytestateu.edu.ph

*Correspondent

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Abstract

The Philippine Statistics Authority revealed that 25% of Filipino women aged 15 to 49 have encountered physical, emotional, or sexual abuse from their spouse or partner. It is concerning that despite attempts to tackle this issue, violence against women continues to exist. In this study, the researchers employed a mixed-method research design to achieve a more complete result. Survey questionnaires and semi-structured interviews were utilized as the primary data-gathering tool. The prevalence of different forms of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) experienced by respondents. Physical violence was reported as the most common form (89.1%), emotional and psychological violence (47.9%), sexual violence (10.9%), and economic violence (13%). Overall, the urgent need for comprehensive efforts to address GBV, protect the rights of women and girls, and develop prevention strategies that consider the different forms of violence they may experience.

Keywords: Forms Of Gender-Based Violence, Communities, Official Responses To Gbv

Introduction

One of the most prevalent issues in the Philippines is Gender-Based Violence. In the Philippines, the Philippine Statistics Authority revealed that 25% of Filipino women aged 15 to 49 have encountered physical, emotional, or sexual abuse from their spouse or partner. It is concerning that despite attempts to tackle this issue, violence against women continues to exist. Gender-based violence refers to violent acts that target an individual based on their gender or acts of violence that disproportionately impact individuals of a particular gender. The term "gender-based violence" (GBV) is defined in the study as "Violence targeting individuals based on their gender (including gender identity/expression) or violence that disproportionately impacts individuals of a specific gender" (European Commission, Citation2014, p. 47). We looked at verbal, nonverbal, physical, and sexual harassment and abuse as examples of GBV. These forms fall into multiple groups rather than being mutually exclusive. David et al. (2018) suggest that the Philippines has achieved Sustainable Development Goal 5, which focuses on gender equality. According to Loh (2009), the country has adopted a multifaceted approach, along with Indonesia and Malaysia, to combat gender violence, which includes providing crisis intervention services, empowering women survivors, integrating hospital and police services, involving communities, advocating for

legal reform on violence against women, conducting training and public education, and establishing national coalitions. However, Garcia (2020) found that violence against women remains a prevalent issue in the Philippines, based on interviews with various stakeholders involved in anti-VAW programs and services.

Garcia (2020) revealed that certain cultural factors in the Philippines could be considered a risk or protective factor for reporting VAW issues involving women and children to VAW desks or related organizations. This observation is consistent with Embate et al.'s (2019) findings that called for rehabilitating sociocultural influences that marginalize women. Embate et al.'s (2019) study on women's desk provision in a national public hospital in the Philippines stressed the need to explore sociocultural and structural factors affecting service delivery and quality. Dimaano et al. (2018) found that victims reported the abuse, mainly if it was perpetrated on their children by a close relative or spouse. Filipino culture and other family, economic, and social factors also impact the occurrence and reporting of violence against women (Bernarte et al., 2018). According to Mohammed & Pulmano (2017), the most common themes in VAW cases included physical abuse, mental abuse, threat, child abandonment, child support, child custody, psychological abuse, economic abuse, and rape, the recorded cases in the evaluated barangays. According to Tavares et al. (2019), a World Bank study has identified key factors crucial to addressing violence against women (VAW) locally. These include budgetary commitments to implement laws on VAW, 24-hour hotlines, training for healthcare and law enforcement professionals, national protocols for these professionals, specialized police units or staff, a national plan on VAW, and access to shelters and legal aid for victims. Libre et al. (2017) and Garcia (2020) emphasized the importance of civil society, NGOs, and academics in implementing policies to combat violence against women (VAW). Local governments play a crucial role in empowering women and preventing VAW in communities, according to Sumbas and Koyuncu (2019), who argue for institutionalizing gender-sensitive policies and local initiatives to promote women's empowerment. The government, particularly its leadership, must also play a role in mainstreaming gender and development (GAD) policies and delivering GAD services, as highlighted by Libre et al. (2017). Moreover, the knowledge of barangay officials is a significant predictor of GAD policy implementation (Libre et al., 2017). Garcia (2020) notes that while the Philippines has made progress in terms of laws and services designed to combat violence against women (VAW), government services remain insufficient, with greater emphasis placed on responding to incidents of VAW rather than preventing them.

Thus, the researchers find it essential to study the citizens' Gender-Based Violence experiences and determine the level of awareness of the local officials toward local legislation and laws for the prevention of Gender-Based Violence and for the promotion of gender equality in each Barangay in Sogod, Southern Leyte. This study is relevant today, particularly in the Philippines, as issues about Gender-Based Violence still penetrate even with existing laws and interventions provided by the government. Specifically, it aimed to answer the questions further as stated: identify the gender of the respondents, identify the different forms of gender-based violence, and the barangay officials' response to GBV issues, and determine the level of awareness of the barangay officials concerning local legislation promoting and preventing gender equality.

This study will determine the different cases of gender-based violence in the different local barangays of Sogod, Southern Leyte. Benefiting the study are various sectors such as the Local Government Unit, the implications of this study will help the barangay

officials and the municipality of Sogod to strengthen their local participation and increase their level of awareness towards local legislation in preventing Gender-Based Violence and promotion of gender equality. Also, the implications of this study will help future researchers know the different kinds of gender-based violence in the community of Sogod. The result of the study will help them create a more comprehensive framework of policies that promotes gender equality

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical underpinning of this study is the Human Rights Theory of John Locke. This theory suggests that every person has certain rights that come from their inherent nature rather than their government or its laws. The respect the government accorded to these fundamental rights gave it legitimacy. This theory believes everyone has the right to live without experiencing violence or prejudice. Based on this approach, human rights protection and promotion is the main priority of gender-based violence policies, which may also include survivors' support services and legal protections. By highlighting the significance of gender equality and the protection and advancement of women's human rights, human rights theory has significantly contributed to promoting gender-based development. According to human rights theory, resolving gender inequality necessitates a comprehensive and integrated strategy prioritizing women's and girls' needs and perspectives. Gender inequality is recognized as a systemic problem impacting all development facets.

This theory is also supported by the 1987 Philippine Constitution Article 15, which guarantees equality for women and men before the law. It means that women have the same legal rights as men, including the right to enter into contracts, own property, and choose their residence. Similarly, the Magna Carta of Women, also known as the Republic Act No. 9710, is a participatory development approach, promoting empowerment, equality, sustainability, freedom from violence, respect for human rights, and fostering self-determination and the realization of human potential. It means that GAD is a process that involves the active participation of individuals and groups, aiming to promote equality and empowerment among all genders. It also prioritizes the well-being and dignity of every individual by advocating for their human rights and eliminating any forms of violence or discrimination. Additionally, the GAD program aims to support realizing the full potential of every individual by creating opportunities for self-determination and sustainable development. Indeed, these Philippine laws support Human Rights Theory as it seeks to promote gender equality.

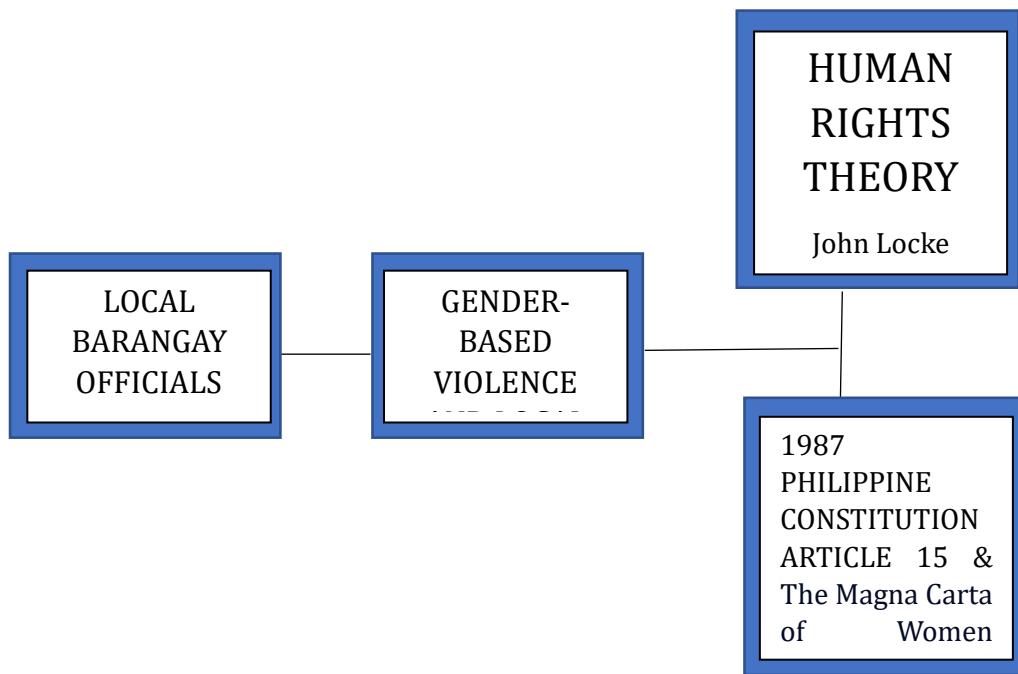


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework of the Study

Objectives

1. To determine the different cases of gender-based violence in the different local barangays of Sogod, Southern Leyte.
2. To determine the level of awareness of the barangay officials concerning local legislation promoting and preventing gender equality.
3. To help them create a more comprehensive framework of policies that promotes gender equality

Methodology

In this study, the researchers employed a mixed-method research design to achieve a more complete result. They utilized a survey questionnaire and semi-structured interviews of the selected participants as the primary data-gathering tool. The study adopted a trend study design where the research is very timely and is distributed to the respondents at one time from different local barangays through Google Forms. The survey items were developed based on the research questions and existing literature. The researchers used the Likert Scale to determine the level of awareness of the local officials. In addition, the researchers also employed purposive sampling to the selected respondents who possess relevant knowledge and experiences related to Gender-Based Violence.

Sogod is a coastal municipality and its marine water bodies, including Sogod Bay and the Bohol Sea. The estimated elevation above sea level is 12.2 meters (39.9 feet). It comprises 45 barangays and has a total land area of 192.70 square kilometers or 74.40 square miles. As of the 2020 Census, the population of Sogod was 47,552, which represents 11.07% of the total population of Southern Leyte Province and 1.05% of the overall population of the Eastern Visayas region. The estimated population density is 247 inhabitants per square kilometer or 639 inhabitants per square mile.

The study's desired participants are local officials from the Sogod, Southern Leyte barangay. The researchers chose this respondent because they are the leaders of their respective barangay, have records of reported cases of abuse, and are the ones who enforced the policies against Gender-Based Violence.

The researchers used semi-structured interviews to gather rich qualitative data. The interview guide was designed to explore the participants' perspectives, experiences, and opinions regarding the research questions. The researchers also utilized a structured survey questionnaire that explores the different responses to Gender-Based Violence and the level of awareness of the barangay officials concerning local legislation promoting and preventing gender equality. The first part of the questionnaire is composed of the demographic profile of the participants; the second part is about how the local officials handle cases of Gender-Based Violence, and the last part is composed of ten statements about Gender-Based Violence and local legislation to determine the level of awareness of the barangay officials. The researchers utilized the Five Point Likert scale to examine the responses of the selected participants. The data gathered will be measured through a scale consisting of *Very Highly Aware* - Possesses proficiency and knowledge of the issue; *Highly Aware* - Can adequately understand the issue, some of the policies are observed; *Slightly Aware* – Can understand some aspects of the issue, *Aware* – Can understand the issue only with the guidance of the experts and *Not Aware* – Can hardly understand the issue even with guidance from an expert. Never observe and implement the policy.

The researchers will make a transmittal letter to all the barangay of Sogod, Southern Leyte, addressed to the Barangay Captain, to ask permission to conduct the study. As for the participants, their Barangay Captain will be the one to disseminate the survey questionnaires and conduct short interviews. The data gathered will be put into utmost confidentiality. The researchers will use purposive sampling to get the desired number of respondents. After the respondents answered the survey questionnaire and interview thoroughly, the researchers will give their appreciation to them. The researchers will analyze the answers after the interview of the respondents. They will also be tallying the answers from the survey questionnaires and then asking for help from a recommended statistician to interpret the gathered data from the survey questionnaire in the next step. Lastly, the researchers will make a tabulated form of the statistically interpreted data by the statistician to simplify the information. Then the researchers will form a conclusion and construct recommendations.

After the data were collected and summed up, results were tallied, collated, and tabulated for analysis and interpretation. The data collected will be analyzed by utilizing a Five Point Likert Scale. Thus, the interpretation and scaling of the answers are as follows:

Table 1. Likert Scale and Its description

Scale	Intervals	Descriptive Rating	Qualitative Description
5	4.21- 5.00	Very Highly Aware	Possesses proficiency and knowledge of the issue
4	3.41- 4.20	Highly Aware	Can adequately understand the issue
3	2.61- 3.40	Slightly Aware	Can understand some aspects of the issue
2	1.81- 2.60	Aware	Can understand the issue only with the guidance of experts
1	1.00-1.80	Not Aware	Can hardly understand the issue, even with guidance from an expert. Never observe and implement the policy.

Research Results

The following results were arranged and tabulated according to the respondent's responses to the distributed survey questionnaire. The graph on the right shows the gender distribution among barangay officials. It can be observed that 72% of the working barangay officials are men, and only a few officials are women (26%). The graph also indicates a significant gender disparity among barangay officials, with a clear over-representation of men compared to women. It is also evident that despite the existing law of gender equality, only 2% of the barangay officials are represented by LGBTQ+ members.

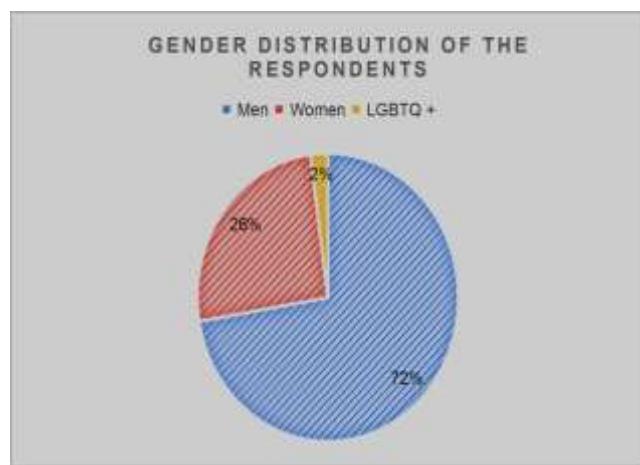


Figure 2. Gender Distribution of the Respondents

The figure 3 below shows that 97% of the respondents are aware of Gender-Based Violence, while 3% of the respondents are not aware of Gender-Based Violence.

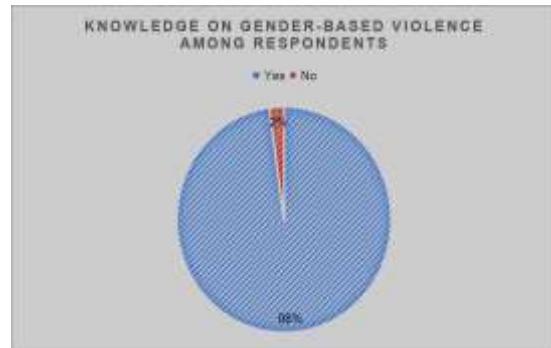


Figure 3. Awareness of Gender-Based Violence

The figure above shows the most common form of Gender-Based Violence observed by the respondents. Physical violence comprises 89.1%, sexual violence comprises 10.9%, Emotional and Psychological violence comprises 47.9%, economic violence 13%, and none give other forms of violence. According to the Istanbul Convention (2023), a Council of Europe convention focused on the prevention and combat of violence against women and domestic violence, as well as violence specifically targeting women, can be categorized into four primary forms: physical, sexual, psychological, and economic.

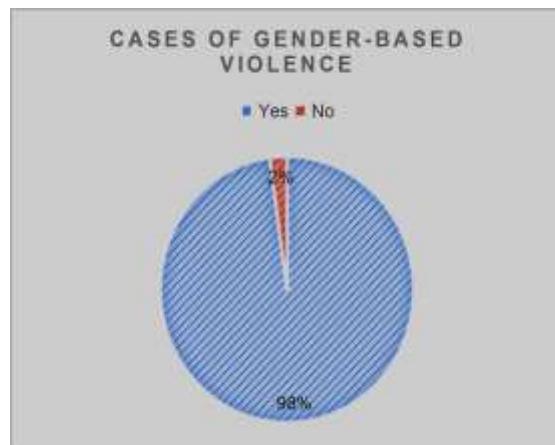


Figure 4. Cases of Gender-Based Violence

The figure in the left shows if there have been cases of Gender Based Violence in their barangay. Most respondents answered YES, which comprises 98%, and some answered NO, which comprises 2%.

Some data are gathered through interviews using an interview guide developed by the researchers to identify the experiences and their actions or responses toward cases of Gender-Based Violence in their respective local barangays. To ensure that data were accurate, unbiased, and purely based on participants' experiences, the researchers used an audio recorder and input respondents' answers verbatim, including the author's translation, to cater to more readers. *Gender-Based Violence Responses* This theme constitutes local officials' responses to Gender-Based Violence cases in their respective barangays. *"As a public servant, what are your actions after incidents of Gender Based Violence?"* Most respondents answered, *"husayon namo sa barangay,"* (*we discuss the issue in the barangay*) Wherein the mediator is the Punong Barangay and the local officials with the victim and the perpetrator. Some cases, especially physical violence among family members, are easily solved, while some cases are brought to DSWD or the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Referral to DSWD

According to the local officials we have interviewed, *"Inig human husay ma'am, among i-refer sa DSWD, diin tagaan silag tambag"* (after resolving issues in the barangay, we refer the victims and the abuser to DSWD for counseling). Some answers stated; *"e follow-up namo sila,"* (we follow up the situations of the victims). The results above show how responsive the local officials are, from discussing cases to counseling and guiding the victims as well as the abuser.

Table 2. Level of Awareness of the Barangay Officials Concerning Local Legislation Promoting and Preventing Gender Equality

Statements	RESPONSE		DESCRIPTION
	mean	St.dev	
<i>As a barangay official, working with the needs and demands of the constituents on different cases about gender-based-violence, its laws, implementation, and the level of awareness as to the:</i>			
1. Magna Carta for Women and other Laws that are related to gender-based violence.	3.98	0.54	Highly Aware
2. Allocations of budgets and resources to implement the laws as a support system for the victims in any legal processes.	3.96	0.51	Highly Aware
3. Barangay Protecting Orders for those victims of violence.	3.93	0.53	Highly Aware
4. Designated safe spaces where individuals can report incidents of gender-based violence or seek support services in the barangay.	3.80	0.58	Highly Aware
5. Coordinate the cases of gender violence in the Barangay are sent to the DSWD and Police officer for further investigations.	3.89	0.43	Highly Aware
6. Negative Impacts of violence on the victim's psychological mechanism.	3.61	0.58	Highly Aware
7. Strengthen the capability and capacity of a barangay official to hold cases like gender violence.	3.61	0.61	Highly Aware
8. Legal process for obtaining justice for the victim.	3.63	0.57	Highly Aware
9. Collaborate with organizations that work with survivors of gender-based violence, such as women's groups and human rights organizations.	3.65	0.60	Highly Aware
10. Educating young people of the barangay about gender-based violence and its impact.	3.57	0.58	Highly Aware
Average	3.76	0.55	Highly Aware

Legend: 1.0 – 1.80 (Not Aware); 1.81 – 2.60 (Aware); 2.61 – 3.40 (Moderately Aware); 3.41 – 4.20 (Highly Aware); 4.21 – 5.0 (Very Highly Aware)

The table above shows the result of the checklist we made regarding the level of awareness of the local officials about Gender-Based Violence laws, prevention, and local legislation,

reaching an average (3.76 mean and 0.55 standard deviation) level, which is described as a Highly Aware. *Magna Carta for Women and other Laws that are related to gender-based violence*, according to statements that the respondents are highly aware of garnering a mean of 3.98 and a standard deviation of 0.54.

Discussion

The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report (2021) consistently highlights the disparity between genders in political empowerment. This comprehensive report assesses gender-based inequalities across different domains, including political representation. The consistent findings of the report indicate a substantial need for more women in leadership positions within the political sphere on a global scale as shown in graph

A study conducted by the International Center for Research on Women and the United Nations Population Fund (2022) examined global attitudes toward violence against women. The study surveyed individuals from various countries and revealed that a significant portion of both men and women were aware of gender-based violence and acknowledged it as a pressing issue.

Violence against women and girls is a widespread violation of human rights that occurs daily and globally. It has severe immediate and long-term consequences on their physical, economic, and psychological well-being, limiting their full and equal participation in society. The impact of this violence is immeasurable, affecting not only individuals and families but also society as a whole. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the problem by creating conditions such as lockdowns, reduced mobility, isolation, stress, and economic uncertainty, leading to a concerning increase in domestic violence and exposing women and girls to other forms of violence, including child marriage and online sexual harassment. The media's increasing impact on reports of sexual violence among adolescents and statistical evidence demonstrating its widespread occurrence has generated greater scientific interest in identifying its causes and developing prevention strategies (Fernet et al., 2019). To illustrate, the Spanish National Institute of Statistics (2019), there were 1,833 recorded cases of sexual crimes committed by minors in Spain in 2018, primarily boys aged 14-17 years, marking a 69.9% increase in just four years. Recognized as a public health concern, sexual and gender violence has garnered international attention, as evidenced by studies like Eisman et al. (2018) and Kaltiala-Heino et al. (2018). The World Health Organization (WHO) defines sexual violence as encompassing a range of acts, from verbal harassment to forced penetration, involving various forms of coercion, such as social pressure, intimidation, and physical force (WHO, 2012, p. 1).

The data collected in figure 4 after the interview were examined and analyzed by the researcher through the purposive use of thematic analysis to identify local responses and interventions on cases of Gender-Based Violence in their respective barangays. Thematic analysis is a qualitative data analysis process that entails reviewing data collection and recognizing patterns in meaning throughout the data to derive themes. The result of the thematic analysis found one central theme and a subtheme that illustriously delineates local officials' responses toward cases of Gender-Based Violence. Found themes are shown below.

The statement "*Allocations of budgets and resources to implement the laws as the support system of the victims in any legal processes*" garnered the second highest mean, which is 3.96, and a standard deviation of 0.51, which means that the local barangays allocate budgets for resources to implement and strengthen laws against Gender-Based Violence. The former statement is about the Magna Carta of Women's Implementing Rules and Regulations; every barangay must have a VAW desk in the local setting. The Violence Against Women (VAW) Desk is a barangay-level institution that provides victims and survivors of abuse who

have been subjected to economic, sexual, psychological, and other types of abuse with immediate assistance. The Magna Carta for Women and similar laws frequently require the establishment of support services such as helplines, shelters, counseling, and legal aid. Familiarity with these laws enables survivors of GBV to avail themselves of the essential assistance and support systems in place, ensuring their physical, emotional, and legal welfare. These laws establish a structure that offers legal protection against gender-based violence (GBV). They define the rights and protective measures for women and girls, guaranteeing their safety from diverse forms of violence like domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, and trafficking. Familiarity with these laws empowers individuals to assert their rights and pursue legal solutions in the event of experiencing GBV. The result showed that most of the respondents were highly aware of the Magna Carta for women and is very relevant to their jobs in implementing the law against Gender-Based Violence. Significant advancements have been made in securing women's entitlement to a violence-free existence within global and domestic legal frameworks, particularly in the last ten years. In terms of "*Barangay Protecting Orders for those victims of violence*", garnered a mean of 3.93 and a standard deviation of 0.53. In terms of "*Designated safe spaces where individuals can report incidents of gender-based violence or seek support services in the barangay*", garnered a mean of 3.80 and an st.dev of 0.58. The statement "*Coordinate the cases of gender violence in the Barangay are sent to the DSWD and Police officer for further investigations*", garnered a mean of 3.89 and a st. dev of 0.43. The following statements "*Negative Impacts of violence on the victim's psychological mechanism*", and "*Strengthen the capability and capacity of a barangay official to hold cases like gender violence*" garnered a mean of 3.61, and the former has a st. dev of 0.58 and the latter has 0.61. In terms of "*Legal process for obtaining justice for the victim*", garnered a mean of 3.63 and an st.dev of 0.57. In terms of "*Collaborate with organizations that work with survivors of gender-based violence, such as women's groups and human rights organizations*", garnered a mean of 3.65 and an st.dev of 0.58.

Essential contributions by grassroots and worldwide civil society movements have played a crucial part in this progress (Klugman, 2017). With the presence of such laws, they allocate a budget for the GBV victims. The result above also shows that "*Educating young people of the barangay about gender-based violence and its impact*" garnered the lowest mean with 3.57, but still classified as Highly Aware. The barangays offer seminars and other educational training as allocated by their budget and in partnership with the PNP and DSWD or the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Primary prevention programs to tackle GBV have been advocated by the United Nations (CEDAW2) and the World Health Organization (WHO & Butchart, 2004). Anti-violence activists have rightly highlighted the significance of teaching prevention to challenge individual acts of harm and the cultures that support them. This approach encourages us to rethink a broader range of behaviors and attitudes as harmful and to reflect on our involvement in promoting such cultures (Alwis, 2009). Overall, the results show that the local officials of Sogod, Southern Leyte are highly aware of local legislation that promotes the prevention of Gender-Based Violence.

Conclusion and Suggestions

The prevalence of different forms of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) experienced by respondents. Physical violence was reported as the most common form (89.1%), followed by emotional and psychological violence (47.9%), sexual violence (10.9%), and economic violence (13%). These findings align with the categorization of GBV established by the Istanbul Convention, which recognizes physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence as the primary forms of violence against women. Overall, the presented figures emphasize the urgent need for comprehensive efforts to address GBV, protect the rights of

women and girls, and develop prevention strategies that consider the different forms of violence they may experience.

1. Statistics show that women and girls are experiencing high levels of physical, sexual, and mental harm.

2. GBV causes very harmful physical, mental, and social effects on people who survive it. It hinders their overall well-being, limits their opportunities for education and employment, and perpetuates gender inequalities.

3. A big problem in dealing with GBV is that people do not report it because they are scared, they might be ashamed, and insufficient help is available. There are not enough ways for perpetrators to be punished, so they often get away with it.

4. The results of the analysis revealed a significant theme and a subtheme that effectively depicted the responses of local officials toward GBV cases in their respective barangays.

5. During interviews with local officials, it was found that they adopt a responsive approach to addressing gender-based violence (GBV). After resolving issues at the barangay level, they refer both the victims and the abusers to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for counseling. The officials also emphasize the importance of follow-up, demonstrating their commitment to monitoring and supporting the victims. These results highlight the proactive efforts of local officials in tackling GBV and ensuring the well-being of those affected by it.

Despite efforts to promote gender equality and empower women, Gender-based violence (GBV) often happens more to women and girls. The lack of women in leadership positions and the lack of representation of LGBTQ+ individuals as barangay officials within the barangay. With only 2% of officials being from the LGBTQ+ community, it indicates a gap in their political representation hindering women's participation and advancement in political roles at the local level. Overall, there is a pressing need to address the gender disparity and lack of representation among barangay officials in terms of women and LGBTQ+ individuals. Their representation as barangay officials promotes inclusivity, equal opportunities, and diversity within the political landscape to ensure fair representation and empower marginalized groups.

Suggestions that promote gender equality

It is imperative to address the gender disparity in leadership positions, promote LGBTQ+ representation, and implement comprehensive strategies to combat gender-based violence. By fostering inclusivity, equal opportunities, and responsive approaches, societies can work towards achieving gender equality and ensuring the safety and well-being of all individuals. Based on the research findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Enhancing Prevention Programs: We must create programs that help stop problems before they happen. These programs should be based on research and work for people of all ages. Investment should be made in creating and using these programs. These programs aim to create fairness for males and females, breaking unfair beliefs and developing social connections. Schools, groups in the community, and the government should work together to teach students all about gender and also create community programs that teach people how to stop gender-based violence.

2. Engaging Communities: Working together as a community is very important in dealing with violence because of someone's gender. It is suggested to start community projects involving different people, like religious leaders, leaders of the community, teachers, and groups within the community. Taking actions to change how people think about violence, promote good qualities in men, and create a culture where everyone is treated fairly and

respectfully. We should create campaigns to teach and encourage everyone in the community to prevent GBV.

3. Strengthening Legal Frameworks: We suggest a law that punishes all types of violence against someone because of their gender and explains each crime. The rules should ensure that people who have gone through bad things can go to court, get help, and stay safe. At the same time, people who do bad things should

4. Receive punishment. Improving Support Services: We need to improve the help and care given to the victims because of their gender. It means creating different places where people who are hurt can get help. These places have good equipment and enough workers to help people. There are phone lines, safe places to stay, places to talk to someone, and places to get medical care. These places help all kinds of people who are healing. We need enough money and supplies to provide services for survivors that focus on them, keep their privacy, and give support that meets their culture.

5. Invest in research and data collection: Research on gender-based violence should be the top priority to inform policies and interventions continually. We recommend allocating resources for ongoing research, data collection, and analysis to understand the prevalence, trends, and underlying factors contributing to GBV.

6. For future researchers, we suggest focusing more on the side of the victims, their experiences, and how they deal with the situation. These suggestions, which come from research, hope to help people in charge, people doing the work, and people involved in resolving gender-related violence. If we follow these suggestions, we can all work together to make a fair and safe society for everyone. We can make a big difference in stopping GBV and creating a society that values everyone's rights by using many ways, such as making laws, educating people, and bringing communities together.

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