



Functionality of the Violence Against Women (VAW) Desks in the Barangays of Manito, Albay

Women are significant to society since they nurture the families, educate the youth for constructive citizenship in the society and provide leadership in certain professional and political fields. Thus, the Philippine government has enshrined various legal instruments for the protection of women against violence which includes the establishment of Violence Against Women (VAW) Desks. This study, aimed to assess the level of functionality of the VAW desks; determine the enhancing and constraining factors to the functionality; and, design a policy for enhancing the functionality of VAW desks

METHODOLOGY

This research employed a mixed methods approach through the conduct of surveys and key informant interview, documentary analysis and field notes.

The 110 barangay officials and 15 VAW desk officers participated from selected barangays with operational VAW desks. All participants were purposively chosen based on their ability to adequately provide information.

Field researchers were assigned to barangays to make observations to further validate the findings from the barangay councils and the VAW desk officers.

KEY FINDINGS

Functionality of VAW Desk in terms of Establishment



Most, but not all, had barangay council resolution/Executive Order issued on the creation of the VAW desk and designation/appointment of the VAW desk officers. A few, however, did not issue a barangay ordinance for the purpose.

Functionality of VAW Desk in terms of Resources



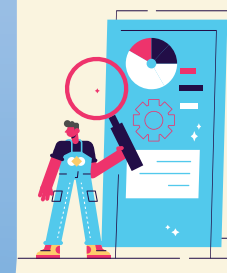
Availability of logbooks and forms reflected moderate functionality but the research found that this functionality becomes ineffective due to lack of forms in almost all VAW desks.

Functionality of VAW Desk in terms of Policies, Plans, and Budget



Most of the barangays were observed to have Gender and Development (GAD) budget as contained in the Annual Investment Budget (AIB). But there were variations in the percentages of GAD budgets across barangays. Missing files in some barangays affected the crafting of a GAD activity and budget plan and caused ineffectiveness in the implementation of related programs.

Functionality of VAW Desk in terms of Accomplishment



Barangays fared well in terms of reports submitted to the City/Municipal Social Welfare and Development Offices (C/MSWDO) and City/Municipal Local Government Operations Office (C/MLGOO). Document analysis revealed no quarterly accomplishment report was submitted by previous administrations of the barangays. Furthermore, no official turnover of records was made by some barangays and so their reports could not be traced.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 01 There should be a separate room for the VAW Desk
- 02 There should be increased knowledge of VAW desk officer through training
- 03 Shortage of equipment like desk and cabinets should be addressed
- 04 Government should provide funds for VAW desk, salary, and support

- 05 Travel allowance, fund for other expenses, and monthly honorarium should be given
- 06 Construction of office to accommodate the victims
- 07 More books and handouts to improve knowledge regarding VAW
- 08 There should be support not just by the barangay officials but also by the community.



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