

Focus Group Discussion on Gender-Based Violence

Community Women

Zamboanga City

16 July 2019

Preliminaries through an Audio Visual Presentation

Presentation of Objectives through an AVP on the Gender-Based Violence Observatory

Project followed by a thorough explanation from Atty. Macapili wherein she emphasized that the FGDs are to evaluate whether the existing services need improvements and to evaluate GBV referral system; share issues and provide best practices.

Focus Group Discussion Proper:

1. Gender equality situationer in the city / municipality

- Are you aware of any local gender equality or GBV policies in your city/municipality? Do you know if you have a GAD Code or an Anti-Discrimination, Anti-Cat-calling ordinances or of their barangay counterpart?

Unaware with GAD services even in Barangays. Only Brgy Tumaga on GBV.

- Have you or your organization participated in the development/passage of these policies? Have you ever accessed GAD funds of the barangay/LGU? (for women focused activities etc)

WMSU – Organizes trainings on Gender not only for teachers, students but also for gender clubs. Each college will prepare program and activities for gender. Gender sensitivity is included and practiced in the university through its curriculum, elective gender and society for freshies understanding self in replacement of social studies. GAD planning per college are still to be talked about.

CFSI – GBV Orientation in projects. Case managements and case studies to address gbv.

Kinaiyahan – Settled within community brought to brgy. 3 cases on VAW.

- Are the VAW Desks in your barangay functional? (Established, trained officials, able to record VAWC cases, able to respond and issue BPO)

Non-functional VAW desk because of the infectivity of referral system.

Kinaiyahan – shared her personal experience on brother as perpetrator to step daughter. VAW and police did not detain the perpetrator. Counselling services were provided Barangay to Police level.

2. Gender-based violence (GBV) in the city / municipality (in relation to gender-based violence)

- **What are the common forms of GBV in your municipality/city?**

Physical Abuse and Economic, Rape all due to drugs.

- **What are the challenges/ barriers women experienced in:**
 - a) reporting and investigation of cases of GBV (PNP/VAW Desk)
 - b) Prosecution and legal assistance (Prosecutor's Office, PAO, VAW Desk)
 - c) Providing support services (MSWDO, CSWDO, WCPUs)

Emphasis on "ping-pong" effect of referral or the lack of awareness as to when is a case considered Barangay Level VAWC desk handling and for referral to the Police.

- **From your experience, which group of women are most affected by the GBV forms identified (e.g. urban poor women, women farmers, women with disabilities, on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity)?**
 - The IPs, Housewives, Youth and Children
- **What are the specific challenges/barriers experienced by women in seeking legal remedies in cases of GBV? What are the challenges specific for women in the marginalized sector (Deaf, rural woman, IP etc)?**

IPs – when referred to the Barangay, there is "somehow discrimination

CSFI: On badjao usually. So minsan pinapauwi nila agad but they let brgy know that social services especially for rape case.

- **What have been the observed trends in gender-based violence cases received in the past five years? What are possible economic, socio-political, cultural and other factors affecting this / these trends?**
 - Discrimination
 - No training because VAW desk is just for compliance.
 - Family support, dependency, culture

3. Documentation

- **Does your organization conduct documentation/research on GBV in your area? Can you provide a brief description of the documentation/ research?**
 - Consent before accessing;
 - Ethics board before research pursues

- Confidential CSFI except if needed to be referred to the City
- Do you document cases of GBV that your organization or you assist or respond to?
How is the system of documentation?
- CFSI documents cases they handled through a narrative report including progress report.

4. Recommendations:

- Are there information on gender-based violence and women's human rights which could be of use to, and you would like to be available to your organization?
 - Process flow on how cases are handled (Barangay Level)
 - Training on how to handle cases (Barangay Level)
- Are there information on gender-based violence and women's human rights which you feel women vulnerable to GBV need to have more access to?
- Are there information on gender-based violence and women's human rights which you feel the local population in general need to have more access to?
- Other recommendations for the CHR as the gender ombud as mandated by the Magna Carta of Women.
 - Trainings on Men
 - Evaluation and monitoring on the VAW desk strictly
 - Fitted Human Rights Education on the IPs
 - Transparency on VAW activities in BLGUS
 - Bigay ng NGOs I nterms of materials
 - LA PAZ high cases in suicide

The FGD ended with Atty. Macapili emphasizing that the results of the FGD will be presented during the Regional GAD activity this November and the consultation for the improvement of the referral system will continue to involve the stakeholders.

*** END OF DOCUMENTATION ***

PREPARED BY:

DEORENZE FRANCES L CARREON

Documenter