

Chapter I

Introduction

The pandemic in 2020 has not brought down statistics across the world as figures of filed complaints have taken an unprecedented hike that correspondingly increased the violence especially at the domestic front. The Philippines is not exempt, as President Rodrigo Duterte, in his report to Congress revealed that per Philippine National Police (PNP) report, there have been over 1,945 incidents of violence against women across the country since lockdown as of June 4, 2020 (Ramos, 2020).

Earlier, the Center for Women's Resources reported through its Ulat Lila 2020, the bi-annual report on the situation of Filipino women presented at the University of the Philippines in Diliman its analysis based on data from the Philippine National Police-Women and Children Protection Center (PNP-WCPC). Said report revealed that there have been 6,315 VAW reported cases across the Philippines from April to June 2019.

Findings of the CWR state that "Violence against women continues to be among the issues that haunt women and children" and the "intensifying socioeconomic and political crisis, coupled with a regressive feudal patriarchal mindset of leaders in the country, increased the vulnerability of women to gender-based abuses" (Villanueva, 2020).

CWR's observations likewise include, that "authorities refrain from releasing VAW-related data, including rape cases, after the controversy about state-perpetrated violence in 2018" and that, "at least 63 police officers have been involved in cases of violence against women, including rape, from July 2016 until December 2019" (Villanueva, 2020).

Government however has been relentless in the anti-violence against women campaign through various agencies, covering primarily tasked agencies such as the Philippine Women's Commission (PCW) as well as government agencies and local government units enjoined as partners in advocacy.

Thus, the Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI) of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) calls: "Violence against women (VAW) is a grave violation of Women's rights and fundamental freedoms. It manifests deep-seated discrimination and gender inequality and continues to be one of the country's perennial social problems. Therefore, various measures and mechanisms have been employed and implemented to address it" (ASTI, 2020).

The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) cites the 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) that stated that “one in four Filipino women aged 15-49 has experienced physical, emotional or sexual violence” by their respective husbands or partners (PCW, 2020).

VAW is a gender-based violence resulting in, or is “likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public and private life” (UN, 1993). It is “any act or a series of acts committed by any person against a woman with whom the person has a common child, or against her child whether legitimate or illegitimate, with 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” (R.A. No. 9262, Sec.2).

The PCW has noted the impacts of VAW as follows: (1) it strikes the woman’s personhood; (2) it limits or restricts human development; (3) it further drains the country’s financial resources; and (4) it is an issue of governance (PCW, 2020).

The signing of Proclamation 1172, Series of 2006, saw the annual observance of an 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women and Children as agencies and governments raise and heighten awareness on VAW.

In the Zamboanga Peninsula, VAW incidents have likewise been reported, however, there have been no definite research on the status of gender-based violence in the three provinces in the region.

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Regional Office 9 has noted and observed the lack of well-founded research on VAW, particularly on non-pursuance of cases by victims even following the filing of complaints and reporting of incidents for police blotters.

With all these efforts by the state on information dissemination, the incidents of violence continue to surge.

Hence, this study.

Rationale of the Study

In the years 2017, 2018 and 2019, the CHR 9 (2020) reported its summary of three-year investigations that revealed:

“At the end of 2019, there have been a total of thirty-nine (39) VAW Complaints presented before the CHR from January to December, two (2) of which have been dismissed, one (1) still being under investigation, twenty-three (23) are still on filing stage, and thirteen (13) in desistance.

This is in contrast with the past two years (2018 and 2017) whereby, from January to December 2018, there have been a total of thirty-three (33) VAW cases, and from January to December 2017, there have been a total of forty (40) VAW cases.

From the 33 in 2018, six (6) that were dismissed, fifteen (15) that have reached the stage of filing, ten (10) in desistance, one (1) still being monitored, and one (1) under investigation.

On the other hand, out of the 40 in 2017, four (4) were dismissed, fifteen (15) in desistance, and twenty-one (21) were still on filing stage.” (CHR, 2020, p. 35).

These data led investigators determined to find out what makes victims/survivors withdraw or push through with the resolution of their case.

Problem:

1. What are the factors affecting the decision-making process of victims/survivors of violence against women in their resolve not to pursue the case?

Subsidiary Problem for the Principal Research:

2. What influences survivors to withdraw VAW complaints against the perpetrators?

Subsidiary Problems for Baseline Data: *

There having no supporting statistics that have been validly researched prior to this endeavour, the study requires thus the baseline data as follows:

1. What is the demographic characteristic profile of the victims/survivors of cases of violence against women?
2. What are the antecedents and consequences of violence against women?
3. What is the nature of cases of violence that have been reported?
4. What are the perspectives of survivors of the violence on reporting the violence?

Baseline data are needed for the lead researcher to lay down the predicate that indeed, there are victims and survivors in Zamboanga City. The Zamboanga City Police Office (ZCPO) and City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD) records cannot be presumed, nor CHR records, neither statements of victims/survivors, if any, unless laid down vis-a-vis a baseline study.

Objectives of the Study

This study has the following purposes:

- (1) to determine the factors affecting the decision-making process of victims-survivors of violence against women in their resolve not to pursue the case;
- (2) to investigate what influences survivors to withdraw VAW complaints against the perpetrators;
- (3) to find out the demographic characteristic profile of the victims-survivors of cases of violence against women;
- (4) to investigate the antecedents and consequences of violence against women;
- (5) to identify the nature of cases of violence that have been reported; and
- (6) to determine the perspectives of survivors of the violence on reporting the violence.

Significance of the Study

The study is significant as its results would ultimately benefit VAW survivors, as it helps the CHR and other agencies eventually design a practical intervention.

It would likewise help out state actors in crafting future policies for the elimination of VAW as a social problema.

Results would be a valuable reference for government agencies and local government units as well as non-government organizations in conducting Gender and Development (GAD) Programs.

Scope and Limitations

The study covers only VAW incidents and cases that have been reported and filed within Zamboanga City in January to December 2019 and January to July 2020.

Time, budget restraints, and the restrictions brought about by COVID-19 such as barangay or sitio/drive lockdowns limited the research.

The study was conducted from August to December, during General Community Quarantine (GCQ) and Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) amid a pandemic.

The research excluded victims/survivors who resided in sitios or barangays that were on a lockdown as per the local Inter-Agency on COVID-19 Task Force during the height of the pandemic.

Theoretical Framework of the Study:

This research investigation leans on the Model of Moral Development and Ethical Decision-Making by Lawrence Kohlberg who, in 1958, proposed that there are three levels of moral development by which people move, linking moral understanding to cognitive development. These three levels of moral reasoning, argued Kohlberg, covered preconventional, conventional, and postconventional.

Kohlberg agreed with Piaget's (1932) theory of moral development at some point and applied the storytelling technique to tell people stories involving moral dilemmas. In every case, he "presented a choice to be considered, for example, between the rights of some authority and the needs of some deserving individual who is being unfairly treated" as Kohlberg established that, by using children's responses to a series of

moral dilemmas, the “reasoning behind the decision was a greater indication of moral development than the actual answer” (McLeod, 2018, p. 1).

Mintz (2018) discussed Kohlberg’s Levels of Moral Development as follows:

Level 1, Preconventional

Stage 1: Obedience to Rules: Avoidance of Punishment

In this first stage, the person focuses on the “physical consequences of an action to determine the goodness or badness of a decision and seeks to avoid punishment while exhibiting deference to those in authority” (Mintz, 2018, p. 1).

Stage 2: Satisfying One’s Own Needs

The second stage sees the person defining the right behavior in a “short-sighted way” that does not at all consider “one’s reputation or relationships to groups of people other than when it promotes one’s own interests” as it regards rules and authority as “important only if acting” in accordance with the manner that they satisfy one’s own needs which is essentially egoism.

Level 2, Conventional

Stage 3: Fairness to Others

The third stage finds the person attempting “to do what is in the best interests of others, including those in a peer or work groups and those to whom the individual reports” (Mintz, 2018). Weber (1991) decades earlier referred this stage as the period of Good Boy/Nice Girl Reasoning. It is at this stage when “good behavior or right decision-making is understood as that which pleases or helps others, so that the decision maker is seen by others who are important as a good boy or nice girl” (Mintz, 2018).

Stage 4: Law and Order

The fourth stage now sees a kind of behavior that focuses on the morality of law and duty to the social order and orientation towards fixed rules, whereby the person’s duty and responsibility to society or the community, respect for authority, and maintaining the social order become the core of decision-making. The decision maker “assumes the role of a generalized member of society, and reasoning relies on a conception of the social system as a consistent set of codes and procedures that apply equally to all

members of society” and the “focus shifts beyond the work group” that then includes all community members (Mintz, 2018).

Level 3, Post-conventional

Stage 5: Social Contract

The fifth stage finds the person as driven by upholding the basic rights, values and legal contracts of society, as he/she “recognizes in some cases that legal and moral points of view may conflict” however, that may be reduced with the parties in conflict basing their decisions on “the greatest good for the greatest number of people” or that which is considered a “rational calculation of benefits and harm to society” (Mintz, 2018).

Stage 6: Universal Ethical Principles

The final stage shows abstract reasoning as basis of moral reasoning applying universal ethical principles that everyone must come after and transcend mutual benefit. “Rights, laws, and social agreements are valid not because of a particular society’s laws or customs, but because they rest on the premise of universality” such as justice and equality (Mintz, 2018).

In this sixth stage that people’s moral guidelines “may or may not fit the law” as the person becomes “prepared to act to defend these principles even if it means going against the rest of society in the process and having to pay the consequences of disapproval and or imprisonment” (McLeod, 2013, p. 3).

Conceptual Framework of the Study:

The VAW victims-survivors as respondents are altogether the independent variable. Their decision-making process of the respondents serves as confounding variable, and the identified factors affecting their non-pursuance of the VAW case are altogether the dependent variable. This is shown in Figure A.

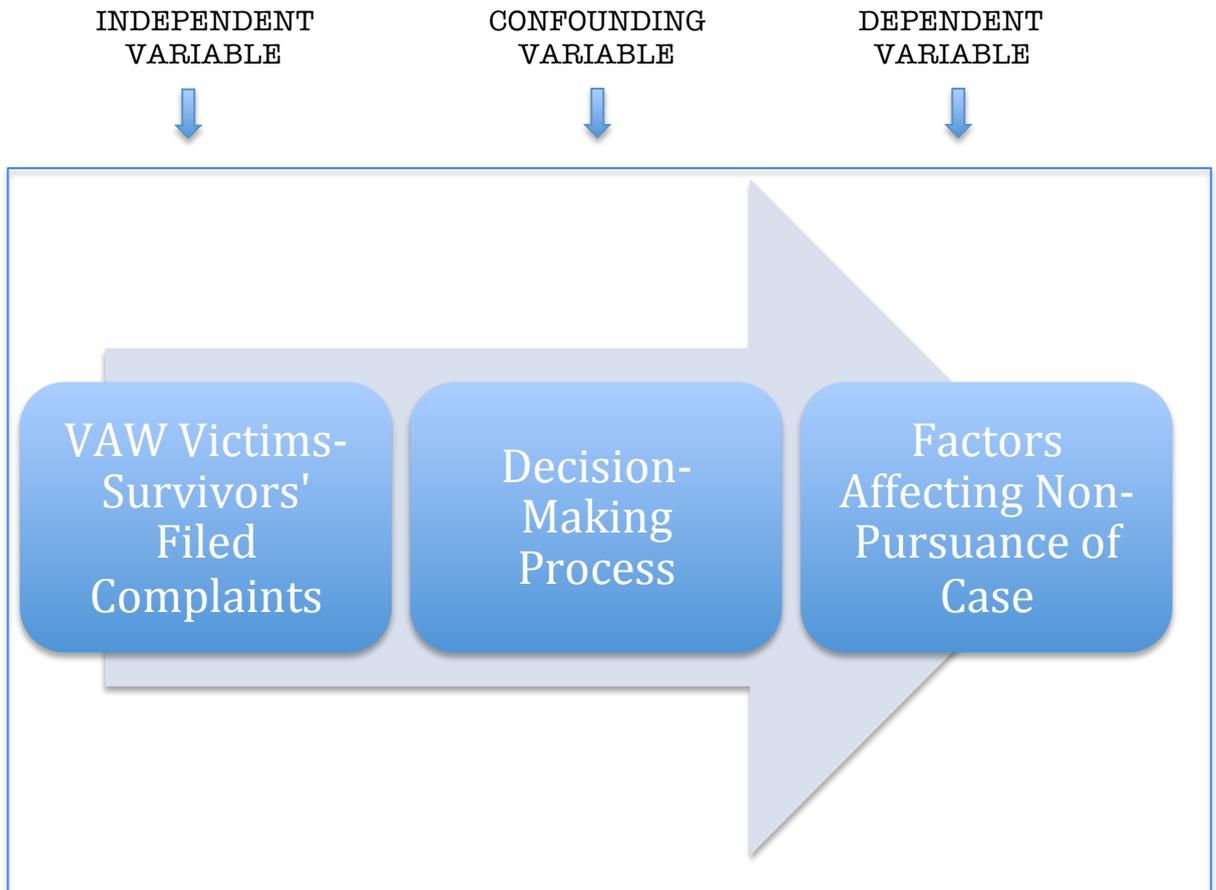


Figure A. Conceptual Framework of the Study

Operational Definition of Terms

There are only a handful of terms that have to be distinguished as they are used for this study:

- **Case:** A complaint on VAW has been filed before the ZCPO or the barangay or the CSWDO, and said VAW complaint has been docketed in the Regional Trial Court/Family Court
- **Case Study:** Summary of the Data Gathered from the VAW Victim/Survivor relative to this study
- **Incident/Incident Report:** VAW has been reported by a woman-victim, and per police investigation, either the spouses or partners reconciled, or the matter has been elevated to the CSWDO or BLGU
- **Investigation:** VAW incident has been advanced to 2-3 Agencies (CHR/CSWDO)

Respondents

The study has had two types of respondents:

a) Among State Actors

There have been respondents to this study that are active state actors in addressing gender and consequently VAW issues: those from the CHR, DSWD, ZCPO, and the City Government.

A second level of respondents are judges from Regional Trial Courts who responded to legal questions and stated their respective professional opinion.

A third level is the psychoneurologist, a state doctor, who was identified through existing court records as state witness giving professional opinion on psychological violence-triggered VAW cases.

b) Among Victim-Survivors

There were three (3) groups of respondents among the women-survivors participating herein: (1) those from the barangays who willingly responded to the survey questionnaires, (2) those from the barangays who were willing interviewees, and (3) those who were from the Women's Crisis Center who were interviewed.

Research Instruments

A survey questionnaire, a Discussion Guide, and five (5) key interview guides were used to gather data for this research investigation.

The first instrument used was a Survey Questionnaire intended for VAW Victim-Survivors and was divided into four parts: The first part was to measure whether the respondent was indeed suffering violence; the second part was to measure the nature of the violence that regularly occurred; the third part was to measure the extent of the violence; and the last part had free-wheeling/essay questions on the respondents' reaction in response to the violence incurred upon her (Carreon, 2020).

The Focus Group Discussion for state actors was set to raise the following:

1. **Inquiry on Process**, as to the flow of their respective office procedure, if any, on cases involving violence against women (and Children) from Filing of Report;

2. **Inquiry on Duration**, as to the regular or normal period of duration for resolution (if at all) on VAW cases or incidents;
3. **Inquiry on Locale**, as to what places where these VAW incidents have been reported from, per their respective records;
4. **Inquiry on Culture-Specifics**, whether they have documented VAW incidents where the women are Muslims or Indigenous People, per their respective records;
5. **Inquiry on State Actors as Eyewitness**, whether it has happened that the verbal abuse or threats (as the violence) happened in their presence or in the presence of their office representatives who may be the investigators or social workers;
6. **Inquiry on State Actors as Interveners**, as to how did their respective intervention(s) proceed; and on the
7. **Inquiry on State Actors as Justice and Peace Stakeholders**, if they see their or their office as having an important role in justice and peace, and in the global campaign against Violence Against Women and Children.

The key interview guides were set to guide the lead researcher and research assistants on the interviews from respondents depending on the needed data. These KIGs are directed to VAW Focal Persons, the legal experts, the psychoneurology expert, the victim-survivors at the WCC, the victim-survivors at the five barangays.

Data Collection Methods

The data were taken from responses of survey questionnaires, from interviews some of which were in-depth, and focus group discussion. Most of the interviews were person-to-person, few were done by calls over mobile phones, and owing to the restrictions imposed by law due to the pandemic, a handful were done via social media, specifically via Messenger.

Focus Group Discussion

The FGD participants were identified based on respective government agency reports where Gender and Development (GAD) is a priority program and Violence Against Women (VAW) is a focused concern. These are representatives of the following institutions, namely: the Commission of Human Rights (CHR) Regional Office 9, Zamboanga City Police Office's Women and Child Protection Desk (ZCPO-WPCD), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Regional Office 9, Zamboanga City Local Government Unit (ZCLGU).

The FGD among state actors was done online via ZOOM.

Key Interviews

The expert interviewee for the state's expert witness on psychoneurology was identified by the state actors during the FGD as the most frequent expert tapped by the family court as witness at VAW case hearings in court.

The VAW Focal Persons of the 5 barangays were interviewed at the start as well as at the close of the research period.

Identifying the interviewees among the victim-survivors were the Focal Persons of the GAD/VAW Team of the Barangay Local Government Units. The interviewees were identified based on records in the Barangay Local Government Unit's Gender and Development (GAD) Office, particularly at the VAW Team's section.

System Data

Research on existing data were done in offices of the ZCPO and BLGUs.

Existing data at the ZCPO were taken from the CIRAS, or Crime Information Reporting Analysis System, while data provided by BLGUs concerned were from the BLGU-GAD/VAW Files as released with permission, both on the condition of privacy and confidentiality.

The BLGU Filing System follows the template prescribed by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in the Barangay VAW Handbook, or the Guidelines in the Establishment and Management of a Referral System on Violence Against Women at the Local Government Level (PCW & IACVAWC, 2017).

Data Collection Process

Field assistants were involved in data collection as the constraints involved time restraints and COVID-19 restrictions, including lockdowns in certain sections of four (4) out of the five (5) barangays with the highest number of cases.

Participants for key interviews in the communities and surveys were recruited through communications informing them of the study, and if they were willing, they were assured that what they have to share were confidential.

Participants from state actors, from government agencies, for the Focus Group Discussion (FGD); from representatives of the judicial branch, and the state's psychoneurologist for the interviews likewise received communications beforehand.

Data Interpretation

Analysis of Qualitative Data

Qualitative data taken from the transcripts of interviews were analysed thematically and these themes were identified through the frequency of their answers.

With the themes labelled, the statements/responses were grouped together.

Statistical Treatment of Data

The quantitative data were taken from the results of mathematical formulae seeking for the percentages, the arithmetic mean, ranking, the weighted mean, the average weighted mean, the Chi Square, and the Standard Deviation.

Consideration on Ethics

The respondents were all assured that their responses will all be held in confidence during the duration of the study and even beyond. Their identities will not be divulged but circumstances may be cited for as long as they are pertinent to the study at hand.

Rights of pregnant women, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and minors were stated beforehand, however, it was made clear that the study discourages the inclusion of minors, and should said minors be among the girl-survivors, they may only be included if they are victim-survivors of VAW.

Respondents are asked to share information only as they may be relevant to the study and focused on the topic of the study. All participation in this research investigation is voluntary, and all respondents have been requested to divulge or share any information that is factual or in any way honest and accurate to the best of their ability.

Being voluntary, respondents were informed that for their participation in the study at hand, there was no remuneration or any payment of honorarium whatsoever.

Chapter III

Results, Analysis and Discussion

This chapter presents results (1) of a discussion on the process instituted by state actors in their respective institutions; (2) of case studies on thirty-five (35) victim-survivors and the corresponding discussion and analysis; (3) of a survey on eighty-nine (89) women-survivors and its corresponding discussion and statistical interpretation; (4) of case studies of six (6) victim-survivors at the Women's Crisis Center (WCC) and the corresponding discussion and analysis.

With data triangulated, findings from questionnaires containing responses of VAW survivors resulted in the succeeding narratives drawn as case studies in the Women's Crisis Center and five (5) barangays.

This section presents case studies of thirty-five (35) survivors from five (5) barangays, six (6) documented and treated cases from the WCC, two (2) legally filed cases and five (5) unreported cases.

I. Discussion on the Process Instituted by State Actors on Addressing VAW Cases

State actors that are actively involved and on its own engaged in programs on VAW have been invited as participants in the Focus Group Discussion. As it was at the height of the pandemic, the FGD was done via the Zoom Platform. This section presents some of the excerpts of the transcription of the discussion.

The government agencies represented were the CHR RO9, DSWD RO9, CSWDO, ZCLGU, and ZCPO-WCPD.

Each office/government agency representative was asked eight (8) questions on process, duration, locale, culture-specifics, role (as eyewitness, interveners, and as justice and peace stakeholders). Based on findings, the respective processes at the different government agencies and offices are in the succeeding paragraphs, as shown in the corresponding figures and diagrams:

On Process, as to the flow of the office procedure, if any, on cases involving violence against women (and Children) from Filing of Report:

The ZCPO-WCPD presented the process that its office followed, as shown on Figure C.

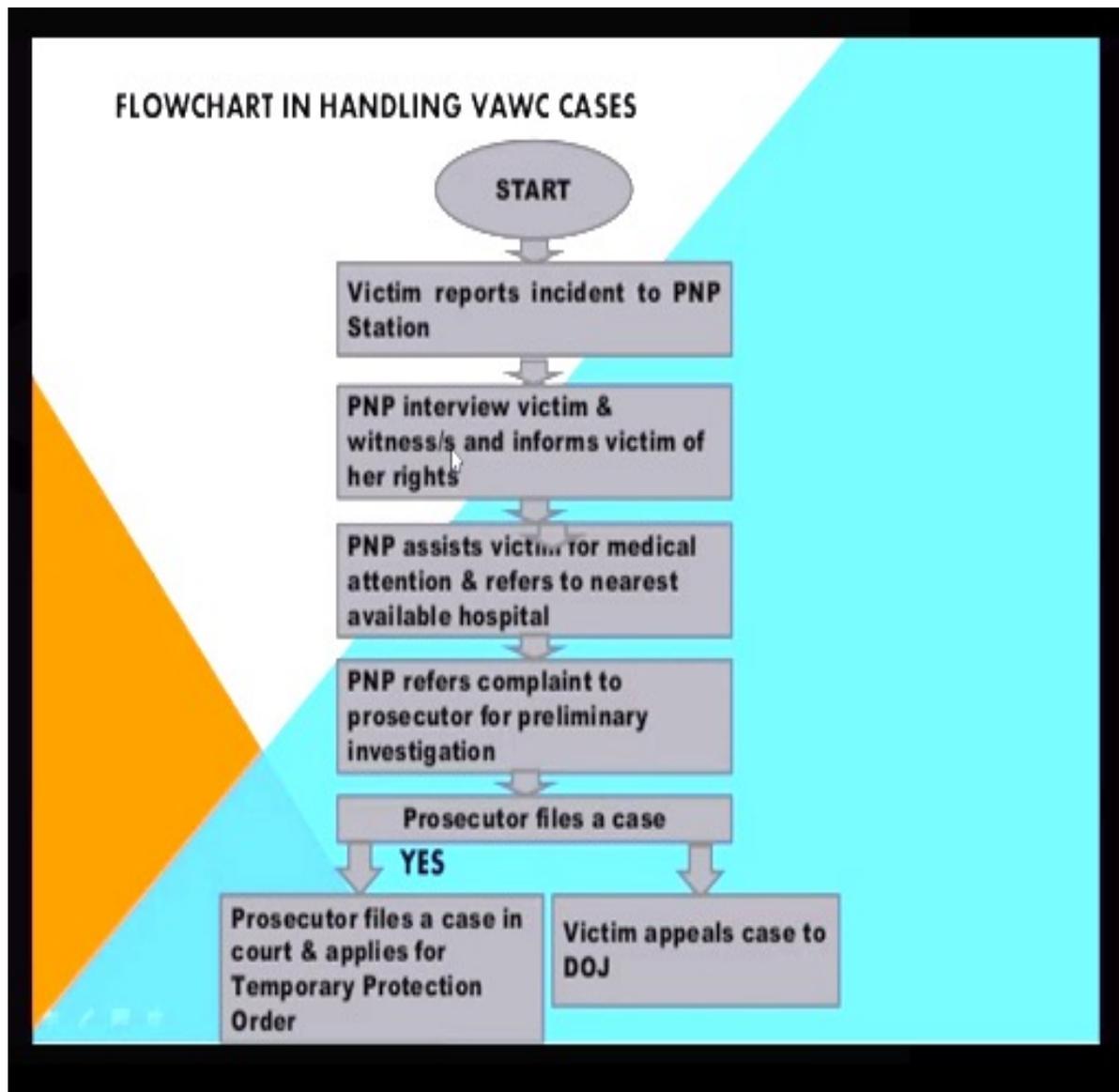


Figure C: Flowchart in Handling Cases by the ZCPO (ZCPO, 2020)

The victim first reports the incident to the police station in their district. Then the investigator on duty interviews the victim and the witnesses, and informs the victim of her rights. Thereafter, the police officer assists the victim for medical attention when needed and refers her to the nearest

available hospital. Next, the ZCPO refers the complaint to the prosecutor for preliminary investigation. Thereafter, the Prosecutor files the case. If the case has merits, the prosecutor files the case to court and applies for Temporary Protection Order. If not, the victim has the option to appeal the case to the Department of Justice (see Figure C).

To the ZCSWD, its process begins upon the receipt of a report from the ZCPD-WCPD of an incident, which could also be from the BLGU-VAW corners/sections, to be designated to social workers handling cases, and to the shelter or the Women’s Crisis Center for therapy and treatment, as the situation may be (see Figure D). From the BLGU-VAW however, there would be close monitoring of VAW victims before recommending them to be at the WCC.

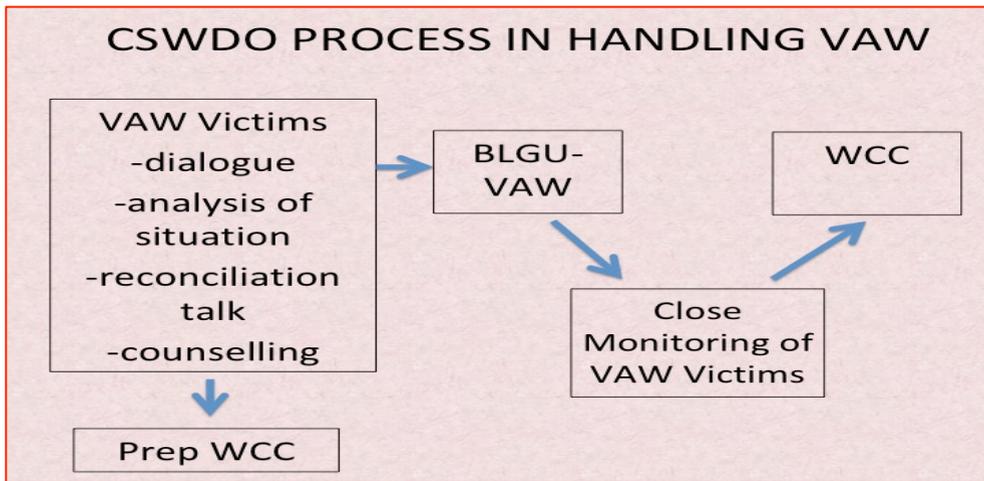


Figure D. Flowchart in Handling Cases by CSWDO (CSWDO, 2020)

At the CHR, the process begins when there is a walk-in complaint, followed by the docketing of the case, which is followed by a dialogue, investigation (which covers issuance of affidavit, submission of documents, resolution), filing of motion for reconsideration, and filing of case (see Figure E).

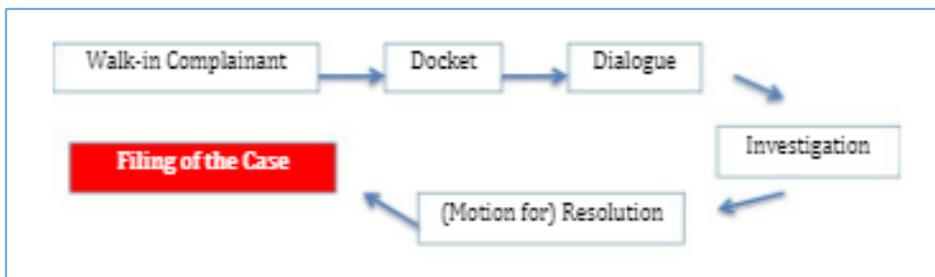


Figure E. Flowchart in Handling Cases by CHR (CHR, 2020)

On Duration, as to the regular or normal period of duration for resolution (if at all) on VAW cases or incidents:

All state offices said, “It depends,” indicating uncertainty on duration as every case depends on circumstances.

Approximately, the reporting, investigation up to prosecutor’s office could be a week or 5 business working days, for as long as the victim is cooperative and decided. The duration from the Prosecutor’s Office is beyond the ZCPO.

Approximately, the dialogues at the ZCSWD up to the referral to the barangays, the monitoring and the investigation at the BLGU-VAW Corners/Sections may reach from one to three (3) weeks, dependen ton the determination of the victim, the willingenss of victims and witnesses to testify, and the depth and intensity of the violence.

Approximately, at the CHR, this could go for weeks, to months, even a year, depending on the judges, availability of witnesses to provide testimonies, and the release of psychological test clearance.

Two steps during legal proceedings have been identified as crucial:

- (1) Requirement of psychological test clearance
- (2) Delay in family court

A separate set of respondents were asked on these issues.

A psychoneurologist was sent communication, inviting him to be a participant to the study and following his willful consent, he was interviewed. The succeeding information manifest his opinion on the duration of the release of the required psychological clearance, and his related responses.

The usual cases on psychological abuse that he has observed or attended to in Zamboanga City so far was “when you scold a woman or shouts at her, it’s already psychological abuse” (Doctor-Respondent, Personal Communication, September 14, 2020).

The courts require a psychological evaluation of women-survivors or victims when the matter reaches the halls of justice. This Psychology Report or PAR is a document signed by a government licensed psychiatrist or a psychoneurologist that attests to the woman’s being of sound mind.

The following are being asked in the evaluation are “What happened?” “What did your husband did to you?” “What are the instances that were done to you?”

The top indicators presented are “Anxiety, Distressful, Worry, Inability to eat, Disturbance in sleep. The victims can’t sleep anymore, the woman becomes thin because she’s daily battered by her husband”.

At the start and during the psychological evaluation, factual background are asked and includes the full name, age, occupation, and address; then through further examination, the dependents of the respondents and their individual complete names, ages, work, address, and the husband’s profession.

“If they are married I have to talk more and learn their premarital and marital history from time that they met, the place where they get married, the time who courted the woman or the men but most likely common understanding mutual understanding that they love each other so they get married to the Roman Catholic Church or any other Church even in the Civil Rites” (Doctor-Respondent, Personal Communication, September 14, 2020).

“When the response is, ‘I was not given support by my husband,’ it’s economical abuse. When we talk about psychological (violence), mostly it is by saying bad words, foul and dirty language to a woman. Of course the complainant is complaining, she cannot talk anymore because the husband is about to choke her” (Doctor-Respondent, Personal Communication, September 14, 2020).

There is a possibility that the victim will not reveal the truthful information, and the doctor responded, “but when I already knew that she is not telling the truth I have to dig more until such time that she will tell the truth and that I will frighten the complainant, ‘If you don’t reveal I will not make the Psychology Assessment Report because number one, there is the issue; and number two, there was such psychological, economical, physical, and emotional violence or abuse. If the complainant will hide it, I will make a report that it is just very shallow because the court and even the (Commission of) Human Rights will accept the PAR but it is not the supposed truth” (Doctor-Respondent, Personal Communication, September 14, 2020).

The PAR reaches the court, per interrogation of lawyers of the respondent and by the judge, however, the victims’ non-telling of the truth are crucial and determine the duration of the release of the PAR. The non-truth-telling may be due to fear: that the husband may no longer provide

support to the children, that she might be mauled or killed by her husband, that the children are hurt as the brunt on the male's ego, that there is consciousness for shame and the undecisiveness to pursue the case.

Owing to the circumstance on the pandemic, seven (?) judges within the región were invited to be respondents to this research and one declined, as six (6) judges were asked on the duration of the legal proceedings in court. Here are their responses:

"The accused during pre(-trial) will ask for resetting due to the possibility of plea bargaining and the private complainant cannot decide yet" (Judge-Respondent 3, Personal Communication, October 27, 2020).

"Once into agreement, they enter into a plea bargaining into lowering the degree of crime and the woman-complainant is undecisive" (Judge-Respondent 2, Personal Communication, October 28, 2020).

"Absence of respondent, postponement of lawyers, legal process from arraignment/preliminary conference, then pretrial, mediation to preserve family solidarity for possible settlement. Timetable is usually extended. If no settlement of reconciliation the possible separation of property and amount of support . All of these factors entails so much time to end the litigation. Even if trial will ensue, the negotiation will not be hampered and settlement will again be reopen either to delay of finally come up with the final settlement" (Judge-Respondent 1, Personal Communication, October 26, 2020).

"Clogged court dockets due to first in, first out policy of courts" (Judge-Respondent 4, Personal Communication, October 27, 2020).

"Cases in violation of RA 9262 are assigned to the Family Courts. My court is not one. However, one of my co-employees before filed a case against her husband for her support and that of her children. One of the reasons for the delay I noted in the speedy disposition is the earnest efforts taken by the court to settle the differences among the members of the family. Usually, the complainants are the wife and children. In some instances, the father deals with the children separately from the wife. The lack of support is a form of violence. Another reason is the ethnic/religious beliefs of the litigants which allow the entry for compromises and settlement especially if the elders intervene. Sometimes the police officers in the VAWC desk take time to make their reports. Sometimes the prosecutors also fail to file the case in court ASAP. These last two reasons come before the filing of the information" (Judge-Respondent 5, Personal Communication, October 27, 2020).

“Here in Zambo, we have only one family court hence the court docket for RA 9262 violation is full” (Judge-Respondent 5, Personal Communication, October 27, 2020).

From these responses the following are drawn as factors for the delay in legal cases:

1. possibility of plea bargaining
2. undecisiveness of complainant
3. Absence of respondent
4. postponement of lawyers
5. legal process from arraignment/preliminary conference, then pretrial, mediation to preserve family solidarity for possible settlement. Timetable is usually extended
6. If no settlement of reconciliation the possible separation of property and amount of support
7. Clogged court dockets due to first in first out policy of courts
8. earnest efforts taken by the court to settle the differences among the members of the family
9. ethnic/religious beliefs of the litigants which allow the entry for compromises and settlement especially if the elders intervene
10. police officers in the VAWC desk take time to make their reports
11. prosecutors also fail to file the case in court the soonest
12. only one family court in Zamboanga City hence the court docket for RA 9262 violation is full.

On Locale, as to what places where these VAW incidents have been reported from, per their respective records, the respondent state actor representatives generally said the violence occurs at the victims’ respective residences, with qualifications, or further elaboration:

For the ZCPO, at their barangays and district stations, where the reporting is done, six of which are nearest to the commercial area (*pueblo*) in Zamboanga City: Ayala, Tetuan, Sta. Maria, Calarian, Divisoria, Pasonanca.

For the CSWDO, the violence (particularly verbal and psychological) transpires at the residences, but may be continued at the BLGU-VAW corners.

For the CHR, the violence transpires at the residences, and during investigation, could accelerate even before CHR investigators.

On Culture-Specifics, whether they have documented VAW incidents where the women are Muslims or Indigenous People, per their respective records:

To the ZCPO, CSWDO, and CHR, the religious and cultural affiliation of the victim/survivor is immaterial for as long as the woman needs help.

On State Actors as Eyewitness, whether it has happened that the verbal abuse or threats (as the violence) happened in their presence or in the presence of their office representatives who may be the investigators or social workers, all concurred, confirming that the venue or place of occurrence is immaterial to the parties or the spouses/partners.

All three respondent-office representative stated they have witnessed verbal violence. The ZCPO witnessed psychological violence specifically, verbal threats by the husband or male partner, especially when under the influence of liquor and reporting is at night.

The CHR remarked that sometimes there are slight insults during the mediations and confrontations, as they reminisce their past incidents, and there is no show of affection for the children.

On State Actors as Interveners, as to how did their respective intervention(s) proceed:

The ZCPO attempts to advise the couple to reconcile and forgive the male, however, warn him when there is a repeat of the violence.

The CSWDO stands firm in its educate both partners, conduct counselling, and go for separation of be and board if there's a need.

The CHR gives advice, as the parties just get carried away by their emotions, with words and utterances worsening the circumstances, but sometimes, the result is rewarding because the partners ably vented their anger or even fury.

“Basically, a trained human rights investigator does not only investigate possible HR violation. A HR investigator also acts as promotion officer with regard to client/case being handled in the course of the investigation work. It is incumbent upon the investigator to apprise the client of all the latter's rights and remedies available” (CHR Respondent-Investigator, personal communication, August 25, 2020).

On State Actors as Justice and Peace Stakeholders, if they see their or their office as having an important role in justice and peace, and in the global campaign against Violence Against Women and Children.

For the ZCPO, as the office looks into the city's peace and security, it also attends as part of its services to couples who are quarreling especially when they are shouting at each other and disturbing the peace and quiet within the community neighborhood.

"Sometimes a simple quarrel could escalate into the use of weapons and when under the influence of liquor, the violence becomes worse from verbal to psychological and extreme physical violence" (ZCPO-WCPD Respondent-Investigator, personal communication, August 25, 2020).

"Our role is to offer social services, the assistance and refuge the woman needs. The Women's Crisis Center could be a temporary shelter for the woman and her children when she has nowhere to run to while the partners can be calm and sort out differences" (ZCSWDO Respondent-Researcher, personal communication, August 25, 2020).

II. Case Studies of 35 Survivors

The case studies were conducted at the communities identified by the ZCPO as having the highest number of incidents reported in 2019: Tumaga, San Roque, Santa Maria, Mercedes and Pasonanca. The succeeding paragraphs provide background data on the community and on the gender program the BLGU has implemented as a state assistance via the barangay or community.

Description on Research Locale and Barangay VAW Desk

- A. Tumaga. As a social system, Barangay Tumaga's total land area is about 274.2 square hectares, and about 4.3 kilometers from the city proper, its total population as of year 2015 is approximately 30,824, there are about 5,964 households with 5,203.3 families with different ethnic and majority of which belong to the Zamboangueno, Visayan, Muslim, Tagalog and others of which chavacano is the primary dialect and Roman Catholic is the common religion. The most common occupation is laborer blue collar job, white collar jobs, private/government employee or self-employed. Tumaga is one of the most grossly populated among the 98 barangay of Zamboanga City.



The barangay Tumaga has the GAD (Gender And Development) Focal Team who prepares programs and activities for Gender and Development. This includes the members of the community: the women and children.

The focal person for Gender and Development is currently a *barangay kagawad* (village councilor).

TUMAGA BARANGAY HALL

In resolving VAW issues, since the barangay level is not being catered for mediation nor for a reconciliation, the barangay has no jurisdiction in handling such cases. Instead, the barangay VAW desk assists the victim, log in their complaint, referring the case to the police station (women’s desk) and to the social worker for possible counseling. They likewise assist in filing for barangay protection order (BPO) for her temporary shelter, the desk houses the victim at the VAWC Room for her safety (personal communication, September 19, 2020).

“We do advise to the victim of gender-based violence to secure a Temporary Protection Order (TPO)/ Permanent Protection Order (PPO) at the family court advise her to pursue to file case against the perpetrator to stop further violence be inflicted to her being, in the latter the VAW desk respects on whatever decisions the victim will opt” (personal communication, September 19, 2020).

- B. Santa Maria. The community is located at the northern portion of Zamboanga City. The land area is 388,8702 hectares. The means of transportation are jeepneys, tricycles, pedicabs and taxis. The roads are concreted and are links to the neighboring barangays like Pasonanca to the north, Tumaga on the east, San Roque in the west and Canelar on the South going to the city proper.



STA. MARIA BARANGAY HALL

Barangay Sta. Maria has created many programs and to be conducted about Gender and Development such as; Last year GAD sensitivity seminar for Barangay Staffs, Personnel, Tanods, Barangay Health Workers and other Barangay Employees; Also last November 9, 2019 they invite 400 women held at School Gym they have Ma'am _____ who talked about Human Rights and they also invited Ma'am _____ to talk about drug awareness, We always thought drug addicts are men but we don't know that some mothers are also into drugs. And last December, 2019 they conducted a program for Mothers of PWD "Caring for the caregiver" for morale booster.

The focal person for Gender Awareness and Development who is also a barangay kagawad, serves every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, while another official every Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, is the alternate focal person.

- C. San Roque** It has a huge private memorial cemetery and an adjacent public cemetery along the left wing bounded by a runway of the Zamboanga City International Airport. Approaching the boundary edge of San Roque are vast areas of green mountains reflecting that farming was the traditional livelihood of the residents, and at the same edge is an attractive water falls (Busay), which if developed would attract more local visitors and foreign tourists. San Roque is a highly urbanized barangay of the City of Zamboanga.

San Roque as a local government unit conducted a Forum on Violence Against Women last December 3, 2019 held at the Barangay Hall of San Roque. Wherein they invited Atty. Judilyn Macapili to discuss about the role of women in their home and community and on existence and essence of VAW. Also last November 5, 2019, VAW Desf Officers conducted a program about Barangay San Roque Gender and Development Summit with the theme "Advocating Gender Equality and Sensitivity to achieve sustainable and resilient community". They also organized last January 8 - April 1, 2019 a TESDA training on Food Processing National Certificate II and Bread and Pastry National Certificate II at the Barangay Hall of San Roque with the trainer _____. The training was very beneficial to all participants that participated on the said training. The training was entitled to Women, PWD, and Senior Citizen, the said training developed their skills and abilities baesd on the qualification and competency that they chose.

There was 20 overall beneficiaries that was trained by TESDA. Most of the participants of their programs conducted were Women especially mothers and it also includes the participation of men.

The focal person for Gender Awareness and Development is also a Barangay Kagawad and the Barangay VAW Desk Person. Also, when the focal person is not around the alternate focal person would be the Barangay Chairman and other available Barangay Officials.

- D. Mercedes. The community is situated at the eastern part of the City of Zamboanga and is 12.75 kilometers away that will take 15-20 mins according to the barangay profile, but in reality, 30 minutes ride from the city proper. With a total land area of 1, 288.56 hectares, 30% of its are composed of rice fields while, 68% is distributed among crop lands such as, coconut trees, bananas, mangoes of different varieties, other fruit trees and some residential houses, 2% is the coastal area. Two percent of the area is Sitio Mulu-muluan, the southern portion of Barangay Mercedes. It is bounded by Barangay Talabaan on the east, Barangay Zambowood on the North West, and Barangay Culianan and Barangay Pasobolong on north.

The reported cases are first logged in. In the log book they have separated a sheet for the VAW victim only then after that the victim will undergo counselling which is conducted by the focal person. They also issue restraining order for the offender. They have temporary shelter for the victims they call it VAW Room with complete facilities like folding bed, sofa, rice cooker, water dispenser, refrigerator and extra clothing donated by ZABIDA NGO through proposal of the barangay. They also constructed separated room for husband/offender.



MERCEDES BARANGAY HALL

The barangay VAW Desk Officials have attended trainings but have not echoed this in the barangays. These are Gender Sensitivity Training, 4RS Training, Gender and Development Training, Seminars on RA 9262 Anti-Violence Against Women, on RA 11313 Safe Spaces Act, RA 7877 Anti Sexual Harassment

Law, RA 9710 Magna Carta of Women, and Anti-Trafficking In Person.

- E. Pasonanca. This village uphill is 15 minutes away from the city proper. It is the biggest barangay in terms of land area covering over 1.1k hectares although 50% of its terrain is plain, 25% is hilly while 25% is mountainous. The barangay of Pasonanca consists of seven (7) Sitios, namely: Abong-Abong, Luyahan, Shanty Town, Lantawan Busay, Muruk, Sabana Coco & Canucatan. It also includes five (5) subdivision & Blue Homes Subdivision.

The barangay Pasonanca has programs conducted and to be conducted about Gender and Development such as lectures about Republic Act 9262, cooking competitions, seminars and forums about Gender and Development, baking competitions, Barangay Pasonanca Employees Orientation about Gender and Development, clean-up programs, medical and dental mission. Most of the participants were women, ladies, mothers, teenage mothers and some of the programs include the participation of children and men.



PASONANCA
BARANGAY HALL

The focal person for Gender and Development is a speaker of forums and seminars about the GAD programs. The focal person is also assigned for the arrangement of bearable cases specially Violence Against Women incidents.

The focal Person of Barangay Pasonanca has the obligation to deal with the bearable cases especially VAW Cases, The BLGU gives its best to comprehend first the reason of the incidents, and then hear the sides of the different parties' involved, then provides solutions that might be helpful to solve the cases.

There are also repetitive cases about VAW incidents. The BLGU of Pasonanca with the supervision of the barangay Focal Person for VAW prescribes or suggests counseling to the victims and suspects of the incidents. The Local government unit updates and checks the after situation of the complainants and respondents.

But then if the cases are unbearable by the BLGU of Pasonanca it will be referred to the higher court.

Description on Data Collection Process

Each case was interviewed and observed for 2-3 visits, as most often the survivors did not speak up on the first visit (Introductory) but on the second and/or third visits (familiarization and trust-building). In some instances, the husbands or partners had stern receptions and indirectly hampered the research. In few cases, the respondents spoke with the halo effect, in which they confidently show off their knowledge on the Anti-VAW Law as per taught by the Barangay authorities, most often identified as the Barangay VAW Focal Person.

The data in Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents who displayed knowledge on the Anti-VAW Law or Republic Act No. 6292. By having been “told”, means the woman has been informed through an information material that may be a leaflet, brochure, booklet, or even poster or tarpaulin, or through a symposium or any other gathering.

Table 1. Distribution of Respondents According to Knowledge of Certain Provisions of R. A. 6292

Respondents' Extent of Knowledge	Knows f=35	%	Told but forgot f=35	%	Total f=35	%
That such law exists	32	91	3	9	35	100%
That such law exists and there is a Barangay VAW Focal Team/Person she can go to	31	89	4	11	35	100%
That such law is a crime that anyone may report about	31	89	4	11	35	100%
That such law provides penalties that, when found guilty, may be imposed on the husband/partner	32	91	3	9	35	100%
That such law is meant to protect the woman as victim	29	89	6	11	35	100%

The above data states that thirty-two (32) or ninety-one percent (91%) know that such law (RA 6292) exists, while three (3) or nine percent (9%) were told but forgot; that thirty-one (31) or eighty-nine percent (89%) know such law exists and there is a Barangay VAW Focal Team/Person she can go to, but four (4) or eleven percent (11%) were told but forgot; that thirty-one (31) or eighty-nine percent (81%) know that such law is a public crime that anyone may report about; that thirty-two (32) or ninety-one percent (91%) know that such law provides penalties that, when found guilty, may be imposed on the husband/partner but three (3) or nine percent (9%) were told but simply forgot; and that twenty-nine (29) or eighty-nine percent (89%) knew such law is meant to protect the woman as victim, however, six (6) or eleven percent (11%) have been told but just forgot.

This means that at the very least, majority the women know that there is a law that protects them and that they may lean on the provisions of this law as their legal refuge. The data further indicate that majority of the survivors were conscious of their rights.

The succeeding pages contain the thirty-five cases studied for one to three visits (depending on the degree of willingness to participate in the study at hand and extent of openness to divulge and share experiences as a VAW survivor) in their respective communities. Each case study has a summary of the data given by the survivor herself, followed by a brief analysis based on the theme of her over-all responses.

Case Studies of 35 Survivors

Survivor 1

S1 is from Mercedes, who has been living together with her current partner for 11 months now. She could no longer recall the specific date or month when her partner started emotionally hurting her. He has never inflicted pain upon her physically, but she has been constantly threatened with being left or abandoned for another woman, and insisted that their child is not his.

She kept on thinking what she lacked as a woman, and what her faults and failures were.

“Nagpapakumbaba ako. Halos gabi-gabi akong umiiyak sa kakaisip kung paano na kami (I have humbled myself. Almost every night I think how we may survive),” she sobbed. *“Alam ko naman na kaya kong buhayin ang anak namin at nand’yan naman ang pamilya ko (I also know that I can manage raising my child and my family is there).”*

“Magtrabaho ako para buhayin ko ang anak ko sa lahat ng makakaya ko. Pero nung una, lumapit talaga ako sa barangay nagbakasakaling magbago ang isip nya (I will work to raise my child to the best that I can. However, at first, I really approached the barangay hoping that he will change his mind).”

“Di ako nag report ng mas maaga pa dahil akala ko, babalik lang sya kaya naghintay ako pero iniwan lang kami sa ere ng anak ko (I did not report earlier because I thought, he would come back so I waited but He just left me and my child hanging).”

Asked if she would file a case against him for VAW being a woman, S1 stated, *“Siguro, pero okay na ako. Kaya kong buhayin ang anak ko kahit wala siya, dahil inabandona niya kami at iniwan lang basta basta. Nung una, sinasabi niya na hindi kanya tong anak ko kahit s’ya naman talaga. Kahit masakit hindi ko na lang ipipilit ang sarili namin (Perhaps,*

but am already fine. I can manage to raise my child even without him, because he abandoned us and merely left us. At first, he was saying that my child is not his even when she really is. Even when it really hurts, I will not insist ourselves on him).”

Researchers’ Observation: S1 loves her husband but feels shunned, after a series of emotional let downs, and rejecting fatherhood and its corresponding responsibilities. She has been trying to shield her true emotions as she pretends to be secure and confident.

Analysis: She however needs moral support to gain courage yet in a way that she gains confidence in her self. She is a hurting mother. She does not value much the support of the barangay VAW focal team as she just sees this as a grapevine starter.

S1 underwent psychological and emotional violence. The deepest wound a man can inflict in a woman’s heart is disowning her child as his.

S1 could be willing to file charges against her partner but since they have been together for about a year, and there has been no physical violence inflicted on her and the child, she involuntarily desists in filing charges for economic support against her partner.

Survivor 2

S2 has been married for 24 years, with 3 children aged 24, 23, and 18, and they live in Mercedes. All these years she has been experiencing occasionally getting slapped in her face by her husband, being shouted at in a loud voice oftentimes loud enough for children and neighbors to hear especial when he is drunk. He was fond of insulting her with expletives and at times the words have verbally degraded her being a woman. He would mock her.

“*Si boracho ele, ta queda ma-uy* (When he is drunk, he goes amok).” When he goes amok, he has been beyond her control. “*Si boracho ele, dol katuk-katok ‘le. Cosa-cosa el ta entra na su cabeza* (When he is drunk, he acts like he is crazy. A lot of nonsense fills his head).”

S2 has been experiencing threats from her husband for a cut-off from financial support which is why she and her children bore the pain and humiliation in the neighborhood all these years. “*Cada rabiao ‘le, y boracho, el su pirmi amenaza, jende ya le canamon suporta. Paque ‘chura ya lang el maga bata* (Every time he is angry, and drunk, his threat always is, he would no longer support us. What could happen to the children)?”

She has many times thought of going to the barangay, but her husband does not change. It really is his attitude, she was thinking. But she always thought of her children and their future. Were it not for the children, she would have left him a long time ago. "*Tarda ya yo quiere deja con ele pero pa que laya el maga bata?*"

She admitted that he has been abusing her for years, but she continues to do her best in keeping the family intact. It was always her who gets hurt so she finds the situation bearable. She stated, "*No quiere yo engranda el maga bata que no hay tata. Seguro, si queda ya gayot bien duele y na maga bata le sentí duele, alla ya gaha yo rebenta* (I don't want my children to grow up without a father. Perhaps, if the pain becomes too much, and he hurts the children, that's the time I will burst)."

Researchers' Observation: S2 is martyr-like. She does not appreciate her own rights as a person. She believes that love for her children is measured by her endurance with the kind of relationship she has sustained with their father. She is not conscious of human rights nor is she aware of VAW.

Analysis: S2 underwent psychological, economic and emotional violence. The father of her children has, for more than two decades, not valued her being a woman, not even as mother of their children. His constant threat was his leaving her and their children (per her narrative) has begun when the eldest child was still a toddler, and had only 2 children. This means she has tolerated the abuse as part of the culture within the domestic confines for twenty-two (22) years. While the neighbors hear of their quarrels and the barangay officials have kindly advised her what to do, and police have encouraged her to file charges, she voluntarily and involuntarily desists in advancing her complaint.

Survivor 3

S3 has been married for six (6) years, and has 2 little girls with her husband. Per her narrative, her husband has been often under the influence of alcohol and has a group of drinking friends that he hangs out with regularly. Although he does not hurt them physically, he does not give her and the children money for support.

The little amount that he earns is not substantial to support the family as it mostly goes to his drinking buddies and their sessions. At times she quarrels him when he does not give her money as she finds it difficult to manage the family's expenses for survival.

The thought of leaving him comes to her mind sometimes, as she believes he finds his friends and drinking buddies more important to him than she and the children are to him.

S3 does not think she is alone but she has trust issues with the police or any government agency including the barangay when it comes to GAD and VAW. She has already reported him at the barangay because she really finds financial support from her own means as difficult to sustain.

“Tiene vez, yo lang solo el ta gasta para con el familia, que arroz, vianda, leche o cosa (Sometimes, I am the only one spending for the family, whether rice, viand, milk or whatever).”

“Este COVID, dol no hay gat sila pakialam. ‘Abla jende puede man tomahan, pero igual lang man, ta puede sila ase pasecreto (During this COVID, they act as if they didn’t care. They said, drinking is not allowed, but it was just the same, they were able to do it secretly).”

Researchers’ Observations: S3 has been bearing out with the financial difficulties. She nags at him when she is up to her neck only with the finances. His drinking buddies are his comfort zone and it is possible that her fellow wives in the friendship circle of her husband could relate with her, only, she preferred not to bond with them.

Analysis: S3 is a survivor of economic violence. Money is the root cause of their frequent quarrels, as his meager income simply goes to fund his drinking sessions. The husband is immature in understanding his responsibility as father and head of the family. However, young as she may be, her voluntary desistance in pressing charges against her husband is brought about by the fact that she herself has no financial capability to pay for the proceedings and the corresponding documents needed in the legal process.

Survivor 4

S4 has been a live-in partner for 11 months in their abode in Mercedes but has recently been separated from her partner when the pandemic hit the city. They have one child, whom she is raising and supporting on her own.

She has been slapped in the face, a frequent occurrence while they lived together. He has boxed her in her forearms, and has kicked her in her legs *“Jende le puede aguanta si jende le comigo manda senti (He cannot control himself unless he gets to physically hurt me).”*

He frequently shouted at her in a voice loud enough for their child and neighbors to hear. "*Ta palmadia gat quel ele comigo cada man pellahan kami* (He always slapped me in the face everytime we argued)."

"*Cada man pellahan kami, jende ya lang yo ta imbisti kay ta amenaza ele que mata le comigo* (Everytime we quarrel, I decide not to fight back because he threatens me that he will kill me)."

Researchers' Observations: S4 has developed inner fear of her live-in partner. She has been advised by someone in the BLGU that fear is not a good start for a married life, and in reacting to which she heaved a sigh of relief that they are not legally bound yet as husband-and-wife.

Analysis: S4 is a victim of physical, psychological and economic violence. While she has reported these incidents of physical and psychological violence, she still is not too trusting with the sincerity of the BLGU Officials that accommodated her initially, as she thought that she was but a material for the gossipvine in the barangay. Because of this, she however voluntarily and involuntarily desists in advancing her complaint.

Survivor 5

Survivor 5 is from Mercedes, and she has been married till 2014 when her husband left her and they were separated. She has not been a victim of physical violence.

Her husband has not provided her and their two daughters (now aged 22 and 21) support even for their children's food and schooling.

When he left, he didn't say a word. "*Ya sabe ya lang came cay yan junto ya ele con el otro mujer* (We just learned that he was living together with another woman)," she said.

"*Cada noche yo ta llura que pensa'y pensa porque bien malisud canamun ta pasa ancina* (I cry every night thinking why it was difficult that such happened)."

Asked if she would have the courage to report her husband using VAW as ground, she replied, "*Si. Si no hay le dale cosa el debe para na maga bata, cay masquin cosa pasa, derecho quel de ila u su obligación quel como tata del maga bata. Tarda ya yo ya avisa y ya pedi ayuda na barangay pero hasta ahora gende le ta dale suporta con el maga bata.*"

If she has legal support and financial capability to spend for legal costs, she is willing to file charges against him in violation of R. A. No. 9262.

“Siyempre naman dahil una, karapatan ko ‘yun bilang asawa at amali na iwan n’ya kami at ipagpalit sa iba. Kung siguro mayaman lang akoo at maraming pera baka kinasuhan ko na sya nga dultery para madala siya t bigyan ng hustisya ang pang-iwan niya sa amin (Of course because it is my right and it is wrong for him to leave us and choose to be with another. Perhaps if I were rich and I had a lot of money, I would have filed charges for adultery so that he will realize and justice be done over his abandonment of us).”

Researchers’ Observations: S5 is badly hurt and economically burdened in supporting their children. They were aged 14 and 15 when he left them. While there was no physical violence inflicted, the economic violence has been very tough for her as she raised the girls on her own with her meager income.

Analysis: There was partial healing of wounds in this case of S5, with her two daughters now grown-up as past the teenage years. However, the abandonment by her wound has not yet fully healed. From her narrative, while she is willing to voluntarily advance her complaint, she is conscious of legal expenses.

Survivor 6

S6 is from Pasonanca, who has been living together with her husband for 22 years and they had a child whose age is 22 years old. The first incident she had experienced the violence was 2017 when her partner shouted at her. *“Ya grita le conmigo cuando ya abla yo ay buta le el basura (He shouted at me when I asked him to throw the trash),”* and her husband shouted at her, *“Sinverguenza (Scoundrel)!”*

She was threatened with being shamed before anyone, when they had a family get together and she was scolded, quarreled, shamed or fought by his parents and relatives. Nevertheless, her partner still supports them financially.

Her first thoughts when the incident happened was to file a case against him. *“Planta era yo caso (I would have thought of filing a case),”* and S6 stated, *“Pero ya pensa yo de mi anak y futuro de amun (But I just had to think of my child and our future).”*

Interestingly, S6 never felt alone. “*No hay yo pensa como solo lang yo con este problema por causa ta ayuda comigo el barangay. Aquel primer vez le comigo insulta, ya hace yo pasa dol no hay nada lang, pero cuando ya hace le otra vez, enseguida ya yo ya avisa na barangay.* (I never felt alone in this problem because the barangay officials helped me. There was one time when he insulted me that I let it go past, but when he did it again I reported him to the barangay).”

She would have courage to report her husband if he do this again, she stated “of course” and justifying herself, “*cay no quire mas yo senti el dolor que ta hace le comigo bien bajo y cosa-cosa le ta murmura y grita comigo* (because I don’t want to feel the pain of his belittling me and with all that he said to and shouted at me).”

S6 did not report earlier the incident “*por causa ta alingasa to na educacion y estudio del mi anak y baka planta le comigo caso. Aquel primero, ya hace yo pasa dol no hay nada pero ya avisa uya yo cuanda ya grita le comigo, “Pendeja vos!”* (because I was worried over the education[al expenses for the] education of my child and he might a file a case against me. At first I let it pass but when I reported him, he said to me, ‘You’re an a–hole!’).”

Asked if she would file a case against him for VAW being a woman, S6 stated, “Of course *por causa derecho de amun maga mujeres que envisti de amun maga derecho, para jende ya canamun insulta el maga hombre acerca de amun pagka mujerdahil karapatan naming mga babae na ipaglaban ang aming karapatan, para hindi na insultuhin ng mga lalaki ang aming pagkababae* (Of course because it is our right as women to fight for our rights so that we don’t get insulted by the men on our womanhood!)”

Researchers’ Observations: S6’s husband feels that she is inferior to him, especially in doing house chores that would make him feel less manly. His parents and family are not supportive of her as his partner and not all accept their daughter. However, he had not been engaged with another woman, and their living together for 22 years without the benefit of marriage is good enough for her because he has not stopped fulfilling his financial obligations to her and their daughter.

Analysis: S6 is a victim/survivor of verbal violence, with her partner of two decades at the least. She knows her rights but there are times she weakens to her husband's tone and volume of voice and continually submissively subjects herself to the partner's control and dominance.

Survivor 7

S7 is from Pasonanca, She has been living with her partner without the benefit of marriage. They have two children: an 8-year old and a 12-year old. She can no longer recall the specific date or month when the first incident of the violence happened to her, however she experienced being physically abused when her partner slapped her on the side and arm.

Financially her husband supports them. She was threatened not to report the incident "*baka saktan niya ako ulit*" and scolded her "*Bien tanga vos!* (You're so dumb!)" S7 wondered if she should take him to the barangay but she stated, "*Inisip ko ang aking anak kaya nanatili pa rin ako* (I thought of my children which is why I'm still staying [with him])."

Sometimes she would think that she was alone but her parents gave her the courage to report the incident and also the advice from barangay helped out. S7 would have the courage to report her partner if he does it again.

"Opo, dahil alam ko na ngayon tumutulong na sa akin ang barangay at para matakot na siya na hindi na uulitin at hindi na ako masaktan pa (Yes, because now I know that the barangay is helping me and to scare him and he wouldn't do it again and I wouldn't be hurt again)."

S7 did not report the first incident of violence and stated, "*Kasi akala ko sa una lang yun at baka magbago siya. At inisip ko ang mga anak ko na baka hindi sila makapag-aral dahil tinakot nya ako na tigilan ang suporta pag nagsumbong* (Because I thought it was only at the start, and that he might just change. And I thought of my children that they might not be able to go to school because he threatened me that he would stop supporting if reported)."

Asked if she would file a case against him for VAW being a woman, she said "*Opo, upang lumaban laban sa karahasan na ginawa nila at para hindi sila*

matulad na sa akin at inaapi ng aking ka-live-in partner dahil sa pag-aaway namin (Yes, in order to fight against the violence that they do and that they do not become like me and abused by my live-in partner because of our quarrels).”

Researchers’ Observations: S7 is pretentious of her acknowledging of the role of the barangay officials. But she most often hides her pain and her fear of her partner. She uses the children as reason for her staying on with the partnership, as she hopes and dreams to be wed, even in the simplest conduct of a marriage ceremony.

Analysis: S7 is a psychologically abused woman yet, she covers up for her partner’s faults and failures, and presents a courageous façade. The happy-and-confident-front is most of the time a show. She is emotionally abused with her hope for a wedding.

Survivor 8

S8 is from Tumaga, who has been married almost 20 years. She has four children aged 20, 17, 14 and 10 years old. She can no longer recall the specific date or month when her partner started hurting her. He boxed her in the side part of her body and kicked her. He also shouted and insulted her with expletives words.

“Ta pensa yo porque le ya queda mi marido (I often think why he became my husband).”

“Ta pensa yo el futuro de mi maga anak (I think of the future of my children).”

“Pensaba yo, yo lang [tiene ancina problema]. Ya anda yo na oficina del barangay para pedi ayuda y reclama (At first I thought I was alone [in experiencing this kind of problem]. I went to the barangay office to seek help and complained).”

“Por causa no quiere yo pasa otra vez aquel ya grita le conmigo, ‘Torpe vos!’ y para jende ya bombia conmigo otra vez. Aquel primero, pensaba yo baka man birahan pa came, baka man tiene pa came chance. Ta pensa yo el maga bata. Ta entra pa sila clase. Ya hace le miedo conmigo cay jende mas le suporta canamun (Because I did not want him to tell me again, ‘You’re stupid!’ and I wouldn’t be boxed again. I thought we still would have [a

harmonious relationship] it, and I was thinking of the children's schooling."

Asked if she would file case against him for VAW as a woman, S8 stated, "*Si, para envisti yo para na de amon derecho, cay sabe yo jende lang comigo ta bombia, jende lang comigo ta patcha, o ta insulta todo'l dia. Jende lang canamon ta hace sentí, para jende mas canamun manda senti pa* (Yes, that I may fight against our rights, because I know that I am not the only who was boxed, insulted and emotionally hurt that he may not hurt us further)."

Researchers' Observations: S8 is one wife of 2 decades who has been abused physically, psychologically, and emotionally. With their 4 children, she has survived the 20 years of living together "for the children's sake." She rants on with her experiences as a battered woman yet presented a story defending her husband on his ability to provide financial support, as she unspeakingly sets pride that she is the legal wife.

Analysis: S8 has misconceptions on her rights as a woman, as a wife, and she has misconstrued her corresponding role as mother and wife. She needs to be helped in such aspect, on the better appreciation of her role as a woman, as a human being, a human companion for life.

Survivor 9

S9 is from Pasonanca, who has been married for 19 years. She has 3 children 19,17 and 15 years old. She can no longer recall the specific date or month when her husband starting hurting her but remembered that her husband boxed her on the arm. She experienced being kicked in different parts of her body and sometimes got insulted with the words, "*No hay vos nada* (You are nothing) or "*No hay gat vos nada* (You really are nothing)."

She was threatened with being left or abandoned.

"*Tiene yo miedo queda came broken family y perde tata de amun maga anak* (I am scared that we will have a broken family and my children might lose a father)."

Sometimes she felt alone but she thinks that it is right to ask help to the barangay because in some way they might help her. If violence would happen again she would not hesitate to report her husband.

"*Pensaba yo cambia le. Ya pensa yo baka ya puede lang quel ele hace aquel primero y jende ya sucede otra vez* (That's because I thought he would

reform and when I thought that he just did at first and it would not happen again).”

She was asked if she would file a case against him for VAW as a woman. S8 stated “*Si, para jende ya canamun abusa el maga hombre y para ya sila manda canamun hace senti, pega, y cosa cosa ya lang ta encha canamun, y hasta para cuankami aabusuhin ng mga kalalakihan at para tumigil na sila sa mga panununto nila sa amin dahil grabe ang mga pasa na natamo namin at ang sakit* (Yes, so that we may no longer be abused by men and so that they will already stop hurting and hitting us because the pain we gain in our contusions and the pain).”

Researchers’ Observations: S9 is a battered wife, a survivor of physical, psychological, emotional and on occasion, economic violence. She is aware of her rights but is submissive to her husband especially when he is under the influence of liquor or he is angry over any issue, whether domestic-related or not. S9 is already aware of her gender rights, but explaining these to be her human rights seems to be difficult for her to grasp.

Analysis: S9’s understanding of her rights as a woman, as a person needs to be enhanced. She needs appreciation as a woman from her husband, who constantly uses his non-support in finances as threat to the family’s survival.

Survivor 10

S10 is from Pasonanca, who has been married for more or less 20 years. She has 3 children aged 20, 17 and 11 years old. She remembered that her husband has another woman and she actually saw it. She experienced being physically hurt, as he kicked her at the side part of her feet when they had a fight and being shouted at in a loud voice.

Her husband doesn’t have any job so she is the one providing for the family. She was threatened with being left or abandoned for another woman however she was afraid to report it because he might hurt her again.

“*Naisip ko ang aking pamilya baka maging broken family kami* (I think of my family as we might be a broken family).”

She never felt alone because she knows that her family and barangay will help her. The first incident she did not report it. “*Baka magbago pa siya at maging maayos ang aming relasyon at naisip ko din ang mga anak namin kahit nasasaktan ako sa pangangabit nya* (He might change and our

relationship may be harmonious and I'm thinking too of my children even when I am hurt with his adulterous relationships)."

Asked if she would file a case against him for VAW as a woman S10 responded, "*Opo, dahil hindi ko na kaya ang mga panlolokong ginawa niya sa akin. Paulit-ulit na lang. Para wala nang maging katulad ko na nagtiis sa ganitong sitwasyon* (Yes, because I can no longer bear the womanizing he does. It has become repetitive. It is better that no one else becomes like me who has been bearing this kind of situation)."

Researchers' Observations: S10 is a battered wife physically, psychologically, emotionally, and is economically abused. Her three children are aware of their mother's sufferings but they think could not do much because they were/are all dependent on their father's financial support on education, food, water, electricity and the house itself.

Analysis: S10 and her daughters are all victims of violence as the two girls suffer emotionally at the psychological abuse of their father on their mother that they witness in the domestic front.

Survivor 11

S11 is from Tumaga, who has been living together with her partner for 12 years and with whom she has 2 children. The first incidence of violence she experienced was on December of 2019 when they had a fight and her partner punched her and strangled by the neck and also shouted at her.

"Iniisip ko ang mga anak ko. Sinasabi ko na, tama na...Iniisip ko kung paano sila kung walang ama magsustento, ngayon pa na mahirap talaga ang panahon (I think of my children. I say, that's enough...I think of how things would be for them if they would not have a father who would financially support them, especially now when times are very hard)."

However she never thought of being alone or any problem to the government because she knows that she has her family and government agencies that are willing to help her.

"Kung tutuusin, dapat lang talaga ireklamo siya dahil hindi na tama ang pananakit niya. Masakit para sa akin kasi ang akala ko pahahalagaan niya ako (To think, he really must be reported because his hurting me is not right. It hurts me because I thought he would value me)."

"Mas pa noong naisip ko ang kapakanan ng mga anak ko naisip ko kung kakayanin ko ba mag-isa dahil maraming hadlang o anu-ano'ng pumasok

sa isip ko. Hindi ko alam kung anong dapat gawin (All the more when I think of the welfare of my children, I think if I could manage along because there are so many restrictions or a lot of thoughts get into my mind. I don't know what to do)."

Asked if she would file a case against him for VAW as a woman, S11's response was, "Yes, *siguro if sakali naman na hindi ko na kaya lalapit na ako at hihingi ng legal support para makasuhan siya at mabigyan ng parusa sa pananakit sa akin, dahil pati mga anak di man nasasaktan ng physical, emotional namin dahil nakikita nila kung ano'ng ginagawa sa akin* (Yes, maybe, if ever I can no longer manage I would approach him for legal support to charge him and have him be punished for the pain he gives me, because even when the children don't get hurt physically, they get emotionally hurt especially seeing him hurting me)."

Researchers' Observations: S11 is a victim of abuse—physically, emotionally and psychologically. While she acknowledges her partner's commission of violence upon her, she continuously "gives him a chance," and silently hopes for her partner to offer her marriage one day.

Analysis:

S11 is abused and is easily wooed back by her partner. While she reports the abuse, she also makes excuses to justify her partner's hurting towards her. She however needs to be advised to be in control of the situation, being the woman.

Survivor 12

S12 is from Tumaga, and has been living together with her partner for 20 years along with their 4 children. The first incident of violence she experienced was in 2019, when he slapped, shouted at and insulted her. She was also threatened to be cut-off from financial support. When she sought help from his mother, tables were turned and she was scolded by the mother of his partner. Since the mother-in-law started scolding her, she would fromtime to time do so, that tolerates her partner.

"*Inisip ko bakit niya nagawa yun* (I thought why he did it)," she said, adding, "*s'yempre iniisip ko muna mga anak ko. Wala namang magulang na di iniisip ang anak* (certainly i first thought of my children. There are no parents that do not think of [their] children)."

"*May pamilya naman ako na tutulong sa akin kung anong dapat gawin at in case na magkagan'on, kumpyansa naman ako na pwede akong lumapit sa awtoridad upang magawang hakbang ang kanyang pananakit* (I also

have a family that would help me on what should be done and in which case, I am also confident that I can approach authorities to further my steps against his inflicting [on me] of pain). ”

If the incident will occur again she would have the courage to file a case for herself especially for the well-being of her children.

“Lalaban na ako if gagawin niya ulit pero observe ko naman na hindi na siya tulad noon na mabilis magalit. Siguro natuto naman na siya (I will already fight back if he will commit [the violence] again but I have also observed that he is already unlike before when he easily gets angry. Perhaps he already learned).”

She was able to report the first incident where she thought that she should done that to stop her husband from hurting her.

Asked if she would file a case of VAW against him as a woman S12 stated *“Depende siguro kung sinasaktain pa rin ako, kasi ngayon parang nagbago na siya, simula nang naisumbong ko siya sa barangay. Parang natauhan na hindi dapat sinsaktan ang mga babae at masaya naman ako sa resulta (It depends maybe if I am still hurt, because now he has reformed, since I reported him to the barangay. It is as if he was awakened that women should not be hurt, and am also happy with the results).”*

Researchers’ Observations: S12 has been psychologically and emotionally abused by the mother-in-law, and physically and psychologically abused by the partner himself. The act of tolerating the parental interference has been hurting her, as she gets scolded from time to time and whenever she cried and tried to tell her husband about it, he would be more angry.

Analysis: S12 is in need of more assurance that the law is behind her, and that her relationship needs moral support otherwise the verbal abuse is doubled: from her partner and from her mother-in-law who also treats low of her.

Survivor 13

S13 is from Tumaga, who has been living with her partner for 29 years and they have children aged 30 and 20 years old. She cannot recall when the first incident of violence she experience but that was a long time ago. He slapped, boxed in any part of the body and verbally abused her because of anger.

Before, every time the incident happen she thinks that it is too much that caused her pain.

“Ta pensa yo con el maga bata pero ciguro, kay tarda ya kami yan junto, ya tiene tamen yo lastima (I think of the children but perhaps, because we have lived long already, I also pity him).”

“Jende yo ta pensa kay solo lang yo y no hay tamen yo problema na maga pulis. Sabe tamen yo cay ayuda cila si pidi yo ayuda (I do not think that I am alone and I do not also have a problema with the pólice. I also know that they will help if I ask for help).”

And if ever the incident will happen again she would have courage to report.

She reported the first incident to the barangay and had a confrontation but got settled because he promised her that he would not do it again.

Asked if she would file a case of VAW as woman S13 answered, *“Natapos na man din ‘yon kaya hindi na. Parang wala naman din siyang plano na saktan ako kasi nakikita ko naman na nagbago siya kaya binigyan ko ng second chance.”*

Researchers’ Observations: S13 has been abused physically, psychologically, emotionally, and with her children’s ages (30 and 20), it is apparent that she has tolerated the pain inflicted upon her for almost 3 decades now.

Analysis: S13 herself admitted that she bore with the pain and trauma yet accepted the situation until the she started witnessing him to have changed and has already stopped the physical violence but admitted the occasional continuance of verbal violence.

Survivor 14

S14 hails from Tumaga, and has been married for 6 years and does not have a child. The incident of violence happened was on July of 2019 when they had a fight and he got irritated with her. She experienced being physically abused by her husband, who slapped her, boxed in some parts of body. He even strangled her neck.

She thought of that abuse she experienced should end that’s why she left her husband but still found her and asked for forgiveness.

She never felt alone and any trust issue to the government or agency to assist and she thinks that they could help her if she was hurt again.

“Ire-report ko na talaga pag ulitin. Dapat tayong pahalagahan kasi hindi dapat saktan ng asawa dahil masyado na nila tayong sinasaktan. Dapat na siguro din tayong lumaban (I will really report if he repeats [the violence]. We should also be valued because we are not supposed to be hurt by our husbands because they are hurting too much).”

Asked if she would file a case of VAW against him as a woman S14 stated *“Pag gawin niya ulit msgfile na talaga ako at gagawa na siguro ako ng desisyon kung hihiwalay ba ako o kailangan na bang wakasan lahat ng paghihirap ko di lang sa pisikalan pati sa emosyonal na sakit (If he does it again I will really file [a case] and maybe decide to separate with him or I need to end all my hardship in the physical [quarrels] and even the emotional pains).”*

Researchers’ Observations: S14 is too emotional but is insecure and rages with jealousy, a cause for their frequent quarrels. Being jobless, and childless, she is most often idle and her husband gets annoyed with her nagging.

Analysis: The responses of S14 manifest her own treatment to her husband as a cause for their frequent quarrels. Added to this, she admitted that her nagging was always his complaint. His defense per her admission is on her allegation of the existence of a third party was a query on who wouldn’t be interested in another with such a nagging wife. Based on the responses, there is a lack of communication between the couple except through the acts of violence in response to the excessive verbal attacks hurled at the husband.

Survivor 15

S15 is from Tumaga who has been living together with her partner for 3 years and has a 1-year old child. The incident constituting VAW happened when they had their big fight about something. He started to punch her and threatened to kill her at the same time insulted her mother. She also experienced being slapped in the face, kicked her in the side of her stomach without thinking that she could be pregnant, shouted at her and verbally degraded her.

“Ya pensa yo, porque ba yo yan patol con ete gente, ta bombia mujer (I was thinking, why did I pay attention to this man, he hits a woman.”

“Uno lang mi anak, siempre, con ele gat yo ta pensa. Pa que laya ya lang si queda grande cavar engranda le no hay tata (I only have one child, certainly, my thoughts will be of him. How would his future be if he grow up with out a father?)”

However she never felt alone because she knows her mother and family will always be there to help her yet it was painful for her that even her mother experienced being insulted by her partner.

“Planta ya gat yo caso con ele para jende mas le hace otra vez. Hace ya gat yo segura que jende mas le puede comigo hace palmadia comigo para manda comigo hace senti duele (I will already file a case against him so that he won’t do it again to me one more time. I will really make sure he could no loner slap me just to hurt me).”

S15 did not report the first incident by reason of being scared of being left by her partner whom she loves. Asked if she would file a case of VAW against him as a woman she said, *“Puede, si hace le otra vez para manda comigo hace senti duele. Ojala, masquin manda le comigo hace senti duele, jende le man umid con mi tata’y nana (It is possible, if he does [this] again. Hopefully, even if he hurts me, he wouldn’t involve my father and my mother).”*

Researchers’ Observations: S15 is a physically, verbally and psychologically abused partner yet she gives her male partner “another chance” with the hope for a reconciliation, and eventually marriage to formally bind her to him. She is constantly berated by her husband and is sometimes the recipient of insults against her parents.

Analysis: S15 is a verbally abused and consequently psychologically abused woman. But her love for her partner causes her to be indecisive in reporting her partner and the violence she suffers. She needs further counselling.

Survivor 16

S16 is from Tumaga, who had been living in for 5 years and doesn’t have any child. The incident of violence she experienced was on July 2019 when they had a fight due of financial reasons and jealousy. He slapped her face until her face got swollen, boxed, kicked in any part of her body and strangled by her neck.

Her first thoughts about what happened was why did her partner hurt her like that. Yet she never felt alone that she had her family that will support her and she thinks that whatever the problem is they can resolve it.

“Magkakaroon lang siguro ako ng tapang kapag patuloy niyang gawin sa akin yun, total wala naman kaming anak para intindihin (I probably will find the courage if he will continually do that [beating] to me, anyway, we don’t have a child to attend to).”

She did report the first incident because she thought and hoped that her partner would change.

Asked if she would file a case of VAW as woman S16 stated, “Yes, *mag-file ako if ever siguro, naghiwalay naman kami sandali pero pinatawad ko naman kasi pabalik-balik siya sa akin na humihingi ng tawad* (Yes, I will file if ever maybe, we will break up but only for a short while but I already forgave him because he repeatedly came back and asked my forgiveness).”

Researchers’ Observations: S16 is physically, emotionally and psychologically abused woman who has signs to have acquired the Battered Woman Syndrome.

Analysis: The conditions of S16 are unknown to her own self, as she believes that airing her grievances is enough and this already constitutes adequate reporting of VAW.

Survivor 17

S17 is from Tumaga, who had been married and had 4 children. The first incident of violence she experienced is when her husband got jealous, as he insulted her, slapped her face, kicked her in her thighs and boxed her in any part of the body, especially when he was under the influence of liquor. He did not care whether they disturbed the neighborhood, as shaming his wife seemed to satisfy him.

She thought that it was too much and she knew that it was no longer right to physically and emotionally hurt her as the children were growing older. “*Talli lang man el barangay, sabe yo, jende comigo deja. Por eso masquin ta senti yo duele, ta agwanta anay yo por causa na maga bata kay malisud tamen si engranda sila no hay el tata* (The Barangay [VAW Focal Team] is just there, I know, and won’t leave me. That’s why even when I get hurt, I bear pain for a while because of the children because it is also difficult if they grow up without a father).”

And if the violence would happen again she would never think twice to report it immediately whatever it takes.

“*Para na maga bata, ta pensa yo antes yo decidi si debe ba yo con ele demanda na caso pero makalastima man tamen por eso no hay mas yo porsigue* ([It is] for the children [that] I think before I decide if I must file a case against him but he is also pitiful that’s why I no longer pursued [the matter on filing a legal suit]).”

Asked if she would file a case against him for VAW as a woman S17 stated, *“Depende na situacion. Siguro si hace le senti comigo otra vez, que palmadia o pega o bombia comigo, baka jende mas yo puede acepta que ta puede le comigo hace senti otra vez. Ta man expect yo kasi como respeta era le comigo como mujer yo de suyo .”*

Researchers’ Observations: S17 has been physically and psychologically abused, however she is confident that the Barangay Focal Person is just the authority to run to in case there would be a repeat of her experience.

Analysis: S17 needs psychological help as her feelings towards her husband “vary” depending on the day, or her mood for the day: Love, pity, anger, even hatred.

Survivor 18

S18 is from Tumaga, who had been married for almost 27 years and she had 3 children. The first of the recent incidents of violence she experienced was on June of 2020 and badly got hurt. He boxed, slapped her and worst is when she got stoned by a knife in her face until she got injured. The pandemic and the restriction imposed by the government did not do them any good.

She thinks it is too much and violence must end. *“Para sa mga anak ko, panahon na siguro na layuan ko muna siya (For my children’s sake, it is time [for me] to get away from him).”*

If the violence takes place again she would report immediately because she knows that she has the right.

“Para sa mga bata, kailangan kong maging matapang. Para sa kanila, isakripisyo ko na lang siguro ang buhay ko para hindi maghirap ang mga anak ko. Bahala na kung anong mangyari (For the children[’s sake], I need to be courageous. For them, I will sacrifice my life so my children would not suffer. I leave it to fate).”

Asked if she would file a case against him for VAW as a woman she stated, *“Siguro, pero naghiwalay naman din kami pagod na kasi ako. Siguro kakayanin ko na lang para sa mga anak ko dahil sila lang naman ang rason kung bakit buhay pa ako (Perhaps, but we already separated. I’m already tired. Perhaps I might as well manage for my children because they are the only reason why I still am alive).”*

Researchers' Observations: S18 in her early years of marriage has suffered from psychological abuse and as time went by she has grown accustomed to the verbal arguments and the verbal abuse, that is, getting insulted. It was also in early years that she has been a victim of physical violence, but the slaps on her face and the occasional boxing punches she gets have gone unnoticed.

Analysis: S18 is a survivor of physical and psychological violence from her husband of 27 years. She has regarded the many years of violence as ordinary, as part of marriage life. She has thought that the violence only occurred in June of 2020 when she a knife was thrown at her that wounded her face, as a bladed weapon was already involved. The use of the bladed weapon drove her to report her husband to the police.

Survivor 19

S19 is from Tumaga, who is not married but living in with her partner for 6 years. They had 3 children: 2 boys and a girl. She experienced the incident of violence just this year before the pandemic. He kicked her until she got hit by the refrigerator. He shouted at her many times and insulted her with expletives even in front of their children. She was threatened to be cut-off from financial support because he had another woman. She has been scolded, shamed, and quarrelled by her mother-in-law.

She has been thinking of separating her husband. "*S'yempre naisip ko ang mga anak ko. Para sa'n pa? Hindi naman sila minamahal ng tatay nila* (Of course I thought of my children. What for? They aren't anyway loved by their father)."

Asked whether she had intention to file charges in court against her husband she responded, "*Noong una, oo, kasi wala akong pamilya dito; ako lang mag-isa sa Zamboanga pero alam ko na may batas naman* (At first, yes, because I don't have family here; I am alone in Zamboanga but I know there's the law)."

"*Di niya na magagawa 'yun kasi di ko na talaga siya babalikan siguro aalis na lang ako at mga anak ko* (He can't anymore do [the violence] again because I no longer am going back to him, perhaps I would soon go away with my children)."

"*Nagreport ako sa barangay at police, para turuan ng leksyon at para din sa safety ko at nag-file ako ng BPO [Barangay Protection Order](I reported at the barangay and police, that a lesson be taught [to him] and also for my safety, I filed a BPO [Barangay Protection Order]."*

Asked if she would file a case against him for VAW as a woman S19 responded, “*Kahit hindi na, tatal, naghiwalay na naman kami; isipin ko na lang future ng mga anak ko. Gagawin ko na lang lahat para sa kanila kasi sila ang buhay ko* (Not anymore, anyway, we already broke up; I will just think of my children’s future. I will do everything for them as they are my life).”

Researchers’ Observations: S19 is a survivor of psychological, emotional, physical, sexual and economic abuse. She bore the verbal abuse for six years especially when he was under the influence of liquor. Her children were her witnesses to the violence inflicted upon her.

Analysis: S19 has hoped for six years for marriage, as she raised her three children with her partner. Her realization that the marriage would never take place hit her when her partner had a another woman, a third party to their 6-week relationship. Her exit to the partnership however did not yet reach the point for her filing of a case against him on the ground of VAW in violation of R.A. No. 6292.

Survivor 20

S20 is from Tumaga, who is not legally married but living together “for quite a long time”. She had 4 children: 3 boys and a girl. The first incident of violence happened when she got home late on this year, January and her partner got jealous. He slapped, boxed, kicked in any part of the body, shouted and insulted her with expletives.

“*Inisip ko bakit gano’n siya sa akin. Masyado na siyang nakakasakit* (I thought why he was like that to me He was too much in inflicting pain).”

“*S’yempre, naisip ko talaga mga anak ko bago ko gawin ang pagrereklamo sa pulis; possible sigurong idemanda na pansamantala lang* (Certainly, I really thought of my children before deciding on filing a complaint before the police; probably possible to file the demand for temporary purposes).”

She doesn’t even have problem or trust issue in any agency and she thinks that the proper authority will help her.

“*Kailangan kong magkaroon ng tapang para sa sarili ko at mga anak ko dahil pag hindi akong maging matapang paano na lang ang mga anak ko if hindi ko napakita na kaya ko* (I need to be courageous for myself and my children because if I don’t become courageous, what could happen to my children if I don’t show that I’m capable).”

On the third visit, asked if she would file a case against him for VAW as a woman S20 responded this time, “Yes, *dahil alam ko na may karapatan ako bilang babae at may karapatan akong protektahan ang sarili ko* (Yes, because I know I have my right as a woman and I have my right to protect myself).”

Researchers’ Observations: S20 does not reveal the years of their partnership or their years they have lived together. She at first thought she was eventually going to be a wife but year after year, she said she lost her hopes when she the verbal abuse were getting too frequent and he was too restrictive on her. She was the object of her husband’s extreme jealousy and she was in most times restricted to go out of their dwelling place.

Analysis: S20 has suffered from physical and psychological abuse. After four children, her partner has not yet offered her marriage leading her to realize that he was not serious about keeping the family. She was at a point of giving up, as she fears of her safety.

Survivor 21

S21 is from Tumaga, who has been married for 8 years. She has 2 children, aged 4 and 7 years old. She experienced physical violence like being boxed, kicked in her head even in different parts of her body and whose neck got strangled by her husband.

It is hurting her and said it is too much that caused her so much pain.

“*No hay yo con quien pensa otro afuera con mi maga anak, por eso yo ya puede pensa si pursigi ba yo o jende* (I can’t think of anything else but my children, which made me think whether I should pursue [in breaking up for good] or not).”

“*Sabe yo jende yo solo. Sabe yo mucho conmigo hay ayuda* (I know I won’t be alone. I know many will help me).”

Asked whether she would legally file a suit against him, she said, “*Depende na situacion. Si seguro hace le otra vez y mas malo este, hace ya yo cosa el debe* (It depends on the situation. If perhaps he will commit something that is worse, I will do whatever is right).”

Asked if she would file a case against him for VAW as a woman S21 stated

“Jende gaha tamen ginda con ese punto. Reza yo para su cambio y jende le hace otra vez (I don’t think it will reach that point. I pray for his change and he would not do [the violence] once more).”

Researchers’ Observations: S21 tolerated the physical violence she has been receiving from her husband of 8 years. She is not conscious of her having been a victim of psychological abuse and is at times defending her husband when her friends talk to her about leaving him.

Analysis: S21 has been psychologically and emotionally abused more than she was physically hurt by her husband. Her emotions for her husband and children keep her making a firm decision for her and her children’s future.

Survivor 22

S22 is from Tumaga, who had been married for 7 years and had a 7 year old daughter. The incident of violence happened was on May 2020 they had an argument about financial matters. He boxed her at her arms and in some parts of her body, and also he shouted at her.

She asked herself why her husband sometimes hurts her especially when he is mad and she thinks about her child if she grows up without a father.

“Sabe yo, ayuda comigo el barangay u policía, y sabe yo tiene yo derecho como mujer (I know, the barangay and policía will help me, and I know I have a right as a woman).”

“Envisti yo si hace le otra vez comigo, especialmente si mas malo pa ele comigo hace. Si maltrata le otra vez comigo, reporta gat yo enseguida con ele na barangay (I will fight back if he does to me again, especially if he does worse to me. If he maltreats me once again, I would report him immediately to the barangay).”

She reported the first incident but only in the barangay. Asked if she would file a case against him for VAW as a woman she stated “Depende si hace le sentí otra vez comigo y palmadia le comigo ya tamen (It depends if he hurts me once again and he slaps me again).”

Researchers’ Observations: S22 thought at first that arguments between couples were part of marriage life but she started feeling pain when the physical violence started with her husband boxing her in her forearms and even slapping her at the middle of their verbal quarrels, especially when he

did not like what she said. S22 did not reveal all information to the focal person, but just reported the recent incident.

Analysis: S22 speaks of pain and her want to end the marriage. In all three visits, however, she also speaks of second chance as she does not want the marriage to be completely dissolved. S22 is just hopeful, as she is concerned of her child's future.

Survivor 23

S23 is from Sta Maria, she has a live-in partner for 8 years but got separated. They have two kids, aged 2 years old and 4 years old. She can no longer recall the specific date or month when her partner started physically and emotionally hurt her. She experienced being slapped in the face, shouted at, insulted at with expletives, mocked, jeered and laughed at in front of children, relatives and friends. Also she was threatened with a cut-off from financial support.

She just kept on thinking to be patient for the sake of her children every time she was abused. S23 not for a moment felt alone and immediately went to report the incident to the barangay. She would have the courage to report again if her partner does this again, "Opo, kung sumusobra na siya (Yes, if he becomes too much)."

Asked if she would have legal support, would she file a case against him for VAW being a woman, she stated "*Opo naman, kasi alam kong may kakampi ako* (Yes, certainly, because I know I have an ally)."

Researchers' Observations: S23 has long experienced psychological violence, with occasional physical violence. Her triggering point was the threat to end the financial support.

Analysis: S23 has already developed (Psychologically/Emotionally) Battered Women Syndrome which is manifested by her responses on the frequent verbal attacks on her personality as a woman and wife. She went through physical violence from time to time and she has been tolerant of all these. She however, manifested her fear for no monetary support in view of her inability to earn money herself for her and the children's survival.

Survivor 24

S24 is from Sta. Maria, who has been living together with her live-in partner for 11 years. They have two children, an 8- and a 2-year old. Whenever her husband was under the influence of alcohol he got jealous. He slapped, boxed her in any part of her body, and shouted at her. Sometimes he threatened her to be cut-off from financial support. He constantly threatened her of being shamed before anyone. She often mentioned to her husband that he would leave him if he kept on beating her. They were always fighting and end up hurting each other. She thought of leaving her partner and report him again to the barangay. "Dalawang beses ako nag-layas sa bahay kasi 'di ko kinaya pero nahahanap pa rin niya ako (I left the house twice because I could not stand [the situation] but he still looked for me)."

"Pag malaki na ang problema, 'di ako nagdadalawang-isip na isumbong sa kanila kasi alam kong tinutulungan nila ako (When the problems is big, I do not think twice to report to [police and barangay authorities] as I know they will help me)."

S24 did not report earlier the incident. "*Nagmamakaawa kasi siya sa akin (He asked for sympathy).*"

Asked if she would file a case against him for VAW being a woman, she answered, "*Syempre po, kasi alam kong may rights akong isumbong siya sa mga ginagawa niya sa aking pambubugbog (Certainly, because I know I have rights to report him for what he has been doing in beating/mauling me).*"

Researchers' Observations: S24 has been a physical violence survivor who, through time, survived as well the uncountable counts of psychological, emotional and verbal violence in between years. More than a decade of living together without the benefit of marriage, from S24's responses, the children have been eyewitnesses to the couple's frequent verbal arguments that had moments of her getting beaten or mauled, especially when her partner was under the influence of liquor.

Analysis: S24 spoke of the incidents of violence inflicted upon her. She also knew of her rights as a woman. She was aware of her recourse should he abuse her again. Her responses also tell that he was just apologizing to her and they would be back again in each other's arms.

Survivor 25

S25 is from Sta. Maria, who has been live-in partner for 11 years but was separated and she has four children. She can no longer recall the specific date or month but she remembered that she has been experienced physical, emotional and psychological violence when they had their first child. He slapped her.

“Masquin diutay cosas lang, ta puede gat ele conmigo alsa mano (Even for little thing, he really could raise his hand to me [either slap or in any way, hit me]).”

He boxed, kicked her in the legs, shouted and insulted her at with expletives. He also mocked, jeered and laughed at her in front of children, relatives and friends.

“Jende ele ta hace miedo cay ta hace gat le (He does not threaten because he really does [the violence]).”

“Tan sisi iyo porque yo con ele yan uni (I regret that I lived with him).”

“Si jende lang por causa del maga bata, ya tarda ya iyo deja con ele. Amo yo ya pensa man abroad por causa ta senti yo duele pati falta el income para canamon (Were it not for the children, I might have long left him. I had thought of going abroad because I felt hurt and the income was not enough for us).”

Yet she never felt alone because she sought help in the barangay when the incident happened and she would have courage to report whenever the violence take place again.

She never filed a case to her partner because they both decided to separate.

Asked if she would file a case against for VAW being a woman. S25's response was, *“Si, pati si tiene cen cay siempre pobre lang yo. Tiene pa yo maga anak con quien dale come kay irresponsable mi marido (Yes, and if there is money because I am just poor. I still have children whom I have to feed because my [common-law] husband is irresponsible.”*

Researchers' Observations: Per her responses, S25 has already separated in bed and board from her live-in partner of 11 years at the time of this study. Her four children have been living with her.

Analysis: S25 has been a survivor of physical, psychological, verbal violence, and continues to be a survivor of economic violence, there being no support for her and her four children. She hopes for economic support as she feels the total burden of feeding the family.

Survivor 26

S26 is from Sta. Maria, who has been married for 10 years but separated for 2 years. She has children aged 6, 12 and 8 years old. The first incident when she experienced the violence was on June of 2017. She recalled that her ex-husband was under the influence of illegal drugs, then got angry and boxed her. She was physically and emotionally abused by her ex-husband. She has being shamed before anyone for the reason that he was not able to go home early and she has threatened with being left or abandoned for another woman. He was scolded or fought by his parents and relatives but, nothing happened.

“S’yempre nasasaktan ako at gusto na mawala na siya sa buhay ko (Of course I was hurt and I wanted him out of my life).”

“Kaya ko na maghiwalay kami dahil wala naman siya naitulong sa amin ng mga anak niya (I was able to bear it because he could not help me and his children).”

She never felt alone because she knows there were barangay authorities or police that would help her and she would have courage when the incident might happen again because what he was doing to her was not right.

“Pumunta ako ng barangay para tawagin siya na magbigay ng sustento sa mga anak ko at sinumbong ko na may nakita akong may kasama syang ibang babae (I went to the barangay that he may be called that he may give support and I reported that he has been seen with another woman).”

Asked if she would file a case against him for VAW being a woman, S26 stated *“Si, pero habla mi nana deja ya lang cay caya man tambien mi nana*

suporta canamon con mi anak (Yes, but my mother said to let him be because my mother can support me and my children).”

Researchers’ Observations: S26 has been a survivor of physical, psychological (verbal and emotional), and economic violence. She now lives with her parents along with her four children.

Analysis: S26 spoke of her pain and suffering at first, but she eventually shared of her new life being free from the bond of her stressful marriage, with her mother as her principal supporter emotionally and financial.

Survivor 27

S27 is from Sta. Maria, who is not legally married but is a live-in partner. She has two children, both of whom are girls. She recalled that the first incident when she experienced physical and emotional violence, was on June of 2020. She was slapped in the face by her partner when he was drunk. He insulted her with expletives and sneered at her. He constantly threatened her with being shamed before anyone. She was also scolded by him and by his parents.

She was just silent and being patient every time he does this to her.

“Tiene yo tiwala na barangay por eso no hay yo man dos pensamiento corre avisa el cosa ya sucede (I have faith in the barangay that’s why I did not think twice in running to report what has happened).”

She was always willing to report the incident whenever he would do it again. *“Ya reporta yo para tiene yo BPO* (I reported so I could have a BPO [Barangay Protection Order].”

Asked if she would file a case against him for VAW being a woman, S27 stated, *“Si, pero si tiene yo cen. Pero sabe man yo onde corre y sabe yo tiene canamon quien ayuda* (Yes, but if I have money. But I know where to run to and I know there is someone who would help).”

Researchers’ Observations: S27 has been a victim of psychological, physical, and emotional violence and continues to be a victim of economic violence. She is firm in her trust on her barangay’s support.

Analysis: S27 has manifested signs of insecurity in her statements regarding her day-to-day experiences with her common-law husband. While she stated that she has trust that the barangay authorities would help her, she has tendencies to express her fear of being left to attend to the children and spend for all living expenses.

Survivor 28

S28 is from Sta. Maria who has been living together with her partner for 3 years and she had a 1-year old kid. She can no longer recall when she experienced the first violence but it happens many times. She was slapped, sometimes shouted at her whenever her partner is angry and insulted. Most of the time the parents of his partner would tolerate him.

She was willing to separate with her partner and never think twice because she knows that she will get hurt if she just let things happen again.

“Si, ya anda gat yo na barangay (Yes, I really went to the barangay [office],” S28 said, but clarified, “Ya anda lang yo na barangay reclama para alegra man separtahan (I just went to the barangay to arrange for the separation).”

Asked if she would file a case against him for VAW being a woman, S28 stated *“Si, siempre. Pensa tu un año pa lang di amon anak pero bien manada experiencia ya pasa. Sabe man tambien yo onde corre cay sabe yo tiene kami rights maga mujer (Yes, of course. Just think, our child is still one year old but has already gone through a lot [referring to the child’s having witnessed the domestic violence that has transpired]).”*

Researchers’ Observations: S28 has mustered a lot of courage for her decision to break up ties with her former partner. Her child’s trauma is what triggered her to seek separation.

Analysis: While S28 is identified as a survivor of physical, psychological, emotional, and economic violence, in her succeeding interviews she has revealed more of her having more concern on her child’s pain and trauma whenever the father was around.

Survivor 29

S29 is from San Roque who has been married for 15 years and she has 5 children aged 5, 8, 11, 14 and 16 years old. It was Christmas *Noche Buena* when she first experienced the violence. Her husband got mad at her because she was not able to go home early, waiting for her to cook food for him. He scolded her and told her, “*Mas quiere pa daw gale yo mio maga uban contra con ele, contra cusi para na familia* (I like to spend more time with my friends than with him, better that the family).”

Whatever reasons she gave to him he didn't believe in her, and he hit her “a little” in her face and also sent her down to the house. He shouted at her every time they had an argument and often insulted her when he got angry.

He would say, “*Tiene yo mujer* (I have a wife).” “*Porque daw yo con ele ta acusa hinde de verdad* (Why do I accuse him of untruths).”

She keeps on thinking what she was lacking because she spent 2 months in Manila. “*Amo tamen se ya anda yo Manila cay para na di mio maga anak, para puede tamen yo ayuda na di mio marido busca cen. No hay man yo pensa deja con ele cay ta reza yo y cambia le pati talli el Dios ta mira todo* (That's also why I left for Manila for my children, so that I could also help my husband look for money. I did not think of leaving him because I pray he would change and God is there [who] sees everything).”

She never felt alone because she can always approach her family where she thinks that it might better resolve the problem within the family instead of reporting it to the police.

If the violence will happen again she said that she will have the courage to report especially right now she knows where to seek help.

She did not report the recent incident during the pandemic. “*No hay ya lang para hindi causa huya y jende ya queda grande* (Never mind so it wouldn't cause shame and it [the issue] would not grow big).”

Asked if she would file a case against him for VAW being a woman, S29 stated, “*Jende lang siempre, cay todo suporta yo ya recipi, buen advice.*”

No hay ese llega na punto que advice para reporta (Still, not, because I received support, all [gave] good advice. It did not reach the point that an advice was to report [him]).”

Researchers’ Observations: S29 has, for 15 years of marriage, been a victim of violence psychologically, emotionally, verbally, physically. 15 year and 5 children were the themes of her frequent thoughts and considerations as these gave her the drive to consider her and the children’s future.

Analysis: Leaving her husband and children to S30 is out of the question and her decisión to report her husband for a violation of RA 9262 will only take place should there be another incident of violence within the domestic front.

Survivor 30

S30 is from San Roque, she has been married for 32 years and she has a 29-year old child. The first incident of violence she experienced was on August 14 when she was helping for an event in the barangay where she was an active officer of purok along with her colleague. Her husband got jealous of her colleague because he saw them together while she was backriding on a motorcycle where in fact there is nothing going around with them. It’s just all about their job.

“Amo quel ya principia todo kay ta embarca daw yo na otro, jende ta tiene huya (That was the start because I was riding behind another [person]).”

“Para comigo porque si embarca yo motor de trabajo man, y importante. ‘Yan service lang tambien comigo (For me, I backrode on the motorcycle because of work, and it was important. I was just being serviced [referring to her having been just brought home]).”

She experienced physical, emotional and psychological violence. He slapped her once when they had an argument, whereby she got insulted and was shouted at. At times he would threaten to shame her before anyone.

“Tiene vez ele pa mismo anda na barangay para man huya daw yo (there was a time when he said he himself would go to the barangay that I would be shamed).”

“Yo ta sale malo masquin quelaya pa de bueno el storia (I come out bad however good the story is)”

“Otro por eso sila, llega na hora, yo pa malo. Masquin ahora (They [in-laws] are differentm when the moment [of questioning] comes, I turn out bad [in the wrong]. Even now).”

She just didn't put too much attention about it and she always thinks about her child. Sometimes she wanted to get separated also she thinks of living alone and how she can able to sustain her own needs.

“Sabe yo si pa que laya busca man convert de mio problema na alegria (I know how to [find a way] to convert my problem into joy).”

“Pati no hay na de mio pensamiento reporta cay man verguenza pa. Sabe maga gente. Basta kaya pa yo, hace lang anay yo para de mio lang (Also, it is not in my thought to report because I would just turn out disreputable. People know. For as long as I can still bear it, I will just do for myself).”

And she was asked if she would file a case against him for VAW being a woman. S30 stated, *“El de mio, jende anay gat yo avisa, si jende ya yo kaya amo yo move y acepta maga suporta. Kay siempre gente lang quita. Jende quita caya na quita lang. Necesita quita grande suporta para tiene quita confidence planta caso (On my part, I really would not just report [the violence], if I could no longer bear it, I will move and accept [others'] support. Of course, we are just human. We cannot bear on our own. We need big support for us to have confidence filing a case).”*

Researchers' Observations: S30 suffered from psychological, physical, emotional, and verbal abuse in a number of incidents. Only two have been reported to the barangay. She has been married for thirty-two years to the same man with one child, now 29 years old, but the shame her husband inflicts on her has not brought her spirit down. Although she was hurting, she feigned joy, and still smiled whenever she shared her stories.

Analysis: Based from her narratives, S30's abuse has been triggered by her husband's jealousy and insecurity and she is firm that her backriding is simply part of her work, and that she has no relationship at all with the colleague who took her home. Her statements were repetitive, that she was availing of the free ride simply because of the saving in the

transportation fare she gets, as well as the travel time to get home. She said she could not convince her husband that she spoke the truth.

Survivor 31

S31 is from San Roque, who has been married for 32 years and she has 8 children. She recalled that before, her husband has an affair with another woman and endured for the sake of her children. The survivor experienced physical, emotional and psychological violence. At times they ended up shouting whenever they had an argument. But the family of her husband didn't tolerate with his wrong doings instead, they scolded him.

Sometimes she cried and went to the house of her mom bringing along her children.

"Pirmi na de mio pensamiento de mio maga anak (My thoughts are always with my children)."

"Ta mira man tambien yo se drama-drama na TV. Manada man tambien alli el tiene maga problema na marido, ta puede man yo mira kay maga agencia ta ayuda gayod no hay man problema (I also see the drama-drama on TV. There are also many out there who have problems with husbands, I could see that the agencies helped, there's no problem)." And if violence will happen again she would have the courage to report.

She did not report against him. *"Aquel maga caso ya caba sucede. Jende man gat big deal. Ta pensa lang gat yo de mio maga anak, makalastima (Those incidents happened. It's not a big deal. I just think of my children)."*

"Siempre si tarda quita man caso-caso. De aton maga anak como dejao quita. Ta reza ya lang gayod yo y cambia de suyo custombre (Of course it will take long when there is a case. Our children become left on their own. I just wuld have to pray and that he would change his attitude)."

Survivor 31 stated, *"Man file gayod yo caso si ese sobra ya cay pobre tambien yo si deja lang pati para tiene yo peace of mind. Si man caso man yo cay sabe yo si man caso yo, jende man ta deja el gobyerno. El maga police cay ayuda man gayod tambien cila. Pati necesita gale gayod tu planta caso para tiene tambien miedo man olet de mio marido (I will really*

file a case if he becomes too much because I also become pathetic if I just leave him be and I could have peace of mind. If I would file a case [against him], I know the government would not leave me. The police would really help me. It is also a must to file a case so that my husband would also be afraid to do it [the violence] again).”

Researchers’ Observations: S31 is aware of her rights, and is firm on her decision to report her husband’s abuses. She is aware of the law.

Analysis: From the responses of S31, she has been abused psychologically, physically, and emotionally. Although, she has economical support from her husband, such is not enough which is why she has to earn a living.

Survivor 32

S32 is from San Roque, who is not married and has two children, aged 4 and 6 years old. She could no longer recall when she experienced the first instance of violence but she just remembered the slaps and hustled every time they had a big fight. He shouted and insulted her painful words.

She just cried and tried to forgive him.

“Oo, naisipan, kaya ko naman ngunit minsan di lang ako ‘yung involved, s’yempre pati mga bata (Yes, I thought [of reporting him] but at times, I think that I’m not the only one involved, of course, there were also the children).” Nevertheless she doesn’t have any problem that would make her seek assistance from government. S32 believed there are some agencies that are ready to help.

“S’yempre naman po, kung talagang mamali na ang ginagawa sa akin hindi na ako papayag. Talagang kakasuhan ko na talaga siya (Of course, if he really does me wrong, I would not also consent to it. I really would file a case against him).”

But she never reported any incident for the reason that they can still resolve the problem.

Asked if she would file a case against him for VAW being a woman, S32 stated, *“Depende, kakasuhan ko sakaling sobra na po basta ‘yung*

nakasagad na po (It depends, I will file charges if in case he becomes too much, when it becomes unbearable).”

Researchers’ Observations: S32 is psychologically, physically and emotionally abused, but has been bearing the pain all to herself. Her two toddlers have witnessed their marital quarrels.

Analysis: S32 is not being open about her experiences of violence but she just sheds tears, as her manifestation of her expression of emotional pain.

Survivor 33

S33 is from San Roque, who has been married for 22 years and she has four children aged 21, 20, 18 and 9 years old. Ever since they have their fight because he was under the influence of alcohol. He insulted, shouted at her and kept on looking for a reason to cause another argument. Sometimes she threatened her husband that she was going to report it.

She just thought about her children and told to just ignore it.

“Parati kong iniisip ang future ng mga anak ko. Hindi ko rin kaya ang humiwalay sa asawa ko kahit saglit, pero hindi rin natin masabi. Malaki na rin mga anak ko nagtrabaho na siguro kakayanin lang tsaka isa pa may pinag-aralan mga anak ko (I often think of the future of my children. I cannot also bear being separated from my husband even for a while, but we cannot also tell. My children are already grown up, probably working already. Also, my children have been schooled).”

“Wala naman akong problema sa mga police, ‘yun lang minsan, nakakahiya para sa parte ko parang mawalan ako ng dignidad (I do not have problems with the police, it’s just that’ at times I feel embarrassed on my part like I am losing dignity).”

“S’yempre, kung binubugbog na ako ng sobra, ‘yung may magagaling na talaga. ‘tsaka ilang beses rin ako naka attend ng seminar para sa 4Ps tungkol sa mga karapatan ng kababaihan (Certainly, if I am mauled too much, when I would have injuries already. Also, I have already attended a seminar for Ps about the rights of women).”

Asked why she did not report before, she answered, “*Walang tapang ng lakas dati ‘tsaka pinipigilan ako ng mga anak ko* (I did not have courage and strength before, and my children also prevented me before).”

“*Hindi ko pa rin dati alam na may batas na ganyan* (I also did not know before that there was such a law).”

She was asked if she would file a case against for VAW as a woman, S33 stated “No, *kahit noon decision ko pa rin masunod, kasi naapektuhan ang mga anak ko* (No, even before, my decision is still being followed.”

Researchers’ Observations: S33 is a victim of psychological, emotional and physical violence but she prefers not to really report her husband. For her, it is enough that she is comforted by the thought that there is a law that would help her out as a recourse and that there are barangay officials who could help her should things go wrong. She believes that quarrels were part of the marriage.

Analysis: S33’s narratives showed that she has experiences, when left unregarded, could lead her to be an emotionally battered woman with physical and psychologically violence inflicted upon her on occasion.

Survivor 34

S34 is from San Roque who has been married for 34 years with 3 children: 33, 30 and 26 years old. The first incident of violence happened when they were still living in Zamboanga Sibugay and she was 31 years old at that time. He slapped her and strangled by the neck.

“*Iya kong gi-dasok-dasok dayon ni ingon kay ‘patyon tika.’ ‘Imudmud tika anang semento’.* (He would push me to a wall/corner then tell me, ‘I will kill you.’ ‘I will rub your face on the cemented floor’).” He shouted at her and insulted her saying, “*Mao na siyang masuko kay ako s’yang badlungon. Puro lang daw ko pangabugho. Pangabugho diay nga na-insulto lang man ko* (He gets angry at me because I would reprimand him I am just always jealous. I was not being jealous, but I was just insulted).”

“*’Sa una ingon s’ya, ‘moinom ko kay sigi ko nimo ingnon ani, mosumbong sa VAWC.’ Mao ra na iyang gina-ingon sa ako. Kay kabalo ko sa mga balaod sa mga babaye sa women’s rights* (At first he told me, ‘I drink because you

always tell me you will report to VAWC.’ That is what he told me. Because I know the law on women, on women’s rights).”

She thought of leaving her husband to run away from him and never show up but she always thought of her children.

“Madani pod nako akong ginahuna-huna, luoy kaayo akong mga anak. Dayun, duha-duha pod kaayong sala maghikog. Mao nang ingon ani akoa na lang ihuna-huna karon ingon ani na lang. Kung unsa taman akong kinabuhi, mao na lang ko musugot na lang ko (I convince also my mind, my children are pitiful. Then, I think twice about committing suicide, it’s also a sin. That’s why I think this way now. Up to where my life is now, I will just conform to [whatever happens]).”

“May salig man ko sa mga agencia. Feeling lang jud nako ako ra isa. Kay dili jud ko tigsumbong sa mga silingan, sa ako lang kaugalingon (I have trust in the agencies. I just feel I’m on my own. Because I really don’t share with neighbors, only to myself).”

She would have the courage to report again if the incident will occur again
“Oo, kay gi-advice na sa ako sa mga pulis pati sa barangay (Yes, because that was advised to me by the police and by barangay [VAW Focal Person]).”

When the first incident happened S34 was not able to report it she stated,
“Sa Sibugay pa mi ato, layo kaayo ana mga agencia kay sa bukid man mi, ikaduha kay wala man ko ato gilaguman. Dili pareho karon kay ginalugan na jud ko. Daghan ko’g lagom, dugay kaayo ‘to mawala (We were still living in Zamboanga Sibugay, far from the agencies because we lived in the hinterlands. Secondly, I did not have bruises then. Unlike now when there are dark bruises that stay for long).”

Asked if she would file case against him for VAW as a woman S4 response
“Kung pasakitan na sab ko niya, laguman ko niya balik, bisan pa ang akong mga anak moingon ayaw buhaton, ako na lang mag-desisyon sa akong kaugalingun. Akong desisyon gihapon masunod, akong kaugalingon jud na nakasalalay ana, akong kinabuhi (If he would hurt me again, bruise me again, even when my children tell him not to do so, I will just decide for myself. My decision will still be followed, my own self is at risk, my life).”

Researchers' Observations: S34 is a mother of three who have their own respective families. She still suffers from psychological and physical violence especially when her husband is under the influence of liquor. She has not reported her husband of 34 years when they still lived in Zamboanga Sibugay, but she did when they already migrated to Zamboanga City because she felt the assistance of the barangay local government.

Analysis: S34 in her responses expressed her difficulties as a mother and wife as she moved from the province to Zamboanga City. Her life as a migrant was full of adjustments and her children often hushed her from complaining or ranting about their father's lack of help on the emotional burden. She has expressed suicidal tendencies because she felt she did not have an ally within her own family. Her husband's act of strangling her in the neck with his bare hands was his ultimate act that pushed her to report him to the barangay and police.

Survivor 35

S35 is from San Roque who has been married for 30 years with 8 children, 7 boys and 1 girl. She recalled the first incident of violence she experienced was on the time of Christmas when she was not able to go home early and she was not able to cook for her husband. He got angry towards her and waited for her arrival at late night. That's when he tried to hit her on the face and sent her down to the house.

When she was in Manila some of her friends told her that they saw her husband with some girl riding together in a motorcycle.

"Ta pensa yo se ese tan mujer-mujer ele. Pa que laya si deja le canamon? Que laya yo suporta de amon maga anak de bien manada siempre ta entra escuela (I think of his womanizing. How would we be if he leaves us? How will I support our many children all schooling)?"

She was threatened with being left or abandoned for another woman and scolded, quarreled, shamed or fought by his parents or relatives.

"Ya puede yo se pensa cay baka man separtahan kami. Llego el dia. Amo lang tambien de mio maga anak, masquin que laya o cosa pa se, bahala ya masquin deja ya yo de mio marido (I was able to think of that [effect of his

womanizing] because we might break up. The day might come. My children are right, whatever happens, even when I would leave my husband).”

Asked if she would file legal complaints against her husband, she said, “*Jende man, sabe yo manada man tambien ancina. No hay problem llega na ayuda del government. Tiene man yo tiwala na maga pulis. Si no, el huya ba. Por eso, no mas ya lang* (Not at all, I know there are many who are in the same [situation]. There is no problem when it comes to the help of government. I have faith in our police. Only, the embarrassment. Which is why, [I decide to] never mind).”

And if the violence gets worse again she would have courage to report. “*Pati si llega el tiempo cay hace le senti duele, jende yo deja con ele basta-basta senti duele fisical. Sabe man tambien yo onde atraca para pedi ayuda* (When time comes that he will hurt me again, I will not let him to just hurt me physically. I also know where to go to ask help).”

The first incident of violence when she did not even report it, she said, “*Igual lang se si tiene quita enfermedad, si jende pa grabe el cosa ta senti jende pa pedi ayuda. Amo tambien yo quel. No hay yo reporta cay jende man tambien grabe el cosa ya socede comigo* (It is like when we are sick, if if the pain felt is not yet severe, we don’t ask for help yet. I am like that. I did not report because what happened to me was not severe).”

Asked if she would file a case for VAW as a woman S35 stated, “*Ya tiene yo se suporta ya habla comigo cay planta caso. De mio hermana quel pero ya llega lang tambien na punto cay yo mismo ya pensa no ma ya lang. De mio decision siempre yo sigue* (I had support that was offered to me if I filed a case [in court]. That was my sister but it still reached that point when I myself decided not to pursue. My initial decision was still followed).”

Researchers’ Observations: S35 is a mother of 8, and has been wed 30 years ago to this same man, who has been making her suffer psychologically and physically. She only nursed her emotional pains by crying in silence as she considered the plight of their 8 children whom her husband also helps support financially.

Analysis: S35's responses show that her husband has been inflicting physical and emotional pain on her for more than two decades already. The marital quarrels have been part of their daily lives, some being petty arguments, and others having led to serious disagreements that were accompanied with physical violence. She bore all the emotional and physical pain, and just cried on her own. Her concern was the embarrassment to neighbors, relatives and even her own children.

II. Voices of VAW Survivors

Based on the 2019 Report of ZCPC-WCPD, the five (5) barangays that acquired the highest number of cases in the city were Tumaga, Santa Maria, San Roque, Mercedes and Pasonanca.

From this total, only ninety-two (92) expressed willingness to be part of the study and submitted their answers to the survey questionnaires. Three however were found to be unfinished questionnaires and these were set aside. Eighty-nine (89) survey questionnaires with complete responses were thus considered.

Characteristic Profile of VAW Survivors in Zamboanga City

This section highlights the numerical data from the survey questionnaire, as shown in Tables 1 to 12.

Of the 89 respondents, twenty-eight (28) were from Tumaga, twenty-five (25) were from San Roque, seventeen (17) were from Santa Maria, twelve (12) were from Mercedes, and seven (7) were from Pasonanca. This distribution of population is reflected in Tables 1 to 12.

Age of Respondents

The 89 respondents were distributed in five (5) age groups, and classified under the five (5) barangays, as shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO CURRENT AGE

AGE GROUP	1		2		3		4		5		TOTAL (f=89)	%
	TUMAGA (f=28)		SAN ROQUE (f=25)		STA MARIA (f=17)		MERCEDES (f=12)		PASONANCA (f=7)			
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%		
61-older	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.2
41-60	5	18	7	28	3	17.6	4	33.3	4	57.1	23	25.8
22-40	11	39.3	16	64	14	82.4	3	25	2	28.6	46	51.7
18-21	9	32	0	0	0	0	5	41.7	0	0	14	15.7
17-younger	3	10.7	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	14.3	5	5.6
TOTAL	28	100	25	100	17	100	12	100	7	100	89	100

Table 2 shows that of the age group of 17 and younger, three (3) or ten point seven percent (10.7%) were from Tumaga, one (1) or four percent (4%) from San Roque, another one (one) or fourteen point three percent (14.3%) from Pasonanca, and none from Santa Maria and Mercedes.

Of the 18-21 age group, nine (9) or thirty-two percent (32%) were from Tumaga, five (5) or forty one point seven percent (41.7%) were from Mercedes, and none in the 3 other barangays.

In the 22-40 age group, eleven (11) or thirty-nine point three percent (39.3%) were from Tumaga, sixteen (16) or sixty-four percent (64%) were from San Roque, fourteen (14) or eighty-two point four percent (82.4%) came from Santa Maria, three (3) or twenty-five percent (25%) were from Mercedes, two (2) or twenty-eight point six percent (28.6%) were Pasonanca residents.

In the 41-60 age group, five (5) or eighteen percent (18%) hailed from Tumaga, seven (7) or twenty-eight percent (28%) from San Roque, three (3) or seventeen point six percent (17.6%) from Sta. Maria, four (4) or thirty-three percent (33.3%) from Mercedes, and four (4) or fifty-seven point one percent (57.1%) hailed from Pasonanca.

In the 61-older age bracket, one (1) or four percent (4%) was a resident of San Roque. None came from the other four barangays.

In sum, there were five (5) or five point six percent (5.6%) who were 17-younger, fourteen (14) or fifteen point seven percent (15.7%) who were aged 18-21, forty-six (46) or fifty-one point seven percent (51.7%) who belonged to the 22-40 age group, twenty-three (23) or twenty-five point eight percent (25.8%) who were part of the 41-60 age bracket, and one (1) or one point two percent (1.2%) were 61 years of age or even older.

The age grouping followed the grouping of Erik Erikson's (Orenstein & Lewis, 2020) Stages of Psychosocial Development, particularly on Adolescence (13-17), Young adulthood (18-40), Adulthood (41-60) and Old Age Period (61 and Older).

From the findings as presented in Table 2, data reveal that 5.6% of the VAW survivors were minors, having been 17 years old or younger at the time of the data gathering, and 1.2% was a senior citizen, which consequently meant that they were twice vulnerable as VAW survivors.

Data likewise meant that the majority of the total population belonged to the age bracket of 22-40 who were classified as Young Adults in psychosocial development.

TABLE 3. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO CIVIL STATUS

CIVIL STATUS	1		2		3		4		5		TOTAL	%
	TUMAGA		SAN ROQUE		STA MARIA		MERCEDES		PASONANCA			
	(f=28)		(f=25)		(f=17)		(f=12)		(f=7)			
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%		
Single	2	7.1	2	8	0	0	1	8.3	0	0	5	5.6
Legally Married	8	28.6	16	64	7	41.2	3	25	4	57.1	38	42.7
Live-in (Living with Partner)	18	64.3	7	28	2	11.8	2	16.7	3	42.9	32	36
Separated	0	0	0	0	8	47	6	50	0	0	14	15.7
TOTAL	28	100	25	100	17	100	12	100	7	100	89	100

Table 3 above presented the distribution of respondents according to civil status.

Data shows that eight (8) or forty-seven percent (47%) from Sta. Maria were separated, and so were six (6) or fifty percent (50%) from Mercedes.

Among those who were living with partners as common-law wives, eighteen (18) or sixty-four point three percent (64.3%) were from Tumaga, seven (7) or twenty-eight percent (28%), two (2) or eleven point eight percent (11.8%) were residents from Sta. Maria, two (2) or sixteen point seven percent (16.7%) were from Mercedes, and three or forty-two point nine percent (42.9%) were from Pasonanca.

From those who were legally married, whether their ceremonies were civil or in church, eight (8) or twenty-eight point six percent (28.6%) lived in Tumaga, sixteen (16) or sixty-four percent (64%) were from San Roque, seven (7) or forty-one point two percent (41.2%) were resided in Sta. Maria, three (3) or twenty-five percent (25%), and four (4) or fifty-seven point one percent (57.1%) were living in Pasonanca.

Among the single survivors, two (2) or seven point one percent (7.1%) lived in Tumaga, another two (2) or eight percent (8%) were from San Roque, one (1) or eight point three percent (8.3%) was from Pasonanca, and no one came from Sta. Maria and Pasonanca.

In sum, there were fourteen (14) or fifteen point seven percent (15.7%) from the total population of eighty-nine (89) from the 5 barangays altogether who were separated; thirty-two (32) or thirty-six percent (36%) were living as common-law couples; thirty-eight (38) or forty-two point seven percent (42.7%) were legally bound in marriage; and five (5) or five point six percent (5.6%) were single.

Findings showed that most of the respondents were married and coming close were those who wereliving together without the benefit of marriage. The women who were either once married or once lived with a partner, or were single, were the minority group in terms of civil status.

TABLE 4. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO OCCUPATION

OCCUPATION	1		2		3		4		5		TOTAL (f=89)	%
	TUMAGA (f=28)		SAN ROQUE (f=25)		STA MARIA (f=17)		MERCEDES (f=12)		PASONANCA (f=7)			
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%		
Housewife/ House Manager	14	50	15	60	10	58.8	4	33.3	6	85.7	49	55.1
Businesswoman	0	0	6	24	2	11.8	2	16.7	0	0	10	11.2
Retail Store Worker	0	0	0	0	3	17.6	0	0	0	0	3	3.4
Government Employee	1	3.6	3	12	0	0	2	16.7	0	0	6	6.7
Employee of a Private Company/NGO	0	0	0	0	1	5.9	2	16.7	0	0	3	3.4
Teacher	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8.3	1	14.3	2	2.2
Others	13	46.4	1	4	1	5.9	1	8.3	0	0	16	18
TOTAL	28	100	25	100	17	100	12	100	7	100	89	100

Table 4 presented data on the distribution of respondents according to occupation.

Majority of the 89 respondents were housewives, or house managers, being charged with managing the household chores and other domestic affairs. This was composed of forty-nine (49) respondents or fifty-five point one percent (55/1%) of the total population. The remaining forty-four point nine percent (44.9%) were distributed into the following occupations, namely, businesswoman (ten [10] or eleven point two percent [11.2%]), government employee ([six] or six point seven percent [6.67%]), retail store worker (three [3] or three point four percent [3.4%]), employee of a private company or an NGO (another three [3] or three point four percent [3.4%]), teacher (two [two] or two point two percent [2.2%]) and other Jobs (sixteen [16] or eighteen percent [18%]).

These data reveal that majority of the survivors were not income-earners as full-time house managers, and were dependent on the head of the family in terms of economic survival.

TABLE 5. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO RELIGION

RELIGION	1		2		3		4		5		TOTAL (f=89)	%
	TUMAGA (f=28)		SAN ROQUE (f=25)		STA MARIA (f=17)		MERCEDES (f=12)		PASONANCA (f=7)			
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%		
Roman Catholic	17	60.7	16	64	16	94.1	8	66.6	6	85.7	63	70.8
Protestant (Alliance, Seventh- Day Adventist, Victory, etc.)	8	28.6	1	4	0	0	2	16.7	0	0	11	12.3
Iglesia ni Cristo	1	3.6	1	4	1	5.9	0	0	0	0	3	3.4
Islam	2	7.1	6	24	0	0	2	16.7	1	14.3	11	12.3
Others	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.2
TOTAL	28	100	25	100	17	100	12	100	7	100	89	100

As data revealed in Table 5, a great majority of the survivors were followers of the Roman Catholic Church at sixty-three (63) or seventy point eight (70.8%). The rest was distributed to the following: eleven (11) or twelve point three percent (12.3%) each of Protestants (Alliance, Seventh-Day Adventist, Victory, and others) and Islam; three (3) or three point four percent (3.4%) of Iglesia ni Kristo; and one (1) or one point two per cent (1.2%) that was not among those mentioned earlier.

TABLE 6. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO ETHNICITY

ETHNICITY	1		2		3		4		5		TOTAL (f=92)	%
	TUMAGA		SAN ROQUE		STA MARIA		MERCEDES		PASONANCA			
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%		
Zamboangueña	16	57.2	14	56	16	94.	7	58.3	6	85.7	59	66.3
Visayan (Ilongga, Cebuana, Boholana, Davaoeña, Cagayanon, etc)	10	35.7	7	28	1	5.9	2	16.7	0	0	21	23.6
Tausug	2	7.1	4	16	0	0	2	16.7	1	14.3	9	10.1
TOTAL	28	100	25	100	17	100	12	100	7	100	89	100

Table 6 presents data showing the distribution of respondents according to ethnicity. Majority were Zamboangueña, with fifty-nine (59) or sixty-six point three percent (66.3%) having been born and grown in the city. Thirty (30) or thirty-three point seven percent (33.7%) were distributed, as Visayan (Ilongga, Cebuana, Boholana, Davaoeña, Cagayanon, and others) comprising twenty-one (21) or twenty-three point six percent (23.6%), or Tausug who were nine (9) or ten point one percent (10.1%).

This altogether means that majority were natives of the city, and the rest were either offspring of mixed marriages or were migrants from other Philippine provinces.

**TABLE 7. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO
NUMBER OF CHILDREN**

NO. OF CHILDREN	1		2		3		4		5		TOTAL (f=89)	%
	TUMAGA (f=28)		SAN ROQUE (f=25)		STA MARIA (f=17)		MERCEDES (f=12)		PASONANCA (f=7)			
	f	%	F	%	F	%	f	%	f	%		
Zero	7	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7.9
1-3	16	57.1	19	76	11	64.7	3	25	4	52.9	53	59.6
4-6	4	14.3	4	16	6	36.3	2	16.7	3	42.9	19	21.3
7-9	1	3.6	2	8	0	0	4	33.3	0	0	7	7.9
10-13	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	25	0	0	3	3.3
TOTAL	28	100	25	100	17	100	12	100	7	100	89	100

Table 7 presents data on the distribution of respondents according to the number of their children.

Of the 89 respondents from the 5 barangays, fifty-three (53) or fifty-nine point six percent (59.6%) were mothers of 1-3 children; nineteen (19) or twenty-one point three percent (21.3%) have 4-6 children; seven (7) or seven point nine percent (7.9%) were mothers of seven (7) or seven point nine percent (7.9%), and another seven (7) or seven point nine percent (7.9%) have not yet given birth; and three (3) or three oint three percent (3.3%) were mothers of 10-13 offspring.

These data mean that majority of the respondents gave birth to 1-3 children. This further meas that a great majority (92%) were mothers.

TABLE 8. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO CHILDREN'S AGE GROUPS

CHILDREN'S AGE GROUP	1		2		3		4		5		TOTAL	%
	TUMAG A (f=28)		SAN ROQUE (f=25)		STA MARIA (f=17)		MERCEDES (f=12)		PASONANCA (f=7)			
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%		
31 - 45	1	3.6	2	8	1	5.9	0	0	0	0	4	4.4
21 - 30	6	21.4	5	20	3	17.6	1	8.3	1	14.3	16	18
13-20	9	32.1	8	32	8	47.1	3	25	2	28.6	30	33.8
12-younger	12	42.9	10	40	5	29.4	8	66.7	4	57.1	39	43.8
TOTAL	28	100	25	100	17	100	12	100	7	100	89	100

Table 8 presents the distribution of respondents according to their children's age groups.

Data shows that thirty-nine (39) or forty-three point eight percent (43.8%) of the respondent-survivors were others of children aged 12 or younger; thirty (30) or thirty-three point percent (33.8%) were aged 13-20 years old; sixteen (16) or eighteen percent (18%) were aged 21-30; and four (4) or four point four percent (4.4%) belonged to the 31-45 age bracket.

These indicate that most of the survivor-respondents' children were minors, belonging to the age brackets of 12-younger followed by those belonging to the age bracket of 13-20.

TABLE 9. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO YEARS AS WIFE/PARTNER

YEARS AS WIFE/PARTNER	1		2		3		4		5		TOTAL (f=89)	%
	TUMAGA (f=28)		SAN ROQUE (f=25)		STA MARIA (f=17)		MERCEDES (f=12)		PASONANCA (f=7)			
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%		
40 - 49	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.2
30 - 39	4	14.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4.4
20 - 29	6	21.4	4	16	2	11.7	2	16.7	2	28.6	16	18
11 - 19	3	10.7	6	24	5	29.4	1	8.3	2	28.6	17	19.1
6-10	5	17.9	5	20	4	23.6	3	25	1	14.2	18	20.2
1-5	9	32.1	7	28	6	35.3	6	50	2	28.6	30	33.7
12 months- less	1	3.6	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3.4
TOTAL	28	100	25	100	17	100	12	100	7	100	89	100

Table 9 presents the distribution of respondents according to the number of years that she has been legal wife or common-law partner.

Thirty (30) or thirty-three point seven percent (33.7%) have been together for 1-5 years, eighteen or twenty point two percent (20.2%) have been living together for 6-10 years, seventeen (17) or nineteen point one percent (19.1%) have lived together for 11-19 years, sixteen (16) or eighteen percent (18%) cohabited for 20-29 years, four (4) or four point four percent (4.4%) lived together for 30-39 years, three (3) or three point four percent (3.4%) have been living together for 12 months or less, and one (1) or one point two percent (1.2%) lived together for 40-49 years.

Data indicates that most of the respondents were in their adjustment years as a couple and were still starting family life.

TABLE 10. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO ESTIMATE JOINT HOUSEHOLD MONTHLY INCOME

JOINT HH MONTHLY INCOME	1		2		3		4		5		TOTAL	%
	TUMAGA (f=28)		SAN ROQUE (f=25)		STA MARIA (f=17)		MERCEDES (f=12)		PASONANCA (f=7)			
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%		
20K-25K	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8.3	0	0	1	1.2
15K-20K	1	3.6	0	0	2	11.7	2	16.7	0	0	5	5.6
10K-15K	7	25	15	60	4	23.5	1	8.3	2	28.6	29	32.5
5K-10K	11	39.3	5	20	11	64.8	4	33.3	3	42.8	34	38.2
5K-0	9	32.1	5	20	0	0	4	33.3	2	28.6	20	22.5
TOTAL	28	100	25	100	17	100	12	100	7	100	89	100

Table 10 presents the distribution of respondents according to estimate joint household monthly income prior to the pandemic. Respondents have also mentioned in their responses that their income has gone down during the pandemic due to loss of employment or restrictions in earning.

Thirty-four (34) or thirty-eight point two percent (38.2%) had a joint monthly earning of 5 to 10 thousand pesos; twenty-nine (29) or thirty-two point five percent (32.5%) earned a total of 12 to 15 thousand monthly, twenty or twenty-two point five percent (22.5%) were earning five thousand pesos or lower in a month, five (5) or five point six percent (5.6%).

The above data indicates that more than half of the population of respondents have been earning between 5 to 15 thousand every month to sustain their living expenses.

TABLE 11. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO HOME PROVINCE/CITY/TOWN OF ORIGIN

HOME PROVINCE/CITY/TOWN	1		2		3		4		5		TOTAL (f=89)	%
	TUMAGA (f=28)		SAN ROQUE (f=25)		STA MARIA (f=17)		MERCEDES (f=12)		PASONANCA (f=7)			
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%		
Zamboanga City	26	92.8	20	80	15	88.2	6	50	7	100	74	83.1
Zamboanga del Sur	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8.3	0	0	1	1.2
Zamboanga del Norte	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8.3	0	0	1	1.2
Zamboanga Sibugay	0	0	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2.2
Basilan	1	3.6	1	4	0	0	1	8.3	0	0	3	3.4
Sulu	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8.3	0	0	1	1.2
Tawi-Tawi	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8.3	0	0	1	1.2
Visayas	1	3.6	2	8	1	5.9	1	8.3	0	0	5	5.6
Luzon	0	0	0	0	1	5.9	0	0	0	0	1	1.2
TOTAL	28	100	25	100	17	100	12	100	7	100	89	100

Table 11 above presents data pertaining to the distribution of respondents according to home province or city or town of origin.

Per the given data above, seventy-four (74) or eighty-three point one percent (83.1%) have lived in Zamboanga City. The rest, sixteen or sixteen point nine percent (16.9%) came from other parts of the country.

This further means that the great majority of the respondents are natives in the city.

TABLE 12. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO AGE WHEN MARRIED

AGE GROUP	1		2		3		4		5		TOTAL (f=89)	%
	TUMAGA (f=28)		SAN ROQUE (f=25)		STA MARIA (f=17)		MERCEDES (f=12)		PASONANCA (f=7)			
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%		
41-60	4	14.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4.5
31-40	6	21.4	0	0	2	11.8	0	0	0	0	8	9
18-30	2	7.2	13	52	11	64.7	8	66.7	3	42.9	37	41.6
17- younger	16	57.1	12	48	4	23.5	4	33.3	4	57.1	40	44.9
TOTAL	28	100	25	100	17	100	12	100	7	100	89	100

Table 12 shows the distribution of respondents according to age when they entered into marital relationship or into the common-law partnership.

Data reveals that forty (40) or forty-four point nine percent (44.9%) entered into marriage when they were aged 17 or younger, thirty-seven (37) or forty-one point six percent (41.6%) were aged between 18 and 30 then, eight (8) or nine percent (9%) were aged between 31 and 40 when they wed, and four (4) or four point five percent (4.5%) were aged 41 or even older on the day they officially tied the knot.

This means the survivors got into the relationship, living as husbands and wives when they were still minors.

The United Nations have cited that marriages with minors are in themselves violence against women even when they had consent because they have not yet attained the age of majority. Philippine laws likewise specify eighteen (18) to be the age of majority.

Type of Violence Inflicted on the Women

Twenty-nine (29) indicators were given to identify the type of violence inflicted on the women, whether physical (Ph), psychological (Ps), economic (E), sexual (S) or there is no violence at all (N).

These indicators and the corresponding type are:

1. He slaps me on my face. **Ph**
Sinasampal n'ya ako sa mukha.
2. He caresses my hands. **N**
Hinawak-hawakan nya ang aking mga kamay.
3. He shouts at me whether or not the children are around. **Ph**
Sinisigawan nya ako kahit naandyan ang aming mga anak.
4. He does not give me money for support. **E**
Hindi nya ako binibigyan ng pera bilang suporta.
5. He accompanies me for medical checkups whether for me or our children. **N**
Sinasamahan nya ako pag magpacheck up, o magpagamot para sa akin, o sa mga bata.
6. He threatens to leave me. **Ps**
Binabalaan o tinatakot nya akong iwanan nang tuluyan.
7. He kisses me on my cheeks, lips and forehead. **N**
Hinahalikan nya ako sa pisngi, labi, at noo.
8. He hits my stomach. **Ph**
Sinusuntok nya ako sa tiyan.
9. He provides money for the kids' schooling, for grocery and home needs. **N**
Nagbibigay sya ng pera para sa pag-aaral/edukasyon ng mga bata, para pagkain at ibang pangangailangan sa bahay.
10. He goads me, turns to be gentle and sweet when in the mood. **Ps**
Inuuto nya ako, tapos babaitbaitan, at lalambing kung ginaganahan.
11. He threatens to hurt me. **Ps**

Tinatakot o binabalaan nya akong saktan.

12. He pushes me away. **Ps Ph**
Tinutulak nya ako.
13. He is loving and caring to the children. **N**
Mapagmahal sya sa mga bata.
14. He is harsh and rough during sexual intercourse. **S**
Marahas sya tuwing nagtatalik kami.
15. He scares me when he is drunk and angry. **Ps**
Natatakot ako sa kanya tuwing sya ay nagagalit.
16. He hugs me at times. **N**
Niyayakap nya ako minsan.
17. He shames me within public view or within hearing distance from the children, neighbors or whoever. **Ps**
Pinapahiya niya ako na nakikita o naririnig ng mga bata, kapitbahay o kahit sinuman.
18. He thinks of domestic concerns. **N**
Naiisip nya ang bagay-bagay ukol sa pamamahay.
19. He is part of my traumatic experience. **Ps**
Kasali sya sa aking mga nakakasindak o tromatikong na nakaraan.
20. He married me when I was aged 17 or younger. **S**
Pinakasalan o ibinahay nya ako noong ako ay 17 taon gulang o mas murang edad.
21. He used a knife or any other weapon at me. **Ps Ph**
Gumamit sya ng patalim, o kahit anong sandata sa akin.
22. He laughs at me, scorns and mocks me. **Ps**
Tinatawanan, kinukutya at inaasar nya ako.
23. I spend for household and family expenses because he has no or very little income. **E**
Ako ang gumagastos para sa pamamahay at pamilya kasi wala o maliit ang kanyang kinikita nya.

24. I am forced to be married or to cohabit with him. **Ps S**
Napilitan akong magpakasal o napipilita akong makipagsama sa kanya.
25. He hurts my child(ren). **Ph Ps**
Sinasaktan nya ang aking (mga) anak.
26. He forces or forces me to have sex even when I have my period.**S**
Pinipilit nya akong makipagtalik kahit ako'y nireregla.
27. He forces bribes or encourages me to have sex with his employer or superior or friend. **S Ps**
Pinipilit o tinutulak nya akong makipagtalik sa kanyang amo, boss o kaibigan.
28. He forces, bribes, or encourages my child to have sex with his employer or superior or friend. **S Ps**
Pinipilit o tinutulak nya aking anak na makipagtalik sa kanyang amo, boss o kaibigan.
29. He forces me or my child(ren) to work for a living while he stays at home. **E Ph Ps**
Pinipilit o tinutulak nya ako o ang aking anak para magtrabaho Habang siya ay nasa bahay lamang.

Eight (8) of the above were indicative of physical violence, fourteen (14) of psychological violence, three (3) of economic violence, six (6) of sexual violence, and eight (8) that were of no violence at all.

Results on Overall Mean Response

The overall mean response on the nature of violence inflicted on the women is 3.81. This indicates that the women experienced very mild on the nature of violence inflicted on them. Seventy-one percent (71%) gave their response for never or rarely, 21% for sometimes or often, and 8% for always.

The tables on the frequency of indicators as well as bar graphs are found in the Appendices, per type of violence.

Results on Indicators on Physical Violence

The mean response of the physical violence under the nature of violence inflicted on the women is 4.22. This demonstrates that there was very mild physical violence experienced by the women. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of them responded either rarely or never, 16% for often or sometimes, and 5% for always. The respondents had diverse experiences under the indicator of “He shouts at me whether or not the children are around”. This shows that 43% of the women gave rarely or never as their answers, 23% for sometimes, and 34% for always or often. It has the lowest mean response of 3.00. This also means that the women experienced mild physical violence.

Results on Indicators on Psychological Violence

The mean score for psychological violence is 4.17. This indicates that the majority of the victims experienced very mild psychological violence. Seventy-nine percent (79%) gave their response to never or rarely, 16% for sometimes or often, and 5% for always. The indicator “He scares me when he is drunk and angry” has a mean score of 3.17. This means that the victims experienced mild psychological violence. The victims had varied experiences on “He scares me when he is drunk and angry”. Forty-two percent (42%) gave their response to never or rarely, 32% for sometimes, and 16% for often or always.

Results on Indicators on Sexual Violence

The mean response to sexual violence is 4.63. This shows that the victims had no experience with sexual violence. Ninety percent (90%) of the victims had the response for never, 14% for rarely or sometimes, and 5% for often or always. To most of the indicators, the victims had no sexual violence experiences. However for indicator “He is harsh and rough during sexual intercourse” has a mean of 4.15, this indicates that the women had very mild experience of sexual violence. Seventy-seven percent (77%) of the women gave their answers for never or rarely, 18% for sometimes or often, and 5% for always.

The indicator “He forces bribes or encourages me to have sex with his employer or superior or friend” has one of the highest mean of 4.99. This shows that the women had no sexual violence experienced concerning to the question “He forces bribes or encourages me to have sex with his employer or superior or friend”. Ninety-nine percent (99%) of the respondents answered for never and only 1% for rarely.

The indicator “He forces, bribes, or encourages my child to have sex with his employer or superior or friend” is consistent to have the highest mean of 4.99 compare among other indicators under physical violence, psychological violence and sexual violence. This indicates that most of the victims had no experience with this indicator. Most of the respondents gave their answer and cluster to Ninety-nine percent (99%) for never and only 1% for rarely.

Results on Indicators on Economic Violence

The mean response to economic violence is 3.85. This shows that the victims experienced very mild economic violence. Sixty-four percent (64%) gave their response for never or rarely, 27% for sometimes or often, and 9% for always. The victims on “I spend for household and family expenses because he has no or very little income” has a mean response of 3.31. This indicates that the victims experienced mild economic violence. Also, the victims had encountered different experiences on the question “I spend for household and family expenses because he has no or very little income”. Forty-three percent (43%) gave their answers to never or rarely, 34% for sometimes, and 23% for often or always.

On the other hand, the victims on “He forces me or my child(ren) to work for a living while he stays at home” has the highest mean of 4.88. This indicates that the victims had no experience in forcing her or her child(ren) to work for a living while he stays at home. Ninety-two percent (92%) gave their response to never, 7% for rarely or sometimes, and only 1% for always.

Results on Indicators on No Violence

The mean score in no violence is 3.18. This shows that the victims had experienced mild violence. For all the indicators under with the no violence, the victims have a diverse opinion in giving their answers. Eighteen percent (18%) gave their response for always, 37% for sometimes or often, and 45% for never or rarely.

The indicator “He provides money for the kids’ schooling, for grocery and home needs” has a mean of 2.48. This means that the women had a very mild violence experience on the question of “He provides money for the kids’ schooling, for grocery and home needs”. Fifty-four percent (54%) gave their response for always or often, 20% for sometimes, and 26% for rarely or never.

Results on Indicators on the Nature of Survivor's Response to the Violence

The overall mean score in the nature of the response to the violence is 3.54. This shows that the woman had a mild in nature of the response to the violence. The women gave different responses in this situation. Fifty-nine percent (59%) of them gave the answers for never or rarely, 24% for sometimes or often, and 17% for always. The indicator "I talk to him when we are both calm" had the lowest mean of 2.38. This shows that the woman had a moderate in nature of the response to the violence. The respondents gave different answers to this indicator. Fifty-eight percent (58%) answered always or often, 18% for sometimes, and 24% for rarely or never. The "I use martial arts and fight back" had the highest mean of 4.89. This shows that the women had shown no response to "I use martial arts and fight back". The majority of the women gave 93% for never, 5% for rarely, and 2% for often.

Results on Indicators on the Resort or Course Taken by the Woman

The general mean score of resort or course taken by woman is 3.69. This indicates that the woman had a very mild action resort or course taken. The women had different answers on the resort or course taken. Sixty-one percent (61%) of them gave their answers for never or rarely, 26% for sometimes or often, and 13% for always. The indicator "I go to the priest for advice" had the highest mean of 4.83. This indicates that the woman had no resort or course taken. The majority of them had 89% response for never, 10% for rarely or sometimes, and only 1% for always. The "I quietly cry alone" had the lowest mean indicator of 2.20. This shows that there was a moderate resort or course taken by a woman. The women had shown different actions taken to this indicator. Sixty-seven percent (67%) of them gave their response for always or often, 27% for sometimes or rarely, and 6% for never.

Case Studies of Survivors at the Women's Crisis Center (WCC) of Zamboanga City

The Women's Crisis Center is a facility under the care of the City Social Welfare and Development (CSWDO).

The personnel at the WCC include a social worker officer who acts as the center head, a social worker administrator, a administrative aide, a population worker who is also a social worker, and another house parent hired on job order.

In earlier years, there were higher numbers of women who had sought refuge under their WCC, as per recommendation of the CSWD Officer and social workers attending or evaluating the situation of the women who come to them. At the start of this study, however, the women were about to be sent home to their barangays due to the lockdowns that made them apprehensive on their respective domestic situations. Their respective partners were strongly advised by the social workers and the police designated to look after every against committing another act of violence. The first interviews for these case study were held at the center, and succeeding interviews were at their respective homes in their barangays.

The succeeding pages contain abstracts of the case studies of the survivors under the custody of the CSWDO-WCC.

WCC Survivor 1

Case 1 is 38 years old, a Roman Catholic, a Bicolana, and who lived along Veterans Avenue. She has been legally married for eight years since she was 17 years old. Within the 8 years of living together, they had two children a girl (now 20 years old) and a boy (now 17 years old and living with her mother). She worked overseas that they may have better income. However, she learned that her husband had another woman and he was not properly spending the money she sent for the family. When she reached 25, they broke up.

When she was 35 years old, she entered into a second relationship while in Manila, however, without the benefit of marriage. It has been two years already however they while they would have had a baby, she had a miscarriage here in Zamboanga. Unable to return overseas to work, the partner's family abused her economically, making her spend on them, psychologically, insulting and shaming her for not supporting his sibling who is confined at the hospital as a mental ward patient, and physically, with him slapping her face, hurting and mauling WCC Survivor 1.

Analysis: The social workers at the Center were helping WCC Survivor 1 in processing her papers to leave the city, and be back with her mother and children in Manila. She is adamant in leaving Zamboanga City, reflective of her desire to lead a new life without her boyfriend.

WCC Survivor 2

WCC Survivor 2 is 24 years old, a Roman Catholic, resident of Sta. Maria. She has been married on September 2017, and has now two daughters, a 3-year-old and a 1-year-and-3-month-old infant.

Weeks after their wedding she experienced disturbing instances from her partner's father who would kick me in the legs or at times, her feet while she was manually doing the laundry. Sometimes he would just pinch her at the side of her body. At times they would tease their child till they would cry and cry. In January 2018 she told her partner about these incidents and he got angry, and he started hurting her. He defended his father and other family members. This led to frequent quarrels and he would slap her face for her answering back and for her nagging to not let his father touch her and her children.

She reported to the pólice which in turn, following initial investigation, brought her to the WCC.

Analysis: The experiences on violence that Survivor 2 went through began when the father of her partner was personally picking on her, and the physical touching though in a teasing manner, was unbecoming of a supposed father-in-law as the latter pinched her on her sides, sometimes near her breasts. The protection offered to her by the WCC was from her husband physical violence, and from his father physical violence that might lead to sexual violence.

WCC Survivor 3

WCC Survivor 3, 27 years old, a believer of Islam, hails from Cabaluay, and mother of 3 children. Her live-in partner of 8 years slapped her face, pulled her hair, and hurt her in her forearms. Her partner was a regular bettor and local gambler, like his father who interfered with their financial concerns. She got a medico-legal and reported to the police. When he loses in gambling, he would physically be violent towards her.

However, she had to return to the house as she was concerned with the welfare of the 3 children.

Analysis: Muslim as she is, Survivor 3 bore the pain of the violence as she understood her role as wife and mother in the household. However, the physical injuries she sustained spoke of the intensity of the violence and would not even indicate an ounce of respect for her womanhood and her motherhood.

WCC Survivor 4

WCC Survivor 4 was 24 years old when she was interviewed. She has been living together with her common-law husband at Talontalon barangay, this city when she was twelve years old. She is mother of three: a 3-year old boy, a 2-year old daughter, and an 11-month old baby.

Her partner being possessive, and was often under the influence of liquor, that she was regularly slapped in the face, boxed in any part of her body, and his family mockingly call her eldest son, "Mongoloid". These all add up to the frequent arguments of the couple.

She bore the pain of being physically hurt every week by her partner, her children by his family, until a friend advised her to go to the police and barangay hall, which brought her to the CSWDO then the WCC.

Analysis: WCC Survivor 4 was a victim of psychological, emotional, physical violence. For a father not to be able to accept his eldest child's imperfections is emotional violence inflicted upon the mother.

WCC Survivor 5

WCC Survivor 5 is 21 years old, Roman Catholic, resident of Sibulao, Zamboanga City. She has been living together with her partner just this year, shortly before the pandemic was declared in the country and lockdown was imposed in the city.

WCC Survivor 5 was a case of double vulnerability, having been 5 months pregnant during the interview. Consent was properly sought from her and the WCC's house parents and the Center Head.

She was first hurt by her partner in June 2020, when he repeatedly slapped her in her face, boxed in certain parts of her body, was insulted, rained with derogatory remarks and threatened her for non-support as she was not working for a living and not earning money.

She was able to escape from the house and run to the police who brought her to the CSWDO then to the WCC.

Analysis: WCC Survivor 5 has been suffering from severe physical, psychological, sexual, and economic violence. At her pregnant state, she was inhumanely treated, without respect for her womanhood and motherhood-to-be by both her jobless partner and his family, and forced to work to earn for the partner and his family.

WCC Survivor 6

WCC Survivor 6 is 33 years old, Roman Catholic and a resident of Cawit barangay. She has been living together with her partner for the past 3 years, within which she bore a 3-year old. Her partner started hurting her physically and emotionally when she was 6 months pregnant and he

kicked me at my side. He was under the influence of liquor then. He always physically hurt me when he was drunk.

Preparing coconut shells for charcoal and selling the charcoal was her means of living. Even though she was exhausted, but when he would come home late he still would hurt her.

She went home to her parents in Ipil one time but he fetched her and promised then to her father that he wouldn't do it again, but he lied. He still hurt her physically and one time, he almost pounded a rock on her head that she thought then she would die.

She reported him to the barangay and was brought by the police to WCC for protection.

Analysis: The case of WCC Survivor 6 has been filed in court and her partner is detained in jail in violation of R.A. 9262. WCC Survivor 6 is now on her own, and still stays at the Center.

IV. Observations of Community Stakeholders

The Barangay Local Government Units (BLGUs) are mandated by a directive from the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to create a Team or designate a Focal Person solely for Gender and Advocacy (GAD) matters. One of the concerns of this Team or Focal Person is issues on Violence Against Women in the community or barangay.

From time to time, these persons undergo trainings, attend seminars to keep herself updated of recent trends and new policies by the government. At times, a non-government organization (NGO) or educational institution could initiate or organize capacity-building activities for the community leaders especially those VAW focal persons.

From the key interviews, here are excerpts from the responses cum observations of the VAW Focal Persons in the 5 barangays.

“So far most common violence in incidents in Tumaga is physical battery. Most of the victims do not like to file case in court because they pity their partners suffering in prison. Oftentimes, they end up with settlement,” said Focal Person 1.

“However, we must continue with the information campaign regarding rights of women and increase awareness,” Focal Person 1 added.

“Mostly, I have observed that the victims are being more limited but not to the point that they won't elaborate when responding, it is for the reason that the victims do not want any more to elevate and remember their past experiences because it caused them trauma at some point of their lives being a woman, they don't want any more to reminisce the worst scenarios they had encountered specifically the atmosphere, the setup, the moment and the reasons of why they had been abused,” responded Focal Person 5.

Focal Person 5 added, “They also had the feeling of heaviness in their hearts as what I have observed because of being able to remember to what did their husband and live-in partners had done harm to them, and most importantly I have observed that the victims are prioritizing and giving importance the sake of their family specially their children because it has caused them some unpleasant experiences and this could affect their lives specially their studies as this is one of my main goals to settle most of the cases I had handled because for me, family is really important and the decisions must be taken wisely by the victims to consider the effect of it to their families.”

Focal Person 5 stated, “There are some women who opted not to elevate their cases to court for reason and consideration of the following factors: One is for the preservation of the relationship of husband/wife and family as a whole; and two, is to avoid trauma or depression to children.”

CHR 9 as Cushion Providers

The CHR 9, per response of the key interviewee, offers programs and conducts activities under its Information, Education, Communications and Advocacy Program such as Human Rights Education, Training and Information campaign; Development and Dissemination of HR IEC materials; and dissemination of HR Policy advisory.

“Aside from the traditional way of delivering our advocacy program, interestingly, applying social marketing in our advocacy program has been discussed and tried to as much as possible reach a wider audience. As such this regional office is now publishing a quarterly a newsletter, translated IEC materials into local dialects and engaged the use social media among others,” the respondent said.

Asked how the public has responded to its distributed materials, the key interviewee said, “Generally, this regional office is receiving positive feedback from the public based on the advocacy campaign that this office is undertaking on practically all human rights issues. Specifically, with regard to men, on issues regarding violence against women, during the initial engagement with them there were objections on the ground that the

law favours only one gender (women) and discriminates them. However, after the activity most of them if not all were grateful for its passage.”

“On the other hand, women welcome the advocacy program of the Commission especially in promoting the rights of women and other vulnerable groups,” the respondent said.

Information materials and educational sessions provide cushion to many women-victims and survivors. Free legal advice and guidance is added support to most women as per response of a handful of respondent-survivors.

Summing Up

What have been presented in this Chapter were findings from documented police and social welfare records, and from voices of victims-turned-survivors of Violence Against Women.

Chapter IV

Conclusions and Recommendations

This study began in August and ended in mid-December of 2020, the year of the pandemics. Data were gathered in specific areas in the City of Zamboanga. The following queries were raised thus, and the corresponding conclusions were drawn:

1. What are the factors affecting the decision-making process of victims-survivors of violence against women in their resolve not to pursue the case?

Based on the findings of the study, per responses of the women-survivors, the factors most common are:

- (1) Concern for children's future;
- (2) Concern for children to grow up as a broken family;
- (3) Financial constraints; need for financial support
- (4) Women's shame of being left by the man; "makahuya"
- (5) Unrequited love by woman to man;
- (6) Misconstrued emotions by woman to man;
- (7) Unaware of CHR Program for Assistance to VAW victim-survivors; and
- (8) Unaware of government programs assisting VAW victim-survivors.

2. What influences survivors to withdraw VAW complaints against the perpetrators?

Based on the data gathered, the following are the influencing factors on survivors' decision to withdraw VAW complaints against perpetrators:

- (1) relatives' advice to reconcile;
- (2) friends' advice to reconcile and give husband a chance for the children's sake;
- (3) personal decision of woman with consideration on finances, stress, time, emotional pain;
- (4) Children asking to reconcile;
- (5) Children asking to let him go.

3. What is the demographic characteristic profile of the victims-survivors of cases of violence against women?

Majority of the victims/survivors belong to the age bracket of 22 to 40 years old; are with the benefit of lawful marriages but followed closely with common-law wives; hail from Zamboanga City; born Roman Catholics; are housewives; have 1 to 3 children; whose children are below 12 years old; have been married for 1 to 5 years; and with joint family income between P5,000 to P10,000.

The percentage of victims/survivors' age of majority (18 years and older) upon marriage is equal to the percentage of victims/survivors' age of minority (17 years and younger).

4. What are the antecedents and consequences of violence against women?

Based on the findings, the antecedents and corresponding consequences of violence against women are the woman's nagging, and the man's verbal of abuse of the woman as well as the heavy influence of liquor and/or drugs on the man that affects his sane and rational handling of family relations and responsibilities.

5. What is the nature of cases of violence that have been reported?

The cases of violence that have been reported, at a very mild degree of violence and from a diverse response, take the nature of the following types: Psychological Violence, Physical Violence, Emotional Violence and Economic Violence. Added to this, there are two rare cases of Sexual Violence deeply shadowed by the level of "Never".

6. What are the perspectives of survivors of the violence on reporting the violence?

The VAW survivors take on different perspectives when it comes to reporting to government authorities (whether to the BLGU, to ZCPO-WCPD, to CHR or to DSWD) or any NGO, as they presented the following:

- (1) Maternal efforts for the preservation of the family as a social institution
- (2) Maternal efforts for the preservation of family relations by providing for the children a pseudo-harmonious environment;

- (3) Feminine concern for shame or *huya*:
 - a.) being subject of community gossipers;
 - b.) being regarded as the 'woman left behind' by husband;
 - c) being ranted by parents, siblings and relatives;
 - d.) being laughed at;
- (4) Personal concern for stress and emotional anguish;
- (5) Concern for financial costs on legal documents, lawyer's fees, proceedings and the like;
- (6) Mental and emotional anguish while the reporting is documented and talked about; and the
- (7) Fervent hope that husband may initiate a reconciliation.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are thus submitted:

1. Policy Recommendation, that CHR present a policy on VAW Program Coverage for government organizations, local government units, government agencies, or even non-government organizations, educational institutions, private companies and establishments providing, among others, the extent of protection to its employees, as a preemptive if not intervening step towards the elimination of VAW beyond the 18 Days of Information Campaign.
2. Program Recommendation, that CHR present a designed social marketing approach in the Information, Education, Communications and Advocacy Program and share such with other government organizations, local government units, government agencies, or even non-government organizations, educational intitutions, private companies and establishments.
3. Intervention on Mental Health Care: psychological first aid, information matters for concerned persons (survivors, BLGU VAW Focal Persons), partnership with schools in educating the school children as well as with Sangguniang Kabataan for the barangay youth, especially out-of-school youth.

The specific details or proposed recommendations are presented in the next pages.

A. Proposed/Recommended/Draft Policy

In consideration in the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) signed as an international treaty in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly, particularly on Articles 15 and 16 on women's rights to equality in marriage and family life along with the right to equality before the law;

Emphasizing the provisions on marriage and family in the 1987 Philippine Constitution, especially on Article XV: The Family, Sections 1-4, as well as pertinent and appropriate provisions in Article III: The Bill of Rights;

Leaning on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in all of its Articles;

Reaffirming the provisions on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including young women or girls below the age of eighteen, as stipulated on Part I, Article 1;

Bringing to the fore the provisions of Republic Act Number 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women Law or AVAW Law;

Highlighting the United Nations Women's Declaration of VAW being a shadow pandemic,

This Advisory is thus released for an increased advocacy campaign through suggested activities:

I. Passive Campaign

1. Government offices/agencies/non-government/educational institutions/local government units post reminders in their offices on (1) respect for women in homes, institutions and other private and public spaces; (2) on penalties for violators of R.A. 9242; (3) on victims' legal resort/recourse as a response to acts of violence or even attempts of offenders; (4) on reminders on erring husbands or common-law husbands;

2. Government offices/agencies/non-government/educational institutions/local government units sponsor Anti-VAW messages through their respective media partners;

3. Government offices/agencies/non-government/educational institutions/local government units wear advocacy shirts on Anti-VAW with or without messages from VAW survivors on dedicated days in a month;

II. Active Campaign

4. Government offices/agencies /non-government /educational institutions/local government units designate representatives to guest in media broadcast programs or online public affairs programs or press conferences to discuss Anti-VAW messages for the Filipino people/audiences.

5. Government offices/agencies /non-government/ educational institutions/local government units initiate their respective Anti-VAW Campaign Program, all-year round instead of just the 18-Day Campaign in December.

6. Government offices/agencies /non-government/ educational institutions/local government units promote love and respect for women, advancing women's rights, and discourage VAW and its impact on the family members' growth and development through symposia, panel discussions, lecture series, and fora. These gatherings must be accompanied with pre-produced film productions that demonstrate VAW, feature a champion(s) of gender-based violence, present statistics and other facts that need to heighten not only awareness but to educate the audience especially violators or would-be violators.

7. Government offices/agencies /non-government /educational institutions /local government units initiate Anti-VAW education for men.

This Advisory does not in any way preclude the Commission on Human Rights to initiate new advocacy projects in partnership with the private sector, or continue to implement its long-initiated legal advocacy. These include partnerships with law schools, or association of lawyers that may provide legal assistance such as free consultations, or issuance of affidavits and other documents at minimal costs.

B. Proposed/Recommended/Draft IEC and Advocacy Program

Communication is a backbone in the implementation of any Project or program. A successful program that involves people, most especially as stakeholders, really rests on a wellplanned and well-established Information, Education, Communications and Advocacy (IECA) Team. When the IECA Team pushes for the delivery of a specific message, a well-strategized and well-delivered social marketing of such message follows (Carreon, 2018).

Table 13 below presents a Proposed IEC and Advocacy Plan Template as an intervention to the need to narrow down towards elimination of VAW in the región.

Table 13. Proposed IEC and Advocacy Plan

Period/Month	Activity	Area/Province /City or Villages Covered	Message(s)	GA/GO /LGU EI Partner
As may be permitted	Passive			
As may be feasible	Active			

The above template provides a simplified guide that would lay down the stakes: the message, the endeavor, and the partnership so as not to be repetitive in one área unless needed.

The above template may likewise be added with another column on estimated Budget/expenses, or depending on the office’s format.

The above template may also be included as an attachment to the proposed policy.

C. Proposed/Recommended/Draft Intervention on Mental Health

VAW Survivors have been cited by the UN Women as human beings in need of attention for mental health care as their safety, recovery and healing from violence takes time as well as comprehensive and professional treatment. At times, “this critical health service is not available or accessible for a vast majority of survivors, especially in low-to-middle-income countries” (UNW, 2020).

The following activities are proposed to support the intervention on mental health:

1. Conduct of Psychological First Aid such as Steps in Doing breathing Exercises for Victims
2. Conduct of Psychological First Aid such as Steps in Doing breathing Exercises for Victims Providing Listening and Sharing Sessions For Barangay Focal Persons and Other State Actors Directly Involved in Investigating Victims or Survivors
3. Providing Listening and Sharing Sessions Among Survivors
4. Providing Psychotherapeutic Sessions for Survivors with Mental Health Professionals
5. Advocacy on Mental Health

The above activities may be done in partnership with an association of psychologists, psychotherapists, with an NGO, another GO or GA, or an Higher Education Institution.

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