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## Research Article

### The Extent of Implementation of The Local Government Unit of RA 9262 in Eliminating Violence Against Women and Children in the National Capital Region

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#### ABSTRACT

This study examined the gender sensitivity of the Philippine government's response during a public health crisis, with a particular emphasis on the viewpoints of local government units (LGUs) and their stakeholders. The study aimed to analyze the challenges and opportunities encountered by LGUs in maintaining gender-responsive services during these periods. The study sought to align the national policy framework with the realities of its implementation, emphasizing effective and scalable practices that could guide future rights-based and gender-sensitive approaches, particularly in decentralized governance systems frequently neglected during biological emergencies.

The study employed a descriptive comparative research design, collecting data via surveys directed at four primary government offices: the Rural Health Unit (RHU), City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD), Philippine National Police (PNP), and Barangay officials. Participants were selected using stratified random sampling, resulting in a total of 135 individuals. The primary instrument employed was a questionnaire modified from Alincastre and Dalugdog (2022), with results analyzed through weighted mean and one-way ANOVA.

The results indicated that most respondents were college-educated women aged 31 to 40, the majority of whom had participated in training or seminars concerning the Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) Act, or Republic Act 9262. A significant number exhibited a comprehensive understanding of the law, encompassing case filing procedures, the associated legal mechanisms, and the penalties applicable to offenders. The study identified deficiencies at the Barangay level, specifically in proper documentation, case management, and the issuance of Barangay Protection Orders. These issues indicate the necessity for a more organized and adequately supported system.

The researcher proposed a policy enhancement through a joint memorandum circular issued by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Health (DOH), and the

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Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to address these challenges. This would enable Barangays to execute their responsibilities under RA 9262 with greater efficacy.

The research highlighted the essential importance of collaboration among agencies. A multi-disciplinary team comprising investigators (PNP), social workers (DSWD), health officers, medico-legal professionals, and local councils (e.g., Barangay Council for the Protection of Children) should collaborate to deliver comprehensive services. These encompass health care, psychological and educational support, legal assistance, and safety services for women and children. Furthermore, training programs and seminars must persist in promoting awareness and tackling gender-based discrimination and human rights violations.

Economic empowerment is recognized as a vital strategy. Collaborating with the Local Government Unit (LGU) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), barangays ought to endorse livelihood programs that enhance women's involvement in local economic activities, thereby mitigating their vulnerability. Simultaneously, prioritizing the promotion of a culture of women's safety in public spaces is essential.

The study emphasized the necessity of establishing mechanisms for victims of rights violations, including access to protection orders, assistance in filing cases, and the collection of essential documents for prosecuting offenders. Annual training programs on the VAWC law should be conducted for LGUs in partnership with the Women and Children Protection Desk of the PNP, with enhanced seminars emphasizing the proper issuance and management of Barangay Protection Orders.

The study concluded with a recommendation for additional research. Future research should incorporate a wider array of external stakeholders and utilize a qualitative methodology to enhance comprehension of the intricate realities present in the field.

**Keywords:** *Violence Against Women and Children, Health and medical care, Psychosocial, Educational and economic support, Safety and security, Legal assistance and access to justice*

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## **Background of the Study**

Violence against women (VAW) remains a pressing issue globally. In 2015, the United Nations Statistics Division reported that nearly 35% of women worldwide had experienced physical or sexual violence, either from an intimate partner or a non-partner. This pervasive issue is one of the most common violations of women's rights, often extending beyond physical harm to include harassment and stalking, both offline and online. Such acts create significant psychological distress and threaten women's sense of safety and well-being (United Nations Population Fund Asia and the Pacific, 2021).

Despite notable progress in gender equality, the Philippines continues to grapple with VAW. The 2018 Global Gender Gap Report ranked the country eighth worldwide, recognizing its strong performance in closing the gender gap in areas like economic participation, educational attainment, and political empowerment (World Economic Forum, 2018). Yet, the same year, the National Demographic and Health Survey revealed that 19% of Filipina women aged 15 and above had experienced physical or sexual violence, with varying prevalence across regions (Philippine Statistics Authority - PSA & ICF, 2018).

The existence of VAW poses significant threats to individual and community safety, compromises women's ability to exercise their rights, and hinders efforts to eliminate gender disparities. The health impacts are equally profound, affecting women both physically and emotionally (Dimaano et al., 2018).

To address these issues, the Philippine government has enacted a series of laws and policies. Chief among them is Republic Act No. 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004. This legislation defines VAW broadly, encompassing not just physical but also sexual, psychological, and economic abuse. It covers acts committed by individuals against women they are or were in relationships with, as well as their children, whether within or outside the household.

Complementing RA 9262 is RA 9710, the Magna Carta of Women, a comprehensive law aimed at eliminating gender discrimination and promoting women's rights, particularly for those in marginalized sectors. This law echoes international frameworks such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

In protecting children, the government also passed RA 9344 or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act. This act outlines a system that ensures child-appropriate interventions for children at risk or in conflict with the law.

To strengthen local responses, the government mandated the creation of Local Committees on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Their Children (LCAT-VAWC) through Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2010-1. These committees coordinate and monitor implementation efforts for RA 9208 (Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act) and RA 9262.

Similarly, Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2010-2 laid out guidelines for establishing VAW Desks in every barangay. These frontline services cater to victims of various forms of abuse and are typically housed within barangay halls. The Barangay VAWC Desk Handbook equips local officials with detailed guidance on implementing anti-VAWC legislation and providing essential services.

This localized approach is supported by the broader decentralized governance framework under Republic Act No. 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991. This law empowers local government units (LGUs) to respond to VAWC, particularly during emergencies and disasters when vulnerabilities are heightened. The Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710) requires women's participation in disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) councils and mandates the use of sex-disaggregated data and reproductive health indicators in local planning.

Additional legislative support comes from RA 10121, the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, which strengthens gender responsiveness in DRRM, and RA 10821, the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act. This latter law mandates barangay-level VAWC desks to serve as reporting and referral hubs during disaster response and recovery.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) further reinforced this approach with its 2015 Enhanced Guidelines on the Comprehensive Intervention Against Gender-Based Violence. These guidelines advocate for the use of Gender Responsive Case Management and the establishment of Women-Friendly Spaces in evacuation centers and affected communities, also including the LGBT community among its beneficiaries.

LGUs are central in implementing these frameworks. Through structured referral systems, they are tasked with delivering a wide range of survivor-centered services—health, psychosocial, legal, and economic—across various levels of governance. The City or Municipal Social Welfare Development Office coordinates these efforts to ensure timely protection, recovery, and reintegration of victims.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, these mechanisms were further tested. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued advisories to keep barangay VAWC desks and Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children operational. The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) also released Memorandum Circular No. 2020-03, urging agencies to adjust their Gender and Development (GAD)

budgets to respond to emerging gender issues during the pandemic.

One of the most comprehensive responses was Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1, s. 2020 by the Commission on Human Rights and DILG. It provided LGUs with a guide to gender-sensitive COVID-19 responses, acknowledging the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women and girls.

Additional circulars—like DILG and the Council for the Welfare of Children's JMC No. 2020-001 and DILG MC No. 2020-078—highlighted the challenges faced by vulnerable children, including those in conflict with the law or living on the streets. These emphasized the importance of using gender- and child-sensitive language and maintaining protective protocols even during community quarantines.

Together, these laws, policies, and circulars paint a comprehensive picture of the Philippine government's multi-level efforts to combat VAWC. They underscore the importance of gender sensitivity, localized action, inter-agency coordination, and community involvement in ensuring the safety, rights, and dignity of women and children across the country.

Despite notable progress, the Philippines continues to face significant challenges in addressing Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC). On a positive note, the country performs relatively well on some broad measures of female well-being. As David et al. (2018) note, this reflects its alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality. However, the persistence of violence against women reveals gaps between policy intentions and real-world implementation.

Malawis-Ignacio (2021) acknowledges that the Philippines, like many ASEAN nations, has adopted a multi-sectoral approach to combating gender-based violence. This includes crisis intervention, integrated services from hospitals and police, legal reform, community involvement, education, and coalition-building. Yet, Garcia (2020) reveals that such efforts are not sufficient, citing widespread issues that persist despite the existence of programs and services.

Research by Tavares et al. (2019) and Fraser & Wood (2018), both of whom worked on VAWC interventions at the national level,

emphasize that a coordinated system—with clear protocols, specialized police units, adequate funding, training, shelters, and legal aid—is essential for ensuring the effectiveness of existing laws. Furthermore, Fraser & Wood highlight the importance of women leading civil society groups to drive awareness and policy implementation. Krook (2020) echoes this, underscoring the collaborative role of NGOs and academic institutions in complementing government efforts.

At the community level, local governments and institutions like the Barangay Women's Desk (BWD) serve as the first line of defense. The BWD not only records abuse cases but also provides immediate aid, referrals, legal assistance, and conducts mediation for minor offenses. As Ambal et al. (2021) and Awi (2018) document, the BWD also plays a pivotal role in community education and building the capacity of local actors.

However, Garcia (2020) critiques these efforts for being more reactive than preventive. Consignado et al. (2022) suggest that while the infrastructure—such as hotlines and shelters—exists, the lack of sustainable funding and implementation hinders real impact. Moreover, the effectiveness of gender and development (GAD) policies often depends on the education and initiative of barangay officials (Ngunyen, 2019).

While the Local GAD Budget Policy requires that 5% of government budgets be allocated for gender programs, Mendoza (2020) notes that this can limit more meaningful initiatives, especially for low-income LGUs. There is also a lack of strategic planning in improving gender sensitivity among service providers (Libre et al., 2017), and implementation of these budget policies has been inconsistent across regions.

The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed and worsened these systemic issues. As Valdez et al. (2022) and Manalastas & David (2018) point out, the reallocation of resources towards pandemic response made services inaccessible for many women. With unemployment, restricted mobility, and the closing of reproductive health centers, women found themselves in more vulnerable positions. Online search trends suggest a significant increase in help-

seeking behavior, even as trust in government authorities remains low.

This reality was especially harsh for marginalized groups—such as transgender women, indigenous women, those living in poverty or with disabilities—who face additional barriers due to stigma and state indifference (Viero et al., 2021). The situation was made worse by convoluted referral systems and a lack of coordination among service providers.

In theory, mechanisms like the Women and Children Protection Desks, mandated under the Magna Carta of Women, should provide streamlined reporting pathways. Yet, as Santos (2009) and Ramiro (2022) observe, close-knit communities and corruption can compromise these efforts. Police reluctance to act on cases due to fear of retaliation or misunderstanding of the law (Partlow, 2020) further undermines enforcement. In fact, Garcia (2020) and San Juan et al. (2020) argue that public hospitals and law enforcement are not well-equipped, with some officers lacking gender sensitivity training and even blaming victims for their circumstances.

Gabriel (2017) and Narajarila (2018) offer troubling examples of institutional failure: some officers advise reconciliation rather than protection, and medical institutions fail to accommodate VAW survivors. Services are often centralized in urban areas, limiting rural access. A promising model, however, is the Quezon City Protection Center, which integrates law enforcement, medical, legal, and psychosocial support in one place—helping victims avoid the retraumatizing “referral carousel.”

In response to these challenges, NGOs and feminist groups have emerged as key players. As Panerio (2020) and De Asis et al. (2021) describe, these organizations provide not only services but also training and advocacy to fill in the gaps left by weak government infrastructure.

Looking forward, it is imperative to have accessible, survivor-oriented solutions that account for restrictions during crises like pandemics. Almaiz et al. (2021) stress the need for inclusive monitoring systems, primary care training for medical staff, and simplified referral processes. Most importantly, victims must

be included in the redesign of services to ensure their needs are truly met.

Ultimately, as Mootz et al. (2019) and Bernarte et al. (2018) conclude, eliminating VAWC requires both government accountability and community empowerment. It demands an interdisciplinary, intersectoral approach that addresses institutional cultures and transforms social norms. The success of such efforts lies not only in laws and policies but in their effective, compassionate, and well-funded implementation.

Furthermore, the researcher as a lawyer, while progress has been made in addressing violence against women and girls, the researcher observes significant gaps and challenges still exist in the fight to eliminate this issue. The country is lacking on comprehensive legislation and policies specifically addressing violence against women. Existing laws may be inadequate, inconsistent, or poorly enforced. It is crucial to have robust legal frameworks that criminalize all forms of violence against women, protect survivors, and hold perpetrators accountable.

## Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on the Patriarchy theory and Ecological systems theory.

Patriarchy Theory argue that violence against women is rooted in the unequal power dynamics between men and women. It suggests that violence is a tool of control used by men to maintain their dominance in society. It asserts that societies are organized in ways that systematically favor men and male attributes, such as strength, dominance, and assertiveness, over women and female attributes. This structural inequality is seen as a root cause of violence against women.

According to this theory, violence is used as a tool to maintain control and power. It can be used to intimidate, silence, or subjugate women, reinforcing their subordinate status in society. also emphasizes that individuals are socialized from a young age into gender roles that perpetuate these power imbalances. Boys and girls are often raised with different expectations, and this can lead to the normalization of male dominance and, in some cases, violence.

Critics of Patriarchy Theory argue that it may oversimplify the complex issues surrounding violence against women and men and that it doesn't adequately account for the diversity of experiences and motivations that contribute to such violence. Nevertheless, it remains a foundational framework in the study of gender-based violence and continues to inform efforts to address and combat it.

Meanwhile, ecological Systems Theory emphasizes the multiple layers of influence on individuals, from the microsystem (family and immediate surroundings) to the macrosystem (cultural and societal norms). It recognizes that violence against women and children can result from interactions within these systems.

Microsystem is the innermost layer and represents an individual's immediate environment, including their family, peer groups, and school. Violence against women and children can be influenced by family dynamics, the quality of relationships with caregivers, and the behaviors and attitudes of peers.

The mesosystem looks at the interactions between different components of the microsystem. For example, how a child's experience in the family influences their behavior and experiences in the school environment. Violence in the family can spill over into other contexts.

Exosystem includes external settings that indirectly affect individuals, even though they may not be directly involved. For instance, the workplace environment of a parent can impact the family system, and societal norms and policies regarding domestic violence and child abuse can shape family behaviors.

The macrosystem encompasses cultural values, societal norms, and broader cultural contexts. It recognizes that violence against women and children can be influenced by cultural norms, beliefs, and gender roles that either perpetuate or discourage such violence.

Chronosystem considers how changes and transitions over time can affect individuals and their experiences of violence. This includes events like divorces, economic shifts, or policy changes that may impact the risk of violence.

Ecological Systems Theory helps us understand that violence against women and children is not isolated but is embedded in a complex web of interactions and influences. To

prevent and address this violence effectively, interventions need to consider and address factors at multiple levels of the ecological model. This approach highlights the importance of not only supporting individual victims but also changing the systems and contexts that perpetuate violence.

## Statement of the Problem

This study aims to assess the extent of implementation of the Local Government Units of RA 9262 in eliminating Violence Against Women and Children in the National Capital Region.

Specifically, it seeks to answer the following questions:

1. What is the demographic profile of the local government unit officials Rural Health Unit (RHU), City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD), Philippine National Police – Women and Children Unit (PNP-WCU) and Barangay officials in terms of:
  - 1.1 Age;
  - 1.2 Sex;
  - 1.3 Educational attainment; and
  - 1.4 Seminars and trainings attended?
2. How do local government unit officials assess the extent of implementation of the Local Government Units of RA 9262 in eliminating Violence Against Women and Children in terms of the following:
  - 2.1 Health and medical care;
  - 2.2 Psychosocial, educational and economic support;
  - 2.3 Safety and security; and
  - 2.4 Access to justice and legal assistance?
3. Is there a significant difference on the assessment of local government unit officials in the implementation of RA 9262 in eliminating Violence Against Women and Children when grouped according to their demographic profile?

## Hypothesis of the Study

The following null hypothesis will be tested at .05 significant level:

There is no significant difference on the assessment of local government unit officials in the implementation of RA 9262 in eliminating Violence Against Women and Children when

grouped according to their demographic profile.

### **Scope and Limitations of the Study**

The study will be limited to the extent of implementation of the Local Government Units of RA 9262 in eliminating Violence Against Women and Children. Research locale will be limited to the top 3 cities in the National Capital Region with most number of VAWC cases including the Quezon City, Manila and Paranaque.

Based on the record of Philippine National Police (PNP) Camp Crame in 2021, Quezon city yielded with total of 1267 VAWC cases, Manila with 1,022 and Paranaque with 932 VAWC cases filed.

The implementation of the Local Government Units of RA 9262 in eliminating Violence Against Women and Children will be evaluated using the indicators specified in RA 9262 including health and medical care; psychosocial, educational and economic support; safety and security; and access to justice and legal assistance. Respondent will be limited to local government unit officials and the community members in the locale of the study.

Local government unit officials will be delimited to Rural Health Unit (RHU), City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD), Philippine National Police – Women and Children Unit (PNP-WCU) and Barangay officials.

### **Research Methodology**

This chapter presents the research design, population and sampling, respondents of the study, research instrument, data gathering procedure, data analysis and ethical considerations.

### **Research Design**

To address the aforementioned research questions, this study employs the use of descriptive comparative research design utilizing survey methodology.

Descriptive comparative research design involves comparisons between a minimum of two macro-level cases in which at least one object of investigation is relevant to the field. By attempting to explain differences and similarities

between objects of investigation and interactions between objects against the backdrop of their contextual conditions, comparative research distinguishes itself from non-comparative work and moves beyond single-case analysis (Lopez-Fernandez and Molina, Azorin, 2014),

The purpose of survey is to collect data for the purposes of analysis, pattern discovery, and comparative study. It is the gold standard for learning about people's perspectives, attitudes, beliefs, and routines on any number of topics.

### **Population and Sampling**

The respondents of the study will be the local government officials from the rural health unit (RHU), City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD), PNP-Women and Children Unit and Barangay Unit among the top 3 cities in the National Capital Region with most number of VAWC cases including the Quezon City, Manila and Paranaque.

Based on the record of Philippine National Police (PNP) Camp Crame in 2021, Quezon city yielded with total of 1267 VAWC cases, Manila with 1,022 and Paranaque with 932 VAWC cases filed.

The respondents will be selected using stratified random sampling. In stratified sampling, researcher divided the subjects into subgroups called strata based on characteristics that they share (Creswell, 2013).

The following are the criteria set by the researcher; (a) currently working as local government officials from the rural health unit (RHU), City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD), PNP-Women and Children Unit and Barangay Unit in Quezon City, Manila and Paranaque; (b) male or female; (c) with at least 1 year experience in handling violence against women and children.

### **Respondents of the Study**

Based from the evaluation among the respondents, there are total of 135 respondents from Rural Health Unit (RHU), City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD), Philippine National Police – Women and Children Unit (PNP-WCU) and Barangay officials.

Table 1 Respondents of the Study

Area	RHU	CSWD	PNP-WCU	Barangay Officials
Quezon City	5	5	15	20
Manila	5	5	15	20
Paranaque	5	5	15	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>60</b>

### Research Instrument

The major tool that will be used in this study is a survey questionnaire. The research instrument is standard survey questionnaires adopted from Castillo (2021). The research instrument that will be used in this study consist of the evaluation on the extent of the implementation of the Local Government Units of RA 9262 in eliminating Violence Against Women and Children.

A four-point Likert scale as a rating system will be used to evaluate the extent of the implementation of the Local Government Units of RA 9262 in eliminating Violence Against Women and Children which includes 4 as Highly Evident; 3 as Evident; 2 as Not Evident; and 1 as Highly Not Evident.

For the validation of the instruments, the survey questionnaire will be submitted to experts for review, scheme and validation including higher local government officials related to

gender and development. E-mail communication with the experts is planned. Each expert will be sent an email covering letter outlining the study's premise, describing the criteria for respondents, and briefly clarifying the study's objective. The email covering letter will include the survey and interview questions as an attachment

### Data Analysis

The treatments of the data will be as follows:

**Percentage.** The simple percentage will be used to determine the size and magnitude of one variable to another.

**Weighted Mean.** This will be computed to denote the measure of central tendency of quantitative or continuous variable. To interpret the weighted mean, the following was used for the results of survey questionnaire:

Table 2 Weighted Mean Description of Survey Questionnaire

Quantitative Description	Qualitative Description	Interpretation
3.26 - 4.00	Highly Evident	Distinguished
2.51 - 3.25	Evident	Proficient
2.26 - 2.50	Not Evident	Beginning
1.00 - 1.25	Highly Not Evident	Poor

One Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). This will be used to assess if there is significant difference on the evaluation of local government unit in the implementation of the Local Government Units of RA 9262 in eliminating Violence Against Women and Children.

### Results and Discussions

This section presents the data that was carefully collected, organized, and statistically processed, along with an interpretation to address the issues raised in Chapter 1. The tables are arranged according to the identified

problems, each followed by an analysis and discussion.

The respondents include personnel from the PNP Women and Children Unit in the three cities in the National Capital Region (NCR) with the highest number of VAWC cases: Quezon City, Manila, and Parañaque. Their demographic profiles cover age, gender, educational background, and participation in seminars and training.

The respondents assessed the level of implementation of R.A. 9262 (Violence Against



Women and Children), the development of gender and development (GAD) modules, and the perceived needs of local government officials. These needs include health and medical care, psychosocial and educational support, economic assistance, safety and security, and access to legal and justice services.

This section also analyzes whether there are significant differences in respondents' assessments of LGU officials' needs based on how well R.A. 9262 is being implemented.

Theories of Patriarchy and the Ecological Systems Framework help explain the broader context of violence against women and children. Patriarchy describes power imbalances that favor men, while the ecological model highlights how multiple layers of influence—from individual to societal—affect behavior. These theories show that violence is not an isolated act but part of a complex system. Addressing it requires interventions across all levels of this system, not just support for individual victims but also changes to the structures that allow violence to persist.

The following section details the characteristics of respondents from the Rural Health Unit (RHU), City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD), Philippine National Police – Women and Children Unit (PNP-WCU), and Barangay officials, categorized by age, gender, education, and training background.

***Sub-problem No. 1. Demographic profile of the local government unit officials Rural Health Unit (RHU), City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD), Philippine National Police – Women and Children Unit (PNP-WCU) and Barangay officials.***

A total of 135 officials from the Rural Health Unit (RHU), City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD), Philippine National Police – Women and Children Unit (PNP-WCU), and Barangay officials were involved in assessing the implementation of R.A. 9262 concerning Violence Against Women and Children. Tables 3-6 present the profile variables, including age group, gender, rank, civil status, educational attainment, years of service, and training/seminars attended.

*Table 3 Age of the Respondents*

Age	Frequency	Percentage
18-20 years old	0	0.00%
21-22 years old	6	4.44%
23-25 years old	9	6.67%
26-27 years old	28	20.74%
28-30 years old	32	23.70%
31-40 years old	40	29.63%
41-50 years old	13	9.63%
51 years old and above	7	5.19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 3 shows that most respondents are aged 31–40 (29.63%), followed by those aged 28–30 (23.70%) and 26–27 (20.74%). Smaller groups include those aged 21–22 (4.44%), 23–25 (6.67%), 41–50 (9.63%), and 51+ (5.19%).

Per Republic Act 8551, PNP applicants must be at least 21 years old. The PNP Recruitment and Selection Service allocates quotas per the recruitment guidelines. The Women and Children Protection Center (WCPC), established as the Women's Desk in 1993, was restructured in 2015 into a specialized anti-trafficking unit.

Prior to 2015, personnel were transferred from other units, explaining the older age of some members. After 2015, recruitment followed designated quotas.

DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2023-59 mandates barangays to establish VAW Desks and appoint trained officers—preferably female—on gender sensitivity and VAW laws such as RA 9262, Magna Carta of Women, Anti-TIP laws, and others.

The DSWD partners with LGUs to provide support services for abused individuals. Under

RA 7160, the City/Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (C/MSWDO) is responsible for coordinating social services and managing VAW referrals. The office must appoint a focal

person, maintain records, lead inter-agency meetings, and report to DSWD and other relevant bodies.

*Table 4 Sex of the Respondents*

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	5	2.1
Female	233	97.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>100%</b>

This group primarily consists of female respondents. A total of 84 female respondents were identified, comprising individuals from the Rural Health Unit (RHU), City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD), Philippine National Police – Women and Children Unit (PNP-WCU), and Barangay officials, representing

62.22% of the sample. In contrast, 51 respondents, or 37.78%, were male. The presence of females emphasizes their ability to connect with the gentleness and fragility inherent in both womanhood and childhood. Although there are more female respondents than male, both genders are represented in this study.

*Table 5 Educational Attainment of the Respondents*

Educational Attainment	Frequency	Percentage
College Graduate	109	80.74%
MA Units and Master's Degree Graduate	20	14.81%
PhD Units and PhD Degree Graduate	6	4.44%
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>100%</b>

The analysis of educational attainment revealed that the majority of respondents are College Graduates, comprising 80.74% (n = 109). Additionally, 14.81% (n = 20) hold MA Units or a Master's Degree, while 4.44% (n = 6) have PhD Units or a PhD Degree. The table shows that the majority of respondents are holders of a Baccalaureate Degree, some have with Master's Degree and very few are Doctorate Degree holders.

A formal baccalaureate degree from a recognized institution of learning is one of the fundamental qualifications for appointment in the PNP service, as specified in Section 14 of Republic Act 8551. Therefore, it can be inferred that all respondents possess a Bachelor's degree.

Social work is defined as a profession that is primarily concerned with organized social service activities aimed at facilitating and strengthening basic social relationships and the mutual adjustment between individuals

and their social environment for the good of the individual and of society by Republic Act No. 4373 of June 19, 1965, "An Act to Regulate the Practice of Social Work and the Operations of Social Work Agencies in the Philippines and for other Purposes." This Act defines a practitioner as someone who, through recognized academic training and professional experience in social work, can accomplish the goals established by the profession through the application of the fundamental social work methods and techniques (casework, group work, and community organization), which are intended to help individuals, groups, and communities meet their needs, solve problems related to adjusting to a changing social pattern, and improve economic and social conditions through coordinated action.

This practitioner is associated with an organized social work agency that receives part or all of its funding from the government or the community.

Table 6 Seminars and Trainings Attended in VAWC

Seminars and Training Attended in VAWC	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	108	80%
No	27	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>100%</b>

According to Table 6, 108 of the 135 respondents, representing 80.00%, have participated in specialized training courses focused on Women and Children Protection. In contrast, 20.00%, or 27 out of 135 respondents, have not attended any basic seminars on Violence Against Women and Children, which are required by both DILG and DSWD.

A 2016 article states that continuing education is essential for professionals to be updated on the newest advancements, competencies, and technology pertinent to their industry. Organizations are always evolving, especially criminal justice professionals who must remain informed about new laws, procedures, and technologies to enhance their existing knowledge. Dr. Melvin L. Howard, Ph.D., program director of Criminal Justice at South University, Columbia, stated that law enforcement, probation and parole, juvenile justice, and emergency management officials are tasked with both prevention and confrontation. This necessitates analytical reasoning, tackling distinct community or individual issues, improving quality of life, and accommodating a dynamic, multicultural society, with the coordination of delicate multi-agency operations. It is, therefore, critically important that professionals stay current and in compliance with changes in laws and regulations, as well as in

technological advancements, particularly forensic science, intelligence gathering and analysis, surveillance, financial crime detection, and investigation techniques.

The 2013 study advocated for ongoing support and enhancement of the WCPD organization to fulfill its fundamental mission of safeguarding the rights of women and children from violence. The establishment of the Women and Children Protection Desk Program and Services within the Cordillera Administrative Region, as discussed by Anamong-Davis in 2010.

In connection with the enhancement of the WCPD organization, the ongoing implementation of trainings, seminars, and educational initiatives will be pursued, not solely for WCPD Investigators, but for all personnel within the unit. This endeavor aims to attain peak performance in delivering police services, recognizing its significance as a fundamental component of the Criminal Justice System.

### ***Sub-problem No. 2. Assessment on the extent of implementation of the Local Government Units of RA 9262 in eliminating Violence Against Women and Children.***

Table 7 illustrates the assessment of the implementation level of Local Government Units regarding RA 9262 in addressing Violence Against Women and Children, specifically in the context of Health and Medical Care.

Table 7. Extent of Implementation of RA 9262 in terms of Health and Medical Care

Extent of Implementation of RA 9262	Rural Health Unit (RHU),		City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD)		Philippine National Police – Women and Children Unit (PNP-WCU)		Barangay Officials		Total
	Mean	VI	Mean	VI	Mean	VI	Mean	VI	
<b>Health and Medical Care</b>									
1. Properly document any of the victim's physical, emotional or psychological injuries	3.50	HE	3.54	HE	3.37	HE	3.36	HE	3.44
2. Properly record any of victim's suspicions, observations and circumstances of the examination or visit	3.55	HE	3.39	HE	3.21	E	3.31	HE	3.37

3. Automatically provide the victim free of charge a medical certificate concerning the examination or visit	3.45	HE	3.34	HE	3.28	HE	3.31	HE	3.35
4. Safeguard the records and make them available to the victim upon request at actual cost	3.51	HE	3.49	HE	3.43	HE	3.17	E	3.58
5. Provide the victim immediate and adequate notice of rights and remedies provided under this Act, and services available to them	3.57	HE	3.39	HE	3.51	HE	3.31	HE	3.45
6. Women and Children Protection Unit (WCPU), for physical-medical examination of a victim and treatment of injuries, and to ensure preservation of evidence of violence. WCPUs are managed by trained health professionals and are present in DOH-retained hospitals and in some local government hospitals.	3.49	HE	3.22	E	3.30	HE	3.32	HE	3.33
7. Ensure availability of protection, legal, health and psychosocial services and adequate resources.	3.33	HE	3.29	HE	3.27	HE	3.28	HE	3.29
8. Map out available health programs and services in each locality.	3.39	HE	3.48	HE	3.46	HE	3.36	HE	3.42
9. Review performance standards and assessment tools for health services in addressing VAW and development of performance standards for health services provided to marginalized and vulnerable women and children in all situations (peace, crisis and conflict situations)	3.41	HE	3.26	HE	3.37	HE	3.51	HE	3.39
10. Develop programs or mechanism to ensure access to VAW services of marginalized and vulnerable sectors including those in crisis situations	3.40	HE	3.30	HE	3.35	HE	3.31	HE	3.34
<b>Weighted Mean</b>	<b>3.46</b>	<b>HE</b>	<b>3.41</b>	<b>HE</b>	<b>3.36</b>	<b>HE</b>	<b>3.32</b>	<b>HE</b>	<b>3.38</b>

**Legend: 3.26 - 4.00 Highly Evident**

**2.51 – 3.25 Evident**

**2.26 – 2.50 Not Evident**

**1.00 - 1.25 Highly Not Evident**

The Rural Health Unit statements 5 and 2 recorded the highest means of 3.57 and 3.55, respectively, categorized as Highly Evident. Statements 4 and 1 followed with weighted means of 3.51 and 3.50. Statement 6 had a mean of 3.49, statement 3 recorded 3.45, while statements 9 and 10 had a mean of 3.41 and 3.40, correspondingly. The lowest weighted mean is found in statement number 8, which has a value of 3.39, indicating a high level of evidence.

The results indicated that the Rural Health Unit (RHU) effectively provides victims with timely and enough information regarding their legal rights and remedies under RA 9262, together with the services accessible to them. They appropriately manage and safeguard the records about the victim's suspicions, observations, and examination conditions, accurately documenting any visible physical, emotional, or psychological injuries, and making these records accessible to the victim upon request at actual cost. Nonetheless, the RHU requires

enhancement in identifying the health services and programs available in each community.

The statements from the City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD) numbered 1 and 4 produced the highest weighted means, recorded at 3.54 and 3.49, respectively. Statement number 8 exhibits a weighted mean of 3.48. Statements number 2 and 5 both show a weighted mean of 3.39. Statement number 10 registers at 3.30, while statement 7 is at 3.29. Finally, statement number 9 has a weighted mean of 3.26. In the interim, statement number 6 produced the lowest mean of 3.22, accompanied by an evident interpretation.

CSWD meticulously documented any physical, emotional, or psychological injuries of the victims. They excelled in safeguarding these records and ensured they were accessible to the victims. Additionally, they identified and outlined available health programs and services in each locality. Their process involves a thorough documentation of the victim's suspicions, observations, and the circumstances

surrounding the examination or visit. Additionally, they ensure that the victim receives prompt and comprehensive information regarding their rights and remedies as stipulated under this Act, along with the services accessible to them. Although they received the lowest mean, the Women and Children Protection Unit (WCPU) guarantees the preservation of evidence related to violence, conducts physical-medical examinations of victims, and provides treatment for injuries. Qualified health specialists supervise WCPUs, which are situated in DOH-retained hospitals and select local government hospitals.

The PNP results indicated that statement number 5 attained the highest weighted mean of 3.51, demonstrating a high level of evidence. Statement 8 has a value of 3.46, while statement 4 has a value of 3.43, indicating an evident interpretation. Statement numbers 1 and 9 both received a weighted mean of 3.37; statement 10 received a mean of 3.35, while statement 7 received a mean of 3.27. Statement number 2 has a mean of 3.21, representing the lowest value and an evident interpretation.

The PNP consistently reviews performance standards and assessment tools for health services addressing violence against women (VAW) and develops performance standards for health services aimed at marginalized and vulnerable women and children in various contexts, including peace, crisis, and conflict situations. The PNP is required and adequate to correctly document the examination or visit that the victim may have had.

The findings presented in the Barangay Officials statement 9 show a weighted mean of 3.51, indicating a high level of evidence, this indicated that the Barangay Official thoroughly evaluates performance standards and assessment tools for health services aimed at addressing violence against women, as well as the establishment of performance standards for health services offered to marginalized and vulnerable women and children across various contexts, including peace, crisis, and conflict situations. While statement 4 should be taken into account at the Barangay level, as it received a weighted mean of 3.17, which is

considered evident that maintaining the records in a secure location and provide them to the victim upon request at the actual cost.

In the Philippines, the Violence Against Women and Children Act (RA 9262) is implemented by many agencies and groups, including the CSWD, which offers psychosocial care, legal aid, and temporary housing to victims. The PNP's Women and Children Protection Center operates the program, which provides urgent help to VAW victims. Meanwhile, barangay authorities must have a VAW desk officer who maintains an assistance desk that is open as much as feasible. They record the number of cases and submit quarterly reports to the DILG City/Municipal Field Office and the City/Municipal Social Welfare Development Office (C/MSWDO). ([pcw.org.ph-republic-act-9262](http://pcw.org.ph-republic-act-9262)).

Additionally, the victim approaches the barangay captain directly to seek assistance. When inquired about any type of support such as hospitalization, the findings show that there has been none to date. This highlights the insufficient support provided to the woman, emphasizing the need for prioritization within the barangay. Another respondent indicated that the presence of VAWC is noticeable in the barangay. For example, its impact is evident in calming conflicting couples and their children. (Olobia, 2023).

Table 8 depicts the assessment of Local Government Units' implementation of RA 9262 in combating Violence Against Women and Children, particularly concerning Psychosocial Evaluation and Economic Support.

The statements 5 and 10 from the Rural Health Unit exhibited the highest means of 3.65 and 3.52, respectively, and are classified as Highly Evident. Statements 7 and 2 were accompanied by weighted means of 3.51 and 3.46, respectively. Statement 6 exhibited a mean of 3.40, statement 1 documented a mean of 3.35, whereas statement 8 presented a mean of 3.33, and statement 9 reflected a mean of 3.32, respectively. The statement numbered 3 exhibits the lowest weighted mean, recorded at 3.18, which signifies a substantial level of evidence.

**Table 8 Extent of Implementation of RA 9262 in terms of Psychosocial, Educational and Economic Support**

Extent of Implementation of RA 9262	Rural Health Unit (RHU),		City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD)		Philippine National Police – Women and Children Unit (PNP-WCU)		Barangay Officials.		Total
	Mean	VI	Mean	VI	Mean	VI	Mean	VI	
<b>Psychosocial, Educational and Economic Support</b>									
1. Address violence against women and children as a form of gender-based discrimination and violation of women and children's human rights	3.35	HE	3.54	HE	3.17	E	3.35	HE	3.33
2. Make clear that violence against women is unacceptable and that eliminating it is a public responsibility	3.46	HE	3.27	HE	3.31	HE	3.21	E	3.31
3. Take into account the differential impact of measures on women and children according to their race, class, ethnicity, religion disability, culture, indigenous or migrant status, legal status, age and sexual orientation	3.18	E	3.60	HE	3.37	HE	3.21	E	3.34
4. Other government agencies and LGUs shall establish programs such as, but not limited to, education and information campaign and seminars or symposia on the nature, causes, incidence and consequences of such violence particularly towards educating the public on its social impacts.	3.34	HE	3.38	HE	3.53	HE	3.40	HE	3.41
5. It is the duty of the concerned government agencies and LGUs to ensure the sustained education and training of their officers and personnel on the prevention of violence against women and their children under the Act.	3.65	HE	3.27	HE	3.33	HE	3.50	HE	3.44
6. Provision of rehabilitative counseling and treatment to perpetrators towards learning constructive ways of coping with anger and emotional outbursts and reforming their ways.	3.40	HE	3.53	HE	3.29	HE	3.42	HE	3.41
7. The Gender and Development (GAD) Budget of the mandated agencies and LGUs is used to implement services for victim of violence against women and their children.	3.51	HE	3.46	HE	3.19	E	3.77	HE	3.48
8. The police, for protective and security services, through the Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD), handled by women police officers trained on gender sensitivity and in handling VAW cases.	3.33	HE	3.49	HE	3.30	HE	3.41	HE	3.38
9. The social worker, for psychosocial and reintegration services, rendered through residential and community-based facilities of DSWD and local government units. Social workers often times become the case managers as they keep record of the victim's case and its progress.	3.32	HE	3.52	HE	3.60	HE	3.47	HE	3.48
10. The NGOs provide various support services to victims such as shelter, psychosocial counseling and legal services. Development of a research agenda for more evidence-based anti-VAW programming	3.52	HE	3.24	HE	3.38	HE	3.27	HE	3.35
<b>Weighted Mean</b>	<b>3.41</b>	<b>HE</b>	<b>3.43</b>	<b>HE</b>	<b>3.35</b>	<b>HE</b>	<b>3.40</b>	<b>HE</b>	<b>3.39</b>

**Legend: 3.26 - 4.00 Highly Evident**  
**2.51 – 3.25 Evident**  
**2.26 – 2.50 Not Evident**  
**1.00 - 1.25 Highly Not Evident**

The findings indicated that the Rural Health Unit (RHU) prioritizes continuing education and training of its officers and personnel regarding the prevention of violence against women and children. Moreover, despite achieving noticeable results, they consider the varying impacts of measures on women and children based on factors such as race, class, ethnicity, religion, disability, culture, indigenous

or migrant status, legal status, age, and sexual orientation.

The statement from the City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD) indicated the highest weighted mean, recorded at 3.60, with an interpretation of highly evident. Statement number 1 demonstrates a weighted mean of 3.54. Both statements number 2 and 5 indicate a weighted mean of 3.27. Statement number 9

records a value of 3.52, whereas statement 8 is noted at 3.49. Statement 4 is 3.38, and statement 7 is 3.46, both interpreted as highly evident. Statement number 6 has a weighted mean of 3.53. During this period, statement number 10 yielded the lowest mean of 3.24, along with a clear interpretation.

The findings indicated that the CSWD takes into account the diverse impacts of measures on the sensitivities of women and children which is highly evident in their agency. They encourage non-governmental organizations to actively participate to provide a diverse array of support services for victims, encompassing shelter, psychosocial counseling, and legal assistance. Development of a research agenda aimed at improving evidence-based strategies for the prevention of violence against women.

The PNP results indicate that statement 3 achieved the highest mean score of 3.71, followed by statement 9 with a mean of 3.60, and statement 4 with a mean of 3.53. Statement 5 showed a mean of 3.40, statement 10 recorded a mean of 3.38, while statement 8 indicated a mean of 3.30, and statement 2 revealed a mean of 3.31, all interpreted as highly evident. The statements numbered 1 and 7 display the lowest weighted mean, recorded at 3.17 and 3.19, indicating a significant level of evidence.

The results demonstrated that the PNP recognizes and prioritizes the effects of measures on women and children, taking into account their race, class, ethnicity, religion, disability, culture, indigenous or migrant status, legal status, age, and sexual orientation. Addressing violence against women and children as a manifestation of gender-based discrimination and a violation of their human rights necessitates the implementation of effective international legal measures.

The findings presented in the Barangay Officials statement 7 reveal a weighted mean of 3.77, indicating a high level of evidence. This implies that the Barangay Official Gender and Development (GAD) budget of the mandated agencies and LGUs is effectively utilized to

implement services for victims of violence against women and their children.

Statements numbers 2 and 3 yielded a comparable weighted mean of 3.21, which suggests a clear interpretation that violence against women is intolerable and that its eradication constitutes a public obligation. Furthermore, it underscores the significant influence of measures on women and children, contingent upon their orientation.

In considering continuing education, lifelong learning is essential. Lifelong learning refers to the continuous process of learning throughout an individual's life, both within and outside formal educational environments, indicating the presence of various common methods through which learning occurs (Laal, Laal & Aliramaei, 2014). In the context of continuing education, women and children acquire new, practical knowledge and skills that are closely linked to their lives, particularly about livelihood strategies and fundamental human skills, including effective communication with their partners. (Olobia, 2023). Legislation and policies that address wider socioeconomic inequalities can make a vital contribution to empowering women and improving their status in society; to creating cultural shifts by changing the norms, attitudes, and beliefs that support intimate partner and sexual violence; and to creating a climate of non-tolerance for such violence. (National Academies Press (US)).

Table 9 presents an assessment of the implementation level of Local Government Units concerning RA 9262 in the context of addressing Violence Against Women and Children, with a focus on Safety and Security.

The results outlined in the RHU statement 1 show a weighted mean of 3.76, suggesting a strong level of evidence. This suggests that they are advocating for the safety of women in public areas.

Statement number 2 yielded a weighted mean of 3.14, indicating that the Barangay VAW Desk is the first responder to a VAW complainant.

Table 9 Extent of Implementation of RA 9262 in terms of Safety and Security

Extent of Implementation of RA 9262	Rural Health Unit (RHU),		City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD)		Philippine National Police – Women and Children Unit (PNP-WCU)		Barangay Officials.		Total
	Mean	VI	Mean	VI	Mean	VI	Mean	VI	
Promote women's safety in public spaces	3.76	HE	3.83	HE	3.33	HE	3.57	HE	3.62
The Barangay VAW Desk as a first responder to a VAW complainant.	3.14	E	3.53	HE	3.43	HE	3.54	HE	3.41
Inform the victim of her/his rights including legal remedies available and procedure, and privileges for indigent litigants	3.44	HE	3.49	HE	3.39	HE	3.70	HE	3.51
Respond immediately to a call for help or request for assistance or protection of the victim by entering the necessary whether or not a protection order has been issued and ensure the safety of the victim/s	3.37	HE	3.41	HE	3.31	HE	3.63	HE	3.43
Transport or escort the victim/s to a safe place of their choice or to a clinic or hospital	3.33	HE	3.47	HE	3.37	HE	3.60	HE	3.44
Ensure the enforcement of the Protection Orders issued by the Punong Barangay or the courts	3.33	HE	3.34	HE	3.24	E	3.67	HE	3.40
Arrest the suspected perpetrator without a warrant when any of the acts of violence defined by the RA 9262 is occurring, or when he/she has personal knowledge that any act of abuse has just been committed, and there is imminent danger to the life or limb of the victim as defined in this Act	3.47	HE	3.44	HE	3.34	HE	3.69	HE	3.49
Immediately report the call for assessment or assistance of the DSWD, social Welfare Department of LGUs or accredited non-government organizations (NGOs).	3.33	HE	3.50	HE	3.40	HE	3.61	HE	3.46
All records pertaining to cases of violence against women and their children including those in the barangay are confidential and all public officers and employees and public or private clinics to hospitals will respect the right to privacy of the victim.	3.37	HE	3.34	HE	3.49	HE	3.76	HE	3.49
Comprehensive and organized service delivery, these services are expected to function together under a referral system, lodged at the local level, where agency/LGU service providers are part of a referral network.	3.61	HE	3.49	HE	3.78	HE	3.28	HE	3.54
<b>Weighted Mean</b>	<b>3.41</b>	<b>HE</b>	<b>3.49</b>	<b>HE</b>	<b>3.52</b>	<b>HE</b>	<b>3.24</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>3.41</b>

**Legend: 3.26 - 4.00 Highly Evident**  
**2.51 – 3.25 Evident**  
**2.26 – 2.50 Not Evident**  
**1.00 - 1.25 Highly Not Evident**

The findings presented in the CSWD statement 1 reveal a weighted mean of 3.83, indicating a high level of evidence. This implies that they are promoting women's safety in public spaces.

Statements 2 and 9 yielded a weighted mean of 3.34, indicating the necessity to enforce the Protection Orders issued by the Punong Barangay or the courts. It is essential that records related to cases of violence against women and their children, including those within the barangay, remain confidential.

Furthermore, all public officers, employees, and public or private clinics must respect the victim's right to privacy.

PNP reported in the study that statement 10 has a weighted mean of 3.78, suggesting a high level of evidence. This indicates that the organization provides comprehensive and co-ordinated service delivery that is anticipated to work together under a referral system at the local level, with agency/LGU service providers participating in a referral network.

Statement 6 had the lowest weighted mean of 3.24, indicating that the Punong Barangay or the courts should execute the Protection Orders issued.

The study conducted by Barangay Officials indicated that statement 9 has a weighted mean of 3.76, reflecting a high level of evidence.



This indicates that strict adherence to confidentiality in all records related to cases of violence against women and their children, including those at the barangay level, is essential. All public officers, employees, and both public and private healthcare facilities are obligated to uphold the victim's right to privacy.

Statement number 10 yielded a lowest weighted mean of 3.28, indicating the necessity for comprehensive and organized service delivery. These services are expected to operate cohesively within a referral system established at the local level, where agency and local government unit service providers are integrated into a referral network.

The study by De Asis et al. (2021) recommends that Bayambang's Local Government Unit, in collaboration with barangay

authorities, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the Philippine National Police's Children and Women's Desk Section, prioritize the implementation of RA 9262 to safeguard vulnerable women and children. Moreover, psychological relief comforted women and children, signifying a safe and secure environment. In this context, peace and security emerged as the guiding principles for women who faced physical abuse through communication. (Olobia, 2023).

Table 10 assesses the implementation status of Local Government Units regarding RA 9262, focusing on their efforts to address Violence Against Women and Children, specifically in relation to Access to Justice and Legal Assistance.

*Table 10 The extent of Implementation of RA 9262 in terms of Access to Justice and Legal Assistance*

Extent of Implementation of RA 9262	Rural Health Unit (RHU),		City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD)		Philippine National Police – Women and Children Unit (PNP-WCU)		Barangay Officials.		Total
	Mean	VI	Mean	VI	Mean	VI	Mean	VI	
Local government unit officials are expected to be gender sensitive and have a comprehensive understanding of RA 9262 and other relevant laws.	3.35	HE	3.88	HE	3.46	HE	3.36	HE	3.51
The LGU officials conduct investigations, gather evidence, and apprehend the perpetrators.	3.38	HE	3.73	HE	3.35	HE	3.26	HE	3.43
LGU officials provide initial legal guidance and support	3.36	HE	3.80	HE	3.40	HE	3.37	HE	3.48
LGU officials prevent further harm to victims by legally prohibiting the perpetrators from contacting or approaching them.	3.46	HE	3.81	HE	3.55	HE	3.43	HE	3.56
Monitor implementation of legal reforms to assess how well they are working in practice	3.31	HE	3.38	HE	3.91	HE	3.33	HE	3.48
Keep legislation under constant review and continue it in the light of new information and understanding	3.36	HE	3.47	HE	3.90	HE	3.38	HE	3.52
LGU officials assist applicants in the preparation of the application of cases.	3.76	HE	3.33	HE	3.88	HE	3.31	HE	3.57
LGU officials extend assistance in the application for protection orders in cases brought to their attention.	3.50	HE	3.76	HE	3.21	E	3.57	HE	3.51
<b>Weighted Mean</b>	<b>3.46</b>	<b>HE</b>	<b>3.64</b>	<b>HE</b>	<b>3.58</b>	<b>HE</b>	<b>3.37</b>	<b>HE</b>	<b>3.51</b>

**Legend: 3.26 - 4.00 Highly Evident**  
**2.51 – 3.25 Evident**  
**2.26 – 2.50 Not Evident**  
**1.00 - 1.25 Highly Not Evident**

With a weighted mean of 3.76 for the RHU found in the study, result statement 7 shows a strong degree of evidence. This suggests that applicants receive assistance from LGU officials in preparing their case applications.

The lowest weighted mean, 3.31, was obtained for statement number 5, indicating that legal reforms should be monitored for implementation to gauge their practical effectiveness.

The findings presented in the CSWD statement 1 indicate a weighted mean of 3.88, implying a solid evidence level. This indicates that officials within local government units are anticipated to possess gender sensitivity and a thorough comprehension of RA 9262 along with other pertinent legislation.

The minimum weighted mean observed was 3.33 for statement number 7, indicating that LGU officials offer minimal support to applicants in preparing their case applications.

The results articulated in the PNP statement 5 reveal a weighted mean of 3.91, suggesting a robust level of evidence. This suggests that LGU meticulously observes the execution of legal reforms to evaluate their effectiveness in real-world applications.

The lowest weighted mean recorded was 3.21 for statement number 8, suggesting that LGU officials provide limited support in facilitating assistance for the application of protection orders in cases presented to them.

The results presented in the Barangay Officials statement 8 indicate a weighted mean of 3.57, implying a strong level of evidence. This indicates that officials within local government units ought to exhibit gender sensitivity and a thorough comprehension of RA 9262 along with other pertinent legislation.

The minimum weighted mean observed was 3.26 for statement number 2, indicating that LGU officers perform insufficient investigations, collect evidence, and apprehend offenders.

Non-government organizations and advocates for women's human rights play a crucial role in tackling violence against women and children. The diverse government services

depend on the specialized knowledge of NGOs for training and program development. Each government agency possesses distinct functions aimed at addressing violence against women and children in compliance with legal frameworks. The Women and Children's Desks established in each Local Government Unit (LGU) serve as the initial point of contact for reports concerning Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC). The PNP and NBI oversee investigatory services and procedures for reported VAWC cases, while the DOH offers medical services, and the DOJ provides legal and prosecution support. The DSWD offers psychosocial and rehabilitation services, along with temporary shelters. Additionally, the LGUs, under the DILG, collaborate with the DSWD to provide recovery and livelihood assistance to victims upon their release from rehabilitation centers. (Foundation for Media Alternatives and Association for Progressive Communication, 2013; Santos, 2009).

The victim is entitled to a protection order until she can regain control of her life, which will be enforced by law enforcement agencies. Economic abuse is a moral basis for VAW. The DSWD, PNP, and Barangay Officials are the most sought-after agencies for providing comprehensive assistance to VAW victims, particularly those who have failed their cases. (Caban, 2022).

### ***Sub-problem No. 3. Significant difference in the assessment of local government unit officials in the implementation of RA 9262 in eliminating Violence Against Women and Children.***

Table 11 shows the significant difference in the assessments of the local government unit officials in the implementation of RA 9262 in eliminating Violence Against Women and Children. Data shows that there are significant differences in the assessments of the four groups' health and medical care and judicial and legal assistance and no significant difference in the variable's education and economic support, and safety and security.

*Table 11 Significant difference in the assessment of local government unit officials in the implementation of RA 9262 in eliminating Violence Against Women and Children*

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Interpretation	Decision
<b>Health and medical care</b>	Between Groups	.831	2	.416	20.363	.000	Significant	Reject H0
	Within Groups	.551	27	.020				
	Total	1.383	29					
<b>Education and Economic Support</b>	Between Groups	.085	2	.042	1.190	.320	Not Significant	Accept H0
	Within Groups	.964	27	.036				
	Total	1.049	29					
<b>Safety and Security</b>	Between Groups	.185	2	.093	4.237	.025	Significant	Reject H0
	Within Groups	.590	27	.022				
	Total	.775	29					
<b>Justice and Legal Assistance</b>	Between Groups	.186	2	.093	1.928	.170	Not Significant	Accept H0
	Within Groups	1.013	21	.048				
	Total	1.199	23					

The findings indicated significant variations among the four groups regarding their provision of immediate and adequate notice of rights to VAW victims, as well as the organized delivery of services within a referral system, where LGU service providers are integrated into a referral network. The four groups exhibited variations concerning the Gender and Development (GAD) Budget, which local government units utilize to provide services for victims of violence against women and their children. Examining the diverse viewpoints among the four distinct groups concerning the implementation of monitoring for legal reforms to evaluate their practical application.

RHU and CSWD focus on elements that ensure smooth integration with current processes and compliance with legal standards. Their emphasis appears to be on aspects that improve efficiency in health and medical management, document processing, and court appearance scheduling.

The barangay must prioritize the precision and dependability of the system, highlighting the significance of secure issuance, service, and execution of the BPO. Their viewpoint may lean towards operational considerations, emphasizing the practical elements involved in the technical execution of orders.

PNP (WCPD), originating from law enforcement, emphasizes the importance of data security features, collaboration with other agencies, and the integration that ensures alignment with investigative procedures.

Recognizing these differing viewpoints facilitates a more focused and customized strategy for the implementation of R.A. 9262 within the local government unit. Bridging communication gaps, fostering collaboration, and addressing the specific needs and concerns of each group are essential tasks. By comprehensively understanding diverse viewpoints, policymakers and implementers can create joint memorandum circulars that facilitate successful and inclusive law adoption among all relevant stakeholders.

## Conclusion

The following are the conclusions of the study based from the findings:

1. The majority of respondents fall within the age range of 31-40 years, comprising 29.63%. Females constitute 97.9%, while 80.74% are college graduates who have participated in training and seminars on VAWC. The majority of respondents affirm their understanding of the enforcement of RA9262

concerning the essence of law, the mechanism for submitting cases of violence against women and children, as well as the associated sanctions and repercussions.

2. The study highlights the necessity for Barangay to enhance its legislative support for Republic Act 9262, specifically emphasizing its importance in improving record-keeping, managing victims issuance and implementation of barangay protection orders by instituting a comprehensive information analysis system.
3. The researcher proposes a policy enhancement in the form of a joint memorandum circular to be issued by the DILG, DOH, and DSWD to enable the Barangay to fully attain this objective.
4. This study emphasizes the necessity of safeguarding the rights of women and children, emphasizing the importance of addressing their values and interests not only within households and communities but also through coordination with inter-agency partners such as the Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the Philippine National Police Women and Children Protection Desk. The VAWC advocacy campaign promotes harmony within families by fostering educational awareness under the principles of women's empowerment and equality. Inadequate coordination among agencies may result in delays, gaps, and vulnerabilities within the legal framework. By ensuring smooth communication, cooperation, and efficient processing among agencies, the process can be streamlined, enhancing overall efficiency and preventing potential errors in the issuance and execution of the said law.
5. The research indicates that four groups exhibited varying levels of comprehension regarding the significance of the elements of Republic Act 9262 in the execution by the Local Government Unit, the resources required for implementation, and the necessity for proactive intervention strategies.

## Recommendations

The following recommendations were drawn based from the conclusions of the study:

1. Establish a Multi-Disciplinary Coordination Task Force: Form a coordinated task force composed of representatives from the Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Health Officers, Scene of the Crime Operatives (SOCO), Women and Children Protection Unit (WCPU) in general hospitals, and Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC). This task force should meet regularly to ensure comprehensive management of services, including health care, psychosocial support, educational and economic empowerment, safety and security, and access to justice. To ensure proper execution, create specific protocols for each agency's role, and establish clear timelines for service delivery.
2. Conduct Regular, Mandatory Training and Seminars: Implement mandatory, regularly scheduled training and seminars for all relevant stakeholders, including law enforcement, social workers, health professionals, and barangay officials. These should focus on combating gender-based discrimination, human rights violations, and strengthening knowledge of RA 9262. In partnership with DSWD, LGUs, and barangays, develop and promote livelihood programs specifically targeting women to enhance their economic independence. Include hands-on workshops that teach entrepreneurial skills, financial literacy, and job readiness.
3. Promote Women's Safety in Public Spaces: Develop and implement a robust strategy to foster a culture of women's safety in public spaces. This includes enforcing strict safety measures such as surveillance cameras, street lighting, and law enforcement patrols in high-risk areas. Additionally, create clear legal procedures and a streamlined process for victims of rights violations to file complaints, access protection orders, and receive immediate assistance from barangay officials. Establish a dedicated legal assistance unit at the barangay level to ensure quick response and support.
4. Support Marginalized Victims and Assist in Legal Proceedings: Provide targeted support for marginalized individuals, especially

women and children victims of violence under RA 9262. Establish a victim-centered approach that includes providing immediate assistance, helping victims file complaints with the PNP or WCPU, and ensuring all necessary documents are gathered for a strong case. Establish partnerships with local NGOs to offer legal, psychological, and financial support to empower victims to seek justice and rebuild their lives.

5. Mandate Annual Formal Training on VAW Law: The Local Government Unit (LGU), in collaboration with the Women and Children Desk Police Personnel, DSWD, and Barangay, should conduct formal annual training programs focused on RA 9262 and related laws. The training should be designed to ensure that all stakeholders are up-to-date with legal changes, best practices, and victim support services. Evaluate the effectiveness of these programs through assessments and feedback mechanisms to ensure continuous improvement.
6. Enhance Training on Issuing Barangay Protection Orders (BPOs): Conduct specialized workshops for barangay officials on the proper issuance and enforcement of Barangay Protection Orders (BPOs) under RA 9262. Ensure that the training emphasizes the timely processing of BPOs, the importance of confidentiality, and the victim's right to legal protection. Develop and distribute a step-by-step guide on how to process and enforce BPOs, making it accessible to barangay officials for quick reference.
7. Expand Research and Stakeholder Involvement: Further research should be conducted to validate the findings of this study, with an emphasis on including a broader range of external stakeholders such as local community leaders, mental health professionals, and advocacy groups. Use a qualitative research approach to gather in-depth insights from a diverse group of respondents, and include case studies that reflect real-world experiences. This will help ensure that the findings are comprehensive and provide a stronger foundation for future policy and program development.

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