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Research Article

Perceptions of Criminology and Non-Criminology Students on Management of Arms and Ammunition from Selected University in Metro Manila

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ABSTRACT

The increasing rate of gun-related deaths in the Philippines is one of the challenging variables in the management of arms and ammunition for effective safekeeping operations. This study describes the perceptions of the students towards management of arms and ammunition, and the relationship between the profile variates of the two-groups of respondents and the level of awareness on management of arms and ammunition. This descriptive correlational research determined the perceptions of 200 students towards management of arms and ammunition, and the relationship between the profile variates of the two-groups of respondents and the level of awareness on management of arms and ammunition. A researcher-developed questionnaire was utilized. During the conduct of the study, strict ethical principles including confidentiality and non-disclosure agreement were considered. Data were analyzed using frequency, percentage distribution, mean, rank, and Pearson's correlation coefficient. Accordingly, *Carrying of Firearms Outside of Residence or Place of Business* has the highest mean score of 3.39, interpreted as Highly Aware, *Abandoned Firearms and Ammunition*, and *Death or Disability of the Licensee* with a mean score of 1.95, interpreted as Slightly Aware (SA). The year level ($\eta = .357, p = .045$), number of trainings attended ($\eta = .381, p = .043$), gun ownership ($\eta = .359, p = .041$), family monthly gross income ($\eta = .371, p = .039$) show significant relationships to the criminology student respondents level of awareness on effective strategies in weapons and ammunition management. Further, the number of trainings attended ($\eta = .388, p = .053$), gun ownership ($\eta = .378, p = .047$), and family monthly gross income ($\eta = .391, p = .059$) show significant relationship to the non-criminology student respondents level of awareness on management of arms and ammunition. The majority of the respondents concur that the importance of having the permit to carry firearms outside of residence or place of business issued by the Chief, PNP, or by his/her duly authorized representative to the licensed citizen allowing him/her to carry the firearm outside the residence or place of business, as such, display of firearms is prohibited. Furthermore, the year

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level, number of training attended, gun ownership, and family monthly gross income has a direct positive effect on the criminology student respondents level of awareness on effective strategies in weapons and ammunition management, while the number of training attended, gun ownership, and family monthly gross income has a direct positive effect on the non-criminology student respondents level of awareness on management of arms and ammunition. Therefore, school administrators should provide and recalibrate complete gun safety training to ensure those gun owners are educated on the responsible practices for handling and using firearms, storing them securely at home, as well as carrying guns in public. Further studies may be conducted on policy analysis, enforcement, and analytical methods are applied to curb firearms-related violence.

Keywords: *ammunition, Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act, criminology, descriptive correlational research, fire arms*

Introduction

The increasing rate of gun-related deaths, violence and trafficking of small arms are growing problems worldwide. Gun-related violence in the Philippines is one of the challenging variables in the management of arms and ammunition for effective safekeeping operations. According to the World Health Organization's Inter-country Comparison of Mortality for Selected Causes of Death, the Philippines annual deaths resulting from firearms have a total of 7,702 with an annual rate of 7.88 by 2014 from 7,296 in 2011 (WHO, 2021). Accordingly, in 2011, the Philippines has a total of 7,214 annual firearm homicides and 38 annual firearm suicides. In 2014, there were 291 annual unintentional shooting deaths, and a total of 285 annual shooting deaths in which the cause remains undetermined (WHO, 2021). An estimated total number of guns (both licit and illicit) held by civilians in the Philippines is between 2,666,418 and 3,977,237 (Concepcion, 2019). In 2019, the number of registered guns in the Philippines is reported to be 1,940,237. Although the unregistered and unlawfully held guns cannot be counted, Concepcion estimated it to be between 726,181 and 2,037,000 in (Karp, 2018) study on Estimating Global Civilian-Held Firearms Numbers, thus reported that the defense forces of the Philippines have 454,700 firearms, and there were 139,043 firearms in and the Police in the Philippines.

The gun control legislation in the Philippines includes the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act No. 10591 of 2013 and the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 10591 recognizing the right of its qualified citizens to self-defense when it is the reasonable means to repel unlawful aggression under the circumstances, the use of firearms. Although gun regulations in the Philippines are restrictive, 726,181 (Concepcion, 2019) and 2,037,000 (Karp, 2018) estimates of unregistered and unlawfully held guns were alarming (Alpers et al., 2021). Based on the report of Civil Security Group - Supervisory Office for Security and Investigation Agencies (CSG-SOSIA), a total of 584 firearms were confiscated from the period of January to June, which is a 300-percent increase from 139 unlicensed firearms on the second half of 2019 (Caliwan, 2020).

Gun violence is also pervasive and multifactorial. In the wake of recent school shootings, communities and legislatures are searching for law enforcement solutions to the perceived epidemic of school violence, such as the enactment of tougher gun control laws and more vigorous federal and local enforcement of existing gun control laws; the enactment of laws imposing civil or criminal liability on parents for their children's violent behavior; the establishment of specialized courts and prosecution strategies for handling juveniles who are

charged with weapons offenses; stricter enforcement of school disciplinary codes (Redding & Shalf, 2001). Variety of common causal and contributory factors were identified including but not limited to mental illness, suicidal ideation, intimate partner violence, socioeconomic status, community distress, family life, childhood trauma, current or previous substance abuse, and firearm access (Sanchez et al., 2020; Cuyugan et al., 2017; Pahayahay et al., 2017).

Literature suggests that citizens' knowledge on the management of arms and ammunition, understanding their rights to self-defense and participatory approach to curbing gun-related violence help the police force towards successful safekeeping operations (Dasig et al., 2017; Arulkumar & Latha, 2019; Kahan & Braman, 2003). The Gun Intelligence Initiatives allowed the NYPD to depend on its citizens and technology to provide investigators with information that helps them to solve cases more quickly and prevent future gun violence (Golden & Almo, 2004). The department uses several strategies to encourage citizens to share information on illegal guns; it uses this intelligence to plan operations, build cases against gun perpetrators, and find and recover illegal guns and those who distribute them (Yipeng et al., 2021; Dasig, et al., 2020).

This study focused on determinations of the perceptions of 200 students towards the management of arms and ammunition. These factors and demographic profile variates were also considered by (Choulaki et al., 2020) such as involved in various economic, socio-cultural, political-security and judicial measures in combating arms and ammunition trafficking as one of the important missions of the law enforcement force (Tagle, 2021; Llantos, 2021). Also, the study pegged to determine the relationship between the profile variates of the two groups of respondents and the level of awareness on management of arms and ammunition. As such, it would be of great significance that criminology students who will become future law enforcement officers can relate to the need to understand and apply the importance of the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act in the Philippines to be able to maintain peace and order and protect the people

from violence. Thus, it is also important that non-criminology students be able to relate and understand laws and regulations pertaining to management of Arms and ammunition, and understand their right to self-defense through when it is the reasonable means to repel unlawful aggression under the circumstances, the use of firearms. The results of this study may also be used as a reference for the criminology program administrators to improve its curriculum, enhance its program for student development, and develop and sustain a firearm violence-free campus.

Methods

A descriptive correlational research design was used in the study (Mendez & Dasig, 2020; Dasig et al., 2017). In particular, the descriptive phase covered the determination of the profile of 200 purposively selected college students from the higher education institutions in Metro Manila as well as to determine the perceptions of the respondents towards management of arms and ammunition. Additionally, the correlation phase involved the test of the relationship between the profile of the respondents and the respondents' assessment of management of arms and ammunition and the respondents-related variates when the two groups of respondents are grouped according to their profile characteristics.

Data was gathered using the researcher-designed questionnaire validated by experts. During the conduct of the study, strict ethical principles including confidentiality and non-disclosure agreement were considered. Data were analyzed using frequency, percentage distribution, mean, rank, and Pearson's correlation coefficient (Pearson's *r*).

Results and Discussion

This section presents the results of the analysis conducted such as the demographic profile of the student respondents, perceptions of the respondents towards management of arms and ammunition, and the relationship between the profile of the respondents and the respondents' assessment of management of arms and ammunition and the respondents-related variates when the two groups of respondents are

grouped according to their profile characteristics.

Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Table 1 presents the demographic profile of the student respondents. The majority of the respondents 45 or 45 % belong to the age group of 15- 20 years old. The respondents were dominated by males comprising 89 or 89% and 11 or 11% were females, respectively.

The majority of the respondents 95 or 95% were single, while 5 or 5% were married. The majority of the respondents 45 or 45% were 1st year, 25 or 25% were in the second year, 15 or 15% were in the third year, and 15 or 15% were in 4th year criminology students. The majority of the respondents 25 or 25% were earning 40,000- 49,999.00, 25 or 25% were earning 30,000- 39,999.00, while a small or 2% were earning 10,000- 19,999.00.

Table 1. Demographic Profile of the Criminology Student Respondents

Profile	Frequency	Percentage
Age	15-20 years old	45
	21-25 years old	15
	26-30 years old	15
	31- 35 years old	20
	36 or older	5
Gender	Male	89
	Female	11
Civil Status	Single	95
	Married	5
Year Level	1st Year	45
	2nd Year	25
	3rd Year	15
	4th Year	15
Family Monthly Gross Income (in Peso)	More than 100,000.00	12
	75,000- 99,999.00	15
	50,000- 74,999.00	13
	40,000- 49,999.00	25
	30,000- 39,999.00	25
	20,000- 29,999.00	8
	10,000- 19,999.00	2

N= 100

Table 2 presents the demographic profile of the non-criminology student respondents. The majority of the respondents 45 or 45% belonged to the age group of 15- 20 years old. The respondents were dominated by males comprising 56 or 56% and 44 or 44% were females, respectively. The majority of the respondents 78 or 78% were single, while 22 or 22% were married. The majority of the respondents 38 or 38% were BSBA/ BSA, 36 or 36% were BS

Education students, 26 or 26% were BSCS/ BSIT students. The majority of the respondents 45 or 45% were first-year students, 25 or 25% were 2nd-year students, 15 or 15% were 3rd year, and 15 or 15% were 4th-year students. The majority of the respondents 32 or 32% were earning 20,000- 29,999.00, 16 or 16% were earning 30,000- 39,999.00, while 40,000- 49,999.00 and 50,000- 74,999.00 family monthly gross income bracket have 15% each.

Table 2. Demographic profile of the Non-Criminology Student Respondents

Profile		Frequency	Percentage
Age	15-20 years old	45	45
	21-25 years old	33	33
	26-30 years old	20	20
	31- 35 years old	2	2
	36 or older	0	0
Gender	Male	56	56
	Female	44	44
Civil Status	Single	78	78
	Married	22	22
Course/ Program	BSCS/ BSIT	26	26
	BS Education	36	36
	BSBA/ BSA	38	38
Year Level	1st Year	45	45
	2nd Year	25	25
	3rd Year	15	15
	4th Year	15	15
Family Monthly Gross Income (in Peso)	More than 100,000.00	10	10
	75,000- 99,999.00	12	12
	50,000- 74,999.00	15	15
	40,000- 49,999.00	15	15
	30,000- 39,999.00	16	16
	20,000- 29,999.00	32	32
	10,000- 19,999.00	0	0

N= 100

Perceptions of the Respondents towards Management of Arms and Ammunition

Table 3 represents the perceptions of the criminology and non-criminology students towards the management of arms and ammunition. Generally, 200 respondents rated their perceptions on the level of awareness at an average mean of 2.84 interpreted as Aware. This implies that the respondents were aware of the fundamentals and advanced mechanisms and tools about the management of arms and ammunition for effective safekeeping operations.

Among the 11 statements about the management of arms and ammunition, item number 3- *Carrying of Firearms Outside of Residence or Place of Business* has the highest mean score of 3.39, interpreted as Highly Aware. The majority of the respondents concur that the importance of having the permit to carry firearms outside of residence or place of business issued by the Chief, PNP, or by his/her duly authorized representative to the licensed citizen allowing him/her to carry the firearm outside the residence or place of business, as such, display of firearms is prohibited.

Table 3. Perceptions of the Respondents towards Management of Arms and Ammunition

Statements about Management of Arms and Ammunition	Composite Mean	Descriptive Equivalent	Rank
1. Standards and Requisites for Issuance of and Obtaining a License to Own and Possess Firearms	3.15	Aware	3

Statements about Management of Arms and Ammunition		Composite Mean	Descriptive Equivalent	Rank
2.	Ownership of Firearms and Ammunition by a Juridical Entity, and by the National Government	3.21	Aware	2
3.	Carrying of Firearms Outside of Residence or Place of Business	3.39	Highly Aware	1
4.	Authority to Issue Mission Order Involving the Carrying of Firearm, Authority to Issue License, Licenses Issued to Individuals, and Firearms That May Be Registered	2.76	Aware	8
5.	Registration of Firearms, License to Possess Firearms Necessarily Includes Possession of Ammunition, and Issuance of License to Manufacture and Deal in Firearms and Ammunition	2.88	Aware	5
6.	Authority to Issue License to Manufacture, Requirements for Issuance of License to Manufacture	2.80	Aware	6
7.	Inspection and Inventory, Production reports, Inventory of Raw materials, Sales Report, Inventory Report or Accomplishment Report	2.78	Aware	7
8.	Acquisition or Purchase and Sale of Firearms and Ammunition	3.04	Aware	4
9.	Deposit of Firearms by Persons Arriving from Abroad, Return of Firearms to Owner upon Departure from the Philippines, and Safe-keeping of Firearms and Ammunition	2.75	Aware	9
10.	Abandoned Firearms and Ammunition, and Death or Disability of the Licensee	1.95	Slightly Aware	11
11.	Penalties for Unlawful Acquisition or Possession of Firearms and Ammunition	2.50	Aware	10
Overall Mean		2.84	A	

1.00-1.74- Not Aware, 1.75-2.49- Slightly Aware, 2.50-3.24- Aware, 3.25-4.00- Highly Aware

A well-regulated Militia is necessary to the security of a Free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms (Volkh, 2006; Babb, 2017), shall not be infringed, as such, greater enforcement of existing laws against carrying concealed weapons could reduce firearms violence in the target area by 49 percent (Sherman & Rogan, 1995). Permit to carry should be issued to applicants who such that, several policy approaches must be implemented to reduce the harmful role that firearms play by limiting access to firearms and reducing the risk of

firearm-related injury (Skaggs, 2005; Goodyear et al., 2020).

On the other hand, the statement that received the lowest mean score was item number 10- Abandoned Firearms and Ammunition, and Death or Disability of the Licensee with a mean score of 1.95, interpreted as Slightly Aware (SA). This means that the respondents need more education about deposited firearms and ammunition, abandoned firearms, expiration and revocation of the privilege of license to own or possess firearms, and registration.

Relationship between the Respondents Assessment on the Management of Arms and Ammunition and the respondents-related variates

Table 4 presents the test of correlation between the respondents assessment on effective strategies in weapons and ammunition management and the criminology student respondents-related variates conducted through Pearson r with the level of significance set at .05. As revealed in Table 4, year level ($\eta = .357, p = .045$), number of trainings attended ($\eta = .381, p = .043$), gun ownership ($\eta = .359, p = .041$), family monthly gross income ($\eta = .371, p = .039$) show significant relationship to

the respondents level of awareness on effective strategies in weapons and ammunition management.

This means that year level, number of trainings attended, gun ownership, and family monthly gross income have direct positive effect to the criminology student respondents level of awareness on effective strategies in weapons and ammunition management. This implies that school administrators should provide and recalibrate complete gun safety training to ensure those gun owners are educated on the responsible practices for handling and using firearms, storing them securely at home, as well as carrying guns in public.

Table 4. Relationship between the Respondents' assessment on management of arms and ammunition and the criminology student respondents-related variates

<i>Variables</i>	<i>Perceived Awareness on management of arms and ammunition</i>	
Age	Correlation Coefficient	.156
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.623
	Interpretation	NS
Gender	Correlation Coefficient	.164
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.631
	Interpretation	NS
Civil Status	Correlation Coefficient	.166
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.723
	Interpretation	NS
Year Level	Correlation Coefficient	.170*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.754
	Interpretation	NS
No. of Trainings Attended	Correlation Coefficient	.381*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.043
	Interpretation	S
Gun Ownership	Correlation Coefficient	.359*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.041
	Interpretation	S
Family Monthly Gross Income	Correlation Coefficient	.371*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.039
	Interpretation	S

Correlation is at the .05 level (2-tailed)

Meanwhile, age ($\eta = .156, p = .623$), gender ($\eta = .164, p = .631$), and civil status ($\eta = .166, p = .723$) reveals no significant relationship with the respondents level of awareness on effective strategies in weapons and ammunition management. This means that age, gender, and civil status do not affect the

respondents level of awareness on management of arms and ammunition.

Table 5 presents the test of correlation between the respondents level of awareness on management of arms and ammunition and the non-criminology student respondents-related variates conducted through Pearson r with the

level of significance set at .05. As revealed in Table 5, number of trainings attended ($\eta = .388, p = .053$), gun ownership ($\eta = .378, p = .047$), and family monthly gross income ($\eta = .391, p = .059$) show significant relationship to the non-criminology student respondents level of awareness on management of arms and ammunition. This means that number of trainings attended, gun ownership, and family monthly gross income have direct positive effect to the non-criminology student respondents level of

awareness on management of arms and ammunition.

Meanwhile, age ($\eta = .235, p = .645$), gender ($\eta = .158, p = .641$), civil status ($\eta = .173, p = .701$), and year level ($\eta = .156, p = .711$) reveal no significant relationship with the non-criminology student respondents assessment on management of arms and ammunition. This means that age, gender, civil status, and year level have no effect to the non-criminology student respondents level of awareness on management of arms and ammunition.

Table 5. Relationship between the Respondents assessment on management of arms and ammunition and the Non-Criminology student respondents-related variates

<i>Variables</i>	<i>Perceived Awareness on management of arms and ammunition</i>	
Age	Correlation Coefficient	.235
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.645
	Interpretation	NS
Gender	Correlation Coefficient	.158
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.641
	Interpretation	NS
Civil Status	Correlation Coefficient	.173
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.701
	Interpretation	NS
Year Level	Correlation Coefficient	.156
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.711
	Interpretation	NS
No. of Trainings Attended	Correlation Coefficient	.388*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.053
	Interpretation	S
Gun Ownership	Correlation Coefficient	.378*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.047
	Interpretation	S
Family Monthly Gross Income	Correlation Coefficient	.391*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.059
	Interpretation	S

Correlation is at the .05 level (2-tailed)

Conclusion

The majority of the respondents concur that the importance of having the permit to carry firearms outside of residence or place of business issued by the Chief, PNP, or by his/her duly authorized representative to the licensed citizen allowing him/her to carry the firearm outside the residence or place of business, as such, display of firearms is prohibited. Furthermore, the year level, number of training attended, gun ownership, and family monthly

gross income has a direct positive effect on the criminology student respondents level of awareness on effective strategies in weapons and ammunition management, while the number of training attended, gun ownership, and family monthly gross income has a direct positive effect on the non-criminology student respondents level of awareness on management of arms and ammunition. Therefore, school administrators should provide and recalibrate complete gun safety training to ensure those

gun owners are educated on the responsible practices for handling and using firearms, storing them securely at home, as well as carrying guns in public. Further studies may be conducted on policy analysis, enforcement, and analytical methods are applied to curb firearms-related violence.

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