

BARRIERS IN REPORTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN IN BARANGAY BAESA, QUEZON CITY

ABSTRACT

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This study explored the underlying barriers to reporting incidents of Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) in Barangay Baesa, Quezon City. Despite the presence of legal frameworks designed to protect victims, the persistent issue of underreporting remains a significant concern. Findings suggest that structural, social, and informational barriers play a critical role in discouraging victims from seeking help. Key deterrents include fear of retaliation from perpetrators, societal stigma associated with reporting, and limited awareness of legal rights and available support services. The primary objective of the study was to identify and analyze the most significant obstacles preventing the reporting of VAWC cases. It also considered the demographic profiles of respondents and their perceptions regarding these barriers. The study engaged key informants, including women survivors of violence, VAWC desk officers, and personnel from the Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD), to gather comprehensive insights into the challenges faced in addressing and reporting VAWC cases. To ensure the relevance and reliability of the data, the study employed both purposive and random sampling techniques in selecting respondents. A mixed-methods research design was utilized, integrating both qualitative and quantitative approaches to obtain a holistic understanding of the barriers to reporting Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC). Prior to the administration of research instruments, formal approval was secured from the Dean's Office of Bestlink College of the Philippines. A preliminary consultation was also conducted with the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children to identify recurring challenges and contextual factors that hinder the reporting of VAWC cases. Furthermore, official request letters were submitted to the Barangay Chairwoman and the Chief of Police of Station 3 to obtain the necessary permissions and institutional support for conducting the study within their respective jurisdictions. Data analysis revealed that limited awareness emerged as the most significant deterrent to reporting cases of Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC), followed closely by fear of retaliation and the pervasive influence of social stigma. These findings emphasize the critical need for proactive interventions that foster public awareness and build confidence in the reporting process. Empowering women in Barangay Baesa through comprehensive education on their legal rights and accessible support mechanisms is essential. Moreover, enhancing the responsiveness and sensitivity of frontline service providers—particularly law enforcement officers and social workers—through intensive gender-responsive training is vital. Such measures would not only improve the handling of VAWC cases but also contribute to a safer, more supportive environment for victims seeking justice and protection. Strengthening community-based initiatives can play a pivotal role in cultivating a culture of vigilance and collective accountability in addressing and reporting Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC). Local government units and policymakers must prioritize the enhancement of monitoring systems, ensure adequate funding for victim support services, and design more accessible and inclusive reporting mechanisms. Incorporating gender-based violence education into school curricula can raise awareness from an early age and foster long-term cultural change. Furthermore, future research should examine additional factors that contribute to the underreporting of VAWC cases and evaluate the impact of current intervention programs. These efforts are essential to advancing a more responsive, effective, and victim-centered approach to combating gender-based violence.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

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