



ABSTRACT

Institution: De La Salle University – Dasmariñas
Address: City of Dasmariñas, Cavite
Title of Research: Lived Experiences of Victims of Violence Against Women
and of Police Officers Handling the Case
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The purpose of this study was to assess the lived experiences of victims of violence against women and of police officers handling the case in Batangas City from 2012 to 2014. RA 9262 was enacted for the purpose of addressing the problems of violence against women and their children. However, the said violence still exists in large number. The experiences of victims and WCPD officers hope to enlighten the reality behind the prevalence of violence in Batangas City.

This qualitative research focused on the perspective of victims and law enforcers on the prevalence of violence in Batangas City. As such, the participants were four officers assigned at the Women's and Children's Protection Desk of Batangas City Police Station and three selected women who were victims of domestic violence. Trend of



violence was also determined through quantitative analysis of the reported VAW cases in Batangas City. The main data gathering instrument used to elicit the experiences of victims and WCPD officers was informal interview. Data analysis was based on the three Cs of Lichtman (2006). The Cs stand for Coding, Categorizing, and Concepts.

The researcher found that the number of cases of violence against women decreased from 2012-2014. After the analysis of the victims' experiences, it was found that victims were reluctant in filing complaints. The study also revealed that victims tolerated violence. Culture, particularly family orientation of maintaining good reputation and of keeping the family united, was the main reason for such reluctance and tolerance. Furthermore, it was found that officers of the WCPD were emphatic with their clients and that they suffered work related stress. Difficulties on the enforcement of laws against violence against women included victims' tolerance of abuse and manner of enforcement of law at the Barangay level.

In view of the above findings, the researcher humbly recommends the following: seminars and fora should be conducted to increase the knowledge of barangay officials and women regarding laws against violence against women; members of VAW desk in each barangay must be strengthened and reoriented of their roles; victims and their abusers must be subjected to counseling even if no formal charges are made; stress debriefing and stress management programs must be provided for WCPD officers; and the proposed extension service activity must be conducted.