

An Assessment to the Experience of Women at Barangay Taloy Norte, Tuba, Benguet in Relation to Abuse and Violence

Jake S. Lupos¹

¹PCLU

Publication Date: 2025/07/15

Abstract: This study investigates the experiences of women in Barangay Taloy Norte, Tuba, Benguet with regard to abuse and violence, focusing specifically on the manifestations of physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse as defined under Republic Act No. 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004). Employing a descriptive quantitative research design, data were collected through structured questionnaires from 31 women respondents aged 12 and above, primarily with elementary-level education. Results revealed that physical abuse particularly slapping, punching, and pushing was the most frequently experienced form of violence. Sexual harassment was the most reported form of sexual abuse, while more severe acts such as rape and forced indecency were reported less frequently, possibly due to stigma and under reporting. Psychological abuse, especially intimidation and public humiliation, was also common. Economic abuse, in contrast, was minimally recognized or reported, suggesting potential gaps in awareness of financial control as a form of violence. The study further explored coping mechanisms, identifying “acceptance” of abuse as the most prevalent response, followed by minimization and denial. Active coping strategies such as reporting to authorities were less frequently used, indicating a culture of silence, fear of retaliation, or lack of trust in formal support systems. These findings were interpreted through an integrated theoretical framework combining feminist theory, social-ecological theory, and inter-sectionality, contextualizing the women’s experiences within broader cultural, structural, and legal dimensions. The study concludes with actionable recommendations including community-based support mechanisms, awareness campaigns, livelihood programs, and strengthened institutional responses aimed at reducing violence and empowering women in rural communities.

How to Cite: Jake S. Lupos (2025) An Assessment to the Experience of Women at Barangay Taloy Norte, Tuba, Benguet in Relation to Abuse and Violence. *International Journal of Innovative Science and Research Technology*, 10(6), 3199-3206. <https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/25jun1809>

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Study is assess the experience of women at Barangay Taloy Norte, Tuba, Benguet in relation to abuse and violence. Specifically, it sought to answer the following questions: profile of the respondents as to age, educational background, and status; the level of experience to RA 9262 among women’s of Barangay Taloy Norte, Tuba, Benguet as to Physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse and economic abuse; and what are the coping mechanism of women encountering VAWC.

The Study made us of descriptive research design in assessing the experience of women at Barangay Taloy Norte, Tuba, Benguet.

Based on the findings, the experience of on RA 9262 among women’s of Barangay Taloy Norte, Tuba, Benguet is often, this only denotes that women had often experience to all sorts of abuse and violence. The coping mechanism of women encountering VAWC is acceptance (it’s part of life), this explains the fact that there is only few cases file under the

Tuba Municipal Police Station and DSWD because women’s tends to accept and not to report violence happening in their homes.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Women in Bangladesh adopt various coping strategies in response to domestic violence, using both emotion-driven and problem-driven approaches when dealing with abusive situations (Putten & Nur-E-Jannat, 2020). Mental distress is highly prevalent among working women in South-East Asian countries, often remaining unacknowledged, with cultural factors significantly contributing to this issue (Trivedi et al., 2008). Some studies show violence against women encompasses a range of acts, including physical, sexual, and psychological abuse, as well as economic exploitation and harmful traditional practices, and can occur in various settings, such as the home, workplace, and community (Chowdhury, 2021). The consequences of domestic violence are far-reaching, affecting the physical, psychological, and emotional well-being of victims, as well as having negative impacts on their children and other family members (Khan,

2015). The prevalence of domestic violence can lead to mental health problems, encompassing anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and increased risk of suicide (Nadda et al., 2018). Furthermore, experiencing violence can result in physical injuries, chronic pain, and disabilities, impacting women's ability to work and participate in social activities (Alam & Islam, 2015; Shambhavi et al., 2019). Children who witness domestic violence may experience emotional and behavioral problems, such as aggression, anxiety, and depression, as well as academic difficulties.

Domestic violence, recognized as a global issue, has profound effects on women's health and overall well-being, with studies indicating that a notable percentage of married women have encountered domestic violence, highlighting the urgent need to address this issue (Nadda et al., 2018). Public health initiatives should prioritize raising awareness to encourage open dialogue about domestic violence and its effects, aiding in the reduction of this medico-social problem (Shambhavi et al., 2019). It is recognized as a serious challenge to women's health and social inclusion, with significant individual and community consequences (Sutherland et al., 2019).

In the Philippines violence against women is a significant issue, deeply rooted in cultural norms and power imbalances, as it affects women's physical, psychological, and emotional well-being. Cultural and societal acceptance of domestic violence, particularly in certain communities, creates significant barriers for women seeking help, compounded by economic dependence, fear of retaliation, and limited access to support services (Brockstedt et al., 2025). Economic disparities exacerbate the risk of violence, as women in lower socioeconomic brackets may be more vulnerable to abuse due to financial dependence on their partners (Sánchez et al., 2019). Addressing violence against women in the Philippines requires a comprehensive approach that tackles cultural norms, promotes gender equality, strengthens legal frameworks, and improves access to support services for victims.

Violence against women in Cordillera region manifests through physical assault, emotional abuse, economic control, and sexual coercion, deeply rooted in cultural norms and traditions that perpetuate gender inequality. The region's unique cultural context, characterized by indigenous traditions and customary laws, can both protect and endanger women, with some practices reinforcing patriarchal norms and limiting women's autonomy. The experiences of women in Barangay Taloy Norte in relation to abuse and violence are shaped by a complex interplay of individual, relational, community, and societal factors. Individual risk factors, such as low self-esteem, substance abuse, and mental health problems, can increase vulnerability to violence, while relationship factors, such as intimate partner conflict, power imbalances, and communication difficulties, can contribute to abusive behaviors. Socio-cultural factors, such as patriarchal norms, gender stereotypes, and community attitudes towards violence, play a significant role in perpetuating abuse.

III. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study will be guided by an integrated theoretical framework that draws upon feminist theory, social-ecological theory, and intersectionality theory to provide a comprehensive understanding of abuse and violence against women in Barangay Taloy Norte. Feminist theory posits that gender inequality and patriarchal social structures are fundamental drivers of violence against women, shaping power dynamics and creating an environment in which abuse is normalized and perpetuated.

Social-ecological theory emphasizes the interconnectedness of individual, relational, community, and societal factors in influencing violence, highlighting the importance of examining the multiple levels of influence that contribute to abuse. Intersectionality theory recognizes that women's experiences of violence are shaped by the intersection of various social identities, such as gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and disability, which can create unique forms of vulnerability and marginalization (Olsvik, 2006).

In addition to these theoretical lenses, the study is anchored in Philippine legal frameworks that seek to protect women against violence. Chief among these is Republic Act No. 9262, also known as the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children (VAWC) Act of 2004. This law defines violence in broad terms—covering physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse—and provides remedies through Barangay Protection Orders (BPOs), access to the PNP Women's Desk, DSWD services, and court interventions. However, despite the existence of RA 9262, the study reveals that many women in Barangay Taloy Norte still choose not to report abuse. This gap between legal protection and actual practice reflects broader cultural and institutional barriers that prevent the law from being fully realized in rural communities.

Complementing RA 9262 are other important laws such as Republic Act No. 9710, the Magna Carta of Women, which upholds the rights of women and mandates government agencies to adopt gender-responsive policies, and Republic Act No. 11313, the Safe Spaces Act, which addresses sexual harassment in public spaces, workplaces, and online platforms. These legal frameworks demonstrate the Philippine government's commitment to gender equality and the protection of women's rights. However, their effectiveness depends greatly on implementation at the grassroots level, particularly in rural communities where awareness and access remain limited.

By integrating these three theoretical perspectives with relevant Philippine laws, the study establishes a strong foundation for understanding the structural, cultural, and legal dimensions of violence against women. This combined framework not only helps interpret the empirical data but also informs the development of appropriate and context-sensitive recommendations to empower women and strengthen community-based responses to abuse.

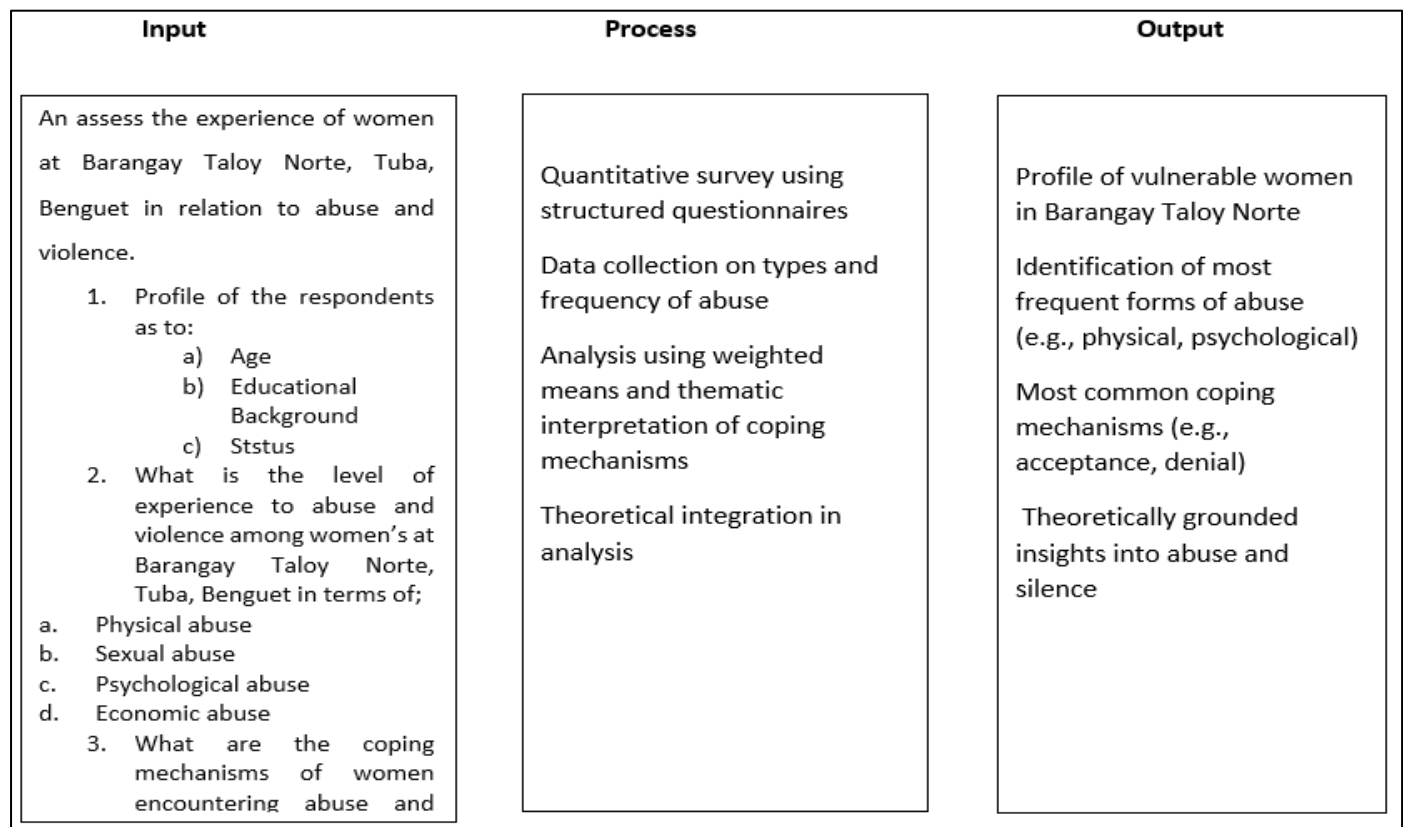
➤ *Paradigm of the Study*

Fig 1 Paradigm of the Study

➤ *Significance of the Study*

This study will be guided by an integrated theoretical framework that draws upon feminist theory, social-ecological theory, and intersectionality theory to provide a comprehensive understanding of abuse and violence against women in Barangay Taloy Norte. Feminist theory posits that gender inequality and patriarchal social structures are fundamental drivers of violence against women, shaping power dynamics and creating an environment in which abuse is normalized and perpetuated.

Social-ecological theory emphasizes the interconnectedness of individual, relational, community, and societal factors in influencing violence, highlighting the importance of examining the multiple levels of influence that contribute to abuse. Intersectionality theory recognizes that women's experiences of violence are shaped by the intersection of various social identities, such as gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and disability, which can create unique forms of vulnerability and marginalization (Olsvik, 2006)

In addition, the findings of this study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on violence against women by providing a nuanced understanding of the specific experiences of women in a rural Philippine community. By identifying the unique challenges and vulnerabilities faced by women in Barangay Taloy Norte, the study can inform the development of targeted interventions and support services that are culturally sensitive and contextually appropriate. The

research will contribute to inform community leaders, local government units, and non-governmental organizations about the prevalence and nature of violence against women in Barangay Taloy Norte. This information can be used to raise awareness, challenge harmful social norms, and promote gender equality within the community.

➤ *Statement of the Problem*

This study aims to determine the level of experience of women at Barangay Taloy Norte, Tuba, Benguet in relation to abuse and violence, it specifically sought to answer the following problem:

- *Profile of the Respondents as to:*

- ✓ Age
- ✓ Educational Background
- ✓ Ststus

- *What is the Level of Experience to abuse and Violence among Women's at Barangay Taloy Norte, Tuba, Benguet in Terms of;*

- ✓ Physical abuse
- ✓ Sexual abuse
- ✓ Psychological abuse
- ✓ Economic abuse

- *What are the Coping Mechanisms of Women Encountering abuse and Violence?*

IV. METHODOLOGY

The proposed study will employ a quantitative research methodology to assess the experiences of women in Barangay Taloy Norte, Tuba, Benguet, concerning abuse and violence. This approach is deemed suitable for quantifying the level of experience across different forms of abuse, thereby providing a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon within the specified locale (Haque et al., 2020). The quantitative research design will involve the collection of numerical data through structured questionnaires, enabling statistical analysis and the identification of patterns and relationships between variables (Khan, 2010). A descriptive research design will be utilized to systematically describe the characteristics of the sample and the prevalence of different forms of abuse, offering valuable insights into the lived realities of women in the community (Jordan & Bhandari, 2016). This method contrasts with qualitative research, which uses interviews to gain more detailed information (Zakaria et al., 2022). Qualitative methods such as in-depth interviews and focus group discussions, while valuable for exploring individual experiences and perspectives (Chowdhury, 2021), are beyond the scope of this study due to resource constraints and the desire to obtain generalizable findings across the population of interest (Banarjee, 2020). Quantitative approaches offer advantages in terms of objectivity and replicability, allowing for the comparison of findings with other studies conducted in different settings.

➤ *Research Method*

A survey research method will be employed to gather data from a representative sample of women in Barangay Taloy Norte, Tuba, Benguet. Survey research is a systematic way of collecting information from a sample of individuals through questionnaires or interviews (Escobar-Vázquez et al., 2021). This approach allows for the efficient collection of data from a large number of participants, ensuring the representativeness of the sample and enhancing the generalizability of the findings (Kebede et al., 2020). The survey instrument will consist of structured questionnaires designed to elicit information about the respondents' demographic characteristics, experiences with different forms of abuse and violence, and coping mechanisms.

The questionnaires will include both closed-ended and open-ended questions, allowing for the collection of both quantitative and qualitative data (Rachman et al., 2020). Closed-ended questions will provide standardized response options, facilitating statistical analysis and comparison across respondents, while open-ended questions will allow participants to elaborate on their experiences and provide richer, more nuanced insights. The method will utilize questionnaires, ensuring a concise and pre-planned approach to gathering specific information from respondents (Austria-Cruz, 2019).

➤ *Population of the Study*

The respondents involves women with legal age residing at Barangay Taloy Sur, Tuba Benguet.

➤ *Data Gathering Tools*

The primary data gathering tool for this study will be a structured questionnaire, designed to capture relevant information about the respondents' experiences with abuse and violence (Kiprotich et al., 2019). The questionnaire will be divided into several sections, each addressing a specific aspect of the research objectives, including demographic characteristics, experiences with physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse, and coping mechanisms employed by the respondents. The questionnaire will incorporate established scales and measures to assess the prevalence and severity of different forms of abuse, ensuring the reliability and validity of the data collected. The questionnaire will be pilot tested with a small group of women from a similar community to identify any potential issues with clarity, comprehension, or sensitivity, and revisions will be made based on the feedback received.

The final questionnaire will be administered in a culturally sensitive manner, taking into account the linguistic and cultural context of the study population (Rogers, 2018). Furthermore, steps will be taken to ensure the privacy and confidentiality of the respondents, protecting their identities and sensitive information.

To ensure the validity and reliability of the data collected, the questionnaire will be carefully designed and pre-tested (Young et al., 1997). Unified and standardized instructions will be used to administer the questionnaire, and participants will be assured of the confidentiality of their responses to address any concerns (Gong et al., 2023).

➤ *Data Gathering Procedure*

The data gathering procedure will commence with obtaining the necessary permissions and ethical clearances from relevant authorities, including the barangay local government unit and any institutional review boards, ensuring adherence to ethical research practices. Following approval, a systematic recruitment of participants will be conducted, employing a combination of strategies to reach a diverse representation of women within the community, such as community announcements and collaborations with local women's organizations. Informed consent will be obtained from each participant before their inclusion in the study, emphasizing their right to withdraw at any time without consequence, thereby upholding the principles of autonomy and respect for persons. The structured questionnaires will be administered to the participants either through face-to-face interviews or self-administration, depending on their preference and literacy levels, to maximize participation rates and data accuracy.

➤ *Treatment of Data*

The collected data will be subjected to rigorous analysis using appropriate statistical techniques to address the research questions and objectives. Descriptive statistics, such as means, standard deviations, frequencies, and percentages, will be used to summarize the demographic characteristics of the sample and the prevalence of different forms of abuse (Alcachupas et al., 2022). Inferential statistics, such as t-tests, chi-square tests, and regression analyses, will be employed to

examine the relationships between variables and test hypotheses. Additionally, qualitative data obtained from open-ended questions will be analyzed using thematic analysis to identify recurring themes and patterns in the respondents' experiences and coping mechanisms. Thematic analysis will involve a systematic process of coding and categorizing the qualitative data, allowing for the

identification of key themes and sub-themes related to the research questions. The findings from both quantitative and qualitative analyses will be integrated to provide a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the experiences of women in Barangay Taloy Norte in relation to abuse and violence.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

➤ Likert Scale

Scale Point	Weighted Mean (WM) Range	Descriptive Equivalent Rating (DER)
5	4.21 – 5.00	Very Often / Strongly Agree
4	3.41 – 4.20	Often / Partially Agree
3	2.61 – 3.40	Sometimes / Maybe
2	1.81 – 2.60	Not Often / Disagree
1	1.00 – 1.80	Not at All / Never

Table 1 Profile of the Respondents

AGE	f
12-20	2
21-30	6
31-ABOVE	23
TOTAL	31
EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND	f
Non- formal education	
Elementary Level	18
High school Level	7
College Level	6

Table 1, show the age of the respondents. 31 and above gained the highest frequency of 23 followed by age 21-30 and lastly the age 12-20 with a frequency of 2. Moreover, in the educational background, elementary level gained the highest frequency of 18, followed by high school level with a frequency of 7 and college level with a frequency of 6.

According to intersectionality theory, age, gender, and educational background intersect to create varying degrees of vulnerability. Women with limited educational attainment may lack access to legal knowledge, economic independence, or confidence to challenge abuse, thereby increasing their susceptibility to victimization and social isolation.

Table 2 What is the level of Experience on RA 9262 (Anti-Violence against Women and Children Act) among Women's of Barangay Tuba, Benguet?

INDICATORS	WM	DER
a. Physical violence		
slapping	3.50	OFTEN
punching	3.45	OFTEN
kicking	3.41	OFTEN
pushing	3.46	OFTEN
TOTAL		
b. Sexual abuse		
Rape	2.71	SOMETIMES
Sexual harassment	3.53	OFTEN
Acts of lasciviousness	2.68	SOMTETIMES
Treated as sex object	1.78	NOT AT ALL
Making demeaning and sexually suggestive remarks	4.27	VERY OFTEN
Physically attacking the sexual parts	1.69	NOT AT ALL
Forcing him/her to watch obscene / indecent shows	1.4	NOT AT ALL
Forcing him/her to perform indecent acts and/or make films	1.9	NOT OFTEN
Forced, threat of force, physical or another harm or threat of physical or other harm or coercion	1.8	NOT OFTEN
Prostituting the women or child	1.6	NOT AT ALL
c. Psychological abuse		

Intimidation	3.56	OFTEN
Harassment	2.56	NOT OFTEN
Stalking	1.68	NOT AT ALL
Damage of property	1.56	NOT AT ALL
Public ridicule/humiliation	3.45	OFTEN
Repeated verbal abuse and marital infidelity	3.26	SOMETIMES
d. Economic abuse		
Withdrawal of financial support or preventing him/her to engage in any legitimate profession, occupation, and business or activity.	1.56	NOT AT ALL
Deprivation or threat of deprivation of financial resources and the right to use and enjoyment of the conjugal, community or property owned in common.	1.45	NOT AT ALL
Destroying household property	1.78	NOT AT ALL
Controlling the victims own money or properties or solely controlling the conjugal money or property	1.89	NOT OFTEN

Table 2, shows the level of experience on RA 9262 (anti-violence against women and children act) among women's of Barangay Tuba, Benguet. As to physical violence, item number 1 (slapping) gained the highest WM of 3.50 and is interpreted as often, this implies that most of our women had experience being slapped by the partners. This aligns with the feminist theory, which explains that physical violence is a mechanism of patriarchal control and domination. It reflects the persistent gender-based power imbalance where men use violence to exert authority and discipline over women, especially within intimate relationships.

Moreover, as to sexual abuse sexual harassment gained the highest WM of 3.53 with verbal interpretation of often, it only implies that most women in Barangay Taloy Norte had experienced sexual harassment from their partner. According to feminist theory, the prevalence of sexual harassment underscores the everyday normalization of sexual aggression in patriarchal societies. Meanwhile, the under reporting of more severe sexual violence may be due to internalized shame or fear of social stigma, which social-ecological theory suggests is reinforced by community norms that silence survivors.

In addition, in relation to psychological abuse for women at Barangay Taloy Norte, intimidation has the highest WM of 3.56 with VI of often, this implies that most women had been subjected to intimidation by their partners. This form of abuse reflects relational-level dynamics as discussed in social-ecological theory, where intimate partners use emotional manipulation to control or isolate the victim. These findings also show how women may internalize blame due to systemic social conditioning, as described by feminist theory.

Lastly, women at Barangay Taloy Norte, has not experience economic abuse. However, this may not necessarily indicate its absence, but rather a lack of awareness or recognition of economic abuse as a legitimate form of violence. From an intersectional lens, women in lower-income rural communities might normalize financial control due to economic dependence and cultural expectations that men manage household finances.

Table 3, present the coping mechanisms of women's encountering VAWC, item number 4 gained the highest WM of 3.98 with a VI of partially Agree. This implies that most women agree that the abuses that they have experience or soon to encounter is a part of their life, thus reporting to the proper authorities is not necessary. According to Jewkes (2002); Parajuli & Ganga (2020), The assertion that reporting domestic abuse is unnecessary as it is part of individuals' lives, especially concerning violence against women, is a dangerous and erroneous notion that overlooks fundamental human rights, perpetuates cycles of violence, and hinders societal progress towards safe and equitable communities. These behaviors are strongly supported by feminist theory, which holds that women in patriarchal societies are socialized to endure suffering and prioritize family harmony over personal safety.

Furthermore, the social-ecological model suggests that the lack of institutional trust (e.g., fear of barangay retaliation, community judgment, or ineffective police response) contributes to silence and resignation. These findings also align with intersectionality theory, as women's coping strategies are shaped by intersecting factors like poverty, limited education, cultural norms, and restricted mobility—all of which reduce access to resources and justice.

Table 3 What are the Coping Mechanisms of Women's Encountering VAWC?

	WM	DER
1. Report to the proper authority such as barangay, police and/or DSWD.	2.45	MAYBE
2. Pretending that nothing happen (Denial)	3.48	PA
3. No worries since the injury incurred is not serious (Minimization)	3.67	PA
4. It's a part of life (Acceptance)	3.98	PA
5. Reporting to proper authorities or fighting back is not needed to avoid further conflict at home (Keeping the peace)	2.56	MAYBE
6. It my fault anyway (Blaming my selves)	2.46	MAYBE
7. Use of drugs or alcohol and/or any other form of vices.	1.34	NEVER

8. Keeping a diary to record all events.	1.23	NEVER
9. Secretly getting help.	2.45	NEVER

VI. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- The profile of the respondents revealed that the majority of women who participated in the study were aged 31 and above, accounting for 74% of the sample. In terms of educational attainment, 58% had reached only the elementary level, while 23% had completed high school and 19% had attended college. This demographic profile suggests that the women most affected by abuse in Barangay Taloy Norte tend to be older and less formally educated, factors that may contribute to limited access to resources, awareness, and empowerment in confronting abuse and violence.
- The study assessed the experiences of women under four categories of abuse as outlined in Republic Act 9262. Physical abuse was the most commonly reported, with slapping (WM: 3.50), punching, pushing, and kicking (WM: ~3.4) occurring frequently, indicating that physical violence is a persistent and normalized experience among respondents. In the area of sexual abuse, sexual harassment was reported as often experienced (WM: 3.53), while more severe forms like rape or forced indecent acts were only occasionally or not at all reported. Psychological abuse was also prevalent, with intimidation (WM: 3.56), public humiliation (WM: 3.45), and verbal abuse or infidelity (WM: 3.26) frequently experienced. Conversely, economic abuse was the least reported, with most indicators rated as "not at all" or "not often," suggesting that financial control is either genuinely less common or less recognized as abuse among respondents.
- Regarding coping mechanisms, the most common response among abused women was acceptance, with a weighted mean of 3.98, indicating partial agreement with the belief that violence is a normal part of life. This was followed by minimization of harm (WM: 3.67) and denial (WM: 3.48), both of which suggest that women tend to internalize or downplay the abuse. Active strategies such as reporting to authorities scored lower (WM: 2.45 – "Maybe"), and other responses like blaming oneself, keeping the peace, and seeking help secretly were also less frequent (WM: 2.4–2.5). Coping mechanisms such as keeping a diary or turning to vices were never used. These findings reflect a broader culture of silence, fear, and social conditioning that discourages women from speaking out, resulting in the normalization of abuse and underutilization of support systems.

VII. CONCLUSION

- Majority of the respondents were women aged 31 and above with elementary-level education, indicating that older and less formally educated women are more likely to experience or report abuse.
- Physical abuse was found to be the most commonly experienced form of violence, with behaviors such as

slapping, punching, pushing, and kicking occurring often among respondents.

- In terms of sexual abuse, sexual harassment was frequently experienced, while other severe forms such as rape, indecent exposure, and forced acts were reported as occurring sometimes to not at all.
- Psychological abuse—particularly intimidation and public humiliation—was also experienced often, indicating that emotional and mental harm is a significant aspect of abuse among women in the community.
- Economic abuse was the least reported, with most indicators showing "not at all" or "not often", suggesting it is either less prevalent or less recognized by the respondents as a form of abuse.
- The most common coping mechanism among abused women was "acceptance", reflected in the belief that violence is "a part of life." This was followed by minimization and denial, while active coping responses like reporting to authorities or seeking help were less frequently practiced.

RECOMMENDATION

➤ *Establish a Barangay-Based Women's Support Organization*

Organize a local women's group in the barangay with support from the LGU and DSWD to provide peer support, empowerment activities, and serve as first responders for abuse cases.

➤ *Conduct Regular Information and Awareness Campaigns on RA 9262*

Coordinate with agencies like the PNP Women's Desk, DSWD, and NGOs to educate women and the community about the different forms of abuse, legal rights, and available support services.

➤ *Strengthen Referral Systems and Reporting Mechanisms*

Ensure that victims have easy, safe, and confidential access to reporting channels by training barangay officials and healthcare workers in handling sensitive cases.

➤ *Provide Capacity-Building and Training for Barangay Officials*

Equip barangay leaders, tanods, and community volunteers with training on gender sensitivity, victim support, and handling of VAWC cases in accordance with the law.

➤ *Offer Psychological Support and Counseling Services*

Partner with the local health office or NGOs to offer regular mental health sessions, trauma counseling, and group therapy for survivors of violence.

➤ *Promote Livelihood and Educational Programs for Women*

Launch skills training and income-generating projects to empower women economically and reduce dependency on abusive partners.

➤ *Integrate VAWC Modules in Barangay Assemblies and Schools*

Include discussions on gender-based violence prevention in public meetings, youth programs, and school-based seminars to break the cycle of normalization and silence.

➤ *Ensure Active Monitoring and Documentation of VAWC Cases*

Strengthen barangay-level VAWC documentation and reporting in coordination with the municipal VAWC desk to ensure that all cases are recorded and monitored properly.

➤ *Establish Safe Spaces or Temporary Shelters*

Advocate for the creation of a temporary shelter within or near the community for women and children escaping violent situations.

➤ *Encourage Male Involvement in Anti-Violence Campaigns*

Involve men and boys in education and advocacy efforts to transform harmful gender norms and promote respectful, non-violent relationships.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Alam, M. K., & Islam, M. (2015). Factors Affecting Domestic Violence against Women in Bangladesh. *European Journal of Public Health*, 25. <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckv175.013>
- [2]. Banarjee, S. (2020). Identifying factors of sexual violence against women and protection of their rights in Bangladesh. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 52, 101384. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2020.101384>
- [3]. Brockstedt, M., Baysal, S. U., & Daştan, K. (2025). The Impact of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault on Family Dynamics and Child Development: A Comprehensive Review [Review of The Impact of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault on Family Dynamics and Child Development: A Comprehensive Review]. *Turkish Archives of Pediatrics*, 60(1), 5. <https://doi.org/10.5152/turkarchpediatr.2025.24169>
- [4]. Chowdhury, Md. M. (2021). VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DURING COVID-19 IN BANGLADESH. *Bangladesh Journal of Multidisciplinary Scientific Research*, 3(1), 45. <https://doi.org/10.46281/bjmsr.v3i1.1113>
- [5]. Jewkes, R. (2002, February 2). Preventing domestic violence. In *BMJ* (Vol. 324, Issue 7332, p. 253). *BMJ*. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.324.7332.253>
- [6]. Jordan, A., & Bhandari, S. (2016). Lived Experiences of South Asian Women Facing Domestic Violence in the United States. *Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, 25(3), 227. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15313204.2015.1134374>
- [7]. Khan, A. R. (2015). Consequences of Domestic Violence against Women: Some Reflections from Rural Bangladesh. *Asian Social Work and Policy Review*, 9(3), 210. <https://doi.org/10.1111/aswp.12059>
- [8]. Khan, M. E. (2010). Prevalence and nature of violence against women. *Injury Prevention*, 16. <https://doi.org/10.1136/ip.2010.029215.572>
- [9]. Nadda, A., Malik, J. S., Rohilla, R., Chahal, S., Chayal, V., & Arora, V. (2018). Study of Domestic Violence among Currently Married Females of Haryana, India. *Indian Journal of Psychological Medicine*, 40(6), 534. https://doi.org/10.4103/ijpsym.ijpsym_62_18
- [10]. Olsvik, V. M. (2006). Vulnerable, Exposed and Invisible: A Study of Violence and Abuse against Women with Physical Disabilities. *Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research*, 8, 85. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15017410600731343>
- [11]. Parajuli, P., & Ganga, K. C. (2020). Domestic Violence and Abuse against Married Women in Konjyosom Rural Municipality of Lalitpur District. *The Batuk*, 6(2), 108. <https://doi.org/10.3126/batuk.v6i2.34521>
- [12]. Putten, M. V. der, & Nur-E-Jannat, A. (2020). Coping with domestic violence: women's voices in Bangladesh. *Journal of Health Research*, 36(1), 77. <https://doi.org/10.1108/jhr-02-2020-0026>
- [13]. Sánchez, M. J. L., Martínez, J. A. B., & Hervás-Oliver, J.-L. (2019). A Review of Economic Consequences and Costs of Male Violence Against Women [Review of A Review of Economic Consequences and Costs of Male Violence Against Women]. *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, 26(3), 424. SAGE Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0971521519861194>
- [14]. Shambhavi, S., Deswal, B. S., Ray, S. B., & Singh, M. (2019). Prevalence and associated factors of domestic violence against married rural women of Gurugram, Haryana. *International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health*, 6(9), 4116. <https://doi.org/10.18203/2394-6040.ijcmph20194027>
- [15]. Sutherland, G., Easta, P., Holland, K., & Vaughan, C. (2019). Mediated representations of violence against women in the mainstream news in Australia. *BMC Public Health*, 19(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-019-6793-2>
- [16]. Trivedi, J., Sareen, H., & Dhyani, M. (2008). Rapid urbanization - Its impact on mental health: A South Asian perspective. *Indian Journal of Psychiatry*, 50(3), 161. <https://doi.org/10.4103/0019-5545.43623>