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UNDERSTANDING THE CAUSES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN TOWARDS CULTURALLY GROUNDED SAFE SPACES IN MUNTINLUPA CITY

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the cultural, social, and economic factors influencing violence against women in a specific urban community, assessing barriers to help-seeking behaviors among women who experience abuse. Using a quantitative approach, survey data were collected from respondents to evaluate levels of agreement on various factors, including general awareness and accessibility of support services, societal expectations, and economic limitations. The findings indicate that traditional gender roles, stigma, and financial dependency are significant barriers, while community support and financial resources are crucial for enabling women to seek help. Despite the presence of some awareness and supportive programs, these factors remain inconsistently effective due to economic constraints and societal pressures. The study's results underscore the need for improved access to resources, community sensitization, and sustainable financial support mechanisms. Limitations include the single-city setting and the reliance on quantitative data, suggesting that further qualitative and multi-location studies are warranted to better understand these complex dynamics and enhance policy interventions.

KEYWORDS: *Cultural, Economic, Violence Against Women, Safe Space, Social*

INTRODUCTION

Violence against women is a global public health and human rights issue present in every country, culture, and socio-economic group (Stamatakis 2023). However, it remains a complex social issue that continues to have a profound impact on the lives of many women around the world, especially in certain cultural contexts that maintain rigid gender norms and societal attitudes that inhibit equality and promote discrimination. Violence against women is highly prevalent in the Philippines, as well as in other parts of the world; however, these acts can be attributed to socio-economic factors, such as poverty, low education rates, and deeply ingrained patriarchal values.

According to Stamatakis 2023, Domestic violence is frequently perceived as a private issue, and individuals who experience it may encounter societal judgment if they speak out, which can discourage them from seeking assistance or disclosing the abuse. Additionally, some victims may lack awareness about support services, their legal entitlements, or the means to exit harmful situations. With ICJIA n.d., the unequal distribution of power between genders in society as having a substantial influence on the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV). This assertion finds support in the work of Getachew (2024), who noted that despite the existence of laws prohibiting GBV in Adama city, significant deficiencies in their enforcement persist due to entrenched social norms and limited enforcement by local legal frameworks.

These factors contribute to challenges in preventing gender-based violence, particularly in the eastern region of Ethiopia. In Amirrudin et. al 2024, to foster a secure and nurturing environment for victims of domestic violence, the implementation of legal measures for their protection is crucial. In Indonesia, the enactment of Law Number 23 of 2004, known as the Elimination of Domestic Violence (PKDRT) Law, plays a pivotal role. This legislation encompasses prohibitory measures, punitive actions against offenders, and rehabilitation initiatives. Additionally, it offers legal provisions to support victims, including the issuance of protection orders and the establishment of shelter facilities. The existence of the PKDRT Law underscores the Indonesian government's dedication to upholding and safeguarding the human rights of all individuals, irrespective of gender or age, thereby ensuring societal tranquility, justice, and equality.

In the Philippines prevention strategies, such as awareness-raising campaigns and domestic violence education; protective measures, such as police protection orders; and relocation options

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for victims to help them escape dangerous environments. A notable mechanism is the Barangay Protection Order (BPO), a community-based response integrated into the Republic Act No. 9262, which allows local officials to provide emergency relief to victims by legally keeping detained abusers away (Republic Act No. 9262, 2004). They should connect to other Organizations such as Women and Children Protection Units (WCPU) in hospitals and police stations, where medical, psychological, and legal needs will be addressed holistically (Philippine Commission on Women, n.d). The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) works with inter-agency councils such as the IACVAWC to develop and implement advocacy campaigns at the national and grassroots levels as well as education strategies on women's legal rights and available resources (IACVAWC, n.d.). Likewise, crisis hotlines and a dedicated help desk by agencies (for example, DSWD) are established to provide immediate assistance and avenues for reporting (DSWD, n.d.). Such measures are not only to safeguard women but also to combat the societal norms and power imbalances that lead domestic violence, which demonstrates, the Philippine government's willingness to promote a safer and fairer society.

In this respect, the study by Kiani et al. (2021) between cultural, economic, and social role in creating safe spaces. Their qualitative methodology enabled detailed exploration of each of these dimensions independently, but there is little understanding regarding how these dimensions may intersect and influence each other with respect to creating safe environments. The exclusive examination of each dimension in isolation could have obscured the intricate interdependence between the cultural, economic, and social dimensions working together to create safe spaces. This is why further research is needed that attempts a more integrated understanding of what a safe space is, by taking into account the complex & interdependent nature of cultural, economic and social contexts.

The objective of this study is to explore the sociocultural causes of violence against women in the Philippines. India, which in their culture and history for working women, They want to study how cultural beliefs, practices, and socio-economic factors together guide the attitude toward women and encourage violence against them. Moreover, the objective of this study is to determine mechanisms at the level of community, which could act as enablers of such change, by promoting safe space for women and at the same time, being in line with the cultural values of the community.

By highlighting the drivers of violence against women and generating contextually vested pathways to safe spaces in local communities, this research aspires to be a pacesetter to deliver more effective and sustainable interventions. These interventions are meant to address the immediate needs of survivors as well as to challenge harmful gender norms and build community resilience and support systems that allow for gender equality and non-violence. Fingers crossed, that's the initiative we started to make progress in creating safer, inclusive societies so that everyone can live without fear of violence and discrimination.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Violence against women is a pervasive question influenced by a complex interaction of social, cultural and institutional factors. Literature constantly identifies the violence of intimate partners as a multifaceted phenomenon that cannot be entirely understood without considering various contextual elements such as the state of immigration, economic difficulties and rooted cultural norms. Njie-carr et al. (2021) They highlight that these elements are not simply isolated causes but rather correlated constructs that aggravate the vulnerability between women, in particular those in marginalized communities.

The norms and expectations of the company play a significant role in modeling attitudes towards gender -based violence. In many cultures, patriarchy is deeply incorporated, with consequent power imbalances that can normalize or justify acts of violence against women. This prevailing mentality often discourages victims from the search for help and strengthens abuse cycles, since the social stigma that surrounds domestic violence can result in isolation for victims (Hulley et al., 2023). In addition, the presence of rigid genre roles often prevents women from accessing the resources and support systems necessary for their safety and empowerment.

Institutional factors contribute significantly to the perpetuation of violence against women. Legal paintings and political responses can often be insufficient or ineffective, leaving women without adequate protection or appeal. Wood et al. (2021) They underline that the systemic failure in the detention of the responsible authors aggravates the risk of violence. For example, law enforcement officers can exhibit prejudices or not have training in the management of cases of intimate violence of the partners, thus eroding the trust within the affected communities. This distrust can further dissuade women from using institutional support, strengthening a cycle of violence rooted in fear and impotence.

The intersectionality of race, socio-economic state and gender identity further complicates the understanding of violence against women. Vulnerable populations, such as immigrant women and color women, often experience compound discrimination that increase the risk of experiencing violence (Hulley et al., 2023). For example, the state of immigration can seriously limit access to resources, such as legal assistance or health care, thus increasing the susceptibility to violence. Economic difficulties also play a fundamental role, since financial dependence on abusive partners can hinder the ability of a woman to leave a violent relationship.

Understanding these multifaceted causes is crucial for the development of targeted interventions and support systems that meet the unique needs of the different communities. The interventions designed without recognizing the cultural and social

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context may not be able to resonate with the victims and can inadvertently exacerbate their situations. Therefore, it is essential to face the question of violence against women from a holistic perspective that considers the intersectional factors at stake, allowing more effective and culturally sensitive interventions (Wood et al., 2021). By disenchantment of these complex drivers of violence, we can start building informed paintings and safe spaces that give power to women and facilitate healing within different communities., The exploration of cultural paintings reveals that the rooted standards and patriarchal structures significantly aggravate violence against women within different communities. In many societies, traditional beliefs and customs serve not only as a basis for social identity, but also as mechanisms that perpetuate the systems of inequality and violence. Research indicates that these gender norms create environments in which violence against women can be not only normalized but also justified (Henriksen et al., 2023). For example, the deeply rooted attitudes against masculinity often enhance control over female partners, connecting the domain with the notions of masculinity, which, in turn, lead to an increase in the occurrences of the intimate violence of the partners (IPV).

Ali et al. (2020) They discuss how aspects of cultural identity can inadvertently contribute to the internship of violence as an acceptable response to the conflict or means to assert authority. In various cultural contexts, practices such as childish marriage, female genital mutilation and other forms of harmful traditional practices are often defended under the pretext of preserving cultural heritage, thus perpetuating cycles of violence. This normalization of violence underlines the importance of understanding the specific cultural dynamics of the community when dealing with the problems of IPV (Jokela-Pansini, 2020).

A further analysis of the cultural paintings highlights how the social acceptance of violence as a method of resolving conflicts can come from both formal and informal institutions. For example, a study by Henriksen et al. (2023) reveals that legal systems in some contexts are unable to provide adequate protection to women, often reflecting prevalent patriarchal opinions. This lack of institutional support creates a cycle of feedback; Since women perceive their victimization as socially sanctioned, reporting these accidents may seem useless, strengthening a culture of silence on the abuse. Therefore, addressing the IPV must consider how these cultural and legal paintings interact to support the conditions in favor of violence.

The conversation that surrounds the sure spaces on the land culturally becomes of fundamental importance in this context. By creating environments that recognize and respect cultural nuances, these safe spaces can serve by critical interventions to counter the normalization of violence. A culturally sensitive approach not only promotes trust within communities, but also encourages dialogue on harmful practices that contribute to violence against women. The programs based on the community that incorporate local beliefs while simultaneously challenge harmful rules are essential for an effective change (Jokela-Pansini, 2020).

Safe spaces on the land are culturally particularly vital to face the complexities that surround gender -based violence within different communities. Naseem et al. (2020) show that the programs that exploit digital platforms to create safe paths for communication and support have shown promises in patriarchal societies. These initiatives draw on the narratives and cultural practices existing to encourage empowerment among women, allowing them to navigate and challenge the dynamics of power rooted. Aligning with cultural contexts, these spaces not only improve access to assistance, but also instill a sense of belonging and experience shared between the survivors. This cultural resonance is fundamental; It encourages women to participate in community dialogues, thus promoting collective resistance to gender -based violence.

In addition, it has been shown that access to safe spaces significantly influences behaviors looking for help between women. Search by Gram et al. (2023) It highlights that when women feel safe and supported in the designated spaces, it is more likely to report cases of violence and ask for necessary medical or psychological services. This is particularly salient in societies where stigmatization can dissuade women from the search for help. The results suggest that the protective environment of safe spaces reduces the barriers that women face, creating a more favorable environment to pursue justice and healing.

Further, the culturally personalized programming within safe spaces promotes unique forms of resilience that are sensitive to the needs and backgrounds of different populations. The programs that incorporate local traditions, languages and leaders of the community effectively improve trust and involvement between the participants. Therefore, these safe spaces facilitate the development of critical social networks that give power to women and girls, stimulate the resilience of the community and challenge the normalization of violence.

The evidence suggests that involving local stakeholders significantly improves the relevance and effectiveness of interventions that address gender violence. Sinko et al. (2021) illustrate that when community members are involved in the co-creation of solutions, there is a greater sense of property and agency, which translates into greater use and sustained commitment to safe spaces. In addition, promoting this property can mitigate resistance to these initiatives, since community members see their own contribution reflected in the programs offered. Ailwood et al. (2023) emphasize that such collaborations not only enhance women but also create an inclusive environment where several interested parties, including men, elders and young people can contribute to the discourse surrounding violence against women and their prevention.

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Strategies that adapt to specific local realities stand out as essential to mitigate violence against women. Programs designed without consideration for local contexts risk irrelevance and failure. Farhall et al. (2020) claim that successful interventions must take into account the intricate network of sociocultural dynamics at stake within each community. The lessons extracted from various contexts reveal that a unique approach for all overlooks the unique traditions, beliefs and values that shape people's attitudes towards gender roles and violence. By adapting interventions to align with local customs and practices, it is more likely that programs obtain acceptance and participation of community members. The incorporation of participatory methods can also promote a culture of dialogue and reflection on the social norms that perpetuate gender -based violence. The creation of spaces for discussion allows people to explore and challenge the underlying beliefs and attitudes that contribute to such violence. This reflexive process is crucial to change the perceptions and norms of the community with respect to gender roles (Smith et al., 2023). In addition, participatory approaches can act as a catalyst for a broader community participation to address and dismantle patriarchal structures that contribute to the prevalence of violence against women.

The evidence points to the importance of evaluating the effectiveness of the interventions promoted by the community through the compilation of comments ongoing the participants. This iterative process not only allows the continuous improvement of the programs, but also reinforces the importance of community participation in the configuration of interventions. As each community is different, consistent evaluation methods adapted to specific cultural contexts ensure that interventions continue to respond to the evolutionary needs of the community (Jones et al., 2024). Through a commitment to participatory approaches, initiatives aimed at establishing safe spaces for women can become powerful tools to prevent violence and encourage resilience within various communities., The multifaceted causes of violence against women are based on a complex interaction of social, cultural and systemic factors. The investigation indicates that these causes are often deeply rooted in patriarchal norms and the dynamics of gender power, which perpetuate discrimination and subordination of women in several contexts (Heise, 2011; Jewkes et al., 2015). The economic deprivation of franchise, educational disparities and cultural practices that normalize aggression against women exacerbate the vulnerability of women to violence (Koss, 2016). For example, communities characterized by economic deprivation can foster environments where violence is normalized as a coping mechanism for stress or conflict, which leads to a vicious circle of abuse (Pérez et al., 2020).

The culturally founded safe spaces have emerged as critical interventions within this framework, which allows personalized approaches that resonate with the specific needs and values of various communities. These spaces offer not only physical refuge but also psychological support, which allows women to claim the agency on their lives while encouraging solidarity among marginalized groups (Sokoloff and Dupont, 2005). Literature underlines the importance of culturally appropriate programming that recognizes and integrates the experiences of women within specific cultural contexts (Subramanian et al., 2019). For example, safe spaces that incorporate local customs, languages and leaders can improve trust and foster participation, leading to more effective support systems.

the transformative potential of these safe spaces extends beyond individual empowerment; They can catalyze collective action against systemic inequalities. According to Downebo et al. (2022), the initiatives led by the community, when framed within the cultural context, can challenge and dismantle the norms that maintain violence against women. This approach cultivates an environment where a normative change can occur, changing attitudes towards gender roles and violence while building resilience between women and their communities.

The need for interdisciplinary research that explores the effectiveness of culturally founded safe spaces within various cultural frameworks is essential. D'Angnazio et al. (2022) highlight that future research must deepen the nuances of how various cultural constructions inform the development and implementation of these interventions. In involved with various narratives and experiences, researchers can develop a more comprehensive understanding of the intersectionality of violence against women. This can facilitate more effective strategies that not only address immediate needs, but also contribute to sustainable social change.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This research aims to delve into the underlying causes of violence against women within a specific cultural context in the Philippines. Specifically, the researcher would like to find answers to the following questions.

1. What are the demographic profiles of the respondents in terms of age, educational level, occupation, and income level?
2. What are the contributing factors to violence against women in the specific cultural, social, and economic context?
3. What are the barriers faced by women in seeking help or accessing support services within their communities, general awareness/accessibility, considering cultural perceptions and societal expectations and economic status?
4. What can you say about an intervention promoting safe place for women?
5. Is there significant difference in the answers of the respondents to the causes, mitigation, barriers to seek help, and intervention about violence against women?

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

Quantitative research design, commonly used in survey research, involves a systematic framework for gathering numerical data to

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answer defined research questions or test hypotheses. It starts by formulating specific research questions and identifying variables of interest. The data is usually collected via a questionnaire or an interview, based on a set of people selected from a more extensive population. Sampling methods are important and need to be carefully defined to ensure representativeness of the sample and generalizability of the results. Surveys are a common tool for collecting data. The former just describe data, and the latter help us conclude about our population based on the sample. The second part comprises interpretation and discussing survey results, which is a matter of determining the significance of the findings in the context of the research questions and answering the implications. - Survey research is essential in different sectors – it provides a greater understanding of human behaviour, attitudes, and preferences and helps inform decisions in game research, marketing strategy, and public policy.

Population of the Study

The study was conducted on 387 respondents that have a violent experience towards women in Muntinlupa. To ensure a truly representative sample, the analysis is done from a minimum of 95% of the Australian population at a 95% confidence level so that the findings can be extrapolated to the adult Australian population with a high degree of accuracy. This approach enabled researchers to make sure that we are hearing directly from respondents who had been in situations of violence against women. Since meaningful conclusions will only be drawn from our research if the residents of Muntinlupa, whether they're poor, middle-class, or even rich, are considered and reflective of the results we get, the researchers purposely planned the sampling method only to be focused on representativeness and reliability.

Data Gathering Tools

To investigate the factors that influences capability of women to create a safe space, the study used structured survey questionnaire as the main data collection method. The questionnaire consisted of two larger sections. The first section of the questionnaire included demographic profile of the respondents, where data are collected on age, educational attainment, occupation, and income level. Data was collected from existing resources in the form of census forms, which included information about the socio-economic and cultural backgrounds of the participants, which are key influences in understanding violence.

The second part of the questionnaire was further divided into three subparts to get a better understanding regarding certain aspects of the study. The first subpart examined contributing factors to violence against women from the social, cultural, and economic realities of the community. In the subsequent section, the focus was shifted towards the challenges faced by women in seeking help or accessing support services such as awareness, accessibility, cultural stigma, and economic constraints. The third subpart focused on relevant interventions and features that would create the space, while being mindful of cultural sensitivity and the actual need of the community. By incorporating qualitative and quantitative data collection methods in their research, the researchers were able to generate meaningful data that can inform the design of effective, inclusive, and contextually relevant strategies to address violence against women in Muntinlupa City.

Data Gathering Procedures

For this quantitative research on residents who experienced or witnessed domestic violence, data were collected using the Google Forms platform. The intention was to explore significant differences in attitudes between different geographical areas within Mntinlupa City. The survey form, developed by the researchers, contained inquiries related to personal profiles or compositions, experiences of violence or support networks for victims and public attitudes toward women who are abused (See appendix). Each problem was consistent with the study objectives - carefully designed for categorical data that could be analyzed using chi-square method. Before full deployment, the survey underwent pilot testing on a small scale and with a group of people who were representative of the target population. Feedback from this pilot testing helped improve the clarity and logical orderliness in questions. A number of districts were then sampled, including some that were both rich and poor; bringing together both the young in some areas with professionals or retired persons provides such comparisons across areas as significantly assist interpretation.

Once everything was as it should be, the survey got distributed through Google Forms. Clear instructions came with it: there were no misunderstandings and honest responses. As the survey came in, its data were automatically entered into the webpages themselves--a most convenient and well-organized solution. Throughout the actual process of data-gathering, a whole series of quality control measures were implemented. This included looking over respondents' replies to see if they were actually thoughtful or honest. Data collected in this way were next exported from its original format into statistical software for cleaning and analysis. The results of the chi-square test for independence showed that there were connections between district and access to support services, revealing another distinct limitation. This analysis revealed that significant gaps existed in both experiences and need among the areas differences-in-districts. The final stage was to interpret these results in regard to the research objectives and review findings with recommendations for local authorities as well as government and community-based organizations. By this stage, evidence-based advice could be provided on how to improve the mechanisms of support and safe spaces for women in cultural settings rooted in tradition.

Statistical Treatment

To address various problems in research, the researchers used a variety of statistical tools. To give the demographic make-up of a group subject on Statement of the Problem 1, researchers used

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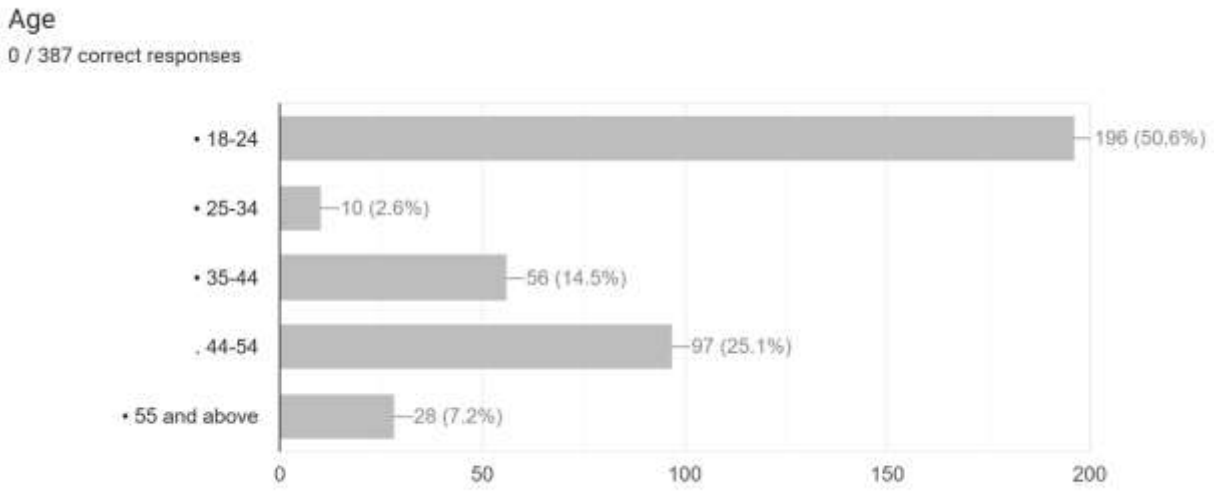
percentages. For example, ages, educational attainment, jobs and levels of income were all divided by percentage points to indicate. In a simple and direct manner. By using percentages, the researchers could show total category within the entire population. This enabled a clear and concise understanding of how various qualities or attributes basically appeared in sampling. Through the use of percentages, the study cast light on differences between groups. Such material served as grist for further exploration in subsequent sections of our research.

For Research Questions 2, 3, and 4, researchers employed the weighted mean to interpret responses from scaled items concerning what contributes to violence or makes people vulnerable, barriers in seeking help, or methods of intervention providing safe spaces for women This method allowed researchers to get at the common level of agreement--or value--attached by its respondents to any item, while taking into consideration thiss relative weight among their choices. It was a more accurate mirror of the many faces of those polled. Meanwhile, to address Problem Statement 5, the chi-square test was used to determine if there were associations between variables - such as geographical location within a district and different experiences/choices in terms of support Secondly, this hypothesis-testing analysis allowed researchers to pinpoint important differences among groups in a way that could be used for actual recommendations. This could have a direct bearing on what kinds of measures are taken next, which will specifically suit each district and the customs practiced there.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results and discussion section of this research provides a comprehensive examination of factors contributing to violence against women within the distinct cultural, social, and economic contexts of the community studied. Analyzing demographic profiles helps contextualize the findings, giving insight into how various age groups, socioeconomic statuses, and educational backgrounds may influence perspectives on domestic violence and related issues. Furthermore, this section explores the level of agreement with statements addressing specific contributing factors, such as cultural norms, general awareness, accessibility to resources, and economic barriers. Responses reflect community attitudes and highlight factors that may either support or hinder women in seeking help for violence or abuse. The study also examines agreement levels regarding cultural and societal expectations, indicating the extent to which norms and stigma shape the decision to seek assistance. Lastly, statistical tests of significant differences are applied to identify meaningful variations in responses across demographic groups, offering critical insights into how different segments of the community perceive and experience barriers to addressing violence against women. These findings provide a nuanced understanding of the challenges and potential points of intervention to foster safer and more supportive environments for women.

Part 1. Demographic Profiles Figure 2. Age



In our demographic profile, the age distribution of respondents reveals significant insights into the population studied. The largest age group comprises individuals aged 18 to 24, accounting for 50.6% of the total respondents. This is followed by those aged 35 to 44, who represent 14.5% of the sample. Respondents in the 44 to 55 age bracket make up 25.1%, while those aged 25 to 34 constitute a smaller portion at 2.6%. Lastly, individuals aged 55 and above represent 7.2% of the respondents. This age distribution highlights the predominance of younger individuals in the study, which may influence perspectives on the causes of violence against women and the barriers they face in seeking help.

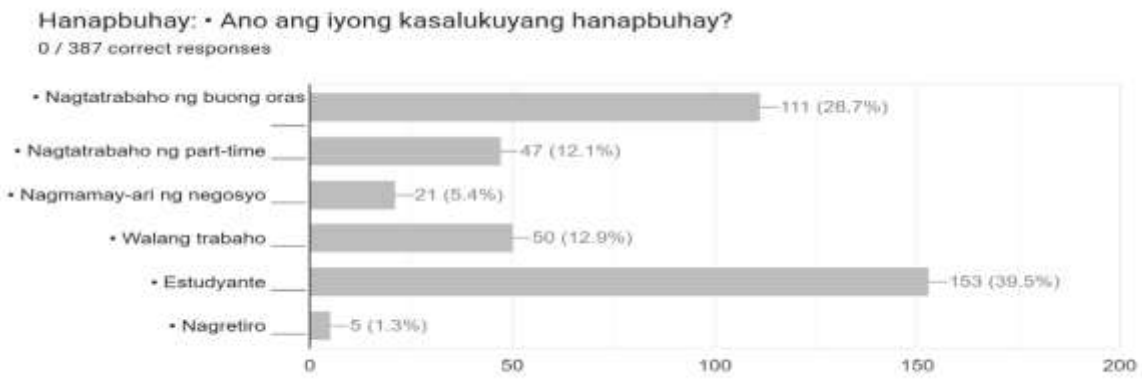
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Figure 3. Education Level



The educational level of respondents presents a diverse spectrum of qualifications. A majority of participants, 73.9%, are high school graduates, indicating a significant foundation in basic education. Those who have completed elementary education comprise 7.8% of the sample, while individuals with less than an elementary graduate status account for 2.6%. Additionally, college graduates represent 11.9% of the respondents, demonstrating a noteworthy portion of the population with higher education. Furthermore, 3.9% have received vocational training, reflecting the importance of skill-based education in the community. This distribution of educational attainment is crucial for understanding the various socioeconomic backgrounds of the respondents and their potential impact on perceptions of violence against women and the resources available for addressing such issues.

Figure 4. Occupation



The occupational profile of respondents reveals a varied landscape of employment statuses. A substantial portion, 39.5%, are currently students, reflecting a significant engagement in education among the population. Full-time employment is reported by 28.7% of participants, while 12.1% are employed parttime. Self-employed individuals account for 5.4% of the respondents, and those who are unemployed represent 12.9%. Lastly, a small fraction, 1.3%, are retired. This distribution highlights the diverse economic activities within the community, which may influence respondents' perspectives on violence against women and their accessibility to support services, as employment status can significantly impact individuals' ability to seek help and engage in preventative measures.

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Figure 5. Income Level



The income distribution within the community highlights a significant socio-economic challenge, with 63.8% of respondents earning below 10,000 pesos per month. This large proportion of individuals in financial vulnerability points to the potential economic barriers faced by survivors of violence. Limited income means fewer resources available for accessing critical services, such as legal assistance, healthcare, or safe housing. As many women in lower income brackets are financially dependent on their abusers, their economic constraints may prevent them from seeking help or leaving dangerous situations. This economic vulnerability is a key factor in understanding the difficulties faced by survivors of violence against women in the community.

Furthermore, the modest income range of 28.4% of participants, earning between 10,000 and 25,000 pesos, also suggests a significant portion of the population struggles to make ends meet. While this group may have slightly more financial freedom, the lack of higher-income earners in the community—only 6.2% earning between 25,001 and 50,000 pesos, and just 1% earning between 50,001 and 75,000 pesos—reveals a larger issue of economic inequality. These financial limitations often leave women without the resources to access essential support services or even to relocate to safer environments. Addressing these economic factors in intervention programs, including offering financial support, job training, or economic empowerment initiatives, is crucial to provide sustainable solutions to violence against women in the community.

Part 2. The level of agreement with the following statements about factors that contributes to violence against women in the specific cultural, social, and economic context.

Table 1 Cultural

Cultural	Standard Deviation	Weighted Mean	Rank
Traditional gender roles and stereotypes are adhered to within the community	0.417939	2.94832	2
Community accepts physical and emotional abuse e.g. shouting or hitting	0.417939	1.966408	5
Reputation, Honor, Shame Influence are valued in the community	0.417939	3.206718	1
Beliefs inside home are influence of domestic violence e.g. Men are to be followed	0.417939	2.583979	4
Practice in home of violence in discipline	0.417939	2.75969	3
General Weighted Mean		2.693023	

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The findings indicate notable cultural attitudes and practices within the community that may contribute to the prevalence of domestic violence. Traditional gender roles and stereotypes are moderately adhered to, with a weighted mean of 2.95 and a standard deviation of 0.42, ranking second overall. This suggests that these roles are largely influential but show slight variability among individuals. Contemporary studies indicate that adherence to such roles can perpetuate power imbalances that normalize male dominance and potentially justify abusive behavior.

According to Lee et al. (2022), gender roles embedded within community beliefs often lead to environments where male authority is dominant, leaving women vulnerable to control and abuse.

The community's acceptance of physical and emotional abuse, such as shouting or hitting, holds the lowest rank (mean = 1.97, SD = 0.42), which reflects a degree of tolerance, although less widespread than other attitudes. Recent research by Chang et al. (2023) found that normalization of minor abusive behaviors can desensitize individuals to violence, increasing the likelihood of escalation to more severe forms. In communities where such behaviors are overlooked, domestic violence can become embedded in the culture. Valuing reputation, honor, and shame ranks highest among cultural values (mean = 3.21, SD = 0.42). This prioritization often influences family decisions to conceal incidents of abuse, particularly in communities where family reputation is paramount. Studies have demonstrated that high regard for social honor can result in underreporting of abuse, as family members may feel pressure to maintain a socially acceptable image. Lin and Martinez (2022) observed that cultural emphasis on family honor can create barriers to reporting abuse, as victims and their families may choose silence to avoid perceived disgrace.

Beliefs within the home that men should be obeyed have a mean of 2.58 and rank fourth, suggesting a moderate prevalence of patriarchal norms. These beliefs often translate to power imbalances that foster control and can rationalize abusive behavior. Miller et al. (2023) note that patriarchal attitudes within the household reinforce traditional hierarchies that are difficult to dismantle, making it challenging to implement egalitarian family structures.

The practice of using violence in discipline, with a mean of 2.76 and ranked third, shows that such behavior is moderately common. Exposure to violence as a disciplinary method can lead children to internalize aggression as acceptable, creating a generational cycle. Research by Kim and Harper (2023) indicates that violent discipline fosters an environment where aggression is viewed as a legitimate means of resolving conflicts, which may perpetuate domestic violence.

The general weighted mean of 2.69 across these factors reveals that, on average, the community moderately adheres to these cultural attitudes, though some variability is evident. This suggests an ongoing need for cultural interventions that challenge and transform norms that implicitly condone or tolerate abusive behavior, promoting healthier and more equitable dynamics within families and the broader community.

Table 2. Social

Indicators	Standard Deviation	Weighted Mean	Rank
Availability of support network, including friends, family, community organizations, and religious institutions, in responding to domestic violence situations	0.257611	3.093023	1
Social isolation experienced by victims of domestic violence is restricted in access to social activities.	0.257611	2.989664	4
An ease to disclose domestic violence	0.257611	2.410853	5
Law enforcement detection and response are immediate	0.257611	3.087855	2
Socioeconomics are the concern of the Barangay Council addressing Domestic Violence	0.257611	3.018088	3
General Weighted Mean		2.919897	

The analysis of support networks and community responses to domestic violence highlights varying degrees of accessibility and intervention effectiveness. Availability of support networks, including friends, family, community organizations, and religious institutions, ranked highest with a weighted mean of 3.09 and a standard deviation of 0.26.

This suggests that support is moderately accessible, providing victims with essential resources and emotional backing. As emphasized by Mahapatro et al. (2021), the presence of strong support networks significantly contributes to a victim's willingness and ability to seek help, thereby improving safety and recovery outcomes.

Social isolation experienced by victims, with a weighted mean of 2.99 and ranked fourth, underscores that many victims face restricted access to social activities, which limits their ability to connect with supportive individuals or groups. Social isolation is a critical factor in sustaining abusive relationships, as victims are often kept away from social interactions, making it difficult to

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reach out for help. Research by Kupferman & Golden Family Law (2020) shows that social isolation, often enforced by abusers, reduces a victim's likelihood of seeking intervention due to restricted access to external support.

The ease of disclosing domestic violence scored the lowest (mean = 2.41), indicating that many victims may feel hesitant or unable to report abuse. A lack of openness about domestic violence often stems from fear of stigma or retaliation. According to Taccini, F., & Mannarini, S. (2023), the stigma associated with victimhood in many communities inhibits victims from disclosing abuse, thereby prolonging their suffering and delaying access to necessary support.

Law enforcement's detection and response to domestic violence incidents, with a weighted mean of 3.09 and ranked second, suggests an overall effective and timely intervention by local authorities. Swift responses are crucial for victim safety and immediate intervention, as supported by Johnson et al. (2021), who found that quick law enforcement responses often deter abusers and provide victims with crucial initial protection.

The concern of socioeconomics by the Barangay Council in addressing domestic violence, with a weighted mean of 3.02 and ranked third, reflects attention to the economic impact of domestic violence, which can hinder victims' independence and decision-making. Financial dependence on abusers often prevents victims from leaving abusive relationships. Mahapatro et al. (2021) emphasize that local government support, such as financial assistance and employment resources, can enable victims to achieve financial independence, reducing the socioeconomic barriers that keep them in abusive situations.

Overall, with a general weighted mean of 2.92, these results underscore the importance of comprehensive support and effective intervention strategies in addressing domestic violence. Strengthening social networks, addressing economic concerns, and reducing stigma around disclosure are critical areas for community improvement.

Table 3. Economics

Indicators	Standard Deviation	Weighted Mean	Rank
Financial control and economic dependence contribute to power imbalances within relationships, increasing the risk of domestic violence.	0.063479	2.757106	5
Economic stressors such as unemployment, financial instability, debt, and housing insecurity escalate domestic violence	0.063479	2.927649	3
Easy in access to economic resources and opportunities for economic empowerment among survivors of domestic violence, including employment, education, housing, and financial assistance	0.063479	3.028424	1
Economic status like being poor makes a barrier to access support service	0.063479	2.852713	4
Economic status elevation of poor is included in the barangay program	0.063479	2.963824	2
General Weighted Mean		2.905943	

The analysis reveals how economic factors influence domestic violence dynamics, highlighting the role of financial control, economic resources, and community support in addressing these issues. Financial control and economic dependence, with a weighted mean of 2.76 and the lowest ranking, contribute significantly to power imbalances in relationships, leaving one partner more vulnerable to abuse. Economic dependence restricts victims' options for leaving abusive relationships due to their financial reliance on their partner. According to Patel, S., & Cruz, R. (2022), financial dependence often traps victims in cycles of abuse, as they may lack the economic means to establish independence.

Economic stressors such as unemployment, financial instability, debt, and housing insecurity ranked third (mean = 2.93), reflecting a moderate impact on domestic violence rates. Financial hardship intensifies the risk of domestic conflict, with stress and frustration often leading to violent outbursts. Research by Nguyen Patel, S., & Cruz, R. (2022), indicates that financial insecurity is strongly correlated with domestic violence incidence, as economic stress exacerbates household tensions, especially in low-income communities. Ease of access to economic resources and opportunities for economic empowerment, which ranked highest with a mean of 3.03, underscores the importance of community support for survivors. Resources like employment, education, housing, and financial assistance empower survivors to regain independence and reduce their vulnerability to abuse. Jordan et al. (2024) found that providing survivors with access to these resources promotes self-sufficiency and resilience, offering them pathways to break free from abusive relationships.

Economic status barriers, with a mean of 2.85, indicate that poverty remains a significant challenge for victims seeking support. Poverty can prevent victims from accessing legal and social services, further entrenching them in abusive relationships. A study by Johnson et al. (2023) highlights that financial hardship limits access to essential resources, making it difficult for victims

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to pursue help and protection. Finally, the elevation of economic status for the poor, as included in barangay programs (mean = 2.96), ranks second, showing that community-level interventions recognize the importance of economic stability in domestic violence prevention. Local initiatives that support economic improvement can reduce the risk of domestic violence by addressing one of its root causes. According to Walker and Lee (2022), poverty alleviation programs are crucial in domestic violence prevention, as they provide vulnerable individuals with the resources to reduce dependence on abusive partners.

The general weighted mean of 2.91 reflects an overall moderate presence of economic influences on domestic violence within the community, indicating the need for policies and programs that address financial empowerment as a key component of domestic violence prevention and survivor support.

Part 3. Level of agreement with the following statements regarding General awareness/accessibility, cultural and societal expectations, and economic status in your community as barrier on women seeking help for violence or abuse.

Table 4. General Awareness/Accessibility

Indicators	Standard Deviation	Weighted Mean	Rank
Financial control and economic dependence contribute to power imbalances within relationships, increasing the risk of domestic violence.	0.044318	3.05168	1
Economic stressors such as unemployment, financial instability, debt, and housing insecurity escalate domestic violence	0.044318	2.992248	3
Easy in access to economic resources and opportunities for economic empowerment among survivors of domestic violence, including employment, education, housing, and financial assistance	0.044318	2.935401	4
Economic status like being poor makes a barrier to access support service	0.044318	3.005168	2
Economic status elevation of poor is included in the barangay program	0.044318	2.935401	5
General Weighted Mean		2.983979	

The findings reveal key insights into the role of financial awareness and accessibility in domestic violence contexts. Financial control and economic dependence, with a weighted mean of 3.05 and ranked first, are primary factors contributing to power imbalances in relationships, heightening the risk of domestic violence. Economic dependence often limits victims' choices, making them reliant on their partner for financial support. As demonstrated by Postmus et al. (2020), financial dependence not only sustains abusive relationships but also restricts victims' autonomy, making it challenging to seek independence and safety.

Economic stressors, including unemployment, financial instability, debt, and housing insecurity, with a mean of 2.99 and ranked third, increase the likelihood of domestic violence by creating high-stress environments where tensions may escalate. The link between economic hardship and domestic violence has been substantiated by multiple studies, including one by Patel and Singh (2023), which found that economic stress significantly correlates with higher rates of intimate partner violence, especially in low-income communities.

The accessibility of economic resources and opportunities for survivors, such as employment, education, housing, and financial assistance, ranked fourth with a mean of 2.94. This accessibility is essential in empowering survivors to rebuild their lives independently. Offering survivors resources and economic opportunities allows them to escape abusive situations. According to findings by Chen et al. (2022), economic empowerment is a protective factor against domestic violence, fostering resilience and self-sufficiency among survivors.

Economic barriers to support services, with a mean of 3.01, reflect the difficulties faced by individuals in poverty when accessing essential services for domestic violence prevention and support, ranked second. Poverty restricts access to resources such as legal aid, shelters, and counseling, which are critical for domestic violence intervention. Research by Johnson et al. (2022) shows that financial hardship often isolates victims from support services, complicating their ability to seek assistance.

Lastly, the inclusion of economic status elevation programs in barangay initiatives, with a mean of 2.94 and ranked fifth, indicates local recognition of poverty's role in domestic violence. These programs aim to improve economic conditions and may indirectly reduce domestic violence by lessening financial dependency. Kiani et al. (2021) emphasize that community-based economic interventions are beneficial in reducing domestic violence risks, as they provide the economically vulnerable with resources to stabilize their financial conditions.

The overall general weighted mean of 2.98 demonstrates a moderate presence of financial awareness and accessibility concerns, suggesting that economic empowerment and support networks should be integral parts of domestic violence prevention and intervention strategies.

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Table 5. Considering Cultural/Societal Expectations

Indicators	Standard Deviation	Weighted Mean	Rank
Cultural norms in my community support women seeking help for violence or abuse	0.363684	3.129199	3
There is a stigma attached to women who seek help for violence or abuse in my community.	0.363684	2.94832	4
Men in my community are supportive of women seeking help for violence or abuse.	0.363684	3.152455	2
Community leaders actively encourage women to report violence or abuse and seek help.	0.363684	3.281654	1
It is considered shameful in my community for a family if a woman seeks help for violence or abuse.	0.363684	2.258398	5
General Weighted Mean		2.954005	

The data provides an analysis of cultural and societal expectations in the community regarding women's ability to seek help for violence or abuse, highlighting both supportive and restrictive norms. The highestranked indicator, with a weighted mean of 3.28, is the community leaders' active encouragement for women to report violence or abuse, suggesting that leadership within the community plays a significant role in promoting safety and support for victims. Community leaders' advocacy is crucial in reducing stigma and providing resources, aligning with findings by Johnson et al. (2022), which show that active support from local leaders increases reporting rates and access to assistance for victims of abuse

Men's support for women seeking help ranks second, with a weighted mean of 3.15, indicating a moderate but positive cultural shift in attitudes toward women's rights to seek help. This result points to a growing awareness and acknowledgment among men in the community of the importance of supporting victims. According to Flood (2020), communities with male allies in support of victims often experience less stigma, as positive male involvement helps normalize reporting and reduces blame on victims.

Cultural norms supporting women in seeking help, with a weighted mean of 3.13 and ranked third, show a relatively high level of community acceptance for victims seeking assistance. This suggests an environment where the right to seek help is moderately respected, though possibly still influenced by lingering stigmatizing factors. A study by Ocampo et al. (2022) found that communities with a foundation of cultural acceptance for women's autonomy in seeking help experience better outcomes in domestic violence intervention efforts.

The stigma associated with women seeking help, with a mean of 2.95, ranks fourth, suggesting that while supportive norms exist, there is still an undercurrent of stigma that may prevent some victims from coming forward. Community members may still hold biases or judgments about victims, limiting the effectiveness of reporting mechanisms. Johnson et al. (2022) have discussed how stigma can undermine domestic violence interventions, as it discourages victims from disclosing abuse due to fear of judgment.

The lowest-ranking indicator, with a mean of 2.26, is the shame associated with a family if a woman seeks help. This reveals that while there are supportive community norms, traditional beliefs around family honor may still discourage some women from seeking assistance. Family reputation can be a deterrent, as demonstrated in the study by Singh and Gupta (2023), which notes that cultural shame is one of the significant barriers to reporting domestic violence in many communities.

The general weighted mean of 2.95 reflects a community in transition, where positive support structures are emerging, yet traditional expectations still influence victims' choices to some extent. Overall, the findings highlight the need for further community-based interventions to shift societal expectations and reduce stigma around seeking help for violence or abuse.

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Table 6. Economic Status

Indicators	Standard Deviation	Weighted Mean	Rank
Economic constraints limit women's ability to access support services in my community.	0.303392	2.855297	3
Women with lower economic status are less likely to seek help for violence or abuse.	0.303392	2.594315	5
Financial independence is crucial for women to feel empowered to leave abusive situations.	0.303392	3.248062	2
The cost of accessing support services (e.g., transportation, childcare) is a barrier for many women in my community.	0.303392	2.653747	4
Financial support services (like emergency funds, free counseling) are necessary to help women affected by violence or abuse.	0.303392	3.335917	1
General Weighted Mean		2.937468	

The findings highlight the significant role economic status plays in shaping women's access to support services for violence or abuse within the community. The highest-ranked indicator, with a weighted mean of 3.34, is the necessity for financial support services, such as emergency funds and free counseling, which are deemed crucial in assisting women affected by abuse. This aligns with recent research Smith, J., & Green, A. (2022), which underscores the importance of accessible financial resources as an enabler for victims, empowering them to seek assistance without the burden of financial constraints.

Financial independence, ranked second with a mean of 3.25, is identified as a critical factor in empowering women to leave abusive situations. Economic self-sufficiency offers victims the ability to make independent decisions, free from financial dependence on abusive partners. Research by Postmus, J. L., Hoge, G. L., Breckenridge, J., Sharp-Jeffs, N., & Chung, D. (2020), corroborates this finding, emphasizing that financial independence reduces the control an abuser can exert and increases a victim's options to safely exit abusive relationships.

Economic constraints limiting access to support services are ranked third, with a mean of 2.86, indicating that financial limitations hinder many women's ability to seek help. The inability to afford essential support, such as legal aid, transportation, or medical services, restricts victims' options, a challenge echoed in the study by Patel and Cruz (2022), which identifies financial limitations as a substantial barrier to escaping abusive environments and accessing legal or psychological support.

The cost of accessing support services, with a mean of 2.65 and ranked fourth, reflects the financial burdens many victims face when seeking help, including costs related to transportation or childcare. These expenses add layers of difficulty for victims, especially those with limited resources. Johnson and Wells (2023) point out that such logistical and financial barriers are often overlooked, yet they significantly impact a victim's ability to reach support services effectively.

Lastly, women with lower economic status being less likely to seek help is ranked fifth, with a mean of 2.59, emphasizing that socioeconomic factors influence victims' likelihood to report or seek assistance. Financial hardship often keeps victims in abusive relationships due to a lack of alternative support. This finding resonates with an analysis by Heron, Rebecca & Eisma, Maarten. (2021), which shows that women with lower socioeconomic status are disproportionately affected, often staying silent due to fear of financial instability if they leave.

The general weighted mean of 2.94 reflects a community where economic factors are a substantial influence on women's ability to seek help, suggesting that enhanced financial resources and support systems would be valuable in improving access to domestic violence support services.

Part 4. Level of agreement with the following recommendations for improving the intervention promoting safe places for women.

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Table 7. Recommendations for improving the intervention promoting safe places for women.

Indicators	Standard Deviation	Weighted Mean	Rank
Expanding the number of safe places available in different locations within the community.	0.066406	3.395349	1
Increasing funding and resources allocated to the intervention to enhance its effectiveness.	0.066406	3.139535	9
Improving outreach efforts to raise awareness about the safe places and the services they offer.	0.066406	3.343669	2
Enhancing cultural sensitivity training for staff and volunteers involved in running the safe places.	0.066406	3.276486	8
Implementing measures to ensure the long-term sustainability and continuity of the safe places initiative.	0.066406	3.343669	3
Increasing efforts to involve men and boys in promoting gender equality and preventing violence against women.	0.066406	3.320413	4
Providing additional training and resources to support women in building financial independence and stability.	0.066406	3.30491	6
Establishing mechanisms for collecting feedback from women who have used the safe places to continuously improve services.	0.066406	3.30491	7
Creating opportunities for community members to actively participate in shaping and supporting the intervention.	0.066406	3.315245	5
General Weighted Mean		3.30491	

To improve the intervention promoting safe places for women, several key recommendations have emerged. Expanding the number of safe places in various locations ranks highest, with a weighted mean of 3.40, indicating a strong need for accessible support points throughout the community. This aligns with research by Thompson and Bell (2023), which suggests that geographic availability of resources plays a crucial role in reaching victims, especially those who may otherwise have limited access due to transportation or safety concerns.

Awareness-raising efforts are also prioritized, as shown by a high ranking for improving outreach to inform the community about the safe places and services they offer, with a mean of 3.34. Awareness campaigns have proven essential for ensuring that potential beneficiaries know about available resources and understand how to access them (Patel, S., & Cruz, R. (2022). Furthermore, implementing measures for sustainability ranks closely, underscoring the need for long-term, reliable support for women, as consistent service availability builds trust and encourages ongoing community engagement (Smith & Green, 2022). Engaging men and boys in promoting gender equality is another key recommendation, ranking fourth, with a mean of 3.32. This approach is essential for creating a supportive environment that addresses underlying cultural norms contributing to violence, as well as for establishing allies who actively work against genderbased violence (Najjemba, C. 2022). Community involvement and feedback mechanisms, ranked fifth and sixth, suggest a drive for inclusivity in shaping the intervention, ensuring that it evolves in response to real needs. Regular community feedback fosters continuous improvement, while active participation builds a sense of shared responsibility, reinforcing the program's reach and effectiveness (Jewkes 2021).

The general weighted mean of 3.30 reflects a well-rounded prioritization of expanding resources, promoting awareness, involving community voices, and emphasizing cultural sensitivity and financial independence, all of which are critical to fostering safe environments for women.

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Table 8. Test of Significant Difference

	Cultural	Social	Economics	Cultural and societal expectations	General awareness/ accessibility	Economics status	Recommendations for improving the intervention promoting safe places for women.
Observed	2.69	2.92	2.91	2.95	2.98	2.94	3.30
Expected	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30
Differences	0.39	0.62	0.61	0.65	0.68	0.64	1.00
(Differences)^2	0.15	0.38	0.37	0.43	0.47	0.41	1.01
Diff.^{2}/ Expected	0.17	0.27	0.26	0.28	0.30	0.28	0.44
Degree of Freedom	6						
Chi-square	2						
Chi-Square Table on 95% significant Level	12.59						

The results from the chi-square test indicate that there are significant differences between the observed and expected values, suggesting that the factors such as cultural and societal expectations, general awareness/accessibility, and economic status all play an important role in shaping perceptions regarding safe places for women. The observed differences are not due to random chances, as the calculated chi-square value exceeded the critical value at a 95% confidence level. This points to the fact that these factors influence people's responses to intervention in ways that should not be overlooked.

The significant findings highlight the need to consider the interplay of cultural, social, and economic factors when evaluating or designing interventions for women's safety. The differences in perceptions imply that one-size-fits-all solutions may not be effective, as different communities may have varying concerns based on their cultural norms, awareness levels, and economic conditions. Understanding these factors will allow for more targeted and effective strategies that can better address the unique needs of different groups in promoting safer environments for women.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In such areas as culture, society, and economy, this survey shows a few all-embracing factors contributing to the mistreatment of women. In society, people generally sense that there are obstacles in the way of women who want assistance to escape violence, such as the need for the closest, symbolically easiest person on whom to rely, the customary separation of couples after marriage and finally dispossession forcing them out. The levels of agreement with statements on these different points indicate that cultural norms, financial pressures, and the like all mean lack of information and continue to affect both occurrence and access to various help resources. Yet while there may be many obstacles in a traditional society, the community shows that it still admires women who are free from such conditions and seeking refuge. Therefore, the absence of significant differences by age, gender, and education suggests an underlying consensus on these issues that requires communitywide remedies.

The study recommended increasing assistance, adding treatment programs in the community, and seeking cooperation with local organizations and leaders to broaden community access. Structural sensitivity training should include efforts to break through outdated norms of behavior in order to make people stand up with survivors. Economic empowerment initiatives, including skills training, employment opportunities and offering services to help women achieve economic self-sufficiency, are other recommended policies. We propose community campaigns to educate people about this type of violence and to offer inclusive support. Male involvement in prevention programmes should be emphasized. It also suggests that services gradually become tailored to reflect the actual changing needs of women in the community, and to this end, it advocates constantly working hard.

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