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HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS OF THE RESIDENTS IN CALAMBA CITY: TOWARDS AN INTERVENTION PROGRAM

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ABSTRACT

This study, titled "Human Rights Awareness of the Residents in Calamba City: Towards an Intervention Program," examined the level of human rights awareness among residents of Barangay San Cristobal, Calamba City, Laguna. Specifically, it determined the respondents' level of awareness across six domains – civil, political, economic, social, workplace rights, and rights of vulnerable groups – and analyzed significant differences when grouped according to age, gender, educational attainment, and monthly household income. The study also identified the challenges encountered by residents in exercising their human rights and proposed an intervention program to address these gaps.

*Using a **Sequential Explanatory Mixed-Methods Design**, the researcher gathered quantitative data from 706 respondents through surveys and qualitative insights from seven (7) informants via interviews. Results revealed that residents exhibited **moderate to high awareness** of human rights, particularly in political and social dimensions, while awareness of economic rights and the rights of vulnerable groups was comparatively lower. Significant differences were found when respondents were grouped by demographic factors, with higher awareness observed among those with greater education and income levels. Qualitative data further revealed barriers such as political misinformation, economic hardship, workplace favoritism, discrimination against elderly individuals, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQIA+ members, as well as inequitable access to government services.*

To address these issues, the study proposed a Barangay-Based Human Rights Awareness Program, focusing on rights education, livelihood support, anti-discrimination initiatives, and workplace fairness campaigns. The findings underscore the importance of continuous, inclusive, and community-driven human rights education to strengthen awareness, equality, and active citizenship among Calamba City residents.

KEYWORDS: *Human Rights Awareness, Socio-Demographic Profile, Discrimination, Workplace Rights, Vulnerable Groups, Calamba City, Intervention Program*

INTRODUCTION

Human rights are the fundamental freedoms and entitlements that every individual possesses by virtue of being human. These rights ensure the protection of dignity, equality, and liberty regardless of one's nationality, gender, social status, or beliefs. Awareness of these rights is a crucial factor in promoting justice and participatory democracy, as it empowers individuals to recognize and assert what they rightfully deserve. In the context of Philippine society, where inequality and human rights violations continue to emerge in various forms, understanding the extent of citizens' awareness becomes a vital step toward fostering social accountability and empowerment.

The residents of Barangay San Cristobal, Calamba City, Laguna, represent a diverse community that mirrors many of the social realities present in local communities across the Philippines. Despite the country's strong constitutional and legal framework protecting human rights, not all citizens fully comprehend or assert these rights in their daily lives. This lack of awareness can lead to vulnerability, exploitation, and silence in the face of injustice. Hence, assessing the level of human rights awareness within this community provides insights into how well constitutional guarantees are understood and practiced at the grassroots level.

The concept of human rights awareness is not merely theoretical—it influences how individuals engage with institutions, respond to injustices, and participate in social change. When citizens are informed about their rights, they are more likely to uphold democratic values and demand accountability from those in authority. Conversely, limited awareness often leads to passive acceptance of inequality and abuse. This study, therefore, seeks to determine the level of awareness of human rights among residents of Barangay San Cristobal, to identify the sources of their information, and to understand the challenges they encounter in exercising these rights.

The findings of this research will serve as a foundation for the development of a Human Rights Awareness Program designed to strengthen knowledge dissemination and advocacy efforts within the community. Through this, the study aims to bridge the gap between constitutional rights and citizens' actual understanding and practice of those rights.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Human rights education and awareness have long been central topics in the global discourse on equality, democracy, and justice. According to the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights

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Education and Training (2011), all individuals and societies have the right to know and learn about their rights and responsibilities. Awareness is the first step toward empowerment, enabling citizens to protect themselves and others against abuses. However, studies show that awareness levels vary greatly depending on education, socioeconomic conditions, and access to information.

In the Philippine context, several scholars have emphasized the role of education in cultivating a culture of human rights. Bautista (2018) found that community-based learning programs significantly enhance local residents' understanding of basic human rights concepts, particularly when integrated into barangay-level governance and advocacy. Similarly, Santos and Villanueva (2019) reported that awareness of rights related to due process and equality before the law is higher among educated individuals but remains limited among those from lower-income communities.

International research supports these findings. Kaur and Singh (2017), in their study on human rights literacy in India, concluded that socioeconomic disparities directly influence awareness levels. They found that marginalized populations often lack access to reliable information about their rights and remedies available to them. In a comparable African context, Akinyemi (2020) revealed that awareness campaigns conducted through local governance units significantly improved citizens' participation in community decision-making processes.

Despite these global and local efforts, gaps remain in translating awareness into active practice. Delos Reyes (2021) pointed out that while many Filipinos can identify basic human rights, fewer understand how to assert or defend them in real situations. This indicates a disconnect between theoretical knowledge and practical empowerment. Moreover, Ramos and Cordero (2022) emphasized that public institutions must strengthen grassroots education initiatives that encourage community dialogue, particularly in marginalized barangays.
The literature thus reveals two main gaps:
(1) There is limited empirical research assessing actual levels of human rights awareness in local communities in the Philippines.
(2) There is a need for context-based intervention programs that directly address the specific awareness gaps and social realities of communities such as Barangay San Cristobal.

This study responds to these gaps by measuring awareness levels, identifying challenges, and proposing an action plan that promotes participatory learning and human rights advocacy at the community level.

Theoretical/Conceptual Framework / Paradigm of the Study
This study is anchored on the classical and modern theories of natural rights as espoused by prominent philosophers such as Thomas Aquinas, Thomas Hobbes, Harold Laski, and John Locke, which together form the philosophical foundation for understanding human rights awareness among individuals.

According to Thomas Aquinas in his Summa Theologica, human rights originate from natural law, which is derived from divine order. Aquinas believed that humans, through the use of "right reason," could determine what is naturally good or evil. This premise establishes that human rights are inherent, universal, and discoverable through rational thought. Aquinas' view underscores that moral and ethical reasoning are central to the recognition of human dignity — an essential element in understanding why individuals must be aware of their rights.

Thomas Hobbes, in Leviathan (1651), challenged the divine foundation of rights and proposed a more secular understanding. He described the State of Nature as one where individuals possess a natural right to self-preservation. Hobbes' notion of "a natural right" — the right to one's survival — suggests that awareness of one's rights is crucial to protecting personal welfare and security in society. This relates directly to how individuals in a community, such as the residents of Calamba City, must understand and claim their rights to ensure their safety and dignity in social interactions.

Harold Laski's Theory of Rights further contextualizes human rights as "conditions of social life without which no man can seek to be himself at his best." Laski's perspective provides a sociopolitical dimension to human rights awareness, emphasizing that rights are not abstract concepts but living conditions that enable human development and participation in community life. In this study, Laski's theory guides the assessment of whether residents possess the knowledge and social empowerment necessary to exercise their human rights within their community.

The theoretical foundation is further strengthened by John Locke's Theory of Natural Rights (1689), which asserts that every individual possesses inalienable rights to life, liberty, and property. These rights exist naturally and cannot be surrendered, even in a social contract. Locke's philosophy is reflected in the 1987 Philippine Constitution, particularly Article III, Section 1, which guarantees that "no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law." This provision reinforces that human rights awareness is both a natural and constitutional responsibility — one that ensures justice, equality, and dignity in a democratic society.

In the context of this study, Locke's principle directly frames the understanding of human rights awareness among residents of Calamba City. It emphasizes that awareness is not merely a legal concern but a moral and civic duty grounded in natural law and constitutional protection. The study uses these theories collectively to explore how philosophical and legal concepts of natural rights are reflected in the lived experiences and awareness levels of individuals.

The conceptual paradigm of the study illustrates the relationship between the demographic profile of the respondents (age, gender, educational attainment, and income status) and their level of human rights awareness across six dimensions — civil, political, economic, social, rights of vulnerable groups, and workplace

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rights. The paradigm also integrates the challenges encountered by residents in exercising their rights and the proposed intervention program designed to address awareness gaps and social inequities.

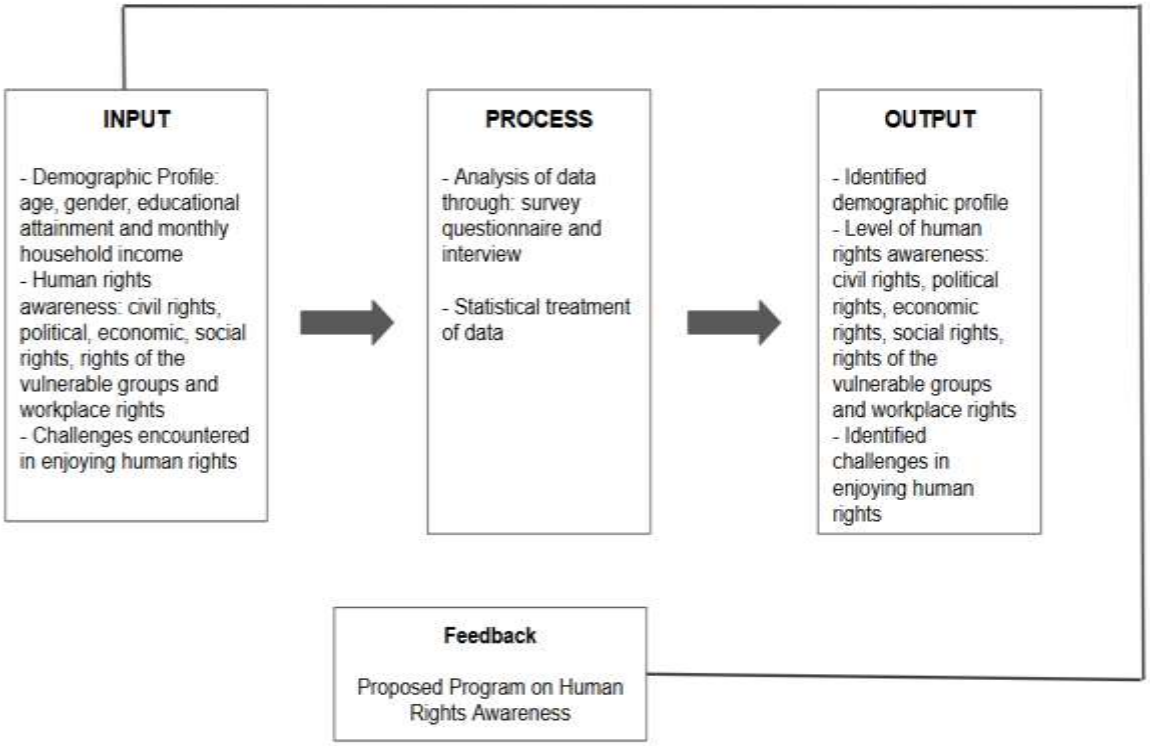


Figure 1. The Conceptual Paradigm of the Study

Significance of the Study

The study is focused on analyzing the human rights situation of Barangay San Cristobal. The research benefits the following;

Commission on Human Rights. The Commission on Human Rights as an independent National Human Rights Institution in the Philippines, will benefit from the study. It will be a help to them to conduct investigations on human rights violations against marginalized and vulnerable sectors of society, involving civil and political rights.

Student – Readers. The study hopes to give them an understanding of the awareness of the residents regarding their human rights.

Future Researchers. This study will be useful as a reference for studies similar in nature. This study may encourage other researchers to continue this and use it with bigger or different sample groups. The result of this study can be used as a basis for future studies.

Policy Makers. This study is significant to policymakers since the study would give them an idea in crafting new policies about human rights and at the same time drafting laws that can improve the delivery of justice for the people.

Residents of the Barangay. The study is beneficial to all residents of Barangay San Cristobal who play an important role in the goodness of their community. In conducting this study, it will help them to know their rights as a human and how, when, and where to use their human rights.

Objectives of the Study

General Objective

To assess the level of human rights awareness among the residents of Barangay San Cristobal, Calamba City, Laguna.

Specific Objectives

1. To determine the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of age, gender, educational attainment, and income status.
2. To assess the level of awareness of residents regarding various categories of human rights (civil, political, economic, social, rights of vulnerable groups, and workplace rights).
3. To identify the sources of information that influence residents' awareness of human rights.
4. To determine the challenges encountered by residents in exercising their human rights.
5. To propose a Human Rights Awareness Program designed to address the identified gaps and enhance awareness within the community.

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METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study used a Sequential Explanatory Mixed Methods Design, which means the research was done in two parts. In the first part, the researcher collected quantitative data using surveys to measure how aware the residents of Barangay San Cristóbal are about human rights. This helped provide a general picture of the community's level of awareness. After the surveys, the second part of the study involved collecting qualitative data through interviews. These interviews allowed the researcher to better understand the challenges encountered by the participants while enjoying their human rights by asking them to share their thoughts and experiences.

Using both surveys and interviews helps the researcher get a more complete understanding of the topic. This method is useful because numbers can show patterns, while personal answers can explain those patterns. It also improves the accuracy of the results by confirming findings in different ways. Although this method takes more time and effort, it works well for this study because it answers not just what people know about human rights, but also why they think that way. Recent sources support this design as a good way to explore complex topics like human rights (Research Rundowns, n.d.; eCampusOntario, n.d.).

Research Method

This study uses a mixed methods approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques. For the quantitative part, the researcher developed a self-made questionnaire to gather structured responses from participants about their awareness of human rights. For the qualitative part, the researcher conducted informal, simple interviews to collect more detailed, personal insights about the research topic.

The participants were selected using a simple random sampling method, meaning each individual in the larger population had an equal chance of being chosen. This method ensures that the sample represents the population fairly, reducing bias in the study. Using mixed methods allows the study to benefit from the strengths of both approaches—numerical data provides measurable evidence, while interviews provide deeper understanding. This combination fits the study's goal of not only measuring awareness but also understanding the reasons behind it.

Population of the Study

The population of this study includes residents of Barangay San Cristóbal, Calamba City, Laguna, aged 18 years and above. This group was chosen because they represent a diverse mix of community members who may have varying levels of awareness and understanding of human rights. The study includes both males and females, as well as individuals from different sectors of the barangay.

The target population was divided into three groups: (1) individuals aged 18 years and above, (2) working individuals, and (3) members of the vulnerable sector, such as senior citizens and individuals from the LGBTQ+ community and persons with disabilities Participants were selected through simple random sampling, giving each eligible individual an equal chance of being chosen.

For the quantitative part of the study, a total of 706 respondents were surveyed. For the qualitative part, seven (7) informants were randomly selected, with at least two informants from each of the three identified groups to ensure diverse representation. These informants participated in informal interviews to provide deeper insights into the research objectives.

Respondent's Group	Number of Respondents
Vulnerable Group	293
Working Individuals	114
18 Yrs old above	299
Total	706

Table 1. Group and Number of Respondents

The participants of this study were selected based on specific inclusion and exclusion criteria to ensure the relevance and accuracy of the data collected. The inclusion criteria required participants to be residents of Barangay San Cristóbal, aged 18 years old and above, and belong to one of the following groups: the general adult population, working individuals, or members of the vulnerable sector, such as senior citizens, persons with dis abilities and individuals with diverse gender identities. Participants also needed to be willing and able to participate in the survey and/or interview process.

On the other hand, individuals were excluded from the study if they were below 18 years old, not permanent residents of Barangay San Cristóbal, or unwilling or unable to provide meaningful responses due to mental, physical, or communication limitations. These criteria ensured that the study focused only on participants who could contribute relevant and reliable information regarding human rights awareness in the community.

Data Gathering Tool/s

In conducting this study, the researcher will use survey questionnaires as tools for data-gathering to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the subject.
The effective tools and methods are the following:
A. Self-made survey Questionnaire to collect quantitative data on residents' perception and awareness of human rights by using a four-point Likert scale.
B. Informal Interviews to gather in-depth insights from each individual about their understanding and experiences related to human rights.
C. Reliability test and result using Cronbach's Alpha. The internal consistency of the survey questionnaire is computed per category variable as follows translating ACCEPTABILITY of the survey questionnaire.

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Reliability Analysis
CIVIL RIGHTS a= 0.808
POLITICAL RIGHTS α= 0.808
ECONOMIC RIGHTS α= 0.930
SOCIAL RIGHTS α= 0.901
RIGHTS OF VULNERABLE α= 0.879
WORKPLACE RIGHTS α= 0.917

D. The instrument underwent a validation process to ensure that its indicators and content were appropriate, accurate, and aligned with the study objectives. The survey questionnaire was reviewed and validated by two experts: one from the academic field and one licensed attorney familiar with human rights law. Each validator carefully examined the indicators under every category and signed a Tool Validation Certificate to certify the instrument's validity. Feedback from the validators was also used to refine the wording and organization of the questionnaire, ensuring its clarity and relevance to the research topic.

Data Gathering Procedure

To successfully undertake this study the data-gathering procedure must be implemented and followed. Listed below are the procedures used by the researcher in gathering the data.

A. The researcher defines the objectives of the study to achieve a better and clearer way of data gathering

B. Developing instruments to be used, creating and refining the data collection tools such as survey questionnaires and interview guides.

C. Seeking approval and permissions from barangay officials and relevant local authorities to conduct the study. Explain the purpose of the study and how it will benefit the community.

D. Recruitment of participants or respondents such as the residents of barangay that are grouped according to the demographic profile.

E. Distribution of the survey questionnaires and providing clear instructions on how to complete the survey.

F. Collecting data to assess, evaluate, and analyze using the chosen and appropriate statistical method.

Treatment of the Data

A structured approach for treating data for this on analyzing human rights
situation among residents of Barangay San Cristobal is as follows

FOR SOP #1 – Demographic Profile of the Respondents

The demographic data of the respondents were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Specifically, frequency counts and percentages were used to describe and summarize the distribution of the respondents' profile.

FOR SOP #2 – Extent of Awareness of Human Rights

To determine the extent of human rights awareness among the respondents, the data gathered from the Likert-scale questionnaire were analyzed using the weighted mean. The interpretation of scores was based on the 4-point Likert scale shown in Table below.

FOR SOP #3 – Significant Difference Between Respondents' Profile and Awareness

To determine whether there is a significant difference in the respondents' awareness of human rights when grouped according to their demographic profile, Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used. ANOVA helps identify if the differences in awareness levels among various demographic groups are statistically significant.

SOP #4 – Challenges or Problems Encountered Related to Human Rights

The responses gathered from the informal interviews were analyzed using thematic analysis. The researcher identified patterns and recurring themes in the participants' responses to understand the common challenges faced in realizing or enjoying their human rights in the community.

The researcher used a 4-point Likert scale to measure the respondents' level of awareness of human rights. The scale used the following numerical values, statistical limits, and verbal interpretations:

Likert Scale Interpretation

Numerical Value	Scale Range (Statistical Limit)	Verbal Interpretation
4	3.26 – 4.00	Fully Aware
3	2.51 – 3.25	Aware
2	1.76 – 2.50	Not Aware
1	1.00 – 1.75	Fully Not Aware

Table 2. 4-Point Likert Scale and Interpretation

This treatment of data ensures that both quantitative patterns and qualitative insights are accurately analyzed and interpreted to answer all parts of the research questions.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations are crucial in research to ensure that participants are treated with respect and that the research is conducted responsibly. In conducting this study several ethical considerations must be addressed.

Ensuring that the participation of the participants is voluntary and clearly explaining to them what would be the purpose of conducting the study together with their participation during the study and how the data will be used. Providing written consent forms is better but if not, necessary verbal consent is also accepted. Each participant's identities are protected.

Every participant has the right to withdraw from answering the questions from the survey questionnaire if the said question is against their norms and beliefs since their participation is voluntary. The researcher is mindful of sensitive topics, such as experiences of human rights violations, which could cause discomfort or distress to them. Support resources or counseling options are provided.

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The researcher can work with local leaders and community members to ensure that the study is conducted respectfully and also the findings are relevant and useful to the community. The data collection methods are adopted and fit to the local customs and practices to pay respect to the cultural norms and values of the Barangay San Cristobal. Bias in data collection is minimized, and objective measures and diverse perspectives are ensured to obtain a balanced view.

Additionally ethical considerations when working with vulnerable groups prioritize protecting their rights, dignity, and well-being. These individuals may face increased risks of harm or exploitation, so it's essential to ensure informed consent, with clear and accessible information.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic Profile of Respondents

The study involved a diverse group of respondents from Calamba City, representing various age groups, genders, educational backgrounds, employment statuses, and socio-economic levels. This diversity was critical in identifying variations in human rights awareness across different demographic sectors. Notably, marginalized populations such as the elderly, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and LGBTQIA+ individuals were included to capture a comprehensive view of the community's human rights understanding.

Level of Human Rights Awareness

Analysis showed that overall awareness of human rights in Calamba City varied significantly among respondents. While some groups demonstrated moderate to high awareness, others—particularly vulnerable populations—exhibited lower understanding and engagement. For instance, younger and more educated respondents generally showed greater knowledge of civil and political rights, whereas marginalized groups had limited awareness of their rights and available protections.

Significant Differences Across Demographics

The study revealed statistically significant differences in human rights awareness based on demographic factors:

Age: Younger respondents showed higher awareness of political and workplace rights, while elderly groups had less understanding, especially regarding new or evolving human rights frameworks.

Education: Respondents with higher education levels reported greater knowledge and confidence in asserting their rights.

Employment Status: Those employed in formal sectors had better awareness of workplace and economic rights than informal or unemployed respondents.

Vulnerable Groups: PWDs and LGBTQIA+ individuals faced significant awareness gaps, compounded by social stigma and discrimination.

Gender: Women reported facing specific challenges related to social and economic rights, including unequal pay and workplace harassment.

Challenges Encountered by Respondents

Multiple challenges emerged from the findings:

Civil Rights: Lack of comprehensive knowledge about fundamental civil rights, experiences of discrimination based on age, gender, and social status.

Political Rights: Misinformation, limited access to accurate electoral information, and distrust in political processes reduced voter confidence and participation.

Economic Rights: High unemployment, underemployment, wage disparities, and job qualification barriers affected economic stability, especially for vulnerable groups.

Social Rights: Insufficient access to healthcare and education services, particularly in remote or low-income areas, due to inadequate government support.

Rights of Vulnerable Groups: Social stigma, discrimination, and exclusion in employment and social participation were prevalent.

Workplace Rights: Nepotism, favoritism, harassment, and unequal treatment based on age or sexual orientation were common workplace issues.

Information Access: Limited access to reliable, user-friendly human rights information hindered awareness and empowerment.

In response to these identified gaps and challenges, the study proposes a comprehensive Human Rights Awareness Program targeting the key areas below:

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Proposed Action Plan: "Human Rights Awareness Program"

Key Area	Objective	Activity	Person/Group Responsible	Time Frame	Expected Outcome
1. Civil Rights	To strengthen awareness and understanding of fundamental civil rights such as the right to life, liberty, and equality	Conduct civil rights education campaigns, workshops, and distribute informational materials in communities and workplaces	CHR (Commission on Human Rights), NGOs, Barangay Human Rights Action Centers (BHRACs)	Quarterly	Increased awareness of basic civil rights and improved ability to assert and protect individual rights
2. Political Rights	To increase voters' knowledge and confidence in political participation	Conduct voter education seminars and candidate profile info sessions	Barangay Council, COMELEC, NGOs	Pre-election season (2–3 months before election)	Voters are informed and confident in choosing candidates
3.Economic Rights	To improve access to employment and livelihood opportunities	Organize skills training, job fairs, and wage rights orientation	TESDA, DSWD, LGU Employment Office	Quarterly	Improved job matching and understanding of fair wages
4. Social Rights	To improve access to government services such as health and education	Set up mobile government service days (e.g., health checkups, education consultation)	DOH, DepEd, Barangay Officials	Biannually	Increased access to public services especially for remote residents
5. Rights of Vulnerable Groups	To protect and empower elderly, PWDs, and LGBTQIA+ individuals	Create support groups and anti-discrimination campaigns	MSWD, NGOs, LGBTQIA+ orgs	Ongoing / Monthly meetings	Reduced stigma and stronger support network for marginalized groups
6. Workplace Rights	To promote fair labor practices and workplace harmony	Conduct seminars on labor rights, anti-nepotism, and conflict resolution	DOLE, HR Officers, Labor Unions	Every 6 months	Better workplace environments and reduced complaints of favoritism or harassment
7.Information Access	To provide easy access to accurate information	Develop and maintain a Human Rights Info Corner in barangays	Barangay Youth Council, DepEd	Continuous	Increased community awareness and education on rights and responsibilities
8. Feedback & Monitoring	To evaluate program effectiveness and listen to community concerns	Conduct regular community feedback forums and surveys	Barangay Officials, Research Committee	Every 6 months	Responsive and improved program based on community needs

Table 3. Proposed Action Plan: "Human Rights Awareness Program"

CONCLUSION

This conclusion summarizes the key insights drawn from the study on the level of human rights awareness. It reflects on the major findings, highlights their implications, and provides a general assessment of the awareness levels observed among the respondents.

A significant portion of the respondents belonged to the older age groups, indicating an active participation of them in the study. While the gender distribution showed a relatively balanced representation, allowing for gender-based insights in successive analyses. In terms of educational attainment, most respondents had completed at least secondary education, while a smaller percentage of the respondents pursued higher education, highlighting differences in access to learning opportunities. Lastly, the majority of respondents described low to average household income levels, which signifies to economic challenges that may influence their awareness related to human rights.

Among the six domains, the highest level of awareness was observed in political rights; it suggests a familiarity in democratic participation. However, relatively lower awareness levels were apparent in civil rights, economic rights and the rights of vulnerable groups, indicating a gap in understanding systemic rights and protections for marginalized sectors. On the other hand, while the respondents show a general awareness of human rights,

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the depth and consistency of that awareness vary depending on the domain, that may affect their ability to claim and proclaim these rights in real-life contexts.

The findings confirm that human rights awareness is not uniform across demographic groups such as; age, gender, education, and income. It all plays significant roles in shaping the level of awareness that all individuals possess. These differences highlight the need for targeted human rights education and outreach, especially among understated or disadvantaged groups, to ensure a more inclusive and equitable understanding of rights in society.

The interviews revealed that systemic inequality, discrimination, lack of access to information, and poor service delivery of the government remain the most persistent barriers to fully enjoying human rights in the Philippines. While legal frameworks exist, the implementation gaps and societal biases hinder their realization—especially among marginalized sectors.

The proposed action plans and programs outlined in this study are essential steps toward addressing the gap in the level of awareness by the residents regarding their human rights. By focusing on increasing awareness, promoting fair political participation, supporting economic opportunities, and ensuring equal access to social services, these interventions aim to empower vulnerable sectors and foster a more inclusive and just community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the study's findings, the following recommendations are proposed to further enhance human rights awareness in Calamba City.

1.In line with the demographic profile of the respondents, it is recommended that human rights education initiatives be tailored to the specific needs of different age groups and economic backgrounds. Youth-friendly awareness campaigns can be introduced in schools and online platforms, while livelihood-based human rights seminars can be conducted in low-income communities. Gender-sensitive materials should also be used to ensure inclusive learning, and all community leaders can be trained to facilitate outreach programs to those with limited educational access.

2.Since awareness levels vary across human rights domains, it is recommended to design and implement a multi-focused awareness program that not only emphasizes civil and political rights but also addresses less-understood areas such as economic rights and the rights of vulnerable groups. This can be achieved through community workshops, local government partnerships, and media campaigns that use accessible language and culturally relevant examples to close the knowledge gap.

3.Given the disparities in awareness based on age, gender, education, and income, it is recommended to adopt a targeted human rights education approach. Programs should be customized for marginalized demographics—such as out-of-school youth, the elderly, and low-income earners—through mobile learning sessions, barangay-based forums, and inclusion of human rights in community development agendas. This ensures that awareness efforts are equitable and far-reaching.

4.To address the systemic barriers revealed by the interviews, it is recommended that the local government and civil society groups collaborate in strengthening service delivery, ensuring transparency, and improving access to public information. Additionally, anti-discrimination policies should be enforced and monitored more strictly, especially in employment, healthcare, and public services. Establishing grievance mechanisms and human rights help desks at the barangay level would help address issues in real time.

5.It is recommended that the proposed action plans be implemented through a sustained partnership between local government units, schools, NGOs, and community organizations. Regular evaluation and feedback mechanisms should be incorporated to adapt the programs according to community needs. Moreover, capacity-building programs for local leaders and human rights advocates should be prioritized to ensure the long-term sustainability and impact of the intervention efforts.

Acknowledgment

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