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ASSESSING THE IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF RAPE CASE INTERVENTION PROGRAMS OF BOAC, MARINDUQUE

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ABSTRACT

This study assessed the implementation and effectiveness of rape case intervention programs in Boac, Marinduque using an explanatory sequential mixed-method design. A total of 40 respondents—10 Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) personnel, 10 Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) staff, and 20 Barangay Violence Against Women (VAW) Desk Officers—participated in the quantitative phase, which utilized descriptive statistics and the Kruskal–Wallis test. Results showed that the programs were Moderately Implemented *and* Moderately Effective*, indicating partial achievement of program objectives. While basic services were available, deficiencies in funding, facilities, and training limited overall effectiveness. No significant differences were found in perceptions among the three respondent groups ($p > 0.05$), suggesting common operational challenges across agencies.*

Qualitative findings highlighted institutional constraints, cultural barriers, and weak inter-agency coordination as major impediments to effective implementation. Insufficient resources, limited technical capacity, and inconsistent training—particularly at the barangay level—were compounded by cultural norms such as hiya*,* utang na loob*, and* delicadeza*, which discourage reporting and perpetuate victim silence. Despite the presence of legal frameworks such as RA 8353 and RA 9262, program effectiveness remains constrained by socio-economic and institutional limitations, underscoring the need for stronger coordination, sustained capacity-building, and intensified community education to promote survivor-centered and gender-sensitive justice.*

KEYWORDS: *Rape Intervention, Gender-Based Violence, Program Effectiveness, Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD)*

1. INTRODUCTION

Rape and sexual violence are pervasive human rights violations that have profound psychological, social, and economic effects on victims and communities. Despite the enactment of progressive laws such as the *Anti-Rape Law of 1997 (RA 8353)* and the *Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004 (RA 9262)*, rape continues to be underreported and inadequately addressed in the Philippines. Research shows that stigma, fear of reprisal, and cultural norms rooted in *hiya* and *delicadeza* discourage victims from seeking justice (Garcia, 2020; Barbaza, 2020).

In rural municipalities like Boac, Marinduque, the problem is further aggravated by geographic isolation, poverty, and limited institutional capacity. Local agencies such as the Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD), Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO), and Barangay Violence Against Women (VAW) Desks serve as the frontline units for rape case intervention. However, persistent reports of sexual violence indicate that these mechanisms face serious implementation and coordination challenges.

2. OBJECTIVES

This study assessed the implementation and effectiveness of rape case intervention programs in Boac, Marinduque. Specifically, it sought to:

1. Determine the level of implementation of rape case intervention programs;
2. Evaluate their effectiveness from the perspective of implementers;
3. Identify differences in perception among WCPD, MSWDO, and VAW Desk Officers; and
4. Explore the challenges experienced by implementers in program implementation.

3. METHODOLOGY

An explanatory sequential mixed-method design was utilized. Quantitative data were collected and analyzed first to determine levels of implementation and effectiveness, followed by qualitative inquiry to explain and contextualize quantitative results.

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4. SAMPLING DESIGN (IF PRIMARY DATA USED)

Purposive sampling was employed to select implementers directly involved in rape case intervention. This ensured informed perspectives on operational realities and institutional processes.

5. STATISTICAL DESIGN (IF PRIMARY DATA USED)

Descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, and median) summarized implementation and effectiveness levels. The Kruskal–Wallis test examined differences in perceptions among respondent groups at a 0.05 level of significance.

6. GEOGRAPHICAL AREA (IF PRIMARY DATA USED)

The study was conducted in Boac, Marinduque, a rural municipality characterized by close-knit communities and traditional social structures.

7. RESULTS

Quantitative results showed that rape case intervention programs in Boac, Marinduque were rated as *Moderately Implemented* and *Moderately Effective*. Although mechanisms such as the WCPD and Barangay VAW Desks are operational, gaps in funding, facilities, and training limit service delivery, particularly in forensic, psychological, and legal support. The Kruskal–Wallis test indicated no significant differences in perceptions among WCPD personnel, MSWDO staff, and VAW Desk Officers ($p > 0.05$), reflecting a shared recognition of these challenges.

Qualitative findings identified institutional resource constraints, cultural barriers, and weak inter-agency coordination as key impediments. Limited budgets and training, coupled with cultural norms such as *hiya* and *utang na loob*, discourage reporting and accountability, while unclear referral systems hinder coordinated responses. Consistent with existing literature, the findings suggest that legal frameworks alone are insufficient, underscoring the need for stronger institutional capacity, effective coordination, and culturally responsive, survivor-centered interventions.

8. SUGGESTIONS

1. **Strengthen inter-agency coordination** by establishing a unified case management and referral system among the WCPD, MSWDO, and Barangay VAW Desks.
2. **Enhance capacity-building** through continuous gender-sensitive, trauma-informed, and legal training for all implementers.
3. **Increase budgetary support** to sustain forensic, psychological, and legal services for survivors.
4. **Intensify community education** to dismantle rape myths, reduce stigma, and promote survivor empowerment.
5. **Integrate socio-economic support** through livelihood and educational assistance to reduce survivors' vulnerability.
6. **Improve monitoring and evaluation** using data-driven tools to ensure accountability and program effectiveness.

9. CONCLUSION

The study concludes that while rape case intervention programs in Boac, Marinduque are operational and guided by national frameworks, their **effectiveness remains limited** due to systemic, cultural, and logistical constraints. Programs are hindered by inadequate training, limited resources, and weak coordination among agencies. Deeply entrenched cultural values perpetuate victim silence, undermining justice and rehabilitation efforts.

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