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## Understanding the Causes of RA 9262: Factors Influencing Violence Against Women and Children in Naga City, Camarines Sur

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### Abstract

**Aim:** Violence Against Women (VAW) remains a global issue, encompassing as physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse in intimate relationships. In the Philippines, Republic Act 9262, or the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act, addresses these forms of violence. This study investigated the factors contributing to Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) in Naga City, Camarines Sur, focusing on reported cases under RA 9262 from 2020 to 2023.

**Methodology:** The research employed qualitative methods, including document analysis and in-depth interviews with key stakeholders such as personnel from the Naga City Social Welfare and Development Office and local police stations. Thematic analysis was used to examine socio-economic stressors, cultural influences, and gaps in legal and emotional support that contribute to VAWC.

**Results:** The study identified that socio-economic challenges, entrenched cultural norms, and insufficient legal and emotional support systems are key factors perpetuating physical, psychological, sexual, and economic abuse in intimate relationships. The findings underscore the need for community-level responses, such as economic empowerment programs, school-based awareness campaigns, and digital outreach efforts, to address VAWC effectively.

**Conclusion:** This study highlights the critical role of tailored community interventions and the enhanced enforcement of RA 9262 in mitigating VAWC in Naga City. Recommendations include improving law enforcement training, developing economic support initiatives for affected women, and ensuring continuous evaluation of prevention and support strategies. These efforts aim to promote culturally sensitive and sustainable solutions to combat violence against women and children.

**Keywords:** Violence Against Women (VAW), Republic Act 9262, Contributory Factors, Naga City, Community Interventions

### INTRODUCTION

Violence against women (VAW) remains a pervasive global issue and a significant violation of human rights, affecting women regardless of geographic, cultural, or socioeconomic context. The World Health Organization (WHO, 2021) reports that approximately 30% of women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner or others, with variations ranging from 20% to 33% across regions. This alarming prevalence highlights the far-reaching consequences of violence, which include physical harm, mental health challenges, and economic costs. Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan aptly described VAW as an issue that “knows no boundaries of geography, culture, or wealth,” underscoring its universal nature. While many countries have implemented laws and policies to combat VAW, challenges persist in addressing its root causes and ensuring effective implementation at both systemic and community levels.

In the Philippine context, violence against women and children (VAWC) remains a pressing issue. Despite a gradual decline in reported cases, 11.16 thousand incidents of VAWC were recorded nationwide in 2020 (Statista Research Department, 2023). Region V, which includes Naga City in the Bicol Region, reported 2,512 cases involving women and children in 2020 alone (PNP Regional Women’s and Children Protection Desk, 2020). Within Naga City



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specifically, 132 VAWC cases were documented in 2020, followed by a decrease to 90 cases in 2021, 40 in 2022, and 38 cases as of August 2023 (Naga City Police Office, 2023). Despite the existence of Republic Act No. 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004, which criminalizes physical, psychological, sexual, and economic abuse, VAWC remains a concern due to gaps in implementation, awareness, and community-level interventions.

Although numerous studies have explored VAW globally and nationally, there remains limited research focusing on the contributory factors of VAWC in Naga City. Existing literature tends to provide general findings that do not reflect the unique sociocultural and economic dynamics of local communities. This study aims to address this gap by investigating the underlying factors contributing to VAWC in Naga City, providing localized insights that can inform targeted interventions. Unlike previous studies, this research focuses on identifying actionable recommendations for local authorities, particularly the Naga City Police Office, to improve their anti-VAWC programs and strategies. The researcher's compelling interest in this issue stems from the persistent prevalence of VAWC cases in Naga City and the need for evidence-based, community-responsive solutions. Ultimately, this study sought to raise awareness, foster community engagement, and contribute to the development of safer and more equitable environments for women and children.

This study is guided by three key theories: Feminist Theory, Social Learning Theory, and Resource Theory, which collectively provide a comprehensive understanding of the factors contributing to Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) and inform the study's alignment with Republic Act No. 9262 (RA 9262).

Feminist Theory explains the occurrence of VAWC by examining power imbalances and gender inequalities inherent in patriarchal societies. It highlights how traditional gender roles normalize violence as a means for men to assert control over women and children. By emphasizing societal norms, the theory connects the study to the exploration of psychological, physical, and sexual abuse as products of entrenched gender roles. This theory provides a lens to analyze how cultural expectations perpetuate violence and underscores the emotional and mental impact on victims (Dobash & Dobash, 1979; Walby, 1990).

Social Learning Theory focuses on the intergenerational transmission of violent behaviors. It posits that individuals learn through observation and imitation, particularly within the family. Children exposed to violence in their homes are more likely to replicate abusive behaviors as adults. This theory supports the study's investigation into psychological abuse and the long-term effects of witnessing violence, which perpetuate the cycle of abuse. It also aligns with RA 9262's preventive and rehabilitative measures that aim to break the cycle through education and intervention (Bandura, 1973; Widom, 1989).

Resource Theory examines how disparities in access to resources influence power dynamics in relationships. Limited financial resources can lead to economic dependency, enabling perpetrators to exert control through economic coercion or physical dominance. The theory aligns with the study's focus on economic abuse and highlights the need for empowering victims through access to economic opportunities and support. This aligns with RA 9262's provisions that address financial control as a form of abuse, reinforcing the need for long-term support systems (Yodanis, 2004; Pence & Paymar, 1993).

Integrating these perspectives, the study introduces the Contributory Dynamics Theory of Violence Against Women and Children (CDT-VAWC). This theory emphasizes the interplay of societal norms, learned behaviors, and resource disparities in shaping the prevalence and persistence of violence. CDT-VAWC provides a holistic framework for analyzing contributory factors, such as physical, psychological, sexual, and economic abuse, while acknowledging the interconnected nature of these dynamics.

## Objectives

This study aims to explore the contributory factors influencing the prevalence of violence against women and children in Naga City, as framed by the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act (RA 9262).

Specifically, it sought to:

1. Determine the status of R.A 9262 in terms of:
  - a. Mandates;
  - b. Types of Offenses;
  - c. Number of Cases; and
  - d. Case Disposition
2. Analyze the contributory factors of R.A 9262 along:
  - a. Physical;



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- b. Psychological;
- c. Economic; and
- d. Sexual

3. Propose an intervention program to lessen the cases of violence against women and children

## METHODS

### Research Design

This study utilized a qualitative research design to explore the factors influencing violence against women and children (VAWC) under Republic Act No. 9262 in Naga City, Camarines Sur. Qualitative methods were chosen for their ability to delve into complex, socially constructed phenomena like VAWC, offering rich, detailed insights into the experiences, perceptions, and causes of such violence (Creswell & Poth, 2018; Patton, 2015).

The research aimed to analyze the types of offenses covered by R.A. 9262, reported cases, legal outcomes, and contributory factors of VAWC, particularly in its physical, psychological, sexual, and economic dimensions. Data collection involved document analysis of legal records and case reports, along with interviews with key stakeholders, including social workers and law enforcement personnel, who provided context on the implementation of the law and social dynamics affecting VAWC.

The qualitative approach allowed the study to uncover significant narratives and examine underlying factors such as gender roles, economic disparities, and systemic challenges that perpetuate violence (Denzin & Lincoln, 2018). This method aligned with the study's goal of offering comprehensive insights into the multifaceted nature of VAWC.

### Population and Sampling

This study focused on key personnel from the Women and Children Protection Desks (WCPD) and the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWD) in Naga City, who play critical roles in addressing violence against women and children (VAWC). The participants included one officer from each of the six WCPD stations and the headquarters of the Naga City Police Office, as well as two representatives from the CSWD, totaling nine participants. WCPD personnel were chosen for their direct involvement in investigating, reporting, and managing VAWC cases, providing insights into legal processes, case dispositions, and law enforcement practices. CSWD personnel were included for their expertise in victim support services such as counseling, shelter, and financial assistance, offering a broader perspective on the socio-economic and systemic factors influencing VAWC.

Using purposive sampling, participants were deliberately selected based on their specialized knowledge and experience relevant to the study. This approach ensured that the data gathered was rich and focused, providing a comprehensive understanding of the factors surrounding VAWC in Naga City.

### Instrument

The study utilized an unstructured interview guide tailored to gather insights from key personnel of the Women and Children Protection Desks (WCPD) and the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWD). These personnel, with their expertise and direct involvement in addressing Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) cases under R.A. 9262, provided valuable professional perspectives.

The unstructured format allowed for open-ended discussions, enabling participants to share their professional experiences and observations regarding physical, psychological, sexual, and economic abuse. The interview guide underwent expert review to ensure it was aligned with the study's objectives, culturally appropriate, and effective in eliciting detailed, relevant information about the factors influencing VAWC in Naga City.

### Data Collection

The study's data collection was conducted in two stages to understand the factors influencing violence against women and children (VAWC) under R.A. 9262 in Naga City. In the first stage, official records were obtained from the Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) and the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWD). These documents provided data on the number and types of VAWC cases, categorized as physical, psychological, sexual, or economic abuse, and the status of these cases, such as dismissed, under investigation, or resolved. The CSWD also provided information on the support and interventions offered to victims.

The second stage involved unstructured interviews with WCPD and CSWD personnel. These interviews, guided by open-ended questions, captured the participants' insights into the factors driving VAWC, including social, economic,



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and psychological contributors. Each session, lasting 45 minutes to an hour, allowed participants to share their perspectives freely. The entire process spanned four weeks, with two weeks dedicated to gathering records and another two weeks for interviews. This approach combined quantitative data from official documents with qualitative insights from the interviews, offering a comprehensive understanding of the issue.

### Data Analysis

The study used a dual approach to analyze data, combining documentary analysis and thematic analysis. The primary focus was to understand the status and contributing factors of violence against women and children (VAWC) under Republic Act 9262 (R.A. 9262). This involved examining both existing records and qualitative data.

First, documentary analysis was conducted using official records from the Women and Children Protection Desks (WCPD) and the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWD). These documents included data on reported cases of VAWC, categorized by types of abuse (physical, psychological, sexual, and economic) and case outcomes (e.g., dismissed, under investigation, or convicted). This analysis provided insights into the implementation of R.A. 9262, showing trends in cases, law enforcement actions, and social interventions related to VAWC.

Secondly, qualitative data was gathered through interviews with WCPD and CSWD personnel, which were analyzed thematically. Thematic analysis helped identify key themes and patterns related to the factors contributing to VAWC. This approach explored how societal norms, economic pressures, and psychological aspects played a role in the occurrence of abuse, based on the perspectives shared by interviewees. Responses were categorized into themes such as physical, psychological, and economic abuse, offering a deeper understanding of the underlying factors and how these are perceived by professionals handling these cases.

### Ethical Consideration

In conducting this study on Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) under Republic Act No. 9262, several ethical considerations were carefully followed to ensure the safety, respect, and well-being of all participants. Before starting the research, participants were fully informed about the purpose of the study, the methods used, and how their information would be handled. Informed consent was obtained from all participants, including key personnel from the Women and Children Protection Desks (WCPD) and the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWD), ensuring that their participation was entirely voluntary.

To protect the confidentiality of participants, all data collected was securely stored, and access was limited to the researcher and authorized personnel only. Interviews were conducted in a private and respectful environment, allowing participants to share their insights comfortably while being mindful of their emotional well-being. After each session, participants were assured that their responses would remain confidential. Any data collected was used solely for research purposes and securely discarded once the analysis was complete, maintaining the highest standards of data privacy and protection.

## RESULTS and DISCUSSION

This section presents the findings on the implementation and status of Republic Act No. 9262 (R.A. 9262) in Naga City. The study explores the law's mandates, types of offenses covered, and their practical application. Insights from Women and Children Protection Desks (WCPD) and the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWD) provide a localized perspective on how the law functions to address violence against women and children (VAWC).

### 1. The status of R.A 9262 in Naga City

#### a. Mandates

R.A. 9262, known as the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004, establishes comprehensive mandates to protect victims of abuse. The law requires the creation of Women and Children Protection Desks (WCPD) in every police station to provide legal assistance, facilitate the issuance of Temporary Protection Orders (TPO), and ensure victims' access to social, medical, and psychological services. Its further mandates coordination among law enforcement, social welfare agencies, and local government units to implement a holistic response to VAWC.



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The legislation defines four types of abuse—physical, psychological, economic, and sexual—to provide a clear legal basis for addressing a wide spectrum of violence. While these mandates align with global human rights standards, local implementation in Naga City reveals both achievements and challenges. Key accomplishments include the establishment of dedicated WCPD units and coordination with CSWD. However, resource limitations, particularly in remote barangays, and gaps in personnel training hinder the full realization of the law's objectives.

This study highlights that R.A. 9262 is a vital legal framework aligned with international conventions like CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention, both of which emphasize a victim-centered approach to addressing gender-based violence. However, as Garcia (2020) notes, consistent capacity-building and public awareness campaigns are critical for addressing the gaps in local implementation.

Studies such as those by Garcia (2020) have emphasized the importance of continuous capacity-building and public awareness campaigns to address local implementation gaps. This study reaffirms that while R.A. 9262 aligns with global conventions like CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention, local efforts to strengthen enforcement and public awareness remain vital for its effective implementation.

#### b. Types of Offenses

R.A. 9262 addresses four key types of violence, reflecting the multifaceted nature of VAWC: Physical Abuse involves direct acts of harm, such as hitting or slapping, often leaving visible evidence. It is the most commonly reported and straightforward type of abuse for legal action. Psychological Abuse includes verbal threats, stalking, and other actions that instill fear or emotional distress. Despite its invisibility, it has long-lasting mental health implications. Economic Abuse restricts financial independence, such as withholding resources or sabotaging employment opportunities. This form of abuse is less recognized but equally detrimental to victims' autonomy. Sexual Abuse encompasses non-consensual acts like rape or harassment, violating the victim's dignity and autonomy.

In Naga City, these offenses are prevalent, with physical and psychological abuse being the most frequently documented by the WCPD and CSWD. Economic and sexual abuses, though reported less frequently, are equally significant and require nuanced approaches. Data from the WCPD shows that while physical abuse often prompts immediate legal action, other forms, such as economic and psychological abuse, are more challenging to address due to societal stigma and limited understanding.

These findings align with the World Health Organization's (WHO, 2021) definition of VAWC, which emphasizes physical, sexual, and psychological harm, along with unjust restrictions on freedom. Globally, frameworks like CEDAW highlight the importance of addressing all forms of abuse, ensuring legal protections are comprehensive and victim-centered. Locally, the provision of services such as protection orders, counseling, and legal aid under R.A. 9262 reflects these principles but requires stronger implementation mechanisms to overcome barriers such as limited resources and lack of awareness.

In summary, while R.A. 9262 provides a robust legal foundation for addressing VAWC in Naga City, its effectiveness depends on continuous efforts to enhance enforcement, strengthen inter-agency coordination, and improve public understanding of all forms of abuse. These findings reaffirm the critical need for capacity-building and victim-centered policies to bridge gaps in implementation.

#### c. Number of Cases

To understand the scope and impact of VAWC, this study draws on data from the Naga City Police Office (2020-2023) and the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWD). The persistent issue of Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) underscores the need for comprehensive analysis to inform policy and intervention strategies. In Naga City, data collected from the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWD) from 2020 to 2023 reveals the scope and nature of



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VAWC cases, providing critical insights into reporting trends, victim support mechanisms, and community-specific challenges.

Table No. 1

Number of Cases of Violence against Women in Naga City from 2020-2023

General Sources	Types of offenses	Total No. of cases per types of offenses (2020-2023)	Total No. of cases in Naga City (2020-2023)
Philippine National Police Naga City	Physical	165	286
	Psychological	91	
	Economic	24	
	Sexual	6	
City Social Welfare and Development	Physical	26	79
	Psychological	13	
	Economic	26	
	Sexual	14	
Total Number of VAWC Cases in Naga City from 2020-2023			365

Table 1 summarizes the number of reported cases, categorized by type of offense (physical, psychological, economic, and sexual abuse) and source (PNP and CSWD). Over the four-year period, a total of 365 cases were reported: 286 cases through the PNP and 79 cases managed by the CSWD. Physical Abuse was the most frequently reported form of violence, with 165 cases recorded by PNP and 26 by CSWD. These numbers highlight the pressing need for robust legal protections and support systems to address immediate harm. Psychological Abuse followed as the second most reported type, with 91 cases recorded by PNP and 13 by CSWD. This indicates the pervasive nature of mental and emotional violence, which often has far-reaching consequences for victims' well-being. Economic Abuse, comprising 24 cases from PNP and 26 from CSWD, reflects the insidious impact of financial control and deprivation on victims' autonomy and livelihoods. Sexual Abuse, while less frequently reported (6 cases via PNP and 14 via CSWD), remains a critical concern requiring tailored interventions to address stigma and provide access to justice for survivors.

These findings underscore a disparity in reporting between the PNP and CSWD, suggesting differences in data collection, accessibility, and the nature of services provided. The prevalence of physical and psychological abuse aligns with both national and global trends, while the relatively lower numbers for economic and sexual abuse highlight persistent challenges of underreporting.

The underreporting of economic and sexual violence reflects broader societal and cultural barriers, including fear of stigma, normalization of abuse, and lack of awareness regarding victims' rights. Enhanced public awareness campaigns and training for local authorities are essential to address these issues and encourage victims to report all forms of abuse confidently. Strengthened coordination between the PNP and CSWD can also improve data integration and holistic support services for survivors.

Globally, the World Health Organization (WHO, 2020) and UN Women (2023) emphasize the critical need to address all forms of VAWC comprehensively, as underreporting remains a pervasive challenge



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worldwide. Studies from the Statista Research Department (2023) and Garcia (2020) corroborate these findings, noting that many cases of economic and sexual abuse are often obscured by societal stigma and systemic gaps in service delivery. Several studies have been conducted at the national and local levels, revealing similar trends in the incidence of VAWC. For example, De La Cruz et al. (2020) conducted a study on the impact of R.A. 9262 in Metro Manila, finding similar patterns in the reporting of physical and psychological abuse, as well as the challenges of addressing economic and sexual abuse. Their findings align with the data from Naga City, further underscoring the need for enhanced enforcement and training for law enforcement and social welfare personnel. Another study by Tan and Reyes (2021) highlighted the persistent gaps in public awareness and resource allocation, which mirror the challenges faced in Naga City.

d. Case Disposition

The disposition of VAWC cases from 2020 to 2023, as summarized in Table 2, sheds light on the outcomes of reported incidents. Case outcomes are categorized into three types: cases filed, amicably settled cases, and cases refused to be filed. The data reveals notable trends and challenges in navigating the legal and social systems:

Table No. 2

Total Number of Case Dispositions of Violence Against Women and Children in Naga City from 2020-2023

Sources	Case Disposition	Total No. of case dispositions (2020-2023)	Total No. of case dispositions (2020-2023)
Philippine National Police Naga City	Case Filed	244	286
	Amicably Settled	15	
	Refused to File Case	27	
City Social Welfare and Development	Case Filed	32	79
	Amicably Settled	18	
	Refused to File Case	29	
Total Number of Case Dispositions of VAWC in Naga City from 2020-2023			365

Filed Cases:

A total of 244 cases were filed by the PNP, while 32 cases were filed by the CSWD. These figures represent proactive attempts to pursue justice through formal legal channels. However, pursuing formal cases often requires extensive resources, legal assistance, and emotional resilience from victims, posing challenges to achieving equitable outcomes. The filing process is governed by Section 11 of R.A. 9262, which outlines the procedures for filing cases and the legal actions that can be taken to protect the victims (R.A. 9262, 2004).

Amicably Settled Cases:

The PNP reported 15 amicably settled cases, and the CSWD recorded 18. While such resolutions may reflect a preference for reconciliation, they raise concerns about the adequacy of these outcomes in ensuring victims' safety and addressing the root causes of abuse. Mediation processes, if not handled appropriately, can perpetuate harm by failing to hold perpetrators accountable or prioritize victims' well-being. The law mandates that mediation and settlement should only occur when it is deemed safe for the victim and does not compromise their well-being or safety (R.A. 9262, Section 9)



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#### Refused to File:

A total of 27 cases from the PNP and 29 from the CSWD were not filed, largely due to victims' reluctance, insufficient evidence, or procedural barriers. This highlights the systemic challenges faced by survivors, including fear of retaliation, lack of trust in the justice system, and the emotional toll of legal proceedings. The Victim Protection Provisions in R.A. 9262 (Section 8) are designed to safeguard victims, but many remain hesitant to press charges due to systemic barriers or societal pressures.

These findings emphasize the need for holistic victim support systems that address not only the legal aspects but also the emotional, psychological, and socioeconomic needs of survivors. Strengthened collaboration between the PNP, CSWD, and other stakeholders is crucial to ensure a seamless and victim-centered approach.

The high prevalence of amicable settlements and refused cases reflects underlying societal pressures, including family expectations and economic dependence, which often discourage victims from pursuing formal legal action. Such challenges are consistent with findings by Pas-iwen (2022) and Partlow (2020), who observed similar trends in other regions, where societal and familial pressures lead victims to opt for informal resolutions, prioritizing perceived family unity over justice.

Globally, studies like Douglas & Thomas (2020) and Sampat (2019) have critiqued the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms in cases of domestic violence. These approaches often fail to adequately address the safety and long-term needs of victims, as reconciliation processes may inadvertently expose survivors to further harm. In Naga City, the reliance on amicable settlements highlights the urgent need for systemic reforms and enhanced support structures to empower victims and reduce dependence on informal resolutions.

## 2. The Contributory Factors of R.A. 9262

In investigating the factors contributing to violence against women and children (VAWC) under the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act (R.A. 9262), the researcher conducted interviews with key participants from various sectors involved in addressing VAWC. In this discussion, Participant 1 represents the WCPD Naga City Police Office (P1), Participant 2 represents WCPD Station 1 (P2), Participant 3 represents WCPD Station 2 (P3), Participant 4 represents WCPD Station 3 (P4), Participant 5 represents WCPD Station 4 (P5), Participant 6 represents WCPD Station 5 (P6), Participant 7 represents WCPD Station 6 (P7), Participant 8 is from the Naga City Social Welfare and Development Office (P8), and Participant 9 is also from the Naga City Social Welfare and Development Office (P9). The insights gathered reveal the complex interplay of physical, psychological, and economic factors influencing VAWC cases, leading to a deeper understanding of the multifaceted nature of these contributing elements. Through these interviews, valuable insights were gathered regarding the physical, psychological, sexual, and economic factors influencing VAWC cases. The goal is to distill the experiences and observations of these individuals, providing a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted nature of these contributing factors.

### a. Physical Abuse

#### Substance Abuse

Substance abuse, especially alcohol and drugs, was identified as a major contributor to physical violence in relationships. Participants highlighted how intoxication impairs judgment and heightens aggression, often escalating minor disagreements into violent altercations. Substance abuse affects the brain's ability to regulate emotions and decision-making. Alcohol and drugs can reduce self-awareness and inhibit the mechanisms that typically prevent aggression, making individuals more likely to act violently. For instance, alcohol lowers inhibitions, intensifies emotional reactions, and diminishes an individual's ability to assess the consequences of their actions. When under the influence of substances, individuals may misinterpret words or actions, triggering irrational responses. Disputes that might ordinarily be resolved peacefully can become





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violent due to heightened irritability or paranoia caused by the substance. Additionally, some drugs, such as stimulants, can exacerbate feelings of anger or aggression, further increasing the risk of violent behavior.

Participant 4 shared, *"The primary cause of physical abuse is when the man is drunk, and they have a misunderstanding."*

Participant 5 emphasized, *"In terms of alcohol. Especially when the man is drunk."*

Participant 6 added, *"The effect of drinking is worse. Sometimes when he's drunk, he doesn't understand anything, and that's when the violence starts."*

These statements illustrate how substance abuse, particularly alcohol consumption, significantly contributes to physical violence by reducing impulse control and increasing aggressive behavior.

The role of substance abuse in physical violence calls for targeted interventions aimed at reducing alcohol and drug consumption. Support programs for abusers, such as rehabilitation services, should be prioritized to prevent intoxication from escalating to violence. Additionally, awareness programs for police officers and social workers should include identifying substance abuse issues, offering early intervention to both the abuser and victim.

The findings on the factors contributing to physical abuse consistently underscore the role of substance abuse, particularly alcohol, in escalating physical violence within intimate relationships. Studies like the Alcohol Rehab Guide (2023) report that around 55% of domestic abuse perpetrators are intoxicated when committing acts of violence, aligning with participant statements that alcohol consumption contributes to the onset of physical violence. Additionally, Njoya (2019) and WHO (2019) highlight drug and alcohol abuse as major contributors to physical violence, reinforcing the need to address substance abuse as a preventative measure for reducing violence against women.

## Jealousy

Jealousy, rooted in insecurities and mistrust, emerged as a significant factor contributing to violence in relationships. Participants described scenarios where accusations of infidelity or emotional distance triggered violent reactions, especially when one partner exhibited possessive or paranoid behaviors. Jealousy arises when individuals perceive a threat to their relationship or feel insecure about their partner's loyalty. This emotional response often leads to controlling behavior, attempts to restrict a partner's independence, and misinterpretations of innocent actions. The underlying insecurities fuel conflict, which may escalate into emotional or physical violence, especially in relationships lacking trust or effective communication. Possessiveness and accusations of infidelity often create tension within the relationship. For example, participants noted that even small triggers—such as a late return home—could spark arguments that escalate into physical abuse. The violent reaction may be an attempt by the abuser to assert dominance or express feelings of inadequacy in a harmful way.

Participant 3 remarked, *"Sometimes, men, especially women who work, if they come home late, will ask, 'Why are you late? Did you meet someone?'"*

Participant 7 shared, *"Sometimes the man, when he can't accept that his wife has a life of her own, becomes possessive, and then physical violence happens."*

Participant 8 explained, *"Being overly jealous sometimes leads to the man hurting the woman because he thinks she has someone else."*

The statements highlight that jealousy, particularly linked to insecurity or lack of trust, often triggers emotional and physical abuse when partners feel threatened by their partner's independence or perceived infidelity. The connection between jealousy and violence suggests that addressing insecurities and promoting emotional regulation within relationships is essential. Counseling services that focus on managing jealousy and developing trust-building skills should be made accessible. Furthermore, communication workshops could provide couples with tools to resolve misunderstandings before they escalate into violence.

Jealousy and suspicion of infidelity were also frequently mentioned by participants as causes of physical violence. Research by Kyegombe & Buller (2022) supports these findings, indicating that jealousy, often rooted in insecurities, operates as a precursor to violent acts. This is consistent with Sanz-Barbero



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(2019), which identifies jealousy and mistrust as significant factors contributing to intimate partner violence (IPV). Furthermore, Kyegombe and Buller (2022) emphasize that gender roles and imbalances contribute to jealousy-driven violence.

### Relationship Conflicts

Unresolved relationship issues, such as miscommunication and lack of emotional connection were identified as triggers for physical abuse. These conflicts contribute to physical violence often lies in unresolved emotional tension, and unmet expectations that build up over time. How this happens stems from poor conflict resolution, rising emotions, and the inability to regulate anger, which cause minor disagreements to escalate into violent confrontations.

Participant 4 observed, *"Sometimes, just a minor argument between the couple, a little discussion, and they end up hurting each other."*

Participant 9 added, *"Sometimes men have violent reactions when there are misunderstandings; they can't control their anger."*

Participant 6 explained, *"If relationship problems are not resolved, this becomes the cause of fighting and physical harm."*

These statements emphasize how unresolved conflicts, combined with poor emotional control, create tension and frustration that can escalate into physical violence. Without effective communication and conflict resolution, small disagreements can quickly spiral into violent behavior. The escalation of relationship issues into physical violence points to the need for conflict resolution and emotional regulation education. Providing counseling services to couples and individuals could help them manage disagreements in non-violent ways. Relationship education, focusing on communication and problem-solving skills, could reduce the risk of violence and help couples navigate conflicts constructively.

Unresolved relationship conflicts were another major factor in physical abuse. Balahadia (2022) highlights how minor arguments can escalate into violent confrontations when emotional grievances are left unaddressed, a view also supported by Bacchi (2020), who notes that men often deflect responsibility for abuse, perpetuating cycles of violence without resolution. Pas-iwen (2022) further discusses how unresolved emotional conflicts within families frequently lead to withdrawal from the legal system, allowing abuse to continue unchecked. These findings underscore the importance of effective conflict resolution and emotional regulation in preventing physical violence in intimate relationships.

### b. Psychological Abuse

#### Manipulation and Control

Abusers employ psychological manipulation and emotional exploitation to exert control over their victims, creating cycles of self-doubt and emotional entrapment. This involves twisting situations, blaming victims, and using emotional tactics to keep them in a state of confusion and dependence. Additionally, abusers manipulate victims by involving children, which further exacerbates emotional vulnerability and complicates decision-making, making it difficult for victims to leave abusive situations.

Participant 8: *"He wants to manipulate the woman, creating mental torture. For example, he ensures she won't leave him, even though he's an abuser, by manipulating her thoughts. He makes her feel that he's the victim, and if she leaves him, she'll seem like the bad one."*

Participant 1: *"When he blames everything on you, like saying, 'I drink because you don't take care of me,' that's manipulation because he's twisting the situation."*

Participant 6: *"They take the children away and say, 'You'll never see them again if you leave me.' That's incredibly painful for a mother."*

Participant 7: *"They use children as a threat. It's hard for the woman because she starts to second-guess whether she should leave."*



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Manipulation creates a cycle of emotional dependence and self-doubt, making victims question their reality and justifications for their experiences. Through tactics such as blame-shifting, gaslighting, and emotional coercion, abusers keep victims trapped in a state of confusion and fear. The involvement of children adds an additional layer of manipulation, as abusers weaponize the emotional bond between parents and children to further control and intimidate their victims. This creates an impossible situation for victims, making it harder for them to break free from abusive dynamics. Strengthening legal frameworks and promoting awareness campaigns are essential to help victims recognize these manipulative behaviors and seek support to rebuild their emotional well-being and autonomy.

Participant narratives on manipulation and emotional abuse, such as mental manipulation and blame-shifting, align with research by Kyegombe and Buller (2022), highlighting the need for control and power dynamics. Bullock et al. (2020) emphasize how manipulation creates emotional dependence, perpetuating abuse cycles.

### Verbal Mistreatment

Verbal mistreatment is a significant component of psychological abuse, manifesting in derogatory language, insults, and humiliation. These harmful interactions systematically undermine the victim's self-worth and emotional well-being, creating a toxic environment of fear, shame, and emotional distress. Abusers engage in verbal mistreatment by consistently demeaning their victims, often using hurtful words to distort the victim's self-perception. This creates a cycle of self-doubt and emotional instability, making it difficult for victims to rebuild their confidence and trust in themselves. Additionally, verbal mistreatment can be directed toward humiliating the victim in front of others, further damaging their self-esteem and fostering isolation.

Participant 3: *"The words they say are incredibly painful, unforgettable. 'You're worthless,' 'You're ugly,' or 'You won't survive without me.' They repeat it so much that you start to believe it might be true."*

Participant 4: *"It's like he wants to humiliate you even in front of family or friends. He'll say hurtful things like, 'You're lazy,' or 'You don't know anything.' So, even in front of others, you already feel so low about yourself."*

Verbal mistreatment served as a psychological tool that manipulates the victim's emotional state, breaking down their sense of self-worth and reinforcing feelings of inadequacy and helplessness. It created a damaging atmosphere of fear, shame, and isolation, often leading to anxiety, depression, and long-term emotional trauma. Unlike physical abuse, verbal abuse leaves psychological scars that are harder to heal, impacting the victim's perception of reality and overall mental health. Addressing this issue involves promoting awareness about the devastating impact of abusive language, offering psychological support, and ensuring legal measures to protect victims from repeated mistreatment. Verbal abuse, as described by participants, reinforces dominance and emotional degradation, supported by Balahadia (2022) and Pas-iwen (2022), who link it to long-term psychological harm.

### Emotional Distress and Trust Issues

In cases of psychological abuse, emotional distress and trust issues often become contributing factors that deeply impact victims. These experiences disrupt a victim's mental well-being, fostering feelings of anxiety, fear, and hopelessness. The following statements from participants provide insight into how emotional distress and trust issues perpetuate the cycle of psychological abuse:

Participant 6: *"He had another woman. The victim kept thinking he was deceiving her. She almost lost her appetite and couldn't sleep because she was constantly worried he might be doing it again."*

Participant 1: *"When you find out he has someone else, you keep thinking about where he's been, what he's doing. It drives you crazy, especially when he comes home acting like nothing happened."*



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Participant 3: *"The woman can't sleep, thinking about her problems and how she'll support her family. It's like she's always scared and feels hopeless."*

Participant 2: *"The trauma isn't just being left behind, but also being spoken to harshly. Sometimes, you question if you're even alive because it feels so meaningless."*

Emotional distress and trust issues create a psychological environment where victims feel insecure, isolated, and undervalued. These factors impair the victim's emotional vulnerability, making it difficult for them to distinguish reality from manipulative narratives. Trust is systematically eroded through repeated emotional attacks and infidelity, leaving victims in a state of constant fear and confusion. As a result, psychological abuse becomes deeply ingrained in the victim's everyday life, leading to long-term trauma and diminished self-worth. Addressing these issues necessitates professional psychological intervention, emotional support groups, and education on rebuilding trust and maintaining healthy emotional boundaries.

Jealousy and suspicion, common triggers for emotional abuse, are discussed in Kyegombe and Buller (2022) and Masongsong (2023), showing how these dynamics lead to mistrust and psychological distress. Additionally, Pas-iwen (2022) highlights how systemic issues, such as lack of victim support, exacerbate ongoing trauma, stressing the importance of mental health and legal interventions.

### c. Economic Abuse

Economic abuse, defined under R.A. 9262, involves the manipulation and control of financial resources to dominate or harm a partner. While often linked to marriage, this form of abuse extends to non-marital relationships, live-in partnerships, and cases involving children born out of wedlock. Key themes identified include dependency and control, employment restrictions, and insufficient financial support. These aspects reveal how abusers influence economic power to perpetuate cycles of dependency and abuse.

#### Dependency and Control

Economic abuse manifests primarily through dependency and control, as abusers manipulate financial resources to dominate their partners. Victims often find themselves trapped in cycles of financial reliance, unable to make independent decisions.

Participant 1 highlighted this with: *"When we talk about economic aspects in R.A. 9262, it doesn't necessarily mean the victim is the legal wife. Most cases of economic abuse involve children of men... most of the time, he leaves and doesn't provide support."*

Participant 3: *"It's a form of economic abuse, stopping you from working because he promised to take care of everything, but he didn't fulfill that promise."*

Participant 6: *"For example, if the couple separates, and the woman has no means of livelihood... sometimes, the man doesn't want to provide support because 'we've already separated'..."*

Dependency and control are deeply rooted in economic abuse, where abusers influence financial power to dominate victims. Many women, especially young mothers or separated partners, find themselves economically dependent due to limited opportunities or societal expectations. This dependency traps them in cycles of poverty and abuse, where leaving is not an option due to the lack of financial security. This aligns with Haifley (2021), who emphasizes that financial control strips victims of autonomy and reinforces abuse cycles.

#### Employment Restrictions

Employment restrictions are a significant aspect of economic abuse. Participants frequently described how abusers impede their ability to work, creating a state of financial dependence.

Participant 2 stated: *"Because the man makes you financially dependent on him... you are deprived, confined to the home."*



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Participant 3 stated: *"You have a job, and I stay home... you asked me to stop working, promising to take care of everything... But when the salary comes, nothing is given to you..."*

Participant 7 stated *"The man has no job, the woman wants to work, but the man prevents her."*

Employment restrictions are a direct tactic of economic abuse that strips victims of independence. By preventing women from earning, abusers ensure control over their lives. Such actions not only hinder victims' ability to leave abusive relationships but also perpetuate financial instability. Policies must advocate for victims' right to work and ensure protective workplace measures for those experiencing economic abuse. Counseling and job placement services should be integrated into abuse recovery programs, enabling victims to rebuild their independence. Public awareness campaigns can also address the societal norms that reinforce these restrictive dynamics. This is consistent with research by ADB (2023), which highlights how preventing employment maintains control and limits victims' financial independence.

#### Insufficient Financial Support

Insufficient financial support deepens the power imbalance in abusive relationships, leaving victims struggling to meet even their most basic needs. When an abuser fails to provide the necessary resources, despite having the means, it forces victims into a cycle of financial hardship. Without access to stable income or support, victims are often left relying on others for help or face overwhelming economic distress. This creates a situation where independence becomes nearly impossible, trapping them in a vulnerable and precarious situation.

Participant 4 highlighted this statement, *"In economic abuse, it happens when you don't take responsibility for your former live-in partner... If you're not married, and there's a child, the father is only obligated to support the child."*

Participant 5: *"Some just had children and don't provide support... Others have jobs, but it's not enough."*

Participant 9: *"If they're married, the father's obligation is to provide support, including the wife, even if they're separated. The support is insufficient."*

Insufficient financial support not only affects the immediate physical needs of victims but also hinders long-term recovery and independence. To address this, stronger legal enforcement of financial obligations is needed, alongside social programs that provide temporary financial aid and job training for victims. Increased advocacy for victims' rights ensures that financial justice is served, allowing survivors to rebuild their lives free from economic exploitation. Sanz-Barbero (2019) discusses this dynamic, where economic dependency forces victims to rely on limited financial support, trapping them in cycles of poverty and abuse.

Strengthening the enforcement of child and spousal support laws is essential. Accessible legal aid and mediation services should be available to victims, ensuring swift resolution of support disputes. Social programs can also provide interim financial aid to bridge gaps while legal processes are ongoing, preventing further victimization.

#### d. Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse within intimate relationships encompasses a wide array of behaviors and experiences, often rooted in complex dynamics of consent, emotional manipulation, and gender roles. This section explores three significant themes such as the Marital Rape and Coercion, Coercive Control, and Obligations and Gender Roles and examines how these elements contribute to the perpetration of sexual abuse in relationships.

##### Marital Rape and Coercion

Marital rape is a significant issue where one partner forces the other into sexual activity without consent, even within the context of marriage. This form of sexual abuse arises from a misuse of power and



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entitlement, leading to non-consensual sexual encounters. Participants emphasized the dangerous belief that sexual obligations are automatically assumed within marriage, creating an environment where consent is often disregarded. Victims may comply out of fear, emotional manipulation, or societal expectations. This aligns with research indicating that coercion in intimate relationships perpetuates a cycle of abuse, where power imbalances override personal autonomy and consent. This theme is supported by the following statements of participants:

Participant 3: *"Regarding sexual abuse, just because you are married doesn't mean you have the right to do everything to your spouse. We have marital rape laws, where if the woman does not want to engage in sexual intercourse with the man, he cannot force her."*

Participant 7: *"In sexual abuse, one example is that a husband forces his wife to have sex with him; that is marital rape, even if they are married. This is still sexual abuse. Yes, he uses their marriage as a way to coerce the woman into sex."*

This discussion highlights the misconception that marriage automatically grants sexual access, contributing to the issue of marital rape. Despite legal recognition under R.A. 9262, cultural beliefs continue to trivialize or deny its existence, fostering power imbalances and enabling non-consensual sexual encounters. Victims experience long-term psychological trauma, and societal norms perpetuate gender inequalities by undervaluing consent. Addressing this issue requires public education and legal awareness to promote respect for bodily autonomy and mutual consent in relationships.

Marital rape, coercive control, and gender roles are deeply interconnected, contributing to the normalization of sexual abuse in intimate relationships. Research highlights how societal and cultural beliefs about spousal entitlement justify sexual coercion, where women are pressured or coerced into meeting their husbands' sexual desires. For instance, Follingstad et al. (2020) emphasize how spousal entitlement perpetuates the minimization of marital rape, while Renzetti and Lee (2021) explore how cultural views on marriage contribute to justifying sexual coercion.

### Coercive Control

Coercive control is a form of manipulation that pressures victims into sexual activities through fear, emotional distress, and a sense of obligation. It goes beyond physical force, creating an environment where victims feel trapped and unable to assert their boundaries. In intimate relationships, abusers exert dominance by limiting victims' autonomy, making them feel powerless to refuse unwanted acts. Victims may consent out of fear of conflict, emotional retaliation, or the belief that their boundaries are irrelevant. This manipulation perpetuates a cycle of abuse, stripping victims of their ability to make informed, voluntary decisions, leaving them emotionally and psychologically compromised. This theme is supported by the following statements of participants:

Participant 2: *"For example, there's a case of sexual abuse where I didn't know if he was already sick because he said he couldn't sleep without having sex. That's what happened with the woman, and she used that to file a case against him, but he consented. He just agreed because he didn't want them to fight."*

Participant 4: *"Example, if you're being made to perform, like dancing or being filmed, or being forced to watch porn, things like that."*

Participant 9: *"As for me, I haven't yet acted on a case of marital rape, but sexual abuse often occurs when a man does not respect a woman. In terms of sexual dynamics, not every moment is the woman available; when she is forced by the man, it results in sexual abuse."*

Coercive control targets victims' emotional well-being, fostering dependence and fear that undermine their self-worth and autonomy. This form of abuse, lacking physical force, still inflicts significant emotional and psychological harm, leading to lasting damage. Its long-term effects on mental health and relationships highlight the need for public education and intervention to support victims and prevent its perpetuation.



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Additionally, psychological manipulation plays a significant role, with tactics that create fear and dependency, making it difficult for victims to assert their boundaries. This is consistent with Koss et al. (2018), who discuss coercive control as a common tactic that blurs the lines of consent. Substance abuse further exacerbates these issues, with studies such as those by Njoya (2019) and the Alcohol Rehab Guide (2023) highlighting the link between alcohol use and increased likelihood of violent behavior. Together, these findings demonstrate how deeply rooted gender norms and substance abuse contribute to the perpetuation of sexual violence in intimate relationships.

#### Obligations and Gender Roles

Cultural perceptions of gender roles within marriage contribute to the normalization of coercion and sexual abuse. These traditional views position women as subordinate, with a duty to fulfill their husband's sexual needs, often leading to situations where consent is ignored. This creates an environment where women may feel obligated to comply with unwanted sexual advances, stripping them of autonomy and reinforcing harmful power imbalances. This theme is supported by the following statements of participants:

Participant 3: *"One reason is the perception that it is a woman's obligation to the man."*

Participant 6: *"Yes, he uses their marriage as a way to coerce the woman into sex."*

Participant 5: *"The reason is sexual desire because the man forces the woman to have sex."*

The pressure to conform to traditional gender roles within marriage fosters emotional and psychological manipulation, leading to coercion and abuse. This creates an imbalance of power, making it difficult for women to assert boundaries and seek help. Addressing these harmful norms through education, awareness, and legal reforms is essential for promoting equality and reducing sexual violence.

Garcia (2020) further emphasizes how these gender norms enable sexual violence by disregarding women's autonomy, portraying it as a cultural expectation rather than a violation of rights. Similarly, Reyes and Velasco (2018) argue that patriarchal norms, including the idea of women as subordinates in marriage, create an environment that normalizes sexual coercion, making it difficult for women to assert boundaries and seek help. These findings reinforce the need for addressing harmful traditional views and promoting legal and societal reforms to ensure women's rights and autonomy within relationships, ultimately reducing sexual violence.

### 3. Proposed intervention programs to lessen the cases of Violence Against Women and Children

In addressing violence against women and children in Naga City, a comprehensive approach involving various intervention programs is essential. These initiatives are designed to foster collaboration, enhance community awareness, and provide targeted support for survivors. Strengthening partnerships with key local agencies, including the Naga City Police Department, Social Welfare and Development Office, healthcare providers, and community organizations, ensures a unified and effective response. The creation of a centralized database allows for streamlined data management, aiding in informed decision-making and tailored interventions. This aligns with Caban (2022), who emphasized the importance of centralized systems in managing VAWC data effectively, enhancing the ability to respond to violence cases promptly.

**"Empowering Naga City Against Violence: Comprehensive Community-Based Support for Women"** is a proposed intervention program designed to provide a holistic, collaborative, and inclusive approach to addressing violence. This program focuses on fostering community engagement, strengthening legal and social support systems, and promoting economic empowerment for survivors. By integrating cultural sensitivity, legal aid, education, and community-driven initiatives, the program aims to create a safer and more supportive environment for women and children affected by violence.

Cultural sensitivity training plays a critical role in addressing unique cultural factors that contribute to violence, offering workshops for service providers to better understand and address these issues. Additionally, digital outreach programs and social media campaigns empower communities with resources and information, reaching a broader audience to raise awareness about violence and available support services. Collaborative initiatives with local celebrities and influencers further amplify the anti-VAW message, fostering



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a more engaged and informed community. This mirrors the findings from Caban (2022) and Sabne and Konapure (2023), which highlighted the role of digital empowerment and cultural sensitivity in reducing barriers to reporting violence and encouraging community involvement.

Legal support is strengthened through mobile legal clinics, bringing legal assistance directly to remote areas, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity for victims seeking justice. Mobile counseling services complement this by offering psychological support, assisting survivors in dealing with the emotional and social impacts of violence. These initiatives are supported by Njoya (2019), who emphasized the significance of legal aid in bridging the gap between survivors and justice, helping victims navigate complex legal processes. Economic empowerment programs are designed to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities, addressing financial dependence as a factor in economic abuse and promoting long-term stability for survivors. This aspect aligns with ADB (2023), which highlighted that economic empowerment is a key pathway to support women in leaving violent relationships.

School-based programs integrate preventive education on healthy relationships and gender equality within the curriculum, preparing students from an early age to recognize and prevent violence. Similarly, substance abuse prevention initiatives target the link between alcohol-related issues and violence, offering educational workshops and counseling to mitigate its effects. This approach resonates with the WHO (2019) recommendations, which emphasize the importance of school-based interventions and addressing underlying factors such as substance abuse to prevent violence against women. Barangay Task Forces further strengthen community-led responses by actively identifying unreported cases of violence and providing immediate assistance. This community-driven approach is supported by UNESCO (2021), which underscores the role of grassroots efforts in fostering safer communities and challenging traditional norms contributing to gender inequality.

Continuous monitoring and evaluation ensure the effectiveness of these programs, while public campaigns aim to break stigmas associated with violence, encouraging individuals to seek help and challenge traditional gender roles that perpetuate inequality. Radio-based awareness campaigns and Republic Act 9262 training sessions contribute to widespread community engagement and legal literacy, equipping residents and service providers with the knowledge needed to address and prevent violence against women and children. This approach is aligned with Garcia (2020) and Caban (2022), which stress the importance of continuous legal education and community awareness in enhancing the implementation of laws like RA 9262.

These intervention programs collectively create a comprehensive framework for addressing violence in Naga City. By integrating community collaboration, legal support, cultural sensitivity, and economic empowerment, this approach seeks to empower survivors and build a more inclusive, supportive, and proactive community against violence.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

In terms of the mandates of RA 9262, the law lays out a strong framework for tackling VAWC, but the study reveals that gaps in its implementation and coordination across local agencies sometimes hinder its full potential. The types of offenses most commonly reported include physical abuse, psychological abuse, and economic violence, with physical abuse being the most frequent. Case numbers show a steady increase in reported incidents, highlighting the need for more effective prevention and support systems. When examining case outcomes, delays in the judicial process and insufficient resources for enforcement appear to prevent timely justice.

The study also identified important contributory factors behind VAWC in Naga City. Based on interviews with personnel from the Naga City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWD) and various Women and Children Protection Desks (WCPD), the research highlights a range of factors influencing violence. Physical abuse often stems from jealousy, financial pressure, and substance use. Psychological abuse is also prevalent, with emotional manipulation, insults, and other controlling behaviors identified as key drivers. Economic abuse, including limiting access to money or job opportunities, traps individuals in abusive situations. While sexual violence was less frequently reported, it remains an important concern that needs greater attention in future interventions.





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This study's findings are consistent with previous research on Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) in the Philippines, particularly in highlighting the prevalence of physical abuse and economic violence (e.g., Masongsong, 2023). However, unlike studies conducted in urban areas like Metro Manila, where psychological and emotional abuse are often more pronounced (Tan & Reyes, 2021), physical abuse remains the most reported form of violence in Naga City. International studies (e.g., Kyegombe & Buller, 2022) have identified jealousy and substance abuse as significant contributors to intimate partner violence, but this study also underscores the role of economic pressures, which appears to be a distinctive factor in local cases. These contrasts and similarities with other studies point to the need for tailored interventions that consider both regional and cultural differences in addressing VAWC.

Based on these findings, the study proposes a targeted intervention framework to address the ongoing issues of VAWC in Naga City. This framework focuses on four main areas: Enhancing legal support services to ensure people facing violence can access justice more easily, economic empowerment programs that aim to help individuals break free from financial dependence on abusers, community education and outreach, especially in schools, to change societal attitudes and promote healthy relationships, digital support systems to reach those who might not be able to access traditional services, offering an additional layer of assistance.

The framework emphasizes a collaborative approach that involves local government units, law enforcement, social services, and the community. This holistic approach aims to provide more coordinated and responsive support to individuals affected by violence, with ongoing monitoring and evaluation to ensure that these programs are effective and adaptable to changing needs.

Moreover, this study contributes valuable insights into the situation of VAWC in Naga City. By examining RA 9262's status, understanding the factors behind the violence, and proposing practical interventions, the study highlights the importance of a collective effort from law enforcement, social services, and the community. Addressing VAWC requires a multifaceted approach that goes beyond just providing support. It also means tackling the underlying causes and ensuring that everyone plays a part in preventing violence and creating a safer environment for all.

Future research may focus on the effectiveness of these proposed interventions and explore how digital tools can be integrated into existing support systems to improve access and responsiveness. Additionally, policy reforms may be needed to strengthen the coordination between local agencies, improve funding for enforcement, and streamline judicial processes to ensure timely justice for VAWC victims. Policymakers and stakeholders may prioritize these actions to build a more comprehensive, long-lasting solution to this critical issue.

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