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## Assessment on Harassment Experienced by Women Residing in Kaytapos, Indang, Cavite

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**Abstract:** *Harassment is a widely spreading problem that afflicts people and societies worldwide and gradually undermines the principles of equality, dignity, and respect. The study aimed to understand and explore the nature of the various women's harassment, their effect on individuals and societies, and to explain the importance of comprehensive strategies to prevent this kind of behavior. Previous research has primarily relied on cross-national surveys of adolescents to demonstrate that religious bullying or victimization was significantly associated with depression, intentional violence and injury, and suicidal ideation. The researchers used a descriptive quantitative approach to assess the level of harassment experienced by women residing in Kaytapos, Indang, Cavite. The researchers obtained data from the participants through the use of survey questionnaires. The results showed that the average age of the respondents was 39.44 years, most of them are college graduates, single in terms of their civil status, and the majority of the respondents, according to their occupation, are students. Based on the findings, the researchers concluded that women in Barangay Kaytapos Indang, Cavite, rarely experience psychological harassment. The study can be expanded by conducting it in other barangays, municipalities, and such.*

**Keywords:** *Harassment, Psychological Harassment, Religious Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Women.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Harassment is a widespread issue affecting people globally, eroding principles of equality and respect. It encompasses behavioral, physical, and sexual abuses, particularly affecting women in diverse settings such as public spaces, workplaces, schools, and online. Unwanted and repetitive, harassment creates an offensive environment, causing physical, emotional, and psychological effects on victims. This study aims to understand various forms of women's



harassment, their societal and individual impacts, and emphasizes the need for comprehensive prevention strategies. Acknowledging complexity and underreporting, existing studies reveal insights into the prevalence of harassment. Research by Gallup and Lloyd's Register Foundation highlights underreporting due to fear of consequences. The study also delves into the impact of harassment on individuals and societies, analyzing physical, mental, and health-related consequences. By raising awareness and advocating for change, the research aims to empower individuals and create a more equitable community in Kaytapos, Indang, Cavite.

### **Objectives of the Study**

Generally, this study aimed to assess the level of harassment experienced by women residing in Kaytapos, Indang, Cavite. Specifically, it aimed to:

1. Describe the demographic profile of women residing in Kaytapos, Indang, Cavite in terms of:
  - 1.1. Age
  - 1.2. Educational Attainment
  - 1.3. Civil Status
  - 1.4. Occupation
2. Determine harassment experienced by women residing in Kaytapos, Indang, Cavite in terms of:
  - 2.1. Psychological Harassment
  - 2.2. Harassment based on Religion.
  - 2.3. Sexual Harassment

## **2. RELATED WORKS**

Psychological harassment, sexual harassment, and religious discrimination are some of the prevalent issues that affect the well-being and performance of individuals in various settings. It is of the utmost importance to be vigilant in detecting psychological harassment signs, implementing prevention measures, and responding appropriately if it occurs (How To Identify, Prevent, And Respond To Psychological Harassment In The Workplace, n.d.). Similarly, sexual harassment refers to the inappropriate and unwelcome expression of sexual remarks, movements, or behaviors towards an individual due to their actual or perceived sex, gender expression, or sexual preferences (Burn, 2019). These norms are especially prevalent in male groups, where men may use sexual harassment to establish their masculine identities (Mikorskee & Szymanski, 2017). The comprehensive evaluation of the complete cost associated with this matter poses a challenge; however, developing a broad understanding of its implications can help us understand the imperative need for its eradication (Hema, 2019). In the Philippines, one out of five women have experienced physical or sexual abuse at some point in their lives, according to the findings of a 2014 study conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority and ICF International. Furthermore, it is troubling to note that only 10% seek professional help from sources such as counselors or psychologists (PAP, 2022). Meanwhile, Bartolome (2016) presented findings on women who encountered sexual harassment and the factors affecting their coping mechanisms. Actions resulting from



violations of the provisions in the Republic Act 7877 will become null and void after three (3) years (Republic Act 7877: The Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995, n.d.). On the other hand, religious discrimination against youth can also have negative impacts on their education and learning outcomes. In the Philippines, Arab and Muslim youth experience school bullying due to their religious identity and practices (Abunab et al., 2017). According to Faro & Kain (2002), the majority of studies on religious discrimination against youth focus on Muslim youth living in the Global North, who report feeling “othered” and having Islam portrayed as a violent and inferior religion. However, Hurriyah (2023) provided new insights into the interplay between repression and pushback in the context of religious freedom and carefully examined complex micro dynamics that challenge the dominant narratives.

### **3. METHODOLOGY**

This chapter outlines the operational framework and methodologies employed in the study on harassment in Barangay Kaytapos, Indang, Cavite. The research design adopts a descriptive quantitative approach, focusing on gathering quantifiable data derived from 621 women through survey questionnaires. Utilizing Cochran's formula, the sample size is determined as 238 women, selected purposively based on specific characteristics. A survey questionnaire, validated by Gender and Development Resource Center expert, comprises questions on psychological, religious, and sexual harassment. Reliability tests show acceptable Cronbach's alpha values. Ethical considerations include informed consent, confidentiality, and adherence to the Data Privacy Act. The chapter concludes by highlighting the comprehensive data analysis approach, incorporating frequencies, percentages, and Median of Ungrouped Data to understand harassment experiences among women in Kaytapos, Indang, Cavite.

### **4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This chapter presents the analysis and interpretation of the data gathered based on the research questions. Tabular forms were used to present the data analysis and interpretation of the findings for clearer understanding.

Table 1. Distribution of the Demographic Profile

Table 1.1. The Demographic Profile of the Respondents in Terms of Age

<b>Age</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
18-24	89	37.39%
25-31	40	16.80%
32-38	25	10.50%
39-45	35	14.71%
46-52	27	11.34%
53-59	22	9.24%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>100%</b>



Table 1.2. The Demographic Profile of the Respondents in Terms of Educational Attainment

<b>Educational Attainment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Elementary Graduate	7	2.94%
High school Graduate	64	26.89%
Senior High	19	7.98%
College Undergraduate	61	25.63%
College Graduate	87	36.55%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 1.3. The Demographic Profile of the Respondents in Terms of Civil Status

<b>Civil Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Single	131	55.04%
Married	92	38.66%
Widowed	15	6.30%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 1.4. The Demographic Profile of the Respondents in Terms of Occupation

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Housewife	47	19.75%
Student	70	29.41%
Business Owner	26	10.92%
Factory Worker	4	1.68%
Vendor	11	4.62%
Teacher	8	3.36%
Online Seller	2	0.84%
Canteen Staff	2	0.84%
Business Employee	1	0.42%
Government Employee	12	5.04%
Working Student	5	2.10%
Sales Lady	1	0.42%
Office Worker	11	4.62%
Hotel Employee	2	0.84%
Retired Teacher	1	0.42%
Call center agent	2	0.84%
Manager	2	0.84%
Nurse	2	0.84%
Service Crew	2	0.84%
Cook	1	0.42%
Radio Operator	1	0.42%
Merchandiser	3	1.26%
None	22	9.24%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>100%</b>



The age distribution of the respondents ranged from 18 to 59 years old, with an average of 39.44 years old. In educational attainment, the highest number of respondents are college graduates. In civil status, many of the respondents are single, and the highest number of respondents in terms of occupation are students.

**Table 2. Distribution of Psychological Harassment Experienced**

<b>Statement</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Verbal Interpretation</b>
1. I am scared or worried because of the actions and behaviors of others.	3	Sometimes
2. I have encountered situations where someone has used forceful approaches to manipulate or control me psychologically.	2	Rarely
3. I have felt anxiety, stress, and depression as a result of psychological harassment.	3	Sometimes
4. I have received psychological treatment and counseling.	2	Rarely
5. I have reported this type of harassment in the barangay.	1	Never
Overall	2	Rarely

Legend: (a) 5(Always); (b) 4(Often); (c) 3(Sometimes); (d) 2(Rarely); (e) 1(Never)

Table 2 shows that women in Barangay Kaytapos "Sometimes" experienced fear or worry due to others' actions, "Rarely" encountered forceful manipulation or control, "Sometimes" felt anxiety and stress, "Rarely" sought psychological treatment or counseling, and "Never" reported psychological harassment. Overall, psychological harassment is rare in Barangay Kaytapos.

**Table 3. Distribution of Religion-Related Harassment Experienced**

<b>Statement</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Verbal Interpretation</b>
1. I have experienced verbal and physical threats because of my belief.	2	Rarely
2. I get discriminated by someone when people start spreading false rumors about our religion.	2	Rarely



3. I have been turned down for a job because of my spiritual belief.	2	Rarely
4. I have received criticism because of my religion.	2	Rarely
5. I have reported this type of harassment in the barangay.	1	Never
Overall	2	Rarely

Legend: (a) 5(Always); (b) 4(Often); (c) 3(Sometimes); (d) 2(Rarely); (e) 1(Never)

Table 3 describes that women reported "Rare" experiences of verbal and physical threats, discrimination due to false rumors about their religion, job rejection based on spiritual beliefs, and criticism. None reported such harassment officially. This aligns with Ghumman et al.'s (2016) findings on underreported religious harassment and Muldoon's (2015) exploration of Christian-motivated gender harassment.

**Table 4. Distribution of Sexual Harassment Experienced**

<b>Statement</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Verbal Interpretation</b>
1. I have been pressured or persuaded to engage in sexual activity.	2	Rarely
2. I have been addressed sexually in a way that offends or degrades me.	2	Rarely
3. I encounter individuals who make unpleasant or insulting remarks about my appearance or who make me uncomfortable by using sexual phrases and language.	2	Rarely
4. I have received training or materials that provided guidance on reporting instances of sexual harassment.	2	Rarely
5. I have reported this type of harassment in the barangay.	1	Never
Overall	2	Rarely



Legend: (a) 5(Always); (b) 4(Often); (c) 3(Sometimes); (d) 2(Rarely); (e) 1(Never)

Based on table 4, women in Barangay Kaytapos rarely experienced or reported sexual harassment, often due to lack of confidence to confront the issue. Instances were not reported to recognized offices. Therefore, sexual harassment is uncommon in Barangay Kaytapos.

Table 5. Table of Summary of the Frequency Level of Harassment

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Verbal Interpretation</b>	<b>Mean Rank</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Psychological Harassment	2	Rarely	2.14	1
Religion Related Harassment	2	Rarely	1.60	3
Sexual Harassment	2	Rarely	1.86	2
<b>Overall</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Rarely</b>		

Table 5 presents a comprehensive summary of the frequency levels of harassment experienced by women residing in Kaytapos Indang, Cavite. The data indicates that women in this locality generally encounter low levels of harassment across various dimensions: Psychological Harassment (table 2). Women in this area reported experiencing psychological harassment at a rare occurrence, with a mean rank of 2.14, positioning it as the least encountered form of harassment (rank 1); Religious-based Harassment (table 3). Similarly, religious-based harassment was infrequently encountered by these women, as evidenced by a mean rank of 1.60, ranking it the third least encountered form of harassment; Sexual harassment (table 4) was also reported as rare among women in Kaytapos Indang, Cavite, with a mean rank of 1.86, positioning it as the second least encountered form of harassment (rank 2). The overall calculated median for all forms of harassment is two (2), indicating a consistent pattern of rarity across psychological, religious, and sexual harassment. In summary, women in Barangay Kaytapos Indang, Cavite, appear to face minimal instances of harassment in their community.

## 5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The researchers came to the conclusion that psychological harassment of women is uncommon in Barangay Kaytapos Indang, Cavite, based on their findings. Gupta (2022) asserts that it's critical to get assistance as soon as you suspect psychological abuse. However, given the study's findings, which show that a small percentage of respondents have gotten counseling and psychological support, concerned parties need to act. However, the researchers discovered that the respondents from barangay Kaytapos, Indang, Cavite, hardly ever experience harassment because of their religion. Furthermore, according to Bartolome's (2016) report, there are less instances of sexual harassment against women living in Kaytapos when compared to the findings of a similar survey done in Quezon City. The results of this study indicate that the respondents do not often receive this kind of information, so it is still crucial that they receive training or materials that offer guidance on reporting instances of sexual harassment.

Based on the findings of the study, the researchers provided a recommendation to the following:





Barangay officials in Kaytapos, Indang, Cavite to concentrate on raising community awareness of harassment and offering channels for reporting it. This will help to maintain a better barangay and greatly aid women in knowing where to go for help in the event of harassment. Future Researchers - This research can serve as a useful guide and source of information, particularly for those working in fields related to the study's focus. By conducting the study on additional barangays, municipalities, and so forth, they can broaden its scope.

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