

AN ANALYSIS OF THE PARTICIPANTS PERCEPTION TOWARDS THE ATTITUDES OF THE POLICE OFFICERS IN DEALING WITH THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER (LGBT) AS VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

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Abstract

The researchers used the descriptive research method employing a self-made survey questionnaire. The convenience sampling technique was used with the sample size of 63-lgbt students from One State University in the Philippines. Twelve-question were asked to the participants to analyze their perceptions towards the attitudes of the police officers in dealing with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender as victims of violence. The basic statistical treatment was employed to analyze and interpret the data gathered. The study concludes that 17 out of 63-lgbts participants have experienced violence. They are victimized by stranger and reported the violence experienced to the Guidance Counselor, Barangay Police/Barangay Captain, and High School Teacher.

Keywords: Police Officer Attitudes, LGBT, Victims of Violence

INTRODUCTION

Attitude is “a mental and neural state of readiness, organized through experience, exerting a directive and dynamic influence upon the individual’s response to all objects and situations with which it is related” [11]. sociologists and psychologist defined attitudes simply in terms of the probability that a person will show a specify behavior in a specified situation [11]. In simple words, “attitudes are likes and dislikes” [2].

In the Philippines, Filipinos have rather negative attitudes toward lesbians, gay men, and their sexualities [8]. Because of their sexual orientation, LGBT people are more likely to face intolerance, prejudice, abuse, and the threat of violence than heterosexual people [12]. Lesbians face prejudice and discrimination in a variety of areas, including healthcare, schooling, employment, and religion, according to advocates and members of the NGO sector [8].

Young Filipino lesbians and gay men report encounters with heterosexism, especially at home, school, and in religious settings [8]. Being named *bakla* instead of one's name, being exposed to anti-gay jokes, being forced to pursue sexual relationships with people of the opposite sex, and being labeled ill or abnormal are all examples of these experiences [8]. Many lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders, and intersex people (lgbti) are aware of police discrimination and animosity toward homosexual conduct [9].

Police hostility and prejudices of the police against the lgbt are the reasons why lgbt as victims of violence were not reporting the incidents to the police [10]. Hate crimes against people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender have long been recognized as a serious problem [10]. In reality, one study found that when lgbt-identified people chose not to report a bias-

related crime, 68 percent cite concerns about police discrimination and secondary victimization as a factor in their decision [10].

Similarly, while police in Australia rarely perpetrate heterosexist and homophobic violence against lgbt people in relation to historical contexts, homophobia and heterosexism can still lead indirectly to a majority of lgbt communities' unwillingness to report victimization to police [4].

According to some studies, citizens' perceptions of law enforcement continue to affect their willingness to cooperate or report crimes, especially for victims who are members of racial/ethnic minority groups [10]. Because of their sexual orientation, LGBT people are more likely to face intolerance, prejudice, abuse, and the threat of violence than heterosexual people [12].

In Metro Manila [13], venues like bathhouses that are frequented by men who have sex with men (MSM) are at risk of being raided by law enforcers as they are seen as an easy target for exploitation and extortion. When these raids happen, the MSM who are at these venues are threatened with being charged with the “grave scandal” prohibition in Article 200 of the Revised Penal Code, or with RA 9208 (Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003). Many MSM, therefore, pay the law enforcement officers for fear of being “ousted” to peers and family members [13].

Research has also revealed that reporting to police or law enforcement is shaped by incident-related characteristics and contexts [6]. Analyses of these incident factors have suggested that crime seriousness, victim offender relationship, location of the offense, and the consumption of the alcohol account for some of the variation in reporting [6]. That is, offenses that resulted in injury, that involved a weapon, that were perpetrated by unknown assailants, and that occurred in unfamiliar places were the most likely to be disclosed to the police [6].

The issue of reporting victimization among lgbt communities as they have been victimized in public, private, and institutional spaces is in fact, the broader social relations produce various inequalities, including forms of violent victimization [3]. This victimization has been ongoing for some time, with research elaborating discrimination and abuse (verbal, physical, emotional, psychological, social, economic) perpetrated against glbti people by strangers, school peers, and family [3].

If the above literature exists in the Philippines, possibly the lgbt will not report to the police officers any violence that they had experienced from anyone. Statistically speaking, the Philippine LBT Coalition Report for 64th Session of CEDAW have cited the research conducted by the Philippines LGBT Hate Crimes Watch the total of 141 documented cases of hate crimes recorded from 1996 to August 2011, 95 hate crimes involved gay men, 26 involved transgender persons, 16 involved lesbians and 4 involved bisexuals.

Likewise, there were at least 20 transgenders have been killed in the Philippines since 2008 [1]. Naomi Fontanos, Filipinas Executive Director of GANDA (Gender and Development Advocates) have said that this was an inaccurate figure given that from 2011 to 2014, at least five transgenders had already been murdered [1]. Atty. Twyla Rubin had said, that it was difficult to verify the cases regarding the hate crimes because the news reports usually did not contain the victim's addresses [1].

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Although there were existing literatures and studies about the statistics of lgbt as victims of violence, but there is a dearth of research about the attitudes of the police officers towards the lgbt as victims of violence. With this, the study has been conducted to:

1. Determine the profiles of the participants in terms of gender, course, year level and age;
2. Determine the violence involvement, victim-offender relationship and to whom the violence was reported; and
3. Analyze the perception of the participants towards the attitudes of the police officers in dealing with the lgbt victims of violence.

METHODOLOGY

This part discussed the research design, participants of the study and sampling technique employed, research instruments, and statistical tools to interpret and analyze the data gathered.

RESEARCH DESIGN

This study used the descriptive research method employing a semi-structured self-made survey questionnaire. This was used to assess the opinion, knowledge and information known to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (lgbt) students in the Laguna State Polytechnic University-Siniloan Campus.

PARTICIPANTS AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

This study was conducted during the Second Semester of the Academic Year 2016-2017 and the convenience sampling technique was used by the researchers as they hand out the self-made survey questionnaire to the sixty-three (63) lgbt students of the LSPU-Siniloan Campus when they walk-in to the classroom of the different colleges of this university. The self-made survey questionnaire was based on the existing literatures and studies, and it was validated by a Psychology Professor. This survey questionnaire is composed of three-part: Part I is to determine the profiles of the participants in terms of gender, age, course, and year level; Part II is to determine the violence involvement; and Part III is to determine the perceptions of the respondents towards the attitudes of the police officers in dealing with the lgbt victims of violence.

STATISTICAL TOOLS

The basic statistical treatment like frequency, percentage, and mean were used to interpret and analyze the data gathered.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Just like any other researches, this study has certain limitations: first, this study was participated by 63-lgbt students of the LSPU-Siniloan Campus and those lgbt who are on their ojt were not able to participate on this study; and second, it only focus on the perceptions of the participants towards the attitudes of the police officers in dealing with the lgbt as victims of violence.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table I showed that there were lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender in the Laguna State Polytechnic University – Siniloan Campus. Majority of the participants were bisexual with a frequency of 27 or 42.86% followed by gay with a frequency of 22 or 34.92% and lesbian with a frequency of 10 or 15.87%. The least of the participants were transgender with a frequency of 4 or 6.35%.

Table I. Gender of the participants

Gender	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Lesbian	10	15.87%	3
Gay	22	34.92%	2
Bisexual	27	42.86%	1
Transgender	4	6.35%	4
TOTAL	63	100%	

Table II showed that most of the participants were Education students these were the Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education with a frequency of 15 or 23.81% and Bachelor of Science in Education with a frequency of 12 or 19.05% followed by the Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Technology with a frequency of 8 or 12.70%.

Table II. Course of the participants

Course	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
BS in Agricultural Education	15	23.81%	1
BS in Agriculture	5	7.94%	5
BS in Agricultural Technology	8	12.70%	3
BS in Agricultural Engineering	4	6.35%	6
BS in Education	12	19.05%	2
BS in Business Administration	2	3.18%	8.5
BS in Information Technology	2	3.18%	8.5
BS in Computer Science	2	3.18%	8.5
BS in Hotel & Restaurant Management	2	3.18%	8.5
BS in Psychology	3	4.76%	7
BS in Criminology	2	3.18%	8.5
Diploma in Hotel and Restaurant Management	6	9.52%	4
Total	63	100%	

Table III showed that most of the participants were lower year these were the second year with a frequency of 19 or 33.33% followed by first year and third year students with a frequency of 17 or 29.82% both. The least of the participants were fifth year and fourth year with a frequency of 1 (1.75%) and 3 (5.26%), respectively.

Table III. Year level of the participants

Year level	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
First Year	17	28.57%	2.5
Second Year	19	34.92%	1
Third Year	17	28.57%	2.5
Fourth Year	3	6.35%	4
Fifth Year	1	1.6%	5
TOTAL	63	100%	

Table IV showed that majority of the participants are from the age bracket of 17-18 years of age with the frequency of 22 or 35.5% followed by 19-20 years of age with a frequency of 21 or

33.9% and the least of the participants are from the age bracket of 25-26 years of age with a frequency of 4 or 6.4%.

Table IV. Age of the participants

Age	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
17-18 years of age	23	36.51%	1
19-20 years of age	21	33.33%	2
21-22 years of age	8	12.7%	3
23-24 years of age	7	11.11%	4
25-26 years of age	4	6.35%	5
TOTAL	63	100%	

Table V showed that 17 out of the 63 participants responded to the question violence experienced. Participants responded that the violence experienced is physical and verbal i.e. *bakla, walang saysay or kwenta, bayaran at pokpok* with a frequency of 9 or 52.94% followed by hitting by someone on the face or body with a frequency of 4 or 23.53%. Savin-Williams (1994) have found out that the chronic stress of lesbian, gay male, and bisexual youths created by the verbal and physical abuse they received from peers and adults. The least of the participants responded that they were victimized of rape and sexual harassment with a frequency of 1 or 5.88%. Rape is a serious offense; this is considered alarming and must be treated seriously.

Table V. Violence reported

Violence reported	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Physical and Verbal violence	9	52.94%	1
Rape	1	5.88%	4.5
hitting by someone on the face or body	4	23.53%	2
object was being thrown towards him/her i.e., crumpled paper	2	11.77%	3
Sexual Harassment	1	5.88%	4.5
TOTAL	17	100%	

Table VI revealed that 14 out of the 63 participants responded to the question “*victim-offender relationship*”. The stranger is the majority of the responses of the participants with a frequency of 5 or 35.71% followed by the family members / stepfather with a frequency of 3 or 21.43%.

Part VI. Victim-offender relationship

Victim-offender relationship	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
High School Teacher	2	14.29%	4
Stranger	5	35.71%	1
Family members/Stepfather	3	21.43%	2.5
Classmates	3	21.43%	2.5
Friend	1	7.14%	5
TOTAL	14	100%	

Table VII showed that 7 out of the 14 participants who responded to the victim-offender relationship. The data shows that 7 of the participants responded that the violence occurred is reported to the Guidance Counselor and Barangay Police/Captain with a frequency of 2 or 28.571% followed by High School Teacher, Police Officer and Professor/Administrator with a frequency of 1 or 14.286%.

Table VII. Violence reported to the authorities

Violence reported to the authorities	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Guidance Counselor	2	28.571%	1.5
Barangay Police/Barangay Captain	2	28.571%	1.5
High School Teacher	1	14.286%	3.5
Police Officer	1	14.286%	3.5
Professor/Administrator	1	14.286%	3.5
TOTAL	7	100%	

Table VIII presents the responses of the sixty-three participants to the twelve-question asked to determine the participants' perception towards the attitudes of the police officers in dealing with the lgbt victims of violence. The participants responded *agree* when they were asked that *"the police officer accepts the lgbt victims of violence inside their office / station"* with a weighted mean of 3.14. It indicates that police officer accepts the lgbt victims of violence inside their office/station. Likewise, the participants responded *agree* when they were asked that *"the police officer acknowledges the violence incident reported by the lgbt victims of violence"* with a weighted mean of 3.07. When the violence occurred was reported inside the office / station of the police officer, the participants responded *agree* with a weighted mean of 3.02 when they were asked *"does the police officer friendly when you reporting the violence inside the station / office"*. The responses of the participants had supported that the police officer is friendly when they were reporting the violence inside the station / office as the participants responded *agree* with a weighted mean of 2.98 when they were asked that *"the police officer provides good protection for lgbt as victims of violence"*.

Likewise, the participants responded *agree* with a weighted mean of 2.98 when they were asked that *"the police officer is sympathetic to the lgbt as victims of violence"*. This is against with the statement cited by Miles-Johnson (2013) that LGBTI people in Australia perceived that reporting crime to police will lead to further abuse from service providers, and that the majority of LGBTI respondents strongly believed that police officers would not treat LGBTI people fairly due to homophobic beliefs. Likewise, the participants responded *agree* with a weighted mean of 3.0 when they were asked that *"the police officer responds to the lgbt victim of violence"*. It indicates that the lgbt as victims of violence will report the incidents to the police station as the police officer responds to the violence incidents reported. Meanwhile, the participants responded *agree* with a weighted mean of 2.86 when they were asked that *"the police officer will take the lgbt reported violence or harassment seriously"*. It indicates that police officer takes the reported violence or harassment seriously, even if, it is reported by the lgbt victim of violence.

As the participants responded *disagree* with a weighted mean of 2.03 when they were asked that *"the police officer harasses the lgbt as victims of violence"*. It indicates that the police officer

is not harassing the lgbt as victims of violence when they reported the incidents to the police. This is not similar with the statement mentioned in the OutRight Action International (n.d.), the situation is worse when police officers encountered persons with non-conforming sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. LGBT persons interviewed for this report and from personal accounts posted on the web confirm that they feel vulnerable when interacting with police because they have been harassed, abused verbally, sexually and physical, blackmailed, and extorted for money or sexual favors by police officers.

However, the participants responded *disagree* with a weighted mean of 2.4 when they were asked that “*the police officer ridicules the lgbt victims when the lgbt reported the violence*”. This is not similar to the Philippine LGBT Coalition Report for 64th Session of CEDAW in 2016 that have cited that the lbt persons are often too afraid to report rape, when they do go the police for help, they experience additional violations. An 18-year old transgender woman was gang raped in Zamboanga City. When she reported to police, she was ridiculed by police officers and told, “*Did you not enjoy it? That is a blessing for you! You may be the one who made the first move!*”

The participants responded *disagree* with a weighted mean of 2.34 as they were asked that “*the police officer is homophobic with the lgbt victim of violence*”. These responses of the participants are not similar with what Dwyner (2011) had found out as she argued the existing literatures in Australia, New Zealand, United States and International studies regarding the attitudes of the police officers towards the lgbt are mostly homophobic. Homophobic or homophobia covers a wide range of different viewpoints and attitudes as stated by Subrajit (2014) lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are more likely to experience intolerance, discrimination, harassment, and the threat of violence due to their sexual orientation, than those that identify themselves as heterosexual. According to Subrajit (2014) homophobia is generally defined as hostility towards or fear of gay people, but can also refer to stigma arising from social ideologies about homosexuality. Negative feelings or attitudes towards non-heterosexual behavior, identity, relationships and community, can lead to homophobic behavior and this is the root of the discrimination experienced by many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (Subrajit, 2014).

Table VIII. Perception of the participants towards the attitudes of the police officer in dealing with the lgbt victims of violence

Statement	MEAN	Verbal Interpretation
1. the Police Officer accepts the lgbt victims of violence inside their office/station.	3.14	Agree
2. the Police Officer is friendly to the LGBT victims of violence.	3.02	Agree
3. the Police Officer acknowledges the violent incident reported by the LGBT victims of violence.	3.07	Agree
4. The police officer will take the lgbt reported violence or harassment seriously.	2.86	Agree
5. the police officer responds to the lgbt victim of violence.	3.0	Agree
6. The police officer is sympathetic to the lgbt as victims of	2.9	Agree

violence.		
7. The Police Officer provides good protection for LGBT as victims of violence.	2.98	Agree
8. the Police Officer discriminates the lgbt victims of violence.	2.19	Disagree
9. The police officer ridicules the lgbt as victims of violence.	2.4	Disagree
10. The Police Officer harasses the lgbt as victims of violence.	2.03	Disagree
11. The police officer abuses (verbally or physically) the lgbt victims when the lgbt reported the violence.	2.21	Disagree
12. The Police Officer is homophobic with the LGBT victim of violence.	2.34	Disagree

Legend: 3.26 – 4.00 *Strongly Agree* 1.76 – 2.50 *Disagree*
 2.51 – 3.25 *Agree* 1.00 – 1.75 *Strongly Disagree*

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There were lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students in Laguna State Polytechnic University-Siniloan Campus, majority of them are bisexual and taking up Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education and Bachelor of Science in Education, they were from first to third year ageing from 17-18 years of age. 17 out of the 63-lgbt students from the Laguna State Polytechnic University-Siniloan Campus responded that they were a victim of violence. The violence experienced were committed by the strangers and reported to the authorities. The perceptions of the participants responded agree that the police officer accepts, acknowledges, and responded to the violence reported by the lgbt victims of violence. Likewise, participants responded agree that the police officer is friendly and gives sympathy to the lgbt victims of violence as they also agreed that the police officer can provide a good protection for the lgbt victims of violence. They disagree that the police officer harasses the lgbt victims of violence while they are reporting the violence incidents.

Meanwhile, they responded disagree when they were asked that the police officer discriminates, abuses (verbally and physically), ridicules and homophobic with the lgbt victims of violence.

Thus, the researchers would like to recommend that the Information dissemination campaign for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender must be conduct every semester. Encourage the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender who have been a victim of any violence to report the incident to the authorities or to the administrator of the Laguna State Polytechnic University.

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