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Research Article

The Role of the Men Opposed to Violence Against Women Everywhere (MOVE) Program in Addressing Violence Against Women: An Impact Study in Quezon City

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ABSTRACT

Violence Against Women (VAW) is a very widespread problem with no age, cultural, or socioeconomic limitations. Under the Republic Act No. 9262, VAW encompasses psychological, sexual, physical, and economic abuse among intimate relations, dating relations, or between the persons that share a common child. In response to this, the Quezon City organized the Men Opposed to Violence Against Women Everywhere (MOVE) Program that involved using men as a gender equality agent. This paper evaluated the effect of MOVE on awareness, attitudes, behavior, and community involvement of men on VAW. In a mixed-methods approach, 162 subjects were interviewed in MOVE sub-chapters in Quezon City Hall. Quantitative outcomes revealed an awareness increase of 35.1 in the form of VAW calculated between the mean scores before and after the program. The best outcomes were in learning about survivor support services and such concepts like toxic masculinity. Attitudinally, the participants strongly opposed violence, as they agreed that they should never hit their partner. There was also a high level of involvement in the program, 60.9% of the respondents said they were actively participating and working to revive the MOVE Quezon City Hall chapter. In spite of these gains, there are still challenges, such as the lack of community support and continued interest which can be an obstacle to the greater inclusion of males in the prevention of VAW. The results in general suggest that the MOVE Program can be successfully used to improve knowledge, encourage non-violent values, and boost male involvement in gender equality programs. Combating awareness and behavior, MOVE promotes social change in the long term, promotes fair relations, and transforms community attitudes towards violence against women. These findings underscore the need to have government-backed programs to

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proactively engender men as gender justice advocates and gender justice agents in preventing VAW.

Keywords: *MOVE program, Violence against women, Gender advocacy, Men's participation, Quezon City, Study's impact*

Introduction

One of the problems and severe human rights concerns in the Philippines is Violence Against Women (VAW). Quezon City is an important urban city with high cases of reported VAW cases which constantly continue to be reported to the local government units. This never-ending issue highlights the urgent possibility of new and successful interventions, which go beyond conventional reactive ones, e.g. legal prosecution and support to the victim, into active prevention. To address this necessity, such program as Men Opposed to Violence Against Women Everywhere (MOVE) was founded. This exemplary program is made up of male supporters who seek to mobilize males as active supporters on the combat against VAW through challenging detrimental gender conventions, establishing healthy masculinity, and informing communities through advocacy, workshops, and outreach interventions.

There is a strong conceptual underpinning from sociological and gender literature about how men can be involved in the obstruction of VAW. According to the theory of Hegemonic Masculinity, which was introduced by Connell (1995), in most of the societies, the majority of masculinity that is endorsed is powerful, and is often both toxic and equate manhood to power, control and aggression, and because it is promoted within society, it may move on to perpetuate violence against women. Programs such as MOVE apply this theory by advocating masculinity respectfully and integrating the most fundamental concept of bystander intervention that involves the community members stopping violence through addressing sexism and dangerous circumstances as approved by Banvard (2011).

The situation on all-male anti-VAW groups presents a positive but ambivalent picture of factual studies. As it has been confirmed by international studies (Men Can Stop Rape, 2003). The Male Allyship to Fight Violence Against Women (MOVE) program is effective in terms

of enhancing gender-equitable attitudes and behavioral change. Nevertheless, these studies only concentrate on internal change and localized groups.

The study of Molas et al. (2023) demonstrates how police-led crime prevention strategies play a crucial role in promoting community safety, emphasizing the importance of proactive and well-implemented interventions. This aligns with the objectives of the MOVE Program, which similarly aims to prevent violence, specifically violence against women—by transforming men into active advocates for protection, respect, and gender-sensitive behavior. By highlighting the effectiveness of structured prevention programs, Molas et al. (2023) provide a useful framework for understanding how MOVE can likewise contribute to reducing harm, strengthening community protection, and fostering safer environments for women.

The tangible effect of the MOVE program is not felt even though it is widely adopted in the Philippines. The idea itself is attractive and anecdotally effective, but there is an obvious gap in the empirical data that could be used to measure the effectiveness of the idea to meet its fundamental goals quantitatively, and qualitatively. This deficiency presents a major disadvantage: without concrete evidence, it is challenging to determine if the program is genuinely transforming participants' perspectives, reducing incidents of abusive behavior, or raising community awareness to a significant degree. For this reason, the program facilitators hardly identify which components are the most effective and which areas require improvement and to make informed decisions regarding expansion and funding policy makers lack of necessary data. As a result, this study will address this verified gap by conducting comprehensive impact assessment of the MOVE program specifically within the Quezon City context.

This study conducts a detailed evaluation of the Quezon City Men Opposed to Violence Against Women Everywhere (MOVE) program.

Quantifying the raising VAW awareness and its success, assessing shifts of attitudes and behaviors of men, to know its long-term sustainability by pinpointing the primary challenges and identifying the most effective initiative of the program. Also, the program participation and level of engagement in VAW prevention is analyzed by correlation to develop evidence-based recommendations that will strengthen the program's effectiveness and reach.

This study's scope is limited to active MOVE members and a comparative sample of non-members from established sub-chapters within Quezon City Hall. The scope is not extensive, as it does not consider the whole Quezon City MOVE network and the study of specific VAW cases, but rather on the systemic preventative and advocacy role of the program.

This study will strengthen the mainstream violence prevention initiative against women by providing Quezon City and similar communities with a data-driven program. It directs a clear blueprint to the GAD Office to polish the workshops, outreach, and resources of the MOVE Program, and also offers the legislators the empirical evidence they need to fund and formulate the policy. The originality of the study is that it is committed to produce a strong quantitative and qualitative information to place the MOVE Program as a well-conceived idea to an empirically and continuously developing intervention to create a safer and more equitable city.

Materials and Methods

The Quezon City Men Opposed to Violence Against Women (MOVE) program provides the overall methodology that was applied in assessing this study. In line with ethical evaluation and confirmation, the following section outlines research design, methods used to select the participants, data collection tools and analytical scheme utilized.

Research Approach and Design

The paper utilized a mixed method approach in providing an elaborate and subtle assessment of the impact of the MOVE program in both statistical findings and human description. Likert-scale quantitative assessment of the behavior, awareness, and attitudinal

intention of the participants was undertaken to analyze quantitative results statistically. Then, open-ended questions were useful in obtaining qualitative data information such as experience, detailed narratives, and complex opinion that provides much needed depth and context to the numerical results. The combination of both data types contributed to the fact that the study developed a complete causal picture, the quantitative data provided the changes and patterns, and the qualitative data identified reasons and mechanism behind them.

Respondents and Sampling Technique

This study involved 270 people with the majority being the active MOVE members and non-MOVE members who were part of the community groups in the Quezon City Hall belonging to various departmental sub-chapters. Since we put a margin of error of 5 percent, and the confidence level of 95 percent the small foot we needed was about 159 respondents. The research was able to survey 162 participants hence passing the requisite threshold of a sample size thus providing sufficient statistical power and representability of the target population.

Purposive sampling method was used to sample those respondents who directly or had relevant exposure to MOVE Program. It was a suitable method taking into consideration the fact that the number of patients was manageable, and the goal of the study was to achieve comprehensive insights provided by people most informed about the program. The members of the MOVE group were chosen as they were directly involved throughout the program, and non-MOVE group members were used as comparative reference group to make the program impact relevant.

Research Instruments

The questionnaire was the research advisers approved questionnaire which incorporated the statement of the problem and it acted as the primary instrument to be used in this research to gather data. The instrument was constructed following an assessment of similar literature in order to operationalize the study variables directly and in order to guarantee

content validity. The questionnaire is separated into five parts. The demographic data was collected in Section A to describe and define the sample. In section B, a retrospective pre-post Likert scale (1 very low awareness, 10 very high awareness) was used to measure the changes in the awareness of the participants towards Violence against women (VAW) quantitatively and an open question asked to elicit qualitative data. It was a 5-point Likert question (1 = strongly disagree, 5 strongly agree) in Section C, which allowed measuring attitudes and behaviors depending on gender equality; the selected items were accompanied by narrative questions to bring the examples of applied learning. Section D was based on qualitative questions that were designed to determine the levels of engagement of the participants in the programs and activities and their attitudes toward them regarding their perception of the personal and effectiveness roles. Finally, Section E gathered the recommendations on how to improve the program and established the obstacles to implementation using open-ended questions.

Data Gathering Procedure

The beginning with the review and finalization of the questionnaire for clarity data gathering procedure was executed sequentially. To enhance respondent accessibility, streamline consolidation and ease data collection the questionnaire converted into a Google forms format. We perform official coordination with the Quezon City Gender and Development, or GAD, Council Office and the GAD Focal Point Persons in every QC Hall Department for the dissemination of questionnaires for data collection and securing permission to reach every active MOVE member. Once approved, we send the Google Forms link to the GAD Focal Persons with introduction and informed consent, and it is distributed electronically to all identified participants to voluntarily complete the form and given specified period, with sent reminders as needed. Finally, the qualitative responses were compiled for thematic analysis, and the quantitative data was exported to a spreadsheet for statistical analysis once upon the closure of the response window.

Data Analysis Techniques

Based on specific data analysis approaches of a given type of data, the descriptive statistics was adopted in the present study, which included frequencies, proportions, means and standard deviations. They were employed to describe quantitative data in demographics of the respondents, awareness, and attitudes they had. Wilcoxon Signed-Rank test and T-test were used in order to determine statistically significant gains in retrospective pre-post awareness scores. In the case of the qualitative data based on open-ended responses, the systematic thematic analysis was carried out which included familiarization, coding, and theme development to investigate the definitions of violence, applied learning, perceived effectiveness, challenges, and recommendations.

Ethical Considerations

This research maintained ethical considerations with a thorough informed consent procedure concerning all questionnaires. By going ahead to provide an answer this was taken to be implied consent and no one participated without it being voluntary and confidential. The respondents were made aware that they could withdraw any time penalty free. No identifying information was taken, and all data were stored in secure files with high levels of confidentiality hence anonymity was ensured. The questions were created in terms of respect and non-invasiveness to avoid any harm and secure the safety and comfort of all respondents.

Result and Discussion

This chapter shows the results of mixed-methods impact assessment of Men Opposed to Violence Against Women Everywhere (MOVE) program is reported on in Quezon City. The themes presented integrate quantitative findings on awareness and attitudes with qualitative insights on behavioural change, program effectiveness, and challenges, providing bigger picture of program impact.

Demographic Profile of Respondents

The research was successful in getting the necessary sample size of 162 respondents depending on the population of 270 with margin

of error that is five percent (5%) including MOVE members (53.5) and community members (46.5) of all the divisions at Quezon city hall. Majority of the interviewees represented the male gender (67.3%), with the majority being college graduate (66%), which is the

main focus of the program of working on the male population. The age demographic was broad ages of 21 to 30 years old (47.83) and 31 to 40 years old (28.57) had the most percentage.

Table 1. Demographic Profile

	N	Mean	SD	Variance	Range
Age	162	35.0	10.3	106	44
AGE		NO. OF RESPONDENTS			
61 - 65		5			
51 - 60		12			
41 - 50		21			
31 - 40		46			
21 - 30		78			
TOTAL		162			
		% OF TOTAL			
		3.09			
		7.41			
		12.96			
		28.40			
		48.15			
		100			

Table 1. a. Frequencies of SEX

SEX	Counts	% of Total	Cumulative %
Male	109	67.3%	67.3%
Female	34	21.0%	88.3%
Prefer not to say	19	11.7%	100.0%

The quantitative data indicates that there is a strong positive effect of MOVE program about the awareness of Violence against Women (VAW) of the participants. A retrospective pre-

post analysis of MOVE members' self-reported awareness shows a marked increase across all key topics after joining the program.

Table 2. Analysis on Awareness and Knowledge of VAW

Before Introduction of MOVE Program	N	Mean	SD
1. The different forms of VAW (physical, sexual, psychological, economic abuse)	162	6.55	0.601
2. The Republic Act 9262 or the Anti-VAWC Act	162	6.51	0.821
3. The services available for VAW survivors (e.g., Barangay VAW Desk, women's shelters)	162	1.48	0.671
4. The concept of "toxic masculinity" and how it relates to VAW	162	1.52	0.741
5. How to properly intervene as a bystander in a potentially violent situation?	162	6.47	0.724

After Introduction of MOVE Program	N	Mean	SD
1. The different forms of VAW (physical, sexual, psychological, economic abuse)	162	7.02	0.551
2. The Republic Act 9262 or the Anti-VAWC Act	162	6.96	0.572
3. The services available for VAW survivors (e.g., Barangay VAW Desk, women's shelter)	162	6.94	0.565
4. The concept of "toxic masculinity" and how it relates to VAW	162	6.96	0.550

After Introduction of MOVE Program	N	Mean	SD
5. How to properly intervene as a bystander in a potentially violent situation?	162	6.98	0.630

Table 2 demonstrates awareness and knowledge of Violence Against Women (VAW) of the respondents before and after MOVE Program using a 10-point Likert scale. There was moderate knowledge of general concepts of VAW and legal frameworks (e.g., types of VAW, $M = 6.55$; RA 9262, $M = 6.51$) and the strategies of bystander intervention ($M = 6.47$) by the participants before the program, coupled with an extremely low understanding of survivor support services ($M = 1.48$) and the notion of

toxic masculinity ($M = 1.52$). After the program, these indicators rose tremendously, as the knowledge of survivor services went up to $M = 6.94$ and the understanding of toxic masculinity up to $M = 6.96$ in response to the five or more points improvement, testifying to the success of the program in not only covering new areas that were formerly ignored but also the improvement of the holistic awareness of participants about VAW.

Table 2.a. Comparative Awareness Scores of MOVE Members and Non-MOVE Members

Group	N	Mean Awareness Score	SD
MOVE Members	87	7.12	0.61
Non-MOVE Members	75	6.08	0.74

The scores of awareness in MOVE members were significantly higher compared to that of non-MOVE members, indicating that direct contact with MOVE Program is linked with a better understanding of VAW, survivor

services and ideas related to gender. This relative contrast reinforces the attribution of the realized increasing awareness to MOVE intervention and not to the exposure of the general information only.

Table 3. Paired Samples T-Test

Comparison	Test	statistic	df
1. The different forms of VAW (physical, sexual, psychological, economic abuse)	Student's t	-7.28	161
2. The Republic Act 9262 or the Anti-VAWC Act	Student's t	-5.72	161
3. The services available for VAW survivors (e.g., Barangay VAW Desk, women's shelters)	Student's t	-80.38	161
4. The concept of "toxic masculinity" and how it relates to VAW	Student's t	-83.79	161
5. How to properly intervene as a bystander in a potentially violent situation?	Student's t	-6.95	161

Note. Negative t-values between post-test and pre-test shows that post-test scores were higher

Based on the data, the knowledge of the respondents on the construct of toxic masculinity and its relation with VAW showed a significant improvement, $t(161) = -83.79$, $p < .001$, whilst there was a comparatively less significant improvement of the construct knowledge on the relationship between Republic Act 9262 or the Anti-VAWC Act, $t(161) = -5.72$, $p < .001$.

These findings are indicative that the program or intervention adopted was successful in

enhancing the awareness of the participants regarding VAW as well as the legal systems that ought to be employed in addressing it. The reason behind such a high awareness growth can be related to the improved knowledge sharing and community involvement campaigns that can result in advocacy, prevention, and reporting of violence against women.

Shifts in Attitudes and Behaviors

Table 4. Attitudes and Behaviors Towards Women

	N	Mean	SD
1. Household chores and child-rearing should be shared equally between partners.	162	8.94	1.08
2. In all family decisions, a man should have the final say.	162	7.89	1.23
3. It is never justified for a man to hit his wife or partner.	162	3.91	1.13
4. A woman not conforming to traditional gender roles (e.g., being the breadwinner) threatens the family.	162	8.83	1.73
5. I am confident in my ability to challenge sexist jokes or comments made by my friends.	162	8.94	1.65
6. I believe that promoting gender equality benefits men as well.	162	9.67	1.33

Table 4 displays the feelings and actions of the respondents towards women on a 10-point Likert scale and the items chosen in it are reverse-coded to represent a lower number, therefore, showing a stronger agreement with the statement that is discrediting unequal gender norms. Respondents turned out to be quite supportive of gender equality, and the statement "I believe that gender equality should be promoted as it is the benefit to both men and women" received the highest mean score ($M = 9.67$, $SD = 1.33$), though the statement Household chores and child-rearing should be shared equally between partners and statement I am confident in my ability to challenge sexist jokes or comments made by my friends also had the high means ($M = 8.94$, $SD = 1.08$; $M = 8.94$, $SD = 1.65$). The mean of the item It is never justified to beat his wife or partner was 3.91 ($SD = 1.13$) since the item is reverse-coded (1 = strongly agree, 10 = strongly disagree), the low mean value means that the participants strongly agree with

the statement and do not support violence to women. Reactions to the norms of traditional gender authority, in turn, were more ambivalent, and the reaction to the traditions was expressed in such ways: "In all family decisions, a man must be the one who has the last word" ($M = 7.89$, $SD = 1.23$) and "A woman who does not follow the tradition of gender roles endangers the family" ($M = 8.83$, $SD = 1.73$), indicating that some individuals believe in the traditions, regardless of their overall progress.

Program Engagement and Perceived Effectiveness

This study found out that activities involving the MOVE reverence were highly familiar with the most common activity being through orientations and seminars. After asking the respondents what they deemed as the best activity, two big themes were realized out of the qualitative information:

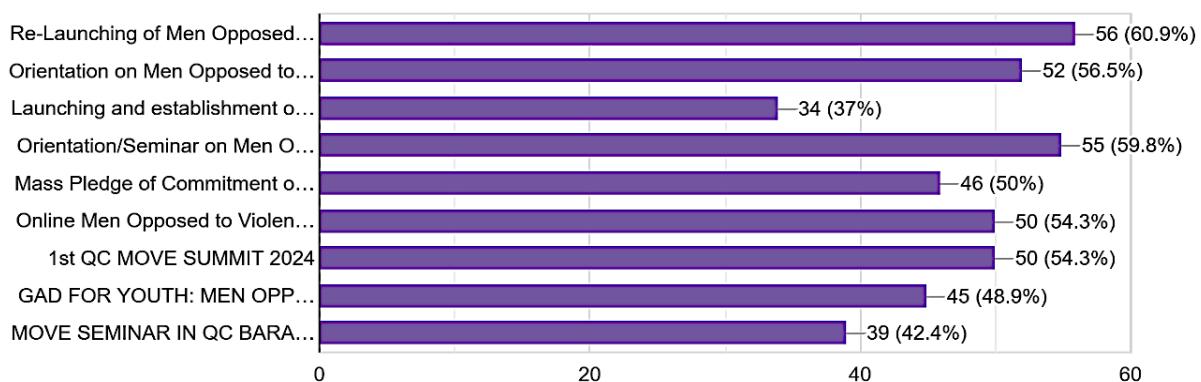


Figure 1. Program Engagement and Perceived Effectiveness

The data obtained suggested that the re-launching of the Men Opposed to Violence Everywhere (MOVE) Quezon City Hall Chapter had an impact because 60.9% of the respondents said that they participated/ engaged in the program. This means that, re-introduction of Men Opposed to Violence Everywhere (MOVE) program was viable in terms of having a significant

portion of target population signifying both visibility and involvement. The level of engagement is a consequence of the effectiveness of the program in engaging men to participate in any program that reverses violence against women and therefore establish community awareness and response.

Challenges and Recommendations for Strengthening MOVE



Figure 2. Challenges and Recommendations for Strengthening MOVE

Majority of the respondents mentioned lack of cultural interest as the greatest hurdles in motivating men to make actions and put an end to violence on women. These findings indicate that there are current sharp challenges to program success in even the mainstay of engaging men in anti-violence programs. Unless the individuals are passionate to do something, or supported by the people around them, the campaigns to facilitate active participation of men may end up being limited. The partnership of these challenges may be overcome through a particular outreach, education and mobilization of the community to enhance the participation and cultural transition to gender equality.

To ensure that the programs that include men in protesting against violence of the women can be more effective, there are strategic steps that are proposed. They are the creation of a strong digital presence, the levels of engagement and the diversity of participation options in the form of short one-hour seminars, and the long-term mentorship program. Reoccurring training and capacity adding exercises, intensified mobilization in the community, augmented visibility via advocacy and mentorship

services and leadership expansion and retrieval of particular funds and institutional support are also essential in keeping and developing program effect. Such strategies will prove useful in addressing the current issues of motivating men to follow anti-violence programs. The comprehensive and long-term strategy is not only effective in involving larger numbers of people, as well as improving knowledge, leadership, and community support. Such programs can also be enhanced by institutional support as well as frequent financing to ensure effectiveness and sustainability, which enhances long-term cultural change to gender equality.

Conclusion

This influence paper has affirmed reliable empirical facts that Men Opposed to Violence Against Woman Everywhere (MOVE) program in Quezon City is a vital and emergent element in primary violence against women prevention (VAW). The findings show that the program is highly successful in achieving its key objectives of developing awareness, transforming attitudes, and active engagement of males.

The fact that the statistical awareness surrounding the ideas of the toxic masculinity and services provided to the survivors in specific are rather high is a testament to the effectiveness with which Men Opposed to Violence Against Woman Everywhere (MOVE) managed to train its members and the greater community at large. Furthermore, the change in the attitudes is beneficial, since the high scores of the significant respondent in the rating of the commonalities of domestic tasks and the benefits of equality of genders to all people prove that there is a significant step to making gender standards more neutral and respectful among them.

However, the analysis also sheds light on certain crucial issues which are to be regarded as key to the sustainability and scalability of the program in the long run. The barriers have been identified as a perceived lack of interest and a lack of community support but this illustrates the need to employ more innovative and aggressive outreach methods. The recommendations suggested by the respondents, such as the establishment of a more developed digital appearance, equalized opportunities of communication, and institutional-related funding will provide a clear and feasible model of empowering the program.

In conclusion, Men Opposed to Violence Against Woman Everywhere (MOVE) program can be discussed as one of the most important steps of the fight with Violence Against Women (VAW) in Quezon City. It is also very successful in enlisting males not as the perpetrators and spectators, but as the gender equality advocates and encouragers. Current implementation and expansion of the Men Opposed to Violence Against Woman Everywhere (MOVE) program can make the program a blueprint of community-based, men-reach prevention programs because of the successes and strategic management of issues documented by implementing the program.

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