

Understanding the Anti-Hazing Law of 2018: Awareness Levels Among Students

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ABSTRACT

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This study was anchored on the Self-awareness theory by Duval and Wicklund (1972). Self-awareness is the capacity to take oneself as the object of thought; people can think, act, and experience, and also think about what they are thinking, doing, and experiencing. In social psychology, the study of self-awareness is traced to Shelley Duval and Robert Wicklund's (1972) landmark self-awareness theory. Duval and Wicklund proposed that, at a given moment, people can focus on the self or the external environment. Focusing on the self enables self-evaluation. When self-focused, people compare the self with standards of correctness that specify how the self ought to think, feel, and behave. Comparing the self with standards allows people to change their behavior and experience pride and dissatisfaction with the self. Self-awareness is thus a significant mechanism of self-control. When we focus on ourselves, we evaluate and compare our current behavior to our internal standards and values. This elicits a state of objective self-awareness. We become self-conscious as objective evaluators of ourselves. This theory correlates with our



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study regarding the awareness of students in the Anti-hazing Act of 2018, as it is regarded that being in a group requires conscious and wise decisions. So, with that being stated, it can be implied that joining fraternities and engaging in hazing activities requires self-awareness on the part of the student. Whether to engage or not in any hazing activities completely relies on our consciousness and awareness.

INTRODUCTION

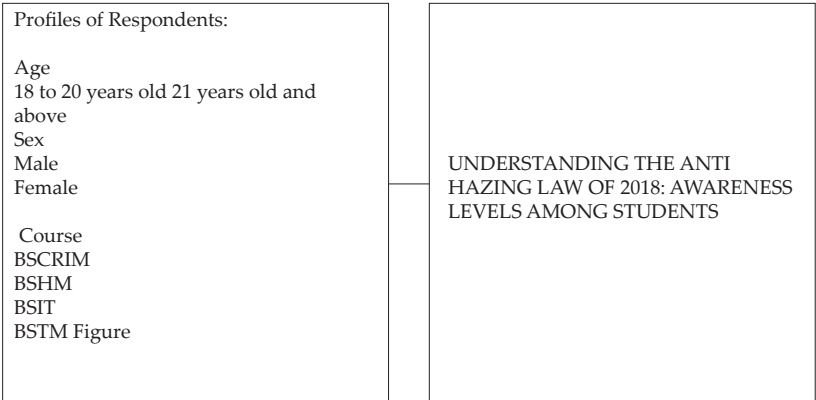
Hazing has been a persistent issue in various educational institutions, particularly within fraternities, sororities, and other student organizations. It is often perceived as a means of strengthening group bonds, yet it frequently results in physical injuries, psychological trauma, and in extreme cases, fatalities (Nuñez & Gonzales, 2020). In response to the alarming incidents of Hazing-related violence in the Philippines, Republic Act No. 11053, also known as the Anti-Hazing Act of 2018, was enacted. This law strictly prohibits all forms of hazing and imposes severe penalties on those involved, aiming to eliminate the harmful tradition of hazing in student organizations (Congress of the Philippines, 2018).

Despite the law's implementation, hazing-related incidents continue to surface, raising concerns about the level of awareness among students regarding the provisions, which limit its effectiveness in preventing hazing practices. Similarly, Bautista (2022) emphasized that the lack of proper education and awareness programs within schools contributes to students' misconceptions about initiation rites. Given this context, assessing students' awareness of the Anti-Hazing Law of 2018 is crucial in determining the effectiveness of existing information campaigns and institutional policies. By understanding their level of knowledge, policymakers, educators, and student organizations can design more effective strategies to promote compliance with the law and prevent hazing-related incidents. This study seeks to examine the awareness levels of students regarding the Anti-Hazing Law of 2018 and its impact on their attitudes toward hazing practices.

FRAMEWORK

This study was guided by the research paradigm as shown below:

Figure 1
The figure shows the independent and dependent variables which was used in this study



This study was anchored on the Self-Awareness Theory by Duval and Wicklund (1972). Self-awareness is the capacity to take oneself as the object of thought; people can think, act, and experience, and they can also think about what they are thinking, doing, and experiencing. In social psychology, the study of self-awareness is traced to Shelley Duval and Robert Wicklund's (1972) landmark theory of self-awareness. Duval and Wicklund proposed that at a given moment, people can focus attention on the self or on the external environment. Focusing on the self enables self-evaluation. When self-focused, people compare the self with standards of correctness that specify how the self ought to think, feel, and behave. The process of comparing the self with standards allows people to change their behavior and to experience pride and dissatisfaction with the self. Self-awareness is thus a major mechanism of self-control. When we focus our attention on ourselves, we evaluate and compare our current behavior to our internal standards and values. This elicits a state of objective self-awareness. We become self-conscious as objective evaluators of ourselves. This theory correlates with our study regarding the awareness of students in the Anti-hazing Act of 2018, as it is regarded that being in a group requires conscious and wise decisions. So, with that being stated, it can be implied that joining fraternities and engaging in hazing activities requires self-awareness on the part of the student. The decision whether to engage or not in any hazing activities is completely reliant on our consciousness and awareness.

Definition of Terms

To ensure a clearer understanding of the study, the following terms were defined conceptually and operationally.

Age - the period someone has been alive or something has existed (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022)

In this study, age refers to the time of existence of the respondents, which is either 20 years old and below or 21 years old and above.

Awareness -knowledge that something exists, or understanding of a situation or subject at the present based on information or experience (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

In this study, awareness refers to the knowledge or orientation of BS Criminology towards the Anti-hazing Law of 2018.

Course - a set of classes or a plan of study on a particular subject, usually leading to an exam or qualification (Cambridge Dictionary, 2020).

In this study, courses referred to four courses of NISU-VSSC, namely: Bachelor of Science in Criminology, Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management, Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology, and Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management.

NISU-VSSC - stands for Northern Iloilo State University - Victorino Salcedo Sara Campus, a college located in the 5th district of Iloilo.

In this study, NISU-VSSC refers to the locale of the study.

Sex - either of the two major forms of individuals that occur in many species and are distinguished respectively as female or male, especially based on their reproductive organs and structures.

In this study, sex refers to the respondent's identity, either male or female.

Students - refers to a person studying at a school or college (Oxford Languages, 2014).

In this study, students refer to the officially enrolled students of NISU-VSSC who are the respondents of this study.

RA 11053 - an act prohibiting hazing and regulating other forms of initiation rites of fraternities, sororities, and other organizations, providing penalties for violations thereof, amending for the purpose Republic Act No. 8049, entitled “An act regulating hazing and other forms of initiation rites in fraternities, sororities, and organizations and providing penalties therefor.

In this study, the Anti-Hazing Law of 2018 refers to the law that was used for the assessment of the students’ awareness.

Significance of the Study

The result of this study may be beneficial to the following:

Students - Findings in the study can make them understand, realize, and develop awareness towards the Anti-hazing Law of 2018, which is helpful and relevant in their field of education as students.

Parents - The result of this research can enlighten the minds of the parents on the level of awareness of their children regarding the matter, so they can deter or give counsel to their children to avoid engagement in hazing.

Community - The result of this study will be helpful to the community because it will increase their level of awareness towards the Anti-Hazing Law of 2018 and can aid them in the prevention of engagement of the younger generation in hazing activities.

Programs Offered in NISU-VSSC - The result of the assessment from students is a basis for every department to enhance the students’ awareness towards the Anti-Hazing Law of 2018 and guide them not to engage in any hazing activities.

NISU-VSSC - The institutions were informed of the level of awareness towards the Anti-hazing Law of 2018 of the students and developed revised rules and a program of the school concerning the matter.

Local Government Unit - This study was significant to LGU specifically, the Municipality of Sara, since the result of the study will be useful for them as their basis in making programs/ordinances for the people of Sara in relation to the Anti-Hazing Law of 2018.

Researchers - This study will help us to know more about the Anti-Hazing Law of 2018. The findings will provide us with an assessment of how aware the students of NISU- VSSC towards the Anti-Hazing Law of 2018.

Future Researchers - The results of this study will also benefit future researchers because the findings, conclusions, and recommendations based on the results of this study could serve as a basis when conducting related studies in the future and by exploring other variables.

Delimitations of the Study

This study aimed to determine the level of Students' Awareness Towards the Anti-Hazing Law of 2018 among the students of NISU-VSSC. The quantitative research design, specifically, descriptive research using the survey as a method, was used in this study. The target respondents were the 328 randomly selected students of the four (4) programs of NISU-VSSC, namely, (BSCRM), (BSHM), (BSIT), and (BSTM) for the academic year 2022-2023. They were classified according to age, sex, and course. The data was gathered, tabulated, analyzed, and interpreted using Mean and Percentage Frequency Distribution for descriptive statistics. And for inferential statistics, the Mann-Whitney U Test and Kruskal-Wallis Test were utilized. The level of significance was set at 0.05 alpha.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study aimed to (1) identify trends and patterns within specific demographic groups that may influence attitude, behavior, or responses to the research topic, (2) measure the general level of awareness among students regarding the anti-hazing law of 2018, and (3) quantify the level of awareness regarding the anti-hazing law of 2018 among students.

METHODOLOGY

Research Site

This study was conducted at Northern Iloilo State University (NISU), Victoriano Salcedo Campus, in Brgy. Anoring Sara, Iloilo, Philippines. NISU is a state university known for its commitment to providing accessible and quality higher education in northern Iloilo province. It serves as a central academic institution for students from various municipalities. It offers a wide range of programs aimed at developing professionals in technology, tourism, hospitality management, and criminal justice education focusing on criminology. The study focused on four academic programs offered at NISU-VSC. Bachelor of Science in Criminology (BS CRIM), Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology (BS IT), Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management (BS TM), and Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management (BS HM). These programs were selected to explore variations in the awareness levels regarding the Anti-Hazing Law of 2018 among students from diverse academic disciplines. A total of 328 students were randomly selected as respondents from these programs. The university's location in Brgy. Anoring Sara, Iloilo made it accessible for data collection, and its

administrative support facilitated the ethical conduct of the research. NISU was chosen as the research site due to its diverse student population and its emphasis on legal awareness and students' welfare.

Research Design

This study employed quantitative research, specifically, a descriptive research design using the survey as a method. Quantitative research is used to attain greater knowledge and understanding of the social world. It focuses more on counting statistical models and figures to explain what is observed. According to Gay (1992), descriptive research involves collecting data in order to test hypotheses or to answer questions concerning the current status of the subject of the study. The researchers used Purposive sampling, also known as judgmental, selective, or subjective sampling, which is a form of non-probability sampling in which researchers rely on their own judgment when choosing members of the population to participate in their surveys (Alchemer, 2021). This research design is chosen to determine the level of Students' Awareness towards Anti-Hazing Law of 2018.

Respondents of the Study

The respondents of the study were the three hundred twenty-eight (328) randomly chosen students from the four courses of Northern Iloilo State University - Victorino Salcedo Campus. One hundred fifteen (115) of the respondents were coming from the (BSCRIM), ninety-seven (97) from (BSHM), fifty-nine (59) from (BSIT), and fifty-seven (57) from (BSTM) students who are officially enrolled for the academic year 2022-2023. The respondents of the study

were determined using Slovin's formula $\{n = \frac{N}{1+N^2}\}$ through purposive sampling techniques. The researcher will choose the target respondents based on who they think will be appropriate for the study.

Table 1

Distribution of respondents according to variables.

Category	N	%
A. Entire Group	328	100
B. Age		
18 to 20 Years Old	142	43
21 Years Old and Above	186	57

C. Sex

Male	156	48
Female	172	52

D. Courses

BSCRIM	115	35
BSHM	97	30
BSIT	59	18
BSTM	57	17

This study utilized a researcher-made questionnaire. The questionnaire was divided into two parts. The first part of the questionnaire solicited the demographic profile of the respondents, such as age, sex, and year level. It also includes the respondent's name, which is optional. The second part was the questionnaire proper which included the list of questions that would assess the level of awareness of the student towards RA 11053. In answering the question, respondents were guided by a numerical scale with description and interpretation shown below.

The raw scores from the items were converted to a mean using the following:

Mean Range	Interpretation
4.21 - 5.00	Very High Awareness
3.41 - 4.20	High Awareness
2.61 - 3.40	Moderate Awareness
1.81 - 2.60	Low Awareness
1.0 - 1.80	Very Low Awareness

In answering the questionnaire, the respondents were required to check the responses that correspond to their answers.

Instrumentation

The primary data collection method employed in this study was a structured survey questionnaire designed to measure students' levels of awareness of Republic

Act No. 11053, also known as the Anti-Hazing Law of 2018. The questionnaire consisted of two parts: (1) demographic profile of the respondents (including age, gender, and academic program) 1 and 2 items assessing their awareness and understanding of the Anti-Hazing Law. The awareness section used a 5-point likes scale ranging from 1 (Not aware at all), 2 (slightly aware), 3 (Moderately Aware), 4 (aware), 5 (extremely aware).

Prior to the fall implementation of the survey, the instrumentation of the survey, the instrument underwent content validation by experts in the field of legal studies and education to ensure clarity, relevance, and appropriateness. A pilot test was also conducted with 30 students from a nearby campus who were not included in the actual sample, to test the reliability of the tool. The resulting Cronbach's alpha coefficient confirmed acceptable internal consistency.

Upon receiving approval from the university's ethics committee and securing informal consent from all participants, the researcher distributed the questionnaire both in printed and online formats to accommodate varying access and preferences of the students. Random sampling was used to ensure a fair and representative selection of 328 student respondents across the four academic programs: BS Criminology, BS Information Technology, BS Tourism Management, and BS Hospitality Management.

All responses were treated with strict confidentiality. The completed questionnaires were collected, verified for completeness, and encoded for statistical analysis.

Statistical Techniques

The following statistical tools were used to analyze the gathered data. For descriptive statistics, the mean and percentage frequency distribution were used.

Mean-also known as average, is the total sum of values in a sample divided by the number of values in the sample (Hurley & Tenny 2022).

In this study mean was used to determine the level of Students' awareness towards RA 11053: "Anti-Hazing Act of 2018" of NISU-VSSC.

Percentage-is calculated by taking the frequency in the category divided by the total number of participants and multiplying by 100% (Korb, 2013). In this study, percentage was used to interpret the frequencies obtained in each category of variables.

Frequency Distribution is the pattern of frequencies of a variable. It's the number of times each possible value of a variable occurs in a dataset (Turney, 2022).

In this study, frequency distribution was used to determine the distribution of respondents who will give a particular answer on the level of students' Awareness towards RA 11053: "Anti-Hazing Act of 2018" of NISU-VSSC.

For inferential statistics, the Mann-Whitney U-test and the Kruskal-Wallis test was used. The Mann-Whitney U-test is used to test whether two independent samples of observations are drawn from the same or identical distributions

(Wilson, 2009). In this study, Mann Mann-Whitney Utest is a type of inferential statistic this used to determine the significant differences on the level of students Awareness towards RA 11053: “Anti-Hazing Act of 2018” of NISU-VSSC in terms of age and sex.

Kruskal-Wallis Test- also called one-way ANOVA on ranks is a rank-based nonparametric test that can be used to determine if there are statistically significant differences between two or more groups of an independent variable on a continuous or ordinal dependent variable (Laerd Statistic, 2023). In this study, the Kruskal-Wallis test is the One-Way Annova set at 0.05 alpha this way we are able to determine the significant difference in the level of Students Awareness of NISU-VSSC students towards RA 11053 in terms if program of the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Reveals that the student’s level of awareness towards the Anti-Hazing Law of 2018 showed that the respondents, when taken as an entire group, had high awareness. Maybe they were highly aware, considering hazing is a current issue nowadays. And the institution provides a symposium in order to make the students aware of hazing activities. In response to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Memorandum Order No. 4 Series of 2019, all higher education institutions must implement an Anti-Hazing education program and include discussion of RA No. 11053 in student orientation. This institutional responsibility plays a vital role in reinforcing students’ understanding of the law and cultivating a campus culture that rejects hazing. According to Delos Santos (2019), awareness of this law among students plays a crucial role in its implementation. His study revealed that students who were informed about the Anti-Hazing Law showed a greater tendency to avoid participating in or condoning hazing practices. Similarly, Cruz and Ramos (2020) found that awareness was highest among students who attended a legal orientation seminar, suggesting the effectiveness of institutional efforts in promoting legal literacy.

Results of the study affirm the study of Torres and Lim (2021) on which case study shows that students who attended structured legal briefing scored significantly higher in awareness tests compared to those who did not. Their research emphasizes the impact of consistent and well-organized legal education in improving compliance and encouraging whistle blowing among students.

It manifests that the respondents age group 18-20 had high awareness, while those 21 years old and above had very high awareness. While both male and female participants had high awareness of the Anti-Hazing Law, as to the participants’ program of the study, BS CRIM and BS IT both with very high awareness, whereas the BS HMT and BS TM students had high awareness.

Moreover, the results of the participants’ program of the study by Torres and Lim (2021). Awareness by Age, Gender, and Academic Program can significantly influence levels of legal awareness. Younger students, particularly those aged 18

to 20, often participate in orientation programs and general education courses where laws and student rights are discussed, resulting in higher awareness levels. Older students may have less frequent exposure to such programs, explaining slightly lower, yet still high levels of awareness. Furthermore, the study of Ramos and Del Mundo (2018) bolsters the study that indicates that both male and female students tend to exhibit similar levels of awareness when equal access to educational information is provided. This aligns with the current study findings, which show high awareness across both genders. Additionally, the study of academic programs plays a distinct role in shaping student awareness, particularly in fields that emphasize law, ethics public safety. Criminal Justice and Industrial Technology often undergo coursework related to laws, ethics, and discipline-specific regulations, which likely contributes to their very high levels of awareness (Lopez & Santos 2020). Meanwhile, students in Hospitality-related programs (e.g., BS Tourism Management and BS Hospitality Management) may receive less has its own legal studies, which corresponds with their observed high-but not very high-levels of awareness.

Also, Bandura's Social Cognitive Theory (1986) posits that individuals learn through observation, imitation, and modeling. Students who are consistently exposed to Anti-Hazing information, discussion, and institutional policies are more likely to internalize these norms and apply them in their decision-making behavior. The outcome of the study exhibited no significant differences in the level of students' awareness towards the Anti-Hazing Law of 2018 when respondents were classified according to their age and sex. Meanwhile, a significant difference was noted in the level of students' awareness towards the Anti-Hazing law of 2018 was classified according to their program of study. A study by Mendoza and Reyes (2017) found no significant difference in awareness levels between male and female students or among different age brackets, which aligns with findings of this current study. However, significant differences were noted when students were grouped according to academic program. Santos and Velasco (2019) observed that students enrolled in law-related and public administration programs demonstrate significantly higher awareness of national laws compared to students in business or arts programs. Likewise, Fernandez (2020) confirmed that program-specific exposure to law and ethics correlates strongly with awareness levels. Those findings support the idea that while age and gender may not drastically influence legal awareness, academic program affiliation plays a decisive role due to curriculum content and the nature of training received.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, the researchers concluded the following: The demographic profile of the respondents when classified according to age, sex and program of study revealed that most of the respondents were female and they were with high awareness towards Anti-Hazing Law of 2018. It could be that

female students were aware because they are more active in social media and due to that it helps them to gain more knowledge in hazing activities.

The students of NISU-VSSC were very high awareness towards Anti-Hazing Law of 2018. Perhaps it is due to the fact that hazing nowadays are rampant and prevalent. Furthermore, the school have conducted orientation programs regarding hazing activities to raise awareness about the prohibitions and sanctions of this law for people involved in this form of initiation rites.

When respondents were categorized according to age and sex, the results revealed that there were no significant differences on the level of students' awareness towards Anti-Hazing Law of 2018. It can be possibly attributed that age and sex does not affect the orientation and awareness of the students to acquire regarding the matter.

When respondents were categorized according to the program study, the results revealed that a significant difference was noted. Probably, this is due to the difference of implementing the programs each department. And it could also be related as to how the students were able to comprehend and understand the information dissemination given by every speaker, conducted during the symposium and orientation programs in school.

Therefore, that research study correlates to self-awareness theory by Duval and Wicklund (1972), wherein self-awareness is the ability to look inward, think deeply about your behavior, and consider how it aligns with your moral standards and values. It is implied that joining fraternities and engaging in hazing activities requires self-awareness on the part of the students. The decision whether to engage or not in any hazing activities is completely reliant on consciousness and awareness.

The present study, entitled "Understanding the Anti-Hazing Law of 2018: Awareness Levels Among Students," revealed that students of Northern Iloilo State University, across four academic programs, generally exhibit high to very high awareness of Republic Act No. 11053. This is a significant finding that affirms the effectiveness of institutional legal awareness efforts, especially in the context of national policies and CHED-mandated orientations. A notable discovery of this study is that while age and gender did not significantly influence awareness levels, academic program affiliation did. Students enrolled in BS Criminology and BS Industrial Technology showed very high awareness, while those in BS Tourism and BS Hospitality Management programs reflected high awareness. This supports and strengthens earlier studies suggesting that curriculum content and program exposure to law-related subjects play a crucial role in shaping students' understanding of legal frameworks.

Contrary to some prior research that indicated age may influence legal awareness (e.g., Mendoza & Reyes, 2017), the results of this study negate that assumption in the context of Anti-Hazing awareness, emphasizing instead the institutional and academic context as more pivotal. The findings validate Bandura's Social Cognitive Theory, confirming that environmental exposure,

modeled behaviors (e.g., institutional seminars), and access to legal information reinforce awareness and behavioral alignment. Additionally, the results point toward the potential for a Program-Specific Awareness Model (PSAM) a theoretical framework proposing that legal awareness is more strongly shaped by academic program context and curriculum integration than by demographic characteristics alone.

This study thus contributes new knowledge by identifying academic program as a critical determinant in law awareness challenging generalized assumptions based solely on age or gender, and opening doors for program-based awareness interventions. Moreover, it sets the ground work for further research on how specific academic cultures and content influence compliance with and understanding of national laws among youth.

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

The findings of this study particularly, the high to very levels of awareness of the Anti-Hazing Law among students, provide a critical foundation for translating research into practice and policy. The results can guide both educational institutions and government agencies in repairing strategies that sustain and improve legal awareness, especially among subgroups such as older students or those in non-law focused academic programs.

Based on the variations in awareness by academic program and age, schools can tailor their legal literacy programs more effectively. For example, general education curricula or student orientation programs can be revised to include more intensive targeted discussions on Republic Act No. 10053, especially in programs where awareness is slightly lower.

Student affairs offices can develop continuous legal education seminars, peer-led discussions, and campus-wide campaigns using the data from this study. Their initiatives could be scheduled more frequently for upper-year students, ensuring that legal awareness remains high throughout a student's academic life.

The study supports outreach programs by the Department of Education (Dep Ed), the commission on higher education (CHED) and law enforcement agencies. Findings can be used to advocate for localized policies mandating periodic Anti-Hazing education and the inclusion of students as peer educators or ambassadors of safe practices.

With the rise of digital engagement among youth, findings from that research can inform the creation of online content (videos, infographics, short courses) promoting the Anti-Hazing Law. Scholars and advocacy groups can translate the data into engaging and age-appropriate awareness campaigns.

The awareness educators used in this study can be adopted into standardized assessment tools to monitor students' knowledge of Anti-Hazing Laws annually. Schools can use these tools to evaluate the impact of their awareness initiatives and adjust them accordingly.

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