

AN ASSESSMENT OF SUICIDE POTENTIAL AMONG SELECTED FEMALE VICTIMS OF ABUSE

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Abstract

This study aims to determine the level of the different dimensions of suicide, namely: hopelessness, negative self-evaluation, suicide ideation, helplessness, and hostility, and the level of suicide potential among the female victims of abuse, and to determine whether there is a significant difference on the mean scores for each dimension when they are grouped according to demographic profile. The respondents of this study consist of eight female victims of abuse from the Haven for Women in Rosario, Batangas. The researchers used the Suicide Potential Inventory for Filipinos developed by Dr. Susan Estanislao, which is a self-report instrument designed to assess suicide among Filipinos from 15 years and above. In addition, the test is composed of five dimensions that will test an individual's suicide potential. At the completion of this study, the respondents were measured to have a moderate level of suicide potential when grouped according to demographic profile, composed of the civil status, the educational attainment, and the type of abuse. Furthermore, the results showed that there is no significant difference on the mean score for each of the suicide dimensions when the civil status, the educational attainment, and the type of abuse of the respondents were taken into consideration.

Keywords: *assessment, potential, abuse, risk factors of suicide, suicide.*

INTRODUCTION

Suicide, the deliberate act of killing oneself, has reaped a negative view from some cultures, and Philippines is no exemption to that. Due to the country's inclination towards religious teachings, the society is silent when it comes to talks concerning suicide, and the conservative nature of Filipinos

influences them to see only the implications of the act and not the reasons behind it. Feelings of shame are common among the families of suicide victims and the taboo nature of suicide in the country hinders the experts from gathering adequate information that would be necessary to develop steps and methods to prevent the self-destructive act from happening (Macalanda, 2007). In addition to this, it makes it difficult for the researchers to pursue studies that would tackle the issue. Without research, how would this situation progress for the better?

Although suicide has been present for most of history, there is little explanation as to how this self-destructive behavior happens. Hypotheses such as it being a psychological disorder have aroused the concern of many, but researchers suggested that suicide may actually be a side effect of a disorder and is not a disorder in itself (Necid et al., 2011). In an attempt to uncover the mysteries of suicide, theories have emerged in order to explain the reasons behind the self-destructive behavior; two of the most prominent ones include Emile Durkheim's book on *Suicide* in the field of Sociology, and Sigmund Freud's Psychoanalytic Perspective in the field of Psychology.

In an article from the Sun Star Davao written by Henrylito D. Tacio dated September 6, 2013, he states that according to the Merck Manual of Medical Information, high risk factors for suicide include depression, history of drug or alcohol abuse, history of prior suicide attempts, family history of suicide, and family violence which includes physical or sexual abuse. In addition, a meta-analysis of 37 studies published between 1980 and 2008 involving three million people found a significant association between physical and sexual abuse and suicidal attempts which increased in fourfold (Chen et al., 2010).

In this light, the researchers have chosen to focus on abuse as a reason for committing suicide. While it is already regarded by many

organizations and institutions—such as the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Psychological Association—as a motivation to commit suicide, the researchers would like to determine the degree of suicide potential among the abused and further explain whether the demographic profile of the respondents would make a significant difference on their scores on the dimensions of suicide potential. Furthermore, this study will be conducted because there are few local studies existing that tackle the issue of suicide due to the social stigma attached to it and its confidentiality. The researchers aimed to provide knowledge and understanding on the possible suicide potential of the respondents and their levels on the five dimensions of suicide potential.

Conceptual Framework

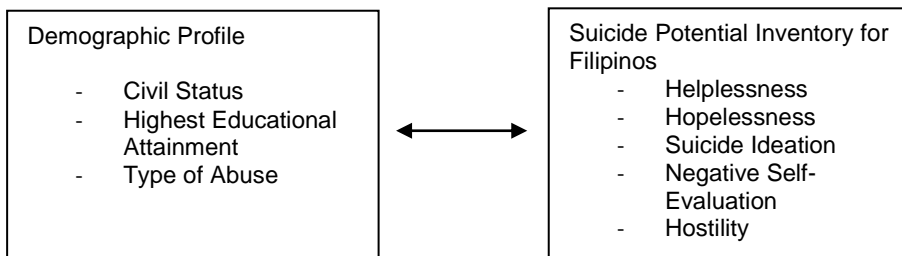


Figure 1. Conceptual framework of the study

Figure 1 shows the demographic profile of the respondents including civil status, highest educational attainment and type of abuse, and also the five suicidal dimensions which includes helplessness, hopelessness, suicide ideation, negative self-evaluation, and hostility. The helplessness dimension reflects an individual's belief that their actions and efforts are pointless so they may as well give up. The hopelessness dimension reflects a general dissatisfaction with life and an overall negative expectation about the present situation and the future. The suicide ideation dimension reflects and individual's general melancholic ideas and views about himself in relation to

his environment, present situation, and life itself. The negative self-evaluation dimension reflects an individual's overall sense of incompetence, worthlessness, inconsistency, and undesirable or negative attitude towards the self in relation to others. The hostility dimension refers to an individual's feelings of irritability, impatience, and possible danger to one's self, others, and property.

The researchers will determine whether there is a significant difference between the demographic profile of the respondents and the five suicide dimensions using the Suicide Potential Inventory for Filipinos. The demographic profile of the respondents may or may not have an effect on the degree of their hopelessness, helplessness, suicide ideation, negative self-evaluation, and hostility, and on their overall level of suicide potential.

Objectives of the Study

This study aimed to determine the level of each dimensions of suicide potential among selected female victims of abuse at Haven for Women in Rosario, Batangas.

Specifically, this study sought to achieve the following:

1. to determine the demographic profile of respondents when they are grouped according to:
 - 1.1 civil status;
 - 1.2 highest educational attainment; and,
 - 1.3 types of abuse.
2. to determine the level of the suicide dimension of respondents when they are grouped according to:
 - 2.1 civil status;

- 2.2 highest educational attainment; and,
 - 2.3 types of abuse.
3. to determine the overall suicide potential of respondents when they are grouped according to:
 - 3.1 civil status;
 - 3.2 highest educational attainment; and,
 - 3.3 types of abuse.
4. to determine if there is a significant difference in the mean score for each dimension when it was grouped according to:
 - 4.1 civil status;
 - 4.2 highest educational attainment; and,
 - 4.3 types of abuse.

METHOD

This study utilized a descriptive research design. According to Leary (2010), descriptive research is a design that describes the characteristics or behavior of a particular population in a systematic and accurate fashion. Specifically, the researchers used the quantitative method which is explaining phenomena by collecting numerical data that are analyzed using mathematically based methods, statistics, in particular (Aliaga and Gunderson, 2003). Using the data that the researchers have gathered, they described the levels on the five dimensions of suicide potential and overall suicide potential of the respondents; and explained whether there is a significant difference in their levels on the five dimensions when grouped according to demographic profile.

This study was conducted in the Haven for Women. The Haven for Women is an institution for the abused located in Rosario, Batangas, which caters to the needs of the abused women. Its mission is to provide a temporary shelter and to protect the victims or survivors of abuse from harm and high risk situations. Furthermore, it envisions itself to be able to help the victims and survivors of abuse to regain their psychosocial functioning, and facilitate reintegration to their families and communities.

The respondents of the study were composed of the victims of abuse from the Haven for Women in Rosario, Batangas. Due to the age limits presented by the standardized test instrument to be used—which specifies that the test should be administered to Filipinos aged 15 years and above—only 8 out of the 18 clients of the institution were chosen as the respondents of the study.

The researchers have considered the expediency and accessibility in choosing the subjects of the research, and this study utilized purposive sampling in determining the respondents to be surveyed. Purposive sampling is a type of non-probability sampling technique wherein the units to be investigated are based on the judgement of the researcher. The population to be tested was determined by the researcher depending on the specific characteristics needed in the study.

Procedure

The researchers have accomplished the study using the following procedures:

First, the researchers presented a paper to the panelists for proposal defense. Upon approval of the proposal, the researchers conducted library work and gathered empirical data that will support and disclaim their study.

Then, a letter of permission was forwarded to the institutions involved in the study. As the institution gave its consent, the researchers gathered data by asking the participants to answer their survey form. After gathering data, the researchers proceeded to use statistical treatment to determine the outcome of the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Below are the results of the gathered data:

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents in terms of civil status. Civil status consists of the following: single, single mother, and married. Three individuals among respondents were single and they comprised 37.5 percent of the total respondents. Four of the respondents were single mothers and they comprised 50.0 percent of the total respondents. However, only one person from the respondents was married and comprised the remaining 12.5 percent of the total population.

According to Wilcox and Wilson (2014), studies show that married women are the least likely to be mistreated or abused by an intimate partner. Moreover, they are less likely to be a victim of violence in general. Also, further studies show that compared to married women, women who are not married are nearly four times more likely to be victims of violent crime. The study implies that women are safer when in a relationship because their husbands or partners might be able to protect them from violence. However, it must be noted that some of the respondents of the study chose to be single mothers because of the violence that they experienced from their partner.

Table 1. Distribution of respondents in terms of civil status

| Civil Status | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Single | 3 | 37.5 |
| Single Mother | 4 | 50.0 |
| Married | 1 | 12.5 |
| Total | 8 | 100.00 |

Table 2 shows the distribution of the respondents according to their highest educational attainment. Three of the respondents were in the elementary level (undergraduate) and they comprised 37.5 percent of the total respondents. Another three individuals comprised the 37.5 percent of the total respondents and they were in the high school level (undergraduate). The two respondents comprised the remaining 25 percent of the total population and they were in the college level (undergraduate).

According to an online article titled “Peace Over Violence”, people of all social classes and all educational backgrounds may be victims of abuse. In this case, it does not matter whether the respondents of the study were all in the college level or in the elementary level, there was still a possibility that they would have experienced abuse.

Table 2. Distribution of respondents in terms of highest educational attainment

| Highest Educational Attainment | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| College (undergraduate) | 2 | 25.0 |
| High School (undergraduate) | 3 | 37.5 |
| Elementary (undergraduate) | 3 | 37.5 |
| Total | 8 | 100.00 |

Table 3 shows the distribution of the respondents in terms of types of abuse. Three of the respondents were physically abused and they comprised the 37.5 percent of the total respondents. One respondent was emotionally abused and she comprised the 12.5 percent of the total respondents.

Another one respondent comprised the 12.5 percent of the total respondents who was sexually abused. And the remaining three respondents, which comprised 37.5 percent of the total population, were under the category of Others which is consisted of different types of abuse which cannot be specified as physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, but are not limited to other types of abuse.

According to an online article from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2006), the most common forms of violence against women include sexual violence, emotional violence, and domestic violence, which can take many forms such as emotional, sexual, and physical abuse.

In this study, majority of the respondents were found out to have been physically abused, which is similar to the aforementioned article.

Table 3. Distribution of respondents in terms of types of abuse

| | Frequency | Percent |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Physical Abuse | 3 | 37.5 |
| Emotional Abuse | 1 | 12.5 |
| Sexual Abuse | 1 | 12.5 |
| Others | 3 | 37.5 |
| Total | 8 | 100.00 |

Table 4 shows the mean scores of the respondents across suicide dimensions according to civil status. For the respondents who were single and single mothers, a *moderate level* throughout the five suicide dimensions was measured. There was only one respondent who is married to have a *high level* of negative self-evaluation and hostility.

A high level of negative self-evaluation indicates that an individual has extreme feelings of shame, guilt, and inadequacy. Furthermore, feelings of worthlessness and unintelligence are prevalent, which keeps a person

from thinking about his/her welfare, with the belief that he/she deserves the things that are happening to him/her. In this situation, the respondent seems to have a negative attitude towards herself in relation to others and believes that she does not have the ability to change things in her life. The feelings of negativity towards the self and the powerlessness is too paralyzing that the person finds it hard to begin again and struggles to see through it. It also implies that the respondent has low self-esteem, which is often a result of an abusive relationship.

The high level of hostility indicates that a person is decidedly dangerous to oneself, others, and property. In this study, the high level of hostility of the respondent may stem from her frustrations in the relationship. Because she feels powerless in the relationship, as evidenced by the high level of negative self-evaluation she has gained, she represses her urges and expels them through aggression towards herself and others. Moreover, having a high level of hostility suggests that the respondent answered *most of the time* or *almost all of the time* to the statement, *"When things become complicated, I abuse myself to the point of endangering my health."* This impulsive self-injurious behavior may be a representation of their unplanned attempts to commit suicide (Kessler et al., 1999). However, it can be argued that most women who are abused are stereotyped to come out as compliant and meek.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the common characteristics that can be found in abuse victims are that they have low self-esteem and a poor self-image. This is believed to be a result of their experience of abuse and being downgraded by their partners. The victim accepts that he/she deserve the way his/her partner treats him/her and therefore represses his/her urges to leave the relationship. When these victims do leave their relationships, they find it hard to form new connections

and to socialize with others. They exhibit qualities of docility and submissiveness, with the fear of encountering a person similar to the partner that they once had.

Table 4. Mean scores of the respondents across suicide dimensions according to civil status

| Dimensions | Single | VI* | Single | VI* | Married | VI* |
|---------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|----------|---------|----------|
| | e | | Mother | | | |
| Hopelessness | 34.33 | Moderate | 34.50 | Moderate | 49.00 | Moderate |
| Negative Self-Evaluation | 47.33 | Moderate | 44.75 | Moderate | 64.00 | High |
| Suicide Ideation | 24.67 | Moderate | 24.75 | Moderate | 34.00 | Moderate |
| Helplessness | 37.00 | Moderate | 37.25 | Moderate | 43.00 | Moderate |
| Hostility | 16.00 | Moderate | 16.75 | Moderate | 23.00 | High |
| Total | 159.3 | Moderate | 158.00 | Moderate | 213.00 | Moderate |

*VI=Verbal Interpretation

Table 5 shows the mean scores of the respondents across suicide dimensions according to highest educational attainment. When the respondents were grouped according to highest educational attainment, they were all measured to have a *moderate level* across the five dimensions of suicide. These moderate feelings of hopelessness, negative self-evaluation, suicide ideation, helplessness, and hostility, implies that their level of suicide potential is also moderate, meaning that they experience recurrent thoughts of committing suicide in order to relieve their stress, although they would not act on it immediately and if they would, the means would not be too lethal.

Based on the researchers' observation, the dimensions of the suicide potential were all in the moderate scale because their educational experience does not influence them to have high or low levels of hopelessness, helplessness, negative self-evaluation, suicide ideation, and hostility. Regardless of their educational attainment, the respondents all think of suicide in the same way, and what must be taken into consideration is the severity of the abuse that they have experienced which the researchers' belief is the primary contributor in the result of their levels on the five dimensions and on their overall suicide potential.

Further, an online article entitled "Peace Over Violence" states that anyone can be a victim of abuse. A person does not have to come from a specific age, sex, race, culture, religion, education, employment, or marital status to experience abuse.

Table 5. Mean scores of the respondents across suicide dimension according to highest educational attainment

| Dimensions | Elementary (undergrad) | VI* | High School (undergrad) | VI* | College (undergrad) | VI* |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|--|------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| Hopelessness | 39.00 | Moderate | 34.33 | Moderate | 35.00 | Moderate |
| Negative Self Evaluation | 51.00 | Moderate | 47.33 | Moderate | 45.00 | Moderate |
| Suicide Ideation | 26.67 | Moderate | 24.67 | Moderate | 26.50 | Moderate |
| Helplessness | 40.33 | Moderate | 37.00 | Moderate | 35.50 | Moderate |
| Hostility | 18.67 | Moderate | 16.00 | Moderate | 17.00 | Moderate |
| Total | 175.67 | Moderate | 159.33 | Moderate | 159.00 | Moderate |

*VI=Verbal Interpretation

Table 6 shows the mean scores of the respondents across suicide dimensions according to types of abuse. When the respondents were grouped according to types of abuse, they were all measured to have a *moderate level* across the five dimensions of suicide potential.

As cited by Macalanda (2007), a moderate level of hopelessness indicates that the respondents may be on a state of feeling hopeless about their current situation. There seems to be a token sense of abandonment, solitude, detachment, and resignation from communicating with significant others. In addition, the respondents' rating on hopelessness may suggest that they were to some extent feeling despondent when they took the test. Their level of hopelessness may be linked to the interpersonal relationships or support systems that they have, which is given great emphasis when talking about hopelessness among Filipino suicide prone individuals (Estanislao, 2001). The Filipino culture gives great importance to social acceptance, group belongingness, and close family ties (Estanislao, 2001). Following this line of thought, it can be reasoned that the respondents' support system is present. Though not exceptionally effective, it is certainly not defective enough to warrant a high level of hopelessness among the respondents.

A moderate level of negative self-evaluation implies that the respondents have mild feelings of insufficiency, insignificance, and to a certain degree lacking self-esteem, which is parallel to the study conducted by Palmer, Brown, Rae-Grant, and Loughlin (2001), which surmises that survivors of abuse tend to have low self-esteem. Moreover, it also shows that the respondents have a slight lack of confidence in solving their own problems and has probably experienced an altered sense of self-concept or loss of constancy in the social world which is brought about by changed social relationships. As cited in Estanislao (2011), an individual who sees

relating to an individual as unsuccessful and who lacks self-esteem may consider suicide as a solution to this unbearable situation.

The level of suicide ideation of the respondents in general is in the moderate level, which implies that although the respondents seem to consider thoughts of death and dying, they are not engrossed by thoughts of it. Furthermore, a moderate rating signifies that thinking of committing suicide is their usual practice in order to deal with stressful situations and with their problems. Their level of suicide ideation can be attributed to the observation that among Filipinos who have suicidal wishes, they abandon their plans of committing suicide because they think that their loved ones will miss them when they are gone, and that they also fear God's punishment if they push through with their plans. In this case, it can be surmised that the respondents may be considering the families and interpersonal relationships that they will leave behind if they commit suicide, and also the retribution from God that they will face whenever they think about committing suicide.

The helplessness dimension of the respondents is in the moderate degree, which indicates that there is a fair sense of surrender, and lack of motivation. There is also a moderate air of vulnerability brought about by their current situation and thoughts of the future. As cited in Estanislao (2001), Filipinos tend to accredit situations to external factors such as God, luck, society, and the like instead of one's own efforts. Considering this, the respondents' moderate level of helplessness may be ascribed to their religious beliefs and their conviction that fate will take care of the rest of their problems, instead of owning up to them and trying to solve their troubles on their own.

The level of hostility of the respondents is in the moderate degree, which implies a minor projection of inhibited feelings through rage and anger. Also, the respondents more often than not may express their troubled

feelings through hostile behavior rather than through verbal means. Filipinos are credited to possess the value of “emotional control” which involves endurance and restraint of depressive feelings and problems. Therefore, there is a cultural tendency in the Philippines to suffer in silence (Estanislao, 2001). Following this, a suicide prone Filipino would most likely engage in self-infliction of pain or self-destructive behavior to release aggressive thoughts and feelings that cannot be directed to the persons concerned. In this study, the respondents’ level of hostility may be attributed to their pent up feelings of frustration and tolerance of the situations that they have undergone.

Table 6. Mean scores of the respondents across suicide dimensions according to types of abuse

| Dimensions | Physical Abuse | VI* | Emotional Abuse | VI* | Sexual Abuse | VI* | Others | VI* |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Hopelessness | 39.00 | Moderate | 34.33 | Moderate | 35.00 | Moderate | 39.67 | Moderate |
| Negative Self Evaluation | 51.00 | Moderate | 47.33 | Moderate | 45.00 | Moderate | 51.00 | Moderate |
| Suicide Ideation | 26.67 | Moderate | 24.67 | Moderate | 26.50 | Moderate | 26.33 | Moderate |
| Helplessness | 40.33 | Moderate | 37.00 | Moderate | 35.50 | Moderate | 40.00 | Moderate |
| Hostility | 18.67 | Moderate | 16.00 | Moderate | 17.00 | Moderate | 19.00 | Moderate |
| Total | 175.67 | Moderate | 159.33 | Moderate | 159.00 | Moderate | 176.00 | Moderate |

*VI=Verbal Interpretation

Table 7 shows the overall levels on the suicide dimensions and suicide potential of the respondents according to civil status. Again, it is shown that a *moderate level* was measured across the five dimensions of suicide and their general suicide risk assessment.

The researchers believe that this may be the case because their civil status has no significant impact on the five dimensions and on their overall suicide potential. Furthermore, what this implies is that notwithstanding their marital status, the respondents all think of suicide in the same way and therefore have the same levels of hopelessness, negative self-evaluation, suicide ideation, helplessness, and hostility.

Table 7. Overall levels on the suicide dimensions and suicide potential of the respondents according to civil status

| Dimension of Suicide Potential | Mean Score | Overall Levels According to Civil Status |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Hopelessness | 36.25 | Moderate |
| Negative Self-Evaluation | 48.13 | Moderate |
| Suicide Ideation | 25.88 | Moderate |
| Helplessness | 37.89 | Moderate |
| Hostility | 17.25 | Moderate |
| Overall Suicide Potential | 165.38 | Moderate |

Table 8 shows the overall levels on the suicide dimensions and suicide potential of the respondents according to highest educational attainment. It can be seen that the respondents were all measured to have a *moderate level* across the five dimensions of suicide potential and their general suicide risk assessment.

According to “Suicidal Ideation and Suicide Attempts among Adult Denes” by Mette Kjoller and Marie Helweg-Larsen, the prevalence of reported suicidal ideation was highest among people who had completed schools. It shows that the higher the level of educational attainment, the greater the level of suicide ideation among individuals. This literature contradicts the result of the study wherein it is shown that a *moderate level* was measured across the five dimensions of suicide potential. This suggests that whatever the level of their educational attainment is, it will not affect their levels on the five dimensions of suicide potential.

Table 8. Overall levels on the suicide dimensions and suicide potential of the respondents according to highest educational attainment

| Dimension of Suicide Potential | Mean Score | Overall Levels According to Highest Educational Attainment |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Hopelessness | 36.25 | Moderate |
| Negative Self-Evaluation | 48.13 | Moderate |
| Suicide Ideation | 25.88 | Moderate |
| Helplessness | 37.89 | Moderate |
| Hostility | 17.25 | Moderate |
| Overall Suicide Potential | 165.38 | Moderate |

Table 9 shows the overall levels on the suicide dimensions and suicide potential of the respondents according to the types of abuse. Results show that the respondents all have a *moderate level* across the five dimensions of suicide potential and their general suicide risk assessment.

The overall suicide potential of the respondents is in the moderate level, which indicates that the respondents live with the possibility of committing suicide in order to relieve themselves from stress. According to Macalanda (2007), suicidal tendency seems to be a process that starts with simple stress in life which is generated by difficult conditions. With this in mind, the respondents' level of suicide potential can be inferred as an outcome of their experiences of abuse. In addition, it can be deduced that the type of abuse that the respondents have experienced does not contribute to their feelings of hopelessness, negative self-evaluation, helplessness, hostility, and thoughts of committing suicide. Irrespective of the type of abuse they have suffered, it does not change the way they think about committing suicide.

Table 9. Overall levels on the suicide dimension and suicide potential of the respondents according to the types of abuse

| Dimension of Suicide Potential | Mean Score | Overall Levels According to the Types of Abuse |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Hopelessness | 36.25 | Moderate |
| Negative Self-Evaluation | 48.13 | Moderate |
| Suicide Ideation | 25.88 | Moderate |
| Helplessness | 37.89 | Moderate |
| Hostility | 17.25 | Moderate |
| Overall Suicide Potential | 165.38 | Moderate |

Table 10 shows that there is no significant difference in the mean score of each dimension according to civil status. This implies that whatever the civil status is, it will not affect the different dimensions for suicide.

According to Epidemiology and Community and Health, married persons experience lower suicide rates than single, never married people, and that divorced, separated and widowed persons have the highest rates. One of the most well-known explanations given in past studies to justify for the observed disparities in the suicide risk by marital status is that marriage offers social and emotional permanence, whereas divorce, separation, singlehood and widowhood do not. Consequently, marriage offers the best protection against suicide because it provides an incorporation of the social life and the community, and reduces social isolation. This literature opposes the result of the study wherein across the three civil status (single, single mother, and married), they all have the same levels of suicide potential and on the five dimensions. In addition, it must be noted that the negative self-evaluation dimension was observed to be highest for the only married respondent in this study. Notice that a characteristic of negative self-evaluation is that it roots from a loss of constancy in the social world which is brought about by changed social relationship. This directly contradicts the

above-mentioned literature which states that emotional permanence and protection against social isolation is provided in married relationships.

Table 10. Test for significant difference for civil status

| DIMENSION | Sig. | Decision |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Hopelessness | 0.539 | No significant difference. |
| Negative Self-Evaluation | 0.584 | No significant difference. |
| Suicide Ideation | 0.526 | No significant difference. |
| Helplessness | 0.874 | No significant difference. |
| Hostility | 0.627 | No significant difference. |
| Overall | 0.579 | No significant difference. |

Table 11 shows that there is no significant difference in the mean score of each dimension according to highest educational attainment. This implies that whatever the level of highest educational attainment is, it will not affect the different dimensions for suicide.

According to Kjoller and Helweg-Larsen, suicidal ideation was highest among people who had completed schools. It shows that the higher the level of educational attainment, the higher the possibility for suicide risk. Again, this contradicts the result of the study wherein across the three educational attainment (college undergraduate, elementary undergraduate, high school undergraduate) demographic profile, there was no significant difference for each of the five dimensions of suicide and the overall suicide potential.

The researchers believe that these results are such because the respondents perceive their educational attainment to be irrelevant when considering thoughts on committing suicide and on their feelings of hopelessness, negative self-evaluation, helplessness, and hostility, and their overall suicide risk.

Table 11. Test for significant difference for highest educational attainment

| DIMENSION | Sig. | Decision |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Hopelessness | 0.895 | No significant difference. |
| Negative Self-Evaluation | 0.927 | No significant difference. |
| Suicide Ideation | 0.948 | No significant difference. |
| Helplessness | 0.868 | No significant difference. |
| Hostility | 0.885 | No significant difference. |
| Overall | 0.907 | No significant difference. |

Table 12 shows that there is no significant difference in the mean score of each dimension according to types of abuse.

According to Community Counseling Services Inc. (2014), emotional and physical abused people's perceived social rejection often leads to social isolation, which also increases suicidality. This contradicts the result of the study since across the types of abuse (physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and others) demographic profile, the *moderate level* was constant throughout the five dimensions and for their overall suicide risk. This implies that whatever the types of abuse are, it will not affect the different dimensions for suicide.

The researchers have also observed that although they have experienced different types of abuse, most have agreed to just leave it in the past and focus on what will happen to their future. The positivity that these respondents have shown aids them in their recovery and inspires them to not be discouraged in life. Since a pessimistic worldview is seen as one of the causes for committing suicide (Rudd et al., 2006), it can be surmised that their types of abuse have no significant difference on their levels on the five suicide dimensions and on their overall suicide potential because their optimism helps them to see through the abuse and be expectant of the future.

Table 12. Test for significant difference for types of abuse

| DIMENSION | Sig. | Decision |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Hopelessness | 0.273 | No significant difference. |
| Negative Self-Evaluation | 0.549 | No significant difference. |
| Suicide Ideation | 0.839 | No significant difference. |
| Helplessness | 0.254 | No significant difference. |
| Hostility | 0.175 | No significant difference. |
| Overall | 0.458 | No significant difference. |

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Conclusions

The researchers have come about the following conclusions based on the statement of the problem:

1. In general, the level of Hopelessness, Negative Self-Evaluation, suicide ideation, helplessness, and hostility of the respondents were all found out to be at a moderate level when the demographic profile is taken into consideration;
2. The overall suicide potential of the respondents were also found out to be at a moderate level when the demographic profile which consists of civil status, educational attainment, and types of abuse, is considered; and,
3. The results show that there is no significant difference on the mean score for each of the suicide dimensions when the civil status, educational attainment, and types of abuse of the respondents are taken into consideration. In supposition, whatever their civil status, highest educational attainment, or type of abuse is, it does not make a difference on the way they think about suicide and their feelings of hopelessness, negative self-evaluation, helplessness, and hostility.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were drawn from the conclusions:

1. The future researchers may conduct the study with a larger population and partner with institutions catering to the needs of the abused;
2. Other aspects of abuse such as the length of the abuse, the age of the victim when he/she was abused, and the perpetrator of the abuse, should also be considered in assessing the suicide potential of the individual;
3. The future researchers may include gender as an additional variable to consider if they choose to conduct a similar study;
4. To decrease the level of negative self-evaluation and hostility, it may be beneficial to create a support system that addresses these dimensions specifically; and,
5. In general, continuous support in terms of psychological, emotional, physical, and financial terms must be given to the victims of abuse in order to address their needs.

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