

# Awareness of Students Regarding the Anti-Hazing Law in Nueva Ecija

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## Abstract

*This study aimed to determine the awareness of the students of Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology (NEUST), Philippines regarding Republic Act No. 8049 also known as Anti-Hazing Law.*

*The researchers utilized the descriptive research to analyze data on the profile of the respondents which include their age, gender and religion. Tackled likewise were the provisions of the Anti-Hazing Law which the students were most aware of. The factors that affect the awareness and the possible reasons for their lack of awareness were also studied.*

*This research contributes to the existing body of academic work by using descriptive data collected from 660 students of Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology (NEUST). Questionnaire-checklist which consists of a number of items in a set format was utilized as main tool for collecting data. The findings of the study showed that the age ranges of the respondents are 18-21 years old implying their lack of understanding in the law's provisions. The results also showed that the top three provisions of Anti-Hazing Law which the respondents were not aware of what section 2, 4a and 4b, respectively. Also, it was found out the top factor that affect the students' awareness of the said law were their lack of understanding on the different provisions.*

**Keywords—** awareness, anti-hazing law, academic, descriptive design, Philippines.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Hazing is a behavior that has been around for over two thousand years. Educators throughout history have had to confront the physical abuse, practical jokes, excessive alcohol consumption, and other humiliating and dangerous events that have found their way into being the rites of passage for countless young adults.

Hazing is understood at present as any action or situation, with or without the consent of the participants, which recklessly, intentionally, or unintentionally endangers the mental, physical, or academic health or safety of a student.

According to Nuwer (1999), hazing originated from the founding of Plato's academy in 387 B.C. Plato likened such acts to those of wild animals and was quick to criticize the "practical jokes played by unruly young men

that injured the hazed and citizens who got in the way". Hazing incidents, which at the time were known as pennialism, became increasingly well documented in the Middle Ages as the prevalence of these incidents caused increasing problems for educators at all levels. Students of the time considered hazing to be a natural way to teach newcomers precedence.

In Massachusetts, Harvard, college laws required that "freshmen run errands for all upperclassmen, never be 'saucy', and obey every upperclassman's order" (History of Hazing). Joseph Webb, Class of 1684, was the first Harvard student to be punished for hazing. He was expelled from Harvard for hitting freshmen and having them perform acts of servitude. However, Joseph was allowed to return to his studies after only two months, having successfully convinced Harvard's president that he

had sufficiently repented for his crime. This type of repentance was quite common at this time, in fact, “a public confession in front of the student body and a formal petition to return were the usual conditions for returning to Harvard College after a student had been caught committing a series offense” (Nuwer, p.100).

Because most college administrators of the time were members of the clergy they were often deeply pulled by a belief that “no sin was too great for God’s grace” (Nuwer, p.101) and so the cycle of hazing, punishment, repentance, and re-admittance continued throughout the eighteenth century.

Furthermore, a student was found guilty of organizing or participating in hazing activities at Harvard University, may be fined up to \$3,000 and/or imprisoned for up to one year. Failure to report a hazing incident that you have witnessed to a law enforcement official is also a crime punishable under state law.

Moreover, Portugal's hazing practices are also more widespread than those in America. "Unlike at American universities, and others in Europe, hazing is not limited to fraternities or sororities, but is a general rite of initiation for first-year students," The Times reports.

Another incident in Pennsylvania *eight members of Beta Theta Pi were charged with involuntary manslaughter and aggravated assault in the death of Tim Piazza, a sophomore who died after participating in hazing rituals at the fraternity house.*

The majority of fraternities have strict policies against hazing. Those who are caught doing it should be brought up on criminal and civil charges, and the offenders removed permanently (Barr, 2013).

In Wheaton College at Chicago, five football players face felony charges after being accused of a 2016 hazing incident in which a freshman teammates was restrained with duct tape, beaten and left half naked with two torn shoulders on a baseball field

It was also in Chicago, in a DuPage county, where a judge signed arrest warrant and set \$50,000 bonds against the players-James Cooksey, Kyler Kregel, Benjamin Pettway, Noah Spielman and Samuel TeBos – late Monday afternoon. Prosecutors charged the athletes with aggravated battery, mob action and unlawful restraint. They are expected to turn themselves in to authorities.

Moreover, a case of sorority hazing at Binghamton University in 2012 was reported where in the sorority sisters said they were forced them to take freezing cold showers while reciting the Greek alphabet without stopping. They also told the police that they were force-fed vomit-including pills as part of their initiation to the

sorority. In order to prevent any mishap while taking these pills, they were made to hold hookah coals with their hands while hot. The university did close all fraternities in sororities in life of these allegations, but the system was to reintroduce after a new set of guidelines were established.

The incidence of hazing all around the globe somehow mitigated other universities to act to at least help minimize the escalation of the problem. Others tuned to lay out a framework on possible ways and means to stop hazing incidents.

University of Rochester for instance, enumerated some of the possible means to stop hazing within their jurisdiction. These included (1) Reduce the power different between members and initiates (2) give members time to reflex their action (3) encourage members to voice concern with the new member education program (4) be willing to amend tradition (5) develop a chapter Anti-Hazing policy (6) share ideas with other organization (7) take advantage a campuses resources.

In the Philippines, incident of hazing had long existed. One incident that took place in Manila was when a 22-year-old freshman of the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) College of Law was rushed to the Medical City in Pasig on October 21, 2011, because of severe injuries supposedly incurred from hazing during initiation rites of a campus fraternity.

The student told his attending physicians at the hospital that he sustained the injuries from the hazing required as a rite of passage to the Fraternal Order of Utopia.

Utopia is one of the two fraternities based in the university. The other is the Aquila Legis that earned notoriety in 1991 when its neophyte member Lenny Villa died from injuries he suffered during initiation rites.

The Utopia fraternity lists among its members Chief Justice Renato Corona, Supreme Court Justices Roberto Abad and Arturo Brion, Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, and former first gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and son party-list Rep. Mikey Arroyo. De La Salle-College of St Benilde (DLS-CSB) – one of 17 member-schools of De La Salle\_Philippines – were involved in a hazing ritual of the Tau Gamma Phi fraternity on Saturday, June 28, 2014. Guillo Cesar Servando, who died from the ritual, and John Paul Raval, Lorenze Agustin, and another 17-year-old male student were brought to a boarding house in Makati around Saturday afternoon for the initiation rites. After the initiation, they were brought back to One Archer’s Place along Taft Avenue in Manila. From there, the students called Patrol 117 for help. They were rushed to the Philippine General Hospital, but Servando was pronounced dead on arrival.

In support of the Anti-Hazing Law, the University continues to implement practices and impose school regulations in order to prevent more hazing cases to occur.

January 30, 2007 7:50am at least 10 fraternity members, including a 23-year-old out-of-school youth, are now being tracked down for the fatal hazing of a college freshman in Nueva Ecija province on January 28, 2007.

Radio DZRH reported January 30, 2007, that the 10 are all members of the Tau Gamma Phi fraternity, who were linked to the fatal hazing of Mark Rodriguez, 17, Sunday evening. Mark, a resident of Baler town in Aurora province, succumbed to hematoma, internal bleeding and other injuries in the back, legs and arms during the hazing. On the other hand, police are hoping to get vital information from a second recruit who survived Sunday's hazing, even as school authorities clamped down on security in the campus.

Hazing is a lot of rarer in today's society, due to the many anti-hazing laws policies that have been established in many Greek chapters as it prohibited under R.A 8049 known as the "Anti-Hazing Law". However, this law must undergo a comprehensive review because it has failed to stop hazing within fraternities, sororities and student organization (Defensor, 2008).

## II. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

"Hazing is an extraordinary activity that, when it occurs often enough becomes perversely ordinary as those who engage in it grow desensitized to its inhumanity" (Hank Nuwer, 2007).

This study will be anchored on the following concept: Republic Act No. 8049 - This is an act regulating hazing and other form of initiation rites in fraternities, sororities, and organizations and providing penalties therefore.

SECTION 1. Hazing as used in this Act is an initiation rite or practice as a prerequisite for admission into membership in a fraternity, sorority or organization by placing a recruit, neophyte or applicant in some embarrassing or humiliating situation such as forcing him to do menial, silly, foolish and similar tasks or activities or otherwise subjecting him to physical or psychological suffering or injury.

The term organization shall include any club or the Armed Forces of the Philippines, National Police, Philippine Military Academy or officer and cadet corps of the Citizen Military Training or Citizen's Army Training. The physical, mental and psychological testing and training procedure and practices to determine and enhance the physical, mental and psychological fitness of prospective regular members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines

and the Philippine National Police as approved by the Secretary of National Defense and the National Police Commission duly recommended by Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Director General of the Philippine National Police shall not be considered as hazing for the purpose of this Act.

SECTION 2. No hazing or initiation rites in any form or manner by a fraternity, sorority or organization shall be allowed without prior written notice to the school authorities or head of organization seven (7) days before the conduct of initiation. The written notice shall indicate the period of the initiation activities which shall serve not exceed three (3) days, shall include the names of those subjected to such activities, and shall further contain an undertaking that no physical violence be employed by anybody during such initiation rites.

SECTION 3. The head of the school or organization or their representatives must assign at least two (2) representatives of the school or organization, as the case may be, to be present during the initiation. It is the study of such representative to see to it that no physical harm of any kind shall be inflicted upon a recruit, neophyte or applicant.

SECTION 4. If the person subjected to hazing or other forms of initiation rites suffers any physical injury or dies as a result thereof, the officers and members of the fraternity, sorority or organization who actually participated in the infliction of physical harm shall be liable as principals. The persons who participated in the hazing shall suffer;

A) The penalty of reclusion Perpetua if death, rape, sodomy, or mutilation results therefrom.

B) The penalty of reclusion temporal in its maximum period if in consequence of the hazing the victim shall become insane, imbecile, impotent or blind.

C) The penalty of reclusion temporal in its maximum period if in consequence of the hazing victim shall lost the use of speech or the power to hear or to smell, or shall have lost an eye, a hand, a foot an arm or a leg or shall have lost the use of any such member shall have become incapacitated for the activity or work in which he was habitually engaged.

D) The penalty of reclusion temporal in its minimum period if in consequence of the hazing victim shall become deformed, or shall have lost any other part of his body, or shall have lost the use thereof, or shall have been ill or incapacitated for the performance of the activity or work in

which he has habitually engaged for a period of more than ninety (90) days.

E) The penalty of prison mayor in its maximum period if in consequence of the hazing victim shall have been ill or incapacitated for the performance of the activity or work in which he was habitually engaged for more than thirty (30) days.

F) The penalty of prison mayor in its medium period if in consequence of the victim shall have been ill or incapacitated for the performance of activity or work in which he haws habitually engaged for ten (10) days or more, or that the injury sustained shall require medical attendance for the same period.

G) The penalty of prison mayor in its minimum period if in consequence of the hazing of the victim shall have been ill or incapacitated for the performance of the activity or work in which he was habitually engaged from 1-9 days, or that the injury sustained shall require medical attendance for the same period.

H) The penalty of prison correctional in its maximum period if in consequence of the hazing the victim shall have sustained physical injuries, which do not prevent him from engaging in his habitual activity or work nor require medical attendance.

The responsible officials of the school of the police, military or citizen's army training organization may impose the appropriate administrative sanctions on the person or persons charged under this provision even before their conviction.

The maximum penalty herein provided shall be imposed in any of the following instances:

When the recruitment is accompanied by force, violence, threat, intimidation or deceit on the person of the recruit who refuses to join;

When the recruit, neophyte or applicant initially consents to join but upon learning that hazing will be committed on his person, is prevented from quitting;

When the recruit neophyte or applicant having undergone hazing is prevented from reporting the unlawful act to his parents or guardians, to the proper school authorities, or to the police authorities, through force, violence, threat or intimidation;

When the hazing is committed outside of the school or institution; or

When the victim is below twelve (12) years of age at the time of hazing.

The owner of the place where hazing is conducted shall be liable as an accomplice, when he has actual knowledge of the hazing conducted therein but failed to take any action to prevent the same from occurring. If the hazing is held in the home of one of the officers or members of the fraternity, group or organization, the parents shall be held liable as principals when they have actual knowledge of hazing conducted therein but failed to take any action to prevent the same from occurring.

The school authorities including faculty members who consent to the hazing or who have actual knowledge thereof, but failed to take any action to prevent the same from occurring shall be punished as accomplices for the acts of hazing committed by the perpetrators.

The officers, former officers, or alumni of the organization, group, fraternity or sorority who actually planned the hazing although not present when the acts constituting the hazing were committed shall be liable as principals. Officers or members of an organization group, fraternity or sorority who knowingly cooperated on carrying out the hazing by inducing the victim to be present thereat shall be liable as principals. A fraternity or sorority's adviser which is present when the acts constituting the hazing were committed and failed to take any action to prevent the same from occurring shall be liable as principals.

The presence of any person during the hazing is prima facie evidence of participation therein as principal unless he prevented the commission of the acts punishable therein.

Any person charged under this provision shall not be entitled to the mitigating circumstances that there was intention to commit so grave a wrong.

This section shall apply to the president, manager director or other responsible office of a corporation for employment in the manner provided therein.

### III. OBJECTIVES

This study aims to determine the awareness of the students of the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology regarding the Anti-hazing Law. It sought to answer the following questions: 1. How may the profile of the respondents be described in terms of: 1.1. age; 1.2. gender; and 1.3. religion. 2. What provision of Anti-Hazing Law are the student's most aware of? 3. What are the factors that affect the student's awareness on Anti-Hazing Law? 4. What are the possible effects of student's lack of awareness on the Anti-Hazing Law? 5. What

intervening measures may be proposed to strengthen the awareness of students on the Anti-Hazing Law?

#### IV. METHOD

This study used the Descriptive method of research because the researchers considered this method to be appropriate.

The respondents of this study were the students of the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology, Sumacab Campus, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija. They were selected because of the fact that they were the one involved in the study and fit to answer the questionnaires.

The researchers used to random sampling for the awareness of the students in Anti-Hazing Law. This is probability type of sampling in which the target populations are selected from among all the students who are willing and available to answer the questionnaire.

The validity of the instrument was measured based on the related literature and studies that support the questionnaire. Interviews and actual observation were also conducted to determine the accuracy of the information that is gathered from the respondents of dry-run.

The instrument used was questionnaire-checklist developed by the researchers which consist of a number of items that the respondents have to answer in a set format. The questionnaire developed consists of four (4) parts: (1) the profile of the respondents and (2) provisions of anti-hazing law that the students most aware of (3) factors affecting the students awareness on the anti-hazing law (4) effects of students lack of awareness on the anti-hazing law.

#### V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This part presents the presentation, analysis and interpretation of data gathered by the researchers.

##### 1. Profile of the Respondents

###### 1.1 Age

Table 1: Age of the Respondents

AGE	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	Percentage
15-18	183	27.72
19-21	357	54.09
22-25	120	18.18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1 shows the age of the student respondents. Out of 660 respondents, 183 respondents are 15 to 18 years old, 357 respondents are 19 to 21 years old, and 120 respondents are 22 to 25 years old. Most of the respondents are already third year colleges students that are ages 19 to 21 years old.

##### 2.2 Gender

Table 2: Gender of the Respondents

GENDER	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	Percentage
Male	441	66.81
Female	219	33.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 2 shows the gender of the respondents. Out of 660 respondents, 441 respondents are male while 219 respondents are female. The study was dominated by male respondents; this is because majority of the respondents were from the College of Criminology.

##### 1.3 Religion

Table 3: Religion of the Respondents

Religion	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	Percentage
Roman Catholic	429	65
Iglesia ni Cristo	108	16.3636
Born Again	87	13.1818
Others	36	5.4545
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3 shows that there are 429 or 65 percent Roman Catholic, 108 or 16.36 percent are Iglesia ni Cristo, 87 or 13.19 percent are Born Again, and there are 36 or 5.45 others religion. It reveals that the majority of the respondents are Roman Catholic, as it is the main religion in the province.

##### 2. Provision of the Anti-Hazing Law

Table 4: Provisions of the Anti-Hazing Law

Provisions	NUMBER OF THE	Percentage
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	RESPONDENTS	
Section 2	131	19.85
Section 3	83	12.58
Section 4a	105	15.90
Section 4b	88	13.33
Section 4c	85	12.88
Section 4d	78	11.82
Section 4e	55	8.33
Section 4f	35	5.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 2 shows that the provisions are the student's most aware of is that 131 of the respondents or 19.85 percent are section 2, 82 respondents or 12.58 percent are section 3, 105 or 15.90 are section 4a, 85 or 12.88 percent are section 4b, 85 or 12.88 are section 4c, 81 or 12.27 percent are section 4d, 55 or 8.33 percent are section 4e, and 35 or 5.30 percent are section 4f. It shows that the top 3 provisions the students are most aware of are (1) Section 2, (2) section 4a, and (3) section 4b. The results could be attributed to the fact that mostly of the respondents are criminology students who took law subjects on their course, have encountered the anti-hazing law on their class, but what retained mainly to their memory were the above provisions of the said law.

Table 5: Factors that Affect the Student's Awareness

Factors	Number of the Respondents	Percentage
3.1. Information dissemination by the school.	120	18.18
3.2. Lack of interest on the part of students.	110	16.67
3.3 Lack of understanding on the different provisions of the law.	137	20.76
3.4. Misinformation during recruitment.	94	14.24
3.5. Lack of parental guidance.	119	18.03
3.6. Non-existence of fraternities/sororities within the school campus.	80	12.12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3 shows that there are 120 or 18.18 percent are in first factors, 110 or 16.67 percent in second factors, 137 or 20.76 are in third factors, 94 or 14.24 percent are in fourth factors, 119 or 18.03 percent are in fifth factors and 80 or 12.12 percent are in sixth factors. It reveals that the top 3 factors that affect the student awareness are (1) factors 3.3, (2) factors 3.1, and (3) factors 3.5. Basically, the respondents understanding to the different laws was due to their level of comprehension and lack of information dissemination from school as well as parental guidance.

Table 4: Possible Effects of Students' Lack of Awareness

Effects	Number of Respondents	%
4.1. Engaging to fraternities and sororities.	98	14.85
4.2. Easy to recruit.	84	12.73
4.3. May become a hazing slave.	64	9.70
4.4 May become a hazing victim.	100	15.15
4.5. Inability to protect/defend yourself in a case of hazing.	75	11.36
4.6. Unable to determine the extent of the conduct of hazing as prescribed by law.	70	10.61
4.7. May result to death.	120	18.18
4.8. Unable to warn relatives or friends about pros and cons of joining fraternities/sororities.	49	7.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4 shows 98 or 14.85 percent are in effects 4.1, 84 or 12.73 percent are in effects 4.2, 64 or 9.70 percent 29 are in effects 4.3, 100 or 15.15 percent are in effects 4.4 75 or 11.36 percent are in effects 4.5, 70 or 10.61 are in effects 4.6, 120 or 18.18 percent are in effects 4.7, and 49 or 7.42 percent are in effects 4.8. it shows that the top 3 main effects are (1) 4.7 (2) 4.4 and (3) 4.1. The respondents understand and identified that the effect could be they end up engaging to fraternities and sororities, become a victim of hazing, or encounter a severe death, which results can be attributed to the fact on lack of awareness on the said law.

## VI. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, the researchers concluded the following: The results show that majority of

the respondents are 18 to 21 years old. People who are in this range are lack of understanding on the different provisions of the law. Furthermore, the results show that majority of the respondents are Roman Catholic. It implies that they are lack of interest in the provisions of the law. Findings show that the top three provisions are not aware of are: (1) Section 2 which provides that *no hazing or initiation rites in any form or manner by a fraternity, sorority or organization shall be allowed without prior written notice to the school authorities or head of organization seven (7) days before the conduct of initiation. The written notice shall indicate the period of the initiation activities which shall serve not exceed three (3) days, shall include the names of those subjected to such activities, and shall further contain an undertaking that no physical violence be employed by anybody during such initiation rites;* (2) Section 4a which provides that *If the person subjected to hazing or other forms of initiation rites suffers any physical injury or dies as a result thereof, the officers and members of the fraternity, sorority or organization who actually participated in the infliction of physical harm shall be liable as principals. The persons who participated in the hazing shall suffer; a) the penalty of reclusion Perpetua if death, rape, sodomy, or mutilation results therefrom;* and Section 4b which provides that *b) The penalty of reclusion temporal in its maximum period if in consequence of the hazing the victim shall become insane, imbecile, impotent or blind.* It is because that the schools are not giving enough understanding or information to the provision of the law on the part of students. Finally, the top three factors that affect the student's awareness are: (1) lack of understanding on the different provisions of the law (2) information dissemination by the school (3) lack of parental guidance. Hence, it implies that students have no knowledge or understanding on the different provision of the law. Lastly, the finding shows that the top three effects of lack of awareness on the Anti-Hazing law are: (1) may result to death (2) may become a hazing victim (3) engaging to fraternities and sororities.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusion of this study, the researchers recommend the following: listen and understand for the information and dissemination by the school; give time to study about the rights, before joining in any organization; make sure that before joining in the different organization, fraternities and sororities, they know about the provisions of the law; do not join in an organization where an initiation is too brutal or too risky which can put your life to the end; and in every decision, they have to be sure that

their families are always at their back. Don't disregard their advices, especially their parents because they only want the best for their children.

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