

## SRA-GAD STAGES SUCCESSFUL GST'S IN CARSUMCO AND PAMPANGA MILL DISTRICTS

The SRA-GAD has officially started its Gender Sensitivity Training (GST) season for 2015 with the CARSUMCO and Pampanga Mill Districts as the pilot sites. Interestingly, this year also marks the integration of the topic on Child Labor to the GST module as a result of the agency's recent partnership with World Vision towards the eventual elimination of such practice in the field.

The team of Mr. Marco Soriano, Ms. Marieliz Siman, Ms. Jennifer Rose Boyero and Mr. Joseph Peter Gonzales trooped to Cagayan on July 6-10, 2015 to hold the two batches of GSTs and one reinforced training on Violence against The maiden GST seminar with VAWC and Child labor topics was in Brgy. Sto. Domingo in Piat on July 7 comprised of 40 participants. Brgy. Villarey, also in Piat was the site of the next day's training, with 40 participants as well. The final day was devoted to the seminar on VAWC and Child Labor alone, this time held in Brgy. Sampaguita in Solana. Participants totaled to 35.



*The SRA-GAD TWG composed of Mr. Marco Soriano, Ms. Jennifer Rose Boyero, Ms. Liz Madrid Siman and Mr. Joseph Peter Gonzales oblige for a souvenir shot with participants from two of the batches they taught in Cagayan namely, Brgy. Sto. Domingo in Piat and Brgy. Villarey in Solana*

Each batch of participants were all ears on the subjects from the goals of the seminar, what GAD really means, the difference between Gender and Sex, Reproductive, Productive and Community Work down to the gender biases like Multiple Burden, Marginalization, Stereotyping, Subordination and VAWC. They

were active in the group dynamics and discussions and were open in sharing their personal experiences and viewpoints.

Interestingly, some important points raised were about the integrated topic on Child Labor. One question was: Is it a violation if two minor people co-habited and boar a child since they are obliged to work in order to support the family? The team, represented by Mr. Soriano shed light on the query by saying that as a rule it is a violation since age-wise, they are still considered minors. However, our law exempts some particular cases like this one.

As provided for under our Civil Code, we have that so-called “Forced Emancipation” which means, the moment two individuals co-habited and resulted to their having a baby, their obligation to support or provide the latter’s basic needs arises. As such, they have to work and earn to meet this. The couple, by force, obtained their majority status, and given that, there will be no violation in effect.

Another issue raised was if it’s just okay and will not fall under Child Labor if a kid works on weekends (Saturday and Sunday).

To this, Mr. Soriano averred that it’s not allowed specially if the work rendered is hazardous in nature. It is just fine if the child works under the supervision of his/her parents or guardians and provided that they should own the area where they perform their work. Moreover, if the child performs tasks that are not hazardous by nature and at the same time must work for not more than eight hours and paid accordingly. Also, if the wage earned will be used personally by the kid for his/her personal needs. Otherwise, it’s not allowed.

Meanwhile, the Pampanga team comprised of Ms. Cora Boyero, Ms. Mafi Ramos, Ms. Vision Faith Sangalang and Mr. Joseph Peter Gonzales went to the area on July 15-16,



*The attendees were very active, like in reporting for “Tic-Tac-Toe”, an effective gauge in showing the clear difference in the working hours done by males and females in one day. (L) Ms. Mafi Ramos establishes the differences between sex and gender in one of the activities lined up.*

2015. It also proved to be a triumphant undertaking, based on the number of attendees, audience's reception of the topics and positive feedbacks as reflected in the training assessment survey forms that were distributed before each session ended.

The first stop was in Brgy. San Antonio in Arayat on July 15. Held at a rustic villa owned by one of the well-off farmers in the district, the SRA-GAD team turned in an inspired lecture on the same line-up of topics mainly due to the audience's warmth, interest to listen and learn and active participation. Their number reached 48 with 28 males and 20 females. Each participant went home with a smile on their faces, indicating that they were satisfied with the outcome.

On the second day, the group split their destination as Ms. Boyero and Ms. Ramos conducted the GST in Brgy. Maliwalo in Bacolor while Ms. Sangalang and Mr. Gonzales handled the VAWC and Child Labor in Brgy. Suclaban in Mexico. The former registered 35 participants with 22 males and 13 females while the latter had 21 males and 19 females, totaling to 40.



*Participants from Brgy. San Antonio in Arayat, Pampanga were obviously happy with what they learned from the GST integrating Child Labor seminar handled by the team of Ms. Cora Boyero, Ms. Mafi Ramos, Ms. Vision Faith Sangalang and Mr. Joseph Peter Gonzales as they pose for this group picture.*

Fortunately, it was clear that Child Labor wasn't a pressing issue in Pampanga. It was found out that majority of the children of the farmer-participants are sent to school and are only doing Child Work (light, not hazardous and is performed not beyond 4 hours) and not Child Labor.

Indeed, it was a back-to-back victory for SRA-GAD with the success of both the Carsumco and Pampanga teams in their conduct of trainings this 2015 GST season.

*By: Joseph Peter Gonzales*