AWARENESS AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSED REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH BILL AMONG HEALTH PRACTITIONERS IN THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE

Thesis

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ABSTRACT

SAMANIEGO, JILLIAN, SAQUILAYAN, CIELO, SINSAY, MARIA PHEBE GRACIA. Awareness and Acceptance of the Proposed Reproductive Health (RH) Bill Among Health Practitioners in the Province of Cavite Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Cavite State University, Indang, Cavite. April 2012. Adviser: Dr. Yolanda A. Ilagan.

This study was conducted to determine the: demographic profile of the respondents as to age, gender, occupation, religion, civil status, and number of years in service; level of awareness of the health practitioners regarding the proposed Reproductive Health (RH) Bill; sources of information about the proposed RH Bill; level of acceptance of the health practitioners regarding the proposed RH Bill; relationship between the demographic data and the level of awareness of the health practitioners regarding the proposed RH bill; relationship between the demographic data and the level of acceptance of the health practitioners regarding the proposed RH bill; relationship between the level of awareness and level of acceptance of the proposed RH bill among health practitioners.

Descriptive correlational research approach was used in this study. Questionnaires were distributed among health practitioners in the Rural Health Units of each town in Cavite. The results were analyzed, summarized and interpreted using descriptive statistical tools, chi-square test and Pearson's product moment correlation.

Results showed that respondents had an average age of 37. Majority of them were female, married and Catholic. The average length of service of the respondents as public health practitioner was 11 years. The most frequently cited sources of information of the respondents about the proposed RH bill were television, newspaper and radio.

The respondents were generally "aware ($\bar{x} = 4.01$)" of the elements/provisions of the proposed RH bill. They also had "high" ($\bar{x} = 4.38$) acceptance of the elements/provisions of the proposed RH bill.

No significant relationships existed between the demographic variables tested and the level of awareness of the respondents regarding the proposed RH bill. However, age was significantly related to the level of acceptance of the respondents regarding the proposed RH bill. High significant positive relationship existed between level of awareness and level of acceptance of RH Bill among respondents.

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INTRODUCTION

Concerns over the uncontrolled population growth is as old as recorded history, but it was not until about the 1950s that fears over a rapidly expanding world population came to be combined with fertility practices on the family level. During the 19th century, attempts to educate the public about methods of birth control and the social and economic consequences of sexual ignorance were largely unsuccessful (DOH, 2007).

Effective family planning and avoidance of unintended pregnancy can improve infant and maternal health. Unintended pregnancy is associated with an increased risk of morbidity for women (Colley et al., 2001).

In the Philippines, it is believed that economic and social problems are caused by the country's high population rate. Current census indicates that the country has over 90 million people and is estimated to grow exponentially in the coming years. The present population of country of 88.7 million has galloped from 60.7 million 17 years ago,