

Understanding Safe Spaces Act: Awareness and Compliance of Stakeholders

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Abstract—This study examined the level of stakeholders' understanding, awareness, and compliance with the Safe Spaces Act (RA 11313), and explored the significant relationships between their understanding of the law and both their awareness and compliance levels in the community of Magdalena, Laguna. Utilizing a correlational research design, the study assessed the level of understanding among stakeholders. A total of 408 respondents were selected using simple random sampling, and data was collected through a researcher-made questionnaire, which was validated by three (3) Master teachers with a specialization in Social Sciences and one (1) Filipino teacher from DepEd Magdalena and Sta. Cruz Sub-Offices, Division of Laguna. The study employed mean, standard deviation, and Pearson-r correlation for data analysis and interpretation. Findings revealed that stakeholders had a very high understanding of the Safe Spaces Act, particularly in communication, enforcement, and policies. Stakeholders showed familiarity with the legislation, actively engaged in compliance and promotion, and exhibited excellent levels of awareness and compliance. A statistically significant relationship was found between their understanding of the Act and both their awareness and compliance, highlighting the key role of understanding in promoting stakeholder engagement. Based on these findings, the study concluded that a strong understanding of the Safe Spaces Act significantly influences stakeholders' awareness and compliance, leading to the rejection of hypotheses. This stresses the importance of targeted educational efforts and effective communication strategies in promoting informed engagement and adherence to the law. Considering the results, the study recommends that future research explore additional variables, such as demographic characteristics or the role of community leadership, to deepen the understanding of how stakeholders engage with the Safe Spaces Act. Local government units (LGUs) are also encouraged to enhance enforcement mechanisms by providing accessible reporting channels, prompt and effective response systems, and consistent implementation of sanctions. Furthermore, future studies may assess methodological gaps in the present research to identify strategies that could strengthen stakeholder compliance and advocacy. These initiatives can support sustained awareness, improved adherence, and active community participation contributing to a safer and more inclusive environment in Magdalena, Laguna.

Keywords— Safe Spaces Act (RA 11313), Stakeholder Awareness, Compliance, Understanding, Community Engagement.

I. INTRODUCTION

The public places ought to be places where people feel safe, valued, and unharmed. However, instances of gender-based harassment persist in undermining this ideal, interfering with people's safety and dignity in day-to-day encounters. It is more important than ever to take comprehensive action to address this problem, especially to create inclusive and harassment-free

communities. Officially known as Republic Act 11313, the Safe Spaces Act (Bawal Bastos Law) is a groundbreaking law that was passed in the Philippines to safeguard people from gender-based sexual harassment in a variety of contexts, including public spaces, workplaces, educational institutions, and online platforms. The law recognizes that harassment occurs not only in private domains but also in everyday public interactions, and it aims to create safer and more inclusive environments by holding individuals accountable for harmful behaviors. This act emphasizes that every individual, regardless of gender, should feel safe in public spaces, and it mandates both public and private institutions to take responsibility in preventing and addressing acts of harassment.

While much attention has been given to the enforcement of the Safe Spaces Act in schools and workplaces, there is an increasing recognition that communities play a critical role in its successful implementation. Communities are where public interactions frequently occur, making them primary spaces where the Act's provisions must be enforced. The law seeks to prohibit harassment in everyday public life, whether it occurs in local neighborhoods, at transportation hubs, or in shared spaces. The success of this legislation relies heavily on the community's awareness of their rights and responsibilities under RA 11313, as well as the active engagement of local authorities in enforcing its mandates.

Hence, this study focuses on the community context, specifically examining how well the Safe Spaces Act is understood and enforced in the community of Magdalena, Laguna. It explores the level of awareness among various stakeholders, including residents, local government officials, and law enforcement officers, regarding the provisions and protections offered by the legislation. Furthermore, the research assesses the effectiveness of enforcement mechanisms in place, such as reporting systems and response protocols, and how these contribute to creating safer public environments. This study also aims to offer understandings into the wider application of this legislation by comprehending the function of institutional support and community knowledge in preventing harassment, emphasizing the significance of public engagement in creating harassment-free settings. Ultimately, the goal of this study is to close the gap between policy and practice by making sure that the Safe Spaces Act is more than just a piece of legislation but an actual reality in public places, protecting everyone's dignity and safety.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Problem/s which were addressed by the research

The study sought to evaluate stakeholders' knowledge and adherence to the safe spaces act in the Laguna community of Magdalena.

Specifically, it sought answers to the following questions:

1. What is the level of the stakeholders' understanding of Safe Spaces Act with regards to:
 - 1.1 communication;
 - 1.2 information;
 - 1.3 enforcement;
 - 1.4 policies; and
 - 1.5 support mechanism?
2. What is the level of the stakeholders' awareness of Safe Spaces Act in terms of:
 - 2.1 knowledge level;
 - 2.2 sources of information;
 - 2.3 engagement; and
 - 2.4 perceived relevance?
3. What is the level of the stakeholders' compliance of Safe Spaces Act in terms of:
 - 3.1 behavioral adherence;
 - 3.2 reporting;
 - 3.3 response; and
 - 3.4 advocacy participation?
4. Is there a significant relationship between the Understanding of Safe Spaces Act and Stakeholders' Awareness?
5. Is there a significant relationship between the Understanding of Safe Spaces Act and Stakeholders' Compliance?

II. METHODOLOGY

Utilizing a correlational research design, the study assessed the level of understanding among stakeholders. A total of 408 respondents were selected using simple random sampling, and data was collected through a researcher-made questionnaire, which was validated by three (3) Master teachers with a specialization in Social Sciences and one (1) Filipino teacher from DepEd Magdalena and Sta. Cruz Sub-Offices, Division of Laguna. The study employed mean, standard deviation, and Pearson-r correlation for data analysis and interpretation.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This part presents, analyzes, and interprets the data collected, highlighting a significant relationship between understanding of safe spaces act on stakeholders' awareness and compliance.

Level of Understanding of Safe Spaces Act

Safe space act is a significant step toward creating a more just and equitable society in the Philippines. It acknowledges the reality of gender-based sexual harassment and provide a legal framework for addressing it. In this study understanding safe space act include variables such as communication, information, enforcement, policies and support mechanism learning and was treated statistically using mean and standard deviation.

Table 1 presents the level of understanding of safe space act in terms of communication. It includes statements, mean scores, standard deviations, and corresponding remarks.

The overall weighted mean of 3.43 and standard deviation of 1.24 indicates high level of understanding of the Safe Spaces Act through communication within the community. This means that communication efforts by community leaders and local officials are generally effective, with announcements and policies being relatively well-disseminated. However, the prevalence of moderately agree responses in three out of five statements highlights areas for improvement. Specifically, enhancing the frequency and accessibility of community meetings, clarifying reporting procedures, and ensuring inclusive communication channels could further strengthen community members' understanding and engagement with the Safe Spaces Act.

TABLE 1. Level of Understanding of Safe Spaces Act with Regards to Communication

STATEMENT	MEAN	SD	REMARKS
The community leaders clearly communicate policies regarding the Safe Spaces Act.	3.59	1.26	Agree
There are community meetings or forums where stakeholders are informed about Safe Spaces Act.	3.35	1.22	Moderately Agree
Announcements related to the Safe Spaces Act are consistently disseminated in public areas.	3.46	1.27	Agree
Local officials provide clear instructions on how to report violations of Safe Spaces Act.	3.39	1.21	Moderately Agree
Communication channels about the Safe Spaces Act are accessible to all members of the community.	3.37	1.22	Moderately Agree
Weighted Mean		3.43	
SD		1.24	
Verbal Interpretation		High	

The results implies that while the community has a high understanding of the Safe Spaces Act, communication can be more consistent and accessible. Neutral responses indicate gaps in awareness, especially regarding reporting procedures and community forums. The variability in responses highlights the need for diverse communication methods to reach all members. Enhancing clarity, accessibility, and outreach can promote greater engagement, compliance, and support for the Safe Spaces Act. In relation to this, a study of Borito (2022), which was conducted at a higher educational institution in Laguna, revealed that while students were generally aware of the Safe Spaces Act, there were notable gaps in their understanding of reporting mechanisms and the specific provisions of the law. This finding aligns with the current study's observation of neutral responses regarding the accessibility of communication channels and clarity on reporting violations, underscoring the need for improved dissemination of information and clearer communication strategies within communities.

Table 2 presents the level of understanding of the Safe Spaces Act in terms of information dissemination within the community. It includes statements, mean scores, standard deviations, and corresponding remarks.

TABLE 2. Level of Understanding of Safe Spaces Act with Regards to Information

STATEMENT	MEAN	SD	REMARKS
The community leaders clearly communicate policies regarding the Safe Spaces Act.	3.36	1.19	Moderately Agree
There are community meetings or forums where stakeholders are informed about Safe Spaces Act.	3.41	1.19	Agree
Announcements related to the Safe Spaces Act are consistently disseminated in public areas.	3.47	1.18	Agree
Local officials provide clear instructions on how to report violations of Safe Spaces Act.	3.30	1.29	Moderately Agree
Communication channels about the Safe Spaces Act are accessible to all members of the community.	3.40	1.25	Moderately Agree
Weighted Mean	3.39		
SD	1.22		
Verbal Interpretation	Moderately High		

The overall weighted mean of 3.39 and standard deviation of 1.22 indicate a moderately high level of understanding of the Safe Spaces Act through information dissemination. This suggests that the community receives relevant information about the law, with announcements and community meetings playing a significant role. However, the presence of moderately agree responses in three out of five statements indicates areas for improvement, particularly in making reporting procedures clearer and ensuring that communication channels are fully accessible to all members of the community.

The results imply that while the community has a good level of understanding of the Safe Spaces Act through available information, gaps remain in accessibility and clarity. The variability in responses suggests that some individuals may lack sufficient exposure to information sources, which may limit their engagement with the law. Strengthening local information campaigns, enhancing transparency in communication, and utilizing multiple channels to reach different community members can further improve awareness and compliance with the Safe Spaces Act. In relation to this, a study by Flores (2024) at Tomas Claudio Colleges revealed that while students were generally aware of the Safe Spaces Act, there were notable gaps in understanding specific provisions and reporting procedures, indicating a need for more targeted information dissemination.

Table 3 presents the level of understanding of the Safe Spaces Act in terms of enforcement within the community. It includes statements, mean scores, standard deviations, and corresponding remarks.

The community has a strong awareness of how the Safe Spaces Act should be enforced, as shown by the overall weighted mean of 3.47 and a standard deviation of 1.20. The results suggest that local government units actively implement the law, enforce consequences for violations, and respond to harassment cases effectively. Furthermore, community members perceive that safe space policies are applied fairly and confidence in enforcement efforts.

However, while the results are positive, challenges may still exist in the consistency and timeliness of enforcement.

The findings imply that while most stakeholders recognize the efforts of local authorities, continuous monitoring, stricter implementation, and increased transparency in handling reports could further enhance compliance and trust in the Safe Spaces Act. Strengthening community engagement and ensuring faster response mechanisms will contribute to a safer and more inclusive public environment.

TABLE 3. Level of Understanding of Safe Spaces Act with Regards to Enforcement

STATEMENT	MEAN	SD	REMARKS
Local government units consistently enforce the provisions of Safe Spaces Act in the community.	3.54	1.18	Agree
There are clear consequences for those who violate the Safe Spaces Act.	3.43	1.23	Agree
Authorities effectively respond to reported cases of harassment and discrimination in the community.	3.42	1.15	Agree
Community members feel that Safe Spaces policies are applied fairly and consistently.	3.47	1.19	Agree
Reports of harassment and abuse are handled seriously and promptly by local officials.	3.50	1.25	Agree
Weighted Mean	3.47		
SD	1.20		
Verbal Interpretation	High		

A related study by Flores (2022) investigated the 374 respondents of Pamantasan ng Cabuyao on their level of awareness, attitude and level of compliance with RA11313 Safe Spaces Act. It revealed that despite the law's intent to protect individuals from harassment in various settings, challenges persist in its implementation, particularly within educational institutions.

Table 4 presents the level of understanding of the Safe Spaces Act in terms of policies within the community. It includes statements, mean scores, standard deviations, and corresponding remarks.

TABLE 4. Level of Understanding of Safe Spaces Act with Regards to Policies

STATEMENT	MEAN	SD	REMARKS
The community has well-defined policies in place to protect members from harassment and discrimination.	3.68	1.18	Agree
Local government units regularly update and improve policies related to the Safe Spaces Act.	3.46	1.11	Agree
Community members are aware of the institutional policies that protect them under Safe Spaces Act.	3.48	1.16	Agree
Policies related to Safe Spaces Act are accessible and easy to understand.	3.39	1.17	Moderately Agree
These policies reflect the specific needs and concerns of the community.	3.56	1.17	Agree
Weighted Mean	3.51		
SD	1.16		
Verbal Interpretation	High		

The overall weighted mean of 3.51 with a standard deviation of 1.16 indicates a high level of understanding of policies related to the Safe Spaces Act. The results suggest that community members generally recognize the presence of clear and structured policies aimed at protecting individuals

from harassment and discrimination. Furthermore, they acknowledge the efforts of local government units in updating and improving these policies and ensuring they address the specific needs of the community.

However, the moderately agree response regarding the accessibility and clarity of policies suggests that some community members may struggle to fully understand the guidelines set forth by the Safe Spaces Act. In relation to this, a study conducted by Aviso et al (2023) at the University of Cebu-Main Campus in the Philippines revealed that most students were aware of the Anti-responsibilities, though they were less informed about the penalties imposed.

Table 5 presents the level of understanding of the Safe Spaces Act in terms of support mechanisms within the community. It includes statements, mean scores, standard deviations, and corresponding remarks.

TABLE 5. Level of Understanding of Safe Spaces Act with Regards to Support Mechanism

STATEMENT	MEAN	SD	REMARKS
There are designated personnel and offices in the community to address concerns related to Safe Spaces Act.	3.65	1.12	Agree
The community provides safe spaces for reporting incidents anonymously.	3.69	1.09	Agree
Peer or community support systems are in place to help victims of harassment and abuse.	3.63	1.15	Agree
Local leaders are approachable and responsive to issues regarding community safety.	3.59	1.11	Agree
Community members are aware of where and how to seek support if they feel unsafe.	3.65	1.15	Agree
Weighted Mean		3.64	
SD		1.12	
Verbal Interpretation		High	

The overall weighted mean of 3.64 with a standard deviation of 1.12 indicates a high level of understanding regarding the available support systems for the Safe Spaces Act. The findings suggest that community members recognize the presence of designated personnel and offices, as well as anonymous reporting spaces, which contribute to a supportive environment for addressing harassment and abuse cases. Additionally, the results highlight that peer and community-based support networks play a crucial role in assisting victims, reinforcing the importance of collective efforts in maintaining safe public spaces. While the results indicate a strong support system, continuous efforts are necessary to ensure accessibility and efficiency. Strengthening community outreach, increasing visibility of designated personnel, and promoting awareness campaigns about available resources can further enhance engagement and trust in the Safe Spaces Act. Encouraging active participation from both leaders and residents will help create a more responsive and well-supported community. The result indicates a high level of community understanding regarding support mechanisms associated with the Safe Spaces Act, highlighting the presence of designated personnel, anonymous reporting options, peer support systems, approachable leaders, and awareness of available support channels. This aligns with global initiatives

aimed at combating harassment through comprehensive support structures. For instance, Gupta (2024) stated that the Digital Rights Foundation (DRF) in Pakistan, founded by Nighat Dad, addresses online harassment by providing a cyber-harassment helpline and pro-bono legal assistance, empowering victims to seek justice and support.

Level of the Stakeholders' Awareness of Safe Spaces Act
Individuals demonstrate awareness of the Safe Spaces Act by reporting violations, calling out inappropriate behavior, and adhering to respectful conduct in public and online spaces. In this study awareness on safe space act include variables such as knowledge level, sources of information, engagement and perceived relevance and was treated statistically using mean and standard deviation.

Table 6 presents the level of stakeholder awareness on safe space act in terms of knowledge level. It includes statements, mean scores, standard deviations, and corresponding remarks.

The overall weighted mean of 3.73 and the standard deviation of 1.05 indicate that respondents generally agree with the statements indicating a moderate to high level of awareness regarding the Safe Spaces Act, and reflects some variation in responses, meaning that while most stakeholders agree, there are differences in individual awareness levels.

TABLE 6. Level of the Stakeholders' Awareness of Safe Spaces Act in Terms of Knowledge Level

STATEMENT	MEAN	SD	REMARKS
I am aware of the laws protecting individuals from harassment under Safe Spaces Act.	3.73	1.07	Agree
I understand what constitutes a "safe space" in the community context.	3.72	1.04	Agree
I am knowledgeable about my rights under the Safe Spaces Act.	3.76	1.01	Agree
I know the procedures for reporting incidents of harassment and abuse in the community.	3.72	1.02	Agree
I understand the penalties and consequences for violating the provisions of Safe Spaces Act.	3.70	1.08	Agree
Weighted Mean		3.73	
SD		1.05	
Verbal Interpretation		High	

The results imply that while stakeholders generally have a good level of awareness of the Safe Spaces Act, there is still room for improvement, particularly in understanding the penalties for violations. Some individuals may have gaps in their knowledge, which could affect in implementation of the law. This result was inclined with the study conducted by Frye et al (2019), revealing that only 12% of surveyed 7th to 12th-grade students felt their schools adequately addressed sexual harassment, indicating a gap in awareness and enforcement of anti-harassment policies. Standard deviations, and corresponding remarks.

The overall weighted mean of 3.73 with a standard deviation of 1.05 indicates a high level of awareness among community members regarding the different sources of information about the Safe Spaces Act. The findings suggest that barangay meetings and community assemblies serve as the most significant sources of knowledge, closely followed

by local government updates and peer discussions. Additionally, social media and printed materials such as posters and brochures play an important role in spreading awareness.

TABLE 7. Level of the Stakeholders' Awareness of Safe Spaces Act in Terms of Sources of Information

STATEMENT	MEAN	SD	REMARKS
I have learned about Safe Spaces Act through barangay meetings or community assemblies.	3.80	1.09	Agree
Social media platforms are a primary source of my knowledge about Safe Spaces Act.	3.64	1.07	Agree
Local government units provide regular updates on Safe Spaces Act policies and enforcement.	3.78	1.02	Agree
I have received information about the Safe Spaces Act from posters, brochures, or public announcements.	3.65	1.04	Agree
Discussions with friends, family, or peers have contributed to my awareness of Safe Spaces Act.	3.77	1.03	Agree
Weighted Mean		3.73	
SD		1.05	
Verbal Interpretation		High	

The results imply that while the community awareness, further efforts can enhance information accessibility and reach. Expanding educational campaigns, increasing digital engagement, and ensuring more interactive discussions can help maximize awareness and understanding among all community members, particularly those who may have limited access to official meetings or online platforms. These results are consistent with research highlighting the importance of community participation and a variety of communication methods in raising public knowledge of anti-harassment laws. For instance, research by Blumell & Mulupi (2023) underscores how social media platforms have been instrumental in disseminating information about sexual harassment, thereby increasing public awareness and prompting discussions at various societal levels. This demonstrates the efficacy of digital platforms in spreading awareness about issues related to harassment and discrimination.

Table 8 presents the level of stakeholders' awareness of the Safe Spaces Act in terms of engagement. It includes statements, mean scores, standard deviations, and corresponding remarks.

The overall weighted mean of 3.68 with a standard deviation of 1.09 indicates a high level of engagement among community members regarding the Safe Spaces Act. The results suggest that stakeholders are actively involved in community discussions, forums, and online initiatives, contributing to a well-informed public. Furthermore, the consistent agreement across all statements highlights that many individuals take the initiative to seek information and participate in activities promoting safe spaces.

The results imply that the high engagement level, further steps can be taken to encourage broader participation. Expanding community-based activities, enhancing accessibility to discussions, and integrating more interactive

programs can further boost stakeholder involvement and ensure that safe space advocacy remains a continuous effort within the community. The results were related to the study of Garcia (2020), where it implemented an advocacy campaign to enhance stakeholders' awareness of the Anti-Bullying Law at Sta. Justina High School. The campaign effectively increased awareness and highlighted the importance of continuous educational efforts to address bullying in schools.

TABLE 8. Level of the Stakeholders' Awareness of Safe Spaces Act in Terms of Engagement

STATEMENT	MEAN	SD	REMARKS
I actively participate in community events or programs promoting Safe Spaces Act.	3.68	1.12	Agree
I attend community forums or seminars to learn more about Safe Spaces Act.	3.69	1.10	Agree
I follow local government initiatives related to the Safe Spaces Act on social media.	3.66	1.02	Agree
I seek out information on how Safe Spaces Act is being implemented in the community.	3.70	1.09	Agree
I am involved in discussions about the importance of safe spaces in public and private settings.	3.67	1.10	Agree
Weighted Mean		3.68	
SD		1.09	
Verbal Interpretation		High	

Table 9 presents the level of stakeholders' awareness of the Safe Spaces Act in terms of perceived relevance. It includes statements, mean scores, standard deviations, and corresponding remarks.

The overall weighted mean of 4.00 with a standard deviation of 1.03 indicates a high perceived relevance of the Safe Spaces Act among community members. The results suggest that stakeholders strongly recognize the importance of the law in ensuring safety, inclusivity, and respect in public spaces. Furthermore, the findings indicate that respondents believe the policies address real and relevant issues within their local context and have a positive impact on community well-being.

TABLE 9. Level of the Stakeholders' Awareness of Safe Spaces Act in Terms of Perceived Relevance

STATEMENT	MEAN	SD	REMARKS
I believe the Safe Spaces Act is important in promoting safety and inclusiveness in the community.	4.14	1.03	Agree
The policies of Safe Spaces Act address specific issues that are relevant to our local context.	3.96	0.99	Agree
I feel that the enforcement of Safe Spaces Act positively impacts our community's safety.	4.01	1.03	Agree
The Safe Spaces Act is essential in ensuring that everyone is treated with respect in public areas.	4.05	1.04	Agree
The provisions of Safe Spaces Act are directly applicable to my everyday life and experiences.	3.84	1.04	Agree
Weighted Mean		4.00	
SD		1.03	
Verbal Interpretation		High	

While the results reflect strong agreement, continued efforts to reinforce the law's relevance can further strengthen

stakeholder support and compliance. Implementing more localized awareness campaigns, engaging community members in policy discussions, and highlighting real-life applications of the law can ensure that the Safe Spaces Act remains deeply integrated into daily community life.

Level of the Stakeholders' Compliance of Safe Spaces Act

In this study, the level of stakeholder compliance includes variables such as behavioral adherence, reporting, response and advocacy participation and was treated statistically using mean and standard deviation.

Table 10 presents the level of stakeholders' compliance with the Safe Spaces Act in terms of behavioral adherence. It includes statements, mean scores, standard deviations, and corresponding remarks indicates a high level of behavioral adherence to the Safe Spaces Act among community members. The findings suggest that stakeholders actively follow policies, avoid prohibited behaviors, and encourage others to do the same. Additionally, respondents reported practicing respect and safety in daily interactions, reinforcing a culture of inclusivity and compliance within the community.

TABLE 10. Level of the Stakeholders' Compliance of Safe Spaces Act in Terms of Behavioral Adherence

STATEMENT	MEAN	SD	REMARKS
I follow the community's safe space policies and regulations.	3.96	0.99	Agree
I actively avoid behaviors that could violate the provisions of Safe Spaces Act.	3.91	1.03	Agree
I encourage others to respect safe space policies and behave appropriately.	3.96	1.04	Agree
I practice the principles of respect and safety in my daily interactions.	4.01	0.95	Agree
I am mindful of my actions to ensure a safe and inclusive environment for everyone.	4.00	0.98	Agree
Weighted Mean		3.97	
SD		1.00	
Verbal Interpretation		High	

Despite the high level of adherence, sustained efforts in community education and reinforcement of safe space policies are essential to maintain and improve compliance. Strengthening awareness campaigns, fostering peer accountability, and recognizing positive behaviors can further encourage long-term commitment to the principles of the Safe Spaces Act. A recent study by Blumell & Mulupi (2023) examining anti-sexual harassment policies in eight African countries found that the mere presence of such policies did not significantly reduce incidents of sexual harassment in terms of reporting. It includes statements, mean scores, standard deviations, and corresponding remarks.

The results indicate that stakeholders demonstrate a high level of compliance with the Safe Spaces Act in terms of reporting harassment and abuse, as reflected in the weighted mean of 3.76 and standard deviation of 1.14. The results show that while stakeholders generally comply with the Safe Spaces Act in terms of reporting harassment, there are still barriers that may prevent full participation in the reporting process. The high level of agreement indicate that most individuals understand their responsibility to report incidents and trust the system to some extent. However, the other responses connote that some stakeholders still feel uncomfortable or hesitant to

report, possibly due to fear of retaliation, lack of confidence in authorities, or social stigma.

TABLE 11. Level of the Stakeholders' Compliance of Safe Spaces Act in Terms of Reporting

STATEMENT	MEAN	SD	REMARKS
I am comfortable reporting incidents of harassment and abuse when I encounter them.	3.71	1.03	Agree
I trust that the authorities will take my report of harassment seriously.	3.81	1.42	Agree
I know the appropriate channels to use for reporting harassment and abuse.	3.77	1.04	Agree
I have reported incidents of harassment before and am confident in the process.	3.75	1.12	Agree
I am aware of the consequences of failing to report harassment or unsafe behaviors.	3.78	1.03	Agree
Weighted Mean		3.76	
SD		1.14	
Verbal Interpretation		High	

The highlights of the result imply that the need for stronger reinforcement of protection mechanisms for reporters, more transparent handling of harassment cases, and continuous trust-building efforts within institutions and communities is needed. In contrast, the study of Walker et al (2019) revealed that nearly half of the employees lacked confidence that their reports of workplace harassment would be thoroughly investigated and addressed fairly, leading to underreporting and decreased trust in organizational processes.

Table 12 presents the level of stakeholders' compliance with the Safe Spaces Act in terms of response. It includes statements, mean scores, standard deviations, and corresponding remarks.

TABLE 12. Level of the Stakeholders' Compliance of Safe Spaces Act in Terms of Response

STATEMENT	MEAN	SD	REMARKS
I believe that the community authorities respond effectively to incidents of harassment.	4.00	0.91	Agree
I feel that reported cases of harassment and abuse are handled fairly and transparently.	3.93	0.93	Agree
I am confident that the community will act swiftly to address issues related to Safe Spaces Act.	3.89	0.96	Agree
I trust that proper actions are taken to prevent harassment after a report is made.	3.92	0.95	Agree
I believe that the community enforces safe space policies consistently and without bias.	3.97	0.97	Agree
Weighted Mean		3.94	
SD		0.95	
Verbal Interpretation		High	

The overall weighted mean of 3.94 with a standard deviation of 0.95 indicates a high level of confidence in the community's response to harassment-related incidents. The findings suggest that stakeholders generally trust local authorities to handle cases fairly, act swiftly, and take proper measures to prevent further incidents.

While the results are positive, continued efforts to ensure responsiveness and transparency remain essential. Strengthening public reporting mechanisms, ensuring faster resolution of cases, and maintaining open communication with the community can further reinforce confidence in

enforcement and improve overall compliance with the Safe Spaces Act.

Similarly, a study by Cheng et al (2024) found that organizations that respond proactively and transparently to sexual harassment claims can mitigate reputational damage and maintain public trust.

Table 13 presents the level of stakeholders' compliance with the Safe Spaces Act in terms of advocacy participation. It includes statements, mean scores, standard deviations, and corresponding remarks.

TABLE 13. Level of the Stakeholders' Compliance of Safe Spaces Act in Terms of Advocacy Participation

STATEMENT	MEAN	SD	REMARKS
I participate in local advocacy campaigns that promote the Safe Spaces Act.	3.83	1.15	Agree
I encourage others to join efforts that raise awareness of the Safe Spaces Act in the community.	3.81	1.05	Agree
I take part in community initiatives aimed at educating people about safe space policies.	3.87	1.06	Agree
I support programs that focus on protecting individuals from harassment and abuse.	3.95	0.99	Agree
I actively share information about the Safe Spaces Act with others in the community.	3.92	1.04	Agree
Weighted Mean		3.88	
SD		1.06	
Verbal Interpretation		High	

The overall weighted mean of 3.88 with a standard deviation of 1.06 indicates a high level of advocacy participation among community members. The findings suggest that stakeholders actively promote awareness, encourage others to participate in advocacy efforts, and engage in initiatives focused on safe space policies. Furthermore, strong agreement on supporting programs that protect individuals from harassment and abuse highlights the

community's collective commitment to fostering a safe and inclusive environment.

Although the results are positive, sustained efforts to expand advocacy participation can further strengthen community engagement. Encouraging more interactive educational programs, increasing accessibility to advocacy campaigns, and fostering collaborations between local organizations and government units can enhance long-term support for the Safe Spaces Act and its successful implementation.

In relation to the results, a 2023 initiative by the Jollibee Group (Jollibee, 2023), in collaboration with the Philippine Business Coalition for Women Empowerment (PBCWE) and the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), trained over 10,000 employees on anti-sexual harassment and the Safe Spaces Act, underscoring the company's commitment to fostering a safe and inclusive workplace. Similarly, a 2024 forum organized by the Department of the Interior and Local Government Region XI (DILG, 2024) emphasized the importance of community involvement in promoting the Safe Spaces Act, highlighting the role of local authorities in addressing gender-based sexual harassment. These initiatives reflect a broader trend of active stakeholder participation in advocacy efforts to promote safe spaces and prevent harassment.

The results of the Pearson correlation analysis show a statistically significant positive relationship between stakeholders' understanding of the Safe Spaces Act and their awareness across different dimensions such as knowledge level, source of information, engagement, and perceived relevance. Since all correlation coefficients are significant at $p < .001$.

TABLE 14. Test of Relationship Between the Understanding of Safe Spaces Act and Stakeholders' Awareness

Understanding of Safe Spaces Act		Awareness				Remarks
		Knowledge Level	Source of information	Engage	Perceived relevance	
Communication	Pearson Correlation	.625***	.557***	.481***	.514***	Significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	
	N	408	408	408	408	
Information	Pearson Correlation	.677***	.640***	.565***	.552***	Significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	
	N	408	408	408	408	
Enforcement	Pearson Correlation	.661***	.594***	.535***	.570***	Significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	
	N	408	408	408	408	
Policies	Pearson Correlation	.722***	.658***	.591***	.581***	Significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	
	N	408	408	408	408	
Support Mechanism	Pearson Correlation	.750***	.685***	.569***	.596***	Significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	
	N	408	408	408	408	

Note: * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$

These results emphasize that increasing stakeholders' understanding of the Safe Spaces Act requires a multi-faceted approach. The strong correlations between support mechanisms, policies, and enforcement with awareness levels indicate that mere knowledge of the law is not enough, stakeholders need well-established policies, strong

enforcement, and accessible support systems to fully grasp and engage with the Safe Spaces Act. However, the slightly lower correlation with communication indicates that simply spreading information is not enough, awareness is significantly strengthened when policies are enforced, reporting systems are effective, and individuals feel supported.

This implies that institutions and authorities should focus on action-oriented strategies rather than just information campaigns.

The results are aligned with the study by Millano and Callo (2024) found a significant relationship between stakeholders' awareness levels and their participation in sustainable school programs, highlighting that higher awareness correlates with increased engagement in institutional initiatives. This aligns with the findings in Table 14, reinforcing the notion that a deeper understanding of policies enhances stakeholder awareness and active involvement. Notably, support mechanisms and policies exhibit the strongest correlations with awareness, underscoring

the importance of robust frameworks in fostering stakeholder engagement.

Conversely, the relatively lower correlation with communication implies that merely disseminating information is insufficient; comprehensive strategies involving enforcement and support systems are essential for effective awareness.

The Pearson correlation analysis reveals a statistically significant positive relationship between stakeholders' understanding of the Safe Spaces Act and their compliance across different dimensions such as behavioral adherence, reporting, response, and advocacy participation. The significance level of $p < .001$ for all correlations indicates that these relationships are highly reliable.

TABLE 15. Test of Relationship Between the Understanding of Safe Spaces Act and Stakeholders' Compliance

Understanding of Safe Spaces Act		Compliance				Remarks
		Behavioral adherence	Reporting	Response	Advocacy participation	
Communication	Pearson Correlation	.459***	.407***	.420***	.317***	Significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	
	N	408	408	408	408	
Information	Pearson Correlation	.494***	.469***	.483***	.401***	Significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	
	N	408	408	408	408	
Enforcement	Pearson Correlation	.508***	.427***	.488***	.370***	Significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	
	N	408	408	408	408	
Policies	Pearson Correlation	.536***	.440***	.509***	.408***	Significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	
	N	408	408	408	408	
Support Mechanism	Pearson Correlation	.586***	.499***	.539***	.429***	Significant
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	
	N	408	408	408	408	

Note: * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$

The results imply that stakeholders' compliance with the Safe Spaces Act is significantly influenced by their understanding of key factors such as support mechanisms, policies, enforcement, and information dissemination. The strongest correlations with support mechanisms and policies indicate that when individuals are aware of proper reporting channels and institutional policies, they are more likely to adhere to the law, respond to incidents appropriately, and engage in reporting. However, the relatively weaker correlation between communication and advocacy participation indicates that merely spreading awareness through communication is not enough to ensure compliance. Instead, stakeholders are more likely to comply when they see strong enforcement and have access to concrete support systems.

This implies that Increasing engagement initiatives and advocacy programs can encourage proactive participation, ultimately improving compliance and fostering a safer, more accountable environment. A related study by Gatus (2024) found significant relationships between college students' awareness, attitudes, and compliance with the Safe Spaces Act (RA 11313). The findings indicate that higher levels of awareness are associated with more positive attitudes and greater compliance, suggesting that understanding the Act is crucial for effective implementation.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of this study, the researcher posited the following conclusions:

Understanding of Safe Spaces Act and Stakeholders' Awareness. This was supported by the consistently high correlation coefficients across all dimensions underscore the importance of Understanding of Safe Spaces Act by the stakeholders. Hence, the hypothesis is rejected. This implies that enhancing stakeholders' understanding through targeted education and communication campaigns could substantially improve their overall awareness of the Safe Spaces Act, leading to more informed and proactive communities.

The results reveal a strong and statistically significant relationship between Understanding of Safe Spaces Act and Stakeholders' Compliance. Hence, there is enough evidence to reject the hypothesis. This suggests that stakeholders who better understand the law are more likely to comply with its provisions, indicating that educational interventions and clear dissemination of the law's components can lead to higher rates of adherence and responsible behavior in the community.

Based on the findings and conclusions, the following are recommended.

LGUs may persevere the distribution of clear, concise, and easily accessible information about the Safe Spaces Act

through community workshops, digital platforms, and printed materials to enhance stakeholders' understanding.

LGUs may expand community engagement by organizing interactive sessions, town halls, and active participation of local leaders to strengthen the involvement of stakeholders in Safe Spaces Act initiatives.

LGUs and community leaders may enhance reporting mechanisms by ensuring stakeholders have easy access to confidential and accessible reporting channels, coupled with clear instructions on how to report violations effectively.

Future researchers may consider adding additional variables, such as the demographic profile of respondents or the frequency of communication on Safe Spaces Act, to better understand factors that may influence the relationship between stakeholders' understanding and their awareness. In future studies, researchers may explore more granular factors like the impact of local enforcement measures or the presence of community leaders in compliance efforts, as these could provide a clearer picture of how stakeholders' understanding affects compliance.

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