



What Is This Module About?

Men used to think they were superior to women. Some still do. Fortunately, men and women in our country are treated equally. There are, however, still some individuals who do not think that way.

This module will tell you all about women's rights and responsibilities.

This module is made up of three lessons:

Lesson 1 — *Equal Rights for Men and Women*

Lesson 2 — *Common Violations of Women's Rights*

Lesson 3 — *Highlighting Corresponding Responsibilities of Women*



What Will You Learn From This Module?

After studying this module, you should be able to:

- ◆ identify rights of both men and women;
- ◆ cite situations showing domestic violence;
- ◆ cite situations showing sexual harassment; and
- ◆ enumerate responsibilities of women.



Let's See What You Already Know

Before you start studying this module, take this simple test first to find out how much you already know about the topics to be discussed.

A. Complete the following statements by filling in the blanks.

- _____ 1. A man telling his wife to leave the house and never to come back is an example of _____ violence.
- _____ 2. _____ violence includes physical, emotional and psychological abuse.
- _____ 3. Any conduct, remark, gesture or contact of an objectionable sexual nature is considered _____.
- _____ 4. Rape is not a sexual crime but an act of _____.
- _____ 5. Setting up centers for abused women/children is one of our government's _____ measures.

B. Answer the following questions with **Yes** or **No**.

- _____ 1. Can an employer forbid female employees to get married?
- _____ 2. Is GABRIELA a government agency which provides protection against women's rights violations?
- _____ 3. Is the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women an international document which focuses on discrimination against women?
- _____ 4. Do women have the same rights men have with regard to their nationality?
- _____ 5. Can violations of women's rights be prevented and eliminated through legislative and administrative measures of the government?

Well, how was it? Do you think you fared well? Compare your answers with those found in the *Answer Key* on page 25.

If all your answers are correct, very good! You may still study the module to review what you already know. Who knows, you might learn a few more new things as well.

If you got a low score, don't feel bad. This only means that this module is for you. It will help you understand some important concepts that you can apply in your daily life. If you study this module carefully, you will learn the answers to all the items in the test and a lot more! Are you ready?

You may go to the next page to begin Lesson 1.

Equal Rights for Men and Women

Read the following passages. What are they about?

“And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, he slept and God took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh instead thereof. And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man.”

—GENESIS 2:20–22

“God did not create woman from man’s head that she should rule over him. God did not create woman from man’s feet, that she should be subservient to him. But God created woman from man’s side, that she should stand by his side in life, to support him and comfort him, that together they may bring their family to God.”

—ST. AUGUSTINE



Let’s Try This

Answer the following questions based on the passages you read.

1. How was the first woman created?

2. Why did God create the first woman from man’s side?

Compare your answers with mine below.

1. God created the first woman by getting one of the first man’s ribs and fashioning a woman out of it.
2. God created the first woman from the side of the first man that she may stand beside him in life, to comfort and support him and that together they may bring their family to God.



Let's Read

Read the following comic strip and find out what some of the rights of men and women are.

Miss Lita Reyes was an activist whose mission was to make her fellow women in her hometown aware of their rights and responsibilities. One afternoon, she gathered her female townsfolk to hear the latest news from the city.

Oh, Lita . . . tell us what you learned during your trip to the city.



I became a member of GABRIELA, a nongovernment organization or NGO concerned with informing women about their rights and responsibilities. It is originally based in the United States but has affiliates here in the Philippines. Have you heard or read about the so-called comfort women during the Second World War? GABRIELA has been helping more and more women to fight for their rights and responsibilities.

What kinds of rights and responsibilities? Aren't we just suppose to raise our children and love our respective husbands?



Oh, yes, Marta, you do! For example, you can enter into contracts just like your husband. This will enable you to borrow and obtain loans. You can have equal access to all government and private agencies like GSIS/SSS/PAG-IBIG. You can enter into contracts for insurance too.

Is it true that I can also go abroad without having to secure the consent of my husband?



That's right, Mona! Married women have the same rights as their husbands when it comes to traveling privileges as in applying for passports, securing visas and other travel documents.

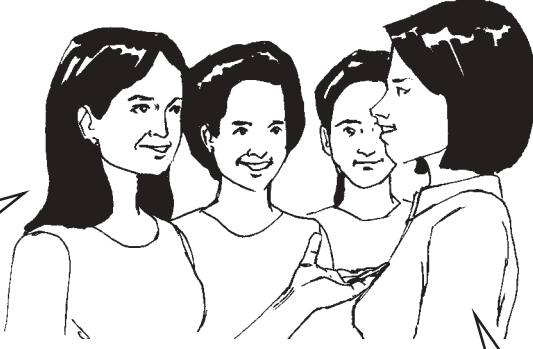
I was washing the clothes of the Villareals when I overheard Nyora Celia say she's being invited to join a civic club formerly exclusively for men. Did I hear her correctly?

Why, yes, of course, Berta! Republic Act 7192 or the "Women in Development and Nation Building Act" now provides women equal rights to membership in clubs/organizations devoted to public service.



What can you say about Melba's daughter who wants to study in a military school? Do you think she will be allowed to do so?


Of course, she will! Admission to military schools is also provided for in Republic Act 7192.




I have a problem. I'm interested in securing a housing loan but I don't have a job. What should I do?

That's easy! You just have to make sure that your husband is a member of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) if he is working for the government or the Social Security System (SSS) if he works for a privately-owned company. Or you can go to the Pagtutulungan, Ikaw, Bangko, Industriya at Gobyerno (PAG-IBIG).

Being married to a member of any of these organizations entitles you to apply for a housing loan even if you yourself are not a member. The law states that a spouse is entitled to at least 50% of what his/her spouse earns.



That's nice to know. Thank you, Lita. We learned a lot from you. I will tell others about all this. That way, we will all become aware of our rights now just as human beings but as women as well.

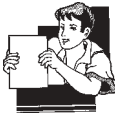




Let's Think About This

Based on the dialog you just read. What key ideas did Miss Reyes present? Write down at least three of them.

Compare what you wrote with the sample answer in the *Answer Key* on page 25. How well did you do?



Let's Learn

UN General Assembly Resolution 2263

The **UN General Assembly Resolution 2263** or the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** has the following important information every person should know.

1. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts the principle of nondiscrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedom without distinction as to sex.
2. Women have the right to vote in elections and be eligible for election to all publicly-elected offices.
3. Women shall have the same rights as men to acquire, change or retain their nationalities.
4. Women have the right to acquire, administer, enjoy, dispose of and inherit property, including property acquired during marriage.
5. Women shall have the same rights as men to free choice of a spouse, to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent. Women shall have equal rights as men during the marriage and its dissolution.
6. All appropriate measures shall be taken to ensure girls and women, married or unmarried, have equal rights with men in education at all levels.

7. All appropriate measures shall be taken to ensure women, married or unmarried, have equal rights as men with regard to economic and social life.

A copy of the UN General Assembly Resolution 2263 on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women is found in the *Appendix* on pages 29 to 33.



Let's See What You Have Learned

Study each of the situations below then answer the questions that follow.

1. Aling Sepa is a laundress of legal age and a resident of Barangay 25 in Kapitolyo, Pasig. Her neighbor told her she couldn't vote because she does not have a steady job. Is her neighbor right? Why/Why not?

2. Ana is 21 years old. Her parents want her to marry Pablo so they can pay their debt as soon as possible. Ana does not love Pablo. What right of Ana is violated? Why?

3. Josefa and Pedro have five children. Josefa does not work but stays at home to take care of their children. Pedro lost his job. Because of this, Pedro decided to stop sending their only daughter to school. He said, "She's a girl anyway. She'll just marry and have children afterward." Did Pedro violate his daughter's right to education? Why/Why not?

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 25. How well did you do?



Let's Remember

- ◆ Republic Act 7192 bestows women the following rights:
 1. Women of legal age have the right to enter into contracts.
 2. Women shall enjoy access to membership in all social, civic and recreational clubs or organizations devoted to public service.
 3. Women have the right to be admitted to military schools.
 4. Married women are entitled to voluntary membership to PAG-IBIG, GSIS or SSS upon their working spouses' consent.
- ◆ UN General Assembly Resolution 2263 declares the following:
 1. All human beings are born equal.
 2. Women have the right to vote and be elected to public office.
 3. Women have the same rights as men with regard to:
 - a. property matters;
 - b. choice of spouse;
 - c. education; and
 - d. economic and social life.

Common Violations of Women's Rights

In Lesson 1, you learned that men and women have equal rights. But some men still think otherwise. They continue to violate women's rights. Would you like to know what the most commonly violated women's rights are? Why don't you read on and find out?

After studying this lesson, you should be able to:

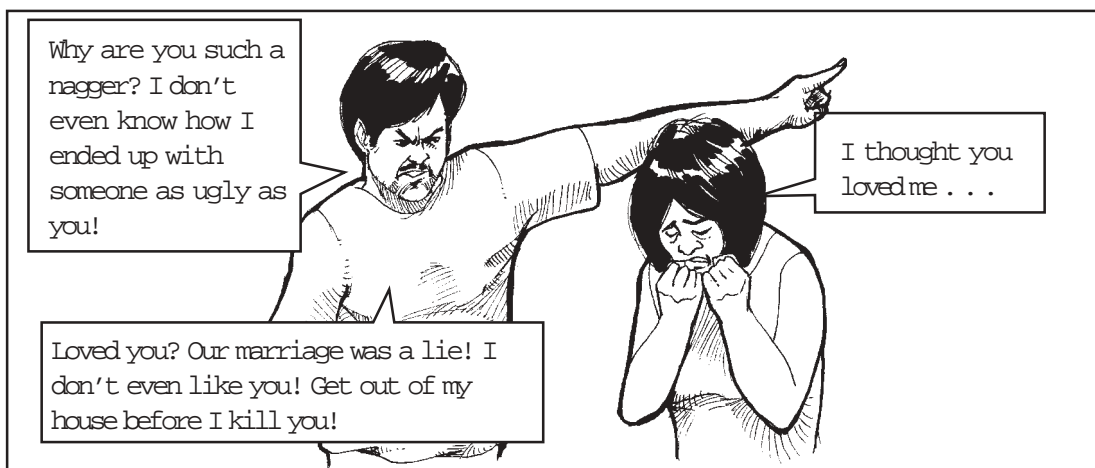
- ◆ give examples of situations that show domestic violence;
- ◆ give examples of situations that show sexual harassment; and
- ◆ differentiate myths from realities in connection with rape cases.



Let's Study and Analyze

How can women be maltreated by men? Study the comic strips below and tell how women's rights are violated in each situation.

Situation 1

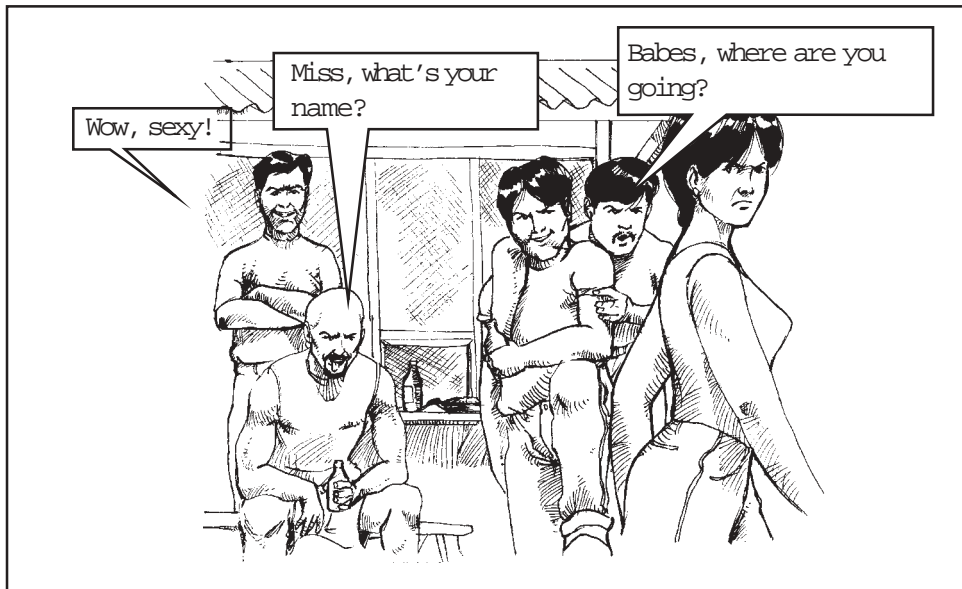


Have you ever heard a similar dialog before? What three violations against the woman's rights were shown in it? List them down below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Being mocked for her looks, being told very hurtful things and being threatened indicate violations against the woman's rights. These are all forms of domestic violence. **Domestic violence** can take the form of physical, emotional and psychological abuse. Being beaten up is not the only manifestation of domestic violence. Words can hurt just as beatings can.

Situation 2

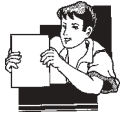


What acts can be considered forms of sexual harassment?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Calling out to a person, making offensive or degrading comments, whistling and asking for dates from an uninterested person constitute sexual harassment.

Other acts offensive to women include cracking indecent jokes; posting nude pictures of women in workplaces; displaying pornographic materials such as calendars, etc.; touching, pinching, stroking, staring or leering at a woman's body part unnecessarily; asking for sexual favors in exchange for something; and the like are also considered forms of sexual harassment.



Let's Learn

Sexual Harassment

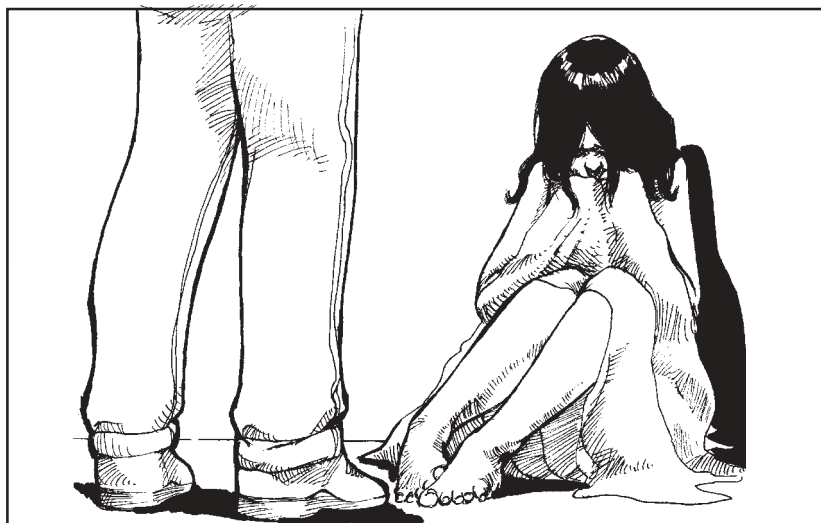
Sexual harassment is defined as any conduct, remark, gesture or contact of a sexual nature that is objectionable or offensive to the victim.

Central to the issue of sexual harassment are power and control. Sexual harassment, contrary to popular belief, has less to do with sex than with the satisfaction of being able to dominate the victim. It is a concrete manifestation of the unequal relations between men and women in society. It perpetuates this inequality by denying women the right to be free from actions and/or behaviors degrading or assaulting their personhood.

Victims of sexual harassment suffer shock, guilt, fear, humiliation and social isolation. They also experience stress, anxiety, sleeplessness, loss of appetite, lethargy (dullness), headaches, gastrointestinal disorders and other health problems.

For those employed, demotions, reprisals and threats of dismissal are usually used against them so as to prevent them from reporting or complaining to the proper authorities. The victim also suffers loss of self-esteem and confidence made worse by feelings of helplessness and frustration. Absences and sick leaves have thus been resorted to as means to avoid the harasser.

Situation 3



Sometimes we find it hard to separate myths from realities when considering rape cases. When a woman is raped, people tend to believe a lot of things such as:

Myths	Realities
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Believing you can never be raped because only bad women get raped. 2. Rape is primarily a sexual crime. 3. Women secretly want to be raped. 4. Rape can only occur in dark alleys or during nighttime. 5. Rape is perpetuated by strangers or person/s not known to a person. 6. Rape is a “spur of the moment” thing. 7. It is not possible to rape a nonconsenting adult. 8. Some women are asking to be raped based on how they dress and act. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All women are potential rape victims regardless of age, class, religion, education, occupation and physical appearance. 2. Rape is an act of violence. It is an act of aggression to overpower and control a woman. 3. Women who fantasize being raped still see it as an act of aggression or a form of aggressive sex. 4. Rape can happen anywhere—in public places, schools, workplaces and even within the home. It can happen anytime. 5. Rapists are usually known to the victims. They may be relatives, neighbors, acquaintances, office mates, schoolmates, friends and even boyfriends/husbands. 6. Rape is a premeditated act. It is usually well thought out long beforehand. 7. Any woman can be raped, young or old, single or married, etc. 8. Vulnerable women usually get raped. It doesn’t matter how they dress or act.

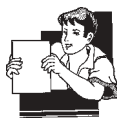


Let's Think About This

You must have heard or read about a rape case before. Recall some information about it and write them down in the space provided below.

Was it possible to prevent the rape from happening? How do you think so?

The answers to this may vary depending on the rape case you know of.



Let's Learn

How Can Rape Be Prevented?

In response to the ballooning issues and concerns of women nowadays particularly in the area of human rights, the Philippine government enacted new laws and adopted new policies including the following:

A. Legislative Measures

- ◆ establishment of a day care center in every barangay
- ◆ provision of assistance for women engaging in small-scale and cottage industries
- ◆ declaring sexual harassment unlawful in employment, education or training environments
- ◆ representation of women in the social security system
- ◆ minimum wage increase for domestic helpers

- ◆ increase in maternity benefits
- ◆ additional benefits for public health workers, majority of whom are women
- ◆ declaring March 8 as National Women’s Day, a working holiday
- ◆ recognition of the role of women in terms of rights and opportunities
- ◆ banning of marriage-matching for a fee and sending domestic helpers to countries which cannot ensure the protection of their rights
- ◆ equal rights to ownership of land, shares of farm produce and representation in advisory or appropriate decision-making bodies
- ◆ provision of equal rights of men and women

B. Administrative Measures

- ◆ promotion of the “No to Sexual Harassment” policy
- ◆ representation of women in local government councils
- ◆ establishment of the National Commission on the Role of Women (NCRW) whose mandate is to respond to women’s concerns in policy making and programming of all government agencies
- ◆ setting up women’s desks in police stations in priority areas of the country
- ◆ advocacy, education and information campaigns on the rights of women
- ◆ setting up centers for abused women/children
- ◆ activation of government organizations, nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and people’s organizations all over the Philippines to address women’s rights violations cases



Let's See What You Have Learned

Identify if each of the following violation shows:

- a. sexual harassment;
- b. domestic violence; or
- c. rape.

Write the letter of the correct answer only in the blank before each number.

- _____ 1. Ignoring one's wife and accusing her of having an affair
- _____ 2. Staring, ogling and leering at women
- _____ 3. Having sex with an unwilling partner
- _____ 4. Not supporting one's estranged wife financially after an annulment or a divorce
- _____ 5. Kissing or embracing a woman against her will

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 26. How well did you do?



Let's Remember

- ◆ Domestic violence, sexual harassment and rape are three of the worst crimes that can be committed against a woman.
- ◆ Domestic violence can take the form of physical, emotional and psychological abuse.
- ◆ Sexual harassment is defined as any conduct, remark, gesture or contact of a sexual nature that is objectionable or offensive to the victim.
- ◆ The Philippine government has enacted numerous laws and adopted new policies to prevent violations against women.

Highlighting Corresponding Responsibilities

In Lesson 1, you learned all about the rights of both men and women. In Lesson 2, you learned about the common violations committed against women. But it is not enough to know about women's rights, you should also know their corresponding responsibilities. This lesson will do just that. It will tell you all about the responsibilities of women based on their rights.

After studying this lesson, you should be able to:

- ◆ describe how a woman should behave at home;
- ◆ describe how a woman should behave in public; and
- ◆ identify ways by which a woman can develop herself.



Let's Study and Analyze

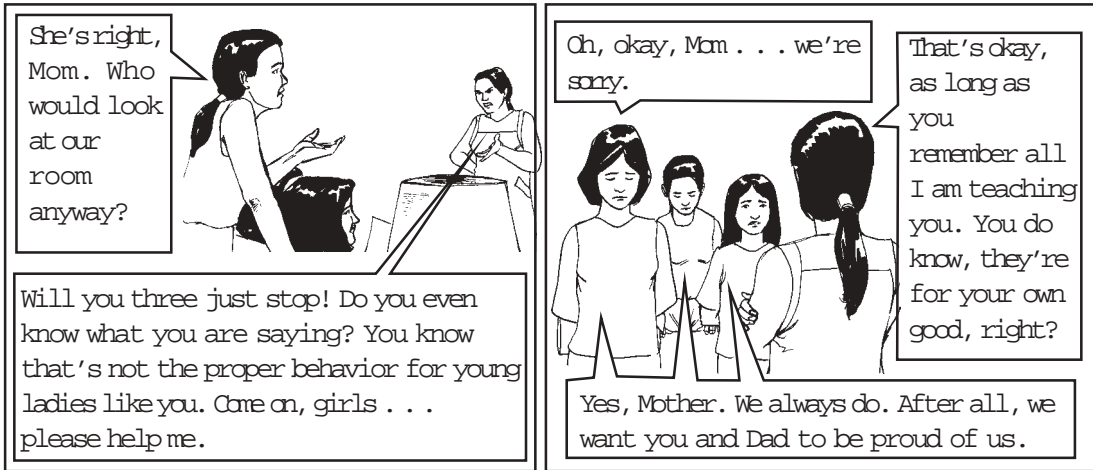
Read the following comic strips and answer the questions that follow.

Situation 1

Mr. and Mrs. Berta and Jose Cruz have three daughters, namely, Rita, Ana and Celia. All of them are in their teenage years. One Sunday morning, Mrs. Cruz was scolding her daughters . . .

Hey, you three! Rita, Ana, Celia, why don't you fix your beds? It's late! I can't do everything around here. I still have a lot of chores to do.

But, Mother, this is our only rest day.



How should a young lady behave at home? List down the responsibilities at home that they should always keep in mind in the space provided below.

Is your answer the same as mine below?

Young ladies have numerous responsibilities at home. They should always keep in mind that for every right comes a responsibility. Young girls, just like young boys, should listen to their parents because they almost always know what's right for them. The parents, on the other hand, should guide and teach their children not only about their rights but about their responsibilities as well.

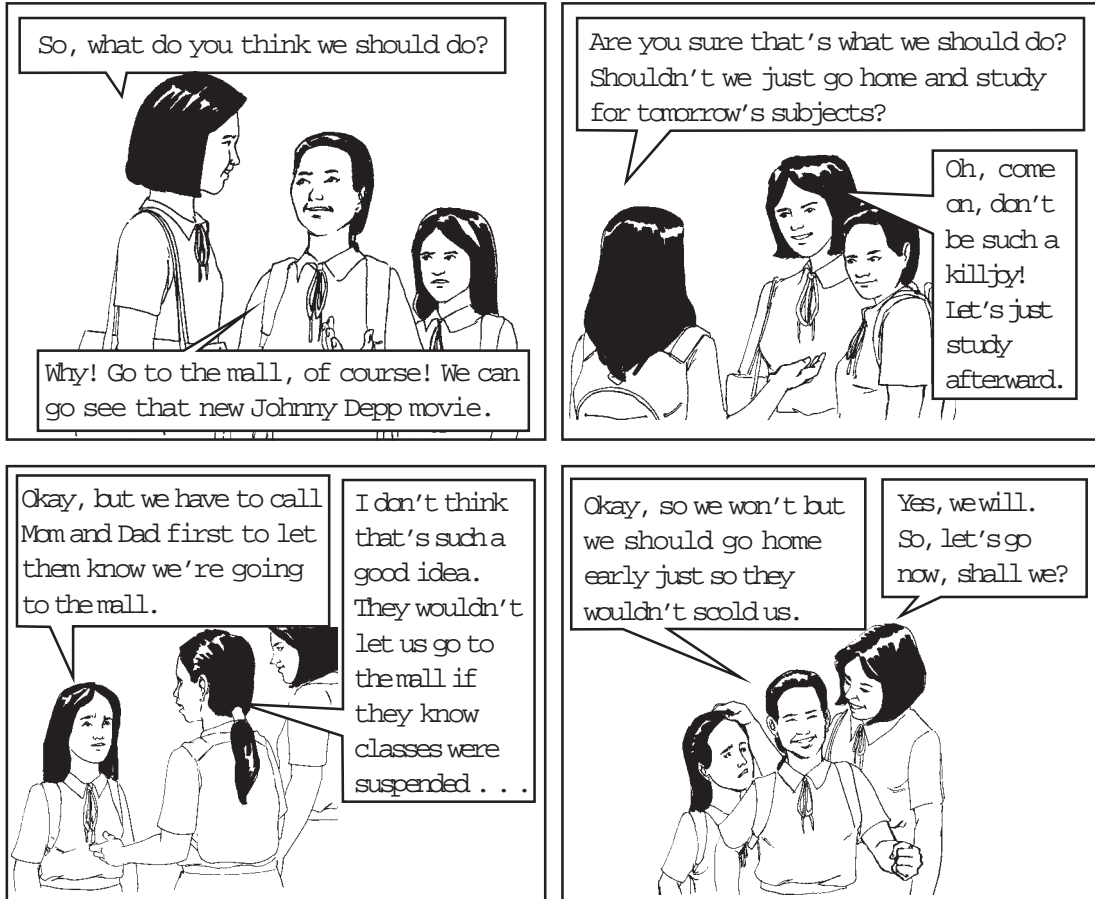
Did we have similar answers? I'm pretty sure we did. Why don't you read on to find out more about women's responsibilities?

Each of us have different roles in society. One can play the role of a daughter of her parents but she can also be a student/employee. Do you know what your responsibilities as a student/employee are? Read on to find out.

Situation 2

Let us continue with our three teenagers' story. One Wednesday afternoon, classes were suddenly suspended so the sisters discussed what they wanted to do

...



Do you think what the girls did was proper behavior for students like them? Why/Why not?

Is your answer the same as mine below?

What the girls did was not what they should have done. They should have gone home and studied for their subjects for the next day. As students, their first priority should be their studies. It is their right to go out and have fun too but they should do this at the proper time. If they really wanted to watch the movie they plan to, they can wait till the weekend. They should have asked their parents'

permission as well. That is what responsible teenagers would have done. That way, their parents who are responsible for them will not worry about their well being.



Let's Try This

1. Look at the woman in the picture. Do you think her behavior is proper for a young lady such as her? Why/Why not?



2. Look at the picture below. Is the woman properly dressed? Why/Why not?



Compare your answers with those found in the *Answer Key* on page 26.



Let's Read

Did you know that . . .

- ◆ in 1997 there were 36595 million Filipino women and 36932 million men?
- ◆ Filipino women earn about 30% to 40% less than Filipino men do?
- ◆ more Filipino men work compared to women?
- ◆ in 1989, five percent of Filipinos 15 years old and older were found to have never gone to school? The women outnumbered the men in this group.

Source: ISIS International-Manila.



Let's See What You Have Learned

From the data just presented, you can see that even though the women comprise half of our country's population, they earn much less than the men do. It also revealed that more women have never gone to school than men in our country. Why do you think this is so? What can be done about this? List them down in the space provided below.

Compare your answers with those found in the *Answer Key* on page 26.
How well did you do?



Let's Remember

- ◆ Every right has a corresponding responsibility. Women, just like men, should know about not only their rights but their responsibilities too.

Well, this is the end of the module! Congratulations for finishing it. Did you like it? Did you learn anything useful from it? A summary of its main points is given below to help you remember them better.



Let's Sum Up

This module tells us that:

- ◆ Republic Act 7192 bestows women the following rights:
 1. Women of legal age have the right to enter into contracts.
 2. Women shall enjoy access to membership in all social, civic and recreational clubs or organizations devoted to public service.
 3. Women have the right to be admitted to military schools.
 4. Married women are entitled to voluntary membership to PAGIBIG, GSIS or SSS upon their working spouses' consent.
- ◆ UN General Assembly Resolution 2263 declares the following:
 1. All human beings are born equal.
 2. Women have the right to vote and be elected to public office.
 3. Women have the same rights as men with regard to:
 - a. property matters;
 - b. choice of spouse;
 - c. education; and
 - d. economic and social life.
- ◆ Domestic violence, sexual harassment and rape are three of the worst crimes that can be committed against a woman.

- ◆ Domestic violence can take the form of physical, emotional and psychological abuse.
- ◆ Sexual harassment is defined as any conduct, remark, gesture or contact of a sexual nature that is objectionable or offensive to the victim.
- ◆ The Philippine government has enacted numerous laws and adopted new policies to prevent violations against women.
- ◆ Every right has a corresponding responsibility. Women, just like men, should know about not only their rights but their responsibilities too.



What Have You Learned?

Write the letter of the correct answer to each of the following in the blank before the number.

- _____ 1. Which of the following is *not* considered a form of physical abuse against a woman?
- pushing one's wife
 - undressing one's sister in front of other people
 - calling a woman a whore
 - depriving one's daughter of her inheritance
- _____ 2. A battered woman does not usually report domestic violence committed against her because of _____.
- shame and displaced sense of loyalty to her spouse
 - fear that her husband will not support her financially
 - inequality before the law
 - society's partiality toward men
- _____ 3. Which of the following can be considered a form of economic abuse against a woman?
- leaving her large debts to pay
 - compelling her to surrender her entire salary
 - making her quit work
 - all of the above
- _____ 4. Which of the following is a form of sexual harassment?
- whistling at someone who is just passing by
 - giving out degrading comments
 - staring, ogling and leering at someone
 - all of the above
- _____ 5. The following are myths regarding rape *except*:
- Rape is primarily a sexual crime.
 - Women secretly want to be raped.
 - Rape is a premeditated act.
 - It is not possible to rape a nonconsenting adult.
- _____ 6. Violations against women can be prevented by _____.
- legislative measures
 - administrative measures
 - massive information campaigns
 - all of the above

- _____ 7. Which of the following does not belong to the group?
- GABRIELA
 - National Council for Women
 - National Council of Churches in the Philippines
 - Philippine Association of University Women
- _____ 8. GABRIELA is a US-based women's solidarity organization working with GABRIELA-Philippines. They are concerned with the following *except*:
- global trafficking of children
 - sex trade industry
 - mail order bride industry
 - gender relations in Asian-American communities
- _____ 9. Which of the following is *true* according to the UN Declaration of Human Rights?
- Women shall have more right than men with regard to choosing their spouses.
 - Men and women have equal rights regarding marriage and its dissolution.
 - Men have more right than women with regard to their children.
 - Women have the right to acquire, administer, enjoy, dispose of and inherit properties.
- _____ 10. Which government agency supports proper exercise of women's rights and their corresponding responsibilities?
- Department of Tourism
 - Department of Labor and Employment
 - Bureau of Women and Young Workers
 - Bureau of Social Amelioration for Women

Compare your answers with those found in the *Answer Key* on page 28. Did you get a perfect score? If you did, that's very good. That means you learned a lot from this module and can go on to the next. If you didn't, don't worry. Just review the parts you didn't understand very well before studying another module.



Answer Key

A. Let's See What You Already Know (pages 2–3)

- A. 1. emotional
 - 2. Domestic
 - 3. sexual harassment
 - 4. violence
 - 5. administrative
- B. 1. No
 - 2. Yes
 - 3. Yes
 - 4. Yes
 - 5. Yes

B. Lesson 1

Let's Think About This (page 6)

The answers to this may vary but below are some sample answers.

- 1. That women can enter into contracts that can enable them to avail of loans from both government and nongovernment agencies.
- 2. That women can go abroad without having to secure their husbands' permission.
- 3. Women are allowed to study in military schools just like men.

Let's See What You Have Learned (page 8)

- 1. No, her neighbor is not right. Not having a steady job is no reason for her not to be allowed to vote. Every Filipino citizen 18 years old and above are allowed to vote.
- 2. Ana's right to choose the man she will marry is violated here. This is because her parents are obliging her to marry someone she doesn't love for their own selfish gains.
- 3. Yes, he did. Being a girl is no reason for not being sent to school. Every child has the right to education, whether the child is a boy or a girl does not really matter.

C. Lesson 2

Let's Try This (page 16)

1. (b)
2. (a)
3. (c)
4. (b)
5. (a)

D. Lesson 3

Let's Try This (pages 19–20)

1. No, the actions of the woman in the picture are not proper for a young lady or for a young man for that matter. It shows a lack of responsibility on her part not just as a young lady but as a person as well.
2. No, she is not. This is not because of her attire actually but more so because what she is wearing is not proper for the kind of place she is in. A person, particularly a woman, can wear whatever she is comfortable in as long as it is proper for the occasion or place she is attending/going to.

Let's See What You Have Learned (page 21)

Women should be given the opportunity to do the following with the help of the government or even the whole society:

1. have an education;
2. watch/listen to programs on television/the radio;
3. attend livelihood training/seminars to help them earn an income;
4. read the reading materials they are interested in; and
5. participate in discussions regarding their rights, privileges and responsibilities.

E. What Have You Learned? (pages 24–26)

1. (d)
2. (a)
3. (d)
4. (d)
5. (c)
6. (d)
7. (c)
8. (a)
9. (a)
10. (c)



References

- Commission on Human Rights. *Domestic Violence: Not Just a Family Problem*.
- . *Rape: Dispelling the Myths*.
- . *Rights of Women*.
- . *Sexual Harassment: It Is Not a Compliment*.
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- United Nations. *Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women*, November 1967.
- . *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women*, 1993.



Appendix

UN General Assembly Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

The General Assembly,

Considering that the people of the United States have, in the Charter, reaffirmed their faith in the fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in equal rights of men and women, considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts the principle of nondiscrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein without distinction as to sex.

Taking into account the resolutions, declarations, conventions and recommendations of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and despite the progress made in the matter of equal rights, there continues to exist considerable discrimination against women.

Considering that discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and with the welfare of the family and society, prevents their participation, in their countries and is an obstacle to the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity.

Bearing in mind the great contribution made by women to social, political, economic and cultural life and the part they play in the family and particularly in the rearing of children.

Convinced that the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women as well as men in all fields.

Considering that this is necessary to ensure the universal recognition in law and in fact of the principle of equality of men and women, solemnly proclaims this declaration:

Article 1

Discrimination against women, denying or limiting as it does their equality of rights with men, is fundamentally unjust and constitutes an offense against human dignity.

Article 2

All appropriate measures shall be taken to abolish existing laws, customs, regulations and practices which are discriminatory against women, and to establish adequate legal protection for equal rights of men and women, in particular:

1. The principle of equality of rights shall be embodied in the constitution or otherwise guaranteed by law.
2. The international instruments of the United Nations and specialized agencies relating to the elimination of discrimination against women shall be ratified or acceded to and fully implemented as soon as practicable.

Article 3

All appropriate measures shall be taken to educate public opinion and to direct national aspirations toward the eradication of prejudice and the abolition of customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority of women.

Article 4

All appropriate measures shall be taken to ensure women equal terms without any discrimination in:

1. the right to vote in all elections and be eligible for election to all publicly-elected bodies;
2. the right to vote in all public referenda; and
3. the right to hold public office and to exercise all public functions.

Such rights shall be guaranteed by legislation.

Article 5

Women shall have the same rights as men to acquire, change or retain their nationalities. Marriage to an alien shall not automatically affect the nationality of the wife either by rendering her stateless or by forcing upon her the nationality of her husband.

Article 6

1. Without prejudice to the safeguarding of the unity and the harmony of the family remains the basic unit of any society, all appropriate measures, particularly legislative measures, shall be taken to ensure to women, married or unmarried, equal rights with men in the field or civil law, in particular.
2. The right to acquire, administer, enjoy, dispose of and inherit property, including property acquired during marriage.
3. The right to equality in legal capacity and the exercise thereof.
4. The same rights as men with regard to the law on the movement of persons.
5. All appropriate measures shall be taken to ensure the principle of equality of status of the husband and wife and in particular:
 - a. Women shall have the same right as men to free choice of a spouse, to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent.
 - b. Women shall have equal rights with men during marriage and at its dissolution. In all cases, the interest of the children shall be paramount.
 - c. Parents shall have equal rights and duties in matters relating to their children. In all cases, the interest of the children shall be paramount.
6. Child marriage and the betrothal of young girls before puberty shall be prohibited and effective action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory.

Article 7

All provisions of penal codes which constitute discrimination against women shall be repealed.

Article 8

All appropriate measures, including legislation, shall be taken to combat all forms of traffic of women and exploitation or prostitution of women.

Article 9

All appropriate measures shall be taken to ensure girls and women, married or unmarried, equal rights with men in education and at all levels and in particular:

1. Equal conditions regarding access to and study in educational institutions of all types including universities and vocational, technical and professional schools.
2. The same choice of curricula, the same examinations, teaching staff with qualifications of the same standard and school premises and equipment of the same quality whether the institutions are co-educational or not.
3. Equal opportunities to benefit from scholarships and other study grants.
4. Equal opportunities for access to programs of continuing education, including adult literacy programs.
5. Access to educational information to help in ensuring the health and well being of families.

Article 10

1. All appropriate measures shall be taken to ensure women, married or unmarried, equal rights with men in the field of economic and social life and in particular:
 - a. The right, with discrimination on grounds of marital status or any other grounds, to receive vocational training, to work, to free choice of profession and employment and to professional and vocational advancement.
 - b. The right to equal remuneration with men and to equality of treatment in respect to work of equal value.
 - c. The right to leave with pay, retirement privileges and provision for security in respect to unemployment, sickness, old age or other incapability of work.
 - d. The right to receive family allowances on equal terms with men.

2. In order to prevent discrimination against women on account of marriage or maternity and to ensure their effective right to work, measures shall be taken to prevent their dismissal in the event of marriage or maternity and to provide paid maternity leave, with the guarantee of returning to former employment, and to provide the necessary social services, including child-care facilities.
3. Measures taken to protect women in certain types of work, for reasons inherent in their physical nature, shall not be regarded as discriminatory.

Article 11

1. The principle of equality of rights of men and women demands implementation in all states in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
2. Government, nongovernment organizations and individuals are urged, therefore, to do everything in their power to promote the implementation of the principles contained in this Declaration.