

Envisioning a community without gender-based sexual harassment

by **Heherson Baun**



Morality is a social standard that is based on religious and authoritarian edicts. It is a decree dividing the boundaries of right or wrong. The government, with the help of various institutions, plays a pivotal role in shaping its citizens into a morally upright society and indiscriminately collaborative to envision a zero gender-based sexual harassment.

A zero gender-based sexual harassment might seem like a fictional utopian-movie-like scenario. It is easier said than done. But with the help and cooperation of every unit of a community, a zero gender-based sexual harassment might seem plausible.

The family is the basic and smallest unit of a community. Child-rearing is a painstaking process in a child's development both in physical and mental aspects. A child's father and mother are considered the first teachers before the child reaches preschool years.

The parents' influence molds a child's thinking as he/she grows. Parents should instill the virtue of respect in their children's upbringing so that as the child grows, he/she will recognize the importance of treating others well in physical, mental, and spiritual terms. If parents sow the good ways in children's hearts, then reaping good values will not depart from them.

Education is an integral part of a child's growth and development. Therefore, aside from advanced and contemporary academic studies, core values should be taken in utmost consideration. As much as possible, doctrines on anti-sexual harassment should be added to the curriculum to imbue the children on the sacredness of one's sexuality.

The eradication of gender-based sexual harassment starts within a community of law-abiding citizens.

A child with a strong foundation will carry high moral standards as he/she progresses. Therefore, today's children should become staunch defenders of morality, an exemplary tradition that should be passed on to the next generation, and generations to come.

Home and school are units in a community that co-exist to develop a child's core values and beliefs. Parents and teachers are the two key players that make or break the transformation of an innocent child into a wise and responsible citizen of a community.

The eradication of gender-based sexual harassment starts within a community of law-abiding citizens. Desecration of such established decree will be futile in a community of well-educated and mild-mannered individuals.

"Envisioning a community without gender-based sexual harassment" is one of the winning entries during the NFRDI's Essay Writing Contest to promote the 18-day campaign to end Violence Against Women for 2021. Heherson Baun, or simply "Keno" to his colleagues, is a Science Documentation Officer I at the Office of the Chief of Fisheries Postharvest Research and Development Division, NFRDI.