

Navigating the Line: Utilization of Communication Channels and Awareness of the Expanded Solo Parent Welfare Act (RA 11861)

Rodolfo Ruelo Jr. ¹ and Sadie D. Law-ay ^{1,2,*}



¹ Institute of Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Good Governance, Davao del Norte State College, Panabo City, 8105 Davao del Norte, Philippines

² Center for Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion, Davao del Norte State College, Panabo City, 8105 Davao del Norte, Philippines

* Correspondence: sadie.law-ay@dnsc.edu.ph (SDL)

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Abstract

The Expanded Solo Parent Welfare Act, or Republic Act 11861, enhances provisions and benefits for solo parents originally set by RA 8972. This law aimed to support solo parents in raising their children, managing expenses, and combating poverty by providing tailored assistance. Ensuring that all solo parents are aware of and can access these benefits is crucial, as well as the communication channels they utilize to obtain information about RA 11861. This study examined the frequency of utilization of various communication channels, including television, radio, internet, and print media, among solo parents and assessed their ease of access to information and awareness levels regarding RA 11861. Utilizing the De Fleur Model of Communication and Diffusion of Innovations Theory, a quantitative survey involving 93 registered solo parents was conducted in one of the *barangays* in Panabo City, Davao del Norte, Philippines. The study is limited to a single *barangay*, which may affect the generalizability of results. Findings indicate that the internet is the most utilized channel for information about the welfare act, while radio is the least used, considering the demographic differences such as age, sex, educational attainment, and employment status. It revealed that solo parents can adequately understand the Act. A significant positive relationship was found between communication channel utilization and awareness levels, with ease of access to information, particularly through the internet, strongly correlating with higher awareness levels. Recommendations emphasized the importance of leveraging high-frequency channels and improving digital literacy for solo parents in enhancing their awareness and accessing the Act's benefits.

Keywords: communication, law, social welfare, Davao del Norte, Philippines



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INTRODUCTION

Raising healthy and well-adjusted children poses a formidable challenge for single parents, whether they are mothers or fathers (Ramos & Tus, 2020). A 2021 report by the Philippine Senate, citing World Health Organization data, estimated that 15 million single parents lived in the Philippines, 95% of whom were women. The Republic of the Philippines Commission on Human Rights' 2023 report highlighted the staggering financial vulnerability of single-parent families. A full 67% reported financial difficulties, nearly double the rate experienced by nuclear families. In this case, it is also linked to behavioral problems stemming from the significant effects of economic difficulties, inadequate parental control and supervision, and the absence of support networks. Single parents consistently worried about insufficient income to cover family expenses (Ramos & Tus, 2020). In addition, the primary concerns of single parents were intricately linked to factors such as the number of children, educational level, occupation, monthly income, and their unique circumstances as solo parents.

This highlighted the multifaceted nature of the challenges faced by single parents in managing both behavioral issues and financial constraints. In response to concerns about these problems, governments offer targeted benefits to provide solo parents with the additional support they require. Hence, the Philippine government passed the Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act (ESPWA) (RA 11861), which builds upon the provisions of the Solo Parent Welfare Act (RA 8972) from the year 2000. RA 11861 officially became a law on June 4, 2022, providing additional support and benefits to solo parents.

According to a recent study conducted by [Legarde \(2023\)](#), the ESPWA in Zamboanga City has played a significant role in improving the socioeconomic conditions of households headed by single parents. The Act has significantly improved access to financial aid, educational opportunities, and social services, creating a positive impact. As of July 2022, in the assessment of 15.5 million households, it was found that 343,494 or 64.3% were headed by solo parents. The number of male and female solo parents based on said assessment was not identified. Despite the limited studies conducted on solo parents, it was apparent that their count was large, and they comprise a significant number of the population.

Various platforms are crucial in reaching diverse audiences in today's interconnected world. [Ifukor \(2013\)](#) reported that the process of information delivery refers to any communicated message, whether read, heard, or spoken, that contributes to one's knowledge, awareness, or comprehension of various subjects, events, or issues, equipping individuals to navigate life's uncertainties. Television, radio, social media, government websites, and print media stand out as influential channels that can bridge and empower solo parents with the knowledge they need. Understanding how these communication channels function and the preferences of solo parents in accessing information are instrumental in crafting targeted strategies for raising awareness about ESPWA. [Ifukor \(2013\)](#) suggested that further studies should be conducted to discover the most acceptable channels for the sector concerned.

This study focused on one of the *barangays* in Panabo City, Davao Del Norte, Philippines, which had initiated the registration program for solo parents to access benefits, distinguishing it from other municipalities in the province that had not yet implemented such a program. According to the data from the local government of Panabo, the city had a total population of 173,205. Notably, the selected *barangay* boasted the highest population among all *barangays* in Panabo City, totaling 18,426. Additionally, this *barangay* faced substantial economic challenges, with 642 households below the poverty line. Focusing on solo parents, the Panabo City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) reported a total of 1,383 registered solo parents in the city, with only 93 registered explicitly in the *barangay* in the years 2023 and 2024. This concentration on a specific area provided a comprehensive backdrop for examining the effectiveness of the ESPWA in a localized context.

The present study aimed to comprehensively assess the use of communication channels as a source of information and awareness among solo parents regarding the ESPWA. Specifically, it sought to determine the frequency with which registered solo parents utilize various communication channels such as television, radio, internet, and print media for information seeking and exposure related to the law's provisions and benefits. It also aimed to assess the extent to which solo parents agree on the ease of accessing information through these channels. Furthermore, the study intended to measure the level of awareness among solo parents about the law and its benefits. Lastly, it aimed to investigate and analyze whether there are significant correlations between the frequency of channel utilization, the perceived ease of accessing information, and the awareness levels of solo parents regarding RA 11861.

Theoretical and Conceptual Framework

The study incorporated two communication theories, namely the Diffusion of Innovations Theory and the De Fleur Model of Communication. The Diffusion of Innovations Theory, developed by Rogers (1962), was used to analyze how information about the Act spreads among solo parents and stakeholders. The theory helps identify the effectiveness of various communication channels, such as mass media and face-to-face interactions, in raising awareness. It categorizes individuals into adopter groups based on their speed of adoption and examines barriers and facilitators to the dissemination of information. This approach aims to enhance the reach and impact of the Act, ensuring more solo parents benefit from its provisions.

Meanwhile, the study adopted the De Fleur Model of Communication as a guide, which described the circular communication process with feedback from the receiver. This model provides a framework for systematically assessing the frequency of utilization of different communication channels among solo parents and incorporates mechanisms for gathering feedback on the ease of accessing information. By using De Fleur's concept of the "Feedback Device," the researchers determined the levels of utilization of communication channels, agreement on the ease of access to information, and awareness levels of solo parents actively seeking information about the ESPWA, enabling more targeted communication strategies. Additionally, De Fleur's recognition of noise in the communication process prompted the researcher to consider potential sources of interference, ensuring the reliability of the findings. Lastly, the model informed the correlation analysis between channel utilization, ease of access, and awareness levels among solo parents, enriching the study's methodological approach and enhancing the relevance of its findings.

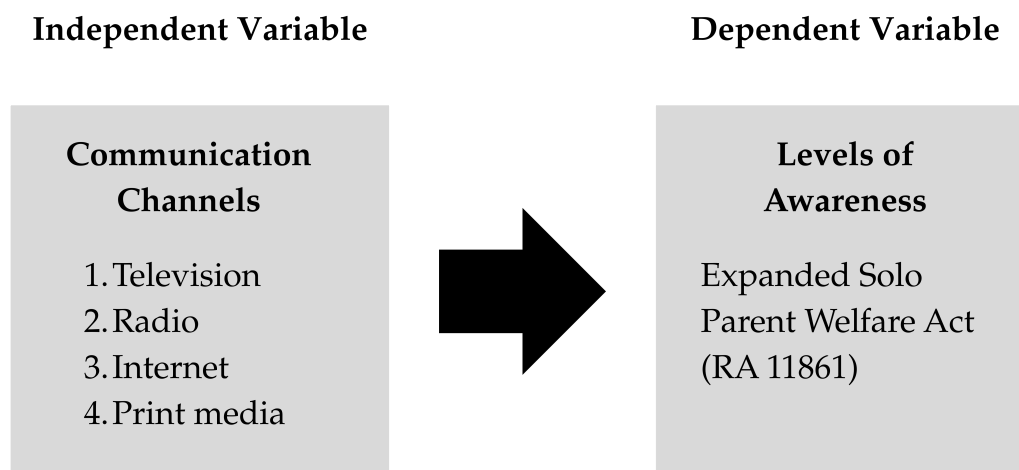


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework of the Study.

This conceptual framework illustrates how different communication channels (television, radio, internet, and print media) influence the level of awareness about the Expanded Solo Parent Welfare Act (RA 11861). The framework posits that these channels serve as the independent variables, which impact the dependent variable—awareness levels regarding the ESPWA. By analyzing the effectiveness of each communication channel, the framework aims to understand how information about the Act is disseminated and how it reaches solo parents and other stakeholders, ultimately enhancing their understanding and utilization of the Act's provisions.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study utilized a quantitative cross-sectional research design. Data was collected at a specific point in time from a sample of respondents based on demographic groupings to assess the frequency level of utilization for each communication channel, the level of agreement on the ease of accessing information for each communication channel, and the levels of awareness among solo parents regarding the ESPWA. [Taris et al. \(2021\)](#) proved this approach has several advantages compared to more elaborate designs, including its simplicity, cost-effectiveness, short data collection period, and participant burden.

Study Respondents

The respondents of this study consist of the entire population of registered solo parents in a specific *barangay* in Panabo City, totaling 93 individuals, as provided by the CSWDO. This *barangay* uniquely initiated the solo parent registration program under the ESPWA, being one of the municipalities in Davao Del Norte to implement this initiative. Moreover, this *barangay* is the most populous in Panabo City and faces significant economic challenges, according to CSWDO data, making it a critical area for examining awareness and communication strategies. Although this localized focus offers valuable insights, the lack of comparative groups from other *barangays* and regions limits the generalizability of the findings.

Research Questionnaire

The questionnaire used in this study was a combination of adapted and self-constructed items, primarily based on the study of [Alngag \(2022\)](#). The instrument was designed to measure the frequency of communication channel utilization, ease of access to information, and awareness levels regarding the ESPWA. A five-point Likert scale was employed, which ensured the reliability and validity of the instrument ([Carmines & Zeller, 1979](#)). The questionnaire was divided into four parts. The first part gathered the respondents' demographic information, the second part gathered answers to the utilization of each communication channel, the third was about the ease of access to information, and the last part gathered the answers related to awareness. To ensure content validity, the instrument was reviewed and validated by a lawyer and three internal panel members. The instrument was prepared in English and Bisaya. Proofreading was also done to ensure accuracy and cultural relevance. Then, a pilot test was conducted with 30 solo parents. The data from the pilot test underwent reliability testing using Cronbach's alpha (α), which yielded a value of 0.881, indicating high internal consistency and reliability of the questionnaire.

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics were utilized to analyze the Likert scale responses, which played a pivotal role in presenting a clear and concise overview of the data. This includes the demographic profile of the respondents, the frequency of utilizing different communication channels, the perceived ease of access through these channels, and the overall awareness levels among solo parents. Mean and correlation analyses were employed to address the research questions and objectives outlined in the study.

The Likert scale responses were interpreted as follows:

Table 1. Levels of utilization for each communication channel.

Scale	Range of Mean	Descriptive Rating	Description/Interpretation
1	1.00-1.80	Never	Very low
2	1.81-2.60	Rarely	Low
3	2.61-3.40	Sometimes	Moderate
4	3.41-4.20	Often	High
5	4.21-5.00	Always	Very high

Table 2. Levels of agreement on the ease of access to information for each communication channel.

Scale	Range of Mean	Descriptive Rating	Description/Interpretation
1	1.00-1.80	Strongly Disagree	Information is not accessible
2	1.81-2.60	Disagree	Information is fairly accessible
3	2.61-3.40	Neither agree or disagree	Information is moderately accessible
4	3.41-4.20	Agree	Information is accessible
5	4.21-5.00	Strongly agree	Information is highly accessible

Table 3. Levels of awareness on the provisions and benefits of the Expanded Solo Parent Welfare Act (ESPWA).

Scale	Range of Mean	Descriptive Rating	Description/Interpretation
1	1.00-1.80	Not at all Aware	Can hardly understand the Act even with the guidance from the expert/Never observe
2	1.81-2.60	Slightly Aware	Can understand the Act only with the guidance of the experts
3	2.61-3.40	Somewhat Aware	Can understand some aspect about the Act
4	3.41-4.20	Moderately Aware	Can adequately understand the Act
5	4.21-5.00	Extremely Aware	Possess proficiency and knowledge about the Act

Table 4. Interpretation table for the extent of correlation between the two variables.

Range	Description
± 1.00	Perfect Positive/Negative Correlation
$\pm 0.80 - \pm 0.99$	Very Strong Positive/Negative Correlation
$\pm 0.60 - \pm 0.79$	Strong Positive/Negative Correlation
$\pm 0.40 - \pm 0.59$	Moderate Positive/Negative Correlation
$\pm 0.20 - \pm 0.39$	Weak Positive/Negative Correlation
$0.00 - \pm 0.19$	Negligible Positive/Negative Correlation

Entry Protocol

Participants were thoroughly briefed on the research project, including its objectives, the methods of data collection, potential risks and benefits, and their right to withdraw from the study at any time. This information was conveyed in a clear and comprehensible manner to ensure full understanding. Written informed consent was obtained from each participant, emphasizing their autonomy and freedom to participate. Measures were taken to minimize any pressure or coercion, allowing participants to freely decline to answer specific questions or withdraw from the study at any stage without any repercussions. This approach ensured ethical standards were upheld and participants felt comfortable and respected throughout the research process.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Table 5 presents the demographic profile of solo parents in the years 2023 and 2024. In the data gathered, there were 93 solo parents currently registered. Most of the registered solo parents were between the ages of 35-40 years old (40.90%), and only 2.20% were between the ages of 18-24 years old and 65+ years old. According to the CSWDO, most of the registered solo parents were due to the death of a wife/spouse, a *de facto* situation, or separation, and were not married. The data gathered showed a visible gender disparity: 10.80% male and 89.20% female. This means that there were more female solo parents than male solo parents in the *barangay*. Sagales (2023) stated that single mothers are more prevalent than single fathers in the Philippines. This is often due to many women being left to raise children on their own, resulting in societal discrimination and a lack of emotional and economic support. This data supports the study of the University of the Philippines – National Institutes of Health States, as cited by Alngag (2022), that the Philippines

has 14 to 15 M solo parents, with 95% of them being women, and most children who had separated parents chose to live with their mothers rather than their fathers.

Moreover, in terms of their educational attainment, 2.20% were at the elementary level, 41.90% had graduated from high school, 17.20% were at the college level, and 28% were college graduates. This showed that more solo parents in this *barangay* are at least high school graduates. Furthermore, in employment status, out of 93 solo parents, 38.70% were employed, while 61.30% were unemployed. This showed that most registered solo parents were unemployed. This supports the study of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), as cited by [Alngag \(2022\)](#), that most solo parents are in underprivileged employment situations. The study of [Lopez & San Juan \(2019\)](#) proved that there are many circumstances surrounding the challenges of solo parents, including difficulties in managing household tasks alone, juggling the responsibilities of being both a mother and father to their child, experiencing loneliness while working to support their family, and not having to earn enough income to meet the needs of their child without a second parental income.

Table 5. Demographic profile of the respondents (N=93).

Characteristics	Level	Frequency	Percentage
Age	18-24 years old	2	2.20
	25-34 years old	16	17.20
	35-44 years old	38	40.90
	45-54 years old	20	21.50
	55-64 years old	15	16.10
	65+ years old	2	2.20
Sex	Male	10	10.80
	Female	83	89.20
Educational Attainment	Elementary Graduate	2	2.20
	High School Level	10	10.80
	High School Graduate	39	41.90
	College Level	16	17.20
	College Graduate	26	28.00
Employment Status	Employed	36	38.70
	Unemployed	57	61.30

Levels of Utilization

Table 6. Levels of utilization of the communication channels in terms of information seeking and information exposure by solo parents.

Communication Channel	Mean	Standard Deviation	Descriptive Equivalent	Interpretation
Levels of utilization of solo parents on each communication channel in terms of information seeking				
• Television	2.9462	.69729	Sometimes	Moderate
• Radio	1.9785	.90854	Rarely	Low
• Internet	4.5161	.85482	Always	Very high
• Print Media	3.1935	.67980	Sometimes	Moderate
Levels of utilization of solo parents on each communication channel in terms of information exposure				
• Television	2.8495	.64177	Sometimes	Moderate
• Radio	2.2258	.66150	Rarely	Low
• Internet	4.1828	.85905	Often	High
• Print Media	2.7419	.64105	Sometimes	Moderate

The highest mean level of utilization for information seeking among solo parents is the internet, with a mean of 4.5161 and a standard deviation of 0.85482, indicating very high usage for seeking information about the provisions and benefits of the ESPWA. Print media follows with a mean level of 3.1935 and a standard deviation of 0.67980, showing moderate utilization. The lowest mean level of utilization is the radio, with a mean of 1.9785 and a standard deviation of 0.90854, indicating low usage for information seeking about the ESPWA.

In terms of information exposure, the highest mean level of utilization among solo parents for communication channels about the provisions and benefits of RA 11861 is the internet, with a mean of 4.1828 and a standard deviation of 0.85905. This indicates that solo parents frequently encountered information about the ESPWA while using the internet. Television was the second most utilized channel, with a mean of 2.8495 and a standard deviation of 0.64177, showing moderate exposure. The lowest mean level of utilization was the radio, with a mean of 2.2258 and a standard deviation of 0.66150, indicating that solo parents rarely encountered information about the ESPWA through radio broadcasts.

It was observed that while solo parents used print media to seek information, they were not fully exposed to ESPWA-related information through this channel. Conversely, television provided ESPWA-related information to solo parents, even though they did not actively seek it from this medium. It suggests the need for nuanced strategies to effectively disseminate policy information to solo parents.

This result highlights the pivotal role of the internet as the primary platform for both seeking and receiving information among solo parents regarding the ESPWA. It supported the statement of [Ahmed et al. \(2015\)](#) that individuals of diverse educational backgrounds, genders, and ages utilized the internet for varying purposes. [Amponsah et al. \(2022\)](#) asserted that the internet, serving as the predominant technology for information dissemination and communication and has instigated a substantial improvement in the worldwide information landscape. It further stated that it possessed the capability to serve as a supportive platform for various purposes and functions as a vast repository of knowledge, fostering an environment where countless individuals engage in communication and collaborate in generating and disseminating information.

The consistent under-utilization of radio underscores challenges in its efficacy for reaching solo parents with ESPWA-related information. [Vlad \(2023\)](#) stated that radio stations worldwide had altered their editorial and technical

approaches to accommodate the evolving media environment. As a result, they are now all streaming their programs online, switching to the internet, with some exclusively available online, not limited to their websites, but also accessible through various other platforms. This concludes that most solo parents used the internet than radio.

The study supports the findings of the Pew Research Center (2011), which highlighted the internet's emergence as a crucial source of local information, surpassing newspapers and other media as the primary outlet for national and international news. The internet's prominence as a source of local news and information is further emphasized by its extensive reach and cost-effectiveness in communicating with large audiences. Online efforts facilitate quick conversations and easy relay of information, making the internet an indispensable tool for information dissemination.

The Ease of Accessing Information on RA 11861

Table 7. Extent of agreement of solo parents on the ease of accessing information regarding RA 11861 of each communication channel.

Communication Channel	Mean	Standard Deviation	Descriptive Equivalent	Interpretation
Television	3.3634	0.40641	Neither agree nor disagree	Information is moderately accessible
Radio	3.4753	0.52495	Agree	Information is accessible
Internet	4.0731	0.66121	Agree	Information is accessible
Print Media	3.5462	0.53903	Agree	Information is accessible

The lowest mean level of agreement among solo parents regarding the ease of access to information about the ESPWA is for television, with a mean of 3.3634 and a standard deviation of 0.40641, indicating moderate accessibility. For radio, the mean level of agreement was 3.4753 with a standard deviation of 0.52495. The internet had a mean of 4.0731 and a standard deviation of 0.66121, while print media had a mean of 3.5462 and a standard deviation of 0.53903. This indicates that information about the ESPWA was considered accessible through radio, the internet, and print media.

Among the four communication channels, the internet had the highest number of respondents who agreed on the ease of access to information. This supports the De Fleur Model of Communication in identifying the internet as the most effective channel for disseminating information about the ESPWA, regardless of demographic factors such as age, sex, educational attainment, and employment status. The model highlights the roles of the source, transmitter, channel, receiver, and destination in the communication process. In this context, the internet acts as a powerful transmitter and channel, effectively disseminating information from the sources to registered solo parents. Vlad (2023) demonstrated that the internet has significantly influenced the shift from traditional media, becoming an extraordinarily effective platform in today's media landscape. Likewise, Mota and Ciento (2020) emphasized that internet competence encompasses the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for effective internet use.

The Extent of Awareness on RA1181

Table 8. Extent of awareness of solo parents on the Expanded Solo Parent Welfare Act (ESPWA).

Provision	Mean	Stand and Deviation	Descriptive Equivalent	Interpretation
• Provisions and Benefits	3.8486	0.42853	Moderately Aware	Can adequately understand
• Provisions	4.0869	0.42116	Moderately Aware	Can adequately understand
• Benefits	3.6102	0.50243	Moderately Aware	Can adequately understand

The extent of awareness among solo parents regarding the provisions and benefits of ESPWA is 3.8486, with a standard deviation of 0.42853, indicating a moderate level of awareness. This suggests that registered solo parents have

an adequate understanding of the ESPWA. This finding supports the De Fleur Model of Communication, which emphasizes the role of feedback mechanisms in interpreting the receiver's understanding or awareness of the message. According to [Ogbonnaya et al. \(2022\)](#), this model assumes that the receiver either successfully receives and understands the message or does not. Additionally, the Diffusion of Innovations Theory explains how ESPWA spread and was adopted within the community. The moderate level of awareness indicates that the welfare act has achieved some degree of diffusion among registered solo parents.

Solo Parents' Utilization of Communication Channels and Awareness

Table 9. Correlation between the solo parents' utilization of communication channels and awareness of the provisions and benefits of the Expanded Solo Parent Welfare Act (ESPWA).

Variables	Mean	SD	R-value	p-value
• Awareness of solo parents about the provisions and benefits of ESPWA	3.8486	0.42853		
• Utilization of solo parents on each communication channel	3.0793	0.35870	0.344	0.001
• Information seeking about the provisions and benefits of the ESPWA on each communication channel	3.1586	0.41340	0.297	0.004
• Information exposure about provisions and benefits of the ESPWA on each communication channel	3.0000	0.40880	0.304	0.003

Table 9 shows a positive correlation between the utilization of communication channels and awareness among solo parents. With a p-value of 0.001, the researchers rejected the null hypothesis, indicating a significant relationship between the utilization of communication channels and awareness of ESPWA among solo parents. The R-value of 0.344 suggests a weak positive relationship between these variables. This relationship is influenced by demographic factors such as age, gender, educational attainment, and employment status. While increased usage and accessibility of certain media platforms align with higher awareness, this correlation does not imply causation. Other factors, including demographic characteristics, may also shape awareness levels.

The significant relationship between the utilization of communication channels and awareness of the provisions and benefits of ESPWA highlights the crucial role of effective communication channels in transmitting information to solo parents. The De Fleur Model emphasizes the importance of selecting appropriate channels, such as the internet, radio, television, and print media, to reach the target audience and facilitate understanding. Although the R-value of 0.344 indicates a weak positive relationship; the significance of this relationship underscores the relevance of the De Fleur Model in guiding communication strategies aimed at enhancing awareness among solo parents. By outlining the components of the communication process in a two-way manner, policymakers and communication professionals can develop targeted interventions to improve awareness and promote the adoption of beneficial policies and initiatives among solo parents.

The Ease of Access and Level of Awareness

Table 10. Solo Parents Agreement on the Ease of Access to Information about Expanded Solo Parent Welfare Act (ESPWA) Provisions and Benefits via Different Communication Channels.

Variables	Mean	SD	R-value	p-value
• Awareness about the Provisions and Benefits of ESPWA	3.8486	0.42853		
• Access to Information for each Communication Channel	3.6145	0.28500	0.689	0.000
• Television	3.3634	0.40641	0.142	0.174
• Radio	3.4753	0.52495	0.342	0.001
• Internet	4.0731	0.66121	0.709	0.000
• Print Media	3.5462	0.53903	0.147	0.159

Table 10 shows a positive correlation between the ease of access to information through communication channels and the awareness of solo parents regarding the provisions and benefits of ESPWA. With a p-value of 0.000, the null hypothesis was rejected, indicating a significant relationship. The R-value of 0.689 suggests a strong positive relationship between ease of access to information and awareness among solo parents. This finding supports the Diffusion of Innovations Theory, which emphasizes the role of communication channels, innovation, time, and social systems in reducing uncertainty and facilitating the adoption of new ideas. Rogers (2003), as cited in [Sahin \(2006\)](#), described the innovation-decision process as an information-seeking and information-processing activity, where individuals are motivated to reduce uncertainty about the advantages and disadvantages of an innovation.

The Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient was used to determine the relationship between the frequency of communication channel utilization and awareness of ESPWA, as well as the ease of access to information and awareness among solo parents, as shown in Tables 9 and 10. Although formal tests for assumptions like normality or linearity were not conducted, the use of Pearson correlation was appropriate based on the data and established practices in social science research. The 5-point Likert scale responses were treated as interval-level data, allowing for meaningful interpretation of the relationships.

The Pearson correlation analysis indicated a significant positive relationship between the utilization of communication channels and awareness of RA 11861 among solo parents, with an R-value of 0.344 and a p-value of 0.001. This weak yet statistically significant correlation suggests that more frequent use of communication channels increases awareness of the law. This finding supports the De Fleur Model of Communication, emphasizing the importance of selecting appropriate channels like the internet, radio, television, and print media for effective policy dissemination.

Similarly, the correlation between ease of access to information and awareness of ESPWA yielded an R-value of 0.689 and a p-value of 0.000, indicating a strong positive relationship. This aligns with Rogers' Diffusion of Innovations Theory, which suggests that clear and timely information through well-utilized channels enhances the adoption and understanding of innovations, such as government policies like the ESPWA. The significance and strength of these relationships underscore the crucial role of communication strategies in enhancing public policy awareness.

While statistically significant correlations were found, the effect sizes were not computed, limiting the interpretive strength of these associations. The Diffusion of Innovations Theory posits that the adoption and spread of new ideas are influenced by communication channels and demographic differences. Easier access to information about RA 11861 on communication channels was associated with higher awareness levels among solo parents, highlighting the importance of effective communication strategies.

Overall, the correlation analysis was appropriate for identifying linear relationships between variables. This study does not infer causation but highlights associations among variables. Unlike prior studies, this research focuses specifically on solo parents' awareness of RA 11861, contributing uniquely to the body of research on communication

and government programs. The study's findings are significant for improving media literacy, developing targeted communication strategies in marginalized communities, and ensuring inclusive access to government benefits. This localized focus offers a fresh perspective, advancing the discourse on communication strategies to bridge awareness gaps in social welfare implementation.

CONCLUSION

The study's findings led to several key conclusions regarding solo parents' use of communication channels for accessing information about the ESPWA. Solo parents demonstrated a very high level of internet use for both seeking information and being exposed to the provisions and benefits of the ESPWA, establishing the internet as the most effective platform. In contrast, print media were moderately utilized for information seeking but less frequently encountered for policy-related information. Television was moderately utilized for information exposure, though solo parents showed a lower tendency to actively seek information through this medium. Radio was the least utilized channel for both information seeking and exposure, indicating its limited effectiveness. Regarding ease of access to information, solo parents reported the lowest frequency of television use, indicating only moderate accessibility. They generally agreed that information about ESPWA was easily accessible through radio, the internet, and print media, with the internet being the most accessible platform. The study found that solo parents had a moderate level of awareness of the provisions and benefits of ESPWA. A statistically significant but weak positive relationship was found between the utilization of communication channels and awareness of ESPWA among solo parents, suggesting that increased use of communication channels was linked to higher awareness levels. However, a stronger positive relationship was observed between the ease of accessing information through communication channels and awareness of the ESPWA. This suggests that the more accessible the information, the higher the awareness level among solo parents regarding the provisions and benefits of ESPWA. While the study revealed significant positive correlations between the utilization and ease of access of communication channels and awareness of ESPWA, it is important to note that correlation does not imply causation. Other factors, such as solo parents' age, gender, educational attainment, and employment status, may also influence how they absorb and engage with information about the law. These demographic characteristics may interact with communication behavior and awareness levels in complex ways. Moreover, while the internet emerged as the most utilized and easily accessible medium, the nuances of content exposure, such as the quality, relevance, and frequency of the information received, were beyond the scope of this study but may offer meaningful insights in future research.

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Conflict of Interest

The researchers declare no conflict of interest in the publication of this manuscript.

AI Disclosure

The researchers declared that AI tools were used to enhance grammar, improve sentence clarity, and ensure overall language accuracy in our work.

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