

INTERNATIONAL CONVENING OF RESEARCHERS SEPTEMBER 21ST - SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2020

28th September, 2020: Visiting Scholar Panel



TITLE

Women Religious in ACWECA Region Effective Evangelization in Modern Society

(ACWECA: Association of Consecrated
Women in Eastern and Central Africa)

Presented by Sr. Hellen Bandiho

ACWECA



Association of Consecrated Women in Eastern and Central Africa

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate Georgetown University,
Washington, DC

Women Religious in ACWECA Region:
Effective Evangelization in Modern Society



Sisters from ACWECA region in a workshop (By courtesy of ACWECA)



May, 2020

✠ Sister Hellen A. Bandiho, STH

✠ Mary L. Gautier, Ph.D.

✠ Sister Grace Candiru, MSMMC

PURPOSE

- The purpose of this study was to determine sisters' needs beyond formal education to better be prepared to address spiritual and social needs of young people in the ACWECA region.
- A link was sent through WhatsApp groups and 262 sisters from 5 National Associations responded to the survey. Participants were from:
 - Association of Sisterhoods of Kenya (AOSK)
 - Association of Women in Religious Institutes of Malawi (AWRIM)
 - Association of Religious in Uganda (ARU)
 - Zambia Association of Sisterhood (ZAS)
 - Conference of Major Religious Superiors of Zimbabwe (CMRS -Zimbabwe)
- Five themes were examined: Sisters' preparedness in Social Justice issues, Counseling, Abuse, their Competency in Technology and its use and Sisters' preparedness in creating new ventures

FINDINGS

PREPAREDNESS IN COUNSELING

Between 81% and 94% Would Find It “Very” Helpful to Have More Knowledge in all areas related to counselling

PREPAREDNESS IN SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES

Between 73% and 88% Would Find It “Very” Helpful to Have More Knowledge about Social Justice Issues

TECHNOLOGICAL USE AND SKILLS

- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of respondents report using smart phones at least once a week and 60% use a computer as often.
- The most popular social media application among respondents is WhatsApp.
- Respondents are most likely to say they use the internet for
 - Educational/academic purposes (49%),
 - For socializing (40%).
 - For spiritual purposes (35%),

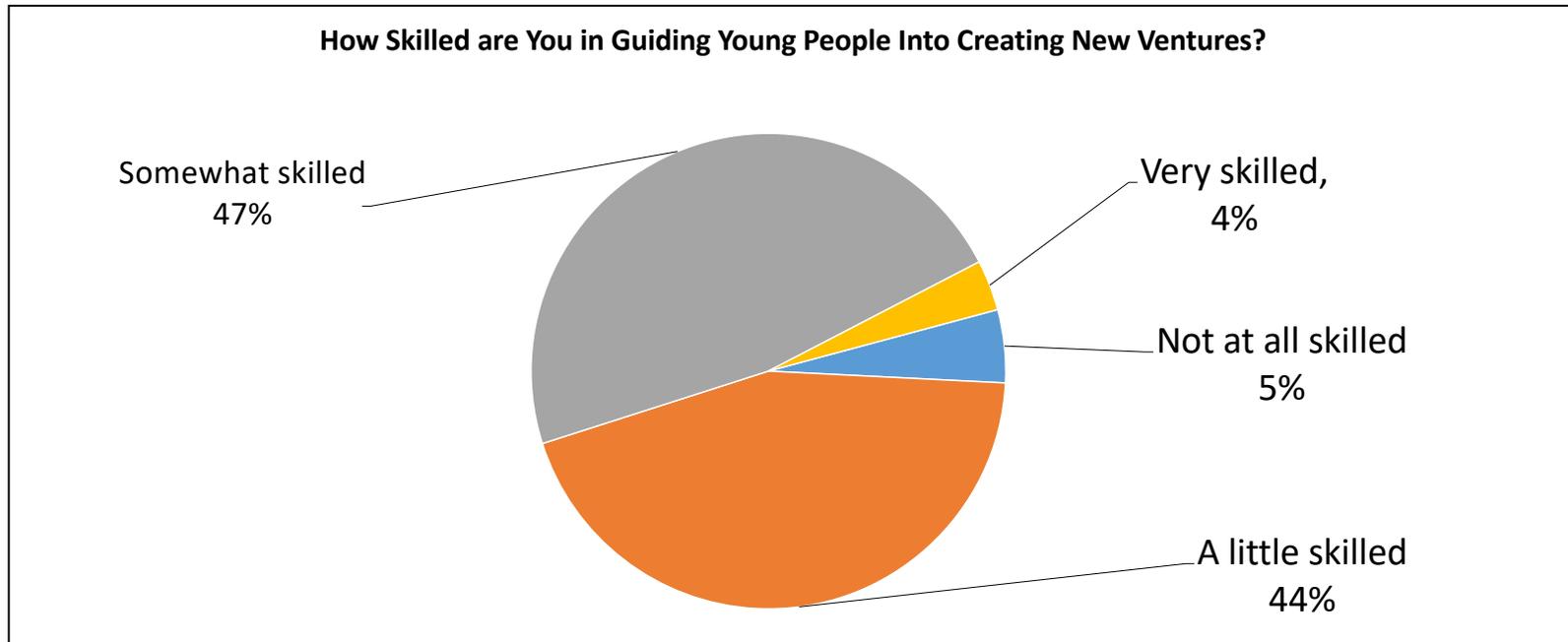
AWARENESS OF ABUSE RESOURCES

Only between 43%-59% are aware of any resources available to assist young people to overcome their abuse

TRAINING IN DIFFERENT TYPES OF ABUSE

- Responding sisters were asked how helpful it would be to have training in the resources available for different kinds of abuse. At least eight in ten say having training in each of the following areas would be “very” helpful to them:
- Physical abuse and violence (93%)
- Drug abuse (88%)
- Sexual abuse (87%)
- Alcohol abuse (83%)
- Mental health and recovery from trauma (80%)

PREPAREDNESS FOR YOUTH MINISTRIES INVOLVING CREATING NEW VENTURES - ENTREPRENEURSHIP



IMPLICATIONS OF THESE FINDINGS

- Between 73% and 94% say in each area examined in this study, training would be “very” helpful, indicating an extreme need for more training in those areas.
- Sisters’ ministries require competency in many areas, including those related to social justice, counseling, abuse, technology and social skills-entrepreneurship.
- Results of this survey is a call to all Superior Generals, National Associations and their supporters to listen to the voices of their sisters.

THANK YOU

CARA (Fr. Tom) for sponsoring this study

Dr. Mary Gautier for editing this work

Thank you Sr. Thu for helping me to send questionnaires using Qualtrics which made the analysis easier

THANK YOU ALL FOR LISTENING