

INTERFAMILY VIOLENCE AND INTERDISCIPLINARY INTERVENTION IN TIMES OF COVID-19 VIOLENCIA INTRAFAMILIAR E INTERVENCIÓN INTERDISCIPLINARIA EN TIEMPOS DE COVID-19

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ABSTRACT:

The objective of the research study was to analyze whether the cases of domestic violence that occurred during COVID 19 modified the interdisciplinary intervention in the care units. The methodology used was of a mixed qualitative-qualitative nature. The qualitative research was based on reports received from professionals in the areas of social work, psychology, law in free practice, officials of domestic violence care units and victims who at a certain time went to file a complaint in public offices, which was not specified at the request of the reporters. The quantitative research by means of the Friedman test or non-parametric test because it was a small sample, with similar characteristics, especially identical criteria, allowed the analysis and interpretation of the results of the survey applied to four professionals in the exercise of their functions. By means of triangulation, it was found that domestic violence has had an impact on interdisciplinary intervention in times of covid-19. Especially in the neglect of the processes, given the priority of preserving life.

Keywords: Culture, family, interdisciplinary, masculinity, domestic violence.

RESUMEN:

El estudio investigativo tuvo por objetivo analizar si los casos de violencia intrafamiliar suscitados en tiempos de COVID 19 modificaron la intervención interdisciplinaria en las unidades de atención. La metodología utilizada fue de carácter mixto cuali - cualitativo. La investigación cualitativa se basó en relatos receptados a profesionales en el área de Trabajo Social, Psicología, Derecho en libre ejercicio, funcionarios de unidades de atención de violencia intrafamiliar y víctimas que en un momento determinado acudieron a poner una denuncia en dependencias públicas, la misma que no se ha especificado por pedido de los relatantes. La investigación cuantitativa mediante la prueba de Friedman o prueba no paramétrica por ser una muestra pequeña, con características similares, especialmente criterios idénticos permitieron el análisis e interpretación de resultados arrojados de la encuesta aplicada a cuatro profesionales en ejercicio de sus funciones. Mediante la triangulación se comprobó que la violencia intrafamiliar ha incidido en la intervención interdisciplinaria en tiempos de covid-19.

Palabras Clave: Cultura, familia, interdisciplinario, masculinidad, violencia doméstica.





Tite-Segundo et al. (2022)

1. INTRODUCTION

Chaparro & Heyder(2020:115) "The literature recognizes that the structural conditions of women's vulnerability derived from the roles associated with care and domestic work and their job insecurity, among others, allow the violence increase against them, which is exacerbated in confinement conditions and social isolation generated by the Covid-19 pandemic".

Assembly (2015:126) According to Art. 155 of the (COIP) Código Orgánico Integral Penal (COIP) Domestic violence is "Violence against women or members of the family nucleus. Violence is considered any action consisting of physical, psychological or sexual abuse executed by a member of the family against the woman or other members of the family nucleus. That is to say, the spouse, common-law partner, cohabitant, ascendants, descendants, sisters, brothers, relatives up to the second degree of affinity and persons with whom it is determined that the defendant maintains or has maintained family, intimate, affectionate, conjugal, cohabitation, courtship or cohabitation ties".

According to the Organic Law to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women in Art. 10

referring to the types of violence it is established that for the purposes of application of this Law and without prejudice to the provisions of international human rights instruments and the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code and the Law, the following types of violence are considered: physical, psychological, sexual, economic and patrimonial, symbolic, political, gyneco-obstetric (Assembly, 2015).

Carballeda (2015:72) Violence intrudes into everyday life through different ways, where objectively and subjectively, bodies are the territories of its inscription. Therefore, the problematic of the present study was based on the fact that the protection in the apparatus of the normative has established a socio-cultural construction on roles and values. These are associated with the behavior of men who advocate the exercise of coexistence practices without machismo or supremacy of violence against women, called masculinities. This concept, far from eradicating and preventing violence, has revictimized women much more, especially given the presumption of an overly protective law that has not been sufficient to prevent, let alone eradicate violence. At the



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same time, other questions arise: is it that today only the barons are aggressors?

Wallerstein (2010:2) For some time now, several social scientists have been "constantly repeating that there are two things that have dominated the world in which we live since the last decades of the 20th century: globalization and terrorism". At present, domestic violence is a terrorism that denies the existence of the subject itself, masked within a context of conquest of more than five hundred years ago, which imposed violent forms of subjugation of women, men and children. Within the explanatory and justifying frameworks of expression of the cruelest forms of violence, two images have been established: that of the aggressor man and that of the assaulted woman. Aspects that have generated a vertical understanding and treatment of domestic violence.

Telles, Valenca, Barros, & Da Silva (2020:1) "Scientific studies and the news media have reported that domestic violence is a real risk in this new context, especially for wives, mothers, children, pets and older adults. Domestic violence is a serious social and medico-legal issue that could worsen with alcohol and/or drug use".

In Ecuador, as in most countries of the world, since March 2019, emerging measures have been adopted to address COVID 19. Despite the multiple restrictions, especially meetings and mobility, and the difficulties in reporting, thousands of cases of domestic violence have been registered. Between March and August 2020, 19,975 complaints were registered. This figure includes reports from the Integrated Security Service ECU 911. (González, 2020).

Telles, Valenca, Barros, & Da Silva, (2020:2) "Mechanisms for prevention, surveillance, reporting, and intervention in domestic violence cases are necessary and can include: Mental health professionals (psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, social workers) asking people directly and repeatedly whether they feel safe at home. Such assessments could be made in person during health center visits, by telephone or face-to-face. They heck on their neighbors, friends and family (while adhering to social distancing regulations) and report warning signs to local authorities".

Orrú, Ciarcchini, Gemignani, & Conversano (2020: 78) Social workers and "Psychologists in collaboration with the police, in order to support all those who are confronted with



situations of domestic violence, including

children. Also Prompt responses and

psychological interventions to the current

emergency psychological crisis for people

affected by COVID-19 and the health service

personnel are required in order to contain

the evolution of psychopathological

change".

Phase and purposes of psychological, social

worker and lawyer intervention:

- Support to healthcare professionals

in patient management

- Activation of toll-free numbers to

support victims of domestic violence.

- Design and implementation of

management interventions (Orrú,

Ciarcchini, Gemignani, & Conversano,

2020)

Social workers and psychologists are considered as social scientists in the field of family, specifically in aspects of violence; according to Aguero & Martinez (2017. 104) who cites Denzin, 2003 "consists of knowing the process of construction of Latin America and the Caribbean through a capitalist, patriarchal, modern, colonial social order to interpret it critically and transform it into a

formative bet of Social Work, that is, an emancipatory social criticism".

Patiño(2015: 97) "This also leads us to gestate processes and political actions to influence the spaces of power, or where decisions are made. It is a challenge for our profession to promote practices and actions tending to influence the design, management, execution, evaluation and systematization of policies, plans and projects that respect human diversity".

According to Muñoz (2015.422) who mentioned authors such as (Matus, 1999; Healy, 2005; Cazzaniga et al., 2005; Thompson, 2010: Garrett. 2013) "Transforming has meant both normalizing, adapting, or sanitizing, and educating, politicizing, liberating or emancipating. Hence, contemporary proposals in social work start from a minimum threshold as a condition of possibility: to unveil the perspectives that found Social Work, understanding it as a dialectical movement in which theory and practice, doing and knowing, researching and intervening are contradictorily fruitful moments".

The profession of Social Work, Psychology, Law, as well as other disciplines, have been



historically shaped by the influences of religious, political, biomedical, economic colonialism, among others, which have placed oppression, where social inequalities are propagated, being necessary to leave aside the professional imperialism and get involved in interdisciplinary intervention processes from their own realities, especially in prevention and intervention routes in domestic violence.

The proposed route of interdisciplinary work starts from the first contact with the user, identification of the problem, selection of methodologies and intervention techniques, diagnosis, intervention and care, counseling, technical support, referral, management of interpersonal relationships, follow-up with continuous evaluation and above all education for change, reflected in the empowerment summarized in resilience.

(Government, 2010) In a psychological emergency situation resulting from a psychological impact of violence, the specialized team conducts a risk assessment, safety plan and provides relevant legal guidance. If the crisis transcends the limits of intervention, it refers to psychological services, prior assessment of the risk in

which the user is and possible security measures.

2. METHODOLOGY

The researchers group of was interdisciplinary, by means of diverse criteria that focused on a different and at the same time similar professional work within the social sciences, especially Jurisprudence, Psychology and Social Work, and the determination of the problem was achieved thanks to the inductive predictive method based on the mixed qualitative-qualitative research. Qualitative because it is: inductive, unforeseen, flexible in the description of the characteristics of the people observed within a natural environment that respond to a given socio-political, historical and sanitary moment. It allows the researchers to learn about the outstanding experiences of a random sample of users and officials of domestic violence care units in Ecuador. For confidentiality reasons, their names are not disclosed.

Quecedo & Castaño (2002:21) "Narrative systems do not have predetermined categories". Once the sample was identified, contact was generated with it; through a zoom link, whose host was the researcher in



permanent records, audio recordings, notes;

more than three sessions thanks to

it was possible to identify units of

observation, patterns of behavior that fell on

the analysis of information and new patterns

embodied in the narratives.

qualitative Within the techniques of research, the environment was generated from what was heard and written as a kind of journalistic notes that responded to the research problem. The qualitative methodology found its reason in the collection of descriptive data that through the written words of the people involved in the study led to understand: concepts through guidelines referenced by the people from a referential framework, in this case gender violence. This made it possible to know the personal perspective of both users and professionals. Aspects that favored the emergence of generalizations thanks to the description of each of the variables and the discovery of deductive, verifying, generative, constructive and subjective causal factors (Quecedo & Castaño, 2002).

Narrative designs, within which the story is contemplated (Salgado, 2007:73) "is a research scheme, but it is also a form of intervention, since telling a story or a story

helps to process issues that were not clear. Allowing the researcher to collect data on certain events to describe and analyze them".

Stories:

Lawyer: 15 years in practice

"Domestic violence is not only towards women but also towards men regardless of their age. The re-victimization of women has given a unidirectional understanding of gender."

Questioned

"COVID 19 has generated in me too much uncertainty regarding my health, that of my family, but it has also generated questioning in the workplace. Every day the newscasts reported and report that cases of domestic violence have increased and at the same time I have felt helpless because I do not know what to do. Before, at least we had a defined route. When we were in confinement nobody did anything. We were asked to wait calmly.

Restricted professional

I have been a social worker for more than twenty-five years. My work should be part of an interdisciplinary team; in the process of



prevention, care and follow-up of domestic violence. Today I practically fulfill the role of a lawyer without being one, I receive the case and prepare the report; that is because I am going to the office. When I was teleworking, we were forbidden to continue with any proceedings, the only thing I limited myself to in some cases on my own initiative was to telephone certain victims of violence whose number I had on record. We were not allowed to take any file or information out of the office or to have access to any information portal. I do not know what happened with the users, they have not approached us nor have we followed up. This COVID thing has limited us far from generating intervention strategies.

Psychologist on standby

"The route of psychological intervention in cases of violence is clearly established, what is not specified is what strategies should be taken in emergent situations before the situation by COVID 19. Apparently the complaints have been reduced, but what complaints can we talk about if in times of confinement tele-assisted assistance was not provided, we were asked to wait. We have waited and returned after a forced vacation. Many of the cases are not followed

up. We are only limiting ourselves to the ECU911 reports".

Men also suffer in silence

"I have not been able to report, but the other day my son called ECU 911 and when the police arrived they almost took me to jail. If my son had not shouted loudly: 'My mother has another man and when my father was complaining, she hit him with the satin and broke his head, I would be in jail right now. Full of shame I filed a complaint, they told me that a social worker would visit me, I am still waiting. The other day I was filled with courage and went to find out when they would visit me; but they told me that since they are working on TV, I have to wait for them to call me".

I am a woman

"I am a woman and until recently I had no other possibility than to live with my aggressor, I even have AIDS, which is why I have limited myself to domestic activities. I have never been a promiscuous woman, but I am infected. I constantly asked for help by calling the ECU 911; with a frequency of twice a week; especially in time of confinement by the COVID 19 Only once I visited the Judiciary I tried to file a



complaint, but when I heard that my case has been reported to the unit several times I backed away; the only thing that jumped into my imagination is that if they never called me, nor tried to contact me; it is better not to waste my time. I thanked them and went out, before my dismay I went to a church and the priest helped me with the contact to a shelter for abused women. I left my home, fortunately I have no children in my care. They are grown up and have made their own lives. It is not my space, but here I have a job, medical attention and the most important thing is that my partner is not with me".

Illiterate

"I am Ivan, thirty-five years old, I have been married to Maribel for five years, I have two girls, four and two years old. Two years after we were married we decided that my wife should study physical culture at the university as a way to improve our lives. I work daily as a laborer in agriculture, thank God the man who gives me work received me with my daughters, I took care of them until my wife studied. There began to be problems, she began to arrive with the smell of liquor, we no longer slept the same way, I slept with my daughters, she was always in a

bad mood, she was only interested in me giving her money, pressuring me that I forced her to study because I was illiterate. I could not tell her anything with what she found within her reach she would hit me. She became much more rude a year ago, she spends her time alone on the phone laughing, talking until the wee hours of the morning. One day I told her to turn off the phone and let us sleep, she told me that she is doing homework and that today she has more to do because the classes are virtual. I replied that teachers are not supposed to teach at dawn. She started screaming, lunged, grabbed me by the hair and scratched me. The neighbors called the police and it was me they took to jail. The man who gives me work took me out of jail the next day and told me that there must be justice for me too, so we went to the Prosecutor's Office and the prosecutor told me that if not I would be ashamed to go and report it".

Through the stories, Martínez (2006:128) identified "the profound nature of the realities, their dynamic structure, behaviors and manifestations" of intrafamily violence in types of COVID 19. Collecting data through stories and structuring the information led



to the verification of the hypothesis that intrafamily violence did modify the intervention of the interdisciplinary team in times of COVID in the care units. But how did it modify?

To answer this question and test the hypothesis quantitatively. According to Erickson mentioned by Quecedo & Castaño (2002:16) it was necessary to "identify structures and perspectives of meaning, pay attention to the events to detect influence conxions, collect redunancies and establish the typical or atypical character of the context". It is essential to determine the sample that responds to determining profiles within a spatial and temporal context. The same that resulted from defining what to investigate within concrete characteristics of a relevant population reduced to a random sample but in relation protagonism as part of the interdisciplinary team of units of attention to domestic violence, specifically in confinement in times of COVID-19.

For the verification of the hypothesis: domestic violence has influenced the interdisciplinary intervention in times of COVID-19. Since the observation units were limited (four), the Friedman test was used,

which according to Quispe, Calla, Yangali, & Pumacayo (2019:42) is Rodríguez, "nonparametric for related samples for repeated measures that consists of ordering the data by rows or blocks, replacing them by their respective natural order. When ordering them, we must consider the existence of identical data". Therefore, in the research carried out, by adding the ranks columns. identical criteria by were determined thanks to the Likert scale, which allowed the elaboration of a questionnaire with identical questions for four professionals (two lawyers, a social worker and a psychologist).



3. RESULTS

Table 1. Evaluation Ranges.

Ranges. Strongly agree, strongly disagree, disagree, disagree, agree, neither agree nor disagree.

In times of COVID 19 especially in confinement your work or route of intervention in domestic violence has been modified.

Average rank

Professional 1	2,35
Professional 2	2,44
Professional 3	2,42
Professional 4	2,55

Prepared by researchers.

assessment of the professionals modification regarding the of the intervention route in domestic violence in times of COVID 19 has coincidence, with a not so significant margin of difference. It could be said that the scores given by the professionals are equal. Therefore, since the significance is less than or equal to 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected and the hypothesis that domestic violence modify the intervention of the interdisciplinary team in times of COVID 19 is accepted.

The testing and verification of the conclusions was the product of triangulation, which according to Quecedo &

Castaño (2002:35) "refers to the combination of a single study of different data sources" in this case the accounts that yielded similar results, through the contrast of data and structural corroboration in the reason of the researcher's credibility.

Thanks to the presence of disciplines, especially Social Work, a range of speculations was opened to fall back on a hypothesis understood as an assertion of the objectives that goes beyond the simple deduction of the theoretical-methodological problems faced in social science research (Canto & Silva, 2013).



4. DISCUSSION

Domestic violence integrates justice and law in a system of domination expressed through ways of thinking and feeling in different scenarios: social, political, economic, legal, among others, reflected in situations of inequality (Government, 2010).

In Latin American countries, during the first months of the COVID 19 quarantine, requests for assistance from victims of domestic violence increased. Especially by men towards women. The country that stood out the most with high rates of violence was Chile with 70% of cases, followed by Mexico with 60%, then Brazil with 50% of complaints by victims, and finally Argentina with an increase of 39% of cases, during the confinement (Herrera, Cárdenas, Tapia, & Calderón, 2021).

Telles, Valenca, Barros, & Da Silva (2020:1) "On March 28, 2020 an article in The Guardian claimed that domestic violence cases had increased 40% to 50% in Brazil. Police reports and helpline calls due to domestic violence have increased in Argentina, Canada, China, Cyprus, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the UK and the USA. Studies indicate that the increased rates of

domestic violence after a natural disaster often extend for several months".

DESAYP (2014:8) "gender violence as well as violence against women and girls has its roots in historical and structural inequality that have characterized the power relations between men and women". The issue of violence is a topic that academia should seek to redefine in its attention. product of denial that have responded to vio-lent social relations, crossed by uncertainty, repeating old forms of domination justified with a socio-cultural construction on roles and values associated with the behavior of the baron.

Professional imperialism is nothing more than the transfer of knowledge from one intellectual community (which is selfattributed superiority) to another (considered inferior or underdeveloped), with the consequent adoption and overvaluation of foreign knowledge by the mere fact of having been transferred by that intellectual community, which is also recognized as superior by that which is colonized (Muñoz Arce, 2015).

Regarding Ecuador Juan Zapata Director of the Integrated Security Service ECU 911,



made a technical balance since March 12, 2020, date on which the health emergency began, until May 31, 28,367 episodes related to domestic violence issues have been attended. Translating into 268 daily coordination's made by ECU 911 after requests for help made through 9-1-1, increasing on weekends (Zapata, Juan, 2020).

Relevant indicator is the comparative statistics made in the same period with the year 2019 that shows a decrease of -23% versus 2020, with the coordination for the attention of 21,731 cases. Reflecting that despite having increased domestic violence and in most cases requesting assistance to ECU 911 by cell phone in 87.69% of cases of physical, psychological, sexual violence; the respective complaint is not filed (Zapata, Juan, 2020). The care procedure begins with the receipt of the alert, proceeding to the articulation of care services through institutions for the protection of Human Rights, Ministry of Government, and National Council for Gender Equality, Prosecutor's Office, and other institutions articulated to provide services through the care of qualified professionals.

5. CONCLUSIONS

With regard to the decrees established before the COVID-19, the main factors that triggered greater intra-family violence were confinement and social isolation. What is most worrisome is that the victims of violence, especially women, found it difficult to denounce or ask for help due to lack of economic resources, mobility restrictions, lack of access to technology, lack of family support, limited coverage of the institutions in charge of ensuring safety, and inadequate professional intervention protocols.

From the point of view of Law, Psychology and Social Work it was not possible to activate the legal apparatus because the institutions in charge of social control stopped providing their services, putting the victims of the conduct under study in a state of defenselessness, added to the lack of knowledge of a route to make effective the protection of rights and the facts that traditionally have not been denounced for different aspects. It was found that the interdisciplinary intervention did undergo changes in aspects related to domestic violence, especially in relation to the protocols of attention, reception complaints, procedures, precautionary



measures and protection, which took a back seat to the imminent threat against life by COVID-19.

The information received through the stories increased the reliability within a process of management of the experiences transferred to the current real situation that in combination with the quantitative research, Friedman's test and through triangulation, the null hypothesis was rejected and the hypothesis that interfamily violence did modify intervention of the the interdisciplinary team in times of COVID-19 was accepted, especially in the neglect of the processes, given the priority of preserving life.

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