

INFORMATIONAL PERSPECTIVE OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN ON THE THEME “VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN”

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Abstract: This paper presents the result of a research on the informational level of university women about domestic violence. The research was carried out with students of the Administration Course at the State University of Paraná - UNESPAR campus of Paranaguá- Paraná - Brazil, in 2020, and it used as basis the Law 11.340/2006 known as Lei Maria da Penha which scope typifies as crimes the various examples of aggressions, imposing sanctions on the aggressors and welcoming the battered women. For this research 82 women from 17 to 34 years old were interviewed and the results pointed out some gaps, especially regarding the identification of violence in all its aspects, as well as in the knowledge on this Brazilian law which creates mechanisms to protect women.

Keywords: violence against women; Maria da Penha Law; information about violence

Introduction

The problem of violence against women has been having increasing attention in recent decades, however, it has been occurring for centuries in Brazil and worldwide. Despite the existence of Laws that innovated with regard to protection and especially the criminalization of the aggressor considering the act that occurred specifically because of gender, gaps in the Laws or the preeminently sexist culture make the aggressors not fear penalties and continue to act against the women. In relation to the culture, Alterman (2003) asserts that the frequency of violence tends to occur more intensely in countries with a strong male culture, and less in cultures that seek to have gender equality.

Regarding the analyzed context, it was highlighted that the Atlas of gender violence released by IPEA (2019), pointed out that the State of Paraná was the federation unit of Brazil where more women were murdered in proportion to the population in 2016. The report points out that the State had the highest homicide rates for black (297) and non-black (448) women per 100,000 inhabitants in the same demographic group. These data are high considering that the national rate was 64 murders of black women per 100,000 inhabitants and 63 murders of non-black women. It is noteworthy that this paper does not show updated data considering that the referred map of violence for the years 2017 and 2018 was not released until the end of this research.

Violence against women goes back many years ago, where male culture has always been high in relation to women. The culture of predilection for male children, in order to perpetuate the family name, can be considered one of the traits of this cultural personality. On this aspect, Oliveira (2012) highlights that,

Since ancient times, the waiting for a male child, capable of perpetuating the lineage and carrying the family name for the other generations, was a normal behavior among most families. A simple pregnancy had a considerable influence on the exclusionary mentality of the society, since the game of expectations regarding the preference for the birth of a boy distorted the whole context of a supposed and desirable equality. (OLIVEIRA, 2012, p. 147)

In this sense, the several cultures have developed from a perspective of naturalizing gender-based violence, from what is seen as "milder" as moral violence, to physical aggression as a form of domination. Thus, it is observed that generations and generations have been through the grief of violence, especially domestic violence, which occurred at home where theoretically women should find refuge and support.

According to Rocha (2009), the domestic and intrafamily violence against women can happen in different ways, in addition to physical violence, there is also neglect or abandonment, persuasion, moral violence, besides sexual violence.

While physical violence can be characterized by the use of physical force, the neglect/abandonment/ psychological/emotional can be defined both by the absence of positive attention, emotional availability, interest, and threats (expressed or veiled); by behaviors of social isolation (deprivation of freedom - with physical violence or not). (ROCHA, 2009, p. 100)

In Brazil, a great advance could be observed related to the current legislation, it is because in 2006, the Law 11,340 known as Lei Maria da Penha was enacted, which creates mechanisms to guarantee the physical and moral integrity of women, including considering all forms of discrimination, coercion, threat among others. This Law defines that the violence against women is crime and furthermore guides women on how to face violence and seek punitive measures for the aggressors. It is noteworthy that violence against women can occur anywhere, whether in public transport, at the college or school, on public roads and also, no less frightening and more often at home.

Article 2 of Maria da Penha Law states that:

Every woman, regardless of class, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, income, culture, educational level, age and religion, has the fundamental rights inherent to the human person, being assured to them the opportunities and facilities to live without violence, preserve their physical and mental health and its moral, intellectual and social improvement. (BRASIL, 2006, Art.2)

The Article 5, on the other hand, configures domestic and family violence against women "any action or omission based on gender that causes death, injury, physical, sexual or psychological suffering and moral or patrimonial damage"

I - within the scope of the domestic unit, understood as the permanent living space for people, with or without family ties, including those who are sporadically aggregated;
II - within the family, understood as the community formed by individuals who are or consider themselves related, united by natural ties, by affinity or by manifested will;
III - in any intimate relationship of affection, in which the aggressor lives or has lived with the victim, regardless of cohabitation. (BRASIL, 2006, Art.5)

In relation to the forms of domestic and family violence against women, Article 7 defines:

I - physical violence, understood as any conduct that offends the integrity or bodily health; behaviors, beliefs and decisions, through threat, embarrassment, humiliation, manipulation, isolation, constant vigilance, persistent persecution, insult, blackmail, violation of privacy, ridicule, exploitation and limitation of the right of coming and going or any other means that causes damage to her psychological health and self-determination;

III - sexual violence, understood as any conduct that compels the woman to witness, maintain or participate in unwanted sexual intercourse, through intimidation, threat, coercion or use of force; to induce her to commercialize or use her sexuality in any way, to prevent her from using any contraceptive method or to force her into marriage, pregnancy, abortion or prostitution, through coercion, blackmail, bribery or manipulation; or that limits or cancels her of exercising her sexual and reproductive rights;

IV - patrimonial violence, understood as any conduct that constitutes retention, subtraction, partial or total destruction of her objects, work instruments, personal documents, assets, values and rights or economic resources, including those destined to satisfy her needs;

V - moral violence, understood as any conduct that constitutes slander, defamation or injury.

It is important to highlight that with the advent of the Maria da Penha Law, there was a significant advance in the fight of violence against women in general, but more specifically in the violence that occurs in the home context, however, it still demands relative firmness in relation to the compliance in what is proposed by the Law, with greater emphasis on the effective protection of women after the complaint.

The use of communication technologies and access to information about the theme 'violence against women'.

The growing advance in the development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) has undoubtedly revolutionized the way that we live our lives, nowadays the access to information is available in several ways, newspapers, magazines, specialized news, blogs, social media profiles, all are in our hands by digital means such as cell phones and tablets in addition to the personal computer.

Although ICTs are often used in order to disseminate untrue news, or “Fake News”, spreading false news for the purpose of manipulating data and information, especially on social media platforms, it is possible to consider a tool that has been helping to the whole society to keep informed about news and events that occur worldwide.

With regard to information on violence against women, it is argued that the dissemination of them in an ethical, punctual, timely and reliable way, constitutes an important instrument for the construction of knowledge. This occurs mainly because of the speed and ease of access, and the

woman is able to use technology, whether on social medias or any other platform, in order to know where to turn in cases of domestic violence, either with herself or with a friend, relatives and even neighbors. In addition, it can also be an important tool for women to have true information and thereby build knowledge about the several kinds of violence, not only physical one.

Information has an important role for the women in a context of violence, especially in relation to instructing available care services and, most importantly, to be aware of their rights and to overcome the fear and shame barrier. (CORTÈS ET AL, 2012)

A point to be highlighted is the use of digital media which also allows people to have access to reports about violence, cases of overcoming and force in cases of violence suffered by women, as well as cases in which women were unfortunately murdered in a violent manner. Having access to real reports can prevent others women from going through the same situation, and if they are going through this to be aware of the fact that being abused, raped or any other situation that makes them uncomfortable is not normal and should be reported.

In March 2018, Avon Institute in partnership with Folks Netnográfica, carried out a data survey on social networks entitled “The Voice of the networks: what they can do to face the violence against women”. This document reports about gender harassment and violence in the media, collecting data from the following networks: Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. At the end of the 35 months of collection, the survey totaled 14,043,912 mentions on networks about topics related to gender harassment and violence in the digital media. According to the dossier, 86% of violence reports are made by women with anonymous profiles. In this sense, Giorgi (2016) “information with deep determination has the potential, with other actions and devices, to help women in the society to demonstrate their strength and sovereignty.”

Informational bases on violence against women

Nowadays the information bases on violence against women have been more visible to society. Both on social media and in the newscasts, it has been common news about the act of cowardice that women have been facing for years. However, more than just highlighting cases, the information bases serve to direct the audience as for the types of the violence, the severity of this act, the implications it can have for their lives and the children they may have, in addition to pointing out the places, phones and reporting sites.

An example of this is the virtual page of the Specialized Police Station for assistance to women (DEAM - Delegacia Especializada em atendimento à mulher), which are specialized units of the civil police to assist women at risk. The page has a preventive and repressive character, promoting preventive actions, investigations and legal situations, according to the website.

According to IPEA (2019) each year, about 1.3 million women are assaulted in Brazil, and incredibly, 52.2% are women who make up the economically active population, almost twice the percentage referring to the women who do not participate in the labor market, which represent 24.9%.

DEAM (2020), states that 48% of women who suffered aggression were inside their own homes, 3 in 5 young women have experienced violence in relationships, 77% of the women who have suffered aggression report that they have suffered violence weekly or daily and in more than 80% of cases the aggression was committed by the man with whom the victim had some connection.

It is important to highlight that a large part of the information presented throughout this paper can be accessed in websites and are often also disclosed on social medias. Naturally, it is necessary to consider women who do not have access, or who do not have the training to search for information. This difficulty, as well as the training to search, collect and appropriate information, raises an issue that also deserves to be discussed, that is, the ways of disseminating information on this topic that consider the multiplicity of women and their cognitive, social and economic realities. In any case, it is a fact that the technological world has helped a lot the women to start defending themselves and to lose the fear of denouncing.

Methodology

This research is presented as quantitative, with qualitative analysis based on a social approach. In this trajectory, it was sought to discover the informational level that university students belonging to the studied universe have nowadays about specific characteristics of violence suffered by women from the perspective of the Maria da Penha Law. Thus, UNESPAR - State University of Paraná, campus of Paranaguá was used as the research universe, with the women that are studying administration as the cutout.

85 students of administration from the first to the fourth year of the course participated in this research. As a method of data collection, it was used a questionnaire with closed questions. The composition of the questionnaire followed standards listed in Article 7 of the Maria da Penha Law,

as well as the other elements of the theoretical framework. For data analysis, descriptive statistics was used as the method.

Results and discussions

The results reflect the data collected according to the characteristics presented in the methodological procedures, followed by qualitative analysis and the inferences based on the data interpretations and the correlation with the theoretical framework used.

According to the sample the respondents were between 21 and 23 corresponding to 31.36%, followed by 17 to 20 years corresponding to 28%, 24 to 28 years corresponding to 19%, 29 to 33 years corresponding to 7% and more than 34 years corresponding to 10%. The age group studied provided a relevant universe, considering that in Brazil, according to data from the Atlas of gender violence from IPEA (2019), the young population was the one that most suffered some type of threat or aggression, especially in the age group between 16 and 24 years old.

Regarding color and race, most respondents identify themselves white, corresponding to 60%, followed by 31% who are brown and only 4% black. This question is relevant and can be directly inferred in the research result if it is considered that in Brazil, still according to IPEA (2018) in 2016, the homicide rate of black women was much higher than that of non-black women, corresponding to a difference of 71% among them.

Subsequently, the research questioned the participants about the partner's attitudes that are considered violence by them. The respondents indicated: push 21%, pulled hard by the arm 20%, hair pulled 19%, suffocation 20%. However, according to the Maria da Pena Law, in its Article 7, all of these are forms of aggression, since the Law indicates that physical aggression may or may not leave marks on the body, according to item I "physical violence, understood as any conduct that offends the integrity or bodily health."

The participants were asked to indicate which of the attitudes pointed out were considered by them to be a real aggression against women.

- He said something similar to the phrase: "if you are not mine, you won't be anyone else's". For 92% of respondents it is an aggression.
- He disturbs you, chases or watches you wherever you go. For 90% of respondents it is an aggression.
- He forbids you to go to the doctor or ask for help from other professionals. For 85% of respondents it is an aggression.

- He forbids you from visiting family or friends. For 90% of respondents, it is an aggression.
- He forbids you from working or studying. For 69% of respondents it is an aggression.
- He calls you, sent messages via cell phone or e-mails insistently. For 65% of respondents it is an aggression.
- He tries to define how you use your money. For 65% of respondents, it is an aggression.
- He has fought with a friend of yours because of jealousy. For 72% of respondents it is an aggression.

In this regard, all of the above items are considered violence, typified as a crime by Maria da Penha Law. However, part of the respondents indicated that they are not crimes, which can be something of concern.

Then, when they were asked about the case of the partner uses threats and aggressions in order to avoid separation, 98% indicated that these things are aggression, but 1% claimed that the situation should be analyzed because the woman may be wrong, and 1% indicated that man does this aggression because he loves the woman. It is understood that no form of violence should be acceptable and all of them are illegal.

When they were asked about the case of the partner forces the woman to have sex or to perform sexual acts without consent, 100% of the respondents considered it an aggression. In Article 7 of Maria da Penha Law, in its item III, it is clear that this is a crime considering “any conduct that compels her to witness or maintain or participate in unwanted sexual intercourse, through intimidation, threat or coercion or use of force”.

Afterwards, the participants were asked about cases in which the partner destroys personal objects or the partner's house. In this case, 88% of the participants indicated that it is an aggression, but for 10% of them the man acted like this because he should be nervous and for 2% of them the man must have had reasons to act like this. It is important to highlight that such an attitude constitutes patrimonial violence, according to Maria da Penha Law, which classifies this attitude as a crime in the item IV “patrimonial violence, understood as any conduct that constitutes retention, partial or total destruction of assets and objects”.

In relation to the use of intimate images by the partners in order to expose or denigrate the woman's personal image, 99% of the participants reported that it is a crime, but 1% indicated that the man acts like this because he is jealous. When the partner depreciates the image and honor of the woman, he commits the crime of slander, insult and defamation, according to item V of the Article 7 of Maria da Penha Law.

Understanding the cycles of violence helps the women to protect themselves and to know how to find help in situations of aggression. In this case, it is understood that Maria da Penha Law was a major advance in the Brazilian context and should be known by all women in order to protect themselves. In this sense, the participants were asked about their knowledge on Maria da Penha Law, and 60% said that they knew fully the Law and 40% only heard about it. Such data reveals the importance of disseminating information for the education of women on this issue.

Conclusion

Based on the study developed, it is concluded that the cases of violence against women are still very present not only in Brazil, but worldwide. Small abuses occur without the women or people around you noticing or reporting them. This research sought to understand the universe of women who have an age group very close to the percentage of women who suffer the most violence in Brazil, even though the public is not mainly composed of black women who are still the largest public attacked in this context.

It was observed that a part of the respondents still does not understand some aggressions, which are classified as crime according to Maria da Penha Law, which are in fact aggressions, which is worrying. It was also possible to identify that a high percentage of them is unaware of the Law, which has 14 years of existence. It is emphasized that there is a great need for instruments in order to disseminate the information, especially in socially vulnerable regions, since in a university universe some gaps were identified in terms of knowledge on this issue, which leads us to fear that in locations where women have less instructions and access to information this percentage can be much higher.

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