



GENDER VIOLENCE UNDER THE LOOK OF WOMEN PROSTITUTES

VIOLÊNCIA DE GÊNERO SOB O OLHAR DAS MULHERES PROSTITUTAS

VIOLENCIA DE GÉNERO BAJO LA MIRADA DE LAS MUJERES PROSTITUTAS

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ABSTRACT

Objective: understanding the concept of gender violence for prostitutes, as well as the violence suffered in the employment context. **Method:** a field research with a qualitative approach carried out in the city of João Pessoa/PB with seven female prostitutes older than 18 years old. The data were produced in March 2015 through a semi-structured interview guide. The reports were analyzed based on the technique of Fiorin speech analysis. The research project was approved by the Research Ethics Committee, CAAE 20418813.0.0000.5183. **Results:** the prostitutes still continue invisible to society, for the control that gives to the female body and the rejection they have in any other job. **Conclusion:** so, it becomes necessary to dialogue about the subject and taboos are broken so that this issue is present in everyday discussions. **Descriptors:** Gender Identity; Women's Health; Domestic Violence.

RESUMO

Objetivo: compreender o conceito da violência de gênero para as prostitutas, bem como a violência sofrida no contexto laboral. **Método:** pesquisa de campo com abordagem qualitativa realizada no município de João Pessoa/PB com sete mulheres prostitutas maiores de 18 anos. Os dados foram produzidos no mês de março de 2015, por meio de um roteiro de entrevista semiestruturado. Os discursos foram analisados com base na técnica de Análise do discurso de Fiorin. O projeto de pesquisa foi aprovado pelo Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa, CAAE 20418813.0.0000.5183. **Resultados:** as prostitutas ainda continuam sendo invisíveis para a sociedade, pelo controle que se dá ao corpo feminino e a não aceitação que ela exerce um trabalho como outro qualquer. **Conclusão:** assim, se faz necessário dialogar sobre o tema e tabus sejam quebrados para que este assunto esteja presente em discussões cotidianas. **Descritores:** Identidade de Gênero; Saúde da Mulher; Violência Doméstica.

RESUMEN

Objetivo: comprender el concepto de violencia de género para las prostitutas, así como la violencia sufrida en el contexto laboral. **Método:** la investigación de campo con un enfoque cualitativo llevada a cabo en la ciudad de João Pessoa/PB con siete mujeres prostitutas mayores de 18 años. Los datos se produjeron en marzo 2015 a través de una guía de entrevista semi-estructurada. Se analizaron los informes basados en la técnica de análisis del discurso Fiorin. El proyecto de investigación fue aprobado por el Comité de Ética en la Investigación, CAAE 20418813.0.0000.5183. **Resultados:** las prostitutas siguen siendo invisibles para la sociedad, por el control que dáse al cuerpo de la mujer y el rechazo que ella tiene de trabajar como cualquier otro empleo. **Conclusión:** así, es necesario diálogo acerca del tema y los tabúes sean rotos por lo que este tema estea presente en las discusiones cotidianas. **Descriptores:** Identidad de Género; Salud de la Mujer; La Violencia Doméstica.

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INTRODUCTION

The framework of Brazilian society is guided by a patriarchal system; gender-based violence consolidates this structure, since it sets up the dichotomy of the role of being a man and being a woman, being reserved for such a subordinate role even in their relationships, where they are subjected to aggressions from their partners and those who perpetuate this violence because there are women who are subject to this role.¹

Violence is evidenced in many ways, the current social construction in a given culture is influenced from an ethical point of view since it induces this characterization, and there is some difficulty in this, because some points are perpetuated by this partner, setting up one historical and social phenomenon.²

By the year 2002 cases of violence against women nationally were referenced in the National Program to Combat Violence against Women, these were articulated by the Secretary of State for Women's Rights (SEDIM) at the federal level, the construction of houses and housing and the creation of Special Police in Assistance to Women (DEAM) were supported by them, in 2003 there was a redirect as a result of the Special Secretariat creation of Policies for Women (SPM), reshaping the Coping National Policy on Violence against Women, in 2004 came the First National Conference on Policies for Women, firming the coping regarding all forms of violence against women.³

In Brazil a major cause of morbidity and mortality affecting women is gender violence, considered a public health issue, that reflects not only the woman who is assaulted, but also the community as a result of these alarming numbers in 2006 was enacted Maria da Penha Law, Law No. 11,340, in order to detain domestic and family violence against women, this law also provides means for the creation of Domestic and Family Violence against Women.⁴

There is still gender violence with women whose labor activity is prostitution. This practice is dated from the early days of our society, so that in all cultures she was present, as a form of initiation of many young people in the sexual world, where these sexual pleasures exchange for money.⁵ To the impairment of prostitution through centuries of our society, that has always been considered stigmatizing, given the control that always perpetuated the sexuality of individuals, the church attributed such practices to demonic acts being criminalized in civil codes, in Brazil attempted regularized

as an occupation. In several countries there are prostitutes and associations in the country in almost every state, despite being considered a profession that still carries the stigma from society, being stressed with prejudices.⁶

The fifth article of our constitution calls for the exercise of employment, profession that is properly appropriate to what is required to exercise is to free exercise, rather that the prostitute still is a great obstacle to the full enjoyment of their rights and legal recognition, although it is considered one of the oldest professions, the prejudice that this goes on in society complicates the non-recognition of their rights to be seen by society as something profane.⁷

Gender violence is taking notoriety due to public along with movements and feminist groups policies that condemn misogyny practices that were previously camouflaged, there are women living the margins of invisibility in society, understanding that the concept of health has a range of possibilities and that it is necessary to consider the importance of this phenomenon, to know that sex workers are a potential audience both for its feminine condition and by the stigma attached to their profession. In this light, the present study aims to:

- Understanding the concept of gender violence for prostitutes, as well as the violence suffered in the employment context.

METHOD

The study is part of a doctoral research, entitled "Domestic violence against women: household survey", linked to the Postgraduate Program in Health and Decision models, from the Federal University of Paraiba.

This is a field research, exploratory, descriptive, of qualitative approach. The research site was the city of João Pessoa in Prostitutes Association of Paraiba (Apros), involving a population of seven women who met the inclusion criteria: women above 18 years old, prostitutes, who agreed to participate in the study with anonymity those who exercised other professions, minors and women who refuse to participate.

The data was produced in March 2015 through a semi-structured interview guide. The first stage consisted in transcribing the interviews and the second time there was made the identification of themes and/or figures in the speeches of the interviewees elaborate on the issues. Then the texts were composed and organized in blocks of meanings by coincidence/divergence theme. The

interviews were identified by the letter "M" followed by numbers 1-7 (M1, M2, M3 ... M7), corresponding to the number of women interviewed, in order to maintain the confidentiality and anonymity of the participants.

The empirical material produced by the interviews were coded and treated by a technique in which it is understood that the text is an organized whole of meaning and significance of a given universe. The meaning of the text is given both its internal structure, which are the grammar rules, as the historical context of the moment in which it was produced. Therefore, the text is a full linguistic and historical fully object.⁸ Analyze the speech is related to understanding the stories that man produces, realizing his values, that is, the meaning which he attributes to his reality in each historical moment.

This study was conducted according to ethical principles in research and the Resolution 466/12 of the National Health Council. The research project was approved by the Research Ethics Committee (CAAE: 20418813.0.0000.5183). In the process of analysis and discussion, it tried to dock the empirical material produced to the relevant literature.

RESULTS

Women were interviewed aged 31 to 49 years old, with schooling in their most incomplete primary, four of the seven women reported experiencing violence. After the analysis the possible testimony given to the preparation of the following subcategories: The concept of gender violence to prostitutes and Gender violence permeating the working process of prostitutes.

The conception of gender violence to prostitutes

The following statements represent as prostitutes conceptualize gender violence:

Gender as well shake with humanity, domestic violence is the most serious, the expensive house takes her from the house, she sometimes comes home, in day-to-day knocks, sometimes rape the woman does not want sex, man whether the wrist, I think that's it, no violence worse than that. M [5]
For me violence is when a person will do a work and the people want to attack you with words, violence from people, all the same, around the person, can be man, woman. M [1]
It is prejudice to me, prejudice is violence. M [3]

Although gender violence is something that is being more common by the media and gaining greater visibility, many women are unaware of the significance that this phenomenon is in their lives. The following statement portrays this:

What is gender? Don't know. There are so much things. M [6].

From this statement we can confirm the lack of understanding regarding the meaning of what is gender violence, for the same when asked what else bothered her in her profession she said:

What bothers most is when you meet bad man who humiliates those things, and it's not good right myself alive because I need to, I have to create child. M [6]

That line denotes the lack of association between the terms asked about gender-based violence, featuring that it did not have the understanding that the act of humiliation on the part of man is characterized as violence.

Gender violence permeating the working process of prostitutes

The following statements portray what most bothers the profession of prostitutes:

[...]risky, you have an illness, you being assaulted, you being hurt, you have to do things you do not deserve, into a thing like that here, and you are hurt, so with words, words make you get too so disturbed [...] M [1]
Violence, when it gets there, take off your clothes and there have men who wants a mermaid body, many hit not want to pay for it, as I've picked [...] M [2]

The interviewed reported suffering marginalization:

It is humiliation on the street, which has a lot on the streets. M [7]

The speech of one of the prostitutes said the violent environment that they live:

[...] Once a man appeared, the man going out we though, if we send that through the world, I ended up in Alhambra, when I got there were 3 men, I had to keep all four, with four not, with 3, because my got drunk and slept, then I stayed with the three there has to keep quiet, alone in the world, in the woods, in an old house and was the only one I went, I had to have sex for free. M [4]

The words of one of the interviewed challenge the issue of woman as object of pleasure:

[...] the customer leaves me put the gun in my ear, did not pay me, said he would not use a condom, but thank God who helped me he still used, but it was mad at me, did not pay, and said that if I talked to my

friends there I could die, threatened me right, I was threatened. M [5].

DISCUSSION

It's worth noting that the maximum expression of women's subordination is gender violence that is perpetuated by setting up a major paradigm in full the current century, greatly reflects the ways of becoming ill, quality of life and die of women affected by this type of violence.⁹

Gender violence is an aggravating factor that has grown in Latin America, becoming a phenomenon and a state problem, this fact is indicated by reports of feminist organizations campaigning for human rights of their victims and families, based also scientific nature of research at the expense of lack of visibility, insensitivities of rulers, impunity that are strengthened throughout the current patriarchal system. Thus, it reinforces the importance of women's movements in different branches, their claim and gender equality by fighting which led to a field greater visibility of this phenomenon.¹⁰

Corroborating this understanding, gender is a social arrangement built by society to describe and characterize what is a man and a woman, facing it is possible to understand the gender violence phenomenon, notes that there is some difficulty in obtaining reliable data on gender violence in Brazil, but the figures expressed in national and international research reveals the magnitude against this evil that plagues our society.¹¹

To the understanding of gender-based violence is of top importance to analyze the historical context that was woven and is perpetuated to this day, this unequal power system comes from the early days where the woman is always subordinated to a male body and biological differences place as a fragile likely to be dominated, being treated as a product, in this perspective gender violence is a phenomenon that happens and is supported by these historical precepts.¹²

It is important to give voice and visibility to violence suffered by prostitutes to obtain response to this problem, a perspective that embraces women and works for approaching their reality with public policies to minimize diseases, health promotion, and prevention of routine violence.¹³

In one study¹⁴ it was found that the beginning of the aggression suffered by women was perceived when they had a confrontation posture regarding the desires that ran counter to those of its partners, from that moment began the cycle of violence,

where wills were contrary to its partners, insults, aggressive behavior and humiliation they became part of their daily lives. However, worth noting that not all of the interviewees had a victim posture, demonstrating a greater confrontation to such violence.

Thousands of women still live with gender-based violence, despite the efforts of the society, through public policies and mechanisms to suppress violence that violates human rights; this is a reality for many women, who sometimes try to break this violent cycle, others being intensified by the naturalization of a sexist society. To understand this scenario it is necessary a more holistic look, because until recently it was restricted only subject to the wife-husband pair, and intervene in the interim was something delicate.¹⁵

Human rights are violated when violence in interpersonal relationships, this violence behind damage to health and can cause even death of people, the victims of violence often have a submissive posture and silence she appears before an act of violence suffered sets up a threat to life, domestic violence happens within the family and in marital relations, either by current or former partners.¹⁶

Domestic violence is still a phenomenon that has little visibility, justifies this by the difficulty of access to this data, gender-based violence appears as something even restricted to the home environment, the posture that many women have in recognizing suffering this violence, this depending, as well as a social issue is a matter of education, public health, public policy, legal-criminal that must be articulated to confront this evil, coupled with awareness, preventive actions and mobilizations of society.¹⁴

In a study¹⁷ with women victims of domestic violence found that of the respondents 90% have experienced violence from current partner and 10% from the previous companion, these 50% have suffered psychological violence, 20% sexual violence and 10% false imprisonment and 20% reported having suffered only physical violence. Stating that at the expense of progress in recent times, there are still difficulties that are present so that these women are able to get rid of silence and gain empowerment.

Violence prevalent in the media means to be independent of race, age or social class, having the same impact on the lives of citizens, visibility to extreme cases gives the false impression that those who commit violence are bad people, evil and inhuman,

but this is far from true, gender roles that are imposed by society reinforce gender inequality, the strengthening of media causes this violence become trivialized, naturalization these roles and acceptance reinforce symbolic violence which is inherent not only in personal relations but at the heart of our society, which is a form of gender-based violence.¹⁵

Women who participated in their study in João Pessoa had a similar profile when compared to other women in other areas of Brazil, noting that the violence against women takes place in different age groups, and that violence is a mix of elements involved such as: gender, culture, economics, human relations, among others, and not just one single element, even though it is often understood only as a gender gap, in a patriarchal and sexist society.¹⁸

In some countries the percentage of women who claim to have suffered physical violence by a man reaches 50%, with regard to Brazil research conducted by Perseus Abramo Foundation exhibit alarming as regards violence suffered by women, every 15 seconds a Brazil is assaulted, and each year 2 million are beaten by their current or former partners. In their study the woman recognizes the man as a patient, double and even pitiful personality, has the perception that violence is caused by jealousy, feelings of power, reinforcing the social construction of gender, the consequences of this evil reflected in their quality of life and social relationships.¹⁹

In a study²⁰ carried out using data from a pacifying police unit, showed that rates of sexual and psychological violence were small, given that this kind of aggression is not much reported in police stations, as a contra entry, the suffering physical violence reported their abusers more often. From this survey highlights the violation of human rights as it damages the integrity of women and limits their rights, thus it is necessary to have a different look to this woman, having special care in the health services, as well how to integrate it in interagency networks for monitoring.

Prostitutes are a public susceptible to vulnerabilities, given the variety of elements that the same are exposed to, cites the prejudice and stigma that has always been present in the course of this ancient profession, she says they live in the margins of society, constituting an audience low educational attainment, where sexual violence is present in their daily lives.²¹

Now before the Chamber of Deputies a project called Gabriela Leite law, Mr Jean

Wyllys authored by de Matos Santos to envisage regulating the activity of sex workers, whose purpose is to demystify the profession so that these women have their rights and their preserved dignity, with access to health, safety and regularization of their craft, the project is justified as a way to combat sexual exploitation, where the state would have to monitor media houses that perhaps women are exploring.²²

In a study³ carried out in Piauí with prostitutes there was found that violence against this segment is recurring, since the environment itself provides to this, humiliations, insults and insults were more prominent than physical violence itself. As was observed in this study, the authors stress the low education of sex workers, making it difficult to find work in other branches as well as clients who practice violence, these women are excluded by society at the time that leave the sets of the their exercise of citizenship.

About the hostile environment that prostitutes experience other violence are still present in their daily lives, and psychological nature of violence, through verbalization, rape, trafficking in women, these assaults are perpetrated by the vision that customers do these women, as people without moral and common.⁵

In this light the prostitute is a potential risk group, it begins its too early sex life with a high number of clients, often not using condoms setting up likely to acquire various STDs, among these HIV.²³

It is extremely important that prostitution win a new look, these women are seen as a subject of law, and takes place a fight for fundamental rights and labor rights, but on the other hand there are two major obstacles to this recognition are: sexuality and gender so it is essential that these issues are on the agenda in discussions in an attempt to politicize these issues.²⁴

The prostitute suffer in their daily prejudice and stigma, justified by the company which has always controlled the sexuality of individuals on these social values is that legitimize these experienced arbitrariness in their daily lives, living the margins of society and suffering violence while suffering prejudices, the prostitute is seen by many as a person worthy of pity, prostitutes associations have a key role in these complaints as regards the recognition of their labor rights.²⁵

The prostitute is seen by society as someone who needs salvation, which should have a new occupancy of life, seen not as

someone who is providing a service, but as a being who suffers from exploration, making it difficult to recognize and struggles for labor rights, highlights the emotional distress suffering to have to maintain relationships with alcoholics and drug addicts customers, but many cannot refuse and keep unwanted relations, highlighting a possible change in the autonomy of prostitutes.²⁶

The woman is a target potential of gender violence, even in a private area where it should have dignity and their rights respected as citizens, as in the public space, prostitutes are daily targets of violence, this is not so masked as the violence that it happens in the home environment as they work on the streets at the mercy of all sorts of prejudices, stigma and violence. However, the man for his macho culture that fosters violence understand that the prostitute is an object of his pleasure and the fact that he was paying, gives him the power to do what he wants with this woman.

After years of struggles and achievements women have advanced in their labor and sexual rights, but there are social and cultural barriers that prevent them from exercising freely without any damage to their physical and emotional integrity of their work activities, not only prostitutes, but female gender as a whole bears the burden of patriarchy in their daily lives, the deconstruction of this paradigm and empowerment of these women become extremely important for one to climb space and recognition in society.

CONCLUSION

We can see that gender violence is in all environments, permeating the day-to-day women, so that became a naturalized at the expense of the regime that has always been present in our society, where those born predestined to fulfill a social role and any deviation may have consequences for their lives, so gender-based violence is considered acceptable by many for not having notion abused and afraid to denounce.

Prostitutes still remain invisible to society, the control that of the female body and the rejection of the exercise of a job like any other, it emphasizes tight scientific articles that address the issue of gender violence to this audience, the focus of these studies are more focused on diseases and prevention of STDs.

Before elucidated it is of greater visibility the need with regard to violence suffered by prostitutes, that dialogue on the issue and taboos are broken so that subject as sexuality

and feminine freedom, are increasingly present in everyday discussions and especially in academic circles for us to build a culture where women can impose their limits and are increasingly empowered by having their rights guaranteed as a citizen in a democratic country.

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