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PROSTITUTION AND ITS RELATION WITH THE USE OF PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND VIOLENCE: INTEGRATIVE REVIEW

PROSTITUIÇÃO E SUA RELAÇÃO COM USO DE SUBSTÂNCIAS PSICOATIVAS E VIOLÊNCIA: REVISÃO INTEGRATIVA

PROSTITUCIÓN Y SU RELACIÓN CON EL USO DE SUBSTANCIAS PSICOACTIVAS Y LA VIOLENCIA: REVISIÓN INTEGRATIVA

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ABSTRACT

Objective: to analyze the scientific literature on prostitution and its relationship to substance abuse and violence. **Method:** integrative review in the databases of the *Scientific Electronic Library Online*, Latin American and Caribbean Literature in Health Sciences and MEDLINE. The guiding question of the revisional process was built through the PICO strategy (P = patient or problem, I = intervention, C = control or comparison, O = Outcomes): use of psychoactive substances and violence are related the daily life of prostitution? **Results:** prostitution, use of psychoactive substances and violence are phenomena which feed off each other. This use in the activity of prostitution suffers from the interference of several factors, such as the incentive on the part of customers, dealers and owners of establishments. **Conclusion:** the violence is evident in the daily lives of prostitution through its different faces: psychological, verbal and physical. The use of psychoactive substances is considered a fundamental factor for the manifestation of the attacks and, consequently, of other biopsychosocial problems. **Descriptors:** Prostitution; Legal Drugs; Illegal Drugs; Violence Against Women; Nursing.

RESUMO

Objetivo: analisar a literatura científica sobre prostituição e sua relação com uso de substâncias psicoativas e violência. **Método:** revisão integrativa nas bases de dados *Scientific Electronic Library Online*, Literatura Latino-Americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde e MEDLINE. A pergunta norteadora do processo revisional foi construída por meio da estratégia PICO (P=Paciente ou Problema, I=Intervenção, C=Comparação ou controle, O=Outcomes ou desfechos): uso de substâncias psicoativas e violência encontram-se relacionados no cotidiano da prostituição? **Resultados:** a prostituição, uso de substâncias psicoativas e violência são fenômenos que se retroalimentam. Esse uso na atividade de prostituição sofre interferências de diversos fatores, como o incentivo por parte dos clientes, traficantes e proprietários dos estabelecimentos. **Conclusão:** a violência é evidenciada no cotidiano da prostituição por suas diversas faces: psicológica, verbal e física. O uso de substâncias psicoativas é considerado fator fundamental para a manifestação dessas agressões e, conseqüentemente, de outros problemas biopsicossociais. **Descritores:** Prostituição; Drogas Lícitas; Drogas Ilícitas; Violência Contra a Mulher; Enfermagem.

RESUMEN

Objetivo: analizar la literatura científica sobre la prostitución y su relación con el abuso de sustancias psicoactivas y la violencia. **Método:** revisión integradora en bases de datos *Scientific Electronic Library Online*, Literatura Latino-Americana y del Caribe de Información en Ciencias de la Salud y MEDLINE. La pregunta guía del proceso revisional fue construido a través de la estrategia PICO (P = Paciente o Problema, I = Intervención, C = Comparación o Control, O = Outcomes o los resultados): ¿El uso de sustancias y la violencia que están relacionados a la prostitución todos los días? **Resultados:** la prostitución, el abuso de sustancias psicoactivas y la violencia son fenómenos que se retroalimentan. Este uso de la actividad de la prostitución sufre interferencias de diversos factores, como el incentivo de los clientes, traficantes y propietarios de establecimientos. **Conclusión:** la violencia es evidente en la vida cotidiana de la prostitución por sus diversos aspectos: el psicológico, verbal y físico. El uso de sustancias psicoactivas y se considera un factor fundamental para la manifestación de estas agresiones y de los otros problemas biopsicosociales. **Descriptores:** Prostitución, Drogas Lícitas, Drogas Ilícitas, Violencia Contra La Mujer; Enfermería.

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INTRODUCTION

Prostitution is configured as an exchange of sexual services for financial remuneration. It is noteworthy that the immediate intrinsic financial effect with the capitalist model makes the practice of prostitution attractive. This activity, in the plurality of times, is evidenced as a solution to imminent economic difficulties and/or, a way to maintain a certain standard of living.

In several places, this practice is condemned by issues called ethical and moral, as well as by the collective representation of this society a possible strategy for the spread of diseases; stimulate adulteries and by the negative impact that it can cause in family structures. Despite being a stigmatized activity and socially stereotyped, prostitution has existed for thousands of years, therefore, it is one of occupations oldest in the world.

It is noteworthy that the daily activity of prostitution is characterized by a promiscuous environment, pervaded by the use of crack cocaine, alcohol and other drugs. The women are commonly disregarded and ignored as for their individual needs, being emotional, and access to healthcare, many times, subjected to abuse, violence and rejection situations. This reality makes it difficult to maintain their quality of life.¹

In general, in the common sense representation, the figure of prostitutes refers to the disease and they become even more evident when they are associated to a problem that has become central point of discussions around the world - the consumption of drugs. A Study carried out in 2008, with prostitutes from Tijuana, Mexico, shows that 66% of the respondents reported the use of drugs during sexual relations. Among the various reasons, stand out: depression, chemical dependency and the need to get money at any cost.²

In Brazil this reality is similar: the presence of licit and illicit substances is often interlaced to the daily life of prostitution as a work instrument.³ In addition to the risks related to consumption of PAS, is important to emphasize that female prostitutes become victims of violence perpetrated by clients, police, or even the owners of work establishments.⁴

Considering the context presented, it makes the risks and vulnerabilities related to prostitution visible, which lead us to reflect on the influence of the use of PAS and its correlation with the violence. Therefore, the objective of this study is to analyze the

scientific literature on prostitution and its relationship with the use of psychoactive substances and violence.

METHOD

The study is characterized as an integrative review. This method makes it possible to summarize the published research and reach conclusions from the guiding question. A well performed integrative review requires the same standards of rigor, clarity, and replication used in the primary studies.⁵ using such a method that enables the survey and analysis of publications in the context of the world⁶, so that their results can contribute positively to the community, as aimed for with a study on Type 2 Diabetes, which disclosed to public knowledge that it can influence the way of life and health maintenance.⁷

This study has been operationalized by means of six steps which are closely linked: drafting the guiding question, literature search, data collection, critical analysis of the included studies, discussion of results and presentation of the integrative review.⁸ The guiding question of the revisional process was built by means of the PICO strategy (P=Patient or Problem, I=Intervention, C=Comparison or Control, O= Outcomes)⁹: Is use of psychoactive substances and violence related to the day to day life in prostitution?

The literature search was performed in the databases of *Scientific Electronic Library Online* (SciELO), Latin American and Caribbean Literature in Health Sciences (LILACS) and MEDLINE via PubMed using a combination of controlled descriptors, they were structured and organized to facilitate the access to information¹⁰ enrolled in Health Science Descriptors (DECS): prostitution and violence against women, prostitution and illicit drugs, prostitution and consumption of Alcohol, prostitution and violence.

Established as inclusion criteria were: scientific articles covering the topic, published in Portuguese, English and Spanish in the period of 2001 to 2011 with an evidence level between 1 and 4. And as exclusion criteria those not available in full, dissertations or theses, publications outside of the cut-out time period, with an evidence level between 5 and 6.

From A combination of descriptors 36 studies were obtained: Scielo (10), LILACS (12) and Pubmed (14) articles. In an initial evaluation by means of the abstracts it was found that three articles addressed prostitution in the male universe, ten relate to prostitution and violence in transvestites,

one was a master's thesis and seven were outside of the cut-off time, therefore, 21 articles were excluded from the review.

With the completion of the analysis of 15 articles, in full, were excluded from two articles because they have evidence level greater than 4 (an experience report of the phenomenological interview with prostitutes and another report of educational workshops with prostitutes) and two other reveals certain activities as labor risk for practice of paid sex. Therefore, the integrative review was structured by means of 11 articles.

For the extraction of data from articles a previously validated instrument was used⁸, which includes the items: identification of the

article, methodological characteristics of the study, evaluation of the methodological rigor, level of evidence and results found.

Data analysis was performed in a descriptive manner. The studies were divided into two groups (prostitution and use of psychoactive substances; prostitution and violence), which enabled us to evaluate the evidence, as well as identify the need for future research on the issue.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analyzed studies show the relationship between prostitution, use of PAS and violence. The phenomena studied are incoercibly intertwined in this professional practice.

Topic	Author (year)	Periodical	Level of Evidence
Prostitution and the use of PAS	Arasteh; Jarlais (2009) ¹¹	AIDS Patient Care STDS	4
	Meneses Falcon (2007) ¹²	Gac Sanit	4
	Litcheield <i>et al.</i> (2010) ¹³	Br J Gen Pract	4
	Passos; Figueiredo (2004) ¹⁴	Rev Panam Salud Publica	4
	Rodriguez <i>et al.</i> (2010) ¹⁵	AIDS Behav	4
	Wang <i>et al.</i> (2010) ¹⁶	Sex Transm Dis.	2
	Lopes <i>et al.</i> (2010) ¹⁷	J Heath Sci Inst	4
Prostitution and violence	Nunes; Andrade (2009) ¹⁸	Psychology and Society	4
	Panchanadeswaran <i>et al.</i> (2008) ¹⁹	Int J Drug Policy	4
	Shannon <i>et al.</i> (2009) ²⁰	British Medical Journal	2
	Ulibarri <i>et al.</i> (2011) ²¹	AIDS Behav	2

Figure 1. Distribution of the articles by topic, author, year, periodical and level of evidence.

The analyzed studies that relate prostitution and use of PAS were published, mostly, in the year 2009 with a level of evidence, mainly, 4. Those that related prostitution and violence were published, mostly, in the year 2010 with level 4 evidence, predominantly.

• Prostitution and the use of psychoactive substances

The relation between the use of PAS and prostitution is the subject of studies throughout the world, in various approaches. The analysis of the selected studies shows a plurality of factors that are intertwined problems: risks, motivating situations, related aspects and consequences.

Research with prostitutes, in China, has shown that there are risk factors for use of PAS in women in a prostitution situation in a younger age group, longer period of sexual labor and early sexual initiation.¹⁶ This consumption may be stimulated by customers, drug dealers¹¹ and owners of the establishments.^{14,16} In general, this consumption is justified as something that contributes to dealing with anxiety, fatigue and physical coping with the daily difficulties of the profession, instead to the disinhibiting effect acquired by drug use.^{14,16}

Qualitative study of 26 prostitutes, carried

out at Foz do Iguaçu, showed that the interviewed women lived in communities with a low economic level, controlled by drug traffickers: permeated by a routine violence and low social support in which access to drugs is facilitated. Among the group of women investigated is reported the abuse of alcohol and crack, consequently, sexual relations under the influence of these substances is something often.¹¹ stands out that sexual activity with the objective of acquiring the drug makes it difficult to negotiate condom use making them vulnerable to Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs).^{11-5,19}

Qualitative study conducted with 60 female prostitutes pointed out that alcohol and cocaine are shown as the most prevalent drugs. This indicator varies in accordance with the work environment: less dependency on professionals who performed the service in homes and apartments when compared to the street professionals.¹²

In contrast, a study conducted in India shows that the prostitutes reported that they avoid alcohol before the sex, in the perspective of staying alert and reduce the risk of violence by their customers. Women claim that the fact that they are drunk increases the male aggressiveness and reduces the use of condoms, because if they feel unable to negotiate, a factor that favors the

practice of unprotected sex.^{11-15,19} In spite of prostitutes have knowledge about STDs, this is not sufficient for adoption of safer behavior considering the commercial, cultural, financial influence factors involved in this regard.¹¹

The use of alcohol and prostitution are risk factors for HIV/Aids, as well as for Hepatitis B virus infections. The occurrence of daily alcohol use or at least once a week was evidenced by 62.1% of the prostitutes. With respect to other drugs, 50.6% of non-intravenous illicit drug use and 3.5% were illicit intravenous drugs.¹⁴

Female prostitutes who use crack, in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil experienced a range of problems that seem to influence the presence of individual and social vulnerabilities towards HIV: the sharing of pipes used for the consumption of crack increases the possibilities for HIV infection, Hepatitis, oral Herpes and respiratory diseases.¹¹

• Violence and prostitution: phenomena interlaced in the daily life of the female universe

Violence in prostitution is configured as a problem whose essence is not merely a social discourse, but part of a trajectory of female exposure to male power that creates a relationship mediated by the bodily desire, by the satisfaction of sexual pleasures and relationships for power, for money or any other gain.

It is observed that prostitutes are more likely to suffer any type violence, considering that the female gender is socially seen as fragile. Studies show that most of them suffer some kind of violence, from physical to symbolic, being the predominant physical aggression.¹⁷⁻⁹

A study carried out in Vancouver with 237 prostitutes showed that reports of gender violence in 57% of the interviewees were identified, being 30% of the cases arising from customers.²⁰

An ethnographic study carried out by means of focus groups with 49 prostitutes have shown that they are experiencing more severe forms of violence with intimate partners and clients: sexual coercion and forced group sex were highlighted as the main strategies carried out in the violent act. The same study also includes the presence of emotional, verbal and physical violence.¹⁹ Therefore, the competition phenomena of violence, sexual coercion and alcohol use are as serious challenges for the prostitutes to stay safe with customers, as well as intimate

partners.

Despite the intertwined reality, a study conducted in the cities of Mexico and the United States, with 924 prostitutes identified a prevalence of customers that have committed emotional, physical and sexual abuse in the last six months being 26%, 18% and 10%, respectively. The implementation of logistic regression showed that customers who have committed sexual abuse were significantly associated with seropositivity for HIV and the use of injectable drugs, while the use of injectable drugs was positively associated with HIV seropositivity.²¹

In qualitative study conducted in places of nighttime prostitution in Santo André, São Paulo, Brazil showed that of the seven women interviewed, four were victims of sexual assault and six of physical violence. All mentioned the use of multiple drugs daily (alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and crack), for at least two years, with crack being the drug of choice for abuse. Money from the sex trade is employed by all, almost exclusively, for the use of crack.¹⁸

It highlighted that the use of PAS is considered a public health problem and a potentiating factor for the practice of violence against prostitutes. They suffer physical, psychological or symbolic violence during their daily work and are susceptible to diseases and associated risks.¹⁸⁻²⁰

In this context, the body is, while offering means for pleasure other, resource survival and protection of violence suffered as well as an instrument to provide a transcendental experience, since it is through the body which the drug penetrates the subject.

CONCLUSION

To analyze the published studies involving the topic of prostitution, the use of psychoactive substances and violence, notes that the publications are still scarce and with a weak level of evidence which is worrying given the aspects involved with the problem.

The use of psychoactive substances in the prostitution activity is an inherent phenomenon that suffers interference from several factors, such as the incentive on the part of customers, drug dealers and owners of establishments. This potentializes the vulnerabilities of prostitutes to situations of violence, STDs and other health problems.

Considering the studies analyzed, it appears that the various forms of violence show up in the daily lives of female prostitutes. The violent episodes are

manifested by its many faces, and the consumption of PAS is the leading factor to the manifestation of aggression and, consequently, of other bio-psychosocial problems, highlighting the STD. The studies point to the construction of a new paradigm: prostitution, use of PAS, violence and STD phenomena as self-fed.

It is also important to state that the current society, although it has come quite far in gender equality, it still remains with the predominance of male power and the differences in man and woman.

Therefore, effective interventions should be implemented in order to increase access to health services, social support and efficient public policies for this group. These initiatives will enable an optimization in assistance directed to sexual and reproductive health of them, as well as enabling the development of health promotion activities aimed at the prevention of major afflictions that affect the aforementioned clientele.

Nursing, as an integral part of the healthcare team and by its connection with the individual and their entire social circumstances, have a key role in the promotion, protection, prevention and rehabilitation of the health of these women, which unfortunately still constitute an invisible population for the implementation of indecisive actions within the SUS (Unified Health System) framework, there is also a need for humanized guided the leadership of subjects, making them stakeholders of their own care and helping them to be understood as people with their needs, complexities and pluralities.

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