SOCIAL REPRESENTATIONS OF TRANSSEXUAL WOMEN ON HIV/AIDS

REPRESENTAÇÕES SOCIAIS DE MULHERES TRANSEXUAIS SOBRE O HIV/Aids

LAS REPRESENTACIONES SOCIALES DE LA MUJER TRANSEXUAL EN LA LUCHA CONTRA EL VIH/SIDA

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ABSTRACT

Objective: to identify the social representations of transsexual women, young people affected by HIV/aids, in the construction of preventive behaviors. **Method:** a qualitative study, descriptive, exploratory. The population will consist of transsexual women. The scenario of the study will be a reference hospital for people with HIV/Aids, located in the city of Recife (PE), Brazil. For the production of data will be conducted semi-structured interviews, which will be analyzed with the aid of the software Iramuteq. **Expected results:** transsexual women experience context of vulnerability to HIV/AIDS resulting from social exclusion, marginalisation and stigma. In this context the social representation is associated with the idea of death without deserving, intentions and possibilities underlying the preventive behaviors. **Descriptors:** Social Theory; Transgender Persons; Health Education; HIV; Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome; Nursing.

RESUMO

Objetivo: identificar as representações sociais de mulheres transexuais jovens, acometidas por HIV/aids, na construção das condutas preventivas. **Método:** estudo qualitativo, descritivo, exploratório. A população será composta por mulheres transexuais. O cenário do estudo será um hospital de referência para pessoas com HIV/Aids, localizado na cidade do Recife (PE), Brasil. Para a produção dos dados serão realizadas entrevistas semiestruturadas, que serão analisadas com o auxílio do software Iramuteq. **Resultados esperados:** as mulheres transexuais vivenciam contexto de vulnerabilidade ao HIV/aids resultante da exclusão social, marginalização e estigma. Neste contexto a representação social está associada a ideia de morte desmerecedora, intenções e possibilidades subjacentes às condutas preventivas. **Descritores:** Teoria Social; Educação em Saúde; Pessoas Transgênero; HIV; Síndrome da Imunodeficiência Adquirida; Enfermagem.

RESUMEN

Objetivo: identificar las representaciones sociales de las mujeres transexuales, jóvenes afectados por el VIH/SIDA, en la construcción de conductas preventivas. **Método:** un estudio cualitativo, descriptivo, exploratorio. La población estará compuesta de mujeres transexuales. El escenario del estudio será un hospital de referencia para las personas con VIH/SIDA, ubicado en la ciudad de Recife (PE), Brasil. Para la producción de los datos se realizaron entrevistas semi-estructuradas, que serán analizadas con la ayuda del software Iramuteq. **Resultados esperados:** la experiencia de las mujeres transexuales contexto de vulnerabilidad al VIH/sida resultante de la exclusión social, la marginación y la estigmatización. En este contexto la representación social está asociada con la idea de la muerte desmerecedora, intenciones y posibilidades subyacentes a los comportamientos preventivos. **Descriptor:** Teoría Social; Personas Transgénero; Educación en Salud; VIH; Síndrome de Inmunodeficiencia Adquirida; Enfermería.

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INTRODUCTION

Social constructivism of AIDS during the past 37 years of the epidemic was built under the biological, social and symbolic sieve of the representation from scientific knowledge associated with common knowledge. The weaknesses that comprised the expression of transsexual gender identity began to incorporate stigmas related to considered “risk groups” and overlapping of socially built prejudices. AIDS may be considered a “social phenomenon”, since, in the course of history, it has been linked to stereotypes about “sex, blood and death”.¹ This phenomenon pervades the biological aspect and consists in obvious stigma of the transsexual seropositive population.

The ramifications of the prevention of HIV/aids initially consisted in the idea of "risk groups", with a strong inclination to LGBT public. Subsequently the epidemiology and society considered the "risky behavior" as the main reason for "failure" in prevention; however, this idea emphasized the guilt of the individual and did not consider the contextual aspects. Currently, the concept of vulnerability emerged to explain the susceptibility of all individuals with HIV.²

Integral care in health care to vulnerable people demands actions for the empowerment about the prevention of HIV/AIDS. Worldwide, the countries must have universal access to services for the promotion of sexual health in accordance with the challenges of sustainable development, as proposed by the United Nations (UN), which aims to build just societies and free of fear.³

Sexual Diversity should be considered as an important axis for the construction of coping strategies to HIV/AIDS through the vulnerability, from the direction of integral health care network that covers diversity, special characteristics and demands of the LGBT population.^{4, 5}

The epidemic has expressed affection in women, including lesbians and transsexual women. In this context, civil society has mobilized social movements for discussion regarding the rights to health, humanization and expansion of specialized services for reception of transvestites and transsexuals.⁵

Despite scientific advances in drug treatment, HIV/AIDS is still a major threat to the individual, especially for the quality of life, being interventions in important social network analysis feature to social dichotomies and promotion of autonomy of individuals.⁶

The social representation of transsexual women will inspire in the understanding of the

experiences and social context that result in the construction of the think and act upon the "phenomenon of aids". In addition, the present study aimed to identify the social representations of transsexual women, young people affected by HIV/AIDS, in the construction of preventive behaviors.

OBJECTIVE

- To identify social representations of young transsexual women affected by HIV/AIDS, in the construction of preventive behaviors.

METHOD

It is a qualitative, descriptive and exploratory survey founded in the light of the Theory of Social Representations by Serge Moscovici and followers.⁷ The study population is composed by 6 young transsexual women, from 18 to 24 years of age, according to the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO).⁸ The scenario of the study will be the outpatient clinic of a referral hospital for people with HIV/AIDS, located in the city of Recife (PE), Brazil.

There will be included in the present study: transgender individuals who identify themselves with the female gender, not transgenitalized, heterosexual, or under treatment for HIV/AIDS and with casual partners, and the rapprochement with the subjects of this research obtained with the aid of the multiprofessional healthcare team. Be excluded people with the characteristics mentioned above presenting auditory deficiency, since the researcher does not submit field in pounds.

The roadmap for conducting the interviews shall be composed of three guiding questions: 1) Tell me about your life story; 2) Tell me what it means to you the prevention of HIV/AIDS; 3) How do you see the prevention of HIV/aids in the group of transsexual women? In addition, count on the observation and record, in a field diary, in order to identify elements relevant to the search.

For the production of data will be conducted semi-structured individual interviews, analyzed in the software interface of R pour les analyses of Texts Multidimensionnelles et de Questionnaires (IRAMUTEQ) version 0.7.⁹

This research will follow the standards established by Resolution N° 466 of 12nd December, 2012, from the National Health Council of the Ministry of Health, which regulates the guidelines and rules governing the research involving humans.¹⁰ The data collection was initiated after the research

project was approved by the Committee for Ethics in Research (CEP) of the Health Sciences Center of the Federal University of Pernambuco - CAAE N 65790717.4.0000.5208.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Transsexual women experience context of vulnerability to HIV/AIDS resulting from extreme social exclusion, violence, marginalization and overlap of prejudices built into society. In this context, social representation is associated with the idea of undeserving death.

Social exclusion begins within the family, the lack of support results in precarious conditions of life. Social disorders from the process of personification of transsexual women to HIV/AIDS represent the group guilt, naturalization and a feeling of powerlessness through adversities. Such conditions result in low quality of life of transsexual women with HIV and lack of support to cope vulnerabilities.

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