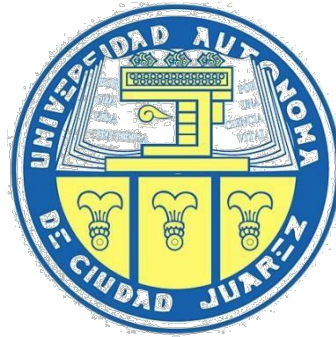


**Perception as a Determinant of Help Seeking by Male Victims of Intimate partner
violence**



**COLOQUIO INSTITUCIONAL DE
POSGRADO**

**Perception as a Determinant of Help Seeking by Male Victims of Intimate partner
violence**

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Statement of the problem

Intimate partner violence (IPV) remains as much a problem in Mexico as it is worldwide (Esquivel-Santoveña, Lambert, & Hamel, 2013). Meanwhile, latest Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda a Refugiados (Mexican Aid Commission for refugees) statistics from 2016 on intimate partner violence (IPV) in Mexico establish that IPV cases were documented as among the peak over a ten-year period (Fleury, 2016).

Although many policies and plans have been employed by the Mexican government in trying to fight this social problem, astonishingly the number of cases reported for intimate partner violence is still comparatively very high (National Academy of Sciences, 2011). Therefore, the efficacy of implemented intervention strategies in Mexico should be closely reexamined. However, from the perspective of violence disclosure, this rise showed a positive development by showing more openness from male victims in Mexico with respect to disclosing intimate partner violence issue (Ghani, 2014).

Objective

The general objective of this study is to identify the relationship between the perception of intimate partner violence and the patterns of seeking help / support.

Justification

Presently intimate partner violence is a major problem in Mexico, and it seems to be on the increase daily, the service providers seem not well equipped or prepared to deal with male victims of violence, their services has generally been gendered oriented (Frias, 2017).

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Research Question

To what extent does the perception that there are inadequate or probably unavailable advocacy and counselling programs for male victims of intimate partner violence determine the help seeking behavior of male victims?

Sample and Procedure

The mixed methods (qualitative and quantitative) for this study were approved by the boards of ethics of the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez and other participating institutions. The male participants will be aged 18-65 years. Participation will be anonymous, participants will be acquainted of their rights as study participants, and their consent to participate before data collection will be introduced and steps will also be taken to guarantee their safety (Douglas & Hines, 2011). At the conclusion of the study, the participants will be given information about gaining help for any type of IPV victimization and how to erase the history on their Internet web browser (Douglas & Hines, 2011).

For the collection of quantitative data, an online survey will be conducted that will be promoted by mass mail at the university and fiscalia (survey monkey). For qualitative data collection, interviews will be conducted in (Fiscalia General, Ciudad Juarez and civil associations in Juarez that provide care to men and women, for example, CAAF).

To raise a truthful recall of the IPV in the relationship and to be in line with previous studies of IPV (e.g., (Straus 2004a as cited in Douglas & Hines, 2011), we will require that the men have been in an intimate relationship with a woman in the preceding year for at least one month. We will also need that they had a physical assault from their female partner within the preceding year. Physical assault is required because that is an objective indicator of IPV that is considered illegal

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under the Mexican law and we will confine our trial to men in relationships with women because our emphasis is on men in heterosexual relationships and their experiences might vary from men seeking help for IPV in gay relationships in Mexico (Douglas & Hines, 2011).

Finally, to take into consideration of their experiences when seeking help, we will entail that the men sought help for their IPV victimization either from a formal or informal source ranging from civil associations or from a government agency like the police, Fiscalia, hospital, lawyers, family and friends etc (Douglas & Hines, 2011).

Data analysis

The three-dimensional spatial approach. The three-dimensional space approach will be used for its ability to open a narrative research space that allows for queries on data that both inward, outward, backward and forward, and will be located within a place (Clandinin, 2000, as cited in Mills, 2013).

Background

Intimate partner violence can be defined as the premeditated abuse of power, threatened or actual, against a defenseless individual or assembly of individuals that might result in or results in or has a high probability of causing physical injury, death, mental harm, emotional distress, maldevelopment, or denial of freedom (World Health Organization , 2013). Intimate partner violence (IPV) was regarded as a secluded issue for years and debates concerning domestic violence in public weren't permitted or observed as a social issue (Kronenberg, 2013 as cited in Vernon, 2017) and in the 1970s, domestic violence was recognized as a social issue in the United States, which gained popularity through the feminist movements that began during the civil rights

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and anti-war movement in the 1950s and 1960s (Kronenberg, 2013; Samaritan House, 2017 as cited in Vernon, 2017).

Limited studies have studied the challenges that male IPV victims encounter when trying to access social services and has resulted in an area of theorizing that remains underdeveloped and the rarity of investigation on this topic is challenging, as extant analysis shows that male victims come across several challenges when engaging in help-seeking (Parry & O'Neal, 2015).

General perceptions of IPV as a mostly female problem have led to the growth of research perceptions, contexts, measures, and methodologies incapable to capture the full scope of male abuse, research has also been hindered by the unwillingness from men to recognize themselves as victims, and many do not relate to frequently used language of IPV, such as domestic violence (Walker, et al., 2020). Survivors' perceptions, characteristics and the forms of abuse and consequences determines help-seeking, and gender also regulates the association between consequences and seeking of formal help (Cho et al., 2020). Facts from a national study of male victims or survivors of intimate partner abuse (IPA) show that personal experience (current or past) of IPV abuse and with service use may encourage a positive perception toward help seeking by male victims (Tsui, 2014).

There have been evidence demonstrating that female perpetrators use intimate partner violence (IPV) against their male partners since the 1970s when IPV was first methodically studied (Hines & Douglas, 2009). In spite of the numerous evidences that illustrates that the occurrence of female-to-male intimate partner violence (IPV) in the general populace is as great as that of male-to-female intimate violence, until lately little consideration has been dedicated to study women

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perpetrators of partner violence or to the design of programs to address their violence (Stewart, Gabora, & Allegri, 2014).

According to Bates (2019), research showed that men's experiences affected their physical and mental health, the development of future relationships, and their relationships with their children. They defined the effect of attitudes towards male victims of IPV as being important and felt society did not trust men who narrated these experiences, often perceiving them as "weak" or in fact "abusers" and these influenced the barriers men experience to both help-seeking and to leaving the relationship.

It likely would not be an exaggeration to submit that a noteworthy evolution is happening with the study of domestic violence, first, researchers are progressively emphasizing that violence in relationships needs to be measured within the larger framework of interpersonal violence and that focusing our attention on correlates and motivations known to forecast general violence can enlighten our knowledge of violence between intimate partners (Dutton, 1994; Dutton & Nicholls, in press; Felson, 2002 as cited in Dutton, Nicholls, & Spidel, 2005).

According to a study by Coker et al. (2002 as cited in Karakurt & Silver, 2013), 29% of women and 23% of men have experienced physical, sexual, or psychological IPV during their lifetime. Psychological abuse was determined by two subscales, verbal abuse and abuse of power and control, using the Power and Control Scale (Johnson, 1996 as cited in Karakurt & Silver, 2013). Women were more probable to experience physical or sexual IPV and abuse of power and control alone; the occurrence of physical IPV alone was 13.3% for women and 5.8% for men, while sexual IPV alone was 4.3% for women and 0.2% for men (Karakurt & Silver, 2013).

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Women were less probable to report verbal abuse alone, and the occurrence of psychological IPV alone was 12.1% for women and 17.3% for men, correspondingly (Karakurt & Silver, 2013). In both males and females, physical and psychological IPV were related with physical and mental health sequelae (Coker et al., 2002 as cited in Karakurt & Silver, 2013). Another study by Coker et al. (2000 as cited in Karakurt & Silver, 2013) exploring IPV occurrence rates for men and women found men were as probable as women to account for perceived emotional abuse (7.4% of women vs. 8.3% of men). Overall, emotional abuse within intimate relationships is common and is probably the most prevalent form of relationship abuse (Karakurt & Silver, 2013).

Most IPV services in Mexico target female victims, which may make male victims feel that there is not a direct assistance for them, social and counseling services have been conventionally employed by female victims, which may also make male victims feel that these services are needless or not appropriate for men (Tsui, Cheung, & Leung, 2010). A lack of suitable services makes men feel secluded even though some services may focus on men and maybe gender-sensitive in nature, men may not access these services because they perceive have been socially isolated (Tsui, Cheung, & Leung, 2010).

Many victim programs in Mexico and other countries were established explicitly to support women and hold the perpetrators accountable, many men are also subjected to intimate partner violence (IPV), for example, official figures from Australia estimated that 336,000 men (4 per cent of the male population) have been victims of sexual violence and 448,000 men (5.3 per cent) have been exposed to partner violence since they reached the age of 15, male victims often have comparable safety needs with female victims (Watson, 2014). There are also gender-specific

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barriers to having access to security and justice, and the issue of IPV still remain specifically shrouded in silence and fallacies regarding male victims (Watson, 2014).

Mexican men are not probably going to seek help for issues that the larger community perceive as non-normative or determines that they should be able to resolve themselves (Addis & Mahalik, 2003 as cited in Douglas & Hines, 2011). In the Mexican society, men are regarded as unacceptable victims of matrimonial violence and being a male victim is a social taboo (George, 1994; Kimmel, 2002 as cited in Tsui, Cheung, & Leung, 2010). Men do not consider themselves victims because they perceive sharing experiences of their abuse as feebleness (Tsui, Cheung, & Leung, 2010).

Douglas & Hines, (2011) statistics concerning male victims of IPV seeking and receiving help are the same with earlier qualitative researches and accounts (Cook 2009; Hines et al. 2007 as cited in Douglas & Hines, 2011) of men who perceived barriers to gaining help for IPV victimization, the men in these studies stated that service providers often do not take action, police did not answer to calls for help, and men's narration of abuse were not believed by service providers or hotlines. Statistics about looking for help from police are consistent with other research which had shown that male victims are specifically unhappy with this form of support and one study argued that male victims did not perceive that the police took their fears seriously and were highly less contented with the police response than female victims of IPV (Buzawa and Austin 1993 as cited in Douglas & Hines, 2011).

According to Huntley et al., (2019), there are five themes on the barriers to preliminary disclosure and help-seeking by male victims of IPV, three themes were closely related: fear of disclosure, challenge to masculinity and commitment to relationship in addition to the themes

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of diminished confidence/despondency and the invisibility/perception of services. Self-perception and the Mexican societal perception of machismo is also a central factor in these fears (Huntley, et al., 2019). Religion, tradition, knowledge and myths are instances of the sources from when these generalities arise and the public perceptions about intimate partner violence offers understandings into why this type of behavior occurs (Fakiha, 2010).

In conclusion, the perceptions of these barriers are usually clouded with stereotypes and these stereotypes may clarify why most male victims chooses to divulge or not divulge their experiences.

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