

Confinement, Risk Factors and Violence in Women Treated in a Community Health Unit Otavalo Ecuador 2022

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Abstract

Gender violence during the pandemic has become a very big problem that has repercussions and affects the entire globe, until today it is seen as the most significant cause of death for thousands of women.

Objective: To determine the risk factors associated with violence against women in the Covid-19 pandemic, in a community care unit. Imbabura Otavalo 2022.

Methodology: Quantitative, non-experimental, descriptive, cross-sectional and field study. A non-probabilistic convenience sampling was applied, the same one that was made up of 119 women who attended the community care unit, a self-authored questionnaire was applied, the same one that was validated by professionals in the area, this instrument consisted of 20 questions closed and multiple choice, established in 3 sections referred to in sociodemographic data, risk factors on violence against women and level of knowledge of women on issues of violence.

Results: The predominant age range of the studied population was from 20 to 39 years, predominantly the mestizo ethnic group, the residence was concentrated entirely in the rural area, single and without higher education. Among the main risk factors that are associated with violence during the Covid-19 pandemic was the consumption of alcohol by the head of the household.

Represented in a very significant percentage. The level of knowledge about violence in the women investigated was regular.

Conclusion: The main risk factor found during the pandemic was the behavior pattern of the head of the household, evidenced in the high alcohol consumption caused by the weak economic situation that they lived in the home, in addition, the women investigated considered that these attacks should not be denounced for not having the required relevance.

Keywords: Risk Factors; Violence Against Women; Confinement; Knowledge

Introduction

According to the UN definition, gender-based violence (GBV) is "any act or intention that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether in public or private life" [20].

Violence against women is a problem that has always existed and significantly affected the population is especially female, and during confinement undoubtedly the home became the perfect setting for physical, psychological and sexual abuse in women.

Gender violence in confinement gave way to a very relevant problem that affected very significantly women housewives especially, this problem occurred worldwide and many times aggressions and mistreatment affected the lives of several women.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, violence against women and girls has intensified in countries around the world. While lockdown measures helped limit the spread of the virus, women who experienced domestic violence felt increasingly isolated from support mechanisms and strategies, so research shows that one in three women were victims of femicide, and physical or sexual violence [9].

Women are the most affected by the health emergency, due to the unpaid care work for which they are usually responsible; and by the increase in violence towards them, which due to confinement cannot be made visible. If before the pandemic it was very difficult to denounce, in confinement even more [1].

While it is true before the pandemic, the issue of domestic violence was already one of the most common human rights violations and was already visualized throughout the globe. Around the world, a significant number of women suffered and suffer sexual, psychological, physical violence, among others, by their intimate partner, relatives or close people. With the advance of the pandemic, this reality worsened with multiple effects on women's well-being, sexual, reproductive and mental health.

Based on these considerations and as a result of the pandemic, many countries in the world and local international organizations established distancing measures and people are asked to stay at home, this decision of global health policy and the efforts of governments focused mainly on addressing the health emergency, leaving attention to gender violence in the background. Undoubtedly, this increased the risk of intimate partner violence in the homes since staying longer in close contact with the couple, personal problems, family worsened, this affects women since having no contact with the secondary family structure and relatives, they found themselves alone without support networks and protection from acts of violence [19].

In the current perspective of the approach to this issue that refers to violence in women risk factors may be due to the economic context, lack of economic and material resources, the marital context (such as the difference in ages of the couple, time of violence, duration of the relationship, etc.) the social context (attendance at social gatherings, excessive alcohol consumption); Likewise, exposure to acts of violence, the cultural environment in which women operate, is conducive to being a victim and suffering violence, since in the past it was conceptualized that the condition of husband head of household and the one who takes the reins and maintenance of the home the woman should accept all her idioms and actions in the home. In this way, the characteristics of family dynamics, such as the characteristics of each country, can constitute a risk factor for violence against women [4]. Undoubtedly, the theme-problem must be extended towards an almost natural bias, studying it in and from the family environment, this possibility, in these times of modernisms and conflicts, is established in a society of conflicts because these attitudes in the family, are significantly rooted, especially in the most prone and poor, given that gender violence is the result of structural inequality.

Quality of life conditions are associated with confinement and the freedom to go out, spend time with friends or family, or engage

in activities; so they are deprived of most of their social interaction. Worry about contracting COVID-19 was also associated with mental health problems, such as anxiety, poor eating habits, fear, difficulty paying attention, and especially stress [2]. Undoubtedly, the effects on the quality of life in human beings were modified in confinement, preventing and restricting the freedom to go out, spend time with friends or family, or carry out activities; so most of their social interaction was disrupted.

In this way, the responsibility and competence of governments around the world is to enrich and realize the principles and values reflected in a developing society, since the pandemic looked at in a scenario of shadows that grew exasperatingly in the midst of the crisis experienced, from this base if the strategies and the general collective effort to stop it are important, Not only in confinement but in all moments and actions of daily life.

Materials and Methods

The research process was developed with a quantitative approach, through a non-experimental, descriptive and cross-sectional and field study. The population consisted of 119 women attended in a community health unit in the province of Imbabura, Ecuador, during the months of May 2022 to September 2022. The data were collected through a questionnaire, which consisted of 36 closed and multiple choice questions that are clearly related to the objectives, established in 3 components: the sociodemographic characteristics of the population, risk factors associated with violence against women and the level of knowledge on this subject, in addition a Likert scale was applied as Measurement method used by researchers with the aim of evaluating people's opinions and attitudes. It is worth mentioning that this questionnaire has been validated by professional experts in the health area who have high levels of knowledge, sensitivity and specificity of the subject, which is reflected in the results of the study. In addition, the instrument made it possible to explore problem areas of life and evaluate the topic investigated. The application of the questionnaire was carried out in support of a previous pilot test which consisted of the application of the validated questionnaire to a group of 20 women where it was possible to verify that if they were victims of violence this gave way to the subsequent analysis to the entire study population.

The organization and statistical processing of the data was done using the Microsoft Excel program, then proceeded to elaborate graphs that allow to detail the results and thus facilitate the analysis. Descriptive level statistics were used through analysis of absolute frequencies and percentages. During the study, the corresponding ethical considerations of scientific research were taken into account. The participants expressed agreement with being part of the population by signing an informed consent, in addition

to the fact that no maleficent use was made of the information obtained.

Sociodemographic characteristics

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Nationality		
Colombian	3	2,52%
Ecuadorian	114	95,80%
Venezuelan	2	1,68%
Age		
20-39 years	93	78,15%
40-64 years	26	21,85%
Marital status		
Married woman	28	23,53%
Divorcee	4	3,36%
Separate	1	0,84%
Single	69	57,98%
Common-law marriage	16	13,45%
Widow	1	0,84%
Ethnic group		
White	2	1,68%
Indigenous	25	21,01%
Mestizo	92	77,31%
Schooling		
High school	34	28,57%
Basic education	8	6,72%
No	6	5,04%
Technician	12	10,08%
University	59	49,58%
Occupation		
Farmer	3	2,52%
Merchant	8	6,72%
Private employee	10	8,40%
Public employee	20	16,81%
Student	51	42,86%
Other.....	5	4,20%
Housework	22	18,49%
Location of the house		
Rural	59	49,58%
Urban	60	50,42%
Religion		
Catholic	99	83,19%
Evangelical	7	5,88%
Other	13	10,92%
Economic Level		
More than the basic salary	26	21,85%
Less than the basic salary	21	17,65%
Basic salary	36	30,25%
No remuneration	36	30,25%

Table 1: Sociodemographic data.

The results show that 95.80% of women are of Ecuadorian nationality, 78.15 represented in ages ranging from 20 to 39 years, presents a higher concentration of mestizo women represented in 77.31% while 57.98% are single, profess the Catholic religion identified in 83.19%, the level of schooling demonstrated in 49.58% With a higher level of study, more than half of the study group lives in urban areas, and 60.50% represented in half have a basic salary and the remaining half do not receive any remuneration.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Violence in childhood and/or adolescence		
Physics	23	19,33%
Psychological	21	17,65%
No	75	63,03
Continued substance use		
Alcohol	49	41,18%
Marijuana	1	0,84%
No	69	57,98%
Children with economic difficulties		
No	49	41,18%
Yes	70	58,82%
Affective relationships before the pandemic		
Friends	33	27,73%
Siblings	14	11,76%
Parents	25	21,01%
Relatives	15	12,61%
No	32	26,89%
Affective relationships during pandemic		
Friends	22	18,49%
Siblings	22	18,49%
Parents	37	31,09%
Relatives	22	18,49%
No	16	13,45%
Self-Esteem Level		
Low self-esteem	81	68,07%
High self-esteem	81	31,93%
Affected self-esteem		
No	42	35,29%
Yes	77	64,71%
Economic situation before the pandemic		
Regular difficulties	99	83,19%
Economic stability	20	16,81%
Impact on the economic situation		
Very affected	29	24,37%
Nothing affected	17	14,29%

Partially affected	73	61,34%
Substance Use by Your Partner Before the Pandemic		
Alcohol	52	43,70%
Cigarettes	12	10,08%
Marijuana	2	1,68%
Other substances	26	21,85%
No	27	22,69%
Increased substance use		
No	66	55,46%
Yes	53	44,54%
Existence of violence before the pandemic		
No	116	97,48%
Yes	3	2,52%
Insertion of other types of violence in Pandemic		
No	36	30,35%
Yes	83	69,75,%
Specify if positive		
Economic	13	36,11%
Physics	18	50,00%
Psychological	5	13,89%
Actions to stop situations of violence		
No	79	66,39%
Yes	40	33,61%
Training on violence		
No	47	39,50%
Yes	72	60,50%

Table 2: Risk factors associated with violence against women.

In this research, table 2 indicates that 58.82% of the population studied in their childhood and/or adolescence if they presented economic difficulties, so that 83.19 referred that the economic situation before the pandemic presented regular difficulties, these results lead to the exposed data and it is identified that a 61.34% consider that the Covid-19 Pandemic did partially and directly affect their economic situation, in addition 64.71% said that the behavior of the couple in pandemic significantly lowered their self-esteem, 58.82 maintained affective relationships with friends and parents, and 43.80 if they consumed alcohol before the pandemic, and finally 30.5% if they suffered physical violence during the pandemic.

Table 3 focuses on the significance of violence, types of violence, consequences and risk factors in violence against women, in this line the data obtained refer that the population studied presents a regular knowledge about violence. It can be observed that a small percentage of respondents have good knowledge about issues of violence,

	Frequency	Percentage
What is violence against women?		
Actions of discrimination based on gender;	4	3,36%
Acts aimed at harming any aspect of the person (physical, emotional);	27	22,69%
Acts and/or omissions to harm, discriminate, ignore, subdue and subordinate another person	10	8,40%
None of the above	11	9,24%
All of the above	67	56,30%
Types of violence you know		
Economic	2	1,68%
Physics	28	23,53%
Psychological	86	72,27%
Sexual	3	2,52%
What does psychological violence include?		
Abuse of power or demand for obedience	7	5,88%
Devaluation, insults, belittling, intimidation or threats	34	28,57%
Limitation or impediment of communication with other people outside the couple	6	5,04%
All of the above	72	60,50%
What does physical violence include?		
Any aggression against the body of the woman, girl or adolescent	17	14,29%
Pushing, hair pulling, hitting, biting, wounding or burning	13	10,92%
May cause death	3	2,52%
All of the above	86	72,27%
What does Economic Violence include?		
Behavior that negatively impacts economic survival	24	20,51%
Control, limit or hide existing money	26	21,37%
Denying your contribution to cover the family's expenses	18	14,53%
All of the above;	51	43,59%
What does sexual violence include?		
Abuse, harassment or touching under threat	10	6,84%
Visually exposing sexual content without your consent	5	4,27%
Forcing you to have sex or touching your body without your consent	29	24,79%
All of the above	75	64,10%
What does patrimonial violence include?		
Destruction of personal documents, Change of ownership of property without knowledge or consent	33	27,73%
Pawning goods and articles without consent	25	21,01%

All of the above	61	51,26%
Psychological consequences		
Abuse of alcohol, drugs and psychotropic drugs	4	3,36%
Sleep disturbances	1	0,84%
Suicide attempt	5	4,20%
Anxiety/stress disorder	6	5,04%
Depressive Disorder	38	31,93%
Eating disorders	2	1,68%
All of the above	63	52,94%
Things you consider to be risk factors for violence		
History of some form of violence among adults in childhood	33	27,73%
Parental use of alcohol and/or drugs	7	5,88%
Consumption of alcohol and/or frogs by the couple	4	3,36%
Economic hardship during childhood	1	0,84%
Difficulties in self-esteem	6	5,04%
Having been a victim of some type of violence in childhood	8	6,72%
Parents' level of education	6	5,04%
All of the above	54	45,38%
Do you know that the Ecuadorian Organic Integral Criminal Code establishes in cases of violence?		
Order the aggressor to pay the expenses of legal advice and sponsorship	9	8,57%
Order the aggressor to immediately return objects for personal use, identity documents and any other document or object owned or custody of the victim and his dependents	8	7,72%
Prohibit the aggressor from mortgaging, pledge, disposing of the ownership of the right of ownership of common movable or immovable property	11	14,29%
Temporarily suspend the aggressor from the regime of visits and coexistence with their children and the victim	17	14,29%
All of the above	37	31,24%
I don't know	37	31,24%
Do you know the institutions of denunciation and help aimed at women who suffer violence?		
Yes	53	44,54%
No	66	55,46%
Level of knowledge about violence		
Deficient level of knowledge	46	32,20%
Regular level of knowledge	57	38,14%
Good level of knowledge	16	29,66%

Table 3: Knowledge on violence against women.

Discussion

The sociodemographic data collected from the population under study showed that almost all women are of Ecuadorian nationality, the average age is between 20 and 39 years, they self-identify as mestizo, of marital status is single, of Catholic religion, have a higher education level in progress, live in the urban area, precisely, the highest concentration of population belongs to the weak lower middle socioeconomic level and have a basic salary, a significant percentage does not have any remuneration, it is important to mention that the socioeconomic level or stratum is a total economic measure, the economic and social position family in relation to other households, generally based on income, education and employment.

When referring to the study called Sociodemographic profile of women affected by intimate partner violence written by Carmen Vives Cases in Spain in 2009, it can be argued that the findings found in this research do not resemble this research, since the population investigated does have higher education and despite this plus women do allow violence to be present in their lives. And the most regrettable thing is that they do not take action to face it. Contrary to what Carmen Vives Cases refers to in her research, the woman affected by partner violence in her vast majority assures and recognizes that they are in a situation of abuse in the couple for not having studied and only have primary studies do not have higher education, in addition they do not work, are married, do not live with their partners or similar, and have no children. In the distribution of frequencies by age, there is a higher frequency of women who report intimate partner violence among those between 21 and 40 years old [32].

From this analysis, the women investigated if they study, live at home, work in different activities and due to the pandemic, the time as a couple was longer in which they could evidence the condition of disaggregation, oppression and verbal and physical abuse, taking into consideration that the pandemic was the shadow that grew in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis and on this individual effort played a preponderant role to stop it and be able to defend themselves from their spaces of coexistence many of the times running risks of losing their lives, this was attenuated by how the health units were only referred to attend to cases of COVID-19, essential services such as shelters and care projects in which those suffering from domestic violence are attended were not activated and this need passed to the second and third plane.

Violence against women is associated with the phenomenon of machismo and the cultural patterns prevailing in relationships within the family. They express a situation of power that the male enjoys within the family, because he is the provider and also this is generated by the patriarchal culture that models what a man

should be and what a woman should be in the masculino and feminine, Oblitas (2009) [1].

When observing Table 2 clearly details that the women investigated identified 3 risk factors associated with violence during the Covid-19 pandemic, the most relevant was to accept that in their childhood and/or adolescence they lived in environments with economic difficulties, this was complemented in their home life since their economic situation before the pandemic if He presented regular difficulties, which increased in the pandemic significantly affecting his family environment and therefore his self-esteem deteriorated, not being able to supply and satisfy the needs presented. Another risk factor with a higher percentage was the attachment to alcohol consumption before and in the pandemic by their partner, this constituted a determining factor for the population studied since, if they accepted having been victims of verbal and physical abuse, at the same time they reported that it was normal because they were not economic carriers of goods and services presented in their life scenarios, Assuming that the role of the VArón is the one that should always prevail in the family [1].

From this base, psychological theories consider the causes of violence to psychological variables such as personality problems and psychopathologies, experience of abuse in childhood. Sociological theories emerged as a response to the public debate that led to the feminist movement., within this group of theories, there is the systemic family theory that is based on the responsibility of all family members, who have the maintenance of violent dynamics as well as the value of the intergenerational transmission of learned patterns. This theory conveys that men and women are victims of established violence, an idea that has been used in many investigations. In addition, in these sociological theories there is the theory of social learning of Bandura and Ross (1961) cited by Navarro (2009) this theory considers that the intergenerational transmission of violence has an important role in the establishment of violent dynamics in the couple. Therefore, violence and/or abuse is a behavior that is learned by observation and that lasts if it is reinforced in terms of benefits such as the submission of the couple Brewster (2002) cited by Navarro (2009).

It should also be noted that legislation on domestic violence gives importance to the issue of public policies, recognizing that without the formulation and implementation of such policies that accompany legislative measures, it is difficult to guarantee success [2].

When comparing the findings found in this research with the study Risk factors and indicators of gender violence in women members of community banks in Chimborazo. carried out by Martha Mejía in Ecuador (Chimborazo) in 2019, it can be determined that if they resemble alcohol as a very important risk factor there

are many situations that trigger gender violence, but in almost all the surveys applied in this research, drunkenness or drug use by the intimate partner is the unique situation mentioned with the highest frequency in women in Ecuador (Ministry of Public Health of Ecuador, 2011). Several studies consider the causal association between alcohol consumption in men and intimate partner violence if they show a statistically significant excess risk, women are seven times more vulnerable to being at risk of violence, when their partner ingested alcohol in large quantities [32]. Thus, from this consideration it can be specified that among the individual risk factors that trigger gender violence basically the presence identified as own alcohol consumption, and the frequency of consumption is relieved and also consider that If there is a history of abuse in the spouse or partner. Continuing with the debate, it is specified that from the social connotation life in the family and in social environments are considered as a psychological unit of analysis, and express what a human being lives and experiences, in addition to the influences received in his participation as a social being and as his own subject contributes n and are almost always present in their daily lives.

When analyzing the economic risk factor in the research carried out by Ingrith Johana Dulcey Jerez in Colombia in 2010 on socioeconomic factors of violence against women in the middle of the couple, it is mentioned that women who belong to low and scarce levels of wealth, are more likely to increase the probability of suffering physical violence by of its pairto added in mathematical numbers and represented in a 7.04 percentage points. León (2011), also agrees and argues that when the household is poor this probability is greater because the degree of dominance or economic power of the man over his partner increases [33]. The economic impact of the pandemic, loss of livelihood, income or work disproportionately affects women in the informal sector and may create additional barriers to moving away from the perpetrator and reporting them due to dependency and/or economic extortion. Evidence suggests that the loss of economic autonomy tends to delay exit strategies from situations of gender-based violence. Uncertainty about the economy in the medium and long term would be indirectly increasing the power of oppression of the perpetrators (Fraser, 2020) [3].

From this base and with respect to the actions of women in the face of violence, mentioning the research sociocultural factors that influence women victims of domestic violence carried out by María Mercedes Illescas Zhicay in Azuay. Tapia Zegarra Jenny Irlanda (Ecuador) in 2018 affirms that the social and occult actorsdoinfluence women victims of violence and evidence that the women investigated remain with the abuser due to economic dependence. Thus, these women would be subject to any type of abuse because they have a deep-rooted economic dependence, which indicates the importance of implementing a guided plan aimed at raising the ca-

capacities of people, so that they are useful for themselves and for society, in this way it would be avoiding that they are victims of violence [34]. However, by living in these situations they are also putting their lives and that of their children at risk, in addition to accepting and predisposing their spouses to develop attitudes similar to those of their parents, making this an eminently important problem transmitted from generation to generation.

When comparing the data found in this research with the aforementioned research, the similarity of the findings can be considered, taking into consideration that the most frequent causes for which women are victims of violence are the cultural patterns already established in structures of origin that are established and transmitted throughout the social participation of women in this society. that although already modernized her role as a proposing, participative and active woman is still minimized, rather subordination to men continues to prevail, and as Vygotsky mentioned, the human being, is a product of the historical process, of the social and cultural environment.

In the same sense, when evaluating the level of knowledge on issues of violence and rights in young and adult women, it was evident that they have a regular level of knowledge, which suggests that they have a lack of knowledge and makes them increasingly prone to be victims of violence, due to their ignorance and lack of appreciation of their presence and prominence in the home. These patterns of thoughts that have been transmitted from generation to generation have had a negative impact on their development, because in many cases, the fear of reporting acts of violence, forces them to remain in situations of disadvantage compared to the couple, most women consider that it is their duty to be faithful, Good mother and maintain the family unit Despite the violence experienced, they naturalize violence as something normal for a couple and last for years with their abuser.

As stated by Inmaculada González Lozoy in (2010) when referring that 5.8% of women were able to list knowledge of the subject and several resources to denounce the aggressor, knowledge of institutions was higher among women (48.6% vs. 39.0% in men; $p = 0.02$). People with a higher level of education (46.9% with secondary education and 52.6% with middle and higher education) had a better knowledge of the institutions to which they could turn ($p = 0.002$). For age, there was a greater tendency for younger people to know several services, which refer to social and health services [35].

In this case, the findings found do not resemble what is referred to in the research of Inmaculada González Lozoy because in the sample investigated almost half of the population if they have a higher level in progress, and the greater the educational training, the greater knowledge about the subject as stated by the author,

which is not confirmed when analyzing the results observing that more than half of the population has no knowledge. solvents on this subject and are unaware of the instances or legal regulations. Thus, when taking cultural risk factors into reference, aspects such as the roles of women within society and the family nucleus were considered, and when analyzing some variables that could presume the presence of domestic violence; It is important to highlight that in the group of women investigated it was very common to find roles in them well defined and pigeonholed in society as belonging to women and accepted with love, despite the fact that a significant number of these women are public employees, and also perform domestic tasks, food, care and hygiene of husband and children, added to this the maintenance and care of minor and domestic animals, and productive activities. It was also possible to observe very significantly what refers to who makes the decision of when and how many children to have, the couple is the one who decides. It is worth considering these characteristics since several studies show that women with high schooling have a lower incidence of presenting violence events, while women with low schooling have a higher risk of presenting intimate partner violence [4].

Taking into consideration that violence against women is a social and health problem, and occurs in all countries of the world, but is more evident in underdeveloped countries and affects not only the woman victim, but also the members of the family, it is so it is very important to know the risk factors that affect and that are Directly associated with the violence on the part of the aggressor his spouse. Within the risk factors, based on the ecological model, the macro level the international context (globalization) and the national reality (national and regional reality) are associated with violence against women. Referring to the Comprehensive Organic Law for the Prevention and Eradication of Gender-based Violence against Women in Ecuador, which establishes comprehensive policies, mechanisms for monitoring, follow-up and evaluation; and measures for the prevention, care, protection and comprehensive reparation of victims, as well as the re-education of the aggressor, In order to guarantee to the subjects of protection of this Law, a life free of violence, which ensures the full exercise of their rights, its articles reinforce the rights of women and actions to be taken more, however, the women investigated are not aware of this legal regulation [5].

In addition, comprehensive policies, mechanisms for monitoring, follow-up and evaluation have been established; accompanied by public policies generated against gender violence in Ecuador, the same ones that were born with the National Plan for the Eradication of Gender Violence against Children, Adolescents and Women, which represented the first State policy to incorporate the gender approach decreed in Ecuadorian history in 2007 [6].

Undoubtedly, it is important to mention about this line of discussion that, although it is true that the existence of national and international instruments and conventions in the field of human rights largely summarizes the fruit of the international community's effort to dignify the rights and equality of women, especially those who occupy an unfavorable position or role from the structures of power; at the same time, they constitute a favorable framework for the development of regulations that enable the legal treatment of the issue of Domestic Violence (FIV), in the respective countries. However, in the research carried out on this line of research and from the very dynamics of a social project, there are still battered and undermined women victims of this social pollution caused by discrimination and social inequality that often ends in death, so all the aspirations of the movements for rights at the international level, And our laws, and social programs are not established or regulated on paper but are really the result of their own personal development and in the daily practice in the actions of each woman.

Conclusions

The women who participated in this research are four, aged between 20 and 30 years, single, mestizo, university students, and do not have an income. The predominant risk factor was the individual since his partner if he consumed alcohol in the pandemic, the economic context influenced significantly, due to the lack of economic and material resources, the marital context, and the disconnection from the family of origin. It is striking that the women investigated, despite suffering aggressions by their partner, did not take actions to denounce the bodies in charge, they only referred to accept as their own and normal the aggressions received within their family structure. It is important to note that, although they study university careers, their self-esteem dropped significantly after the aggression, in addition they do not know the legal regulations, at the same time that they do not know the instances where they must be denounced. They indicate that they feel ashamed that their family and friends know about their family situation and the exposure of acts of violence, in the cultural environment.

The researchers consider that the Ecuadorian State must implement public policy in all social strata through training starting from formal education, accompanied by multiple campaigns in digital environments, especially social networks, in addition social diagnoses must be made in educational and health instances to identify this problem and immediately take actions to solve focusing on the assessment of the risk of lethality, which increases due to the perception of loss of control that the aggressor has and thus eliminate the barriers that hinder the request for help and reporting, it is thus that educational and health institutions play a very important role in the dissemination of issues, laws and regulations on domestic violence. In addition, the results found in this research allowed to see the reality of the women investigated in a context that allowed to know and analyze the factors and dynamics directly invoked in

all types of violence, also allowed to appreciate that the women attended in this health unit only focus on The care of the head of household and children without taking into account that domestic violence is a problem that negatively affects the mental and physical health of women, violating their rights and autonomy. As part of the actions carried out to evaluate the results of this research, classroom training is proposed for future health professionals in academic bakery, reinforcing issues of autonomy and empowerment of women, in addition to reinforcing the edge of health promotion and prevention in community health centers and general hospitals on the basis of rights and legal regulations.

Recognition

A special recognition to the women who collaborated in the research and the support provided by the health institution and the Nursing Career.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors certify that the work is original and unpublished, has not been sent to another journal for publication, in addition to having contributed intellectually in this research in the conception, realization, development, interpretation of the results and none of the data is plagiarized or distorted. In the event that the research is a thesis, the author and the respective tutor have been included. The authors reviewed approved their final version, agree with its publication.

Summary

Gender violence during the pandemic became a very big problem that affects and affects the entire globe, until today it is seen as the most significant cause of death in thousands of women.

Objective: To determine the risk factors associated with violence against women in the Covid-19 pandemic, in a community care unit. Imbabura Otavalo 2022.

Methodology: Quantitative, non-experimental, descriptive, cross-sectional and field study. A non-probabilistic sampling was applied for convenience, which was made up of 119 women who attended the community care unit, a questionnaire of self-authorship was used, which was validated by professionals in the area, this instrument consisted of 20 closed and multiple choice questions, established in 3 sections referred to sociodemographic data, Risk factors on violence against women and women's level of knowledge on violence issues.

Results: The predominant age range of the population studied was 20 to 39 years, predominantly the mestizo ethnic group, the residence was concentrated entirely in rural areas, single and without higher education in progress. Among the main risk factors that are associated with violence during the Covid-19 pandemic was the alcohol consumption of the head of household represented in a very significant percentage. The level of knowledge about violence in the women investigated was regular.

Conclusion: The main risk factor found during the pandemic was the pattern of behavior of the head of household, evidenced in the high consumption of alcohol caused by the weak economic situation they lived at home, in addition the women investigated considered that these aggressions should not be reported because they do not have the required relevance.

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