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ABSTRACT

Violence against women is a social phenomenon that is present in society; It is usually the main cause of many problems with serious consequences presented in mental and psychological health, it is found in various fields. The objective of this research was to analyze violence against women in an urban parish (2019-2022). The study was qualitative-quantitative, descriptive, analytical and purposeful, using the relational, retrospective and conclusive methodological design. As methods the inductive-deductive stand out; synthetic-analytical, statistical and bibliographical. The techniques used were surveys and interviews, accompanied by the review of documents from the cantonal headquarters for the establishment of statistical analysis. The results showed that cases of violence against women increased in the period 2020 and 2021 as a result of the confinement due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the highest rates were reflected in psychological, physical and sexual violence. Among the essential causes, alcoholism, lack of values, poor cultural and educational level, among others, were identified. The women

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operceive that the attitude of the officials towards the prevention of violence, that is, issuing judgments and defending the rights of women, does not fully satisfy the needs of the community.

Keywords: Factors that affect violence against women, violence against women, types of violence against women, women

INTRODUCTION.

Violence against women is the extreme expression of inequality and subjugation in which women live in the world. The reality of the Ecuadorian manabitas urban parishes show how this social problem constitutes an attack against the right to life, security, freedom, and the dignity of women, therefore, this is one of the factors that contain the impediment development in a democratic society.

The interest and importance of this subject is presented with the purpose of investigating the case to provide the academic world with current information and that from their actions are put into operation that lead to awareness of participating in activities that contribute to minimizing acts of violence against the women.

In the Ecuadorian legal framework is the comprehensive organic law for the prevention and eradication of gender violence against women, compliance with the law has the purpose of having a more egalitarian and above all progressive society free of violence, as described the policies, in whose headings and articles, it is expected to alleviate the violent acts that are happening today; However, the human being has had to go through the existing crises, which become incident factors for violence to occur, these crises are: the economic, health crisis due to the COVID 19 pandemic, social and cultural, which leave its passing, mental illnesses, such as stress, anxiety, depression, frustration, fear, hatred and anger and join the degradation of the human being against another of the same species, resulting in violence in its many forms as the axis, violence that arises from within the home (Navarrete Solórzano, Rodríguez Gamez, & Pérez de Corcho, 2020), therefore, it is interesting to work on this inexhaustible source of search for the safety of women (Navarrete Solórzano & Paz Zambrano, 2020). Another dark look at the pandemic is school dropout, if before this epidemic the backlog of women was considerable in times of covid 19 it increased dramatically (Navarrete, et al., 2020).

A look at the history of patriarchy is an extensive, detailed, and neatly elaborated task by experts, for this reason a scope is given, considering that the history of violence against women is deliberately rooted in the depths of the Western culture, thus begins the introduction of the theme incident factors in violence against women. Expresses (Silva A. G., 2019) that history has always been written by men, to continue with the narrative of patriarchy, misogyny and the immanence of women as a thing, an invalid subject for power and tending to to generate chaos in all the spaces in which it is present. These narratives of misogyny, machismo and violence against women are lost in time. They are ancestral social imaginaries, which are mainly found in the first legal structures that are none other than religious ones.

At the end of the 19th century is when from the legal, social and humanistic sciences, the family is considered as the social institution in the evolution of peoples. At this moment the woman is timidly visible through history. At the beginning of the 20th century, specifically in 1929, the Annales School was born in France, where Lucien Febvre and Marc Bloch analyzed social history beyond political facts. This broader vision and above all focused on other spaces, such as private, domestic and intimate. The history of everyday life and the intimate allowed history to introduce women as subjects of social evolution (Agudelo Parra, 2022).

(Gallegos V.P., 2021), expresses that since ancient times women have been linked to social phenomena such as patriarchy that makes them invisible and excludes them from advances and progress. That is why the first to appear in history are the female goddesses and mythological beings, who stand out for their beauty, evil, impiety,

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deceit, destructive power, motherhood, eroticism, among other traditional roles assigned by men to women. women. (Lerner, 2017).

(Valdunciel, 2021), states in his study that perhaps matriarchies existed on a few occasions, and as exceptionalities in small clans or settlements, before lithics. Since, as indicated before, the first vestige of which we have evidence of the existence of a social structure founded on patriarchy is located in the lithic period.

The recognizable written, artistic, and archaeological remains, those that come from religious, legal, war or political texts, indicate that in civilizations women are not active subjects, only men are. Likewise, religions have exposed the history of man, with women being an object or a victim helped or an evil one to be punished (Silva A.G., 2019).

Foundation.

Conceptualizing Gender violence is a risk factor in the appearance of other types of violence, particularly vicarious and institutional violence. Exposure to this violence generates harmful consequences for both children and adolescents as well as their mothers, which is why it is important to understand the phenomenon in depth (Porter, 2022).

Violence is part of society, and in a certain way, it is accepted as a member of the family cell, forming a peculiar fact, concurrent within the daily life of Ecuadorian families, so that people who suffer some type of violence They come from families where this situation is a recurrence and many times, they even see it as normal.

In this sense, from the Resolution of the General Assembly, of the United Nations, adopted on December 20, 1993, the definition of Violence against Women was accepted in the following terms, which originated a legal impact: It is all act of violence based on belonging to the female sex that has or may result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to the woman, as well as threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether it occurs in public life, as in private life (Celi, 2019).

Gender Violence:It is a structural phenomenon inherent to patriarchal hegemony, it constitutes an instrumental tool used by man to maintain control, submission and dominance in sentimental relationships. The man with his behavior of insecurity wants to dominate his partner in his entirety, to obey all his extremes.

Many times, the person attacked does not make the respective complaint before the man's aggression towards the woman (partner or ex-partner). Supported by principles and values that uphold the position of inferiority of women, gender violence is the maximum manifestation of inequality. The fundamental rights of women to life and to physical and mental integrity are openly violated, and the government and public authorities have an obligation to apply measures that make the legally recognized rights real and effective, ensuring women the full exercise of their citizenship.

A series of classification criteria of violence against women stand out, some essential ones are specified below.

domestic violence: Carried out in the family and private sphere by the man towards the woman because of a marriage, domestic partnership, or similar relationship. Physical, psychological and/or sexual abuse between family members, between partners or between people who have lived together at some point in their lives (Czech González, 2021).

economic violence: It is the power that rich countries have over poor or emerging countries, the power of the ruling classes over the dominated classes, causing moral and economic misery. On the power of money as a reason for exploitation, servitude, submission, and corruption (Alberca Castillo F. &., 2022).

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Psychological violence:Comprehends those acts, behaviors or omissions that damage psychological stability and produce devaluation or suffering in women and can translate into threats or humiliation (Alberca Castillo F. &., 2022).

political violence: Aggression against people and is responsible throughout the history of humanity for the physical destruction of millions of people (Ruiz, 2020).

Property violence: When she is stripped of her rights to the assets that are obtained in marriage, she defines, (Romero Quiroz, G.G., 2022).

symbolic violence: refers to the imposition of norms, values, beliefs, through symbols, signs, and messages. It is not exercised physically but through culture, education, the means of communication (Pool Castillo F. &., 2022).

Indeed, violence against women within the intra-family framework is a fact that materializes and progressively increases with the atypical behavior of the aggressor, in evidence of this, the National Assembly of Ecuador, on February 10, 2014, in the use of its legislative powers, inserted the 2014 Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code within the regulatory regime, in article 155 it states that: Violence is considered any action that consists of physical, psychological or sexual abuse carried out by a family member against the woman or other members of the family nucleus (Romero Quiroz, 2022).

It is necessary to explain that members of the family nucleus are the spouse, the couple in common-law union or free union, cohabiting, ascendants, descendants, sisters, brothers, relatives up to the second degree of affinity and people with whom determine that the accused maintains or has maintained family, intimate, affective, conjugal, coexistence, courtship or cohabitation ties. (Romero Quiroz, 2022).

In Ecuador, the comprehensive organic law for the prevention and eradication of gender violence against women indicates 7 types of violence: physical, psychological, sexual, economic-patrimonial, symbolic, political andgynec-obstetric(National Constituent Assembly, 2018). Likewise, the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador, has achieved the regulation of the full protection of women in certain articles, one of them is the one that mentions pregnant women, being these subject of priority attention (Article 33 and 34, 2018), there is also talk of the protection they receive when they have been displaced or in a situation of deprivation of liberty (Asamblea Nacional Constituyente, 2018).

Likewise, in Ecuador, out of every ten women, six of them have been victims of some type of violence. Protective factors within family dynamics are vital since they help reduce rates of violence; however, the reality is different, since most of the reported cases of violence of any kind have occurred within family contexts. Gender inequality has its roots in the power relations between men and women that subordinate the latter and manifests itself in violence (State Attorney General's Office, 2016).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes gender equality as the necessary foundation to achieve a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world and establishes, and sets as a development goal "Achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls." girls", stating as a goal "to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual exploitation and other types of exploitation".

It is necessary to remember figures reported and that are part of the history of violence in Ecuador. According to (National Survey on Family Relations and Gender Violence against Women, 2019) by the ENVIGMU agency, which reported complaints of cases of violence against women, it is considered that in 2019, crimes of violence against women in all the definitions that are typified in the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code, 2014 and the Comprehensive Organic Law to prevent and eradicate violence against women, 2018 (Romero Quiroz, G.G., 2022).

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Despite what is indicated, a percentage in marital cases of (42.8%) and in the social sphere (32.6%), cases of violence in public spaces, is maintained, and it is identified that, in 2019, around 65% of women suffered some type of violence throughout their lives. (ENVIGMU, 2019). The (INEC, 2019) also reports that 65 out of 100 women experience violence, in the educational, work, social, family or life as a couple. Throughout the country, 201 victims of femicide were reported in 2021. The figures from 2014 to 2020, 849 femicides occurred, with the provinces with the highest number of cases being Pichincha, Guayas and Manabí. According to (Fundación Aldea, 2021).

In 2021, the ECU 911 reported 53,123 emergencies due to violence against women in the country, in Manabí women do not have emergency care for these cases, this was detected in the confinement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, generating greater risks of violence in girls, adolescents and women expressed (Zapata, 2021). On the other hand, the Women's Movement for Justice, from Manabí, within the framework of the Alliance for the monitoring and mapping of femicides in Ecuador, reported that 16 women were murdered at the hands of their partners or ex-partners in 2021, in this province. The ages of the murdered women range from 23 to 44 years, and the cantons in which these events occurred are: Pichincha, Chone, El Carmen, Sucre, Olmedo and Puerto López (Fundación Aldea, 2021).

In the Ecuadorian regulatory framework, the prevention and eradication of gender-based violence is included as a public policy, based on human rights instruments such as the Comprehensive Organic Law to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women, which is included in the National Plan to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women for the period 2020-2021 (Vacacela&Mideros, 2022).

The most analyzed gender violence is that which occurs in the domestic sphere, however, violence against women is present in all spheres of society, both in public and private spaces. Gender violence is sustained due to the low awareness of violence against women by institutions, that is, actions or omissions carried out by the state and its authorities (Bodelón, 2014). In this sense, patriarchal violence is based on the belief that it is permissible for an individual with more power to control others through forms of coercive force (Hooks, 2017).

The peak expression of gender violence is femicide (Berni, a term that appears as a relevant conceptual category when it comes to understanding and distorting those crimes against women that are fostered in the abuse of power, in couple relationships that are the product of a structure social and cultural based on patriarchy. Femicides are the cruelest example of gender violence, however, there are other types of violence, such as psychological, physical, sexual, economic, patrimonial, gynecologist violence, among others (Berni, 2018).

According to Vera Viteri, Cárdenas Barrio and PiedraSalomón (2020); The national analysis of the rates of gender violence in Ecuador shows that although Manabí is one of the provinces with the lowest incidence, it is the one with the highest risk index and where the mistreatment of women is more serious and deadly. In the applied survey it was known that 48.8% of these mentioned having been victims of gender violence, data that is below the national figure, for 60.6%.

Regarding the essential causes, the author himself states that "there is a relationship between the most aggressive and dangerous manifestations of violence and the low level of schooling."

According to a study carried out by the UN in April 2020, during the time of the COVID 19 pandemic, the data available in Latin America and the Caribbean were obtained, where there was an approximately 12% increase in women who suffered from violence, that is, In other words, 19.2 million were victims of physical or sexual violence by their current or former intimate partner in the 12 months preceding the survey(UN Women, 2020).

In short, "the Ecuadorian State is a signatory to international instruments for the protection of women's human rights, particularly CEDAW and its Optional Protocol, signed in 1980 and ratified in 1981" (Vera Viteri, 2015). In relation to violence against women, the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate

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Violence against Women was ratified in June 1994. However, the support of the legal framework has not sufficiently mitigated the effects of this scourge in Manabita communities, so research is needed to allow the visualization of the causes, to influence the roots of the problem.

Consistent with the formulated approaches, the general objective of this research is presented: Analyze Violence against women in a Manabita parish in the period 2019-2022.

Methods.

The present investigation was of a mixed type; qualitative and quantitative approaches are combined, through the development of interviews and surveys, respectively. In addition, a descriptive, retrospective, and conclusive investigation is considered, since it works with the cases reported in the Manabita cantonal headquarters studied. For its presentation it is carried out in three essential phases.

Phase 1. Frequency analysis of reported cases of violence

Information is collected with those responsible for the cantonal headquarters, through a semi-structured interview, together with a documentary review of the available reports on the complaints presented in the period corresponding to 2019-2022.

The information is presented through bar graphs that establish the absolute and relative frequency associated with each type of violence mentioned above that has been reported in the period evaluated.

As part of the interview, the following are established as essential questions, based on the experience and knowledge of the officials around attention to complaints:

What are the reasons that are declared as causes of violence by the victims?

What do you consider to be the root causes of cases of violence in the region?

Why the prevalence of the phenomenon in the region, despite the fight against violence today?

Phase 2.- Informed consent test

To explain to the respondents the objective of the research, the result of which is completely anonymous, with the intention of contributing positively to the development of social programs that allow the eradication of violence against women. These correspond to the women who make complaints about cases of violence in the cantonal headquarters of the community studied, in the first quarter of 2023.

Phase 3. Analysis of the attitudes of officials towards violence

A survey is applied to the women who visited the cantonal headquarters to process a complaint in the same period. The questions asked are focused on measuring the perception of these with the knowledge of officials about violence against women, the types that can manifest themselves, and their attitude towards this phenomenon, from how they identify expressions of violence in the exchange with the victims and if they take part publicly expressing their opinions regarding such events, in order to mitigate the occurrence and effects of violence against women.

A scale of three response categories is used: always, sometimes, and never, to assess the perceptions mentioned above.

For the processing of the information, the measures of central tendency, standard deviation and frequencies are established for each of the questions considered. Relationships are also established between the variables "knowledge about violence" and the "issuance of value judgments in cases of violence". For this, the non-parametric Kruskal Walls H test is used to identify significant differences between the groups defined in both cases, using the SPSS version 25.0 software. For the analysis of relationships between variables, the following hypothesis test is established:

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H₀: There is homogeneity between the medians of the studied groups.

H₁: There are differences in the medians of the groups studied.

Tenth hypothesis:

Pvalue≤0.05 Null hypothesis rejection

Results and discussion

Next, the results of the development of the research phases defined in the methods are presented.

Phase 1. Frequency analysis of reported cases of violence

Table 1 shows the analysis of the documentary review that allowed the statistics of the cases of violence to be collected according to the classification criteria, in the period 2019-2022.

Table 1: Cases by type of violence (2019-2022)

Types of violence	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total	%
Physical	51	108	179	136	474	34,52
Psychological	88	98	391	236	803	58,48
Sexual	9	15	30	27	81	5,89
economic-patrimonial	1		3		4	0,29
symbolic			1		1	0,07
Total	149	221	604	399	1373	

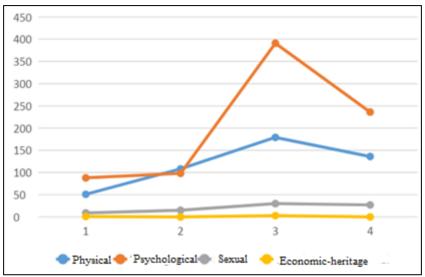
In the period 2019-2022, a total of 1,373 complaints were made, with psychological predominance in 58.48% of the cases, followed by physical complaints in 34.52%. It coincides with Safran off (2017) in that psychological violence is less visible, however it continues to be the most prevalent.

Figure 1 shows the dynamics of the manifestation of cases of violence, in its various classification criteria, in the period 2019-2022.

Figure 1

Dynamics of cases of violence (2019-2022)





As can be seen, psychological violence is above the rest, followed by physical, sexual, and economic-patrimonial violence, while symbolic only showed two cases in the evaluated period.

The period with the highest rate of cases of violence, in all the classification criteria, is 2021, with a total of 604 cases, closely related to the confinement caused by the pandemic caused by COVID 19. Another element to highlight is the trend, which has an increasing slope in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 periods, while it decreases for the 2021-2022 period, already in the post-pandemic era, back to normal. The foregoing is added to the statistics issued by the UN (2021) by stating that 7 out of 10 women think that violence in their communities increased in the pandemic, motivated by the application of surveys in 13 countries, identifying verbal abuse as predominant. in 50% of the cases.

By conducting an interview with the director of the cantonal headquarters, the following could be established as causes of the prevalence of violence against women in the community studied:

- "...The most common reasons or causes for violence to be generated are closely linked to the factors that we face in the family, society, and in the community, such as bad habits or vices: alcoholism, drug addiction, intolerance, types of violence are almost always reflected in nuclei with dysfunctional homes... these environments derive in environments in which violence is legitimized or naturalized, naturally accepting violent behaviors... Age, previous history of abuse, violence generally are associated as predisposing factors. They are not isolated cases...
- ... Of Among the root causes of cases of violence in the region are values; machismo, patriarchy, inequality of opportunities, impunity and corruption still prevail; These factors cause the others that we named in the previous question to be generated."

Coincidences are established with the criteria of Sfranoff, A. (2017) by associating causes with age, culture, alcoholism, and in turn adding to the criteria of Vera Viteri (2021) the low cultural and educational level of the communities that it causes ignorance, poor values and prevalence of patriarchy.

Phase 2.- Informed consent test

The application of the informed consent test allowed the inclusion, by agreement, of 30 women who came forward to file complaints for being victims of some type of violence in the first quarter of 2023. They were chosen

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by trials, according to the criteria of the officials of the public institutions of the community studied, to have a representative sample of the types of cases presented.

Phase 3. Analysis of the attitudes of officials towards violence

The application of the survey applied to the 30 complaining women, showed a strong internal consistency of the scale used, by obtaining a Cronbach's alpha of 0.94, as shown in the table according to the output of SPSS version 25.0.

Table2: *Internal consistency of the scale used.*

Reliability statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	Number of elements	
,940	5	

Table 2 also shows the analysis of frequencies associated with the categories of responses by questions.

Table3: Frequencies of responses by questions

Qu	estion	Full agreement	Neitheragreenord isagree	Total disagreement
1.	Understands the concept of violence and coherently expresses their opinions	53 %	20 %	27 %
2.	Relates knowledge about the types of violence that exist	27 %	50 %	23 %
3.	Give your opinion on the regulations that help prevent violence against women.	27 %	43 %	30 %



4.	Identify the expressions of those people who are subjected to acts of verbal and psychological violence	27 %	67 %	6 %
5.	Issues a personal appreciation or value judgment on the issues of violence against women	0 %	50 %	50 %

As a complement to the previous analysis, Table 3 shows the statistics for measuring central tendency (mean, mode and median) and dispersion (standard deviation) for each of the variables included.

Table 4: Measures of central tendency and dispersion

Statistical

		Concept of violence	Types of violence	Comment on standards		Issues judgments on violence issues
N	Valid	30	30	30	30	30
	Lost	0	0	0	0	0
Half		2,27	2,03	1,97	2,20	1,50
Median		3,00	2,00	2,00	2,00	1,50
Fashion		3	2	2	2	1 ^a
Dev. Dev	viation	,868	,718	,765	,551	,509

a. There are multiple modes. Smallest value displayed.

As can be seen, the lower perception is associated with personal appreciation or value judgment on the issues of violence against women, which suggests that women perceive that there is an insufficient pronouncement of officials before society in defense of rights of women in the fight against violence.

Table 4 shows the SPSS output using the non-parametric test to identify differences in the medians of the groups represented by the variable "Identifies the expressions of those people who are subjected to acts of verbal and psychological violence" (Question 4); in the category's Total agreement, neither agree nor disagree; strongly disagree; regarding "relates knowledge about the type of violence" (question 2), in the same categories.

Table 5:SPSS output relationship of variables 2-4



Test Statistics^{A,b}

Identif	ies_expre
ssions_	_violence

H de Kruskal-Wallis	25,745
gl	2
Himself. asymptotic	,000

to. Kruskal-Wallis test

b. Grouping variable: Types violence

The rejection of the null hypothesis is established for a value of Pvalue less than 0.05, so that if the knowledge of the types of violence affects the identification of expressions in violent women, by officials, according to the perception of the women complainants interviewed.

Similarly, the same analysis is carried out to relate the variables "Gives a personal appreciation or value judgment on the issues of violence against women" (question 5) with the variable "Understands the concept of violence and expresses their opinions coherently" (question 1); (table 5); throwing that they are also related variables; that is, the knowledge about violence of the officials influences that they take part and issue value judgments in cases of violence, according to the perception of the women surveyed.

Table 6: SPSS output relationship of variables 1-5 **test statistics**^{a,b}

	Issues_judgment s_issues_violenc e
H de Kruskal-Wallis	25,375
gl	2
Himself. asymptotic	,000

to. Kruskal-Wallis test

b. Grouping variable: Concept_violence

There are not many studies that deal with the phenomenon of violence, from the perception of the victims, regarding the knowledge and attitudes of the officials in charge of dealing with complaints, so the current proposal is

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considered useful, to have another edge of the phenomenon, important to consider, as a fundamental primary entity for the prevention of this social scourge.

He agrees with Arias (2019) when stating that actions to counteract violence are not encouraging, society is experiencing moments of intense violence. Among them stands out thehe psychological violence that is the first to appear in homes as conjugal violence, its forms or not indicators are not precise.

Women are often silent and do not express thoughts about the act of violence that is associated with personal and social deficiencies caused by the lack of social opportunities that affect the being to adopt the environment. Making it clear that the criminogenic effects are not only possessed by people, but also by the social environment, and therefore state violence will not solve the problem, since the solution is social engineering, not criminal engineering.(Bonifaz, 2019). That is why the work of the officials who deal with the cases and society in general becomes important to influence more in the long path of violence prevention.

Psychological violence continues to lead in the statistics of the studied community. The high level of emotional dependence makes the woman maintain those inappropriate behaviors of her partner. Actions and attitudes that invalidate, humiliate, and keep her submerged in a violent relationship. It is assumed that women with emotional dependency are 13 times more likely to be victims of family violence than those who do not present emotional dependency (Vasquez, 2020).

It should be noted that the regulations highlight the rights of women, while denouncing the real inequality between men and women and the special vulnerability that women may face in circumstances that increase their vulnerability, such as: (pregnancy, domestic violence, violence sex, etc.). The Constitution also creates state entities for the protection of women's rights. The judicial bodies specialized in gender violence and the National Council for Gender Equality stand out. (Celli, 2019). However, the fight against violence continues to be pending in our communities and a social responsibility of every citizen, it is the only way to move towards its minimization.

conclusions.

Violence against women continues to be a scourge that affects society, evidenced in the complaints from the Manabita community studied, where psychological violence maintains its preponderant place in number, although underhanded, it continues to cause irreparable damage to women and families; followed by the physical, sexual and economic-patrimonial. It is noteworthy that the complaints are the tip of the iceberg; Behind it, a number of violent events are manifested that are never known, also in what refers to symbolic violence.

Among the causes that affect the prevalence of violence, the macho culture, the low educational and cultural level of the inhabitants, addictions to alcoholism, drug addiction, etc. stand out. It is not enough that the legal and juridical framework of the country establish appropriate behaviors in the face of acts of violence against women, this being a public and judicial health problem; a social reengineering is necessary in the minds of the communities studied and in general.

Officials who deal with cases of complaints play an essential role in the fight to minimize this phenomenon, it is necessary that they be continuously trained to be able to issue value judgments in handling these cases before the media and in general, in full coordination. with the responsible entities, such as public health, police and legal bodies, the fight against violence has always been going on and it would be naive to think that it is easy to eradicate, but the expression of value judgments on community realities undoubtedly constitutes a link important on the way to it.

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