

Ill-treatment in women: aspects that influence their actions

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OBJECTIVES

To identify the factors that influence the decisions that battered women make.

To analyze how these factors determine the behavior of the women who suffer from ill-treatment,

To set how these factors influence the relations that battered women establish with the sanitary professionals who attend to them.

METHODOLOGY

The study population are battered women who live in the Madrid province and who are being attended to in the Municipal Points of the Regional Observatory against the Gender Violence.

The information was collected by performing focus groups and depth interviews.

RESULTS

There are several factors which influence on the decisions that battered women make:

- The existence or not of children they have to take care of.
- The economic dependence.
- The ignorance of the woman, in some cases, of the existence of this ill-treatment.

We could say that there is one that is the most important, common and we could say it is the main axis that determine their behaviour. This factor is fear. Fear may be considered as a constant and main axis on these women's life, that influence on the relations that they establish and in the way they do it.

With relation to the health professionals the women in our study perceive that, in the beginning the attendance that they have received from the professional has been good because each one has fulfilled his role, giving the health attendance with the attention that doctors and nurses pay in the case of the physical lesions. However if we investigate they declare that although they are not capable of saying it in the psychological situation in which they find themselves they look for something more of the professionals that attend to them. This search for help is not direct and many times it is after a heap of often that the woman invents to cover up the aggression.

The difficulty that the woman has to verbalize the situation goes the difficulty of the professionals to understand.

The moment that the fact is evidential to the Health System most professionals urge then to report it and they fill in the form something which at first women see as an added problem however after is valued positively by all gave

*"Everyone does their part"
"They aren't worried also it was in the night, the night watch and ..."
"Used to beatings"*



*"The police gave me the most support"
"That they will be very clever"*



DISCUSSION

As sanitary professionals who attend these women we may be aware of the psychological situation they are, and how fear determinate them to make decisions in one way or the other, to be able to identify if the woman is asking us for help when she comes to us, because in many occasions she is not able or does not want to say it openly.

There is necessary a major implication of the health professionals to detect the cases of ill-treatment, they must have formation specifics in the topic and an attitude of constant alert towards gender violence.