



RESEARCH ARTICLE

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A GENDER INEQUALITY RATIFIED BY SOCIETY

*¹Leila Sala Prates Ferreira and ²Tania Rocha Andrade Cunha

¹Lawyer, Doctoral Student of the Graduate Program in Memory: Language and Society at the State University of Southwest Bahia - UESB

²Sociologist, Doctor of Social Sciences. Professor of the Graduate Program in Memory, Language and Society at the State University of Southwest Bahia - UESB

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*Corresponding author:

Leila Sala Prates Ferreira

ABSTRACT

This paper raises a reflection on the violence perpetrated against women. An important point regarding violence against women is the relentless pursuit by society of the victim's prior attitude in an attempt to find in their attitudes the cause and / or explanation for the violence suffered. Therefore, the analysis was carried out from the perspective of patriarchal culture, since from this we come across as heirs of a differentiated education based on differences and inequality. Thus, the main objective of the present study was to investigate the social discourses directed at women victims of violence. In methodological terms, we opted for quantitative research and, for the collection of empirical data, 100 previously structured questionnaires were applied with 50 women and 50 men, with different ages, marital status, education and socioeconomic conditions. Subsequently, from the statistical analysis, the non-quantifiable facts were interpreted. In addition, our research was also bibliographic, which allowed us to dialogue with important theorists that address the subject. Finally, the results obtained allowed us to see the great influence of patriarchal ideals, which, even today, are present in social discourses.

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INTRODUCTION

Social inequality between men and women is a problem that goes with the history of humanity itself. In this mainstay, it is possible to observe the existence of discrimination and prejudice in the face of the female, which, in turn, has been justifying and reinforcing the relationship of power and control in relation to women. Thus, historically, Western society, heir to a patriarchal culture, adopted this system as a social model, placing women in a role of submission and attributing characteristics inherent to their "nature". In this system, there was a naturalization of the roles assigned to the female and the male, that is, a true social construction of the roles assigned to each gender. In Brazil, this process has been established since colonization, marked by family units, landlordism, slavery, and, mainly, culture based on patriarchal principles. According to Castells (2003), patriarchy is one of the structures on which all contemporary societies are based. In this way, interpersonal relationships are marked and influenced by violence and domination. Indeed, we find that patriarchy makes up the social dynamic as a whole, including being inculcated in the

unconscious of men and women, individually and collectively as social categories (CASTRO; LAVINAS, 1992). Later, with gender studies, it was possible to affirm that the roles assigned to men and women are not natural or biological attributions, but rather built according to each society. According to Machado (2000, p. 6): "Gender is a category engineered to refer to the founding character of the cultural construction of sexual differences, to the extent that definitions of sexual differences are interpreted from cultural definitions of gender". In this context, gender roles have been and still are so repeated and reaffirmed by society that they are internalized as natural. Thus, this naturalization allows for the indiscriminate acceptance of inequalities between male and female, generally establishing a valuation in which everything that attaches to women is seen as minor and / or less important. According to Saffioti (2004) it is under the patriarchal order of gender that analyzes on violence against women should be made. In other words, as we live in a society based on patriarchal values, we end up reinforcing the premises that underlie it, which, in turn, allows for the trivialization and tolerance of violence against women, including through a certain incentive from society for

them men may exercise their manhood based on strength / domination. Thus, it is "normal and natural for men to mistreat their women, just as fathers and mothers mistreat their children, thus ratifying the pedagogy of violence" (SAFFIOTI, 2004, p. 74). Moreover, an important point about the phenomenon of violence against women is the incessant demand by society of a previous attitude of the victim, the fulfillment of a standard behavior to be followed, seeking, in any case, to find in their attitudes the true cause and explanation for the violence suffered, sometimes considering it an accomplice or facilitator of violent action. From this perspective, the intention of this research was to contribute to the study about the condition of women who have always been placed in a position of inferiority in relation to men. To this end, we chose as our main objective to investigate the social discourses directed at women victims of violence, in order to know their roots and their consequences until the present day. Having made these considerations, we intend to answer, through this research, some questions: is there a social discourse directed to women victims of violence? If confirmed, what are the roots of this discourse?

To answer these questions, we raise the following hypotheses: there is a social discourse directed at women victims of violence that is based on centuries of discrimination and violence suffered by women. Moreover, such discourse can and should be analyzed as a type of gender violence, since it ratifies, seals and promotes other forms of violence against women.

METHODOLOGY

In methodological terms, the bias of this research is quantitative, descriptive. Thus, for the collection of empirical data, we opted for the quantitative technique, because, in this research, we understood that the data obtained through questionnaires would allow us to better understand people's opinions about female behavior. In this mainstay, the research universe is characterized by the definition of the research target area or population. Thus, according to Gil (2008), there are two ways to conduct a study: by census or by sampling. Thus, while the census would consist of studying all members of the population, the sample would only survey part of it (GIL, 2008, p. 55). Thus, there are two types of samples: probabilistic (based on statistical methods) and non-probabilistic (not based on mathematical methods, depending solely on the researcher's criteria). Thus, the present research was performed by the non-probabilistic method and carried out by means of quota sampling, which, according to Roesch (1999), does not exactly fit the random sample pattern, but has advantages in terms of speed and economy. Thus, the sample of the present research was 100 respondents, 50 men and 50 women, subdivided by age, marital status, education and varied socioeconomic conditions. Moreover, our research is descriptive, as it aims to describe the characteristics of a given population and / or phenomenon, and establish relationships between the variables, which, in turn, allowed us to prove the hypotheses raised. Thus, after tabulating the statistical data, there was an interpretation on our part of the non-quantifiable facts, that is, an analysis of the interviewees' opinions on the phenomenon of social criminalization of women victims of violence. Finally, the research was also theoretical and bibliographic, considering the need to be based on other works. Thus, aware of the problem under analysis, we rely on theorists and their academic productions on the studies of

violence against women, which, although so old, is still present today and affects a very large number of women. Thus, throughout the work we dialogue with important authors who deal with the theme now approached, such as Saffioti (1992, 1995, 1999a, 1999b, 2004, 2009), Beauvoir (1990), J. Scott (1989), Cunha (2007), Machado (2000), Pinto (2003), Chaui (1998), Bourdieu (2003), among others.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Theoretical studies, field research and analysis of data collected during this research have allowed us a broader view on discrimination and violence against women, especially regarding the social criminalization of women victims of violence. In the search for answers about oppression and violence in the face of women, we studied various currents and theoretical explanations, from the natural and biological theories used by philosophers, as several other studies that bring the social construction of inequality between men and women. In this context, we subscribe to Heleieth Saffioti's (2009) understanding that the patriarchal ideology, which existed around five thousand years ago, is anchored in the way men guarantee for themselves and their dependents the means necessary for survival and reproduction of life through the domination and exploitation of women. Indeed, we can say that we live in a society guided by the standards and customs of a patriarchal order, which naturalizes violence against women. Thus, the existence of a social discourse attributing, even partially, the blame of women on the violence suffered, whether for reasons of behavior, clothing, among others, demonstrates the sad reality of a society that seals and naturalizes violence against the women. Moreover, this naturalization of violence against women generates not only immense social backlash, but also a social judgment of the victim herself. Thus, we observe that society, over the years, has been evolving, however, given the results of the present research, we can affirm the existence of a social discourse that criminalizes women victims of violence.

Another striking factor in the present research was the possibility of demonstrating that women's blame for violence suffered is not rigidly located at a certain age, education, marital status or socioeconomic status of society. On the contrary, we clearly see that these discourses reach women and men of all ages, schooling and economic classes, even at higher or lower levels. We also observed that there is a creation of female stereotypes, that is, the idealization of how a woman should be and behave. Thus, women must adjust to certain standards of conduct, which in turn demonstrates the existence of true premises of inequality and prejudice in the face of the feminine. Therefore, behaviors such as going out alone, wearing so-called "provocative" clothes, consuming alcohol, among others, are still widely used by society to justify the violence suffered by women. On this basis, we observe that, despite the spread of violence, there are groups that carry a greater vulnerability and suffer more, in this case, women. In this context, Cunha (2007) states that women, always considered the fragile sex, have been the main target of humiliation by men. In this way, the social construction of the roles imposed on women is passed on from generation to generation very naturally, thus achieving an almost innate "truth". Thus, it is essential to bring to the debate not only the phenomenon of violence against women, but also the prejudices and discrimination they face in everyday life, a memory inherited from a society marked by patriarchal values

that blame and criminalize women. for the violence they suffer.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is true that we have evolved and that many achievements have been made by women over the last decades. However, it is easy to see even today the presence of values that celebrate sexual differences and spread violence against women, that is, a memory inherited from a patriarchal culture that remains embedded in the social imagination in such a deep way that makes it natural or at least tolerated. In this context, despite the fact that this research is non-probabilistic and was conducted through a quota sample, Roesch (1999), in a universe of 100 interviewees, 50 men and 50 women, subdivided by age, marital status, education and conditions. socioeconomic factors, we verified the existence of a social discourse directed to the woman victim of violence whose main objective is to blame the victim for the violence suffered. Moreover, we observe the existence of a tolerance of violence by society to women who do not submit to social values determined by a chauvinistic and patriarchal system. In addition, through respondents' responses, we see how discourses that criminalize women victims of violence are present in both men and women, regardless of age, educational level, marital status or socioeconomic class, even if higher or lower levels. Finally, considering the data obtained from the survey, we observed that a large portion of respondents believe that women are guilty of the violence they suffer, and that this accountability does not even require a direct relationship with violence, as it prevails in the social imagination the existence of a predictable indirect guilt of the woman. Therefore, based on these results, we believe that it is essential to bring to the debate not only the phenomenon of physical violence against women, but also the prejudices and discrimination they face in everyday life, a memory inherited from a society marked by patriarchal values that blame and criminalize women for the violence they suffer.

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