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## **In the Covid-19 Pandemic, Gender Violence in Some Regions of Latin America**

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**Abstract**--The objective of this research is to contextualize the violence faced by women, children and older adults, a product of the confinement subjected to humanity by the Covid-19 pandemic, where Latin American women, like many globally, suffer from deaths. from your family and friends; also because of the violence to which they are subjected in their homes, where they must stay longer, making coexistence more difficult by worsening relationships and increasing conflicts, fights, and altercations between couples, becoming a social problem. A bibliographic review was carried out related to gender violence during the confinement stage, in some Ibero-American countries; the development of the text has a deductive and inductive approach to its understanding. A reflection is made on the results related to female violence and other evils that today affect humanity that slow down the objectives of reaching a sustainable society, where women take their place in the development of new generations and their protection to adults. older, because while there is social isolation to reduce infections and deaths from Covid 19, the conditions have been created to cultivate domestic violence.

**Keywords**-gender, abuse, rape, sexism.

## **Introduction**

Women have long been victims of violence, physical and psychological abuse, in many cases leading to death. It could be said that since the emergence of society it has been humiliated just for being a woman, object of commercialization from parents who have sold their daughters to couples, it is a very easy entity of the market as if the female sex did not was fundamental in the development of society. People studied on the subject agree that prehistoric society was more egalitarian than modern society, at least in the division of tasks between men and women. Ethnographic studies show that what is strange in prehistory is finding an activity that is preferred by men or women (Coomeva, 2017). This reference shows that authors place the beginning of gender violence or "machismo" in ancient Rome, where the father of the family had authority over all the people with whom he lived; the woman was inferior and he decided her destiny and at that time the woman was sold, punished and in many cases even killed if she wished.

In Egypt for that same stage, women played a role before society almost similar to that of men, in many superior things, some of them could become Pharaoh (Alabalat, 2021), according to this author the Egyptian was never a woman trying to be equal to man.

Equality between men and women in ancient Egyptian society did not exist and I believe that it does not exist now... what stands out most about it is that it had power and, like men, before the law, it was recognized as such.

Violence against women has varied according to territories, cultures, religions. In times like the one that today's society is experiencing, a time of climate change and that humanity is currently experiencing a great pandemic, Covid 19. The World Health Organization (WHO) proposed the name of the disease by coronavirus (COVID-19) that was first reported in Wuhan (China) on December 31, 2019 (WHO, 2019), which began to travel around the world, so that most governments with the aim of To prevent its spread, they subjected the population to isolation in their homes or places of residence.

The previous situation emphasized one of the problems that today have become more acute in many territories, which is gender violence understood as physical, verbal, psychological, patrimonial aggression, in addition to the fact that in many cases the life of women is taken, a social problem that has manifested throughout the planet.

In some cultures, women are considered an object that is acquired, in the 21st century there is a fight for gender equality and above all for the protection of women against aggressors. The United Nations (UN), raises a document on "The shadow pandemic: violence against women during confinement" (UN Women, 2021), here it is clearly expressed, as one in three women are affected by violence physical or sexual by their partner in many cases between parents and relatives, in this sense with the virus, it is striking that most of the acts reported until before the pandemic had been perpetrated by relatives or close people and where the girls and teenagers made up the majority of victims.

In Spain, an approach is made to the issue of gender violence, differentiating it from domestic violence. The results show that information relations have been marked by situations of this type. The woman suffers from intimidation by her family, the community and the State; In addition, stereotyped ideas about the role of women worsen the situation. Feeling that the violence that women receive goes beyond what their partner inflicts on them from home (Yugueros, 2014).

In Murcia, violence against women is considered a public health problem, identifying that the most affected are those of low social status, few resources and little education. In this sense, health workers play a preventive role in the identification and treatment of women victims of this risk, directing them towards organizations and institutions that provide them with advice and legal and comprehensive care (Calvo & Camacho, 2014).

One of the aspects marked today in the Iberian country is related to the absence of concrete economic measures proposed to date and the uncertain economic scenario, suggesting that it is not possible to comprehensively prevent gender-based violence without taking into account the increase in unemployment, temporary work, job insecurity, economic dependence or overload. of reproductive tasks, among other factors that have an impact that are also present in this pandemic (Ruiz & Pastor, 2020).

In Nicaragua, research was conducted based on beliefs about gender violence, but many said that they did not agree with this type of behavior, in deep-seated mental stereotypes against women, there are many difficulties associated with discriminatory violence when attending the university according to medical research (Rodríguez, Márquez, & Kageyama, 2005).

The acts of violence against women in family nuclei are alarming in Costa Rica. Government agencies and women's organizations are always on the lookout for serious causes, harm and even the death of a woman if the problem is not addressed, it has been shown that women and their children are victims of silence, aggressive learning as a concept of family life (Ávila, 2007).

In May 2020 it was the month with the highest number of femicides registered that year, according to reports from Catholics for the right to decide they state that in the same period of 2019 femicides have increased and according to the state source it does not prioritize the security of the woman (FUNIDES, 2020). Despite the little information related to the issue of violence in times of Covid-19, it was found in research carried out in Latin America that there is data on spousal abuse, in this country, the rate of spousal violence rose in 2021 to 52%. UNICEF urges and warns the relevant authorities and society as a whole to take action to prevent all forms of abuse and violence against Nicaraguan children and adolescents (UNICEF, 2021).

In Cuba, it is pointed out that the repercussions of gender-based violence go beyond the family and personal sphere to reach the social and health spheres, becoming a problem for humanity that affects millions of women and their children who learn from this context. violent, solving the couple's difficulties with blows, normalizing violence. Those most affected in their development are childhood and adolescence

(Águila, Hernández, & Hernández, 2016), there are no statistics on violence in this country, everything indicates that it is increasing due to isolation, there is a campaign called "I do believe you Cuba", where they provide telephone counseling (Herrera, Cárdenas, Tapia, & Calderón, 2021).

By 2008, in Brazil, one in three women had experienced gender-based violence, a problem that was previously considered a private couple matter and is now considered a public health problem. Based on various cases, plans, arrangements, services and support for women have been developed or designed, which is insufficient, support networks are expected to be established, victims receive the necessary care and protection (Caldas and Gessolo, 2008), others The authors argue that many cases of violence are based on an ideological bias sustained mainly by the notion of the nuclear family and the denial of gender, that these not only hinder concrete and effective actions to curb violence, but also overlook the intersections of race, class and gender fundamental for the production of public policies (Aires & Bittencourt, 2021), these authors comment that violence against women manifests itself fundamentally within the home.

In Chile, gender-based violence is considered a global evil and is seen from everyday events to high command or government positions, classifying this problem as transversal. Societies operate as a form of oppression of women, to the extent that they are not part of power, they are marginalized for high positions and their development (Villavicencio & Zúñiga, 2015). There are collateral effects on women's health, from economic and social costs, alerting doctors for immediate treatment and solution to this problem (Aliaga, Ahumada, & Marfull, 2003). Like most countries, women have faced a new stage of violence during the pandemic, in this sense it could be said that not only women, but also children and older adults because they are in confinement within their homes (OAS, 2021). In this country contingency plans have been drawn up for the victims.

In Argentina, the highest percentage of women victims of gender violence suffer from psychological abuse. Women who have completed basic education are older, economically unproductive, care for children, and have poorly educated husbands around them with anger management issues and jealousy are more likely to be women (Safranoff, 2017). In this territory, as in many other places, the home is not a safe place for women, since the perpetrators are mostly the current partners of the victims.

According to a study carried out in Argentina, it is women who express the most feelings of fear and apprehension in the face of a pandemic situation, they are also the ones who generate hope, commitment, and reflection in this regard (Johnson, Saletti, & Tumas, 2020). This can be attributed to the fact that it is women who have had to bear the greatest physical and emotional burden, due to the social conditions that have been generated by the pandemic. For those women who, due to their economic and social situation, have no alternative but to dedicate themselves to housekeeping tasks.

In Bolivia, gender violence is not unknown, it is manifested that this problem has structural roots aligned to the social aspect, dependency, development, patriarchy, urbanism, multiethnicity, history and other categories such as work, origin, age

and influence. in the aggressions to which women are subjected; becoming a social problem with too many edges to address and mitigate (Moreno, 2006). In the pandemic, the risk of violence is not related to the condition of the home, this is not a problem exclusive to one of the sexes, both are subject to vulnerability to aggression from their partner, however, the risk is greater for women (Aponte, et al., 2020).

In Venezuela, it is determined that there is gender-based violence and it is classified as a public health problem, where most women have suffered some type of abuse in their lives. Establishing that, of 5 women, 3 have suffered gender violence (Vega, Hidalgo, & Toro, 2011).

Related to the behavior of female violence in Venezuela, no information has been found that provides clear statistics; but it is good to mention that many women have immigrated under specific conditions and needs: being pregnant, breastfeeding, traveling with young children, moving alone, etc., facing the high rates of gender-based violence they suffer in their countries originally; because, despite the legislative changes, the increase in policies and services to prevent, address and punish gender-based violence, in Latin America this practice that violates the human rights of girls and women continues to be a daily problem of great magnitude, with serious repercussions on the vital projects of women, their families, communities and the entire social environment (ONU, 2020).

In Peru, it was shown that emotional and economic dependence makes women stay by their aggressor, enduring the types of violence that he violates, demonstrating a serious health problem (Aiquipa, 2015). Likewise, it is stated that not only the mental health of women is in decline, but also that of their adolescent children is affected, recommending the development of intervention programs and prevention of gender violence (Vargas, 2017).

In the case of Peru, they have reinforced the help lines already established in case of violence (Pérez & Pastor, 2021); When the state of emergency began, four women were victims of femicide, it answered more than 9,000 calls through the line set up for these purposes, with an average of 310 calls each day, transferring 36 people to temporary shelters and assisting 87 women. victims of sexual violence, 56 of them, more than half, were girls, home immobility has meant the danger of being victims of aggression against women, in addition to male domination in private, abuse often develops from violence emotional, even physical, and sexual (Llerena & Sánchez, 2021).

In Colombia, violence against women or gender violence from its visualization allows us to understand the edges that surround this problem, perceived in different environments and fields of action that requires the set of intervention and prevention processes to generate changes for the better (González, Zutta, & Perugache, 2016). On the other hand, there is the normalization of gender violence by men, tolerance, and ignorance of it, evidencing a serious health and social problem that cries out for treatment (Barredo, 2017).

One aspect that international societies and organizations alert in Mexico as a phenomenon of great magnitude is that of domestic violence and its effects on

children and adolescents, a phenomenon that in times of the COVID-19 pandemic is an unfortunate reality that they suffer every day. girls, boys and adolescents as integral parts of the family, who can be found at risk of suffering abuse of different types, especially when there are factors that favor it, (Gómez & Sánchez, 2020) in an investigation on the subject concluded that their country, during the first quarter of 2020 compared to the same period of time in 2019, there was a 10% increase in alleged crimes of family violence, they also analyze the legal framework of family violence at the national and local level in , as well as some data and programs that some government agencies have implemented during the pandemic around that topic.

In Ecuador, there is an important presence of machismo that greatly affects the development of women, disturbing their position in society. This aspect must always be analyzed depending on the different regions in which the problem studied is developed, due to the cultural diversity of the country. country, having criteria about what women can and cannot do, many of these ideas influenced by the pressure of religion, economic power, ideology, education, language and spiritual prejudices that are deeply rooted and valued by society (Berni, 2018), these aspects will be taken into account based on the analysis carried out by some authors that shows the behavior of female violence in times of COVID-19, information that will be updated for Latin America (Navarrete, Rodríguez, & Jimenez, 2020).

### **Method**

The review of scientific information has been used to retrieve data that indicates the behavior of violence suffered by women, children, and adolescents in the stage that society is going through as a result of the global pandemic of Covid-19 in some countries of Latin America, the logical historical method and the synthesis analysis were used, in addition to the qualitative and quantitative approach, the development of the text has a deductive and inductive approach for its understanding.

### **Discussion**

Gender Violence has its origin in the control of power; In this way, gender violence is an unbalanced manifestation of power relations; from male to female (Bravo, 2004). Considered as a problem that afflicts society, it is understood as the violent act exercised against women for being women (Adam, 2013).

To characterize gender violence, different aspects could be mentioned, which are shown in figure 1.

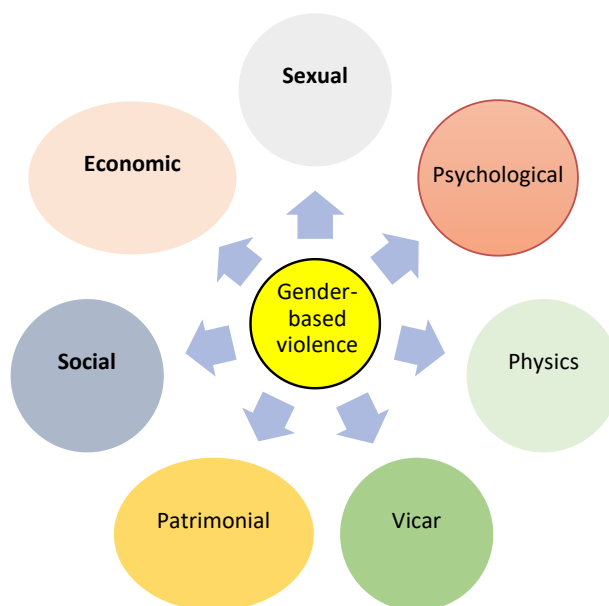


Figure 1. Types of gender violence  
Source: (Castillero, 2020)

Each of them has its characteristics, physical violence is any act in that physical harm is inflicted on the victim than through direct aggression; in psychological violence the victim is humiliated, undervalued and psychologically attacked; in the case of sexual, it refers specifically to the types of situations in which a person is coerced or forced to participate in activities of a sexual nature; the economic one is based on reducing and depriving the couple of economic resources; in the case of the social, it is established in restricting, controlling and causing the social isolation of a person, the victims are separated from their families and friends, deprived of social support and far from their natural environment; Vicarious violence manifests itself in couples who suffer gender-based violence and have children where the abusers decide to threaten, attack and even kill these children with the intention of harming their spouse or ex-partner (Castillero, 2020). As has been noted in all the cases shown, they will find the difficulties that women have in inserting themselves into a sustainable environment in society, where they live without fear.

These aggressions in some territories can lead to femicides (Alvarado & Guerra, 2012), with serious consequences and emotional mental health problems in the victims (Chávez & Juárez, 2016). This evil that gradually breaks down social systems (Ortiz, 2013), is aggravated by institutional violence on the part of the omissions and negligence of the states (Bodelón, 2014).

### **Female violence in the presence of Covid-19**

The pandemic has changed the life of society globally, its levels of contagion and the precautions that different countries in the world take to avoid contagion, such as quarantines (Ribot, Chang, & González, 2020 ), which still force families to stay longer than usual in their homes, including aggressive false information about the

disease (Sánchez, 2020), many of these have damaged the mental health of many people, in high cases the violence in family relationships.

At the level of Latin America, different reports related to femicide have been reported, in Colombia, until May 2021, there had been 577 cases (Colombia, 2021), the main causes that have caused it were drug gangs, the average age between 20 and 34 years with a higher incidence in the urban population.

In Mexico, only in Veracruz in the first quarter of 2021, the figures amounted to 2,438 victims, the average age was between 40 and 49 years (BANESVIM, 2021), in total the country closed the year 2021 with 3,000 women murdered (ElPaís, 2021), according to this source of information, femicide increases every day throughout the national territory.

In Brazil, different statistics have been made per year, in 2020 there had already been 26741 violent acts against women classified as femicides (Segururidad, 2020).

The website Violated in Quarantine shows a statistic of the behavior of Cross-border Research in 19 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean on gender-based violence against women during the quarantine by covid-19, there are referred to the causes that have caused violence against women (Violentadasencuarentena, 2021). The reality that occurs is worrying in these countries against women at a time when their work as protector of their home and family is fundamental.

Ecuador, the development of the disease has been aggressive, with the number of people infected and deaths from the disease increasing nationally. Despite the measures to stop the contagion, the most affected provinces are Pichincha, Guayas, and Manabí (Ogonaga & Chiriboga, 2020). Studies carried out by some authors show that around 61% of women, regardless of their social status or educational level, experienced some type of violence (Paucar, 2020), (Medina, Bolivar, Aguirre, & Moreno, 2020).

The fundamental causes were related to the frustration of the parents and humiliation, induction into prostitution, alterations in sleep and habits, a history of lack of affection in the abuser's childhood, not having educational preparation and/or insertion into work, isolation or loneliness of the victim regarding their relatives (without family support system), drug abuse, orphanhood, economic dependence on other people, negative transformations and personality changes (Pozo, Peñafiel, & Cruz, 2021).

In all provinces There are confirmed cases of Covid-19 contagion in Ecuador, with the most affected provinces being Pichincha, Guayas, and Manabí. The age most prone to contagion ranges between 20 and 49 years and, in terms of the sex of the patients, 54.4% are men and 45.6% women. Until the current date of July 14, 2020. Once the country applied the necessary measures, including mandatory quarantine.

Like the coronavirus, violence is also a disease, since March 16 Ecuador declared a state of emergency due to the pandemic, the number of cases of gender violence increased. Confined to their aggressors in their homes, 6,819 alert calls of violence



against women were registered (El Telégrafo, 2020). According to the prosecutor's office, 90% of complaints of gender violence during confinement increased (La Hora, 2020), alerting and assisting new cases of aggressors who, since confinement, unload their frustrations with their partner, energy that they previously channeled towards other recreational activities. or sports activities.

The cases of violence during mandatory confinement are difficult to quantify, there are different sources of information that compile these statistics, but the reality is that the reported cases are shown in these statistics, there are others that are not reported. In 2021, different sources reported that there were 15,992 violence against women or members of the family group and 10,301 domestic violence.

In the specific case of Ecuador, given the serious reality of women in times of compulsory confinement, their own homes where they should feel safe are spaces of violence that can detonate at any time. The most affected province is Pichincha, considering that many of the cases are not reported throughout the country. As of April 22, 2020, there were 677 crimes in the judicial process related to violence against Ecuadorian women.

Quarantine as a time of confinement was a trigger for violence (Primicias, 2020), 278 calls for help registered the ECU-911 for domestic violence (Expreso, 2020), of which 235 women call daily for abuse in their homes (RT, 2020), which represents 41 cases handled by the judicial units of Ecuador (El Universo, 2020)..

### **Prevention as a measure against Gender Violence**

The personal worlds of women victims of violence are different; Its manifestations in aggression can be physical, verbal, psychological, denial, patrimonial, among others. These forms are habitual from urban women, rural women and more acute in the indigenous, many of them suffer in silence, many of them with great information gaps to whom to turn and submissive even in the registry of their lands that by inheritance they obtained but that are now managed by her husband, in this sense, patrimonial violence advances in silence (Navarrete & Paz, 2020).

Preventing gender violence is an exhaustive work that implies an analysis of the social context where the cases occur; prevention is the key piece pointed out by technologists and social workers in social promotion through interventions and educational campaigns with the family, the media and educational centers to achieve an education from childhood and adolescence with values where women really fulfill its role in society that helps mitigate this disease (Piedra, Martin, & Muñoz, 2018).

The problems of violence not only of women, children, and adolescents, is a problem that must be mitigated from prevention, from the formation of the individual from childhood (Hernández., 2017). In Ecuador, in a life-to-death situation, you can call ECU-911, register your complaint with the prosecutor's office, which can be done online. There are lines and professionals in the care of this social evil (Family, 2020) & (El Comercio, 2020).

Despite the difficulties suffered by female violence at a global level during the confinement stage, many organizations state that they are at risk, but not forgotten (action, 2020), in isolation many threatened women have had a conviction throughout this stage.

If it is about female violence, many experiences could be written at a global level where a considerable percentage of women, children, including older adults who in most cases are in their custody have suffered in the pandemic not only because of the disease, but by the action of male chauvinism, which exists not far from social evolution, this phenomenon has not evolved, it is time to become aware, where is it going for the human species, between violence, climate risk, drug addiction, corruption it is time to stop and reflect if we still have time.

### **Conclusion**

The pandemic has generated chaos in gender-based violence, making it a global disease, few countries are spared this phenomenon in times of confinement. The most frequent aggressions are physical, verbal, psychological, sexual, denial, institutional, patrimonial, there are many that today affect the development of society and it includes violence between states.

In Latin America there are high rates of gender violence, this number increases alarmingly in an era of detention and forced isolation, where victims and aggressors live longer together; where machismo does not take root before the social work carried out by women who, with their united struggle and effort, can create a sustainable society, free of femicides, with love and peace, this will be the greatest effort to cure this disease that is not only for women, the prevention and training of the new generations through education would help to overcome any phenomenon that they have to face.

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