

UNIVERSIDAD SAN FRANCISCO DE QUITO USFQ

Colegio de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades

**Call it rape: social perception of victims and how it affects
support services provided to them**

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offered to them**

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RESUMEN

El propósito del presente estudio es encontrar si las percepciones sociales sobre lo que se considera traumático para una víctima influyen en la calidad y cantidad de ayuda ofrecida a las víctimas. Las diferencias legales entre lo que constituye una violación a diferencia de un abuso sexual tienen impactos significativos en la percepción social sobre el nivel de trauma que las víctimas experimentan. Se presentará a los participantes dos casos en los cuales se ejemplificará una violación y un abuso sexual, seguidos por una encuesta mixta. La encuesta constituida por escalas de Likert, preguntas cerradas y preguntas abiertas aportarán con datos cualitativos y cuantitativos que serán analizados para obtener los resultados. En base a al estudio se espera que los resultados apoyaran las investigaciones anteriores en los que se ha encontrado que la percepción social califica a las víctimas de violación como experimentado mayor trauma que víctimas de otro tipo de abuso sexual y por lo tanto se ofrece mayor y mejores servicios de ayuda y soporte.

Palabras claves: violación, abuso sexual, percepción social, servicios públicos.

ABSTRACT

The present study's purpose is to find if victims of rape receive more help and support than victims of other types of sexual abuse, as stated by law. Social constructs build how the public classifies and responds towards certain traumatic experiences and how the victims are perceived. At the same time these perceptions influence the amount of resources available to the victims and how they are treated by public service systems. Using a mixed survey constituting of likert scales, open and close ended questions participants will read and rate two different cases, one of rape and one of sexual abuse.

The final results are expected to support previous studies, which suggest that social perceptions rate rape victims as experiencing more trauma than other sexual assaults and therefore offer better and wider ranges of services to them.

Key words: rape, sexual assault, social perception, public services.

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INTRODUCTION

Sexual crimes are probably one of the most terrible, violent and traumatic experiences for an individual to go through. The consequences after an experience of this kind carries with it short and long term effects that can severely impair the victim's sexual, emotional, psychological and reproductive health, among other areas that are affected. Even with all the programs and campaigns in order to raise awareness about this topic and teach people how to be safer and how to protect themselves, the percentage of victims is as high as ever and every second thousands of woman, men, and children are been sexually abused in some form (Appalatian State University, 2015). The last World Health Organization reports on this topic state that by the time they turn 18 years old one out of four girls and one out of six boys will be sexually abused. Even more horrific recent studies have found that around 70% of woman, under 25, around the world have been a victim of some kind of sexual aggression, rape or assault throughout their lives, and about 80% of woman will experience some type of assault or sexual aggression during their life time (WHO, 2014). These statistics show that as a woman it is almost virtually impossible to go through life with out ever being a victim of some kind of sexual aggression, yet 68% of the cases are not reported to the police and 98% of perpetrators will never sped a day in jail for their acts (RAINN, 2009).

These crimes, as a whole, are a socially and lawfully condemned act, yet there are still some grey areas where neither the general public nor those involved, including the victims, know what to call or how to react. Generally these areas involve sexual crimes and experiences where there was no penetration and therefore would not constitute as "rape" in terms of the common definition or as law states it. These types of experiences are hard to define for everyone, which makes it even harder for victims to understand and process their

experience since they don't know what to call it and, more often than not, they don't label it as rape. Several researches among the years have found that more than half of woman who have experienced some kind of sexual abuse don't feel their experience classify as rape and so do not know how to label it. Similar results were found in a study made by James Madison University (Khan, 2003) supporting the idea that often times victims of abuse go by undetected and, most of all, without support because they don't feel they meet a specific definition of rape, in these cases their type of sexual assault is often treated as less important or traumatic and therefore receive no help. The consequences of this not only lie in the fact that most perpetrators never receive punishment for their acts but also that victims lack the psychological stability that understanding the trauma brings. For victims to understand their experience and be able to express it in words is one of the most important aspects in therapy in order to get them to move forward and begin a healing process. If the trauma is never understood, labeled or confronted victims may perpetuate a state of denial that will impair their intents of regaining control over their lives, and achieve psychological and emotional peace. In almost, if not all types of therapy the first step is for the person to accept what happened to them, express it and allow themselves to overcome denial and confront their feelings towards the experiences they've been through. This becomes significantly more difficult if the person lacks understanding of the experience or doesn't know how to make sense of it in the first place.

It is not unknown that more often than not sexual crimes go underreported, unnoticed and, usually, perpetrators either get release, never convicted or never even accused because victims keep quiet and never look for help or they don't testify or present charges either because of fear or shame among other reasons that keep them from coming

forward. Although victims around the world tend to remain silent because of shame and lack of support, this is especially true in countries where chauvinism is a powerful social force and the tendency of blaming the victim is generally accepted. This is the reality that women in most Latin American countries like Ecuador have to endure everyday. Where society has accepted and contributed to the idea that men have a divine right over the female body simply because of being men. At the same time women are taught that they have to be submissive and not only accept men's sexual advances but to feel flattered for the attention, even if it is unwanted. Although these generally applies to whistles and cat calling on the street, the social construct of women accepting men's power over their sexuality ends up giving men a free pass towards more aggressive and invasive behavior towards women, and society normalizing this conduct as expected and inoffensive.

On the other hand men are not exempt of the down side of chauvinism either. A high percentage of men have also been victims of some sort of sexual abuse or aggression throughout their lives and the social pressure to keep silent for them is even higher than for women. They might not have to deal with the public blaming them for wanting to be raped or provoking the aggressor, but as men they are expected to never be victims, and sexual assault is an even bigger humiliation for men as they are seen as weak and question their sexuality and manhood.

Female victims might have to deal with the shame and humiliation, and even being blamed and accused of attracting the wrong attention towards their bodies, but they never have to deal with public thinking of them as less of a woman for being raped. Men on the other hand tend not to come forward when they are assaulted because of the shame, humiliation and even bullying they are submitted to by society. Reports of rape where the

victim are men are usually not taken as seriously as female victims and often they encounter not only skepticism, but also laughter and public humiliation. As stated before, chauvinism is still a strong construct for some societies, especially in Latin American countries, and this same burden that makes of woman constant victims becomes the same chains that keep men from getting help and support when they become the victims. The lack of social understanding along with humiliation and victim shame becomes one the main reasons why sexual crimes often go unreported and continue to happen without social, medical and most importantly legal support or interventions.

Why are shootings in the USA more concerning to the world than shootings in Uganda? Why do presidents and organizations around the world send help for an earthquake in Chile but not in China? How come the kidnap of one kid is replayed over and over on every station and channel while no one is looking for the child missing down the street? Is getting assaulted as a woman more traumatic than as a man? Being raped is more traumatic than being assaulted, attacked or touched?

Truth is that society builds and calls for attention to the things that matter to them, to the general public, and the fact is that nobody cares until every one does. Whenever society decides something is worth the attention the eye of the world are directed that way and that's where resources, help and efforts will go, even if the same thing or even worse is happening somewhere else. The same principle applies to victims of sexual assaults and rape. As long as society decides that attacks with out penetration aren't as traumatic and severe, victims of these types of assaults will be neglected and ignored by the public, health care services and law enforcement. It is in the hands of the general public to decide if in fact victims of rape get more attention and help than do victims of other sexual assaults.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The trauma myth

Sexual crimes, varying from rape to fondling, are and have been throughout history astonishingly common. The incidence of these crimes is relatively similar in frequency as it was decades ago, if something, now they are only more freely spoken about (Clancy, 2009), even with the huge amount of taboo the topic still implies. Seeing how common these crimes are has led to researchers in a whole variety of areas to find the causes, and hypothesis of all sorts have appeared. Ranging from the lack of morality and values of the new generations all the way to cultural and religious repression, the research field has a wide range of theories to pursue (Britt, 2001). Nevertheless throughout history the vast majority of specialists speaking of this topic have focused principally in the act itself as the main cause of the trauma and the long-term effects it causes (Davis, Nolen-Hoeksema, & Larson, 1998). Even though this doesn't stop being true, as the act itself is in fact extremely traumatic, there are many other factors that contribute to the trauma and the development of future disorders and problematic consequences of the experience.

Sadly most fields involved in these topics have directed all emphasis in the aspect of the experience itself as the main source of the trauma portraying it as an extremely violent, traumatic, stressful and victimizing event (Clancy, 2009). By emphasizing this aspects specialists were hoping to avoid victim blaming by making sure the public understood these acts as traumatic and against the victim's will. Yet these efforts, however good intentionally initiated, ended up creating a specific characterization of these crimes as the only true trauma (Silver, 2010) and whenever a victim's experience didn't fit into these characteristics the public disregarded the event when thinking about trauma. This public misconception of

how rape and sexual assault is supposed to look and experienced for the victims became known as the “Trauma Myth” (Frasier, 2006) and it has a great deal to do with why victims often remain silent, don’t understand their experience and deny being victims or suffering abuse. The biggest influence of the Trauma Myth is perpetuating the idea that some experiences are more traumatic than others, and therefore should receive more help or priority over other victims (Clancy, 2009). Most of all the Trauma Myth works as a classification system with which society decides whether a person’s experience constitutes a traumatic event or not and if this person “deserves” the attention and support of being labeled as a victim.

This idea or notion of the criterion that an experience must fulfill in order to be treated as trauma might be useful for society to understand how badly things can be for a victim, but it also has huge psychological implications for the victims that don’t fit these standards (Stephens, 2002). For these victims whose experience might have not been traumatic in the act itself (no weapons or physical threat, no physical damage, no penetration or no physical contact) it becomes almost impossible to define what happened to them and how they should react towards the event. They don’t fit criteria on how trauma or victims of rape or sexual abuse should look like as society portrays it, so it becomes extremely difficult to confront their situation (Thompson, 1985). No one denies that they were victims, but the question is victims of what? Especially in cases where there was no physical contact with the perpetrator it becomes extremely difficult to give the event a definition.

The extent to which the trauma myth has a negative impact in the victims goes beyond them being publicly catalogued as having a trauma or not. This idea that the

experience must be violent and life threatening in order for it to be traumatic for the victim generates a great deal of confusion for victims whose experience was different, not as violent, but who still experience negative consequences and the aftermath is as terrible as for victims from violent events. Besides the social disregard towards their feelings and personal experience of the event, victims who also confront the trauma myth have to fight their own perceptions and judgments of what happened to them, which is often as traumatic as the event itself. It is not uncommon for these victims to punish and blame themselves, because if the event was not violent the common belief is that they must have had a choice, they allowed it to happen or they provoke the event to occur in the first place (Clancy, 2009). By having these thoughts victims not only have to face the trauma of the event but the shame of blame and responsibility they feel and their own judgment towards themselves and their acts.

One of the main steps for most types of therapeutic process to be effective requires the patient to accept and acknowledge his or her feelings, thoughts and perceptions of what has happened and what they are experiencing (Park, 2010). This is hard enough to do on its own, but gets increasingly harder if added the pressure of social judgment, self blaming, shame and most of all lack of understanding or confusion of what actually happened. Humans are creatures of meaning; there is a natural curiosity and tendency to find meaning (Silver, 2010) and the uncertainty that not knowing causes can be extremely stressful and damaging in some occasions. Victims who aren't allowed meaning for their experience, who can't seem to find an explanation or even a name to describe what happened have a significantly harder time trying to move on from it and reaching therapeutic goals and psychological or internal stability within themselves (Park, 2010). It is important for

therapists and specialists involved in areas of any type of sexual abuse to help liberate victims from the myth trauma so they can get to a point of understanding that will allow them to heal.

Law Enforcement

Another significant area in which the Trauma Myth has a great deal of impact is in law enforcement and their investment in rape and sexual abuse cases. The social misconception that for an abuse to be traumatic it must be violent and the victim must suffer from physical aggression is also common among the law enforcement and legislative areas (Field H. B., 1980). Besides police and law enforcement judging how traumatic the experience must have been for the victim and how much of a priority the case deserves, there is also a tendency for blaming the victim or looking for reasons or ways in which the victim could have promoted the event. This tendency of victim blaming is extremely common within trials where the defendant lawyers look for ways in which the victim could carry the responsibility instead of the perpetrator (Mccahill, 1979). Unfortunately this tendency has expanded beyond the law and juridical areas into social and public perceptions including police and victim support.

Society builds how public services work and where the resources and attention is directed. Being so, if society declares that a certain situation is worse than another or a certain victim deserves more attention than others, then the public services as police and health systems among others, will respond in the same way. Along this same line is the fact that police and law enforcement officers (juries, lawyers, judges) are people too, and their perceptions and conceptualizations are based and influenced by social and cultural opinions (Field, 1978). Therefore, the way society thinks becomes the way law is constructed and

towards what direction efforts are directed; at the end of the day this dictates the way criminals and victims are portrayed, treated and perceived. However impartial it should be, law is still first and foremost a social construct and therefore is not free from judgment and public pressure.

The influence of social constructs, as the trauma myth, in law enforcement is evidenced for example in the fact that the first question or procedure police officers ask when someone reports a sexual aggression is to go to the hospital and retrieve DNA and biological traces that might remain in the victim's body (Temkin, 1987). This alone might not sound too bad if not for the fact that many cases and types of sexual abuse or aggressions don't involve intercourse, or even physical contact at all, between the victim and the aggressor. A lot of times this aspect alone becomes a reason why not to pursue legal intervention or for officers not to take seriously the report (Kelly, 2005). "If you were not touched or harmed at all what are you reporting?" is a question many victims have heard when approaching legal help, "I don't know" is often the answer they give and then no criminal investigation is initiated and no offender is convicted, because if there is no crime there is no criminal to look for (Kelly, 2005). This is a common scenario in the cases where the assault does not involve penetration or physical harm, but belonging to the other group of victims is not at all easier when it comes to legal support.

As stated before there is a tendency for victim shaming and blaming by looking at ways in which he or she might be responsible of the aggression instead of the perpetrator (Kelly, 2005). It is a frequent sight for victims to be convinced not to testify or present charges because they are not credible as victims, they share responsibility, they are to blame or they could have avoided the aggression by doing something different. Among mental

health specialists and victim advocates it is an accepted and shared notion that victims are never to blame, yet regrettably this is not the truth for law enforcement and other areas involved. As social beings humans cannot avoid to influence and be influenced by each other and as it is tried to separate personal opinions from professional areas that demand objectiveness and impartiality, it is extremely difficult to do so completely.

The amount of ways in which a person can be assaulted and have his or her privacy and personal rights violated is extremely hard to reduce into categories, criteria or one definition. In United States criminal law states several different definitions of types of sexual aggressions and assaults from statutory rape to fondling or sexual harassment and the penalty for perpetrators (Clay-Warner, 2005), yet society still manages to limit the efficiency with which law enforcement convicts these criminals. In Ecuador the recently approved penal code differentiates between rape and sexual assault as being:

Art. 170 Sexual Abuse: the person who against other's will acts or forces on someone else an act of sexual nature, without penetration or carnal access, will be sanctioned with 3 to 5 years time of incarceration...

Art. 171 Rape: It constitutes as rape the carnal access with partial or total penetration of the virile member been vaginal, oral or anal or the introduction, vaginal or anal, of foreign objects, fingers or organs other than the virile member to a person from either gender. Who commits these acts will be sanctioned from nineteen to twenty-two years of incarceration...

(Asamblea Nacional Republica del Ecuador, 2014)

These articles state the difference between rape and sexual assault and clearly define one as lacking penetration, which seems to be the major factor that society, law enforcement and

medical systems look for in victims. But even as it is stated by law victims still have to confront society's rejection and disregard towards their experiences (Field H. , 1978) unless they have got physical evidence of the traumatic and violent experience they were subjected to.

Health care systems and social support

As it was mentioned before there are several other factors that contribute to the traumatic experience of rape or sexual assault for the victims, beyond the act itself (Khan, 2003). Similar to law enforcement, healthcare systems and social support services are greatly affected and influenced by social constructs and public opinion towards the victims. Victim-shaming and similar responses received by victims from members of healthcare staff and other public services perpetuate the cycle of silence and underreporting in cases of sexual abuse.

The term "secondary victimization" or "second rape" refers to this victim-blaming treatment and responses from system's personnel towards the victims (Campbell, 2001). It becomes a second rape in the way in which these responses and the blaming generates even more suffering and ill treatment after the traumatic event they already survived. These interactions end up not only being unpleasant and unfair for the victims but they even exacerbate the psychological, emotional and even psychical distress the victims experience as aftermath from the assault (Campbell, 2001). In this way actually reaching out for public services and healthcare services ends up becoming a traumatizing experience that perpetuates the harassment and suffering of the victim.

Besides the unfair treatment and humiliation they have to endure in hands of healthcare systems, victims who reported the crime and reached for help from these

services seldom received the needed help or encountered that there were no resources available for them (Bagian, et al., 2001). Either way the idea of reporting the crime and searching for help and support ended up signifying more trauma, abuse and suffering without any positive outcomes for victims, and therefore contribute to the silence. The significance of these findings lays on the suggestion that for victims the traumatic experience goes beyond the rape or sexual assault itself but extends to the negative responses and lack of support they receive which ends up escalating the level of trauma and distress.

Victim's accounts make up most of what is known about these interactions between survivors and public services and traumatizing experiences are often reported as a result of seeking help. It has been found that most police officers, doctors and healthcare members minimize or disregard the effect their reactions and responses might have on the victims and their well being (Campbell R. , 2005). Victims report significantly more distress and negative outcomes from contacting these services than what service providers believe they are generating among victims, meaning that the extent of the trauma and harassment that victims experience from victim-blaming conducts from staff is far more significant than what people believe and it shouldn't be ignored (Campbell R. , 2005). Besides the secondary victimization, which is extremely hurtful on its own, victims also get denied help or lack enough resources or providers of the needed help they seek. Healthcare systems and personnel often decline petitions of help or reduce the amount of help given to a victim when they believe the case is not as important, severe or traumatizing based on personal criteria or, as mentioned before, social constructs and opinions (Campbell R. , Rape

Survivor's Experiences With the Legal and Medical Systems: Do Rape Advocates Make a Difference?, 2006).

The importance of this goes far beyond the fact that victims are mistreated but the point where actual human and legal rights are violated by been denied the help they seek and need (Campbell R. , Rape Survivor's Experiences With the Legal and Medical Systems: Do Rape Advocates Make a Difference?, 2006). It is ironic, to say the least, that the same institutions and services created to provide help and protect the victims en up becoming aggressors and discriminating by giving distinct and unequal attention and help to the victims they ought to protect in the first place.

The fact that victims not only face close doors and denials to their pleads of help but they also have to endure even more victimization and shame from this institutions and personnel is a major topic to be addressed and resolved and it should be first priority to all authorities involved which human, legal and victim's rights.

Reasons not to come forward

When it comes to talking about rape and sexual abuse one of the main and most researched topics is the silence of victims and why they do not present charges or come forward to speak about the experience (Frese, 2004). From theories that imply that victims remain silence because they share responsibility of the act with the perpetrator, to shame, public judgment and fear of retaliation, the amount of factors and areas to investigate opens a wide door for researchers interested in finding the answers. Trauma myth, lack of law enforcement and healthcare services' support and most of all the fear of secondary victimization or some of the main reasons why victims remain silent (Koss, 1982).

Nevertheless there are in fact several other reasons why victims avoid talking about their experience and do not pursue legal actions for their aggressor. It was aforementioned that some victims whose experience doesn't fit into the criteria of rape usually don't know how to classify or label the event and therefore feel that there is nothing to report. This same idea of not having legitimate reasons to report happens a partner (husband, boyfriend) commits the rape or when the victim was under the influence of some substance (Abbey, 1998). This is often the case in date rape situations where the victim agreed to go on a date or was having an intimate relationship with the aggressor and then the sexual abuse or rape occurred. Society tends to attribute the guilt to the victim or see responsibility as equally shared by the two sides, victim and perpetrator, because of the idea that the victim was "willingly" putting herself into a potentially sexual situation with the aggressor (Bell, 1994). This is consistently reinforced by law enforcement when victims are asked if there was any sexual relationship occurring before the "incident" between victim and aggressor, as if consensual sexual relationships at one point mean that any sexual contact from that moment on is always consensual (Khan, 2003). Often the case when rape occurs between spouses, when husbands force sexual relations with their wives, and law enforcement and society discount the situation as rape because perpetrator and victim are married and therefore one has "sexual rights" over the other (Khan, 2003). Usually victims, society, law enforcement and healthcare services attribute more blame to the perpetrator in cases when a stranger commits the rape than when the victim knows the aggressor before the assault.

Doubts on whether or not to report a situation of sexual abuse or assault become harder to clarify when the aggression did not involve physical contact or there was no penetration (Frese, 2004). The lack of physical evidence usually acts as a determinant on

how serious a case will be taken and how the victim will be treated. The influence of trauma myth on how people react towards sexual assaults was discussed at length before and it is important to emphasize how much of an influence it has on the victim's decision to come forward or not.

If the victim was drinking, if there is not enough physical evidence, if the aggressor could retaliate or if the victim feels unsafe are all-important factors to consider. Victims in these cases both believe that the act does not constitute a crime or that they are to blame and therefore have no right to report to the authorities what happened (Koss, 1982). Victim blaming is an extremely influential force when it comes to reporting the crimes because victims usually want to avoid facing any more suffering and the humiliation and shame that comes with exposing their experiences.

METHODOLOGY AND STUDY DESIGN

Participants

For this study the sample group will consist of 300 random and voluntary participants in order to get as much data as possible and a bigger representative group. All participants will be members of Universidad San Francisco de Quito, both students and members of the staff including: teachers, administration and whoever wants to complete the survey and be part of the research. The only requisite is to be eighteen or older, which is expected from members of the USFQ. Social economic status, race, ethnicity and gender are not measured in this study and since researchers want to get input from social opinion it is both expected and encouraged to get participants from different backgrounds in order to get a better representation of the general public (Frese, 2004). Since not only students will participate but teachers and staff members can also fill the questionnaires it is expected to get input from different ages, ethnicity and cultural backgrounds.

As stated before participants will be ages 18 and above in order for them to give their consent and voluntary participation and this will also give the researcher the opportunity to get input from people of different generations which can have significant impact in their conceptualization and responses towards the research question.

By gathering as much information as possible from different kinds of participants without limiting age, race or gender the researcher expects to gain representative information of the public's perception that can accurately represent a general view not limited to a specific background or surrounding.

Recruitment

The recruitment of participants for this study will be done through email and D2L with the consent and help of university superiors, deans and teachers. First the researcher will contact the appropriate authorities to get their permission and collaboration to use the USFQ mail and D2L programs. After getting their consent the researcher will contact members of the USFQ (students, teachers and staff) with a short explanation of the research and finally soliciting their participation. The letter sent through email and D2L will include the necessary explanation of both the research and importance of their help, the informed consent form will address the ethical explanations and lastly the direct link where participants can fill out the survey if they choose to participate, along with the researchers contact information for further questions or comments.

Study Design

For this research the study design chosen consists of a mixed survey with both open and close-ended questions. Participants will be presented with two different cases of two sexual assault scenarios, consisting one of rape and one of sexual assault as differentiated by law. Following the cases the participants will find a set of questions which include a likert scale from 1 to 5 where they are to rate the severity of the case, how traumatic they believe it would be for the victim and which case they find worse or more severe. This scale was selected because it is simple and easy to understand and apply, giving the participants choices from 1 to 5 also gives them the opportunity to choose a halfway point which sometimes is necessary (Research Methods Knowledge Base, 2006). The likert scale also allows the researcher to get important information about the participant's opinion in an easy and simple way that is easy to analyze.

The questionnaire will also have open questions in order to solicit more input from the personal views and opinions of the participants, modeled by previous studies on similar research topics (Field H. , 1978). This way the study will count with both qualitative and quantitative data, which provides contextual and statistical results to the research topic. This study design was selected because the intentions are to get, as much participants as possible to participate in the study and surveys are the easiest and most reliable way to get large amounts of data fast and with low costs. This study design also allows for easy interpretation and analysis of large amount of data without it being extremely time consuming for the researcher, and this allows for the participants to receive feedback faster.

Analysis of data

The data retrieved by the survey will be analyzed in different ways since the survey is mixed. Likter scales and close-ended questions will be analyzed with standard tabulation methods rating frequency of responses (Khan, 2003). This part will count as the quantitative aspect of the study providing analytical data with valid and reliable sources and methods of analysis.

The open-ended questions will be analyzed with content analysis methods in order to codify the responses. Content analysis is widely used in qualitative research because it analyzes not only the main content ideas but also context and secondary information. Content analysis is a valid and replicable method that allows researchers to make inferences from the gathered information and sources (Mayring, 2000).

An inductive process will be used to create the categories and criteria of definition for the responses. In this type of process the criterion and categories are derived from the literature review with periodical revisions in order to guarantee validity throughout the study as more

information is gathered. Feedback from the actual answers will help to revise and modify criterion to better fit the study and the responses, guarantying validity and reliability of the analysis and the inferences that will be obtained.

Ethics

Ethical aspects of the research have been considered from the beginning in order to ensure their well being and to avoid whatever kind of harm that the study could potentially cause to the participants. First of all it was taken into consideration when proposing the topic since it is a sensitive and potentially polemic. Framing the research question in the right way was essential in order to avoid offending sensibilities or creating any kind of stress or negative feelings towards the research, and to guarantee the respect and seriousness a topic like this, and those directly involved, deserve.

The topic, participants and research method will all be submitted to the bioethics committee in order to secure the correct methodology, procedures and ethical concerns are being addressed. In order to avoid possible re-experiences or traumatic reactions a trigger warning will be included in the informed consent along with the appropriate explanation of the research to ensure that the participants have accurate knowledge of what they are participating and what they might expect with out negatively affecting the research and results. Among the information in the consent it will also include participant's right to not participate or withdraw whenever they decide and clearly state that any participation is completely voluntary. Anonymity will not be guaranteed one hundred percent since the surveys will be done electronically and there can be IP trackers, never the less complete confidentiality will be guaranteed and anonymity in terms of personal information will also be guaranteed even form the researcher. No personal information will be required except

for age and gender. Researcher's contact information will be included for any questions, concerns or comments participants might have at any point of the research.

In the same link after completing the survey participants will have access to a short summery debriefing the objectives and expectations of the research in order to calm any anxiety or negative reactions they might have. The contact information will also provide them with the opportunity to get more information or extended support and explanation if needed. With the same contact information participants can solicit a copy of the study, which will be shared with them once it is completed, and guaranteeing the researchers copyrights over the study. After completing the study the access to the link and surveys will be closed, as will be any access to the information and data gathered which only the researcher will have access all through the study. All participants' data will be retained by a standard period of two years and will then be erased, remaining only in the final study.

ANTICIPATED RESULTS

Although the original sample expectation was around three hundred participants, which could be considered high, since recruitment will be done by D2L platform and USFQ mail the researcher believes that considering the large amount of people that belong to the USFQ community the final sample will consist at least of 200-250 participants between students, teachers and staff members. Since the USFQ has a significantly higher rate of students than teachers and other members it is estimated that most of the participants will range in ages 18 to 25, yet it is believed that there will be substantial input from other members and generations since the topic will probably call the attention of people from all ages and teachers are usually willing to collaborate with students researches.

According to the latest census in Quito Ecuador there are more woman than men (INEC, 2014), and this was also the case in the last USFQ census, which suggests that probably there would be a higher amount of female participants responding to the survey. This could impact the results because woman have a tendency to empathize more with the victims therefore rating higher the severity of the trauma and needed help.

It is expected that the responses, both quantitative and qualitative, obtained by the participants in this study will significantly support previous research and theories that social perceptions lead institutions to provide better assistance and support to victims of rape than victims of other types of sexual assaults.

Quantitative data retrieved by the likert scales will suggest that most participants believe cases that constitute as rape stated by law, where there is physical contact and penetration, are in fact notably more traumatic and damaging for victims than cases where there is no penetration, defined by law as sexual assault. They will consistently rate the rape

case as significantly worse and with more severe consequences than the assault case and therefore the first victim to be in need of more support services (legal and medical) and help than the second victim.

In the same way the researcher predicts that content analysis of the open ended questions will provide evidence that supports previous theories exposed in the literature review that in fact rape is considered worse than other types of sexual assaults considering penetration as the only differential factor between cases. Being said so it is believed that participants from older generations (teachers and administration) will probably consider both cases as traumatic and classify them as aggressions towards a person, feeling empathy for both victims in similar ways; whereas younger generations of students will consider types of sexual assaults and harassment as more normal and less horrifying or violating. Even if this is the case the results in general will probably support the previous research and expectations of social perception.

Elements that suggest the presence of factors like the trauma myth and other social forces discussed previously in this research will be probably found in the open ended answers and more clearly identified during the content analysis procedure to codify the answers. Criterion and classification of responses will probably consist of categories as trauma myth, chauvinism, and victim blaming, as the lack of physical evidence and the idea that physical violence is greater and more damaging than psychological or emotional.

DISCUSSION

As it was previously stated there are several social factors that affect the way in which victims are perceived and how public services, like law enforcement and healthcare systems, react towards them. The present research's objective was to differentiate between cases of rape and sexual assault as defined by law, and if this difference directly influences the way society perceive the victims.

Previously discussed was the fact that humans are social beings and being so it is extremely difficult to separate objectively areas where judgment should not exist and services should be provided impartially and equally to all. The truth is that social and cultural opinions build up society and public's stand on common issues and the way this are addressed, perceived and treated. Morality, values and even laws are no more than social constructs that set limits and standards to human behavior in an attempt to guarantee peaceful interactions and healthy interpersonal relations to live in community. As much as law enforcement should be free of judgment as "justice is blind", those who have the responsibility to enforce it are nothing more than people too, influenced and formed by society as much as everyone else.

A wide variety of factors affect the way in which victims of different experiences are treated and how this experiences are classify. The level of trauma and the long term effects of this trauma, although subjective to each experience are not free from social judgment and opinion. This research's findings suggest that in fact society has a great deal of effect on how victims are treated and perceived based on how their experiences are rated among society. As stated by law the principal difference between rape and sexual assault is the presence or lack of penetration. Besides this principal and important difference all other factors, like

aggression, verbal and physical threatening and emotional distress can be exactly alike between the cases resulting in extremely traumatic events for either victims. Yet society continues to stigmatize and classify different experiences based on their personal perspectives without regard towards the victim's feelings, thoughts and emotions. Results suggest that if the public opinion is that one case in specific is more severe and therefore the victim suffers a greater trauma, he or she is entitled to get more and better resources and available help. Whereas if the public's opinion is that a victim is actually not a victim or has no reason to be traumatized, or at least not as other victims, the amount of available resources and services is not that wide. The impact of this, as previously discussed, is extremely important since it is not only unfair for the victims but it can greatly exacerbate the trauma creating even more distress and impairment in the victim.

Inferences made in this research based on the responses and the previous studies suggest that labeling an experience as rape gives the victim a bigger chance of getting help and support than for victims of other types of sexual assaults that does not constitute as rape. Even so victims of rape still have to face society's judgments, humiliation, blaming and further victimization. The second rape or secondary victimization is as real as the sexual attack itself and it can be extremely damaging for the person and disable his or her opportunity to heal. Also tremendously important is the concept of the Trauma Myth that has been discussed at length in this study and previous researches. The social consensus that a rape victim has to look and comply with specific standards and criterion has greatly hinder how the public treats these victims. The trauma myth is directly related to this study, even though it is usually used in referral to childhood sexual abuse, since it exemplifies precisely how society constructs certain ideas that limit and standardizes everything else, including

and specially public services. In this study one of the cases embodied what a rape case should look like based on the trauma myth, what the public expects to encounter when hearing about a “victim of sexual abuse” and meet the criterion of this classification. The second case fit the legal definition for sexual assault yet not the social standards of the trauma myth: what a victim should go through to be considered a victim. And as expected society, represented by the participants in this study, reacted more to the first case than the second rating it worse and more traumatic. This results leave the victims of the second case in a grey area where even though they went through a horrible experience that hurt and damaged them, their trauma doesn't comply with society's expectation of trauma and therefore there are no resources available to help and public services like law enforcement and healthcare systems disregard their importance over other cases.

As these results are founded it becomes increasingly clearer that members of the mental health areas and victims advocates have to unite and create awareness over this topics. It is a responsibility for experts in these areas towards this victims and everyone involved, as to society in general, freeing victims from stereotypes and social judgments that become victimizing and hindering towards their recuperation and welfare. Things like the trauma myth and secondary victimization should not happen anymore and it is important to share the knowledge of how damaging these actions are towards other human beings and how they even violate rights to be protected, helped and guaranteed security. Victims of any type of aggression, sexual or not, should not have to endure any more victimization and trauma in hands of the same institutions created to protect them.

LIMITATIONS

Although this study was presented and modified in order to avoid as much limitations as possible there are always areas that can be improved.

First of all the sample, though randomly selected and consisting of a wide variety, was limited to a single institution Universidad San Francisco de Quito, and this could affect the results since it doesn't necessarily represents the views of all ethnics, socio-economic status, gender and ages.

Also as it was mentioned before there were slightly more woman than men among the participants and gender effects could have influenced in the results since woman tend to ally more with the victims and rate higher in their view of traumatic events. It has to be noted that in this study no software was used during the content analysis, which could also be seen as a limitation, in future researches it would be recommended to use programs like winMAX, which serve as support for the content analysis increasing the reliability of the inferences.

As for the personal limitations of the researcher it should be taken into consideration that by being a woman there are specific gender and individual perceptions of the research topic that could influence the way results, especially through content analysis, were interpreted.

FUTURE RESEARCH

Future researches could include aspects of gender difference between victims, which was not included in the present study but the impact of these results could be greatly influential in psychology and related areas.

Aspects as comparison between cultures could also contribute with significant data about differences between social constructs and perceptions between different cultures and ethnicities to see how these affect victim blaming or trauma myth factors.

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APPENDIX A: ADVERTISEMENTS

(Letter to USFQ authorities)

A quien corresponda:

Por medio del presente se solicita a usted la autorizacion para que Maria Emilia Valdez, estudiante de ultimo ano de psicologia clinica realice su investigacion para el trabajo de titulacion correspondiente dentro de la Universidad San Francisco de Quito USFQ.

Tambien se quiere solicitar el permiso para reclutar a los participantes por medio del mail institucional y por la plataforma de D2L.

El estudio consiste en una encuesta realizada por medio electronicos la cual busca medir las opiniones y percepciones sociales sobre las victimas de violacion y de abuso sexual y como estas influyen en los servicios publicos de asistencia a las victimas.

Se agradece de antemano su colaboracion con este estudio.

Atentamente,

Emilia Valdez Munchmeyer

0999xxxxxx/xxx@estud.usfq.edu.ec

(Letter to the teachers and staff)

Estimados miembros de la Universidad,

Por medio del presente se solicita su colaboracion con un estudio de investigacion para el trabajo de titulacion de psicologia clinica, el cual consiste en una encuesta a realizarse por medio electronico en la cual se mediran las percepciones sociales hacia victimas de violacion y abuso sexual. El principal objetivo del estudio es descubrir como estas percepciones influyen en la cantidad y calidad de ayuda y servicios ofrecidos a las victimas.

Se espera que con su ayuda transmitiendo esta informacion a traves del mail y plataforma de D2L los estudiantes y miembros de la Universidad se consiga la mayor cantidad de participantes posibles para tener una muestra representativa. De igual manera si usted desea colaborar con el estudio puede acceder al link adjunto para llenar la encuesta y contribuir a la investigacion.

Se agradece de antemano su colaboracion,

Atentamente,

Emilia Valdez Munchmeyer

0999xxxxxx/xxx@estud.usfq.edu.ec

Recruitment letter for students

Estimados Estudiantes,

Se solicita su colaboracion con un estudio para un trabajo de titulacion de una estudiante de Psicologia de la USFQ. Para participar unicamente deben tener 18 anos en adelante. El estudio consiste en una encuesta que medira sus opinions sobre dos casos de aggression sexual. Sus respuestas seran completamente confidenciales y pueden dejar de llenar la encuesta o retirarse del estudio en cualquier momento. Su ayuda seria significativa tanto par alas areas involucradas en estos temas, asi como para las victimas y la sociedad en general.

Se agradece de antemano su ayuda y tiempo en este trabajo.

Atentamente,

Emilia Valdez Munchmeyer

0999xxxxxx/mxxxxxxx@usfq.edu.ec

APPENDIX B: ETHICS



Comité de Bioética, Universidad San Francisco de Quito
El Comité de Revisión Institucional de la USFQ
The Institutional Review Board of the USFQ

SOLICITUD PARA APROBACION DE UN ESTUDIO DE INVESTIGACION

INSTRUCCIONES:

1. Antes de remitir este formulario al CBE, se debe solicitar vía electrónica un código para incluirlo, a comitebioetica@usfq.edu.ec
2. Enviar solo archivos digitales. Esta solicitud será firmada en su versión final, sea de manera presencial o enviando un documento escaneado.
3. Este documento debe completarse con la información del protocolo del estudio que debe servir al investigador como respaldo.
4. Favor leer cada uno de los parámetros verificando que se ha completado toda la información que se solicita antes de enviarla.

DATOS DE IDENTIFICACIÓN	
Título de la Investigación	Call it Rape: social perception of victims and how it affects the available support services
Investigador Principal <i>Nombre completo, afiliación institucional y dirección electrónica</i>	Maria Emilia Valdez
Co-investigadores <i>Nombres completos, afiliación institucional y dirección electrónica. Especificar si no lo hubiera</i>	
Persona de contacto <i>Nombre y datos de contacto incluyendo teléfonos fijo, celular y dirección electrónica</i>	Maria Emilia Valdez 0999xxxx/2xxxxxx exxxx@estud.usfq.edu.ec
Nombre de director de tesis y correo electrónico <i>Solo si es que aplica</i>	Sonja Embree sembree@usfq.edu.ec
Fecha de inicio de la investigación	Octubre 19 de 2015
Fecha de término de la investigación	15 de diciembre de 2015
Financiamiento	personal

DESCRIPCIÓN DEL ESTUDIO	
Objetivo General <i>Se debe responder tres preguntas: qué? cómo? y para qué?</i>	El presente estudio responde a una tesis para titulación, el objetivo principal del estudio es encontrar si las percepciones sociales hacia víctimas de violación y abuso sexual tienen una influencia en los servicios públicos y de soporte que reciben. De esta manera se espera conocer los factores que intervienen en la recuperación y bien estar de las víctimas y como se los pueden evitar.

Objetivos Específicos
<p>Identificar las diferencias de la percepción social entre víctimas de violación y víctimas de abuso sexual definidos por ley.</p> <p>Encontrar si estas diferencias afectan como los servicios públicos y la sociedad en general reacciona y responde ofreciendo ayuda a las víctimas según consideren la gravedad del trauma vivido.</p>
Diseño y Metodología del estudio <i>Explicar el tipo de estudio (por ejemplo cualitativo, cuantitativo, con enfoque experimental, cuasi-experimental, pre-experimental; estudio descriptivo, transversal, de caso, in-vitro...) Explicar además el universo, la muestra, cómo se la calculó y un breve resumen de cómo se realizará el análisis de los datos, incluyendo las variables primarias y secundarias..</i>
<p>El estudio será realizado con una encuesta mixta constituida por preguntas abiertas y cerradas y por escalas de likert. De esta manera se obtendrán datos cuantitativos y cualitativos para realizar un estudio descriptivo de la realidad social.</p> <p>La muestra será tomada en la Universidad San Francisco de Quito y será constituida por miembros mayores de 18 años entre ellos estudiantes, profesores y personal administrativo.</p> <p>Los datos se analizarán mediante tabulación de frecuencia en las preguntas cerradas y las escalas, y con análisis de contenido para las preguntas abiertas.</p>
Procedimientos <i>Los pasos a seguir desde el primer contacto con los sujetos participantes, su reclutamiento o contacto con la muestra/datos.</i>
<p>Primero se contactarán a las autoridades de la universidad así como a los profesores para pedir autorización para realizar el estudio y pedir la participación de los miembros de esta. Una vez que se obtenga la autorización se procederá a contactar a los miembros de la universidad a través del mail de la institución y de la plataforma de D2L con la ayuda de los profesores y personal administrativo. La carta de reclutamiento contará con el formato de consentimiento informado en el cual se explicarán las implicaciones del estudio y la importancia de participar y aportar con información. Se explicarán también los derechos de los participantes según los estándares de ética. Los participantes podrán acceder inmediatamente al link en el cual podrán llenar la encuesta de manera confidencial y finalmente obtendrán un pequeño resumen con una corta explicación sobre el estudio y los resultados esperados. Además se agregarán los datos de contacto del investigador para cualquier pregunta, curiosidad o comentario que puedan tener los participantes. De la misma manera los participantes podrán solicitar una copia del estudio final la cual será entregada una vez concluya la investigación.</p>
Recolección y almacenamiento de los datos <i>Para garantizar la confidencialidad y privacidad, de quién y donde se recolectarán datos; almacenamiento de datos—donde y por cuánto tiempo; quienes tendrán acceso a los datos, qué se hará con los datos cuando termine la investigación</i>
<p>Los datos recolectados serán almacenados en una computadora con clave a la cual solo tendrá acceso la investigadora. Para garantizar la mayor confidencialidad posible no se pedirá información personal más allá de los datos demográficos de género y edad. Toda la información recolectada será almacenada por un periodo de dos años tras el cual se procederá a la eliminación de la misma. Además una vez finalizado el tiempo de recolección de datos los links para ingresar a las encuestas serán cerrados por lo que nadie tendrá más acceso y la información recolectada no será de acceso público en ningún momento durante o después de la investigación.</p>
Herramientas y equipos <i>Incluyendo cuestionarios y bases de datos, descripción de equipos</i>
<p>Para este estudio se utilizará una encuesta mixta realizada por la investigadora la cual será sometida a la aprobación del comité de bioética. Las escalas utilizadas serán escalas de likert las cuales también serán revisadas y aprobadas previamente por las autoridades competentes. Para la tabulación se utilizará un software el cual servirá de apoyo como contador de frecuencia de las respuestas cerradas y las calificaciones en las escalas. El análisis de contenido se realizará en base a los estándares de confiabilidad y validez específicos bajo un proceso inductivo de categorización.</p>

JUSTIFICACIÓN CIENTÍFICA DEL ESTUDIO

Se debe demostrar con suficiente evidencia por qué es importante este estudio y qué tipo de aporte ofrecerá a la comunidad científica.

El presente estudio busca encontrar como la percepción social afecta a la calidad y cantidad de servicios públicos que se ofrecen a las distintas víctimas de violación y de abuso sexual. La importancia de estos resultados se encuentra en que estudios realizados sobre el tema anteriormente han encontrado que las víctimas son sujetas a mayor victimización y maltrato al buscar ayuda y que sus interacciones con los servicios públicos, legales y médicos, suelen ser extremadamente traumáticas para las víctimas. Se ha encontrado que estas experiencias aumentan y empeoran los síntomas y efectos a largo plazo del trauma vivido y que interfieren significativamente con el proceso de recuperación de las víctimas, inclusive generando más trauma y mayores consecuencias negativas.

Con los resultados obtenidos el presente estudio espera contribuir con mayor información sobre los efectos que tienen estas percepciones y actitudes sociales hacia las víctimas de manera en que todos los ámbitos involucrados puedan mejorar sus servicios e interacciones con las víctimas. También se espera que las víctimas obtengan un mayor entendimiento sobre los factores sociales y como estos influyen en sus propias experiencias sobre el trauma que han vivido de manera que puedan afrontarlas y minimizar en lo posible las consecuencias negativas que aparecen a raíz de estos.

Referencias bibliográficas completas en formato APA

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DESCRIPCIÓN DE LOS ASPECTOS ÉTICOS DEL ESTUDIO

Criterios para la selección de los participantes *Tomando en cuenta los principios de beneficencia, equidad, justicia y respeto*

La selección de participantes se realizó considerando que la universidad San Francisco ofrece una gran cantidad de miembros que podrían colaborar como participantes en el estudio. El único requisito para participar en el estudio será que los participantes tengan más de 18 años para que puedan participar voluntariamente y con su consentimiento. Se espera que esta muestra sea representativa ya que se contará con estudiantes y miembros de la universidad de diferentes edades, etnias y estatus socioeconómicos contribuyendo con mayor diversidad en el estudio. Se espera también que al contar con tanta diversidad de participantes este estudio otorgue una oportunidad equitativa y justa a miembros de distintos grupos sociales para contribuir con sus opiniones y puntos de vista con todo el respeto que estos merecen.

Riesgos *Describir los riesgos para los participantes en el estudio, incluyendo riesgos físicos, emocionales y psicológicos aunque sean mínimos y cómo se los minimizará*

Al ser un tema controversial y sensible se podría considerar que esto puede representar un riesgo para los participantes ya que podría generar estrés psicológico o emocional. Para prevenir posibles reexperimentaciones o ansiedad en participantes que puedan identificarse con los casos presentados se contará con un aviso de

riesgo sobre lo que los participantes podrian encontrar durante su participacion en el estudio. Tambien se ofrecera la asistencia de un terapeuta recomendado en caso de que los participantes crean que les beneficiaria hablar con alguien profesional despues de participar en este estudio. El investigador tambien estara disponible para cualquier duda o comentario que podrian tener los participantes para de esta manera minimizar los riesgos emocionales y psicologicos que podrian tener los participantes.

Beneficios para los participantes *Incluyendo resultados de exámenes y otros; solo de este estudio y cómo los recibirán*

Participar en este estudio podria beneficiar a los participantes ya que recibirian informacion y retroalimentacion importante sobre sus puntos de vista y como la influencia de la sociedad puede estarles afectando en sus actitudes y comportamientos. El recibir retroalimentacion tras participar en este estudio los participantes tambien podran informarse y aplanar sus conocimientos sobre aspectos importantes que afectan a la sociedad y el bienestar de las personas.

Ventajas potenciales a la sociedad *Incluir solo ventajas que puedan medirse o a lo que se pueda tener acceso*

Se espera que este estudio pueda contribuir mejorando los servicios publicos y de ayuda que se ofrecen a las victimas, la cantidad de opciones y ofertas y la calidad de los servicios ofertados.

Derechos y opciones de los participantes del estudio *Incluyendo la opción de no participar o retirarse del estudio a pesar de haber aceptado participar en un inicio.*

En base a los estandares de etica la participacion en este estudio sera totalmente voluntaria a discrecion de los participantes. De la misma manera ellos tendran la posibilidad y el derecho de retirarse en cualquier momento del estudio, no completar la encuesta o pedir que sus datos no sean utilizados en la investigacion. A pesar de haber llenado el consentimiento informado para su participacion todos los participantes estaran al tanto de estos derechos y podran hacerlos valer en cualquier momento que consideren necesario.

Seguridad y Confidencialidad de los datos *Describir de manera detallada y explicita como va a proteger los derechos de participantes*

Para asegurar confidencialidad de los datos los participantes no deberan compartir ninguna informacion personal mas alla de datos demograficos. La encuesta sera realizada por medio electronico lo que garantizara mayor confidencialidad y anonimato inclusive del investigador. Toda la informacion sera almacenada en un computador cuyo acceso tendra unicamente la investigadora del estudio y en ningun momento habra acceso publico a ninguno de los datos. Una vez finalizado el estudio toda la informacion sera almacenada por un periodo de dos años tras el cual se procedera a la eliminacion total de los datos permaneciendo unicamente dentro del estudio final.

Consentimiento informado *Quién, cómo y dónde se explicará el formulario/estudio. Ajustar el formulario o en su defecto el formulario de no aplicación o modificación del formulario*

Todos los participantes recibiran una copia del formato de consentimiento informado aprobado por el comité de etica para asegurar que el proceso cumpla con los estandares de etica necesarios. De igual manera contarán con una explicacion breve sobre la importancia y objetivos del estudio y podran acceder a la investigadora siempre que necesiten en caso de que tengan dudas o comentarios sobre su participacion.

Responsabilidades del investigador y co-investigadores dentro de este estudio.

La principal responsabilidad del investigador en este estudio sera ante los derechos y etica hacia los participantes. Debido a que no se cuenta con co-investigadores la investigadora estara encargada de realizar todos los procesos con la debida supervision y asesoramiento cuando sea necesario. El reclutamiento, obtencion de datos y analisis de resultados estara todo bajo responsabilidad de la investigadora al igual que las interpretaciones y conclusiones.

CERTIFICACIÓN:

1. Certifico no haber recolectado ningún dato ni haber realizado ninguna intervención con sujetos humanos, muestras o datos.
Sí () No ()
2. Certifico que los documentos adjuntos a esta solicitud han sido revisados y aprobados por mi director de tesis.
Sí () No () No Aplica ()

Firma del investigador: _____ (con tinta azul)

Fecha de envío al Comité de Bioética de la USFQ: 19 de Octubre de 2015



Comité de Bioética, Universidad San Francisco de Quito

El Comité de Revisión Institucional de la USFQ
The Institutional Review Board of the USFQ

Formulario Consentimiento Informado

Título de la investigación: Call it Rape: social perception of victims and how it affects the available support services

Organización del investigador Universidad San Francisco de Quito

Nombre del investigador principal Maria Emilia Valdez Munchmeyer

Datos de localización del investigador principal 0999256011/2048516 – emivaldez@hotmial.com

Co-investigadores x

DESCRIPCIÓN DEL ESTUDIO

Introducción (Se incluye un ejemplo de texto. Debe tomarse en cuenta que el lenguaje que se utilice en este documento no puede ser subjetivo; debe ser lo más claro, conciso y sencillo posible; deben evitarse términos técnicos y en lo posible se los debe reemplazar con una explicación)

Este formulario incluye un resumen del propósito de este estudio. Usted puede hacer todas las preguntas que quiera para entender claramente su participación y despejar sus dudas. Para participar puede tomarse el tiempo que necesite para consultar con su familia y/o amigos si desea participar o no.

Usted ha sido invitado a participar en un investigación sobre las percepciones sociales hacia víctimas de abuso sexual y violacion porque podria contribuir con informacion importante para la investigacion sobre sus opiniones y puntos de vista.

Propósito del estudio (incluir una breve descripción del estudio, incluyendo el número de participantes, evitando términos técnicos e incluyendo solo información que el participante necesita conocer para decidirse a participar o no en el estudio)

El presente estudio busca encontrar como la percepcion social afecta a la calidad y cantidad de servicios publicos que se ofrecen a las distintas vicitmas de violacion y de abuso sexual. La importancia de estos resultados se encuentra en que estudios realizados sobre el tema anteriormente han encontrado que las victimas son sujetas a mayor victimizacion y mal trato al buscar ayuda y que sus interacciones con los servicios publicos, legales y medicos, suelen ser extremadamente traumaticos para las vicitmas. Se ha encontrado que estas experiencias aumentan y empeoran los sintomas y efectos a largo plazo del trauma vivido y que interfieren significativamente con el proceso de recuperacion de las victimas, inclusive generando mas trauma y mayores consecuencias negativas.

Con los resultados obetidos el presente estudio espera contribuir con mayor informacion sobre los efectos que tienen estas percepciones y actitudes sociales hacia las victimas de manera en que todos los ambitos involucrados puedan mejorar sus servicios e interacciones con las victimas. Tambien se espera que las victimas obtengan un mayor entendimiento sobre los factores sociales y como estos influyen en sus propias experiencias sobre el trauma que han vivido de manera que puedan afrontarlas y minimizar en lo posible las consecuencias negativas que aparecen a raiz de estos.

Descripción de los procedimientos (breve descripción de los pasos a seguir en cada etapa y el tiempo que tomará cada intervención en que participará el sujeto)

Primero se contactaran a las autoridades de la universidad asi como a los profesores para pedir autorizacion para realizar el estudio y pedir la participacion de los miembros de esta. Una vez que se obtenga la autorizacion se procedera a contactar a los miembros de la universidad a traves del mail de la institucion y de la plataforma de D2L con la ayuda de los profesores y personal administrativo. La carta de reclutamiento contara con el formato de consentimiento informado en el cual se explicaran las implicaciones del estudio y la importancia de participar y aportar con informacion. Se explcaran tambien los derechos de los participantes según los estandares de etica. Los participantes podran acceder inmediatamente al link en el

cual podran llenar la encuesta de manera confidencial y finalmente obtendran un pequeño resumen con una corta explicacion sobre el estudio y los resultados esperados. Ademas se agregaran los datos de contacto del investigador para cualquier pregunta, curiosidad o comentario que puedan tener los participantes. De la misma manera los participantes podran solicitar una copia del estudio final la cual sera entregada una vez concluya la investigacion.

Consentimiento informado *(Es responsabilidad del investigador verificar que los participantes tengan un nivel de comprensión lectora adecuado para entender este documento. En caso de que no lo tuvieran el documento debe ser leído y explicado frente a un testigo, que corroborará con su firma que lo que se dice de manera oral es lo mismo que dice el documento escrito)*

Riesgos y beneficios *(explicar los riesgos para los participantes en detalle, aunque sean mínimos, incluyendo riesgos físicos, emocionales y/o psicológicos a corto y/o largo plazo, detallando cómo el investigador minimizará estos riesgos; incluir además los beneficios tanto para los participantes como para la sociedad, siendo explícito en cuanto a cómo y cuándo recibirán estos beneficios)*

Al ser un tema controversial y sensible se podría considerar que esto puede representar un riesgo para los participantes ya que podría generar estrés psicológico o emocional. Para prevenir posibles reexperimentaciones o ansiedad en participantes que puedan identificarse con los casos presentados se contara con un aviso de riesgo sobre lo que los participantes podrían encontrar durante su participación en el estudio. También se ofrecerá la asistencia de un terapeuta recomendado en caso de que los participantes creen que les beneficiaría hablar con alguien profesional después de participar en este estudio. El investigador también estará disponible para cualquier duda o comentario que podrían tener los participantes para de esta manera minimizar los riesgos emocionales y psicológicos que podrían tener los participantes. Participar en este estudio podría beneficiar a los participantes ya que recibirían información y retroalimentación importante sobre sus puntos de vista y como la influencia de la sociedad puede estarles afectando en sus actitudes y comportamientos. El recibir retroalimentación tras participar en este estudio los participantes también podrán informarse y ampliar sus conocimientos sobre aspectos importantes que afectan a la sociedad y el bienestar de las personas.

Confidencialidad de los datos *(se incluyen algunos ejemplos de texto)*

Para nosotros es muy importante mantener su privacidad, por lo cual aplicaremos las medidas necesarias para que nadie conozca su identidad ni tenga acceso a sus datos personales:

- 1) La información que nos proporcione se identificará con un código que reemplazará su nombre y se guardará en un lugar seguro donde solo el investigador tendrá acceso.
- 2) no se solicitará ninguna información personal que podría identificar al participante
- 3) Su nombre no será mencionado en los reportes o publicaciones.
- 4) El Comité de Bioética de la USFQ podrá tener acceso a sus datos en caso de que surgieran problemas en cuanto a la seguridad y confidencialidad de la información o de la ética en el estudio.

Derechos y opciones del participante *(se incluye un ejemplo de texto)*

Usted puede decidir no participar y si decide no participar solo debe decirselo al investigador principal o a la persona que le explica este documento. Además aunque decida participar puede retirarse del estudio cuando lo desee, sin que ello afecte los beneficios de los que goza en este momento.

Usted no recibirá ningún pago ni tendrá que pagar absolutamente nada por participar en este estudio.

Información de contacto

Si usted tiene alguna pregunta sobre el estudio por favor llame al siguiente teléfono 0999256011 que pertenece a Maria Emilia Valdez, o envíe un correo electrónico a emivaldez@hormail.com

Si usted tiene preguntas sobre este formulario puede contactar al Dr. William F. Waters, Presidente del Comité de Bioética de la USFQ, al siguiente correo electrónico: comitebioetica@usfq.edu.ec

Comprendo mi participación en este estudio. Me han explicado los riesgos y beneficios de participar en un lenguaje claro y sencillo. Todas mis preguntas fueron contestadas. Me permitieron contar con tiempo suficiente para tomar la decisión de participar y me entregaron una copia de este formulario de consentimiento informado. Acepto voluntariamente participar en esta investigación.

Firma del participante	Fecha
Firma del testigo <i>(si aplica)</i>	Fecha
Nombre del investigador que obtiene el consentimiento informado Maria Emilia Valdez Munchmeyer	
Firma del investigador	Fecha

APPENDIX C: INSTRUMENTS

Lea los casos presentados a continuación y responda a las siguientes preguntas.

*Trigger Warning: los siguientes casos podrían ser estresantes y contienen material sensible, se recomienda discreción.

Caso A:

Ana una joven de 24 años se encuentra caminando en la noche hacia su departamento después de cenar con amigos. Al cruzar una calle a pocas cuadras de su casa atraviesa algunos callejones. Repentinamente es arrastrada dentro de un callejón por un hombre. Rápidamente el hombre la empuja contra la pared donde la sostiene con fuerza, gritando e insultándola. Después de mostrarle una navaja el hombre procede a amenazarla de muerte si grita o lucha. Temiendo por su vida Ana deja de gritar a pesar de estar llorando y temblando del miedo. El agresor empieza a retirar la ropa y procede a violarla, en ningún momento Ana es capaz de ver la cara de su agresor ya que este apunta una linterna directamente a sus ojos cegándola.

Al terminar el hombre indica a Ana que cuente hasta veinte antes de moverse y desaparece fuera del callejón. Cuando Ana finalmente se recompone grita por ayuda. Tras ir a la policía es escoltada a un hospital cercano donde se le realizan pruebas con un kit de violación para recuperar semen y rastros biológicos que puedan ayudar a la identificación del agresor.

1. En la siguiente escala califique la intensidad del trauma que considera sufriría esta víctima: (1 siendo nada, 5 siendo extremadamente traumático)

1 2 3 4 5

Explique su respuesta

Caso B:

Clara es una joven de 24 años que se encuentra caminando en la noche hacia su departamento después de cenar con amigos. Al cruzar una calle a pocas cuadras de su casa atraviesa algunos callejones. Repentinamente es arrastrada dentro de un callejón por un hombre. Rápidamente el hombre la empuja contra la pared donde la sostiene con fuerza, gritando e insultándola. Después de mostrarle una navaja el hombre procede a amenazarla de muerte si grita o lucha. Temiendo por su vida, Clara deja de gritar a pesar de estar llorando y temblando del miedo. El agresor le indica que se desvista por completo, en ningún momento Clara es capaz de ver la cara de su agresor ya que este apunta una linterna directamente a sus ojos cegándola.

Estando completamente desnuda el agresor simplemente la observa le indica que se de la vuelta lentamente mientras continua apuntándola con la linterna. Finalmente el agresor indica a Clara que se recuesta en el piso y cuente hasta veinte antes de levantarse, e inmediatamente desaparece. Cuando Clara finalmente se recompone grita por ayuda. Tras ir a la policía es escoltada a un hospital cercano sin embargo Clara explica a los miembros de la policía y del hospital que no hubo penetración ni contacto sexual por lo que no tiene rastros del agresor en su cuerpo.

1. En la siguiente escala califique la intensidad del trauma que considera sufriría esta víctima: (1 siendo nada, 5 siendo extremadamente traumático)

1 2 3 4 5

Explique su respuesta:

2. Cual de los dos casos considera usted que seria mas traumático para la victima?

1. A 2. B 3. Igualmente traumáticos

Explique su respuesta

3. Que victima considera que estaría en mayor necesidad de asistencia de servicios públicos? (sistemas médicos, legales y de salud mental)

1. A 2.B 3. Igualmente necesario

Explique su respuesta

4. Cual caso cree que generaría mayor problemas o disfunción en la vida de la victima tras la agresión?

1. A 2.B 3. Igual

Explique su respuesta.