Decision-making as a protective factor for intimate partner violence among Mexican women

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Introduction

Prevent and Stop IPV

- Higher levels of decision-making
- Self-confidence
- Higher education
- Physical health protection
- Mental health protection
- Job opportunities
Objective

• To explain the protective factors that women relied on regarding decision-making in daily life and the psychological indicators that were associated with violence such as:
  – self-esteem
  – assertiveness
  – self-efficacy,
• and the factors that increased their risk.
• To subsequently generate psychological interventions, in order to prevent and curb IPV.
Scales

• Violence
  – Physical and/or Sexual
  – Psychological
  – Economic

• Decision-making
  – physical decision-making, emotional decision-making, and depending on the external decision-making for women

• Psychological indicators

Questionnaire on Violence Suffered and Exercised by Partner (Spanish acronym CVSEP) (Moral de la Rubia & Ramos, 2015)
Instrument decision-making (in publication, Ruiz, Cruz, García-Moreno & Turnbull, 2017).
Sample

• 505 women from Mexico: their participation was voluntary, consensual, and informed
• Age 16-83, (M = 38.89, SD= 11.41)
• Number of children 1-12, (M = 2.86, SD=1.27)
• Tobacco use:
  – 16% women
  – 25% of partners
• Alcohol use:
  – 14% women
  – 30% of partners
Sociodemographics Factors

Marital Status (n=505)
- Married: 41%
- Living together: 33%
- Separated: 21%
- Widowed: 5%

Employment (n=505)
- Employed for cash: 40%
- Employed not for cash: 56%
- Not employed: 4%

Education Level (n=505)
- Secondary: 41%
- Basic: 31%
- High School: 25%
- None: 3%

(n=505)
Prevalence of violence

Percentage of women who ever experienced violence (n=505)

- Physical and/or Sexual: 55.6%
- Psychological: 59%
- Economic: 55%
## Physical and/or Sexual Violence

### Table 1

Logistic regression model for physical and/or sexual violence against women by their partner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>$\beta$</th>
<th>$p$</th>
<th>Odds Ratio $e^\beta$</th>
<th>95% CI Low</th>
<th>95% CI High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner consumed alcohol</td>
<td>.99</td>
<td>.00**</td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>4.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed by cash</td>
<td>.52</td>
<td>.02*</td>
<td>1.69</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>2.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision-making and psychological indicators$^+$</td>
<td>-.30</td>
<td>.00**</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p<.05, **p<.01

+$^+$ psychological indicators (self-esteem, assertiveness and self-efficacy)
# Psychological Violence

## Table 2

Logistic regression model for psychological violence against women by their partner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>$\beta$</th>
<th>$p$</th>
<th>Odds Ratio $e^{\beta}$</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woman consumed alcohol</td>
<td>.70</td>
<td>.05*</td>
<td>2.02</td>
<td>.100 - 4.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision-making and psychological indicators+</td>
<td>-.35</td>
<td>.00**</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>0.61 - 0.81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p<.05, **p<.01

+ psychological indicators (self-esteem, assertiveness and self-efficacy)
Economic Violence

Table 3
Logistic regression model for economic violence against women by their partner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>β</th>
<th>p</th>
<th>Odds Ratio e^β</th>
<th>95% CI Low</th>
<th>95% CI High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner consumed alcohol</td>
<td>.46</td>
<td>.04*</td>
<td>1.59</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>-.68</td>
<td>.03*</td>
<td>.51</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision-making and psychological indicators*</td>
<td>-.20</td>
<td>.00**</td>
<td>.82</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p<.05, **p<.01
+ psychological indicators (self-esteem, assertiveness and self-efficacy )
Risk Factor
Employed for cash

• Almost twice the odds of experiencing physical and/or sexual violence

• Changing culture in Mexico:
  – Context
  – Employed outside the home
Risk Factor
Woman consumed alcohol

• Twice the odds of experiencing psychological violence
• Is related the consumption of alcohol by women with the use of bi-directional violence.
Protective Factor
Education Level

• Decreased .51 the occurrence of economic violence.
• Related to communication and conflict resolution

Protective Factor
Decision-making and psychological indicators

• Decreased the odds for experiencing:
  – Physical and/or sexual violence by 0.74
  – Psychological violence by 0.70
  – Economic violence by 0.82

• Higher decision-making power in the family decreases the likelihood of experiencing these types of violence.
Conclusion

• Within the realm of psychology, decision-making can be seen as a prevention strategy or as a plan of action.

• It enables women to better handle issues such as intimate partner violence, to improve their quality of life within and outside of the home and to contribute to a better society.
Physical and/or sexual violence

Decision-making and psychological indicators

Psychological violence

Education Secondary or more

Economic violence

Partner consumed alcohol

Employed for cash

Woman consumed alcohol

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