

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION

In line with the two main theoretical frameworks (psychosocial and socio-political theories) explaining the predictors in the battered woman's decision to stay or leave an abusive relationship, this study proposed to examine the relationship between those variables correlated between two groups. Then to answer the research question, multiple regression were performed to determine the best predictors of the set of nine variables. This study used collected empirical data by the researcher and two interviewers from University Autonomous of Nuevo León, México during a period of time of two months in CAFAM Agency in Nuevo León state.

This chapter is divided into four principal sections. The first, it includes a summary of the major results of the study and explanation for findings; the second, an integration of the findings with past literature; the third, implications of the findings and limitations of the study are also addressed; and finally the fourth, directions for future research.

Summary of Results and Explanations for Findings

Summary of Results

This study was designed to investigate abused Mexican women's experiences associated with the factors type of abuse, income, self-esteem, depression, economic dependency, religiosity, social support, family members and patriarchal values, with a goal of examining the most predictors in the behavioral stay/leave decision change of this population.

In addition to measuring between-groups differences in the reports of women at different decision status (stay/leave), this study sought to further understand how relevant variables contribute to predicting abused women leaving an abusive relationship or remain within it. Surprisingly, individual and relationship factors such as family members, type of abuse, income,

economic dependency, and self-esteem were not significant predictors to the abused women's stay/leave decision. Throughout stepwise regression method, three major variables, patriarchal values, religiosity, and social support, have been proposed to be the strongest predictors of the stay/leave decision.

On the other hand, enter regression method reports four strongest predictor factors. Enter included depression as a fourth strongest predictor. Drawing from this conceptualization, it was thought that patriarchal values, religiosity and social support may be prominent factors in a battered woman's decision to stay or to leave. If so, understanding the factors that influence women's decisions may assist in the design and application of interventions adapted to enhance each woman's readiness for stay/leave decision.

The sample of women who volunteered to participate in this study represented the population of women currently or formerly experiencing different types of abuse by their partners and, as a group they reported levels of abuse or violence similar to samples of women recruited for other studies of battered women. Recently researchers pointed out that low-level of social support is commonly experienced among couples, and many maintain their abusive relationships despite experiencing intermittent support from their family or friends (Sleek, 1998). The focus of this study however, was to understand the experience of a sample of women derived from the population of battered women in which an abused relationship often harmful, life threatening, lethal and often it has a profound negative impact in their psychosocial health. Most psychological, social and legal interventions are directed at this population. The results of this research , therefore, intended to contribute to the existing body of knowledge regarding the factors involved in the stay/leave decision making of women for whom abusive relationships poses severe threat to their lives and well-being.

Explanation of findings

Examining the stay/leave decision

Nine major variables were examined and the results of statistical analysis provided support to answer the research question: What factors predict women's decisions to stay or leave abusive relationships among a sample of women in México? Four strongest predictors: patriarchal values, religiosity, social support and depression were identified in a multivariate analysis. Significant mean differences were reported by T-test bivariate analysis in religiosity, economic dependency between abused women's stay/leave groups in religiosity, economic dependency, and levels of self-esteem, degree of depression, social support, and patriarchal values. In general, women in groups identified differentially by their stay/leave relationship's status, ranging from current involvement to at least of a month of independence, reported significant mean differences in their current experience at seven of nine measured variables. Multivariate analysis did not show family members and income as predictors of the abused Mexican women's stay/leave decision.

Likewise bivariate statistical analysis did not indicate groups' differences of family members and income.

Family members

Little is known about battered women's family members and their impact in the stay/leave decision making process. The brief measure included in the current study to answer the research question of factors that predict abused women's stay/leave decision is an early but limited exploration of this variable in a Mexican women sample. The research question was not supported by this factor. Women in the two relationship status reported no significant differences in their experiences of overall family members. Each group reported similar scores (mean

differences of .28) of family members with scores ranging from 1-14 whether they represented women currently in violent relationships or women who had been independent of their relationships for more than a month. The regression test results did not identify family members as a predictor of the abused women decision to stay or to leave their abusers.

According to the findings in the study, the average number of family members on the immediate family of the women who stay and/or leave the relationship was 6, and the difference of this average between the groups was only of .28, meaning that there is not a significant difference between the number of members in the family nucleus of the women who left the abusive relationship or those that remained within the relationship.

Furthermore, the fact that the variable family members has shown to be strong predictor in this study is explained by the previously mentioned results of t-test for the differences of independent groups. This data is confirmed by the census elaborated by the INEGI (2000), which includes the years from the 1995 to the 2000, where the average family nucleus of the population in general is 5, including the informant who is part of this family nucleus. Thus, the results of these variables are not significant in the decision making process of the Mexican woman.

Income

According to some researchers (Walker, 1992; Raphael, 1999, Frisch & McKenzie, 1991; Rusbult & Martz, 1995), battered women are frequently stuck in their abusive relationships because they have low income and the possibility of no source of income if they do leave. Despite this obstacle most battered women attempt to escape the abuse (Raphael, 1999; Esikovits et al., 1998; Kirkwood, 1993). Studies from Raphael (1999) in United States report that unfortunately, even if a woman escapes the abusive situation and simultaneously maintains her

job, it is not uncommon for the abuser to sabotage the victim's employment with his disruptive behavior.

The current findings in this study show that income was a weak predictor in multivariate analysis and no significant differences reported in a t-test bivariate analysis between a group of abused women that stay and women that left their abusers. The findings of the regression test showed that income is not a strong predictor in a decision to stay or to leave an abusive relationship in a sample of Mexican abused women. On the other hand, researchers as Herbert, Silvert, and Ellard (1991) and Rusbult & Martz (1995) found that income was indeed a strong predictor of the abused women's decision to remain in the abusive relationship. The fact that this study found that income was not a strong predictor in abused Mexican women could be explained: 1) by the complexities of the labor force in Mexico and 2) by the patriarchal values that prevail in the Mexican society.

Nonetheless, the Economically Active Feminine Population (PEAF) in the United States is greater than in Mexico. According to the census 2000, the female labor force rate in Mexico is approximately of a 32.9% (INEGI, 2000). In the United States however, the labor force is comprised of approximately 61.4 percent of females (Census Bureau Report, 2002). The Secretaria de Salud de Nuevo Leon (SSNL) (2002), found in a 1,064 women's survey in Nuevo Leon, that: of the 46.1% who were battered; 73% of them did not integrate the labor force in Nuevo Leon Mexico. Thus, PEAF represented a 17% of the labor force in Nuevo León, Mexico.

The second rationalization regarding the patriarchal values explained by the family cultural morals that dominate the Mexican society, limits the women to submissive roles of domestic labor and attending to the husband's needs. SSNL (2002) explains that despite "the dynamics to incorporate women to a labor force and to the cultural changes" (p.37) the majority have

managed to become autonomous. This explains that abused women who work (and consider that they can experience upward mobility), and meet the needs of their children without depending on their abusive partners continue living with their abusers in spite of the pain and suffering.

According to the findings of a study conducted by SSNL (2002), the Mexican women tolerate the abuse of their partners for reasons others than those associated with economic factors. According to SSNL, this attitude could be the result of the cultural roots fostered by the parents based on patriarchal values and religious beliefs. Unfortunately, there are very few studies in Mexico exploring the decision making process of the abused women. Nevertheless, the study of SSNL supports the findings of this study about income and abused women's stay/leave decision.

Religiosity

Statistical bivariate analyses reported groups' significant differences in *t*-test scores for religiosity. The levels of religiosity in women that decided to remain in an abusive relationship was significantly greater than the levels of women that left those abusive partners. These results indicated that the women who recently left their abusive relationships may have experienced a decrease of religiosity in comparison to women that remained in it. In addition, in a multivariate analysis, religiosity scored as a second strongest predictor for the abused women's decision to stay or leave the abusive relationship. These results support and perhaps extend previous work of Heggen (1993) and Basham and Lisberness (1997) that explain that for some religious women, their denomination's strong doctrinal position against divorce may inhibit them from exercising their right to leave the abusive situation.

For other women however, a position against divorce is a personal belief often supported by their family and church. In either case, there is a common assumption that any marriage is better

than no marriage at all, and it should be maintained at any cost (Calhoun-Brown, 1999). Personal faith for religious abused women can provide much needed strength and courage to face a very painful situation so they can cope with it. Knickmeyer, Levitt, Horne, and Bayer (2004) explored the impact of religion on Christian women's experiences of male perpetrated abused. The relationship between religiosity and experiences of domestic violence was explored in a study conducted by (Knickmeyer et al., 2004) where participants in the Memphis, Tennessee area were asked to describe the relationship between their religion or faith and their experiences of an abusive partner.

Findings highlighted the diverse and at times conflicting religious oriented coping strategies employed by Christian battered women who decided to remain with their violent and abusive spouses or intimate partners. Adams and Fortune (1995) explain that sometimes women who regard suffering as God's will for them believe that God is teaching them a lesson and/or that hardship builds character.

Sometimes, the church leaders influence abused women's decision to leave from abusive relationships. Horne and Levitt (2004) integrated the findings from three studies on religious methods to cope with or prevent intimate partner violence. These analyses examined religious coping methods from multiple perspectives. One study surveyed abused Christian women's experiences of coping with domestic abuse, another presented findings from interviews with abused Christian women victims, and a third investigated faith leaders' beliefs about the occurrence of women abused and the methods they utilize to support victims in their congregations.

Results highlight responses of leaders that may cause unintentional harm to abused women victims. In addition, Rossi (1993) studied the exclusion of women from decision making in

regard to their own lives continue, in the church to this day and punctuate, the failure of the church hierarchy to acknowledge the full humanity and personhood of women, often recognized in society, but not in the Catholic Church.

Thus, women with strong religious beliefs more often than not decide to remain with their abusers as their submission is justified by their religious beliefs. Truman-Schram, Cann, Calhoun and Vanwallendael (2000) found that one of the 7 strongest predictors of the decision to stay in a sample of 78 abused women was the catholic woman's mother. On the other hand, it is remarkable to see that women with low scores of religiosity are more able to leave their abusive partners since they do not have to submit to their abusive husband in order to please their God (Adams & Fortune, 1995). A review of the literature supports the findings of this study regarding the differences between groups and the predictors of the abused women's decision to remain in an abusive relationship.

In congruence with the results of the bivariate and multivariate analysis, it seems that the reduction of the level of religiosity is a predicting factor in abused women deciding to leave their situation of abuse. The religiosity factor is rather prevalent in countries with a high Christian population. In studies done on abused woman regarding their decision to leave/stay in the United States, religiosity does not emerge as a frequent predicting variable. In this study with Mexican women however, it emerges as the second most important predicting factor in both methods (to enter and stepwise) in the multiple regression. These findings can be explained with the New Zealand Official Yearbook (2000) census.

They found that the latest census information shows that the number of people with no religious affiliation is also growing. Pentecostals were the only major Christian group to experience significant growth between 1991 and 1996, with their numbers increasing by 55

percent. Anglicans however, remained by far the largest religious denomination, accounting for 18 percent of the population in 1996. Among non-Christian religions, the numbers of Buddhists and Muslims more than doubled while the number of Hindus increased by almost half between 1991 and 1996, although each of these groups still make up less than 1 percent of the population.

According to the New Zealand census, the number of people who indicated that they had no religious affiliation increased markedly between 1991 and 1996, rising by 33 percent to make up over a quarter of the population in 1996. It could explain why religiosity in the United States lost the power of prediction in the abused women stay/leave decision. On the other hand, Mexico is a country with the majority of the population being Catholics, which explains that this variable is a strong predictor, since this is a country with strong religious beliefs (INEGI, 2000).

Social support

Social support is a third strongest predictor in a stay/leave decision in both multivariate analysis methods: enter; $p=.02$ and stepwise; $p=.04$. As regards, bivariate analysis in social support reports in *t*-test significant differences between groups: abused women that left their partners and abused women that remained with them. First, it is now well established that leaving an abused relationship is perhaps the most dangerous time for battered women. Previous research has confirmed that batterers often stalk their partners after separation and commonly perpetrate separation assault in attempts to block their partners from leaving (Tjaden & Thoenes, 1998). Furthermore, battered women are often killed by intimates when they are living alone or separate from their partners (Browne, 1997).

As a result of continued, escalated, or more extreme violence upon emancipation or attempts at emancipation, battered women may experience fears after leaving in direct response to assaults or threats. In particular, women are likely to experience a loss of predictability of their partner's

violence outside the home setting. Abused women who suffer this process may realize in retrospect that they learned a great deal from the experience and grew more in the leave decision as a result. This is often the case, but only if women who are suffering abuse receive social support and affirmation throughout the experience.

Study of Lyon (2000) reported that the amount of support that abused women had from their parents and friends was inadequate to meet their basic needs and those of their children. Many women had to spend all, or nearly all, of their monthly allowance to cover their needs, others reported regularly going without meals, having inadequate shelter (unable to heat their dwellings, units in very bad disrepair, overcrowding, etc.), inadequate clothing (especially during winter months); and lack of access to transportation (Lyon, 2000). In the complex decision-making process of whether to stay in or return to an abusive relationship it is clear that the adequacy of social support plays a significant role in returning to the abusive relationship in situations where their struggle to survive was the reason, or one of the main reasons, for returning to the abusive relationship.

West and Merritt-Gray (1999), and Molina (1999) established that friends, family support groups, and new romantic partners also provide support in the form of advice and information, practical assistance, companionship, and emotional support in the stay/leave decision process. With the support of family, friends, and helpers, abused women who are comforted can end the relationship, and more safely leave the abusive situation and make major changes in their lives (Molina, 1999). Kemp et al., (1995) and Sullivan and Bybee (1999) reported the significant impact of social support on various measures of the stay/leave decision to an abusive relationship. When women receive social support they will probably learn some difficult lessons: increased self-reliance; how to express anger; that they may survive better outside than inside

abusive relationships; that they can be a whole person without being married; that they can exercise control over their actions with others; that family relationships need not be abusive and violent (Sullivan & Bybee, 1999).

A psychologist coordinator of CAFAM explained during an interview that his experience with the decision making process is that abused women often go through an ongoing process where they leave and come back several times before making a final and definitive decision to leave the relationship. He comments that the most accessible social support that the abused Mexican woman can count on is from their family, her parents, grandparents or uncles. The success of not returning to her abusive partner to a large extent depends on her parents support, in particular, allowing her to stay in their home until she can become economically and emotionally independent from her abuser. Otherwise these abused women return with their abusive partners after just a short time. The experiences of the CAFAM center on the matter of the near family members supporting the abused woman in their decision of leaving/staying in the abusive relationship is often very much related to the religious beliefs and the patriarchal values that these families have.

Unfortunately, the relatives receive the woman who has left her abuser after a high degree of physical abuse and after few days they often ask for the abused woman to return to their abusive partner, to forgive him and to give him another opportunity. According to CAFAM psychologist coordinator, this cycle repeat it self until the abused women is no longer able to live with her abusive partner. The findings in the literature review and the findings of this study, show that the most predicting factors in the decision process of leaving or staying in the relationship is the religious beliefs of the abused woman and her near relatives, the levels of patriarchal values that the family has, and the social support that the family offers these victims of domestic violence.

Finally, the review of the literature confirms the findings that social support is a strong predictor in the abused women's stay/leave decision. In addition, high levels of social support are strong predictors for abused women to leave their abusive partners. On the converse, low levels of social support strongly predict that abused women decide to remain in the abusive situation. In lieu of these findings, the emerging questions are: How can social support help a woman when family and religious leaders teach them to believe they must suffer in silence, must submit to their husband, must protect their family at whatever cost to themselves? How can family or friends supports help them to maintain their faith and to reject the arguments that expose them to abuse and suffering?

Patriarchal Values

The concept of women as property has not disappeared in modern America, especially in patriarchal countries such as Mexico (Stern, 1999). Thus, the current findings show significant differences of patriarchal values between a group of women that left their abusive relationships and a group of women that remained with them, which expands the previous work of Holztein (2000), Stern (1999), and Rossi (1993) about family and religious leaders patriarchal behaviors in attention and support to battered women. Some clergy and patriarchal parents tell women that they must submit to their husbands.

As discussed in Religiosity findings section, sometimes, clergy with patriarchal beliefs counsel battered women to forgive and forget; to turn the other cheek, to save the family and the marriage (Holztein, 2000). Women have been idealized as keepers of the home, husbands, and children at the same time (Stern, 1999; Holztein, 2000). Hence, abused women are ingeniously counseled by patriarchal families and/or clergies as moral agents and sent home to their abusers (Holstein, 2000). Despite having no intention to harm abused women, clergies often do not listen

to their needs. Consequently, abused women perceive their fears discounted and their abuse misunderstood or minimized by their patriarchal social support (family, friends, and clergies). To make matters worse, abused women often report feeling blamed or being made to feel responsible for what happened to them (Rossi, 1993).

Thus, patriarchal values as a strong predictor, predicts that women with high levels of patriarchal values are most likely to stay in the abusive relationship. Alternatively, the decision to leave is strongly predicted among abused women with the lowest levels of patriarchal values. Some studies correlate patriarchal values, religiosity and social support (Rossi, 1993; Dobash & Dobash, 1979; SSNL, 2002). It is important to highlight the facts of the findings that patriarchal values, the first strongest predictor are highly negative correlated ($r = -.9$) with social support ($r = .8$), and subsequently it has a positive correlation with religiosity ($r = .8$). The three strongest predictors in a regression with stepwise method resulted highly correlated. Nevertheless, the fourth predictor given on regression analysis with enter method had the lowest correlation ($r = .7$). These correlations were already supported by the literature review showing in the sections above.

Depression

Leaving an abusive relationship is possibly the most dangerous time for battered women. As it was discussed in the social support section batterers often stalk their partners after separation and commonly perpetrate separation assault in attempts to block their partners from leaving (Tjaden & Thoenes, 1998). Several factors may contribute to the significant group differences in the abused women stay/leave decision. Depression as a factor occurs on a range of intensity for battered women in response to a psychological devastating experience and is a trademark of abuse response (APA, 1994).

The two groups of women in this study reported significant differences ($p=.00$) in the degree of depression experienced by abused women who remained with abusive partners or left them. The group of women within their relationships experienced a higher degree of depression than the group of women out of their relationships. Findings report 77% of the women who left their abusers experienced no depression (scores from 0-11), 6% with low depression (scores from 12-19), 3% of women with moderate depression (scores from 20-28) and 15% of the women with severe depression (scores from 29 to the highest). Conversely, 1.6% of the women whom remained within abusive relationships reported no depression, 3.2% low depression, 29.9% moderate depression, and 66% severe depression.

The Beck Depression Inventory measured symptoms of sadness, hopelessness, past failure, anhedonia, guilt, punishment, self-dislike, self-blame, suicidal thoughts, crying, agitation, loss of interest in activities, indecisiveness, worthlessness, loss of energy, insomnia, irritability, decreased appetite, diminished concentration, fatigue and loss of sexual interest. Therefore, statistically significant findings in those symptoms were found as follows: abused women that left their abusive relationships had experienced lower levels of these symptoms than women that remained with their abusive partners. It is remarkable to see that the item of the levels in lack of interest in sex did not show statistical significant differences between groups. Thus, women that left an abusive relationship maintained high levels of low sexual interest.

The current findings of depression supports and perhaps extends the previous work of Lamoglia (1995), (Beck, 1987), Bernal (2000), (Jones, 1994), Barnett (2001), Walker, 1994, and Campbell et al. (1998). Depression among abused women however, may involve measures of sadness, hopelessness, past failure, anhedonia, guilt, punishment, self-dislike, self-blame, suicidal thoughts, crying, agitation, loss of interest in activities, indecisiveness, worthlessness,

loss of energy, insomnia, irritability, decreased appetite, diminished concentration, fatigue, and lack of interest in sex (Beck, 1987; Lammoglia, 1995). Lammoglia found that these symptoms, expressed by abused women, reflected the degree of depression and identified these symptoms as depression.

In a study to measure depression using the inventory of Beck in a population of 390 Puerto Rican women, Bernal (2000) found that the person who suffers depression usually experiences a loss of interest in feeling pleasure and possibly the person herself does not realize it. This explains the findings of this study where the abused women with high degree of depression lose the interest in leaving the abusive situation and are subsequently resigned to continue within the abusive situation.

Researchers such as Greenspan (1983), Jones (1994), and Lammoglia (1995) had found that abused women's immediate family members are the first in noticing an increase of depression that moved those women away from their relatives and friends. They also found that those women gradually disengage from activities that generate pleasures and empowered them to leave the abusive situation. In addition, abused women often experience loss of appetite, or an increase of eating. If the loss of appetite is significant, this entails a remarkable loss of weight, which can produce other types of upheavals. On the contrary, an excessive increase of appetite can be translated in weight gain, and possible obesity (Seligman, 1975; Kilgore, 1991; Lammoglia, 1995).

Depressive episodes can produce alterations in sleep patterns (initial insomnia), which can result in difficulties to go back to sleep, wake up too early, or oversleep, which often results in waking up too late (Campbell et al., 1998). These symptoms contribute for the abused woman to feel weak, discouraged and without motivation to make the decision to leave their abusive

partner. In regards to psychomotor activity, it can have extreme agitation or incapacity of movement. The agitation adopts diverse forms, like inability to stay seated, to walk incessantly, to twist the hands, to throw themselves or to smooth the hair constantly, to itch the skin, to change of dresses or other objects, accompanied by complaints or shouts without apparent reason.

Furthermore, psychomotor slowness is manifested by slow speech, making many pauses when expressing one self and difficulties in responding to simple questions, singsong, poor and reiterative language; and slow corporal movements (Lammoglia, 1995). In this situation, often there is a diminution of the level of energy, experienced as fatigue even without extraneous physical activity, which contributes to the victim accepting and remaining in the situation of abuse, because the most insignificant task often seems colossal and impossible to carry out (Jones, 1994). Barnett (2001) found that in the abused and depressed woman, there is often present a feeling of inutility that varies from incapacity feelings, to the negative and unreal evaluation of the reality. This causes failures to be exaggerated and the small errors to be reproached while constantly looking in the surroundings for evidences that confirm the negative self evaluation and the decision to remain with the abusive companion.

Walter (1994) through the theory of Learned Helplessness explains that the guilt feeling is generated by the means of an excessive reaction to previous or present failures, and to take exaggerated responsibility of unfavorable or tragic events. These feelings when elevated to the proportion of delirium explain the decision that the abused woman makes in staying with her abusive companion, since they lead the person to live recriminating herself, and taking the blame, and feeling that she deserves the abuse. During an episode of depression, concentration is difficult; thoughts become slower, increasing the indecision in face of drastic decisions, and is

constantly distracted and experience periods of amnesia. These symptoms predict the decision of the abused woman to remain in the situation of abuse when feeling incapable to survive without the support of the companion or by the degree of fault that this develops during the episodes of depression (Jones, 1994).

Lammoglia (1995) speaks of frequent thoughts of death or suicide: there is fear to die and simultaneously, fear of death; plans or attempts of suicide and the conviction that she as well as those who surrounds her “would be better dead” (p.98). These suicidal ideas experienced by the depressive woman compel her to remain in the relationship as a solution to finalize the abuse (Jones, 1994). At its most fundamental level, depression is a response to the perceived uncontrollable and unpredictable abusive situation and insecurity (van der Kolk, van der Hart, & Marmar, 1996).

Finally, given the description above of what studies have found, it is not surprising that the findings of these study show that battered women who experienced high degrees of depression decided to remain in an abusive relationship. In contrast, battered women who experienced low degrees of depression decided to leave their abusive partners.

Economic dependency, self-esteem and type of abuse

Multivariate regression analysis did not show significant evidence of economic dependency, self-esteem, and type of abuse as strong predictors. Nonetheless, the *t* test bivariate analysis demonstrates statistically significant mean group differences.

Economic dependency

Economic dependency was not a predictor of the abused women’s stay/leave decision. Nevertheless, economic dependency resulted with significant differences between groups at $p=.00$. Women that remain with their abusers demonstrate higher levels of economic dependency

than women that left their abusive partners. The findings that economic dependency was not a predictor toward the stay decision contradicts some past findings. Previous researches suggest that financial independence predicts the women's decision to leave their partners (Barnett & LaViolette, 1993; Jacobson & Gottman, 1998; Brandwein, 1999; Bollie, 1997; Raphael, 1999). Economic independence is also a real risk factor linked with a decision to stay or a probability of returning to the same abusive relationship (Barnett & LaViolette, 1993; Jacobson & Gottman, 1998). Studies from Brandwein (1999), Bollie (1997), and Raphael (1999) explained that battered women are frequently trapped in their abusive relationships because they have no money and no source of income.

The many differences between this study and the studies of others could be the reason why this researcher could not find what others have found. One of the main reasons is the research design used in this study. For example, in this study abused women were interviewed only once, whereas in some previous studies (Strube & Barbour, 1984), abused women were interviewed across time. Since abused women in the current study were interviewed only once, it is not known how many women that left their abusive partners eventually returned to them, and how many returned for economic reasons. Another reason why this investigator did not find economic dependency as a predictor of stay/leave decision may relate to the study sample. The overall current sample of abused women was extremely economically dependent. Perhaps, the lack of variability in economic dependency and stay/leave decision camouflaged the prediction level.

Level of Self-esteem

Self-esteem measured the image that the victim has of herself in relation to the knowledge of the expectation of the others and its comparison with its own conduct (Allport & Murray, 1996). The abused women in the current study reported weak prediction in a multivariate analysis.

Nevertheless, a bivariate analysis reported significant differences between groups (0=left, 1=stay). On the level of self-esteem factor, the sample means scored similar to what Dutton and Painter (1993) found in their study, where 50 women who left their abusive relationships reported higher levels of self-esteem than women who remained with their abusive relationships. In this current study, women with higher (more than 13 points) levels of self-esteem were more likely to leave their abusive partners than those women with lower (less than 13 points) levels of self-esteem.

Findings in a descriptive analysis reported 12.5% of women with high self esteem, and 87.5% with low self-esteem in women who remained with their abusive partner. In contrast of 84.8% of women with high self-esteem, and 15.2% of women with low self-esteem in a sample of women that decided to leave their abusive partners.

Perhaps the relationship was camouflaged due to the length of a time which the women left their abusers. Possibly, more time out of the abused relationship is needed for self-esteem scores to significantly subside.

Type of abuse

Overall, this sample of abused women did have high scores of different types of abuse (physical, economic, sexual and psychological). Findings reported that a 57% of abused women have higher levels of the four different types of abuse. The bivariate analysis reported significant differences between groups. The high rates of physical and non-physical abuse reported by this study are similar to those reported Attala, Hudson and McSweeney (1994) who analyzed data from 90 sheltered women on the Hudson scales (65%) to overall type of abuse. Past findings regarding the relationship between partner type of abuse and the stay/leave decision supports these findings. The results of the current study converge with Gelles (1976) who found that the

more severe and frequent the abuse, the more likely was a woman to decide to leave their abusive relationship. Nevertheless, the reasons why women do not choose to leave a violent relationship are complex and may depend upon a variety of factors (Raphael, 1999).

Limitations

Cone and Foster (1993) have written “design issues always involve compromises” (p.244) and the present study was no exception. Certainly study design was appropriate for research on factors related to abused stay/leave Mexican women’s decision. Moreover, convenience sampling facilitated the recruitment of subjects, and the study was relatively inexpensive to implement.

Limitations of this research are related to the nature of the data. Collecting the data at the CAFAM agency tended to limit the scope of the study. Although the agency from which the subjects were selected had a fairly large number of abused women (approximately 80%), the data were limited to Mexican abused women from 18-48 years old, heterosexual with more than six months of history of abuse who had attended the agency during the intake process (to be sure that did not received treatment). Thus, this study excluded a large number of potential respondents who could contribute to the study.

Nevertheless, because the present study was non-experimental and did not involve random assignment, it can not conclude unequivocally that the independent variables predicted women’s decision to stay or to leave. Furthermore, since the abused women in the present study were interviewed only once, it was not possible to know how many women left their abusive partners and if they eventually returned to their abusive males, and the reasons why they returned. In addition, data about the point in time that abused women decided to leave their partners were unknown.

External validity limitations also exist with the present study. For example, the study sample was primarily an agency sample of abused women, and it is not known if study findings generalize to abused women in other settings.

Measures in the study also have limitations. Due to the level of measurement (nominal dichotomy) of the criterion variable, logistic regression was selected as a best statistic multivariate analysis. Nonetheless, despite the flexibility regarding its assumptions compared to other statistical approaches, logistic regression also has several disadvantages. Analogous to its OLS counterpart, logistic regression is not exempt from the problem of multicollinearity. As correlations increase between predictor variables and approach multicollinearity, the standard errors for the effect coefficients become excessive in size, affecting their reliability and more seriously, the validity of the statistical conclusions. Thus, for multicollinearity problems in logistic regression standard regression was used.

Most disappointing was the problem of accessing a sufficient sample of abused women in both the two stages of the stay/leave abusive relationship so that factors related to each stage could be identified. Although CAFAM agency system was very cooperative in allowing the researcher and her staff to gain access to abused women, the stay/leave action stage of the women's abusive relationships was saturated. In an attempt to gain access to women in an intake stage of the CAFAM agency interview, the researcher slowed recruiting efforts in the agency, and focused on gaining access to women attending local support as new applicants to seek services for battered women. Every day the researcher and her staff went to CAFAM to recruit potential subjects. Each time the investigator and her staff made a personal appearance subjects were recruited and data were collected for the present study. The investigator extended the length

of time planned for data collection until gathering the number of 130 subjects of the sample. The recruitment process for this study lasted a total of 10 weeks.

Reliance on report of income in the absence of data regarding the salary of abused women that were self employed became a problem since there were significant differences between groups. Additionally, there were many different characteristics in the type of income among the abused women such as: salary, pensions, owns small business, family and other financial help. Future research also needs to measure more accurately the income variable by examining, for example, the types of income already mentioned above.

Although, lots of research has been conducted in the area of battered women, there is still a gap regarding the abused women stay/leave decision including variables such as patriarchal values and religiosity among strong patriarchal and religious countries like Mexico. This research provides insights into Mexican battered women, and has filled a gap in the area of stay/leave decision making research among Mexican battered women.

When considering all the dynamics involved in an abusive relationship, as abused women often do, it is easy to understand why so many abused women linger in their relationships. In fact, the research of Russell and Rebecca Dobash points out that abused women often come and go as if they cannot make up their minds (Dobash & Dobash, 1979). Both leaving and staying with an abusive partner create risks and expenses particularly to Mexican battered women. If the woman leaves, she may have to give up affordable housing, social support, and the additional income, childcare and/or transportation which her partner provided. Subsequently, her life style could easily deteriorate.

While many helping professionals are mostly concerned about the physical safety of the abused women, and as a result, urge her to leave the violence, she may think of her safety more broadly.

Safety for her may be social support instead of food, housing, income, and a ride to work or the clinic. Traditional solutions to ending women abused have tended to focus solely on stopping physical assault and largely on leaving.

Sometimes, it can be presumed that battered women want to leave, and that frequently research factors, such as income, family members, economic dependency, self-esteem, and type of abuse are their major concern. Nevertheless, in Mexican women's lives, these presumptions may be false. Their lives are often more complicated. Their cultural and historic roots impact the decision to stay and cope with their abusive relationships, using different strategies to survive or the decision to stay away from their abusive partners (Stern, 1999; SSNL, 2002)). The findings of this study answered the research question of what *factors* predict women's decisions to stay or leave abusive relationships among a sample of women in México. The findings already discussed show patriarchal values and religiosity as the factors that have a strongest prediction in the Mexican abused women's stay/leave decision, followed by social support and depression.

Abused women recently out of their relationships may have experienced a decrease in the levels of patriarchal values, religiosity, the degree of depression, and an increase in the levels of social support as they left or that prompted them to leave. Clear and reliable data were not available from the current sample of women to address this possibility, and report of these factors preclude a more precise observation of changes in those four constructs over a longer period of time. A decrease from high levels of patriarchal values, religiosity, depression, and an increase from low levels of social support over a longer space of time, which may have finally prompted women to leave the relationship, could result in a group of recently emancipated women that safely are in charge of their children and their lives.

A slightly different explanation about income also involves a lack of group differences in abused women's stay/leave decision. Herbert, Silvert, and Ellard (1991) and Rusbult & Martz (1995) found that income was a strong predictor of the abused women's stay/leave decision to remain in an abusive relationship and suggested that women are more fearful have low or no income to survive alone, thus, tends to remain with abusers. Women reported no statistical difference in the rates or scores of family members and income they experienced in their decision to stay or to leave their abusive relationships; however, there may have been characteristic differences in the type of income (salary, pensions, own small business, family or other financial help).

Furthermore, economic dependency factors resulted with mean significant differences; demonstrating that women that remain with their abusers have higher levels of economic dependency than women that left their abusive partners. The lower income scores in the current sample of stay/leave battered women may be affected by an effect that most of the women obtained their income through partners or family financial help. However, a characteristic of women whom experienced self income through their own salary was not examined in this study.

Recommendations

Many battered women face isolation from their usual sources of support if they leave an abusive husband. Even members of her own family may believe she should remain with her husband. Many of those women feel guilty for what has happened and think: "If I only was a better wife, he would not treat me like this," and blame themselves as "I know that if I could just keep the children clean, get supper ready on time, and stop nagging him he would stop hitting me." They have come to believe that the abuse is their fault, and that she does not have the ability to make it stop. These are often the result of social expectations created by patriarchal

family and social systems. Therefore social support becomes a significant predictor of women's decision to stay or to leave. Thus, Patriarchal values, religiosity, depression and social support factors in the abused women's stay/leave decision should be address by researchers, policymakers, legislature, agencies and programs that are in charge of the violence against women social problem.

Leaving an abuser is a process and it may take several attempts for a woman to be able to leave and stay away from her abusive husband. It is important to realize this, to stop asking the question such as: "But why does she stay with him?" and to find ways to support those abused women in the choices they made and are still making when considering factors such as: patriarchal values, religiosity, social support and depression as strong predictors in Mexican women.

New solutions are hard to consider for a movement that is under funded and sometimes under attack, and for busy professionals with many demands on their time. Mexico should formulate and include abused women public policies in their agenda to articulate the array of supports needed to empower battered women in their stay/leave decision process and allow them to succeed in their decisions. This study will help social policy makers and the legislature to develop a new vision of what safety, security, and help mean for abused women in Mexico.

Future Directions

The potential impact of additional independent variables on the stay/leave decision needs to be considered given the fact that some amount of variance remained unexplained. Research using the relationships between abused women stay/leave decision variable and other variables such as age, length of abuse of the intimate relationship, length of time for women's decision to leave and returning points to the abusers, warrants further investigation. In addition, the abusive

partner psychological profile should be included as another factor in the abused women's stay/leave decision.

Developing methods to access abused women in the early stages of the stay/leave decision, qualitative research to discover deeply the process by which Mexican abused women decrease their patriarchal values, and religiosity levels when they left their abusive relationships may provide insight over the time that may have finally prompted women to leave the relationship resulting in an emancipated woman that safely in charge of her children and her life.

Finally, longitudinal studies may help future researchers gain insight into what factors may better predict relapses during the women's stay/leave decision.

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APPENDIX – A – CONSENT FORMS

Sampling and data collection consent proposal

Institution consent letter

Subject consent form

SAMPLING AND DATA COLLECTION CONSENT PROPOSAL

Lic. Imelda I. Flores Peña

Coordinadora del Programa de Centro de Atención Familiar

DIF, Nuevo León

Presente.-

Estimada Lic. Flores.

Por este medio procedo a solicitar a usted de la manera más atenta proporcione las facilidades físicas y los recursos humanos del programa CAFAM para poder realizar mi estudio de investigación sobre los factores que tienen mayor impacto en la toma de decisión de quedar o abandonar una situación de abuso de parte de su pareja. Entiendo que la violencia contra la mujer es un problema social que estadísticamente incrementa en vez de disminuir a nivel mundial. El proceso de toma de decisión de la mujer abusada es de vital importancia para el éxito de su erradicación. Estados Unidos, Canadá, y otros países han hecho estudios con respecto a esta toma de decisión, sin embargo he encontrado a través de una revisión extensa de la literatura existente, que en México no se han llevado a cabo estudios sobre el tema del proceso la toma de decisión de mujer abusada mexicana y los factores que impactan este proceso.

Por las razones antes mencionadas pienso este estudio aportará una gran contribución para el campo del trabajador social y a su vez para el mayor éxito de su programa además de otros programas similares. Este a su vez ayudará en la elaboración de políticas públicas que apoyen dichos programas y que contribuyan a la erradicación de la violencia contra la mujer en nuevo León y México en general.

Este estudio se efectuará como requisito final de mi grado académico de Doctorado en Filosofía con Especialidad en Trabajo Social y Políticas Comparadas de Bienestar Social que será otorgado por la Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, México y la Universidad de Texas en Arlington, USA.

Estoy solicitando de ustedes específicamente que me permitan el acceso a tomar una muestra de las mujeres víctimas de abuso que acuden a su centro diariamente en busca de ayuda. Esta muestra será de 166 mujeres y tomada de las víctimas de abuso durante la entrevista inicial y

antes de ser tratadas por el programa CAFAM. Además les solicito el uso de sus facilidades físicas. Queda establecida la ética profesional, además de la confidencialidad con que se realizará este estudio. Entendiendo que el programa CAFAM esta bajo la supervisión del DIF, esta solicitud se está procesando con copia a la Lic. Leonor Guadalupe Zavala de Mireles (Directora del DIF) para su colaboración y otorgamiento de los permisos necesarios para este proyecto se realice en su centro. Estoy a su orden para cualquier dato o procedimiento extra que sea necesario para la agilización de dichos permisos.

Agradeciendo infinitamente su colaboración al respecto.

Quedo de usted muy cordialmente,

Wilma González Rios

Investigadora

c.c.p. Lic. Leonor Guadalupe Zavala de Mireles

Directora del Programa De Protección al Menor y la Familia

SUBJECT CONSENT FORM
Formulario de Consentimiento del Sujeto

Tema de Investigación: Los factores en la decisión de la mujer mejicana de quedar o abandonar a la pareja en una situación de abuso

Bajo la dirección de: Wilma Gonzalez

Me fue explicado que:

1. el propósito de esta investigación es identificar los factores predictores en la toma de decisión de quedar o abandonar a la pareja en una situación de abuso en una muestra de mujeres abusadas que asisten en busca de ayuda a CAFAM localizado en la ciudad de Guadalupe en el estado de Nuevo León, México.
2. este estudio aportará una gran contribución para el campo del trabajador social y a su vez para el mayor éxito de programas contra la violencia doméstica y en especial la violencia contra la mujer en el estado de Nuevo León, México
3. este a su vez podría ayudar en la formulación de políticas públicas que apoyen dichos programas en la erradicación de la violencia contra la mujer en México
4. la información de este estudio será usada para elaboración y defensa de la disertación doctoral de Wilma Gonzalez en: la Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León y la Universidad de Texas en Arlington.

Además se me ha explicado que:

1. el riesgo de esta investigación es mínimo
2. la entrevista será a través de una encuesta (consta de tres cuestionarios) y la información dada en los cuestionarios es confidencial
3. ningún cuestionario será marcado (identificado) con ningún nombre.
4. mi nombre no será usado en ningún reporte y ni será identificado.
5. este consentimiento escrito es requerido a todas las personas que participarán en este proyecto.
6. el documento tiene que ser explicado en una lengua que yo pueda entender

Los posibles riesgos y los malestares de los procedimientos se me han explicado.

A su vez, se me ha indicado que si tengo algún tipo de pregunta relacionada con los procedimientos, mis derechos como participante o del estudio en general, puedo ponerme en contacto con Wilma González en CAFAM.

En adición, me han explicado que puedo rechazar el participar o parar mi participación en este proyecto en cualquier momento. Todos los nuevos resultados o información que salgan a relucir durante el curso de esta investigación que pueda influenciar mi deseo de participar en este estudio me serán proporcionados durante la invitación a participar en dicho estudio.

Entiendo que tengo derecho a la privacidad, y toda la información que se obtenga en conexión con este estudio y que pueda identificarse conmigo seguirá siendo confidencial y que los resultados de este estudio pueden ser publicados sin identificar mi nombre.

Yo voluntariamente estoy de acuerdo en participar como un sujeto de estudio en el proyecto arriba mencionado donde se me darán una copia de la forma del consentimiento escrito que he firmado.

Fecha

Firma de participante

Utilizando un lenguaje fácil de entender y apropiado, mis ayudantes y yo hemos discutido este proyecto y las preguntas de éste con los participantes.

Fecha

Firma del investigador

APENDIX – B – INSTRUMENTS

**Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León
Facultad de Trabajo Social
Universidad de Texas en Arlington
Escuela de Trabajo Social**

BATERÍA DE PREGUNTAS DISTRIBUIDAS DE MANERA QUE SIGUE:

CUESTIONARIO DEL INVESTIGADOR QUE SE APLICARÁ PARA COLECTAR DATOS SOBRE TIPOS DE ABUSO, RELIGIOSIDAD, APOYO SOCIAL, VALORES PATRIARCALES, DEPENDENCIA ECONÓMICA E INGRESO DE LA MUJER ABUSADA

INVENTARIO DE PREGUNTAS DE BECK QUE SE APLICARÁ PARA COLECTAR DATOS SOBRE EL GRADO DE DEPRESIÓN DE LA MUJER ABUSADA

INVENTARIO DE PREGUNTAS DE COOPERSMITH QUE SE APLICARÁ PARA COLECTAR DATOS SOBRE EL NIVEL DE AUTOESTIMA DE LA MUJER ABUSADA

Encuestador II _____.

Nombre del encuestador _____.

Fecha _____ Hora de inicio de la entrevista _____.

Nombre de la institución donde se hizo el estudio _____.

Numero único de encuesta: _____.

INTRODUCCIÓN

¡Hola, buenos días! (IDENTIFIQUESE). Estamos haciendo un estudio en esta institución sobre los factores que más predicen que una mujer abusada por su pareja decida dejar o continuar en dicha relación. Es probable que mientras conteste las preguntas usted podrá entender mejor su situación, sin embargo si llegamos a una pregunta que usted no desea contestar, siéntase libre de

hacérmelo saber y pasaremos a la pregunta siguiente. La mayor parte de las preguntas son de carácter privado, por lo que para respetar su privacidad, toda información obtenida en este estudio será completamente confidencial y sólo será divulgada de manera anónima.

Agradecemos profundamente su participación en este proyecto. Le pedimos la mayor sinceridad en sus contestaciones y le recordamos que toda información provista por usted será confidencial y para uso solamente del estudio. ¿Tiene alguna pregunta antes de comenzar?

Seleccione la contestación que más se acerque a su experiencia sobre lo que se le está preguntando. Le haré una serie de preguntas acerca de usted, su relación con su pareja, su estado emocional y psicológico. Leeré varias alternativas que pueden describir su situación, seleccione la que mas le describa, yo marcaré con una X la contestación que usted seleccione.

CUESTIONARIO DE PREGUNTAS SOBRE INGRESO, DEPENDENCIA ECONOMICA, TIPO DE ABUSO, APOYO SOCIAL, VALORES PATRIARCALES Y RELIGIOSIDAD

___ 1. ¿Cuántos años cumplidos tiene usted?

_____.

___ 2. ¿Cuál es su condición marital?

1 casada 2 unión libre 3 separada 4 divorciada 999 No contestó
() () () () ()

___ 3. ¿Cuántas personas, que vivan en la ciudad, componen su familia?

(incluya hijos, pareja, padres, abuelos, suegros u otros miembros de su familia).

_____.

___ 4. ¿Cuántas personas habitan en el domicilio en que usted vive?

_____.

___ 5. ¿Cuál es su ingreso semanal actual?

_____.

___ 6. ¿Vive actualmente con su pareja en el mismo domicilio?

1 sí () 2 no () 999 No contestó ()

(Si la persona contestó "SÍ" a la pregunta 6, haga la pregunta 7 abajo; si contestó "NO" pase a la pregunta 7.1.).

___ 7. ¿Cuánto gana su pareja a la semana?

(Pase a la pregunta 8)

___ 7.1 ¿Recibe usted apoyo económico de su pareja?

1 sí () 2 no () 999 No contestó ()

(SI CONTESTÓ "SÍ" A LA PREGUNTA 7.1 HAGAN LA PREGUNTA 8 ABAJO; SI CONTESTÓ "NO" PASE A LA

PREGUNTA 9 Y 10)

___ 8. ¿Cuál es la cantidad de dinero semanal que le proporciona su pareja de manera regular?

semanal _____ nada () 999 No contestó ()

(Si contestó la pregunta 8 pase a la pregunta 11)

___ 9. ¿Cuál era el ingreso mensual total del hogar cuando usted estaba viviendo con su pareja?

___ 10. ¿Qué tanto dependía del ingreso de su pareja o ex pareja para sobrevivir?

1 nada () 2 casi nada () 3 poco () 4 mucho () 5 completamente ()

999 No contestó ()

___ 11. ¿Y qué tanto depende en la actualidad del ingreso de su pareja o ex pareja para sobrevivir?

1 nada () 2 casi nada () 3 poco () 4 mucho () 5 completamente ()

999 No contestó ()

___ 12. ¿Cómo considera usted su relación con Dios en su diario vivir?

- 1 insignificante () 2 poco significativa () 3 algo significativa ()
4 significativa () 5 muy significativa () 999 No contestó ()

___ 13. ¿Qué tan frecuentemente le pide a Dios que le oriente en sus decisiones?

- 1 nunca () 2 casi nunca () 3 algunas veces () 4 frecuentemente ()
5 siempre () 999 No contestó ()

___ 14. ¿Qué tan frecuentemente asiste a su iglesia?

- 1 nunca () 2 casi nunca () 3 algunas veces () 4 frecuentemente ()
5 siempre () 999 No contestó ()

___ 15. (fisabus1) - ¿Con qué frecuencia su pareja la golpeaba o la golpea?

- 1 nunca () 2 casi nunca () 3 algunas veces () 4 frecuentemente ()
5 siempre () 999 No contestó ()

___ 16. ¿Con qué frecuencia su pareja la empujaba o la empuja?

- 1 nunca () 2 casi nunca () 3 algunas veces () 4 frecuentemente ()
5 siempre () 999 No contestó ()

___ 17. ¿Con qué frecuencia su pareja la cacheteaba o la cachetea?

- 1 nunca () 2 casi nunca () 3 algunas veces () 4 frecuentemente ()
5 siempre () 999 No contestó ()

___ 18. ¿Con qué frecuencia su pareja le provocaba o le provoca moretones?

- 1 nunca () 2 casi nunca () 3 algunas veces () 4 frecuentemente ()
5 siempre () 999 No contestó ()

___ 19. ¿Con qué frecuencia su pareja le pegaba o le pega utilizando algún

objeto?

1 nunca () 2 casi nunca () 3 algunas veces () 4 frecuentemente ()

5 siempre () 999 No contestó ()

___ 20. ¿Con qué frecuencia su pareja la obligaba o la obliga a tener relaciones sexuales?

1 nunca () 2 casi nunca () 3 algunas veces () 4 frecuentemente ()

5 siempre () 999 No contestó ()

___ 21. ¿Con qué frecuencia su pareja la obligaba o la obliga a realizar actos sexuales que no desea?

1 nunca () 2 casi nunca () 3 algunas veces () 4 frecuentemente ()

5 siempre () 999 No contestó ()

___ 22. ¿Con qué frecuencia su pareja le dice o le decía que es poco atractiva?

1 nunca () 2 casi nunca () 3 algunas veces () 4 frecuentemente ()

5 siempre () 999 No contestó ()

___ 23. ¿Con qué frecuencia su pareja la amenazaba o la amenaza con matarla?

1 nunca () 2 casi nunca () 3 algunas veces () 4 frecuentemente ()

5 siempre () 999 No contestó ()

___ 24. ¿Con qué frecuencia su pareja la amenazaba o la amenaza con quitarle a sus hijos si lo deja?

1 nunca () 2 casi nunca () 3 algunas veces () 4 frecuentemente ()

5 siempre () 999 No contestó ()

___ 25. ¿Con qué frecuencia su pareja le gritaba o le grita?

1 nunca () 2 casi nunca () 3 algunas veces () 4 frecuentemente ()

5 siempre () 999 No contestó ()

26. ¿Con cuánta frecuencia su pareja le negaba o le niega los medios para satisfacer sus necesidades de vivienda?

- 1 nunca () 2 casi nunca () 3 algunas veces () 4 frecuentemente ()
5 siempre () 999 No contestó ()

27. ¿Con cuánta frecuencia su pareja le negaba o le niega los medios para satisfacer sus necesidades de salud?

- 1 nunca () 2 casi nunca () 3 algunas veces () 4 frecuentemente ()
5 siempre () 999 No contestó ()

28. ¿Con cuánta frecuencia su pareja controlaba o controla el dinero?

- 1 nunca () 2 casi nunca () 3 algunas veces () 4 frecuentemente ()
5 siempre () 999 No contestó ()

29. ¿Con cuánta frecuencia sus amigos de confianza le orientan en sus decisiones relacionadas con las soluciones a sus problemas?

- 1 nunca () 2 casi nunca () 3 algunas veces () 4 frecuentemente ()
5 siempre () 999 No contestó ()

30. ¿En qué grado cuenta usted con personas a las cuales les pueda platicar sus cosas personales?

- 1 en ningún () 2 en poco () 3 en algún () 4 en mucho ()
grado grado grado grado
5 en bastante () 999 No contestó ()
grado

31. ¿Con cuánta frecuencia su familia le apoya y le ayuda a encontrar soluciones a sus problemas?

- 1 nunca () 2 casi nunca () 3 algunas veces () 4 frecuentemente ()
5 siempre () 999 No contestó ()

32. ¿Qué tan de acuerdo está usted en que la figura masculina es

necesaria y debe tener el mando en el hogar?

1 nada de () 2 poco de () 3 algo de () 4 de acuerdo ()
acuerdo acuerdo acuerdo

5 muy de acuerdo () 999 No contestó ()

___ 33. ¿Qué tan de acuerdo está en que la autoridad masculina es necesaria para el buen funcionamiento del hogar?

1 nada de () 2 poco de () 3 algo de () 4 de acuerdo ()
acuerdo acuerdo acuerdo

5 muy de acuerdo () 999 No contestó ()

___ 34. ¿Piensa usted que cuando su pareja la maltrataba o maltrata lo ha hecho porque busca ser respetado?

1 nada de () 2 poco de () 3 algo de () 4 de acuerdo ()
acuerdo acuerdo acuerdo

5 muy de acuerdo () 999 No contestó ()

___ 35. ¿Cree usted que su pareja es quien debe dictar las normas del hogar y los demás deben obedecer?

1 nada de () 2 poco de () 3 algo de () 4 de acuerdo ()
acuerdo acuerdo acuerdo

5 muy de acuerdo () 999 No contestó ()

APPENDIX – D

Research team training

**UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE NUEVO LEÓN
FACULTAD DE TRABAJO SOCIAL
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

**PROYECTO DE INVESTIGACIÓN EN EL CENTRO DE
ATENCIÓN FAMILIAR (CAFAM)**

**TOPICO DE INVESTIGACIÓN: LOS FACTORES EN LA
DECISION DE LA MUJER MEJICANA DE PERMANECER O
ABANDONAR UNA SITUACIÓN DE ABUSO**

INVESTIGADORA PRINCIPAL: WILMA GONZÁLEZ, MAED., MD.

MANUAL DE CAPACITACIÓN

FEBRERO DEL 2004

HOJA DE INFORMACIÓN

Nombre: _____

Dirección: _____

Teléfono (casa): _____

Teléfono (celular) _____

Edad: _____.

Año de egreso: _____

Días/ horas disponibles entre lunes a domingos: _____

Días/ horas NO disponibles entre lunes a domingos: _____

INSTRUCCIONES PARA LAS ENTREVISTADORAS

I. DESCRIPCIÓN Y JUSTIFICACIÓN DE LA INVESTIGACIÓN

Después de una extensa revisión de la literatura relacionada sobre los factores que tienen mayor impacto en la toma de decisión de quedar o abandonar una situación de abuso de parte de su pareja se encontró que la violencia contra la mujer es un problema social que estadísticamente incrementa en vez de disminuir a nivel mundial. A pesar de que México cuenta con programas y políticas con perspectivas de género en atención a la violencia contra la mujer, el aumento en la incidencia de los casos de mujeres abusadas de parte de su pareja, confirman la urgente necesidad de erradicación que tiene este problema social en dicho país.

El proceso de toma de decisión de la mujer abusada es de vital importancia para el éxito de su erradicación. Estados Unidos, Canadá, y otros países han hecho estudios con respecto a esta toma de decisión, sin embargo he encontrado a través de una revisión de la literatura existente, que en México no se han llevado a cabo estudios sobre el tema del proceso la toma de decisión de mujer abusada mexicana y los factores que impactan este proceso.

Por las razones antes mencionadas este estudio aportará una gran contribución para el campo del trabajador social y a su vez para el mayor éxito en la elaboración de políticas públicas y programas que contribuyan a dar una mayor atención a la mujer abusada por su pareja y a su vez a la erradicación de la violencia contra la mujer en nuevo León y México en general.

II. ORIENTACIÓN GENERAL SOBRE LA BATERIA DE CONSTRUCTOS A APLICARSE Y SOBRE LA INSTITUCIÓN DONDE SE HARA EL ESTUDIO

1. Estudiar el conjunto de constructos que serán aplicados cada día ya sea el día o la noche anterior. Verbalizarlo de manera audible para asegurarse la correcta pronunciación y acentuación gramatical correctas.
2. El primer cuestionario fue elaborado para aplicar de igual manera a ambos grupos que se procederán a entrevistar: grupo # 1 (mujeres que permanecen en una situación abusiva con su pareja) y; grupo #2 (mujeres que han abandonado dicha relación). Lo que diferenciará e identificará a que grupo pertenece la mujer dentro de la data colectada es la conjugación de los verbos. Es por lo que es de gran importancia el correcto uso de la gramática cuando el entrevistador este leyendo las preguntas al sujeto.
3. El entrevistador deberá anotar la contestación seleccionada por el sujeto a cada pregunta o afirmación de inmediato. Esta se hará de acuerdo a las instrucciones que se encuentran en la introducción de cada instrumento y en el área de contestaciones que aparece dentro.
4. Si el entrevistado rehúsa contestar alguna pregunta o responder a alguna afirmación, marque en el área correspondiente y continúe con la siguiente pregunta.
5. Utilizar ropa cómoda y que no llame la atención. Evitar lo mayor posible de no utilizar joyas costosas ni llamativas cuando vaya al centro.
6. Ser amable y empático con el entrevistado y el personal que labora en el centro.
7. Presentarse ante el entrevistado como alumna de la Facultad de Trabajo Social de la Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León.

III. ANTESALA E INICIO DE LA ENTREVISTA

1. Antes de la entrevista

Antes de iniciar la entrevista debe asegurarse si el sujeto tiene algunas dudas o preguntas que hacer. Si el sujeto esta listo a ser entrevistado, el entrevistador procederá a leer la introducción que se encuentra en la pagina # 2. Deberá hacer énfasis en el hecho de la confidencialidad y el anonimato con que se tratará la información colectada de los entrevistados. Aclarar que durante el proceso de la entrevista no habrá preguntas correctas o incorrectas. Que toda respuesta que esta ofrezca será valiosa y correcta.

2. Aplicar preguntas de la hoja de criterios

Esta hoja contiene las siguientes preguntas que corresponden a los criterios de identificación y ubicación de los sujetos dentro de los grupos # 1 y grupo #2.

Hoja preguntas para los criterios que identifiquen y ubiquen al sujeto dentro de los grupos #1 y grupo #2

1 ¿Vive usted actualmente con su esposo o compañero con el que se dio la situación de abuso en el mismo lugar?

Sí _____ No _____

2 ¿Hace cuánto tiempo que no vive con él?

3 ¿Quién diría usted, después de todo, quien decidió terminar la relación?

IV. PROCESO DE ENTREVISTA Y CRITERIOS DE INCLUSIÓN Y EXCLUSIÓN

1. Proceso de entrevista inicial (Intake) de la agencia

A través de este proceso la agencia recibe, identifica y clasifica a las mujeres abusadas para canalizarlas a los servicios que ameriten. Es utilizada una forma llamada ficha de ingreso donde recoge la siguiente data: 1) datos generales, donde el usuario informa su estado civil (tiempo), situación actual (tiempo), domicilio actual y domicilio anterior; 2) antecedentes de salud y alimentación; 3) datos complementarios, donde el usuario ofrece información sobre la dirección de su pareja; 4) composición familiar, donde el cliente informa sobre las personas que viven bajo su mismo techo, personas de la familia relevantes que no viven con ella, motivo de la visita, tipo de abuso; 5) nivel de riesgo, donde la agencia de acuerdo a la data obtenida por la informante identifica si la mujer es abusada, el nivel de riesgo que tiene(de mayor a menos del 1-4) y el tiempo que conlleva este nivel de riesgo. Posterior a esta entrevista la agencia canaliza al cliente a los servicios pertinentes.

La selección de la muestra será efectuada mediante el referido a través de la agencia, de sujetos que cumplan con los criterios de inclusión y exclusión establecidos por el entrevistador. Los sujetos se entrevistarán inmediatamente después de la entrevista inicial de la agencia, esto se hará de este modo para evitar que los sujetos inicien servicios de la agencia y sea por esto contaminada la muestra.

2. Criterios de inclusión y exclusión en la selección de la muestra

Criterios de inclusión en el estudio: Mujeres mexicanas de 18-45 años de comportamiento marital heterosexual y que han sufrido una situación de abuso durante seis meses o más.

Criterios de exclusión del estudio: mujeres que están o han recibido los servicios de la agencia, de comportamiento marital homosexual o bisexual, cualquier otra nacionalidad que no sea mexicana y menores de 18 años ó mayores de 45 años; abandono de hogar por parte del compañero o esposo.

Ya establecidos los criterios de selección (inclusión y exclusión) del estudio compartidos y aceptados por la agencia, se le pedirá a ésta que canalice a las mujeres mexicanas de 18-45 años que estuvieron siendo abusadas durante un periodo de tiempo de cinco meses ó más, que lleven ó hayan llevado una relación marital heterosexual y que no hayan recibido aún de sus servicios ó tratamiento. Posteriormente, el entrevistador hará un acercamiento breve al sujeto para explicarle el proyecto de investigación, la importancia de su colaboración en el éxito de éste y como este proyecto puede ayudar en la erradicación del problema de violencia contra la mujer. Ya firmada la hoja de consentimiento, el sujeto será reclasificado de acuerdo a su estatus marital (si permanece aún ó ya ha abandonado la relación de abuso).

3. Criterios para determinar si la persona esta o no en la relación

Información en la forma oficial ingreso de la agencia CAFAM (Ficha de Ingreso)

Existe un formato de ingreso oficial denominado Ficha de Ingreso (ver anexo I: formato F-PMF-CAFAM-04) que contiene una pregunta en la cual se indaga el estado civil de la persona, el tiempo bajo ese estado civil, la situación marital actual (soltera, casada), tiempo, domicilio actual y la indagación si el domicilio reportado es el domicilio conyugal o no.

Estos datos oficiales serán posteriormente contrastados con las respuestas dadas por la participante en el estudio a las siguientes preguntas que serán incluidas en una pequeña hoja (screening sheet) de determinación de si la persona está o no en la relación (Véase Apéndice III):

Esta hoja incluirá información sobre si el sujeto vive usted actualmente con su esposo o compañero con el que se dio la situación de abuso en el mismo lugar (la respuesta será "sí" o "no"); cuánto tiempo hace que no vive con él (la respuesta a esta pregunta son el número de días o meses o cualquier combinación); y quien decidió terminar la relación (la respuesta a esta pregunta es abierta, es decir, la persona indicará quién decidió terminar la relación).

En resumen, los criterios de determinación de si la mujer está o no en la relación quedan de la siguiente manera (sujetos a sus observaciones):

4. Criterio de la decisión propia de la mujer

1. Que la mujer misma haya decidido no estar en la relación en contraste con una decisión externa.

5. Criterio de no cohabitación con abusador

1. Que la mujer ya no cohabite con su pareja por lo menos durante el último mes.

6. Criterio en casos específicos:

- a) Si la mujer sigue aun en relación con su pareja abusiva pero la mujer decidió no cohabitar con él desde hace un mes la mujer será considerada como “fuera de la relación.”
- b) Si la mujer, por ejemplo, está divorciada pero aun cohabita con su pareja abusiva esa mujer será considerada como “dentro de la relación.”

En conclusión, el vivir o no en el mismo hogar en que vive la pareja abusiva será el principal criterio de inclusión a uno de los grupos: “dentro de la relación” y “fuera de la relación.”

Después de aplicar a los sujetos los criterios de selección de inclusión y exclusión del estudio (a través de la agencia) y de haber aplicado los criterios de inclusión y exclusión en la clasificación de “permanecer” o “abandonar” en la relación abusiva, el entrevistador procederá a canalizar la muestra según se vaya seleccionando hacia el equipo de ayudantes para la aplicación del cuestionario elaborado por el investigador y los inventarios de Beck y Coopersmith. Al finalizar la toma de datos, se le agradecerá al participante por toda su ayuda. El investigador y equipo asistirán a la agencia para seleccionar los sujetos y coleccionar la data diariamente hasta coleccionar la data de 135 sujetos.

APPENDIX E

Table 1. Quantitative studies of battered women's decisions making process to stay or to leave an abusive relationship

Table 2: Qualitative studies focusing in the process of leaving for battered women

Table 1. Quantitative studies of battered women's decisions making to stay or to leave an abusive relationship

Author	Year	Type of publication	Sample source	Sample size	Design study	Dependent Variable	Factors in the decision to leave
Aldarondo & Kaufman	1997	book	Couples selected randomly from 1992 National Alcohol and Family Violence Survey	1,970 subjects	Two steps; 1: logit data from male respondents 2: logit data from female respondents	Assault Cessation	3 of 4 social predictors (logistic regression): maturation, situational factors and history of violence
Anderson	2002	article	Physical Violence in American Families Survey	4,000 households (nationally representative sample)	Cross-sectional	Subsequent violence	2 of 8 predictors significant (multivariate): more previous relationships and the length of the victims have resided in the community
Frisch & Mackenzie	1991	article	Former and current residents of two battered women's shelters	46 subjects	Cross-sectional	Relationship status at the time of the data collection	6 of 19 predictors significant (bivariate): Liberal attitudes toward women, self-esteem, women employed, education, incidents of serious bodily harm and attributions external to self
Herbert, Silvert, & Ellard	1991	article	Community sample of battered women recruited through public service announcements (Radio, TV etc.)	130 (44 still actively involved; 86 are not involved)	Cross-sectional	Relationship status at the time of the data collection	8 of 16 predictors significant (multivariate): fewer positive aspects of the relationship, negative change in relationship, low family income, less likely to make downward comparisons, partner blame for abuse, manipulatory attributions for positive behaviors, do not blame self for abuse, frequently of severe abuse, frequently of verbal abuse.
Hilbert Kolia & VanLeuwen	1997	article	Residents of three New Mexico battered women's shelters (87% living with abusers).	216 subjects	Cross-sectional	Whether women leave or return to abusers at shelter exit.	2 of 4 predictors significant (multivariate): length of shelter stay and verbal and physical abuse
Jacobson, Gottman, Berns, & Wu Shortt	1996	article	Community sample	45 severely Abused married women and their batterers (recruited through	Time 1: Pre-assessment Time 2: Post assessment (two-year follow-up)	Relationship status at the two-year follow up	13 of 34 predictors significant (multivariate): Husband's physiological arousal, (two variables) husband's isolation of wife, husband's degradation of wife, frequency of husband's violence, wife marital dissatisfaction, husband negative affect (four variables), wife does not use

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Martin, Berenson, Griffing, Sage, Mandry, & Bingham	2000	article	Residents of battered women shelter	Residents of battered women shelter	70 subjects	advertisements & a random phone dialing)	Cross-sectional	Residents perception of chances to leave	humor to cope with abuse, wife defensiveness (two variables), wife physiological arousal.
Rusbult & Martz	1995	article	Residents of battered women shelter	Residents of battered women shelter	100 subjects		Time 1: shelter intake Time 2: 3 months following exit Time 3: 6 months following exit Time 4: 12 months following Experimental	Relation status at 3, 6, and 12 months post-shelter follow-ups	0 of three predictors significant (bivariate) 2 of 3 predictors significant (Multivariate): personal resources (education, income, employment, transportation), investment items (married, duration of relationship, # of children)
Sullivan & Bybee	1999	article	Shelter exit women	Shelter exit women	278		Experimental	Efficacy of a post shelter advocacy	2 of 6 predictors significant (multivariate): professional supportive counseling, job training
Truman-Schram, Cann, Calhoun, & Vanwallendael	2000	article	Unmarried, female college undergraduate, all of whom had experienced violence in a dating relationship	Unmarried, female college undergraduate, all of whom had experienced violence in a dating relationship	78 subjects		Time 1: Initial assessment Time 2: Roughly 1 month after initial assessment	Relationship status at the time of the data collection (currently involved vs left the abusive dating partner)	7 of 15 predictors significant (multivariate): Catholic woman's mother, low psychological investment in relationship, dissatisfaction with the relation (variable), shorter length of relationship
Williams	2000	dissertation	Residents of shelters and support groups participants	Residents of shelters and support groups participants	100 subjects		Cross-sectional	Relationship status at the time of the data collection	1 of 5 predictors significant (multivariate): self-efficacy for meeting personal needs

Table 2: Qualitative studies focusing in the process of leaving for battered women

Author	Year	Sample	Sample size	Study design	Type of publication
Angless, Moconachie, & Van Zyl	1998	Women from shelter in South Africa (information provided on release forms)	21	Cross-sectional	Article
Burke, Gielen, Mc Donnell, O, Campo, & Maman	2001	A subset drawn from a larger women's health study; recruited from five sites affiliated with an urban teaching hospital, including a homeless shelter, HIV care clinic, an infant mortality prevention center, a gynecology clinic, and outpatient drug treatment center (all were battered women)	78	Cross-sectional	Article
Campbell, Rose, Kub, & Nedd	1998	Urban community sample; recruited by newspaper, and bulletin board postings	32	Long-Interviews 3 times over 2.5 years	Article
Donnelly	1999	Agencies for battered women in three deep south states	44	Interviews	Article
Esikovits, Buchbinder, & Mor	1998	A purposive sample of Israeli women who sought help from an emergency hotline for survivors of domestic abuse	20	Cross-sectional	Article
Eldar-Avidan & Haj-Yahia	2000	Divorced Israeli women who had been abused by their former husbands; accessed through social welfare and human services agencies.	15	Cross-sectional	Article
Goetting	1999	Convenience sample recruited from battered women's shelters and other organizations and agencies sympathetic to battered women	16	Cross-sectional	Book
Kirkwood	1993	Women who had been out of an abusive relationship for at least one year; recruited through newspaper, single parents	30	Cross-sectional	Book

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Mills	1985	organization and radio ads. Resident of battered women shelter	10		Cross-sectional	article
Molina	1999	African American working women in process to divorce	30 (18 Dom. Viol. survivors)		Cross-sectional	Article
Moss, Pitula Campbell, & Halstead	1997	Survivors who has terminated an abusive relationship (recruited through local women's org.)	30		Cross-sectional	Article
Okum	1998	Women who had left an abusive partner for a minimum of two years(recruited through TV, newspaper, and flyers)	30		Cross-sectional	Dissertation
Patzel	2001	Women who left the abusive partner at least 6 month prior to the study (recruited from two outreach programs and resource center for battered women)	10		Cross-sectional	Article
Rosen and Stith	1997	Community sample (recruited through newspaper, flyers, university students and referrals from clinical colleagues).	22		Cross-sectional	Book
Wuest and Merritt-Gray	1999	Formerly battered women who had terminated the relationship at least one year prior to the study; recruited with the help of professional and lay helpers	15		Cross-sectional	Article

