

Domestic Violence against Pregnant Women from Rural Areas. Case Study in the Victoria Village, Iași County

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Abstract:

Our present research study aims the domestic violence phenomenon against a specific vulnerable group, namely, that of pregnant women. Domestic violence against pregnant women is a topic that has been hardly tackled by the specialized literature. There is currently little research on this topic in Romania, due to the fact that this research field is still in its infancy, and an analysis of these studies reveals their inconsistent classification and interpretation of the various behaviors and attitudes related to the concept of violence, which are due to the wide variety of perceptions and awareness raising actions at both family and community levels.

This research was conducted on a group of women from the rural area of Iasi County. Its objectives were the identification of the percentage of women who were abused by their partners during their pregnancy, the identification of the way in which violent behavior against pregnant women is perceived by the community, the determination of the authorities' involvement from the viewpoint of domestic violence victims and the determination of the local institution enjoying the highest degree of confidence from women victims of domestic violence.

The study dwells on various risk factors involved in the occurrence and development of the domestic violence phenomenon against pregnant women, namely individual factors (alcohol consumption, education level, low income), relation factors (conjugal conflict, jealousy, male dominance in the couple, economic stress, poor family functionality), community factors (insufficient community punishment of domestic violence, poverty) and social factors, respectively (unwritten traditions related to social and family roles of the two genders, violence acceptance climate).

The conclusions drawn by our research on the phenomenon of domestic violence against pregnant women refer to the vulnerability of the women's origins, to their unfamiliarity with their legal rights, as well as to their late resorting to a specialist, to their lack of confidence in specialized institutions, which also impedes on the prevention activity.

Keywords: domestic violence, pregnant women, risk factors, vulnerability.

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