



Masculinity in positive

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Introduction

The research "masculinity in positive" which is framed in the problematic number 7: "Political, economical, religious, social and/or cultural causes that generate violence" has as main objective to suggest a new vision in the practice of masculinity for a better decision making in the work with men. A research about men's practices, attitudes, and knowledge was made, all this, starting from the work that organizations and institutions develop to suggest actions that can contribute to a change of attitudes of men, in their house, in their job, and community.

The executing entity of this research is ADESO Las Segovias, which carried out this work through the researchers Juan José Castillo Ruiz and Daisy Fornos Delgado in a sample of 170 men in ages 15 to 39 years old in Estelí.

The research has an exploratory and descriptive nature using the following techniques: focal groups, interviews to key informants, surveys to 120 men and 3 histories of life.

20 key actors of the town who assist the problematic of violence in vulnerable population (woman, childhood and adolescence) were interviewed in order to know how they treat the topic of **masculinity**. Through different techniques men of the town were interviewed in order to explore their knowledge, attitudes, and their practices in the exercise of masculinity.

Results

The problem of violence has been tackled from a perspective of encouragement and defense of women rights, and as a problem of public health, from the interdisciplinary attention with the intervention of key actors in this problematic. Nevertheless, the attention is framed in the effects of masculine violence, and not in the causes. The sensitization to accuse these facts has been encouraged, and it has brought as a result a negative reaction in men.

Men have not had opportunities for the psychological treatment of individuals' personalities; therefore they consider that they are being threatened by tribunals, police stations and alternative centers.

The research shows that there is an incipient work about the topic of masculinity in the key actors of the town. The emphasis of the organizations, and mainly the alternative centers, has been to protect the people who are subjects of violence; due to their philosophy and practice, these organizations are: IXCHEN, ACCION YA, CASA DE LA MUJER "MERCEDES ROSALES", and AMLAE. In this sense, the work or encouragement of nonviolent relationships still has a weakness and has remained in a preventive area due to the lack of a strategy of work with men and particularly with aggressive ones.



Men of the town have a poor concept of masculinity; they associate it with physical strength, with the representation of women, with the power, with the leadership of the family that is related with the categories of subordination of genders.

There is a practice of a hegemonic masculinity that has as axis the subordination and discrimination of women.

What do you think, know or imagine	Frequency	Percentage %
Masculinity is?		
To be a real men	25	21
To represent women	20	17
To be a Macho man	16	13
To be in charge of difficult situations	16	13
What makes them different from women	16	13
A strong man, a tough behavior	15	13
To get food for the family	12	10
TOTAL	120	100

Source: "Masculinity in positive" 2002.

Despite these facts men have a positive attitude to change their mind, which becomes an opportunity that can be used in the town; so, there are opportunities to open sessions of reflection for men to express their fears, achievements and mistakes, as well as their capacities to lead men to a new practice of their masculinity.

Men who can offer affect, love, tenderness; and to express their emotions. In order to develop this huge task, the coordination of the different organizations that would play an important roll in this process, is necessary.

New ways to tackle the problem of violence should be considered in the organizations, without getting lost in the everyday life, considering the person;

woman, boy, girl, who are victims of violence, not like an isolated human being, but as an integral part of an institution called family, where harmony, love and tenderness dwell. Why not?

To this end, some elements of proposal for the formulation of a strategy are suggested. All we need is the will to accomplishments, the will to be able to change, considered as a process towards masculinity in positive.