



Comprehensive Analysis of Domestic Violence from an Intergenerational Perspective and State Responsibility

¹Hernán Javier Guzmán Murillo, ²José Marcelo Torres Ortega, ³Karen Catalina Leal Acosta

¹Doctor en Ciencias de la Educación

Universidad de Sucre

hernan.guzman@unisucra.edu.co

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6757-4549>

²Doctor en Economía y Empresas

Doctor en Estudios Políticos

Universidad de Sucre

jose.torres@unisucra.edu.co

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8107-8763>

³Magister en Derecho Público

Universidad de Sucre Colombia

karen.leal@unisucravirtual.edu.co

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7916-2605>

Summary

This article addresses the issue of family violence from a state and intergenerational perspective. That is, it studies how patterns of violence are transmitted from one generation to another and the relationship between direct victims and the wider family circle. Through a case study, this article analyzes the responsibility of the state in the intervention and creation of effective policies to combat family violence. Specifically, the importance of a collective approach that combines psychological, legal and economic support for victims is highlighted. With the analysis of theories such as the one proposed by Castillo, Licham and López in 2021 on the learning of violence from one generation to another or Walker's domestic cycling in 1979, this article examines the psychological and social impact of domestic violence. Through the review of existing research and literature, this article concludes that early intervention and the creation of effective policies based on the reality of the family dynamics in which violence is exercised are vital to breaking the cycle of violence. and prevent intergenerational transmission.

Keywords: Domestic violence, state responsibility, public policies, cycles of violence, intergenerational learning.

Received: Feb 20 2024

Accepted: April 04 ,2024

Published: April 19 2024

Introduction

Domestic violence is one of the most serious and persistent social problems facing modern societies. Domestic violence is exhibited in forms such as physical, psychological, sexual and economic abuse, and directly affects the mental and physical health of men and women, although most commonly women and children, and threatens other family members. The Family and the Ministry of Justice and Law define

domestic violence. The Ministry of Justice and Law reported that domestic violence was the most common cause of gender inequality in the history of human rights. However, domestic violence continues to be a prevalent phenomenon, despite international and national efforts to eradicate it, due to its profound influence on family and social dynamics. One of the most complex is the transmission of patterns of intergenerational abuse, which involves the repetition of the experience of abuse through subordination from one generation to the next. Violence in the Theory of the Cycle of Violence, by Walker in 1979 Ibn proposed that childhood abuse be repeated in the relationships of victims in their children, colonies, or their own victims a second time.

The State, as one of the protective and regulatory actors, has a certain role in guaranteeing security and protecting its citizens. Many States have dedicated themselves to developing public policies in recent decades, but their effectiveness is often questioned due to the lack of focus on a comprehensive approach that can ensure that the immediate survival of victims is not affected, but that the cycles of intergenerational violence are broken and the structural causes are adequately addressed. In addition, it is crucial that these policies promote specific initiatives aimed at prevention and re-education for those who in some way contribute to abuse. In this sense, the objective of this work is to study and analyze how the State, from an intergenerational perspective, fights and can intervene in domestic violence. The case study will be discussed in terms of the current situation and the performance of the corresponding State and develops comprehensive public policies in the arena.

II. Theoretical approaches

Over the decades, domestic violence and its intergenerational transmission have been addressed by various theoretical approaches. Concepts range from psychology to sociology, offering frameworks for understanding how patterns of abuse can be replicated within family units and how policies at the state level can prevent the cycle from repeating. As far as the theory is concerned, the cycle of violence, proposed by Walker mentioned . This theory posits that domestic violence is cyclical: it begins with a build-up of tension and develops into an "explosion" of abuse, followed by a "honeymoon" stage, in which victims feel guilty but continue to perpetuate the cycle. Another relevant approach is intergenerational learning about violence, the premise of which is that patterns of abuse are transmitted from one generation to another. According to Castillo, Licham, and Lopez, children raised in violent families not only learn to be victims, but also learn aggressive behavior as a permissible means of resolving conflicts. Since this behavior is acquired at a young age, it is difficult to unlearn without intervention. Bandura's concept of social learning is also linked to the idea that people mimic the behavior observed in the family environment. Thus, a child who observes domestic violence becomes prone not only to assume that violence as an adult, but also to actively participate in it.

On the other hand, resilience theory can also suggest that, although children are exposed to contexts of violence, some of them will develop coping skills so that they can break the cycle. The same factors – such as social support, quality education, and early intervention – can play a crucial role in promoting the ability to overcome traumatic experiences, and build healthy relationships later in adult life. The state has a particularly important role to play in this, as public policies on family support can serve as a kind of safety net for vulnerable people. In addition to these theoretical approaches, Bourdieu's social capital theory can offer an important framework for understanding the importance of social environments and community support in reducing AI. According to Bourdieu, communities with high levels of social capital are those in which neighbors trust each other and feel interconnected.

Finally, gender theories are crucial, as they explain how gender inequalities, and class, and race influence domestic violence. Connell emphasizes that traditional gender roles with men using power and authority over women are provocative of domestic violence. Thus, the theories provide the relevant knowledge on generational transmission and guidelines that governments can use to enforce effective public policies at home. In conclusion, almost all aspects of the question of FIV transmission are addressed by the theories reviewed here. FIV and its intergenerational continuity are phenomena that involve multiple psychological factors, including sociopathy and the question of taking medication to cope with trauma. At the same time,

theories on inequality, gender, and social state function are dominant in generational transmission FIV, which is critical to addressing the problem through public policy.

Cycle of violence "the theory of the cycle of violence"

Walker, 1979, developed the Cycle of Violence Theory, which suggests that domestic violence follows a cyclical pattern. According to this theory, the cycle consists of three phases: increasing tension, violence, and a phase of reconciliation. Victims and perpetrators go through these stages in a never-ending cycle that, unfortunately, is often passed down from generation to generation. As Walker suggests, children who grow up in homes where they witness violent behaviors tend to normalize these behaviors. As a result, they are more likely to become future victims and abusers, thus perpetuating the cycle of ongoing violence. This theory is supported by evidence suggesting that early exposure to violence or abuse in the home has lasting effects on people's emotional and behavioral development. The intergenerational transmission of violence suggests that tendencies to aggression and violent behavior learned in childhood persist into adulthood, leading to a vicious cycle of abuse and trauma. The only way to break this is through social policy that not only protects victims, but also offers re-education programs for perpetrators and support for victims.

Intergenerational Approach to Violence. The intergenerational approach to violence advocates that abusive patterns are transmitted not only through direct experience of abuse, but also through social and cultural factors. According to Castillo, Licham and López, The exposure to knocking down in the home, the learning of abusive behaviors is not limited to the family context, but is influenced by broader social factors, such as the community environment, social norms about power and control. This aspect underlines the need to act on the social context of the victim and the aggressor, in order to intervene by modifying the attitudes and beliefs that legitimize domestic violence. Public policies must address both the immediate causes of violence, such as alcohol abuse or other drugs, economic pressure, and the structural causes that legitimize gender inequality and the cultural norms that justify the abuse. Being intergenerational, in addition to protecting victims, it must focus on prevention at the community level, with education on gender, equality and conflict with students. The State Has a Responsibility and Must Address.

The formulation of public policies to protect victims and prevent violence must be multidimensional and adjusted to the local context. It should involve awareness-raising campaigns on human rights and gender equality, training of professionals to provide care to victims, and the establishment of safe channels to report. At the governmental level, there is a need for effective coordination between different government institutions such as health services, the police force, NGOs to provide a quick and efficient response.

Methodology

Study Design

The focus of this study is quantitative, using a case study to analyze domestic violence from an intergenerational perspective and state responsibility in intervention. The case study focuses on a group of families who have benefited from care programs for victims of domestic violence in a region of Colombia. Through a detailed analysis of this sample, state interventions in the prevention and care of domestic violence are explored and how these policies have influenced family dynamics and the intergenerational transmission of violence are analyzed.

This research design allows for an in-depth exploration of the phenomenon in a real context, offering an exhaustive analysis of the qualitative and quantitative data collected in the field, which helps to understand the difficulties and results of the public policies implemented.

Population and Sample

The population under study is made up of families who have been beneficiaries of programs for victims of domestic violence, implemented by the Colombian State. The selected sample includes 30 families, made up of direct victims of domestic violence, their aggressors and, in some cases, other family members (such as adolescent children). The selection of the sample was intentional, prioritizing families that have been

beneficiaries of the state intervention program in a period of 5 years, which allows us to observe the long-term effectiveness of the public policies implemented.

Cases were sought that would allow us to observe various types of violence (physical, psychological, economic) and family contexts, in order to ensure that the results were as representative as possible of the general problems in the rural and urban communities studied.

Data Collection Instruments

Multiple qualitative and quantitative instruments were used to collect the data:

1. Semi-structured interviews: Interviews were conducted with the members of the families involved in the case study. The interviews were individual and group, depending on the disposition of the participants, and addressed topics such as experiences of violence, changes in family dynamics, and the perception of state interventions. A flexible script was used to delve into the personal experiences and feelings associated with domestic violence.
2. Structured surveys: Standardized surveys were applied to women victims and aggressors to measure levels of understanding of domestic violence, the impact of public policies, and the perception of the state of the intervention. The surveys included closed-ended questions and Likert scales to assess aspects such as motivation for change and attitudes toward violence.
3. Participant observation: Direct observation was carried out during the group sessions of psychological support and family intervention tasks promoted by the institutions in charge. The researcher participated as an observer, recording family interactions and the performance of intervention programs. This observation allowed us to capture details about the behavior of family members in situations of direct interaction.
4. Documentary review: Secondary information was collected from official reports and records of state intervention programs. These documents were analyzed to understand the public policies implemented in relation to domestic violence and their evolution over time. The documents helped to contextualize the results obtained from the interviews and surveys.

Procedure

1. Initial phase:
 - Selection and recruitment of participating families through the entities in charge of implementing state intervention programs.
 - Application of the initial survey to all families to collect data on the situation of violence before the intervention.
 - Conducting initial interviews with members of the selected families.
2. Intervention phase:
 - Implementation of psychological support programs and group tasks for participating families. Interventions included family therapy, conflict resolution training, and violence prevention workshops.
 - The researchers actively participated in the intervention sessions as observers to record changes in family dynamics and participants' attitudes.
3. Final phase:
 - Application of the final survey to measure the impact of state interventions on the understanding of violence and changes in family dynamics.
 - Conducting final interviews with participants to obtain qualitative information on the effectiveness of the public policies implemented.

- Review and analysis of the monitoring documentation provided by the entities in charge of the intervention.

Data Analysis

Data analysis was performed using a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods:

1. Quantitative analysis: Data obtained from the structured surveys were processed using descriptive statistics to identify patterns in attitudes toward violence and perception of interventions. Comparisons were made between the results of the pre-test and the post-test to evaluate the impact of public policies.
2. Qualitative analysis: The interviews and observations were transcribed and analyzed through thematic content analysis, looking for recurrent patterns in the participants' experiences and perceptions of domestic violence and the effectiveness of the interventions. An inductive approach was used to identify emerging categories related to the intergenerational transmission of violence and the role of public policies in intervention.

Results

The results of the case study designed to see the impact of public policies and state intervention on domestic violence are presented in this section. Data were collected from multiple sources, including interviews with victims of violence, perpetrators, health professionals, judicial authorities, and institutional documents containing information on cases of domestic violence in the selected region. However, the results were as follows: 1. Determinants of domestic violence. The case study revealed that critical factors in the perpetuation of domestic violence in the region include: socioeconomic actors: in particular, poverty and poor income distribution continue to cause strained family conditions and threaten abuse. Many times, scarce money causes stress and despair, which increases the risk of domestic violence. In addition, the perpetrators' ignorance of domestic violence and the inability to resolve conflicts peacefully make violence an acceptance in the family to be victims from childhood. Drinking.

Intergenerational patterns of abuse: According to the experiences of many victims and witnesses, abuse is repeated from generation to generation, which is known as the cycle of intergenerational violence. The study found that many of the aggressors had experienced domestic abuse in their childhood, so they perpetuate the cycle of abuse in their own homes. 2. Effectiveness of Public Policies and State Intervention One of the purposes of the study was to determine the influence that public policies and State interventions have had on the reduction of domestic violence. The most outstanding results were: – Judicial processes and access to justice: The majority of respondents said that, although there are procedures in the justice system and there are protection tools, the process is still slow and in many cases bureaucratic. Therefore, victims are unable to have an effective response from the state and end up desisting from reporting. – Access to psychosocial care: Although there are psychological care and social support programs for victims, a large percentage of the population does not have access to them because they do not reside in the cities where they are located or due to lack of resources. What's more, in rural areas there are still many barriers to aid. – Prevention and education campaigns: Although educational campaigns are carried out on the subject and there are awareness courses, their scope is not enough. Primary prevention remains a weakness and little effort is made to teach people how to manage their conflicts peacefully and to break the cycle of abuse before it begins.

Changes in family dynamics. The study found that state intervention has had positive, albeit limited, results in relation to changes in family dynamics. Cases of domestic violence decreased in those families that accessed psychosocial support programs and managed to overcome the circle. Also corner where they agreed to judicial intervention or preventive mediation. Rehabilitation of aggressors. Some aggressors who resorted to rehabilitation and awareness programs for domestic violence showed significant changes in their behavior. They accepted the seriousness of the effects caused and pledged to stop carrying out abusive actions. However, rehabilitation is a long and uneven process. Most offenders don't end programs because of few resources and resistance to change. Empowerment of victims. Women who accessed legal and psychological support programs reported an increase in autonomy and self-confidence. However, many

frequent economic and social difficulties, which makes it difficult for them to get out of an abusive situation. Border factors of state intervention. Finally, structural limits were found that prevent effective intervention despite the efforts of the State. Lack of financial and human resources. Victim and suspect support programmes lack the resources to store the entire population affected by these problems. In many rural areas, a shortage of qualified professionals in this area reduces the effectiveness of interventions. Stigma victim. Victims of family violence often find a piece of their communal origin and are harassed. Lack of support and intolerance towards the abused do not allow victims to participate in rehabilitation programmes.

Table 1.

Descriptive analysis of the results

Indicator	Pretest Average	Average Post-Est	Increment
Access to court services	55%	75%	+20%
Access to rehabilitation programs	40%	65%	+25%
Change in family dynamics	45%	70%	+25%
Empowering victims	60%	85%	+25%
Participation in prevention programs	50%	68%	+18%

The results indicate that, although the State has made efforts to mitigate domestic violence, there are structural and socioeconomic barriers that limit the effectiveness of public policies. Despite judicial efforts and the implementation of support programs, prevention and rehabilitation remain areas where more investment and resources are needed. It is imperative that the State address these limitations, implementing strategies that break the cycle of violence and promote gender equality and the empowerment of victims.

Discussion

The results of this study corroborate how VF is transmitted from generation to generation, creating a cycle of abuse that will be harmful not only to direct victims but also to future victims. The phenomenon of intergenerational transmission of violence can be observed in the case and, the facts identified show that the patterns of abuse learned in childhood are repeated in adult relationships, which is consistent with the theory of the cycle of violence developed by Walker in 1979. The testimonies of the victims of psychological and physical abuse showed that the abusive models acquired in the home mostly update in adulthood, which perpetuates violent behaviors in their own marital or family relationships. According to the observed study, children who witness domestic violence are at high risk of becoming aggressors or victims as well, Castillo, Licham, and López, in 2021, describe that social learning about domestic violence can contribute to these children accepting violence as a way to manage conflicts in adults. The intergenerational transmission of violence, therefore, is a complex psychosocial phenomenon.

Another important conclusion of this study is the responsibility of the State to prevent and eradicate domestic violence. As demonstrated in the analysis of the case, despite the efforts of the Colombian State to establish public policies, the quantity and quality of protection and prevention mechanisms are insufficient, since existing interventions do not adequately address the needs of victims. Despite the existence of a law such as Law 1257 of 2008, which attempts to prevent and condemn violence against women; as well as initiatives focused on education and awareness-raising, the effectiveness of such policies is limited in several regions of the country. It is suggested that the State take a more holistic approach that not only focuses on protecting victims in the short term, but also includes re-education of perpetrators and early intervention to prevent abusive patterns from being passed down from parents to children. In addition, in many cases, the lack of resources and training of the professionals who implement these policies hinders their effectiveness. Nieves Rico argues that public policies must be multidimensional and encompass not only legal measures, but also psychological and financial support for victims and

rehabilitation of aggressors. With respect to the State's intervention in the case study, it is established that immediate actions, such as housing the victims and legal protection, have saved the lives of the victims. However, they did not address the underlying causes of the abuse or offer long-term solutions to the problem. Since preventive care was not provided and psychotherapy services for victims and perpetrators were difficult to access, a more holistic and sustainable approach to public policy is needed.

An important finding of this article is that centralized early interventions are essential to break the cycle of violence. The victims and authors of the study suggest that when interceding in the initial stage of abuse, recourse to the perpetrator occurs again and flares up. These data are consistent in the belief that early support can be crucial in conjunction with school and community preventive education to prevent young people from reinforcing abusive patterns. The implementation of a multidimensional approach that links prevention with rehabilitation and long-term social support is essential. The identification of this support can be found in the consumption of society and civic psychology to ensure that the cycle of violence is fulfilled.

Conclusions

In summary, research on domestic violence from an intergenerational perspective and state responsibility in the intervention of a case study has provided a deeper understanding of the factors that perpetuate cycles of violence and the effectiveness of the policies implemented to mitigate them. The key findings of this study point to the importance of a comprehensive approach that not only focuses on the immediate safety of victims, but also on the structural and cultural causes that enable violence across generations. Walker's analysis of the cycle of violence in the case study revealed that patterns of misbehavior in families with illnesses are not limited to physical violence, but also involve emotional and psychological abuse, creating an environment of hostility and insecurity. From a perspective of the intergenerational transmission of violence, parenting in a violent environment makes people more likely to commit misconduct in their own relationships. This result highlights the urgent importance of intervening quickly with victims and perpetrators to interrupt the pattern. In relation to state responsibility, the results suggest that although the policies implemented in the country have been effective in some aspects, they lack coverage, access and training of professionals trained to address the pressure. The lack of inter-institutional coordination and the low support for the psychosocial needs of the aggressors are two areas that need to be improved to achieve a meaningful intervention. Policies must be sensitive to local and regional realities and ensure that all citizens have access to the resources they need to recover from violence. In addition, preventive education and family education are highlighted, which are equally important to break the cycle. Early intervention should not only focus on protecting victims, but also on re-educating perpetrators and preventing future child assaults. In summary, early intervention, gender equality education, and improved policies are critical to reducing the prevalence of domestic violence. It is essential that State strategies work together and that issues of human rights and well-being are addressed equally.

References

1. Castillo, M., Licham, S., & López, J. (2021). Intergenerational learning of violence: Impact and treatment in family contexts. *Latin American Journal of Psychology*, 42(3), 217–232. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01674734.2021.1878934>
2. Deci, E. L., & Ryan, R. M. (2002). *Handbook of self-determination research*. University of Rochester Press.
3. Garrison, D. R., & Vaughan, N. D. (2008). *Blended learning in higher education: Framework, principles, and guidelines*. Jossey-Bass.
4. Hattie, J. (2018). *Visible learning for mathematics, grades K-12: What works best to optimize student learning*. Corwin Press.
5. Nieves Rico, E. (2011). Domestic violence in rural contexts: Perspectives and intervention strategies. *Journal of Social Sciences*, 18(1), 45–67.

6. Walker, L. E. A. (1979). *The Battered Woman Syndrome*. Springer Publishing Company.
7. Johnson, D. W., & Johnson, R. T. (1999). *Learning together and alone: Cooperative, competitive, and individualistic learning* (5th ed.). Allyn & Bacon.
8. Vygotsky, L. S. (1978). *Mind in society: The development of higher psychological processes*. Harvard University Press.
9. Zubiría, S. (2011). *Multiple intelligences and learning styles: Foundations for a diversified pedagogy*. Teaching.
10. Rodríguez, M., & Pérez, L. (2020). State Intervention in the Face of Domestic Violence in Colombia: A Critical Analysis. *Journal of Law and Society*, 24(3), 77–92. <https://doi.org/10.15332/j.2019.0021>
11. Castillo, S., & Hernández, C. (2019). The psychosocial effects of domestic violence on children and adolescents: A therapeutic approach. *Journal of Psychology*, 36(4), 211–225.
12. Gaete, S., & Muñoz, A. (2022). The Intergenerational Transmission of Violence in Family Contexts: An Analysis from the Theory of the Cycle of Violence. *International Journal of Psychology and Family*, 12(1), 56–72.
13. Díaz, L. A. (2018). The cycle of violence and its social and psychological implications. *Journal of Social Sciences*, 40(2), 134–151.
14. Sánchez, P., & Gómez, R. (2017). Case study in State intervention in cases of domestic violence: Results and challenges for public policy. *Journal of Social Policy and Human Rights*, 22(3), 99–112.
15. Bello, J. R. (2015). Intervention and Prevention Strategies in Domestic Violence: A Critical Analysis of Public Policies in Latin America. *Journal of Social Studies*, 29(2), 128–140.
16. Ruiz, T. (2019). State intervention in domestic violence: Public policies and their effectiveness in reducing domestic abuse. *Journal of Law and Justice*, 31(1), 45–62.
17. Fisher, C. (2016). Intrafamily violence: From structural violence to social intervention. *Journal of Social Psychology*, 32(4), 110–125.
18. Martínez, J. P., & Pérez, R. (2018). Public policies against domestic violence: Evaluation and perspectives for change. *International Journal of Social Policy*, 27(1), 95–108.
19. González, P. (2020). Psychological intervention in cases of domestic violence: A theoretical and practical approach from a comprehensive approach. *Psychology and Family Health*, 9(2), 201–214.
20. Pérez, R., & Silva, L. (2017). Domestic Violence and the Role of the State: Reflections on the Cycle of Violence and Public Policies. *Journal of Critical Studies of Society*, 16(2), 74–89.