

La participación social en familias víctimas de desaparición involuntaria

Social participation in families victims of involuntary disappearance

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Resumen

Se presentan los resultados de una investigación sobre la participación social como factor de resiliencia en familias que son víctimas secundarias de la desaparición de uno de sus miembros. La investigación sigue el paradigma fenomenológico, utilizando la entrevista semiestructurada como técnica aplicada a cinco participantes en el grupo Amores de Nuevo León. El análisis de los resultados se fundamenta en la Teoría Ecosistémica de la Familia, la Pérdida Ambigua, la Resiliencia Familiar y la Participación Social. Es una aportación, con fines terapéuticos, a la comprensión de las vivencias de dichas familias en la búsqueda de sus seres queridos.

Palabras clave: desaparición involuntaria, pérdida ambigua, víctimas secundarias, resiliencia familiar, participación social.

Abstract

The results of an investigation into the social participation as a resilience factor occur in families who are secondary victims of the disappearance of one of its members. The research follows the paradigm phenomenological, using the semi-structured interview technique applied to five participants in the Group Amores of Nuevo Leon. The analysis of the results is based on the Ecosystem Theory of Family, Ambiguous Loss, Familial Resilience and Social Participation. It is a contribution, for therapeutic purposes, to the understanding of the experiences of these families in the search for their loved ones.

Keywords: involuntary disappearances, ambiguous loss, secondary victims, family resilience, social participation.

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Introduction

The involuntary disappearance of persons is a painful reality for many families in the world and in our country. International agencies have dealt with the topic through declarations, international conventions and the international promotion of the legislation on the crime of disappearance in all its forms.

It is important to clarify the term "involuntary disappearance" often used as a synonym for "enforced disappearance". People disappear from your environment voluntarily or involuntarily. Is no reference here to the misplacement of people for accidental causes, neglect or disease. When a person disappears on a voluntary basis crime there is what Chase in the case of adults, in the case of minors in general is due to problems of family dysfunction so it would have to determine the parental responsibility.

For the purposes of this paper, it is convenient to use the term "involuntary disappearance" is inclusive of all three types of disappearance constituting a crime in Mexico in accordance with the Federal Criminal Code (1) and the General Law to Prevent and Punish Offences Relating to Hijacking (2).. These offences are: the illegal deprivation of liberty, kidnapping and enforced disappearance.

The illegal deprivation of liberty consists of the removal of a person from their environment, against their will, committed by individuals, with the omission of information about its location or State of health, no request for money or payment of ransom, it usually is for purposes of bonded labour, prostitution or sexual abuse. The crime of kidnapping is considered illegal deprivation of liberty, but its purpose is the application of money or some form of extortion for the release of the victim (3).

The enforced disappearance is a crime committed by any public servant having participated or not in the legal or illegal detention of a person, not to recognize it, or conducive to its concealment (4).

In Mexico the Social Attorney for the Care of Victims (Proviclima) was established on September 6, 2011 with the purpose of providing legal, medical, counseling and social work that somehow people are victims of murder, extortion and trafficking people and to provide support to families facing the

search for missing persons. Those purposes are limited due to insufficient budget and the lack of dissemination of the services offered. Human Rights Watch (5) states that in Provicima families of the victims are pressured to declare that their loved ones are dead without having the evidence to affirm.

The National Commission on Human Rights has created two records: 1) Missing Presumed Program is a database on missing persons, lost or missing and unidentified dead people; and 2) the National Information System of missing and unidentified dead people (6) There is also the National Registry of Missing Persons Missing or as part of the National Public Safety System whose purpose is to help the investigation, search and location missing persons (7).

On January 9, 2013 in Mexico he enacted the General Law on Victims, which entered into force on February 8 of that year and was amended on May 3, 2013. This was a proposal by the Movement for Peace with Justice and Dignity in table 2 of the National Dialogue for Peace Pact. In drafting this Act included members of this movement and other human rights organizations, academics and legislators. The law called direct victims who suffered physical, mental, emotional, economic damage, they are exposed to danger or injury of their legal rights as a result of the commission of a crime or being violated their constitutional rights or established in the international law (8). Also it called indirect relatives and persons who have a direct relationship with the direct victim (9) victims.

In the state of Nuevo Leon amended the Criminal Code to criminalize enforced disappearance on 13 November 2012. This law was a result of the integration of three initiatives proposed by Citizens in Support of Human Rights, AC (CADHAC) The State Commission for Human Rights and the National Human Rights Commission and the Executive branch of government. And the December 7, 2013 Care Act, Assistance and Protection of Victims of Nuevo Leon (10) is issued.

According to the National Center for Planning, Analysis and Information to Combat Crime of the Attorney General of the Republic (CENAPI), the number of missing in Mexico amounted to 26 121 (11). This figure is not accurate because not all cases are reported missing.

The January 20, 2013, Human Rights Watch released its World Report. In the case of Mexico, the report documented 250 cases of missing persons throughout the country, 140 of them as forced disappearance (12).

In the state of Nuevo Leon, Citizens in Support of Human Rights, AC (CADHAC) until February 2013 had registered 214 cases including 1 126 missing persons, this is because there are cases in which disappeared several people at once time. 30% of these cases are classified as forced disappearances, ie, that a public servant was involved (13).

Families who attended CADHAC began to be linked in weekly meetings for support. On June 7, 2011, he came to Monterrey the "Caravan of Solace" promoted by the Movement for Peace with Justice and Dignity, an action that prompted the group of relatives of disappeared in Nuevo Leon in June 2013 adopted the name of love DE NL (Association of Women Organized by the Executed, Kidnapped and Disappeared of Nuevo León).

The disappearance of a family member hits to this in many ways; also, the fact involved in the activities of a group necessarily becomes an active civic and political participation, especially if the group has any responsibility or assume leadership roles. The interest of this research is to recover the experience of relatives of missing persons engaged in group LOVES Nuevo Leon. The research question raised was: Is social participation resilience factor to consider strategy as recommended in therapy for families who have suffered involuntary disappearance of one of its members?

Following the proposal of Hernandez, R., Fernandez, C. and Baptista, P. (14) to determine stratified sampling in qualitative research, a sample of cases-type was made. The sample consisted of 5 subjects, relatives of the missing group members Amores Nuevo Leon, which are distinguished for their active social participation and leadership within the group. Semi-structured interviews with open questions was used. Earlier issues that should be addressed and 26 interview questions were formulated enlisted.

The test procedure followed the recommendations and the steps suggested by Hernandez, Fernandez and Baptista: After reading several times the transcripts of the interviews confirmed the planned issues, the relationship between them was identified emerging four categories of analysis: 1) features families victims of involuntary disappearance, 2) the response of social networks to the involuntary disappearance, 3) resilient elements in these families and 4) social participation. Analysis table correlating categories, the issues, the relationship between data and theoretical framework and the interpretation of them to reach general conclusions are built.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theories underlying the analysis of the results are:

1) Ecosystem Theory Family conceiving the family as part of a cultural system in which the different elements interact. The different environments in which the individual develops affect it directly or indirectly. These environments are: micro, meso, and macro-exosystem.

Hope Torrico and colleagues (15) explain that the microsystem is the closest to the subject environment, family and people with whom they live on a daily basis and with which it has a face to face relationship, also includes hierarchies, roles and rules conduct established at that level. As the subject grows, it participates in different microsystems such as school, work and his group of friends.

The mesosystem involves the interaction of different microsystems in which the subject develops and actively participates, is the social support that the individual account.

According to the same authors, the exosystem refers to the environment in which not necessarily actively involved the subject but that influences in the nearest environment and himself. Exosystem happen in the facts and there are factors that indirectly affect the individual form and your family, your job, your school, your daily life. At this level are the institutions and public policies, the contingencies that occur in society and social conflicts, the influence of the media, the laws of a country, and so on.

The macro is the broader context that includes all of the above but it is also shaped by factors such as culture, the historical moment, the global economy, class and ideology, the international political landscape, climate change, and values Universal governing an entire society.

It is pertinent to note the importance of factors associated with macro-exosystem and to generate the problem at hand in this research and the importance of meso and micro in the search for solutions to this problem.

2) The concept of Ambiguous Loss explains the crisis facing the family to disappear one of its members: a high stress, depression and anxiety and it is unknown whether it's temporary or permanent. Uncertainty can cause family or individual conflicts and exacerbate the occurrence of a complex grieving process, including post-traumatic stress that is experienced. Pauline Boss (16) points out the need for individuals and families regain control redefining its relationship with the missing person,

restructure their roles and functions and celebrate important events for the family and the rituals and traditions in adapting to special dates the new situation.

The same author states that family gatherings, rest, exercise, active life and sense of humor should be encouraged not to feel guilt for it, as they have therapeutic effects and are healthy ways to adapt. It also states that shared beliefs and spirituality are important to find a sense of loss and the strength of the family.

Moreover, Carlos Martin Beristain (17) argues that these families often feel isolated because they expect the support of other micro and meso not give the stigmatization of victims of disappearance, for fear of getting involved in risky situations and ideas from macro-exosystem and. It is also important that they receive support mesosystem and find a sense of loss and is helping others who suffer the same pain or demanding justice and actively participating to make changes in the exosystem and the macro system.

3) Family Resilience is the dynamic process by which a family facing adverse situations and is able to overcome them and turn them into something positive. It is not limited to adaptation and recovery balance against traumatic events but at overcoming and individual and family growth (18). There Risk Factors and Protective Factors that affect the way that families face the disappearance of one or more of its members and the aftermath of trauma (19). The warmth, affection, structure, well defined boundaries and shared belief system are internal to the families that influence adaptation to the crisis and in the interpretation of the traumatic experience protective factors. Some of the families of missing involuntary form social organizations and movements through which besides mutual support, managed institutional support and participate in activities of political struggle. This allows these families to develop new skills, take a critical view of reality and become advocates for human rights, to be truly resilient (20).

4) Social participation is the conscious activity of citizens to defend common interests; It is closely linked to personal and collective development as it means getting involved in the transformation of the environment, the ecosystem (21). It is conditioned by the interest in solving a problem or a personal or collective need; by organizational skills, analysis, decision making, teamwork, dialogue and negotiation; the true and complete information, or not, which is handled with distorted information and no participation, but manipulation.

There is reluctance to participate when they have had frustrating experiences, repression, manipulation, when instead of finding support from other citizens have to compete, clash with them or indifference (22) faces. Fernando Chacon and Maria Luisa Neighbor (23) explained that social participation produce personal and collective benefits. Among them: the feeling of helplessness, loneliness, isolation and alienation is reduced while increasing self-concept, sense of belonging to a group or community and a sense of personal and collective efficiency. Participants also develop skills such as negotiation, conflict resolution, oral communication, analysis of social reality and improve the quality of their personal relationships (Cervantes, 1997).

CONCLUSIONS

The results include the following:

The impact that has on families involuntary disappearance of one of its members: stupor, pain, terror, uncertainty, emotional distress, reorganization of family roles.

The positive vision that respondents have of their family before the event are the same characteristics of resilient families and could partly explain how these families are facing the disappearance of his family.

The actions carried out immediately after the disappearance and later in the NL group loves confirm that these families live their tasks of mourning as an active process in which the victim undertake not to leave but to seek even risking their own safety . These actions leave the family with a great physical and mental exhaustion but also show their hope and their efforts to recover their loved ones.

Social networks that families have done before, have not worked as external protective factors, few are interested in their grief and do not participate in actions of solidarity with their cause, so they've had to make other social networks with people who share same problem.

This makes clear the importance of these families organize and participate in groups that provide emotional support and seeking solutions to their common problems.

By observing the impact on families disappearance of their loved one is important to identify in the NL group Amores those who have symptoms of PTSD or other symptoms for you to provide therapeutic care they need and prevent problems that impact the good family functioning.

Although the group provides emotional support it is important to identify cases for which it is not enough that and that require therapeutic care, not only for the families who come to the meetings and activities of the group but also to the other members of the family they do not do it. The authorities should provide sufficient resources to support that families have the care and ensure the secrecy of the statement in therapy.

Find hope, strength of character, commitment to leave no victim, family unity, values and shared beliefs: the resilient factors that keeps families in search of his family stand. These strengths have enabled them to perform courageous actions before authorities and society.

Clearly the positive it has been for the interviewees and their families social participation that starts when in the Nuevo Leon Amores group with others going through the same situation, the group offers emotional support and a space to organize, plan and carry out political activities, diffusion of the problem to society, demanding the authorities and defend human rights.

The effects it has had social participation in the interviewees are very valuable, both in learning and personal growth that necessarily affect their families. These lessons aim to strengthen character, to give meaning to the disappearance of a loved one, the discovery of the meaning of life, the development of social awareness and commitment to the community.

However, it is clear the importance of the rest of the family, who does not participate regularly in the group, be informed of the details of the case, as well as group activities and get involved in them to prevent feel marginalized by the family who actively participates in the group representing the family.

Positive perceptions of people interviewed about their achievements and learning, however, it would be desirable to ensure moments of study that will allow them a comprehensive understanding of one's external circumstances and the macro exosystem who took part in the disappearance of his family and keep the issue of involuntary disappearances. This would give them a more complete picture of the functioning of society and the objectives of your organization in the long term as well as a higher level in their critical awareness and its impact on social change, which would give a transcendent meaning to his loss and their grief.

The results of this research show that social participation raised the level of social awareness of the interviewees and their families and strengthened the family resilience, so can be considered a strategy recommended by therapists for families who come to them with this problem.

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