

**UNIDAD EDUCATIVA PARTICULAR JAVIER**

**MONOGRAPH**

**“ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF MACHISMO IN THE WORLD AND ITS  
PRESENCE IN ECUADOR”**

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## **Gratitude**

First of all I want to thank God and my parents for giving me the opportunity to study in a good school like Unidad Educativa Javier is and for having supported me throughout this path that is about to end. I also want to thank my teachers who have had faith in me and who with their teachings make me a better person every day, worthy of being able to overcome myself and always with the hope of achieving everything that I set out to do and follow my dreams. They have taken me to a path of wisdom that I aspire to follow professionally over the years.

## **SUMMARY**

This monographic work reflects the events that have occurred through the history with the purpose of knowing how machismo has been affecting women on different ways in our society. To make this work, the true meaning of machismo has been taken into account to explain how women has been a victim of abuse of power and discrimination, without any kind of equality.

This work is also full of facts that inform people that ignore this social problem, the gravity of the consequences for the people who support this kind of violence. It should be emphasized that many people do not know the laws that protect women, so this is also a source of information for those who need it, the topic is aimed at all social classes, religions, ages and races. All over the world, machismo is so daily.

There is talk of how in ancient times there were acts of cruelty and discrimination against woman, where at present people who are not aware of social problems would come to think that in no way something like this could happen. Whereas the abuses were totally inhuman in those times, however they are not so far of our reality. We can notice how today machismo has been named in different ways, depending on the way it is present. Both in the labor field at home and among other.

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## INTRODUCTION

This monographic work is an investigation on how machismo has been present throughout the years and how it is still presented today in our society, the same one that aims to make known each of the major events impact on history, because it is a subject that causes a lot of controversy but very few know thoroughly to take it to discussion. Also be able to analyze the importance of this issue that affects both physical and psychological areas of a person, thanks to the existence of people who call themselves superior beings.

Topics like these are very important to know so that future damages can be avoided, therefore it is good to have solid bases that allow us to express ourselves and send a good message.

This is why this work is made up of opinions of various authors and important people such as politicians, writers, doctors and other characters who have participated in a certain way in machismo, both in a positive and negative way. We have taken into account books such as "el machismo invisible regresa" that speaks more about a current situation and the presence of this issue in another country that is not ours, as is Mexico, so that we can see several perspectives worldwide acts committed either in an "invisible", daily, or more catastrophic events.

The monograph consists of three chapters in which they are divided in the first chapter with the definition of the subject to be treated and the historical antecedents; the Second

chapter with the different types of machismo that exist and the appearance of patriarchy and its definition, also making reference in the laws of our country, Ecuador; and Finally The third chapter that deals with social impact.

## **CHAPTER I**

### **The machismo**

#### **1.1 Definition**

What do we call machismo? It is known as machismo the set of beliefs, behaviors, attitudes and customs that support the idea that man is superior to women in areas of strength, intelligence and ability, in which the female gender is marginalized and seen with characteristics of inferiority in comparison to the male gender. According to Garcia: "I would say that machismo, in both men and women, is nothing more than the usurpation of the rights of others" (Márquez, 2014, p.7)

In a macho society stands out the idea that man has power in both decision and choice, which commands and leads, while the woman must come to have some respect and be submissive to them and so in many aspects but unfortunately have reached the point of becoming present as normal events in such a way that they express themselves with subtle attitudes.

Machist beliefs are not new in our society these have gone from generation to generation and preserved both in society and cultures, even now that we are in times where equality should lead, there are still men who believe they have the right of a dominant male posture. Many believe that machismo only occurs in extremist cases because they do not see beyond the social problem posed, but yes, thanks to this type of ideology many women have been affected, physically and psychologically, it has reached such a degree that sexist violence exists and often not only affects women. It also extends to gender violence, which basically

consists of the type of violence that totally affects the integrity of a person and the denigration of their identity. This name is usually attributed to female violence because it occurs in cases provoked towards people of the female sex. Although it also occurs in people who have different sexual orientations, most of their cases occur in women of different ages, in this concept is included female infanticide and forced labor in prostitution.

Unfortunately, there are people who still express themselves in an inadequate way when they refer to women. As an example we can take the point of view of the author Arthur Schopenhauer who emphasizes a lot in one of his literary works what he thinks about women and what is made, which can be taken as a representation of all this ideology that has been created with the time and that way of thinking of macho men.

The author emphasizes that:

Only the aspect of woman reveals that she is not destined to the great works of the intelligence nor to the great material works.

Pay her debt to life, not with action, but with suffering, the pains of childbirth, the restless care of childhood; she has to obey man, be a patient companion that serene him. It is not made for great efforts or for sorrows or excessive pleasures.

Her life can pass more silent, more insignificant and sweeter than that of man, without being by nature better or worse than this. (Schopenhauer, 1819, pp. 20-21)



### **1.1.1 Origin.**

According to Annan (1999) “Violence against women has a global reach and occurs in all societies and cultures affecting women regardless of their race, ethnicity, social origin, wealth, nationality or condition” (par. 2). Many people believe that there is no exact origin of machismo but if we go back to the primitive societies where hunting and fishing were practiced men as women had specific tasks designated in which man was always expressed as "public man and private woman" since they were the ones who were related to the outside and the women with the home and the care of the offspring and grazing, which were considered tasks of inferior importance. We can also observe it in the religious concept that they adopted roles of gods, there were hunter and warrior gods, while with respect to goddesses they were of fertility and home, and they were generally seen in western societies.

Man was always seen as a leader or head of household and his dominion over women, studies have also been done where the existence of a patriarchal lineage can be seen in the tribes. These macho acts in antiquity were presented in different areas, one of them was also menstruation, was considered a symbol of impurity in countless towns, while on the other hand semen was considered a stimulant.

Moving a little more over the years, machismo was presented in other ways as for example in that the woman had no voice or vote, was denied the right to public opinion and had no access to wages. Where there are more women in power there is more equality in rights. Rodríguez (w.d.)

### **1.1.2 Background information.**

As mentioned earlier, menstruation was not well seen in ancient times in certain parts of the world, they considered it impure and dirty, which could bring them evil, so they chose to isolate and avoid them. In Egypt they were isolated and kept hidden in a building where men had no access while they went through their period of menstruation. The Israelites refused to touch the women during this period and did not touch what they touched as it was a symbol of impurity and they were disgusted and in In Hawaii, men who entered a building where there were menstruating women received the death penalty.

In Athens the virginity of a woman was important to men. If a father discovered that his daughter had lost her virginity, she could sell it in legal terms. So in many cultures and places men before marriage made sure that the woman they were going to marry with remained “pure”. The Samoans had the custom that at the wedding, the head of the tribe could break the bride's hymen with their fingers in front of the crowd to check its purity.

In Greece and Rome, women could not leave without a male escort accompanying them, nor had they the right to talk or sit down to dinner since they could not be exposed to anyone's naked eye. In Denmark, women were embarrassed and publicly punished for showing feelings of anger. The English also punished the women if they did not comply with the norms assigned to them and estimated that they did not bother the men in any way.

In the nineteenth century women in India who lost their husbands owed burn themselves at the funeral and died with their husbands, even in wars men expected their wives to kill themselves as a symbol of motivation towards them.

This is a small demonstration of what women have had to go through in different times and in different cultures and as they have been a symbol of denigration, abuse and used as if they were objects that have to serve to please the man and their needs, and currently we are still absurdly considered the weak gender, struggling to assert our rights and make society more just and equitable. To call woman the weaker sex is a slander, it is the injustice of the man towards the woman. (Gandhi, w.d.)

## **CHAPTER II**

### **Different areas of machismo**

#### **2.1 Types of machismo**

Historically, women have experienced a series of palpable discriminations that have relegated women to stereotypes and secondary roles in society. Here we can see the different areas of life, whether work, family and social that adopts machismo.

### **2.1.1 Labor machismo.**

When we talk about labor machismo we talk about a very extensive topic, since this type of machismo is presented in different ways within the workplace. This macho behavior at work means that as all-encompassing theme sexism, women are only "worthy" of certain positions within a company or a job in which best positions the always gets the man, taking also consider the lack of respect and sexual harassment that in many cases occurs within the labor field.

As an example we can take when a woman is hired as a secretary and she is expected, more or less explicitly, to fulfill tasks beyond the professionals, such as serving coffee or performing personal tasks for the boss. This type of behavior has been given the name "micromachismos", which does not mean that they are less pernicious. The sexist language is also practiced, basically consisting of ignoring or devaluing the presence and opinion of women in meetings and the justification for the absence of women in management positions.

Another area in which machismo is presented in these cases is in the salary, according to ECLAC, women obtain salaries from 70% and 90% less than what men obtain in relation to the same positions within a company.



The sociologist and gender consultant explain that:

Companies are a reflection of patriarchal society. They belittle women and that is reflected in the discrimination they suffer, both in salary and in access or promotion. This contempt for women is a macho behavior that has serious consequences in the lives of women. (Briñón, n.d)

### **2.1.2 Sexual machismo.**

In this type of machismo, we speak of sexual violence and acts of abuse exercised by the male gender against women, especially rapes among girls aged 11 to 45 years old. In the story many women have experienced some form of violence throughout their lives, one in five of a sexual nature, however they are not taken with the necessary priority and are somehow silenced over time this type of news, without Let people know about one of the worst things that a human being can experience, so that they can become aware of how to prevent such acts. Unfortunately, this machismo is seen in all parts of the world, but mostly in countries at war, thus giving a misfortune more to worry about. As Witting (1982) mentions, women, although extremely visible as sexual beings, remain invisible as social beings. This message leads us to think a little more about what is happening in the world every day and in the degrading society in which we live.

### **2.1.3 Daily machismo.**

As mentioned above, micromachismo, refers to sexist attitudes that are covert and culturally accepted. They are subtle manifestations that often go completely unnoticed.

As for example in advertising, this is a source where it is used to comment on the superiority of men compared to women, they have been able to observe how children's clothes apply "cute as mom" and other phrases as "smart as dad", that is where we let machismo pass as something normal, but in reality it covers a whole series of things that we do not give importance to as society shows us in a "harmless" way.

These are a few examples where we can see everyday machismo, however there are many more that give much to think about our society, not only current but how this over the years, given that it has always been a factor which has affected society today, we are already used to this type of abuse and inequality. Here are some phrases that we can listen to on a daily basis by men:

- “With your brother is different, he is a boy.”
- “Women are affected by everything.”
- “You are very smart to be a woman.”
- “When you drink you look like a trucker.”
- “Now you should not be more focused on your family instead of your career?”

## **2.2 Patriarchy**

### **2.2.1 Definition.**

The word patriarchy comes from the Greek and has the meaning of parental government. Throughout history, the term has been used to designate a type of social organization in which the authority is exercised by man as head of family, owner of the estate, and whose opinion, desire and will is believed to be more important than the woman, in this case the wife and her sons and daughters.

Patriarchy holds that the idea of man's superiority extends to women in society in general. Thus, patriarchy is present both in the family system and in public settings where the role of women is subject to the roles assigned to them by the masculine power.

Power through the economic is one of the areas in which the patriarch is present, money and possessions are used as tools of patriarchal power to control the other members of the family. It is common in patriarchal families the use of possessions to feed the feeling of superiority and selfishness and thus to diminish the needs and desires of women. The patriarch mistakenly believes that his wife and daughters are his property and therefore it is his responsibility to make decisions about his life. Sometimes, this form of patriarchy is so accepted by all the members of the family that many women are the ones who innocently legitimize the superiority of man by consulting everything with them or asking their opinion for everything. In the freedom of expression, the opinion of the woman is limited and a form of exercising power is expressed before the children, therefore it always ends up accepting and taking as a priority the opinion of the patriarchal figure without the need of a previous dialogue where all can give their point of view and can achieve expression.

As mentioned by Lerner:

What kind of history will be written when the shadow of domination recedes, and men and women share the task of making the definitions for an equal? We will devalue the past, we will deputize categories, we will supplant the order by the chaos?

No. We will simply walk under the sky. We will observe how it changes, how the stars come out and the Moon turns, and we will describe the Earth and the work that is done in it with male and female voices. After all, your vision can enrich us. Now we know that man is not the measure of all that is human; men and women are. Men are not the center of the world: they are men and women. (Lerner, 1987, pp. 221-222)

This is how patriarchy works within homes, because it is in the family where it develops and as we grow and interact with different social groups, we can observe how the patterns of patriarchy are reproduced in the different aspects of our social life, both in school, religion, couple, friendships, work and among other aspects.

### **2.2.2 Law against violence against women and the family in Ecuador.**



For some time, the National Council of Women CONAMU, based on respect and ensuring individual freedom, works to create conditions of equality and development of full participation of women, in the economic, social, political and cultural life, also included in the intervention of decision making and power.

The construction of women's citizenship has been made possible in a society free of violence and in which the physical, psychological and sexual freedom of women and family members are protected. The national congress together with the women's organizations was able to carry out the consecution of the law against violence against women, which was approved on November 29, 1995.

This law has been present in Ecuador and has been approved thanks to the work of a group of women who fought for their rights, thus earning a greater good for each of the women who are part of Ecuador. Now women have the possibility to live with dignity, to have support in the search for harmony, happiness and to be protected against domestic violence. This law is number 113 and was published in Ecuador in the official record No. 839 of December 11, 1995. So there are also articles against different types of violence.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **Machismo in the XXI century**

#### **3.1 Social impact**

##### **3.1.1 Countries where machismo is more frequent.**

When we talk about machismo, we speak of a global problem which indicates that it not only appears in a specific place but in several parts of the world, and that it is still

present in today's society even though it is usually known as something that is It gave in old times in the cultures of before, unfortunately it is a subject that does not finish disappearing completely and that appears in the actuality.

There are countries where these events are highlighted in a certain way, as for example we can talk about Mexico, which is a country that over the years has become known in this medium as one of the most sexist countries. As what represents machismo as such, this is a country that continues like many others under the influence of this ideology and the subtle acts of violence, both physical and psychological in which both women and men participate, women to take it as something normal due to society, while they are the only ones in charge of putting a stop, and men believing that they have the right to decide what is done or not done and impose work for women.

As the author of the book, *El machismo invisible regresa* expresses it:

I have read with great interest the hundreds of emails sent to me by the readers of *El machismo invisible regresa*. The vast majority of them come from women who tell me what machismo has meant in their marriage, at home or at work. Many of them show the relief of finally understanding that the problem is not in them but in that dynamic of relationship that is machismo. They realize that the depression, low self-esteem and insecurity they suffer is not their own pathology, but

because they live with men who systematically disqualify,  
silence, criticize, or, worse, ignore. (Castadeña, 2007)

It is a problem that many women do not notice until the moment they talk about the subject and give them a little push towards reality, in which they begin to be reflected in something that does not make them feel proud of themselves and just there they can realize what they are letting go and what society and man have involved them.

For my monographic work I carried out a survey that was based on the knowledge of the subject and on knowing the degree of machismo that is presented in the education of young people from 17 to 18 years of my social circle, in which a percentage of 30.8% of 26 people are in agreement with macho acts, despite being young people have at their bases ideas of superiority and disqualification before women in aspects of capacity and equality. It is a subject that attracts a lot of attention because at first glance we can observe the mentality with which they grow young and that this can come from their homes, due to the lack of moral education and that they are probably in an environment where there is the image of a father superior to any member of their household, or simply society, they take them to that kind of thoughts that later on can be a problem recorded and that if it is not corrected from home with the example of their parents, in the future they could there is more of these "harmless" abuses in which women have no voice or vote and that should always be seen in a lesser way.

This is a real example of the thinking of many, one of the questions I asked in my survey was how macho do you think Ecuadorian society is? And 57.7% gave an

affirmative response that if Ecuador is a macho country, as mentioned earlier this is something that is in most countries in one way or another. However there were questions in which there was some controversy, because they speak of a macho Ecuador as a social problem, but 30.8% call themselves sexist with their answers, when answering things like that the woman should have a salary lower than the man, so occupy the same job, others like that household chores should always be done by women, among other questions. It is unfortunate to see how these types of thoughts are present and to be reflected in machismo and that there is a complete agreement with respect to this and they believe they are correct, without needing any kind of reflection reading the denomination of these types of people acts and ideologies. This is machismo.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

At the end of this monographic work it is concluded that:

- It is important to know more about what happens in our society and the injustice that is committed regardless of anything.
- This monographic work serves to raise awareness and prevent machismo from being present and more than anything that girls and boys know how to differentiate between what is right and what is not, so that women avoid being victims and men avoid becoming people who denigrate women without being aware of the physical and psychological damage they can cause.

- Machismo is nothing more than a symbol of injustice and inequality of men who should respect the rights of a woman like them and accept that they are not better or worse than them because they are different physically.
- Women are also capable of many things as well as men and also deserve to be seen in an admirable way, not only for their work as mothers or as homemakers, but as people capable of moving forward in spite of adversity and be able to handle large jobs and be outstanding for their intelligence among other things in which they are always denigrated.

### **RECOMENDATIONS**

- In the situation of mistreatment towards a woman, the necessary authorities are notified to obtain the necessary help.
- The reader is advised to provide psychological help to the macho person as to the victim in the case of knowing that this type of problem is being given.
- Take machismo as an important issue that must be known in order to avoid it in young people

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