

UNIDAD EDUCATIVA PARTICULAR JAVIER
BACCALAUREATE IN SCIENCES

MONOGRAPH

**“THE INCREASE IN THE RATE OF FEMICIDES IN ECUADOR IN THE LAST
DECADE”**

STUDENT:

SAMIA WILCHES

ADVISER:

LCDA. LAURA ORTUÑO DE BAQUERIZO

LCDA. PATRICIA SANCHEZ

THIRD OF BACCALAUREATE - COURSE D

2019 – 2020

Gratitude

First of all, I would like to thank my parents who have helped me my entire life, guiding my every step way throughout each every stage of my life, allowing me to find my footing and making my way along the right path.

I would also like to thank God if it was not for Him I would not been blessed with had the intelligence and sense of responsibility that I possess have, allowing me to apply it throughout this process along with everything else I set my mind to.

I am grateful to my tutors, teachers and all those all who have supported me, urging me to continue and never forget how important it is to be a responsible, courageous and honest person in this life.

In reflection, I must myself express the pride I feel for having completed the things I set out to accomplish this year and for having been able to make progress with some things that I had to change for the good of my future.

Summary

Through this work I searched for a way to make people understand the gravity of the situation as to the position of women in society in which we presently find ourselves. There must be change, we must eradicate and propose solutions so that women are no longer seen by men as an object or something belonging to them. Femicide cases are growing more and more each year. The content following contain the details of the annual rate for the span of a decade as well as how it is affecting us socially and culturally.

This work contains much-needed information that every woman and Ecuadorian must be aware of. It is of the utmost importance that each person be aware of the realities that women live day by day. The various types and forms of femicides that exist will be detailed along with the reasons, why they happen.

Finally, this research was done with the intention of shedding light on the matter and making this information known so that it may be put on a more important plane. It is imperative that authorities and society take the most drastic measures concerning this matter. Femicide is an act of violence against women, yet it affects many others, by ignoring its magnitude, over time, it will continue to destroy and change the lives of people in a ring effect.

Index

	page
CARATULA.....	i
GRATITUDE.....	ii
SUMMARY.....	iii
INDEX.....	iv
INTRODUCTION.....	1
CHAPTER I: FEMICIDES IN ECUADOR.....	3
1. Definition.....	3
2. Antecedents.....	4
3. Statistics.....	6
CHAPTER II: DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH.....	8
2.1 Characteristics of an aggressor.....	8

2.2 Characteristics of the victim.....	9
2.3 Types of Femicides.....	10
2.3.1 Intimate and familiar.....	10
2.3.2 Lesbicide.....	10
2.3.3 Racial femicide.....	11
2.3.4 Serial femicide.....	11
2.4 Professionals and support centers.....	11
2.4.1 Professionals.....	11
2.4.2 Support centers	12
2.5 Psychological analysis.....	13
2.5.1 Men.....	13
2.5.2 Women.....	14
CHAPTER III: POPULATION AND FEMICIDE.....	15
3.1 Awareness of the people about femicide cases.....	15
3.2 The communications media and femicide.....	17

CONCLUSIONS.....19

RECOMMENDATIONS.....21

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES.....23

Introduction

The present monograph entitled *the increase in the rate of femicide in Ecuador in the last decade* is important to recognize what causes this phenomenon, and how society is affected by it. In this way, it is possible to know which the real statistics are and how this problem has been a burden for women for several years.

The monograph aims to demonstrate how to achieve a greater understanding of this problem that Ecuadorian women must live day by day, and how they are not heard when they need it most. It also seeks to find and put into action the most effective ways so that this phenomenon can be totally eradicated in Ecuador.

For the present monograph, the following authors have been taken as reference, Jill Radford & Diana Rusell *The politics of woman killing*; Leonor Fernández *La respuesta judicial del femicidio en Ecuador*; Ana Carcedo *Femicido en Ecuador*; Shalva Weil & Consuelo Corradi *Femicide across Europe*.

Around the year 2000 feminist organizations began with the investigation about this problematic, in 2006 they decided to improve the law of the sexual abuse that was imposed in 2005, their improvements were also to include the abuse in the familiar environment. Already in 2008 the constitution agreed to put laws for the protection of the individual, this was not enough, because what was sought was to impose a law that is completely aimed at the protection of women. Already today the laws that support women are many, but even this

phenomenon continues to grow, implying that they have improved with the laws and have more ways to conduct a concrete investigation the death continues to be put in second place.

This monograph has 3 chapters: Chapter 1, being its sub-themes, Definition, Antecedents and Statistics; Chapter 2, being its sub-themes, Characteristics of the aggressor, Characteristics of the victim, Types of femicide, Professionals and help centers and Psychological analysis; Chapter 3, being its subtopics, Awareness of the people about femicide cases and The Communications Media and Femicide.

Chapter I

Femicides in Ecuador

1. Definition

The term femicide translates into systematic violent acts on the bodies of victims, resulting from extreme violence, deeply rooted in chauvinistic homes where the predominant factor and , motivation can be the result of hatred, contempt, pleasure or sense of possession, thus leaving women exposed, due to their condition of gender promoting the commonly accepted existence of inequitable relationships.

In a general context, the types of violence represent mechanisms for preserving and reproducing the situation of the subordination of women to the exercise of male power in different spheres.

Radford (1987) affirms: “Male sexual violence has been identified as a defining characteristic of patriarchal societies” (p.7). We can also say that Femicide is a new concept used as a modality in cases of any type of violence that a woman may suffer.

Not only does it refer to the murders committed against female victims, but it also contains part of the set of violent acts against women in their environment, either continually or spontaneously. That is why we approach this violence as a form of direct violence against women. “El femicidio, en tanto forma extrema de la violencia contra las mujeres, es un problema que se comienza a visibilizar cada vez más en el continente latinoamericano, (...).Sin embargo, sigue siendo una realidad poco reconocida” (Carcedo, 2011, p.15). We also know that the term Femicide stems from the insufficiency of the female voice to demonstrate two elements: the

misogyny that exists in crimes and the responsibility of the state that does not give clear orders and leaves these crimes unpunished.

Around the world there are different cases of violence against women, regardless of age, they act against them leaving them defenseless and with collateral damage that is often irreversible. This is why the term is widely considered against any type of violence that a woman may suffer.

Many times with this act of violence what they seek or try to prove is that women are not owners of their body nor can they make decisions since their life is supposed to belong to a man.

Remember that femicide is about violence and death/ It affects both well known and unknown persons alike... Yet, unfortunately, in both the incentive is the same, to harm the woman and to thwart the life and priorities that she has or ever may have.

2. Antecedents

Ecuador is on the list of one of the countries with the highest rates of femicide in the world. This sad truth has made it imperative to begin keeping close tabs and so the collection of data has increased annually. It wasn't until 2015 when the state could take action as to the problem. The state decided to take measures by creating a project called Prevention of violence against women. Chiarotti (2011) affirms: "A mayor abundamiento la falta de información, el sub registro de los casos y la confusión en los conceptos respecto al homicidio de mujeres y del femicidio en particular constituyen trabas importantes para precisar la magnitud del problema" (p.19).

Let's start by saying that one out of every three women has suffered either physical or sexual violence. To be more specific, in Ecuador 70% of women have been victims of Femicide, 6 out of 10 women are victims of gender violence and 1 out of 4 have experienced sexual violence.

“La falta de un sistema de registro integral y único sobre la violencia que sufren las mujeres influye, tanto para la adopción de políticas públicas que prevengan la violencia de género (...), como al momento de investigar y resolver los casos de femicidio” (Carcedo, 2011, p.15).

Initially, the stated did not have exact percentages of Femicides at the national level, as they do not keep a record of them. But these percentages began becoming more noticeable in Ecuador between 2011 and 2014. 446 Femicides were registered, of which 110 Femicides occurred per year. Now it is important to mention the reality of impunity, and all it entails. It is clear that of all the cases that occurred during those 3 years, not even 80% of the aggressors were detained or sanctioned. For this reason alone it was obvious that the reason was because the laws were not completely directed in the right way towards the actions that should be taken in cases like these.

Karina Del Pozo was one of the most popular cases in Ecuador and this case reflects the instability of the justice system and the socio-cultural problem that Ecuador has. Femicide cases occur daily, but the details of these are not always made known to the public, while those involved keep quiet. In this manner, the state does not provide enough help to allow exact statistics can be kept of what is happening every day with these deaths and the violence committed against women.

Actually, the number of Femicides is alarming. Let us recall that in 2018 there were 64 deaths from January to May and, so far, in 2019 there have been 18 Femicides accounted for. That is to say that if we make an exact count with the numbers around some of these years we come to the conclusion that from 2014 to 2019 there are already 642 registered cases, not counting many of those that have been silenced or simply invisible before the eyes of justice.

3. Statistics

The last 10 years in Ecuador have seen an alarming growth of Femicides, but we must take into account that Femicide appeared in society as a real problem since 2001. With the help that the ONU has given on the figures and more exact statistics on what Ecuador has been living in recent years we can know exactly what is happening, likewise are creating standards for prevention on this issue and seek agreements to protect the rights of women.

The figures for Femicide in Ecuador, highlighted by the Attorney General's Office and the Ecumenical Commission on Human Rights, demonstrate the reality of this legal phenomenon, making known the percentage that these entities have registered, reached a growth rate of 11% in 2017, with the coast participating with more than half of the cases (55%) at the national level, while Guayas is the province that represents almost half of the cases of this crime on the coast, with 42% participation.

According to a quantitative analysis, it could be deduced that each case was associated with the marital status in which these women were found, making it known that the majority lived in free

union and others maintaining a relationship with the perpetrator of the crime. This is how our society demonstrates and maintains these acts of violence as an excuse for being a woman

(Guajardo & Cenitagoya, 2017). It means that our society still maintains that macho thinking where it maintains that women are its property, generating discrimination and violence towards their cohabitants.

Chiarotti (2011) affirms:

Por otra parte no podemos dejar los homicidios de mujeres como un homicidio más en el marco de la violencia social, pues corremos el peligro de banalizarlo y dar paso a percepciones tales como “la muerte de Edna fue un crimen pasional producto de los celos” o “el homicida actuó llevado por una pasión incontrolable” como comúnmente lo visibilizan los medios de comunicación.

If the statistics of Ecuador are real, then what they tell us is that we must really make a great change in society and start taking drastic measures to do for such actions.

Chapter II

Development of research

2.1 Characteristics of an aggressor

We must know that there is no social profile of the aggressor; because economic, family and professional circumstances don't explain the violence that these factors can provoke. Radford (1987) affirms: "Men exhibit a tendency to think of women as sexual and reproductive "property" that they can own and exchange" (p.85). What does explain these acts are all the events that the person has experienced and lived throughout his childhood and adolescence, where he was taught that the man is more than a woman and that it is socially acceptable for him to have or take command over her and anything or event of her life. This empowers him as well as allows him to adopt feelings of hatred, insecurities and despotism, and then express those feelings in by means of shouts, blows and insults.

The following are the characteristics that have been seen in different aggressors:

- In sociable places they are seductive and convincing, but at home they are violent and impulsive.
- They are dependent on their partner, for that reason they show insecurities and are very violent with the woman they have as a partner.
- They don't accept that they have anger issues and are violent.
- Demonstrate that they are insecure, dominant, jealous and violent.

- They keep the idea that women are only useful for domestic work and do not permit women to assume new roles in society.

2.2 Characteristics of the victim

Women also do not respond to a social profile of an assaulted woman, since scarce resources, low levels of education and economic dependence are not always representative factors. That is why it is difficult for them to know or recognize exactly which of the set of behaviors of women are prior to the violence suffered and which are a consequence of the violence they may encounter.

These are the aspects that represent them:

- Low self-esteem and feel that they are despised.
- Depend on a man and don't fend for themselves.
- Sleep problems, anorexia, depression and anxiety are many of the disorders they suffer from.
- Out of communication, cut off from social interaction and isolation.
- They suffer from guilt and are afraid.
- Unable to make his own decisions.

2.3 Types of Femicides

Through various studies and research, it has been concluded that there are different types of femicide.

2.3.1 Intimate and familiar.

Family femicide is always committed by one of the men in the family, which is why "intimate femicide" is the term used to define a murder committed by a man against his partner or ex-partner.

35% of the murders of women show that alcohol and other substances are circumstances present and take part in the initiative to commit violence against women and end up killing them.

Another circumstance which is found to be present in the decision man decides to kill his partner is for reasons of infidelity and belonging of the woman.

2.3.2 Lesbicide.

Men believe that raping a homosexual woman will force them to change their mentality about their sexual preference. Men and women also assault homosexual women to the point that they kill them, to believe that they are bringing order to society. Generally, they attack these

women in big groups so that they cannot defend themselves and this is normally done in public places.

2.3.3 Racial femicide.

The biggest component in this case is that the victim, apart from being a woman, also has different traits and culture than the aggressor. It is born as an irrational hatred for different motives and elements that are produced from the beginning by racism. Many times also being of a less valued ethnic group influences that it is more propensities to this phenomenon.

2.3.4 Serial femicide.

Unlike the others, this aggressor kills his victims for pleasure, which is why it is easy to identify this type, as they often have marks, left from bindings or marks of suffocation on their the extremities A high percentage of women who are exposed to this crime are those who work as waitresses or prostitutes, the aggressor have that feeling of pleasure that obtained by the eroticism that many have to see pornography.

2.4 Professionals and support centers

The reality is that the majority of femicides in Ecuador can be prevented, because almost all of these crimes are preceded by incidents of violence known to the judicial system.

2.4.1 Professionals.

According to some psychologists and specialists in this subject, they say that femicides are not isolated crimes, actually they are the product of a system of inequality, oppression and control towards a specific gender.

Radford (1987) affirms:

The objective of showing the cruelties is not to frighten the reader, but to try to advance in the struggle of recognize that women are currently experiencing extreme, growing, and brutal times feminicide; a time in which the myth persists among many young women, privileged students, that the feminist revolution has been accomplished and that they have the same alternatives and opportunities than men.

2.4.2 Support centers.

In Ecuador, various centers help women overcome the trauma of rape or domestic abuse. They also help women to leave homes where they have been abused for a long time.

The police also help the victims by looking for a shelter, if necessary; they motivate the woman to denounce by making them understand that the violence is progressive. The municipality of Guayaquil created a campaign and together with it a foundation called 'Amiga ya no estás sola', which consists in calling and asking for help in order to inform the authorities and other help centers about the case so that it can be dealt with quickly and instantly.

2.5 Psychological analysis

It is an issue that is being studied from the sexual violence, it is not possible that more and more cases of violence against women exist and that are not reported. The error lies in the fact that from the home the example is not given that women should be respected and included in society.

“We see the anthology as a beginning in the work needed to create a political climate in which the death of any woman as result of femicide cannot go unnoticed but is recognized as an event worthy of comment, anger and protest” (Radford, 1987, p.351). The doctor in Social Psychology graduated from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes in the Social Sciences of Paris, states that such gender-based violence against women is aggravated by its recurrence, intentionality, power or feelings, and increasing tendency.

2.5.1 Men

Every man is responsible for the acts he commits and the violence he brings. Knowing that chauvinistic attitudes rise from less to more, it begins disregard, moving on to disrespect, and the next thing they do is commit psychological, physical or sexual violence. Considering that it is not something that cannot be avoided, thus also demonstrating that not all men resort to violence and hatred towards women. That is why men in this country have also done their part and have gone on marches for the protection and care of women

It is unfair that we talk many times about violence against women and we want to say that all men are equal, not just that they are all part of the pile.

2.5.2 Women

Insecurity, humiliation, trauma and hatred are many of the words women use to define moments when they felt they were being violated or abused. Let's not forget that they constantly say that if you go out alone at night and they do something to you, it's your fault, because you know that it's not right for a woman to go out alone at night. Where are the

principles that people talk so much about or the demands for respect that they ask for, if in their own homes they are creating monsters that attack women in society. The government says that the laws are with the woman, but that is not true because every time that a case of femicide exist they don't take the necessary relevance that they have to give it.

Chapter III

Population and Femicide

3.1 Awareness of the people about femicide cases

One of the main deficiencies in Ecuador is the lack of statistical information dealing with the problem of gender-based violence against women. Although Ecuadorian women know that a new law has been, implemented by the National Assembly introduced for their protection, they still feel insecure and know that the risks they are facing are high. Weil, Corradi & Naudi (2018) affirms: “The interactions of differing beliefs, attitudes and behaviors may be positive or negative and may represent either protective or risk factors for femicide”(p.58). A single proposal or thought will not help change reality; we must encourage every person in Ecuador, to be logical in thought and make them see the reality of what a woman interogeos in her daily life.

The information that the state entities provide is not correct because we can see that the data shown above does not coincide. It is obvious that what they seek is to lie by covering up the truth of the situation, specifically respecting this type of violence. In 2017, the Organic Law for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women was approved, but at the same time,

entities in charge of protecting against violence disappeared. Leaving us unsure as to what they were looking for or planning to confront this type of violence.

The State's role in the media must be to identify and recognize discrimination of women in the mass media as a problem. Yet, it remains important that the State should be respectful of the freedom of expression, the State can and in fact does impose some rules and standards on the media.

We can still see how people are not informed or educated enough to see that it is not just a person's death, it is reference to the violence committed against a woman simply out of revenge or merely for being a woman. This goes beyond the search for data or statistics. What we need is to stop this violence, to eradicate it completely, so that we no longer have to live in fear or be the next victim of a house of femicide. The issues we have been arguing about are not proper to industrial society. In the same society for which we have been able to identify a sample of marital homicides, the same story is mostly the same: the majority of cases emerge from the

husbands' jealous, proprietary and violent answer to their wife's infidelity or desertion. (Radford, 1987).

The violence that presently exists against women derives from its own roots, allowing us to comprehend that this behavior is in tune with social violence. The violence perpetrated to women is recognized as a serious issue affecting the health and social protection of women and girls globally.

3.2 The Communications Media and Femicide

Media coverage of femicide and violence against women and girls in general can play an important role in training and strengthening social understanding of these types of violence. The reporting of femicide has been changing in recent decades, but not sufficiently to have this brutality recognized as a broader social problem of violence to women and entrenched gender inequality.

The media does not always show us the truth of the situation; they show news of gender violence and femicide as a great yellowish color. What these media often try to do is get more ratings, which shows the little respect and value that these people have, they do not show society that they should be aware of the tragedy lived every day, rather teach the morbidity in their news.

Media coverage portrays sex stereotypes associating male identity of violence, dominion, dependency, aggression and authority, while women are linked to feelings, sensitivity, frailty, dependence and vulnerability.

Although we know the femicides lately, they have risen too high, and that is why for the media is very difficult to show all, but almost always try to present what is most relevant. They are always going to show the cases that attract people's attention, showing that even people don't make conscience and don't realize how serious the situation is.

Weil et al. (2018) affirms:

In every case, the personal information that has been provided by the victims and the family members should be incorporated only into databases with their informed consent with regard to its possible use. This information should be protected in accordance with international standards on the protection of privacy.

The media must always be honest and show the reality that is lived in the country, should not hide anything, because it is not fair to society. If things are presented as they are, there is a

greater probability that people will change their mentality and beware, and see that it is necessary to bring forth a change in society concerning what is thought of women.

Something that the society is beginning to notice is that news never continuity in news reports or investigations of the cases presented that news, never show the advance of the victim and them family. Only concentrated to show the problem but not the solution, the advances or the improvements.

Conclusions

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

- Although legislative progress has been made in recognizing the protection of women, discrimination, abuse and violence against women still persist. Keeping women in the background, no matter how serious the situation or abuse that woman is going through.

- There are serious deficiencies in society, since even people are not aware of the barbarity of this problem, society still omits that all women are in danger of being one more victim. It is not necessary to actually live what it is to be a victim to begin to understand the cruelty of the acts and psychological damage that remain in people, and sometimes even expand throughout the family as an impact.

- Women must know with whom they live, who they choose as a partner or with whom they have relationships, since most of these cases are carried out by the victim's partner. If a woman is in a moment in which her life is in danger, she should not be silenced. It is necessary to inform her, there are many organizations for the protection of women and there are also laws that can help.

- It is essential that from an early age children are taught the importance of valuing women, how a woman should be treated and gender equality. It is essential that this information is reinforced in homes, that they have a good example with their families, so that society can be balanced as it progresses and as children grow.

- We need to start taking stronger measures, so that this phenomenon can be completely eradicated and that women no longer suffer these abuses. But it is not until then that society begins to realize that this is a problem that is increasing and that if nothing is done any

member of the family could be a next victim. It is not necessary to go to those circumstances to take this issue more seriously and begin to raise awareness about it.

Recommendations

At the end of this work it is recommended:

- To begin to create and promote new alternatives for the well-being and safety of Ecuadorian women would consist of bringing to the state well-planned proposals that can

guarantee a significant advance in society for women. Demonstrating that society is really interested in finding a solution and that this phenomenon does not continue to grow.

- It is important that for now, while there are no protections and guarantees for the protection of women, they take into account who are living with them and with whom they are having relations. It is necessary that women also take the initiative and move away from possible aggressors, so that in the future they are not just another victim.
- It is known that most femicides are caused by the couple, so it means that previously the aggressor had already shown aggressive actions and for not taking risks the victim better silenced the abusing. It is necessary that when a woman is being abused in her home, she reports it, so that the aggressor can be caught and there is no next victim.
- If a woman has suffered any abuse or attempted abuse, she should inform her family, so that they have some kind of support and do not feel alone in that struggle. Usually when the victim feels that they don't have support, they make bad decisions that threaten their lives.

Bibliographic references

Carcedo, A., Ordóñez, C. (2011). *Femicidio en Ecuador*. Quito:

Manthra editores

Fernández, L. (2017). *La respuesta judicial del femicidio en Ecuador*.

Quito: Artes Gráficas SILVA

Morocho, V., Pesántez, C. (s.f.). *Protesta a través de medios artísticos en la red y espacios*

públicos, contra el femicidio y la violencia de género. Retrieved from

<https://protestaartisticacontraelfemicidio.wordpress.com/category/estadisticas/>

Zambrano, R. (2019). *Cada 3 días se registra un femicidio en Ecuador, según reporte.* El

Universo. Retrieved from

<https://www.eluniverso.com/noticias/2019/03/22/nota/7244885/cifras-bajan-violencia-golpea-casos-femicidio>