



**INDICATORS OF GENDER VIOLENCE IN PERU.
THE PERCEPTION OF THE TECHNICAL STAFF OF THE WOMEN'S
EMERGENCY CENTERS (WEC)**

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This book examines an interesting experience of university cooperation written by researchers from three complementary disciplines –philology, sociology and business– who are also experts on gender issues, gender violence and research methodology. The text shows the result of the fieldwork of the project “Social and Legal Impact of the Andalusian interventions in the area of Cooperation for Development in Women’s Emergency Centers, Peru 2014DECC001” of the Junta de Andalucía, the Andalusian Agency for International Development Cooperation, Pablo de Olavide University of Seville, and the International Association of Jurists, INTER IRUIS. It represents the culmination of coordinated work between the public administration, the NGO, and the university. It is an initiative for the victims but attending to the specialized technical personnel that deal with them every day and with the Peruvian judicial, political, medical, and police system. The analysis tool used enables us to obtain a perception of gender violence, its situation, its impact and possible solutions. Likewise, the interactions of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, the National Program against Family and Sexual Violence and Women’s Emergency Centers (WEC) are appreciated, with the services of practitioners serving victims in the fields of law, psychology, and social work, among others.

The first chapter offers an institutional and legislative framework for gender-based violence, with the reference that legally in Peru it is “inserted within the framework of domestic violence and not as gender-based violence”. The government, however, does “aim to change the law and equate it with those related to gender violence”. WECs provide “legal guidance, judicial defense, psychological counseling, and social

support” to victims. Thus far they have increased their coverage significantly. This chapter offers a comparative vision of the Peruvian and Spanish legal system and institutions regarding gender violence.

The second chapter presents the fieldwork that consists of the application of a questionnaire on the perception of gender violence in Peru, applied to professionals and specialized technical personnel of WECs. The questionnaire is the result of the impressions collected by the different trainings/courses offered throughout the country by the MIMP (the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations), the PNCVFS (the National Plan Against Family and Sexual Violence), and INTER IRUIS (the International Association of Jurists) in the project “*Support for the strengthening of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations as the governing body on the issue of Gender Violence in Peru OC375/2012*”. In the interpretation of the results, the reader would have expected the participation of a representative from Peru, given the socio-cultural differences, to explain the terminology and the *realia*, which are described from a single perspective.

In the third chapter the data are analyzed applying the Partial Least Square Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) technique or Structural Equation Models. The model has enabled the identification of relationships between deficiencies and proposed solutions based on the perception of the respondents. As a primary conclusion, the study highlights the initiatives and achievements of the Peruvian state. In turn, it suggests that gender violence “requires immediate substantial improvements”, according to the indicators used in the investigation. Finally, the applied questionnaire has been annexed to serve as a reference for future research in similar contexts to the WEC.

The training provided opens new ways of reflection aimed at preventing the emergence of violence towards women, while providing valuable contributions to changing attitudes and beliefs. Finally, the clarity with which the procedures followed in the project and in the care provided in the Women’s Emergency Centers are explained, make this book useful for professionals, students and the public committed to helping to reduce gender violence.

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