Perceptions of Female University Students on Violence Against Women in Peru: An Analysis Using ATLAS.ti Web

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ABSTRACT:

This study analyzes the perceptions of female university students in Peru regarding violence against women, aiming to identify the factors that contribute to its normalization, assess the effectiveness of governmental responses, and explore the beliefs that justify its acceptance. A phenomenological approach and a qualitative design based on discourse analysis using ATLAS.ti Web were employed. The sample consisted of 11 students from a public university in Lima, selected through convenience sampling. The results reveal that gender-based violence remains accepted in certain contexts due to the influence of deeply rooted sociocultural beliefs. Additionally, a widespread perception of inefficacy in governmental policies was identified, attributed to poor implementation and monitoring. Furthermore, the concept cloud analysis showed that violence is primarily perceived in family and intimate settings, where emotional and economic dependence hinders reporting and access to justice. The study concludes that strengthening educational strategies in the university environment is essential to deconstructing narratives that perpetuate violence. Moreover, it recommends optimizing protection mechanisms and improving case monitoring to ensure an effective state response. Finally, it emphasizes the need for multidimensional interventions that promote women's

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empowerment and transform the social structures that sustain gender inequality..

Keywords: Violence against women, women's empowerment, public policies, higher education

I. INTRODUCTION

Violence against women is defined by the United Nations as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life" [1]. Furthermore, this phenomenon is understood as a manifestation of historical power inequalities between genders, which have perpetuated the subjugation of women within social, economic, and political structures [2]. Additionally, violence against women and girls not only violates individual rights but also has consequences that negatively impact the economic and social development of communities, limiting women's participation and restricting their access to opportunities for well-being [3].

The current situation of violence against women remains a global crisis with severe implications for public health, human rights, and social stability. According to Wokoma and Lindow [4], gender-based violence continues to be a structural issue that perpetuates women's subjugation, affecting their ability to contribute socially and economically. Furthermore, Pinho et al. [5] emphasize that while public health systems implement protocols to address violence, a significant proportion of victims still perceive government responses as ineffective. Similarly, Tavassoli et al. [6] highlight that intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, and cyber harassment are increasing trends, reinforcing the urgency of stronger prevention policies. Lastly, Corrêa and Faria [7] report that, based on victim testimonies, most recurrent cases of violence stem from individuals within the victim's social and familial circles, further complicating intervention efforts.

University students' perceptions of violence against women are a key factor in understanding the persistence of this phenomenon in educational settings. A study conducted in Spain by Osuna-Rodríguez et al. [8] validated the Gender Violence Perception Scale in university students, revealing significant differences based on gender and parental education level. Similarly, in South Africa, Makhanya [9] found that the high prevalence of gender-based violence in universities is influenced by social norms and power dynamics, suggesting the need for psychological and pastoral interventions. Additionally, a study by Muzaffar et al. [10] in India showed that most students do not perceive that women enjoy equal rights, contributing to the normalization of violence. Finally, Rakshasa-Loots [11] highlighted that in the United Kingdom, university investigations on gender-based violence often fail to adequately consider the mental health impact on victims, emphasizing the need for more effective institutional support policies.

This study aims primarily to identify and categorize university students' perceptions of violence against women in Peru, based on the analysis of collected discourse and its structuring into specific subcategories, such as perception of the phenomenon, governmental responses, factors of acceptance, and consequences, among others (Figure 1 y 2). Secondly, it seeks to examine the most representative citations from the analyzed corpus, with the goal of detecting discursive patterns that reveal the beliefs, justifications, and barriers influencing the understanding and perpetuation of gender-based violence (Figure 3). Finally, it aims to analyze the configuration of the most recurring concepts in the studied testimonies,

exploring their interrelation and hierarchy through artificial intelligence tools, which will provide insight into the emotional, social, and structural dimensions framing violence against women in the Peruvian university context (Figure 4).

II. METHODOLOGY

This research falls within the framework of basic science, whose purpose is to generate theoretical knowledge without immediate application but significantly contributes to understanding fundamental phenomena. According to Outeiro et al. [12], basic science plays a crucial role in generating essential knowledge that can later be applied to solving practical problems, laying the groundwork for the advancement of knowledge across various disciplines. The epistemological framework of this research is based on Edmund Husserl's phenomenology, which seeks to describe the essence of lived experiences through phenomenological reduction. According to Gejdoš and Hrobková [13], Husserl proposes that phenomenology is a method for studying consciousness and its intentional structures, allowing access to the essence of phenomena as they appear in experience. Similarly, Alamyar [14] emphasizes that Husserlian phenomenology aims to reveal the underlying structures of consciousness through epoché, which enables the analysis of experiences without prior assumptions and with a focus on individual subjectivity. The research design is phenomenological, framed within the methodological guidelines proposed by John Creswell. According to Charli et al. [15], the phenomenological design allows for an understanding of participants' lived experiences through the analysis of their narratives, highlighting the essential structures of their perceptions. In this same line, Byun [16] asserts that phenomenology, within Creswell's qualitative taxonomy, is one of the most suitable strategies for studying subjective phenomena, as it focuses on interpreting experiences from the perspective of the participants themselves.

Convenience sampling is a non-probabilistic method where participants are selected based on their availability and willingness to take part in the study. According to Emerson [17], convenience sampling is often employed when access to participants is limited or when specific groups need to be studied efficiently. This study will include 11 female university students from a public university in Lima, Peru. The inclusion criteria are that participants must belong to a public university and demonstrate willingness to participate in the research. The exclusion criteria include male students and students from private universities.

A semi-structured interview is a qualitative data collection method that combines structured questions with open-ended responses, allowing participants to elaborate on their experiences. According to Kakilla [18], semi-structured interviews enable researchers to acquire in-depth insights while maintaining a flexible framework to explore relevant themes that emerge during the conversation.

An interview guide is a structured framework that outlines key questions and topics to be addressed during an interview, ensuring consistency across different participants. According to Roberts [19], a well-developed interview guide helps researchers maintain the focus of the study while allowing space for spontaneous discussion and deeper exploration of participant responses.

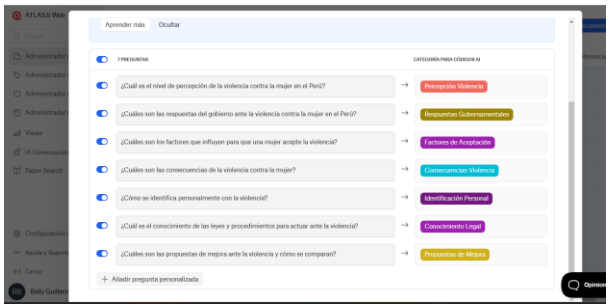
Deductive and inductive reasoning are fundamental approaches in qualitative data analysis, enabling researchers to systematically interpret findings. According to Mohamad et al. [20], deductive logic begins with pre-established theories or frameworks that guide data analysis, while inductive logic allows themes to emerge from the data itself without preconceived notions. The combination of both methods ensures a comprehensive understanding of the research subject by validating theoretical assumptions and discovering new insights.

ATLAS.ti Web is a qualitative data analysis software that facilitates the coding, categorization, and visualization of qualitative data, enhancing research accuracy and efficiency. According to Sharma [21], ATLAS.ti is particularly useful in organizing and structuring unstructured textual data, allowing researchers to conduct rigorous thematic content analysis.

Figure 1 of the document represents the research objectives based on the analysis conducted with

ATLAS.ti Web. Its structure helps identify the study's main focus areas, providing a comprehensive view of the analyzed dimensions. First, the figure lays out the research questions, establishing a logical connection between the generated codes and emerging categories. Additionally, it presents a hierarchy of key themes, suggesting a systematic methodological approach. The visualization also helps interpret the connections between factors influencing attitudes toward violence against women, highlighting both individual and structural aspects. Furthermore, the organization of the codes demonstrates the use of advanced qualitative analysis tools, enhancing data interpretation. In conclusion, this figure clearly synthesizes the research objectives, providing a strong foundation for the discussion of findings and the development of improvement proposals.

Figure 1. Research objectives



Note. Own elaboration from ATLAS.ti Web

As said, to insert images in *Word,* position the cursor at the insertion point and either use Insert | Picture | From File or copy the image to the Windows clipboard and then Edit | Paste Special | Picture (with "Float over text" unchecked).

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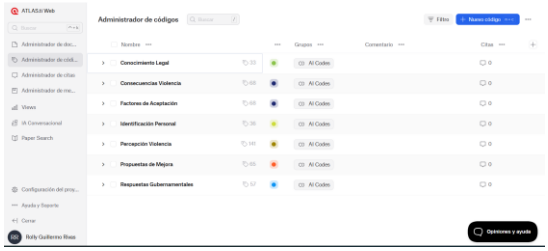
III. RESULTS

Figure 2 of the document displays the seven subcategories with their respective codes, generated through intentional AI analysis using ATLAS.ti Web. First, this representation structures the phenomenon of violence against women into key dimensions, facilitating a comprehensive understanding of the issue. Additionally, the distribution of codes within each subcategory highlights the depth and diversity of the analyzed factors, reinforcing the study's validity. Furthermore, the subcategories encompass individual, social, and governmental aspects, indicating a holistic approach to the analysis. On the other hand, the number of codes generated in each subcategory suggests a differentiation in the relevance and complexity of each dimension. Moreover, the integration of artificial intelligence in coding optimizes data organization and systematization, increasing the reliability of the analysis. Consequently, this figure not only synthesizes the categorization of the studied phenomenon but also provides a solid conceptual framework for interpreting findings and developing intervention strategies.

Figure 2. The 7 subcategories with their respective codes generated from the intentional AI of ATLAS.ti Web



Note. Own elaboration from ATLAS.ti Web

Figure 3 of the document presents the most relevant citations generated through intentional AI analysis using ATLAS.ti Web. First, this representation helps identify the most significant text fragments related to violence against women, providing key qualitative evidence for the research. Additionally, the organization of the citations reflects the diversity of perspectives and experiences collected in the study, reinforcing the depth of the analysis. Furthermore, the selected citations are linked to the previously established subcategories, ensuring coherence between the data and the analytical structure. On the other hand, the integration of artificial intelligence in citation selection optimizes the identification of patterns and discursive trends, allowing for a more precise interpretation of the phenomenon. Moreover, making these testimonies visible helps highlight individual and collective perceptions of violence, enriching the understanding of the issue. In conclusion, this figure synthesizes the most relevant contributions

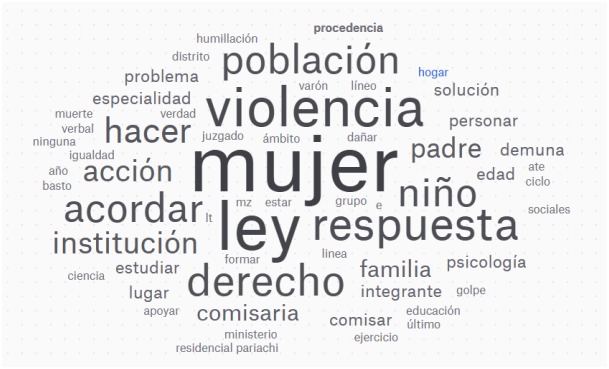
from the analyzed corpus, facilitating the interpretation of findings and the development of evidence-based strategies.

Figure 3. The most relevant citations generated with the AI of ATLAS.ti Web

Note. Own elaboration from ATLAS.ti Web

Figure 4 of the document presents a concept cloud generated through intentional AI analysis using ATLAS.ti Web. First, this visualization helps identify the most frequently occurring words in the analyzed testimonies, highlighting key terms such as "violence", "woman", "family", "home", "police station", "response", and "solution". Additionally, the size and arrangement of these terms reflect their relevance within the data corpus, making it easier to detect predominant discursive patterns. Furthermore, the presence of concepts such as "equality", "ministry", "hit", and "humiliation" suggests a multidimensional approach to the phenomenon, addressing both the emotional impact and institutional responses. On the other hand, the concept cloud allows for the recognition of recurring terms that may indicate semantic relationships and potential areas for deeper qualitative analysis. Moreover, the integration of artificial intelligence in constructing this representation optimizes information systematization and strengthens the study's validity. In conclusion, this figure provides a visual synthesis of the analyzed discourse, facilitating the interpretation of trends and the development of evidence-based strategies.

Figure 4. Cloud of concepts generated from ATLAS.ti Web



Note. Own elaboration from ATLAS.ti Web

IV. DISCUSSIONS

University students' perceptions of violence against women in Peru reveal discursive patterns that perpetuate the acceptance of this phenomenon. The results obtained in Figure 2 show that the normalization of violence is related to deeply rooted sociocultural beliefs. In this line, recent research has shown that gender-based violence is a structural phenomenon reproduced in educational and family environments [22]. Moreover, previous studies indicate that the perception of violence varies according to educational level and access to information on human rights [23]. Therefore, it is crucial to implement pedagogical strategies that challenge these discourses and foster a critical perspective among university students.

Governmental responses to violence against women in Peru exhibit a gap between regulations and their effective implementation. Figure 3 reflects participants' skepticism regarding the effectiveness of public policies, which aligns with studies highlighting the lack of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in state programs [24]. Additionally, recent research has evidenced that low trust in governmental institutions is linked to the revictimization of complainants and inefficiency in victim protection [25]. Consequently, strengthening reporting and support systems is essential to ensuring that victims receive effective care and access to justice.

The factors influencing the acceptance of violence against women are closely related to sociocultural constructs that reinforce gender inequality. Figure 4 shows that narratives of

romantic love and sacrifice influence the justification of violence within relationships. In this regard, recent studies have identified that the internalization of traditional gender roles perpetuates tolerance toward violence [26]. Likewise, research has pointed out that low self-esteem and economic dependence increase the likelihood of accepting violent situations [27]. It is imperative to design psychosocial interventions that promote women's empowerment and denaturalize practices that sustain gender-based violence.

V. CONCLUSIONS

The normalization of violence against women in the university context is the result of persistent sociocultural beliefs that reinforce gender inequality and limit critical awareness of the phenomenon. The findings presented in Figure 2 indicate that violence is conceptualized within categories that minimize or justify it, revealing an internalization of patriarchal norms and values. This phenomenon is closely linked to the education received and access to information on human rights, which determine the ability to recognize and reject aggression. In this regard, the coding structure of the study shows how traditional conceptions of women's roles contribute to the acceptance of violence, perpetuating its reproduction in educational and family spaces. Therefore, it is imperative to design educational strategies that, beyond raising awareness, actively deconstruct the discourses that sustain these dynamics of domination.

Governmental responses to gender-based violence in Peru exhibit structural deficiencies that limit their impact and generate distrust among affected populations. Figure 3 highlights that university students perceive state actions predominantly negatively, reflecting a significant gap between established regulations and their actual enforcement. This skepticism is rooted in the lack of effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for prevention and support programs, leading to systematic revictimization and inefficiencies in institutions responsible for women's protection. The lack of trust in the justice system and government entities exacerbates victims' vulnerability, creating a cycle of impunity that reinforces the persistence of violence. To address this issue, it is crucial to strengthen public policies with comprehensive, evidence-based approaches that ensure not only the existence of laws but also their effective implementation and oversight.

The factors influencing the acceptance of violence against women are deeply rooted in sociocultural constructs that reinforce emotional and economic dependence, preventing the breaking of the cycle of violence. Figure 4, through the analysis of the concept cloud, highlights the prevalence of terms such as "home," "family," and "police," suggesting that violence is perceived as a phenomenon occurring in intimate spaces, often managed within family dynamics without external intervention. Additionally, the presence of terms like "humiliation" and "hit" indicates that experiences of violence are recognized but not necessarily rejected, as they are framed within discourses of romantic love, sacrifice, and resignation. This scenario underscores the need for multidimensional interventions that not only provide crisis support to victims but also work toward eradicating the narratives that perpetuate submission and the justification of abuse. Women's empowerment, both economically and psychologically, must be a priority in prevention and support strategies, promoting a structural transformation that dismantles traditional power and dependency frameworks.

CONCLUSION

This study analyzes the perceptions of female university students in Peru regarding violence against women, using a phenomenological approach and qualitative analysis tools with ATLAS.ti Web. The research identifies the main categories that structure these perceptions, including the normalization of the phenomenon, governmental responses, factors of acceptance, and the consequences of violence.

The findings reveal that gender-based violence remains accepted in certain contexts due to deeply rooted sociocultural beliefs that perpetuate gender inequality. Figure 2 shows how education and access to information on human rights influence students' ability to recognize and reject violence. Likewise, Figure 3 highlights widespread skepticism regarding the effectiveness of government policies

due to inadequate implementation and monitoring. Finally, Figure 4 presents a concept cloud that emphasizes terms such as "family" and "home," suggesting that violence is primarily perceived within intimate spaces, with factors such as emotional and economic dependence making it difficult to break the cycle of violence.

The study concludes that it is necessary to strengthen education and awareness strategies in the university setting with an approach that deconstructs narratives justifying violence. Additionally, it recommends improving the effectiveness of public policies and protection mechanisms for victims, ensuring the real and effective implementation of existing regulations. Finally, it emphasizes the importance of multidimensional interventions that promote women's empowerment and the eradication of practices that sustain gender-based violence in Peruvian society.

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