Personal constraints' impact on cognitive distortions in persons deprived of liberty

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Abstract

The objective of the research was to determine the incidence of personal conditions on the cognitive distortions of persons deprived of liberty for crimes of violence against women via the hypothetical deductive method. The results showed the incidence of personal conditioning on the cognitive distortions of these individuals

sanctioned for acts of violence against women. In conclusion, for the treatment of persons who have committed acts of violence against women in prisons, following investigations and the results of the studies carried out by the Ministry of Justice, the prison system must be adapted to the needs of the prison population.

Keywords: Personal factors, Cognitive distortions, Prisons.

Impacto de las restricciones personales en las distorsiones cognitivas en personas privadas de libertad

Resumen

El objetivo de la investigación fue determinar la incidencia de afecciones personales en las distorsiones cognitivas de las personas privadas de libertad por delitos de violencia contra la mujer a través del hipotético método deductivo. Los resultados mostraron la incidencia del condicionamiento personal en las distorsiones cognitivas de estos individuos sancionados por actos de violencia contra las mujeres. En conclusión, para el tratamiento de personas que han cometido actos de violencia contra la mujer en las cárceles, después de las investigaciones y los resultados de los estudios realizados por el Ministerio de Justicia, el sistema penitenciario debe adaptarse a las necesidades de la población penitenciaria.

Palabras clave: Factores personales, Distorsiones cognitivas, Prisiones.

1. INTRODUCTION

Violence against women has spread significantly in Peru: during 2019 and so far, about 165 feminicides have occurred according to the Peruvian Ministry of Justice, a number that also tends to grow steadily. Even though violence and feminicide in Peru are severely punished by Peruvian legislation, they are still frequent.

Violence against women is not a biological or domestic issue but a gender issue. It is an essential theoretical variable for understanding that the reason for the antagonism is not the difference in sex, that we are facing a form of individual violence that is exercised in the family and couple environment by those who hold a position of physical superiority (men) over the weaker sex (women), but that it is a consequence of a situation of temporary discrimination that has its origin in the social structure of a patriarchal nature. Gender is the result of a process of social construction through which it symbolically assigns the expectations and values that each culture attributes to men and women. It is the result of this cultural learning process of a macho nature, where the arrogance of the masculine and the subalternity of the feminine are the essential ingredients that define the power relationship.

Cognitive distortions are deceptions that individuals believe and of which they are completely convinced, altering reality, generally causing emotions or dysfunctional behaviors characterized by unnecessary or disproportionate suffering with respect to situations. These distortions can be the result of various internal, family, environmental and other factors. MALDONADO (2013) states that cognitive distortions are automatic and involuntary ideas of thought that are the managers of a reaction with a strong emotional content that generates disturbance. They are intimately linked to the experiences of the subjects, where they are influenced by the nucleus of support, the school, society, and many other factors.

The cognitive distortions present in different mental disorders such as depression, eating disorders or psychotic disorder among others and their description is common in criminals and violent people. In the criminological field, it can be considered as cognitive-behavioral

maintenance that aims at exempting from responsibility and consequences of socially reprehensible behavior, the crime is mainly rationalized through minimization, denial or attribution of guilt to others.

According to the study by GARCÍA, SÁNCHEZ & GODOY (2012) stated that the prison population for crimes of femicide present distorted thoughts that favor the commission of violence against the couple for prison treatment should take into account the results of research to generate psycho-educational programs, aimed at targeting and / or eliminate these cognitive distortions. PERVAN & HUNTER (2007) consider that the cognitive distortions of these transgressions as well as sexual disorders differ according to their nature, content and the objectives they pursue. LONSWAY & FITZGERALD (1994) describe false beliefs about rape and assert that these serve to deny and justify male sexual assault. They identified three general categories of cognitive distortion; one of these is moral or psychological in origin, insofar as it attempts to justify reprehensible behavior. The other is aimed at minimizing and ignoring delinquent behavior, disfiguring the consequences of it. The third refers to dehumanization and the attribution of blame to the victim of the act.

ELLIS (1997), when referring to cognitive distortions, maintains that people who suffer them present both innate and acquired tendencies, giving way to his ABC theory where A (activating event) represents the activating event, it can be a situation, an external event or an internal event (thought), image, fantasy, conduct, sensation, emotion, etc.

B (belief system) represents in principle the belief system, but it can be considered to include all the content of the cognitive system:

thoughts, memories, images, assumptions, attitudes, attributes, norms, values, schemes, philosophy of life, etc. C (consequence) represents the consequence or reaction to A. C can be of an emotional (emotions), cognitive (thoughts) or behavioral (actions) type. BECK (1991) refers that cognitive distortions occupy a prominent place in the interpretation of information. For this author, there are types of cognitive distortions that produce a series of automatic thoughts and these, in turn, at the moment of their appearance in the perception of external circumstances, are responsible for emotional and behavioral problems.

2. METHODOLOGY

This research involved 105 inmates from two prisons, one located in the capital city of Lima and the other in an Andean city of Peru. The instrument applied was the inventory of distorted thoughts about women and the use of violence (IPDMUV-R) of ECHEBURÚA, AMOR, SARASUA, ZUBIZARRETA, & HOLGADO (2016), consisting of 21 dichotomous items.

As for the research method, this was hypothetical-deductive pointed out by RODRÍGUEZ & PÉREZ (2017) notes that the hypotheses are starting points for new deductions, with quantitative approach according to HERNÁNDEZ & MENDOZA (2018), this type of approach is used to test hypotheses using numerical and statistical tools. From a positivist paradigm according to Kuhn quoted by RAMOS (2015), he mentions that they are the interrelated assumptions regarding the

interpretation of the world, besides this serves as a basis in the different disciplines, since it points out problems that should be dealt with and seeks a referential framework in which the questions are clarified through an adequate epistemology.

The design of the research was non-experimental since the research was carried out without the deliberate manipulation of variables. It is a study where we do not intentionally vary the independent variables to see their effect on others. It is cross-sectional since its purpose is to collect data at a single point in time (HERNÁNDEZ & MENDOZA, 2018). Causal correlation, since the cause-and-effect relationship was affected.

The analysis of data was descriptive and inferential, taking into account that the sample of this research is 105 people. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was considered. it was found that the variables and dimensions present p-value < 0.05, so it was established that the distribution of data is not normal and it was decided to perform the hypothesis contrast with a non-parametric test: ordinal logistic regression, a significance level of 0.05 was established.

3. RESULTS

Table 1: Information on the adjustment of the model that explains the incidence of personal conditions on cognitive distortions in persons deprived of liberty due to acts of violence against women

4	The logarithm of plausibility -2	Chi square	gl	Sig.
Intersection only	126,763			
Final	77,358	49,405	16	,000
Función de enlace: Logit.				

The plausibility ratio test indicates that the logistic model is significant ($x2 = 49.405$; $p < 0.05$). This means that the personal conditions have an impact on the cognitive distortions of the persons deprived of their liberty due to acts of violence against women.

Table 2: Pseudo-R square of the model that explains the incidence of personal conditions on cognitive distortions in persons deprived of liberty for acts of violence against women

Pseudo R	square
Cox y Snell	,375
Nagelkerke	,512
McFadden	,356
Linking function: Logit.	

Nagelkerke's pseudo-R square value (0.512) indicates that the proposed model explains 51.2 percent of the dependent variable for cognitive distortions in persons deprived of liberty for acts of violence against women.
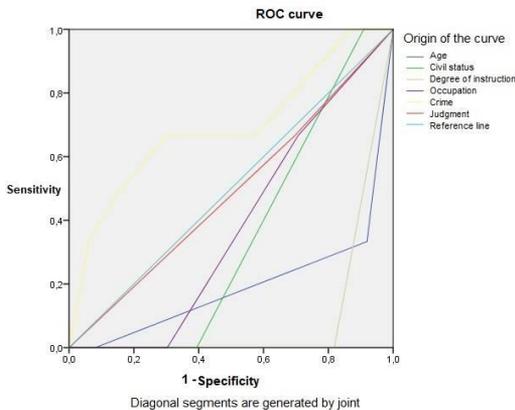

Figure 1: COR curve of the model that explains the incidence of personal conditions on cognitive distortions in people deprived of their liberty due to acts of violence against women

Table 3: The area under the COR curve for the model explaining the incidence of personal conditions on cognitive distortions in persons deprived of liberty for acts of violence against women

Test result variables	Área	Error standar[a]	Signification asintotic[b]
Age	,238	,107	,021
Marital status	,347	,068	,177
Level of education	,087	,030	,000
Occupation	,445	,097	,630
Crime	,737	,116	,037
Sentence	,510	,113	,928

It is observed that the area under the normal curve is 0.238 for age, 0.089 for the grade of education and 0.737 for the type of crime, and these are significant ($p < 0.05$), so it is concluded that the model fits the data adequately.

In summary, it has been obtained in the plausibility ratio contrast test, that the logistic model is significant ($p < 0.05$); it fits well with the data (deviation with $p < 0.05$); and explains 51.2 percent of the dependent variable cognitive distortions, which is corhroborated by the COR curve ($p < 0.05$). Therefore, it was decided to reject the null hypothesis, that is: personal conditions have an impact on cognitive distortions in persons deprived of their liberty for acts of violence against women in two penitentiaries in Peru.

Table 4: Information on the adjustment of the model that explains the incidence of personal conditions on cognitive distortions of gender roles and inferiority of women in persons deprived of liberty

Model	The logarithm of plausibility -2	Chi-square	gl	Sig.
Only intersection	126,589			
Final	97,026	29,563	16	,020
liaison function: Logit.				

The plausibility ratio test indicates that the logistic model is significant ($x2 = 29.563$; $p < 0.05$). This means that the personal conditions affect the cognitive distortions on gender roles and the inferiority of women in persons deprived of liberty for acts of violence against women in two prisons in Peru.

Table 5: Pseudo R-square of the model explaining the incidence of personal determinants in cognitive distortions of gender roles and inferiority of women

Pseudo R square	
Cox y Snell	,245
Nagelkerke	,333
McFadden	,211
liaison function:	Logit.

Nagelkerke's pseudo-R square value (0.333) indicates that the proposed model explains 33.3 percent of the dependent variable for cognitive distortions on gender roles and inferiority of women in persons deprived of liberty for acts of violence against women in two prisons in Peru.
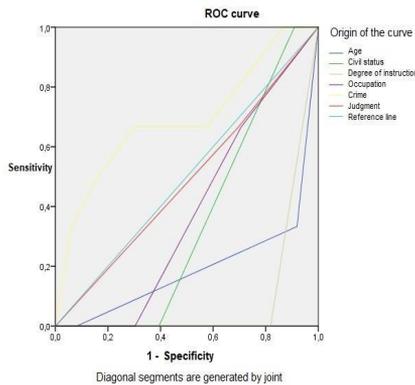

Figure 2: COR curve of the model that explains the incidence of cognitive distortions on gender roles and women's inferiority

Table 6: The area under the COR curve for the model explaining the incidence of cognitive distortions on gender roles and women's inferiority

Test result variables	Area	Standard [a] error	Asymptotic [b] significance
Age	,194	,108	,012
Marital status	,348	,072	,214
Instruction grade	,091	,032	,001
Ocupation	,379	,088	,320
Crime	,692	,127	,116
Sentence	,485	,123	,901

It is observed that the area under the normal curve is 0.238 for age, 0.087 for the grade of education and 0.737 for the type of crime, and these are significant ($p < 0.05$), so it is concluded that the model fits the data adequately.

In summary, it has been obtained in the plausibility ratio contrast test that the logistic model is significant ($p < 0.05$); it fits well with the data (deviation with $p < 0.05$); and explains 33.3 percent of the dependent variable cognitive distortions on gender roles and inferiority of women, which is corroborated by the COR curve ($p < 0.05$). Therefore, it was decided to reject the null hypothesis, that is: personal factors affect cognitive distortions on gender roles and inferiority of women in persons deprived of their liberty for acts of violence against women in two penitentiaries in Peru.

Table 7: Information on the adjustment of the model that explains the incidence of personal factors on cognitive distortions on the legitimization of violence to solve problems in persons deprived of liberty

Model	The logarithm of plausibility -2	Chi-square	gl	Sig.
Only intersection	142,502			
Final	96,354	46,148	16	,000
liaison function:	Logit.			

The plausibility ratio test indicates that the logistic model is significant ($x2 = 46,148$; $p < 0.05$). This means that the personal conditions affect the cognitive distortions on the legitimization of violence to solve problems in people deprived of their freedom for acts of violence against women in two prisons in Peru.

Table 8: Pseudo R square of the model that explains the incidence of personal conditions in cognitive distortions on the legitimization of violence to solve problems

Pseudo R square	
Cox y Snell	,356
Nagelkerke	,460
McFadden	,296
Linking function: Logit.	

Nagelkerke's pseudo-square R-value (0.460) indicates that the proposed model explains 46 percent of the dependent variable the legitimization of violence to solve problems in persons deprived of liberty for acts of violence against women in two prisons in Peru.
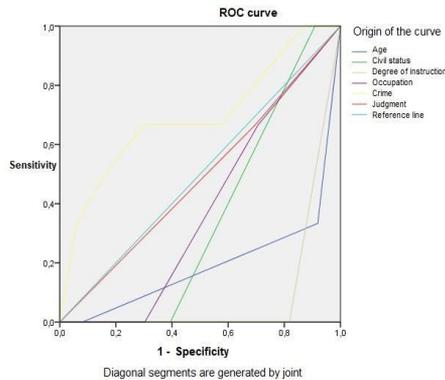

Figure 3: COR curve of the model that explains the incidence of personal conditions and the legitimization of violence to solve problems in people deprived of their liberty due to acts of violence against women

Table 9: The area under the COR curve for the model that explains the incidence of personal determinants of the legitimacy of violence to solve problems

Test result variables	Area	Estándar[a] Error	Asymptotic[b] significance
Age	,194	,108	,012
Marital status	,348	,072	,214
Instruction grade	,091	,032	,001
Ocupation	,379	,088	,320
Crime	,692	,127	,116
Sentence	,485	,123	,901

It is observed that the area under the normal curve is 0.194 for age, 0.091 for the grade. For both, the discrimination power is significant ($p < 0.05$), so it is concluded that the model fits well with the data.

In summary, it has been obtained in the plausibility test that the logistic model is significant ($p < 0.05$); it fits well with the data (deviation with $p < 0.05$); and it explains 46 percent of the dependent variable the legitimization of violence to solve problems in persons deprived of liberty for acts of violence against women in two penitentiaries in Peru; which is corroborated by the COR curve ($p < 0.05$). Therefore, it was decided to reject the null hypothesis, i.e., that personal conditions affect the cognitive distortions on the legitimization of violence to solve problems in persons deprived of their liberty for acts of violence against women in two penitentiaries in Peru.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Regarding the incidence of personal conditions on cognitive distortions in persons deprived of liberty for acts of violence against

women in two prisons in Peru, due to the plausibility ratio, the logistic model is significant ($p < 0.05$), it fits well with the data (deviation with $p < 0.05$); and explains 51.2 percent of the dependent variable, cognitive distortions in persons deprived of liberty for acts of violence against women in two prisons in Peru; this is corroborated by the COR curve ($p < 0.05$). In this regard, FERRER, BOSCH, & BLAHOPOULOU (2016) conclude that interventions with abusers who use violence against their partners obtain inconclusive and even contradictory results, in terms of their effects on cognitive distortions. Thus, while some of the studies analyzed to show how the cognitive distortions of abusers on women and violence decrease significantly after the intervention applied, others show effects in the opposite direction, that is, that these distortions increase. Likewise, the thematic report No. 126 /2014-2015 of the Congress of the Republic of Peru states that violence against women has its etiology in the family and couple environment by those who hold a position of physical superiority (man) over the weaker sex, but is the result of a situation of discrimination whose origin is in the social structure.

With regard to the incidence of personal conditioning factors on cognitive distortions of gender roles and inferiority of women in persons deprived of their liberty for acts of violence against women in two prisons in Peru, due to the reason of plausibility, that the logistic model is significant ($p < 0.05$), it fits well with the data (deviation with $p < 0.05$); and explains 33.3 percent of the dependent variable cognitive distortions on gender roles and inferiority of women, which is corroborated by the COR curve ($p < 0.05$). The results disagree with

the study by CEPEDA & RUIZ (2016), who report from manifest that although there are no differences at the general level in the variable, the group of sexual offenders presented distortions associated with the justification and minimization of the criminal act. And considering this a surprising result, the comparison group showed the greater presence of cognitive distortions than the group of inmates according to GARCÍA, SÁNCHEZ & GODOY (2012), who state that the prison population for the crime of femicide presents distorted thoughts that favor the commission of violence against the partner. Finally, it is suggested that other methods of evaluation be used that allows, by means of the narrative, the identification of cognitive distortions in the prison population, which could overlap in conventional measurement techniques that are answered in terms of acquiescence.

With regard to the incidence of personal conditions in cognitive distortions on the legitimization of violence to solve problems in people deprived of their liberty for acts of violence against women in two prisons in Peru; Due to the likelihood ratio, that the logistic model is significant ($p < 0.05$), it fits well with the data (deviation with $p < 0.05$); and explains 46 percent of the dependent variable cognitive distortions on the legitimization of violence to solve problems; which is corroborated by the COR curve ($p<0.05$). ELLIS (1997) argued that all people have both innate and acquired tendencies and that based on these they can control their destiny and especially their emotions. On the other hand, BECK & HAIGH (2014) stated that the articulation of cognitive and behavioral processes explains the common basis of the disorders and their differentiation; This update included conceptual

annotations such as adaptive function (which explains the emergence of psychopathology as a function of the body's efforts to maintain a certain degree of functionality), dual processing (which refers to two modalities of information processing, which act on each other, namely the automatic system and the reflexive system), schemas (defined as structures that develop thanks to genetic factors), biased memory and attention arrangements, and repetitive stressors. It should be noted that, according to GARCÍA, SÁNCHEZ & GODOY (2012), for the treatment of persons who have committed acts of violence against women in prisons, following investigations and the results of the studies carried out by the Ministry of Justice, the prison system must be adapted to the needs of the prison population.

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