

The qualitative methodology in the study about intrafamiliar sexual abuse

Abstract

Sexual abuse defies psychological science because of its multifaceted nature and has been constituted as a public health problem. Intra-familiar sexual abuse shows up a difficult area to approach, because it involves bond, trust and secrecy, making difficult to the access to the systems involved in this dynamic. The comprehension of this phenomenon requires an adequate methodological investment. The article proposes a discussion about the qualitative methodology as a systematic construct for the investigation about this object of study, bringing theoretical and methodological contributions that contemplate the diversity of instruments and possible interventional constructions. Focal points are methodological resources such as interviews, reports, focal groups and discourse analysis, pointing out their potentialities and limitations. Such resources aim at offering to the health professional the available tools for the access to the subjective universe of the victims and possible actions of prevention in this scenario. Future

studies are suggested connecting the qualitative methodology with the investigation about intrafamiliar sexual abuse.

Key-words: Sexual abuse; Qualitative research; Public health; Methodology – psychology; Interview.