

## Social Representation of Women Victims of Domestic Violence in the City of João Pessoa-PB

### Abstract

This study aims at both investigating the psychosocial consequences of the violence experienced by these women, and examining the social representations they elaborate on the violence itself and the aggressor. This fieldwork has employed semi-structured interviews, which have been analyzed by means of a thematic content analysis. Sixteen women aged between 21 and 53 who have undergone violence from their partners took part in this research. The results have shown that physical violence was the most frequently mentioned, and that alcohol and drugs were the motivation for it. The aggressor was represented by the women through affective and negative objectification, which demonstrated harmful feelings to their mental health as well as submissive behavior. The consequences of this violence affected their physical, emotional and social aspects. Regarding the representations about the future, representations based on resilience and lack of expectations were observed. To sum up, the study demonstrated that violence against women reflects a complex, multifaceted and contradictory phenomenon.

*Keywords:* Violence, Gender, Social Representations.