Abstract

In this paper we analyze violence in romantic relationships at the Universidad Autónoma Chapingo (Uach), a Mexican institution that educates human resources in agronomy. Uach has three characteristics: it attracts students from less favored groups all over the country; it receives more men than women, due to the social perception of agronomy as a male field; and it functions as a total institution in the sense that students leave home around 14 or 15 years of age and live in or near the institution. The material under study in this article is constituted by eight anonymous writings by students or former students in response to a public request. We analyze the three types of violence described by the girls (psychological, physical and sexual), and the explanations they offer after they experience it. This paper is one of the first in the country to analyze violence in affective relationships and in the college context. We show that witness accounts can be studied in depth and rigorously by using a systematic method of analysis developed from social and gender theory. It is necessary to pursue similar studies in other Mexican colleges and to explore the phenomenon of gender violence from the male point of view.

Keywords

Violence, gender, adolescents, college, México.