HOUSE WITHOUT A ROOF: THE FAMILY INFLUENCE IN THE LIFE OF STREET PEOPLE

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to identify the reasons given by street people which led them to this condition, as well as analyze the influence of their families in this scenario. It is a descriptive exploratory study of qualitative nature. Data were collected between August 2010 and June 2011, at a hostel; 19 street people who were living in the streets of Maringá-PR were interviewed. It was found that families play a major role in the street condition, whether through the absence of one, or because family ties were disrupted because of fights, quarrels, drug addiction, divorce, loss of family members due to death, lack of financial resources, among others. However, the will to rebuild or build a new family is in a great desire. It can be concluded that this is a complex and multifactor phenomenon, which requires cross-section interventions, and that nursing must address the needs of this population, who is suffering in the streets.

Keywords: Population at Risk. Family Relations. Nursing.

INTRODUCTION

The presence of people on the streets is a phenomenon on the rise, especially in large cities. It arises from changes in economic, political and social context leveraged by capitalism [1] and a globalized and unequal society with marked social exclusion.

The street can become a refuge for those who sleep sporadically beneath canopies of shops, bridges, benches sporadically or be a way of life for those already constituted her "home" and maintain a complex network of relationships in the streets. This movement adaptation happens on three separate occasions, namely: stay on the street, living on the street and be street. This semantic change seems to express a condition of oscillation that goes from transient to permanent in relation to the public space [2]. Thus, the most appropriate term to describe these people in the population is homeless, not homeless.

In the national order exists, already, a major concern about this population. Examples have been discussions in several specific times, such as the First National Meeting of Population Living in the Streets in 2005, the National Survey on Population held in the Streets by Meta Institute between 2007 and 2008, which aimed to outline a profile that population in 71 municipalities [3]; the draft of the National Policy for the Social Inclusion of Homeless population in 2008, and the Second National Meeting on this population occurred in 2009. These discussions supported the drafting of Decree n° 7053 of 23 December 2009, which established the National Policy on Population for the Homeless [4].

The homeless may be subject to the vulnerability of people in both the macro aspect, which refers to broad structural trends of the political-economic system, as in the micro space, befitting the individual level, such as the lack of family support, showing that go to the street follows a set of social, individual and contextual[1] Actually factors is a problem of great complexity that cannot be explained by an unambiguous, single-cause perspective.

It is noteworthy that the family as warm and responsible for the transmission of ethical and moral values and for planning the future institution is able to cooperate in the development and socialization of its members [5]. Thus, although only in micro-sociological space, the family may have an important role in the condition of the streets, and at the same time and taxpayer solution for individuals who are in this condition. To meet the study objectives, the

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following questions were made: "The family has contributed to the streets?"; "What events present in the family context may favor such a condition?".

Because people on the streets living in unsanitary conditions, social exclusion and vulnerability, at risk, subject to violence or under the continuous action of alcohol and drugs, it is essential to have a special attention to these subjects. Moreover, it is necessary to develop studies that assist in understanding the phenomenon population living on the streets, especially in regard to the reasons for this condition as it is at this point that may arise promotion and preventive actions, preventing other individuals to make the streets their homes. Thus, this study aims to identify the main reasons given by people on the street that led these individuals to this condition, and analyze the influence of the family in this scenario.

METHODOLOGY

The study is descriptive and exploratory, qualitative in nature. The choice of a qualitative approach is due to the fact it allows to unveil unknown or little knowledge already acquired social processes, thus allowing the construction of new approaches, revising and creating new concepts or hypotheses [6].

Data were collected from August 2010 to June 2011, together with 19 people who were on the streets in Maringá - Paraná. Participants were selected at the hostel reference municipality in the end times overnight and close to lunch. The hostel serves a population of Maringa and region who may need this service. This institution was founded in 1959 and offers overnight stay, breakfast, lunch, dinner, clothes, a place to shower and granting land crossings. The site has the capacity to house 200 people; however the daily flow hardly exceeds 150, except during winter. The main rule of the institution is not to stay longer than three consecutive days, considering that this should be a place for a temporary situation, and not definitive.

The study included people who appeared to be sober, ie, without the influence of psychoactive substances such as alcohol and other drugs, and preservation of cognitive status. After identification of the person were provided information concerning the research and, after their consent, gave up early to the interview.

Data collection was through semi-structured interviews conducted in the premises of the hostel. They lasted on average 30 minutes and were recorded on the audio system. The questionnaire consisted of two parts: the first consisted of socio-demographic data and the second for reasons related to family context and life. All interviews were transcribed verbatim for analysis and interpretation of data, which were subjected to content analysis[7], process, as this technique allows discovering what lies beyond the manifest content. It consists of a set of communication techniques that aim to obtain, systematic and objective procedures to describe the content of the messages, the inference of knowledge on the conditions of production and reception of these messages, knowledge that allows the construction of thematic categories [7].

Considering the ethical aspects of Resolution 196/96, the National Board of Health - Ministry of Health, the project was submitted to the Standing Committee on Ethics in Human Research, State University of Maringa and obtained assent number 188/2011. In addition, we obtained permission from the hostel to contact informants and use their physical space for data collection. All respondents signed a consent form, in duplicate. To ensure your confidentiality and anonymity involved are identified by the letter S followed by an indication of the order of an interview and the age of the respondent.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

All survey participants were male. This finding is the National Survey of Homeless Population, according to which 82% of people in this condition are men[3]. The mean age was 36 years, with a minimum age of 20 and maximum of 57. This finding also supports the National Survey, in which 53% of participants were in the age group between 25 and 44 years old [3]. This age group is considered the most socially productive, but many young adults find themselves in these situations: without work, private studies and braving the hazards present insalubrities and on city streets.

With respect to the time in which the respondents are in the streets, we observed a mean of 6.5 years, ranging between three days and 27 years. A similar phenomenon was observed in another study of this population conducted in Belo Horizonte, where most people were in the street had more than five years [8]. The weather can determine the chances of an individual out faster or not this situation. In most cases, the lower the residence time in the street, the more likely out of this situation, with the opposite true [8].

As for the place of origin, said to come from different places, usually those cities where there are shelters or hostels. For the most part, individuals are unemployed, some are in the so-called informal economy, moonlighting, or temporary jobs, which favors financial instability contributing to remain for long periods in the streets. About marital status, thirteen respondents reported they had ever had mate, and when they were separated, divorced or widowed, and the other six singles. We can see here the familiar disconnection experienced by these people, which can hinder the process of exit of the streets in some cases.

Data analysis allowed the identification of two categories: "The influences of the family to live on the streets" and "The social issue in people's lives on the streets." In this article the first category with its subsequent categories will be presented

Influences of family for the living in the streets

The family appears as essential for the integral development of individuals and the determination of the form of social existence of their children and adolescents shaft, leaving you with the responsibility for the affective and contributions necessary for the proper development of its members materials, thus ensuring their survival and protection [9]; but people on the streets are deprived of this living, missing the reference family and the benefits offered by it, which instigates know some peculiarities of this phenomenon, in view of its complexity and its multiple facets, since the conditions and factors determining road condition are interconnected. Thus, this category is composed of three sub-categories listed below.

Influences of drugs in the family context

It is known that substance abuse is a public health problem, considering the diversity of people involved, the costs to the health system and the implications for users. Have consequences for health, economics and social and family relationships of individuals [10].

> [...] I have family, I have father, mother and brothers [...] It is! Has a reason to not live with them but before I was a drug addict and this greatly affected the relationship, to the point that they do not accept me anymore, except that now that I recovered I'm alone in the world (S_1 29 years old).

> [...] I had a relationship with a woman, so I had this problem with the drug and had to shut down one another. She has little daughter, I thought I better get out there as a precaution. Only then I got on the street, homeless, but I'm going home to recover, detoxify, improve, then I will see [...](S_2 43 years old).

About the use of psychoactive licit or illicit substances compared with socioeconomic status of the people, it is observed that there is a higher prevalence of alcohol consumption and tobacco at the extremes of the social scale [11]. Contrast, illicit substances tend to be higher expression classes to better economic condition [11]; so this problem affects the different social segments, and regardless of the type of substance used and the socioeconomic status of the people, the drugs can trigger experiences negative for all.

> I have family and they are well financially speaking. My mother is deceased, father and brothers I have three brothers. I have no contact with them, do not want to live because judging me. I was already chemically dependent, and they pointed me detached me instead of helping me [...] and since 2007 I started attending these services, when I left home by choice (S_3 20 years old).

The family who experiences a crisis due to the involvement of one of its members with substance undergoes changes in its relational process; the entire group can be affected, with consequent increase in emotional distress of the constituents [5]. It is noticeable the importance of family support to chemically dependent, since a good interaction, accompanied by commitment and joint involvement, can help the individual to

find reason and strength in the fight against addiction.

On the other hand, if the socioeconomic status has little influence on the use of these substances , the primary sources of socialization that provide you the basics of interaction for social interaction may contribute significantly [12]. The teenager needs socialization and belonging to a network of life, which can result in constant pressure from their members and culminate in the disruption of family ties and their adherence to risk behaviors [13], including the use of drugs, which can be configured as a proof of identification:

> [...] I left disgusted Cuiabá, because we had good conditions there and my father sold everything to go to Sao Paulo. Got there big city, I was disgusted and started using drugs since the age of eleven. I used everything: beer, liquor, marijuana, cocaine, crack up glue. Because there Cuiaba I lived in a country house and my friends were all from the bush, and when I arrived in São Paulo, that other young kids, so I knew the glue. [...] Just turning a beggar [...](S4 31).

At the stage of adolescence distancing from parents and the possibility of identification with other groups occurs, so because of the vulnerability and the need to be accepted by peers, the young may have attitudes that are heading to the risk of the use and abuse of drugs [5], as with S4. Thus, the trigger for the condition factor were street drugs, but that definitely contributed to and/or remain on the streets was that break family ties.

The National Survey on Population in the Street points out that 35,5% of respondents reported alcohol and drug abuse as the main reason to dwell in the streets [3]. Such vices bring a deterioration of the family structure, posing loss of social ties, making it often difficult to reintegrate into family.

> [...] Only that they [family] cannot approach me again, they have suspicion, do not believe, however today I'm different, I'm a new person, they do not believe and are afraid to approach (S4 31).

> [...] I wanted to return to my family, but I think I cannot because my conscience will not let back because I got ready too (S1 29).

With the breakup of family bonding, these people often seek to recover the meaning of this loss by building new links with other subjects who wander the streets and see these new friends a chance to survive together, facing the risks and surprises that space offers [14].

> [...] Look, I got used so much, that where I get looks like I have a family. I do not despise me, because I recognize that I am wrong, but I see you get used to it (S5 57).

Here we highlight the resilience of these people, which is the ability of humans to cope with life's adversities, overcome them and get them stronger and possibly modified [15], S5 has adapted to the conditions experienced, learned to live and be the streets, seeing the people who share this new bonding situation.

Experiencing the death of relatives

Grief is characterized as a period of adaptation of the people involved with the new reality imposed: live without the presence of a family member or loved one. This process is directly related to personal and family experiences in the context of death, type of death, and the ability to overcome the previous relationship with the deceased [16,17].

From the experience of grief, often are observed psychological symptoms such as disorientation, anxiety, depression, anger, and sleep disturbance, changes in lifestyle such as increased alcohol and smoking, change in diet, factors that can trigger complaints somatic [16,17]. Over time outweigh up such feelings and various adjustments are needed to continue the life, however, depending on the role of the deceased breadwinner, this may present financial difficulties and profound changes in their daily lives:

> I came from Londrina, I locked the faculty of Electrical Engineering there because my mother died and she helped me with the costs [...] I came here through unstructured and had to stay here not to sleep on the street. I have a sister in the United States, who went there after my mother died, I have my brother here in Maringa, even when I came here was to look for him. He is married and has children, when I need it helps me, but it's hard I need to, I do nozzles electrician and turn, paid the pension, feed me (S6 26).

We can see the range of consequences of the death of a relative, and may have implications for professionals including a person perspectives

as outlined in the report of S_6; but these implications are also related to the individual's capacity to cope with stressful situations, such as death parent, ie, the degree of resistance that allows to overcome the harmful effects of adversity is an intrinsic characteristic of each individual.

In certain situations bereavement can be lived intensely, experiencing a shift in the natural process of overcoming. Family members have changed several aspects in their lives, such as individual and cognitive ability, emotional and social changes, and possible physical complications [16]. Such changes may culminate with a street situation.

> After my father and my mother died, again sometimes I have to use this service. My dad has one year my mother died and now goes to six (S_7 33).

> [...] I lost my wife with leukemia three years ago, my son married, and I'm alone in the world. I had a wonderful family, when I had my wife took everything, my wife was very special (S_8 52).

Besides the loss experienced by the death of members of the family of origin, the difficulty is most apparent when the person did not constitute a new family. Thus, live alone or stay single, whether by choice, because you really can not a spouse or some life event, brings positives and negatives. We highlight the difficulties faced after the death of parents, especially in the economic field, as evidenced in the testimonials:

> [...] Since thirteen, fourteen years I use this service [...] you all died, my father and mother have died and my brothers are all gone, and neither married nor I got friend or anything. When I was with them was important to me now was difficult because'm alone in the big world al (S_9 41).

> I have my brother there in São Paulo and he had a house there I lived with him at that time my parents were living together and were always there. Things were easier. I'm single, I had no children [...] cannot live together with my brothers, they are also poor and already retired and the other has five children, another pay rent (S_{10} 55).

Became evident in the testimonies changes in the life course, resulting in a present reality - the death of his family, and all the difficulties faced with the absence of the family institution.

Disruption of family bonding

The process of marital separation is considered a very difficult and painful experience of life for many couples. These undergo various adaptations due to the loss of a partner, which are conditioned by several factors (economic, social, cultural, and religious) and also established networks of support [18].

> [...] I separated from my wife for three days, but now I'm hard because I dropped the woman and all I had I let her [...] It is very sad to be in this situation knowing that you have had and conditions living in a small house. Sometimes I see the same street, the brave people because they have lost the bus, but then spend another and they go home. And I'm gonna have to stay on the street or go to a hostel? (S_{12} 22).

Although sometimes the separation can be a visible solution for some couples in crisis, it also means leaving home of one of its members. Thus, depending on the previous family structure, some may experience the condition of the street, leaving the man in most cases; fulfill this role on behalf of other family members.

> [...] I started to use these services since I separated the woman makes about 10 months ago [...] I do not like staying in the hostel because I've never been before, had my family, my children had home (S_{13} 35).

This participant is emphatic that before untying he lived in a family environment, including housing. Thus, although the separation may have worked with or be responsible for the condition of the street, while the restoration of these links in some cases, becomes the solution for these people. Beyond marital separation, there is also the possibility of disruption of family ties between parents and children or between siblings. After the expulsion many leave your home and without having a place to live, start living on the streets.

> I left home three years ago, my brother and I fought a lot and my mom leaned over him, so I left them and went out living, because they deserve [...] I have contact but rather stay in my same, we do not combine a lot and so I'm not at home (S_{14} 21).

This separation often occurs in adolescence period susceptible to rapid and intense changes

in the lives of young people. Their emotional and physical characteristics and their behavioral manifestations gradually define themselves being directly linked to social, cultural and familial adolescent relations [5,19]. The young man is invited to build your life plan from their experiences, which may be conflicting, particularly within the family, leading the young to prefer living with "friends" to live with his family, and glimpse the daily life of freedom streets:

> [...] Family has hours that is a bad thing, problems, only to pass angry, then, I'd rather be alone even. I was in the house of some friends, so I came here to see if working more gain (S₁₄ 21).

> I left home with seven years of age. I think this is the life I always tried: be independent (S₁₅ 22

Many young people living on the streets often come from numerous, broken families, low socioeconomic status, with consumers of alcohol or drugs parents, and have a family life full of conflicts and disagreements, hardships weighing on people's lives [20]. It was found in the National Survey of Homeless Population in that family disputes are a major reason for the condition of the streets (29,1%) [3]. For some, become such a negative experience conflictual relationships that fail to conceive the idea to rejoin their families, making it ironic to refer to the current condition.

> Family? Ah! That al was failing [silence]. I'm going to Cianorte today, I'm going with the guy and courage. It has a staff here that goes there then I'll also continue my life, alone and quiet (S₃ 20).

> I do not know what it means family, because I have not had much to my family. Not talk much. I have father and mother, but I have little contact with them. I have the joy of going to their house, I feel uncomfortable going there [...]. At the moment, if I tell you what I'm enjoying it more [laughs]: is the rum! (S₁₅ 22).

Even with all the hardships experienced by people in the streets with their families, who contributed much to that were in this condition, one realizes that human bonding breaks but does not disrupt the dreams of a better life, to form new relationships or redeem previous relationships and designing a new live, where relationships are healthy and bring comfort and warmth, even in fictional context, when you have a family. For some interviewees, the term family still has great significance because, even being in the streets, builds dreams for the near future, as illustrated by the following statements:

> [...] I want to fix my life again, signing this company when I was in future to marry this woman, have my house and live in peace, because here in Parana I do not have anyone else, it is only God and she (S₂ 43).

> I want to know a person and give a good future for her, having a child. One of my biggest dreams is to have a child and never got to today. Sometimes people say I'm lucky, but I wanted a son to give him what my mother did not give me [...] Join in the church well-dressed woman and bride, think more in women, not only those hours, because the woman needs a man and a man needs woman (S₁₂ 22).

> Family is the most important thing, I've wanted to rebuild my life, form another family and have a home, because I am very dedicated to my children [...] ((S₁₆ 46).

So even having experienced conflicts and disagreements in family arrangements, people crave with the family, or with the restructuring of previous bonds, either with the formation of new bonds. They see the family live in a future plan replaces the feeling of loneliness and sadness lived on the streets for moments of joy and peace.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

It was identified in this study how strong is the influence that the lack of family references exerts on the lives of people in the streets and as contributing to this condition, both in the decision to leave home, as in not coming back. It was found that the misfits experienced in family life due to chemical dependency, loss of family members for the event of death and the breakup of families for various reasons or lack of such ties bonding, can contribute significantly to that people start to dwell in the streets.

It can be stated that the family is directly or indirectly responsible for the condition of the streets. Even if the triggering factor of this condition had been drugs or death of relatives or family separation, which contributed definitely to go and / or stay in the streets was the fact of

losing family ties and, consequently, their homes.

Through multidisciplinary monitoring can work on this issue in an interdisciplinary and comprehensive way, moving from the Social Assistance sole responsibility for servicing this segment. Health professionals should be aware of this population, with emphasis on nursing, which will take care of these people directly and must look entirely to your needs. It should also identify families with misfits and imminent danger of breaking family ties and thinking relevant solutions together with people and other services involved. In the case of a situation of installed street, efforts should be made from the perspective of family reintegration, or you can pick up a favorable economic condition, giving the possibility of a free and independent life for the construction of new networks and new references familiar.

It is understood that a further limitation of the study was the fact that the survey was conducted with a small group of people on the streets, which are only male. It is necessary to conduct further studies in order to identify the reasons that lead people to this condition of living on the streets as well as evaluation studies of services that provide care to this population, so that the findings may point to new perspectives and assistance to give her support.

UMA CASA SEM TETO: INFLUÊNCIA DA FAMÍLIA NA VIDA DAS PESSOAS EM SITUAÇÃO DE RUA

RESUMO

Objetivou-se com este estudo identificar os principais motivos apontados pela população em situação de rua que a levaram a essa condição e analisar a influência da família diante desse cenário. Trata-se de um estudo descritivo-exploratório de natureza qualitativa. Os dados foram coletados no período de agosto de 2010 a junho de 2011, nas dependências de um albergue, junto a 19 pessoas que se encontravam em situação de rua no município de Maringá - PR. Identificou-se que a família tem forte influência na condição de situação de rua, pela ausência de laços familiares, pelo rompimento desses laços por desavenças, brigas, dependência química, separação conjugal, perda dos membros familiares pelo evento de morte, falta de condições financeiras para acolhimento ou outros motivos. Identificou-se também, na maioria dos casos, um grande desejo de reconstruir ou formar uma nova família. Conclui-se que este é um fenômeno complexo e multifatorial, que exige intervenções intersetoriais, e que a Enfermagem deve atentar para as necessidades afetadas dessa população, que padece nas ruas das cidades.

Palavras-chave: População em Risco. Relações Familiares. Enfermagem.

CASA SIN TECHO: INFLUENCIA DE LA FAMILIA EN LA VIDA DE PERSONAS EN SITUACIÓN DE CALLE

RESUMEN

Este estudio tuvo el objetivo de identificar los principales motivos señalados por la población en situación de calle que le llevaron a esta condición y analizar la influencia de la familia delante de este escenario. Se trata de un estudio descriptivo-exploratorio de naturaleza cualitativa. Los datos fueron recolectados en el período de agosto de 2010 a junio de 2011, en las dependencias de un albergue, junto a 19 personas que se encontraban en situación de calle en el municipio de Maringá - PR. Se identificó que la familia tiene fuerte influencia en la condición de situación de calle, por la ausencia de lazos familiares, por la ruptura de estos lazos por desavenencias, peleas, dependencia química, separación conyugal, pérdida de los miembros familiares por el evento de muerte, falta de condiciones financieras para acogimiento u otros motivos. Se identificó también, en la mayoría de los casos, un gran deseo de reconstruir o formar una nueva familia. Se concluye que éste es un fenómeno complejo y multifactorial, que exige intervenciones intersectoriales, y que la Enfermería debe atentar para las necesidades afectadas de esta población, que padece en las calles de las ciudades.

Palabras clave: Población en Riesgo. Relaciones Familiares. Enfermería.

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