

Female vs. Male Aggressiveness and Violence: A Short Relevant Survey

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ABSTRACT

Aggressive and violent behavior cannot be justified never and nowhere, independently of gender. However, while male aggressiveness is damned, that of female is really not. This short survey, revealing that the traditionalist view of man as a “strong” and woman as a “weak” gender, leads to an imbalance of the gender equality, with inappropriate effects in the society, exposed to abusive and discriminatory treatment against men, and implicit protection/indulgence on the female aggressiveness and violence within the gender disputes. A proper analysis should take into account the mental health of the declarant and the degree of addiction to alcohol and psychotropic substances. A higher level of sexual education in schools and society, would be beneficial for the harmonization of the gender relations, naturally oriented to communication and collaboration.

Keywords: “Strong”/“Weak” Gender; Female/Male Aggressiveness; Gender (In)Equality; Implicit Protection/Indulgence on the Female Aggressiveness and Violence; Abusive Behavior; Mental Health and Education

Introduction

The male aggressiveness and violence is incriminated, but that of the female not, or not really. Despite the advances in the knowledge of aggressive behavior and its causes, which show that aggression is equally present in women and men [1,2], the nowadays society remains still marked by the traditional conception of the predominance of the “stronger/”harder” sex” over the “weaker/”softer”” one in aggressive behavior. However, more and more studies show that women tend to be even more aggressive than men, at least online [3]. Female aggression against men is not only a supposed reality, endured most of the time in silence, just to keep up appearances [4]. Such a situation is still tolerated unfortunately by society [5-7], and taking advantage of it, many women initiate assaults on their male partners, knowing that these will not risk breaching social norms by retaliating [8].

Female vs. Male Aggressiveness and Violence

Certain studies try to explain women’s aggression and violence through fear [9], but nothing can justify violence, never and nowhere, regardless of gender. The claimed equality between genders comes therefore to be limited to the women’s participation in social and pro-

fessional relations, but not concerning the woman aggressive behavior, especially in family and couples [2,10]. The social/professional equality is often imposed by a priori establishment of an arithmetic/equal number of women and men in management or decision-making committees, instead of a fair competition based on competence, regardless of gender. Here how Google search engine answers to the question ‘why men are detained and women are not in a dispute’: “In some cultures, it is expected that men are more aggressive or dominant, which can lead to them being more likely to be detained for cases related to violence. However, this does not mean that women cannot be equally aggressive or violent, and it is unfair to assume that men are more at fault in a dispute”. Therefore, “the police can exercise prejudice in their arrests. If a woman is seen as more vulnerable or less aggressive, she may be less likely to be arrested, or the police may not intervene with the same intensity in a situation where a woman is involved.” In opposition with such type of prejudgment and bias, recent studies have shown that there were no gender differences across countries in relational aggression [11].

The women’s “props” include criticism, false rumors, disregard, gossiping, exclusion, and bad prejudice, used more frequently than

men [1,12]. Equality thus becomes an ambiguous concept, at the disposal of the individual level of perception/interpretation and acceptance on a dispute. From the point of view of the feminist movement, it is understood by equality the advantages, polarizing society's attention only on correcting the imbalance regarding women's access to social and professional positions, but not on the responsibility in provoking and/or initiating aggressive and violent behavior in family and society, often masked and tolerated by men in silence [4]. The application of corporal punishment to children, aggressive gestures and slaps applied to the partners, hair pulling, flesh pinching, cheek scratching or facial injury, kicks, pushing, jerks, elbows, threats, are pure aggression, less overt but equally reprehensible, unfortunately tolerated by society in the traditional sense, and overlooked as "minor" problems. Like any repetitive process, these "minor" manifestations become typical behavior, then considered "normal" for the perpetrator [10], if there is no a firm response from the society. The distortion of the truth in the description of the facts, the tendency to easily accept the statements of women – representing the "weak" gender/potential victim in the traditional sense and mentality, without the man's testimony, – the involved "strong" gender, viewed as presumably delinquent/abuser "ex officio", may become a typical /"normal" practice, just because of this traditional mentality [4,6-8].

Such methods, which do not have an effect to moderate or smooth out possible conflicts, but to deepen and aggravate them, are unfortunately discriminatory, allowing abusive arrests. The argument that justice is on the side of the screamer is false, and leads to turn the real aggressor into the victim. The stigmatization of men on the basis of the "maleness/machismo" concept is harmful, producing a moral crisis and trust in society, instead of smoothing out conflicts. As consequence, women is implicitly protected by traditionalist mentality, and therefore by implicit indulgence, even if they are guilty of a conflict. Encouraged by this discriminatory application of the rules of "equality", aggressive and bullies women, skilled at plotting, thus find a "comfortable" method of threatening or repeating aggressive behavior [8]. The verification of the truth should include first of all the state of lucidity and mental health of the declarant, age, general behavior, state of alcoholism, drug addiction or influence of psychotropic substances. Mental health is one of the most important challenges of actual society in full technological, informational and operational boom [10]. This concerns increasingly frequent manifestations and increasingly broad categories of population with anxiety, depression and compulsive-impulsive behavior, leading to aggression and violence [13]. On the other hand, the unprecedented development of the means of information and communication in society and their globalization bring to light more and more manifestations of female aggression, surprising sometimes, at different levels of society, which are still suppressed and covered up or minimized by men in an attempt to save face.

Conclusions

The recognition of female' aggressive manifestations, their open condemnation and the corresponding adjustment of the reaction tools, would truly bring the necessary balance within society, harmonizing the natural relations between the sexes, oriented towards knowledge, communication and collaboration. The introduction of sexual and behavioral education courses in schools, would play an important role in redressing this situation, and the disapproval of the public opinion would have a real positive influence in correcting the imbalances on all levels [10,14].

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