

**TRAJECTORIES OF WOMEN WITH A HISTORY OF SEXUAL ABUSE IN
MOZAMBIQUE: A NETNOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS**

***TRAJETÓRIAS DE MULHERES COM HISTÓRICO DE ABUSO SEXUAL EM
MOÇAMBIQUE: UMA ANÁLISE NETNOGRÁFICA***

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ABSTRACT: This study analyzed the life trajectories of Mozambican women with a history of childhood and adolescent sexual abuse, based on audiovisual narratives published on a digital platform. A qualitative approach was adopted, guided by netnography and thematic analysis. Findings indicate that sexual abuse is a continuous phenomenon, marked by revictimization across the life course and often perpetrated by individuals close to the victims. Family and school contexts emerged as ambivalent, functioning both as spaces of protection and as sites for the reproduction of violence, stigmatization, and relational disruptions. Socioeconomic vulnerability was identified as a structural factor, associated with sexual exploitation during adolescence and significant mental health impacts, including psychological distress and suicidal ideation. The study concludes that sexual violence is structural and requires intersectoral policies focused on prevention, protection, comprehensive care for victims, and accountability of perpetrators.

KEYWORDS: Sexual abuse. Revictimization. Netnography. Trajectories. Mozambican women.

RESUMO: O estudo analisou as trajetórias de vida de mulheres moçambicanas com histórico de abuso sexual na infância e adolescência, com base em narrativas audiovisuais publicadas em uma plataforma digital. Adotou-se uma abordagem qualitativa, orientada pela netnografia e pela análise temática. Os achados revelaram que o abuso sexual se configura como um fenômeno contínuo, marcado por revitimização ao longo da vida, frequentemente perpetrado por pessoas próximas. Evidenciou-se a ambivalência da família e da escola, que atuam simultaneamente como espaços de proteção e de reprodução de violência, estigmatização e rupturas relacionais. A vulnerabilidade socioeconômica emergiu como fator estruturante, associando-se à exploração sexual na adolescência e a impactos significativos na saúde mental, incluindo sofrimento psíquico e ideação suicida. Concluiu-se que a violência sexual é estrutural e que seu enfrentamento demanda políticas intersectoriais voltadas à prevenção, proteção e cuidado integral das vítimas, bem como à responsabilização dos autores de violência.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Abuso sexual. Revitimização. Netnografia. Trajetórias. Mulheres moçambicanas.

RESUMEN: Este estudio analizó las trayectorias de vida de mujeres mozambiqueñas con antecedentes de abuso sexual en la infancia y la adolescencia, a partir de narrativas audiovisuales publicadas en una plataforma digital. Se adoptó un enfoque cualitativo, guiado por la netnografía y el análisis temático. Los hallazgos indican que el abuso sexual es un fenómeno continuo, marcado por la revictimización a lo largo del curso de vida y frecuentemente perpetrado por personas cercanas. La familia y la escuela emergen como contextos ambivalentes, funcionando tanto como espacios de protección como de reproducción de violencia, estigmatización y rupturas relacionales. La vulnerabilidad socioeconómica se identificó como factor estructurante, asociada a la explotación sexual en la adolescencia y a impactos en la salud mental, incluyendo sufrimiento psíquico e ideación suicida. Se concluye que la violencia sexual es estructural y requiere políticas intersectoriales de prevención, protección, atención integral y responsabilización de los agresores.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Abuso sexual. Revictimización. Netnografía. Trayectorias. Mujeres mozambiqueñas.

INTRODUCTION

Sexual abuse against children and adolescents (ASCA) constitutes a serious violation of rights. It encompasses a *continuum* of practices that range from sexualized verbal interactions, fondling, and voyeuristic behaviors, characterized by the non-consensual observation of children or adolescents in intimate situations, such as nudity, bathing, or changing clothes, and exhibitionist behaviors, to sexual acts with physical contact, such as oral sex and penetration. These practices can occur with or without the use of explicit violence, as in the case of rape (Souza & Sei, 2019). Studies indicate that, in most situations, the aggressors are part of the victims' social circle, which tends to hinder both the recognition and the reporting of cases, as well as their proper referral to public authorities (Falcão & Felizola, 2022; Ferraz et al., 2021; Souza & Sei, 2019).

According to ActionAid (2008), an international organization dedicated to addressing poverty, social inequalities, and human rights violations, especially of women and children, the occurrence and perpetuation of sexual abuse are associated with multiple risk factors. Among these, notable factors include the fact that children and adolescents are still in the process of development, which limits their ability to defend themselves in abusive situations; conditions of poverty and economic vulnerability; fragile family contexts; the deterioration of ethical values on the part of the aggressors; as well as cultural beliefs, social norms, and institutions that legitimize violence, especially against girls and women, sustained by gender inequalities.

This is also a reality in Mozambique, since ASCA is a recurring and widely underreported phenomenon in the country. Data from the Ministry of Health (MISAU), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the National Institute of Health (INS) indicate that the phenomenon occurs predominantly in the intrafamilial context and is, to a large extent, perpetrated by individuals belonging to the victim's circle of trust, such as family members, caregivers, or close acquaintances (MISAU & UNICEF, 2011; INS et al., 2022).

Empirical evidence and institutional data indicate greater vulnerability among school-age girls. Furthermore, they point to profound and lasting impacts on development trajectories, manifested in early pregnancy, school dropout, psychological distress, social stigmatization, and greater exposure to sexually transmitted infections (STIs), with emphasis on the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) (ActionAid, 2005; MISAU & UNICEF, 2011; Muatendauafa et al., 2023). Furthermore, national reports highlight persistent weaknesses in the mechanisms for detection, notification, and referral of cases, associated with institutional limitations, a lack of

specialized services, and the persistence of sociocultural norms that normalize violence, silence victims, and encourage victim-blaming (ActionAid, 2008; Fórum Mulher & UNFPA, 2011).

Given the complexity of sexual abuse against children and adolescents, the involvement of different fields of knowledge, including Psychology, becomes fundamental in understanding the factors that sustain its perpetuation and in identifying protective elements capable of reducing the vulnerability of children and adolescents. In this context, the production of scientific evidence is essential to support intersectoral public policies aimed at violence prevention, the promotion of safe environments, and comprehensive care for victims.

Considering the scarcity of empirical research on sexual abuse in the Mozambican context, the present study aimed to analyze the life trajectories of adult women with a history of childhood sexual abuse, focusing on the contexts in which the violence occurred, its psychosocial consequences throughout the life course, and the mechanisms of vulnerability and protection present in their narratives.

METHOD

Design

The research was based on a qualitative approach, with a retrospective design, and guided by the strategy of multiple case studies (Carneiro, 2018). In this context, the netnographic method, as proposed by Kozinets (2014), was adopted as a research procedure. The study focused on the analysis of publicly accessible archival data in digital environments, treated as empirical cases.

Netnography is established as a methodological approach suitable for the study of interactions in digital environments, combining efficiency and analytical potential (Pessoa et al., 2026). It is a less expensive and less invasive method, based on data already available, such as interactions and records produced spontaneously by the participants, which enables the observation of narratives in natural sharing contexts, without direct interference from the researcher (Kozinets, 2014). Furthermore, the digital nature of these environments expands analytical possibilities by offering multiple perspectives on the same phenomenon (Boyd, 2017). The recurrence and diversity of content favor the apprehension of social, subjective, and intersubjective dimensions (Soares & Stengel, 2021). In this sense, its adoption in this study is justified by the possibility of accessing and analyzing narratives about experiences of sexual

abuse that were shared in digital environments, understood as spaces of expression, communication, and the construction of meaning (Pessoa et al., 2026).

Analysis corpus

The analysis corpus was composed of public videos spontaneously published on the YouTube platform, on the NOSSO WAY Podcast channel, in which women narrate, in the first person, experiences of sexual violence and their psychosocial consequences. The analyzed materials are archival audiovisual data, originally produced for public circulation in the digital environment, without any research purpose.

The inclusion criteria adopted were: publicly accessible videos; self-reported accounts from adult women regarding sexual abuse in childhood and/or adolescence; and sufficient narrative density for qualitative analysis, with a description of the experiences and their meanings and repercussions. Videos published in 2025 were considered in order to ensure the timeliness of the data.

53 videos were identified on the channel during the search process. Of these, three were considered eligible for meeting the established inclusion criteria, while 50 were excluded for not presenting self-reported accounts of sexual abuse, sufficient narrative density, or a direct relationship with the study's objectives. The final selection corresponded to the entirety of the eligible videos available on the channel, constituting an exhaustive corpus within the scope of the delimited empirical framework. Thus, its constitution was based on the availability of data and the delimitation of the digital empirical field, and not on criteria of theoretical saturation.

The choice of the channel is justified by its direct approach to the topic of sexual abuse and by constituting, in the exploratory mapping, the only source with systematic narratives on the subject in the country. The videos were watched in their entirety and transcribed, preserving the discourse markers. The participants were identified by fictitious names, and the excerpts were edited with omissions indicated by ellipses, ensuring anonymity.

Procedures and Data Analysis

Initially, an exploration of the content available on the platform was carried out to map content related to reports of sexual violence. To this end, the following expressions were used in the platform's search bar: "Sexual Violence"; "Sexual Abuse"; "Rape". The search was

conducted by a doctoral student of Mozambican nationality (first author of this article) and was supervised by a Brazilian researcher with experience in the field of sexual violence and netnographic studies (second author).

The three eligible videos were saved in specific folders and, subsequently, cataloged and organized in a database containing information such as publication date, duration, and narrative context. The transcriptions underwent a thorough review to ensure fidelity to the original material, without linguistic corrections that would alter the meaning of the speech. Throughout the process, specific ethical precautions for research in digital environments were observed (as suggested by Pessoa et al., 2026), including non-interaction with participants, non-disclosure of information that could enable their identification, and the adoption of a reflective stance when analyzing sensitive content.

The data were analyzed using Thematic Analysis, according to the framework of Braun and Clarke (2006) and Liebenberg et al. (2020), with adaptations resulting from the specificities of the qualitative analysis of audiovisual narratives produced and shared in digital environments. This approach made it possible to identify, analyze, and interpret patterns of meaning related to the trajectories of women with a history of sexual abuse in childhood and/or adolescence.

In summary, the analysis followed six stages: (i) familiarization with the data, through floating and exhaustive reading of the transcripts; (ii) generation of initial codes, systematically and guided by the study's analytical focus; (iii) searching for themes, by grouping semantically related codes; (iv) reviewing themes, considering internal coherence and analytical relevance; (v) defining and naming the themes; and (vi) producing the final report, articulating the empirical findings with the theoretical framework of Braun and Clarke (2006). The excerpts presented in this article were selected for their ability to illustrate the identified core meanings, while respecting ethical principles and preserving the semantic integrity of the narratives.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the process of treating the results, two themes emerged related to the study's objectives: (i) Trajectories of sexual abuse and revictimization throughout life; (ii) Ambivalence of care networks, socioeconomic vulnerability, and psychosocial impacts. Before presenting the results derived from the thematic organization of the empirical data, it was

decided to provide a synthesis of the participants' narratives. This strategy aims to situate the reader within the context of these women's lives, offering a broader understanding of the reported experiences. Furthermore, the aim was to highlight both the specificities and the similarities that run through the three cases analyzed, contributing to a more contextualized and analytically consistent reading of the findings.

Case 1: Zuri, 22 years old

Zuri's story presents an emblematic case of sexual violence, vulnerability, and the search for overcoming in the Mozambican context. Zuri was sexually abused for the first time at age 12, in a dark alley, by two young men who threatened her with a broken bottle, and then suffered another attempted rape by a man who approached her initially intending to help her. From the age of 14, faced with extreme poverty and lack of family support, she began to be sexually exploited, stating that this was the strategy she found to survive and help her family. Throughout her adolescence, she became pregnant and experienced abandonment, humiliation, and severe financial hardship. Claims to have faced severe psychological symptoms, such as episodes of depression, insomnia, and suicide attempts. Currently, he/she relies on his/her mother's help and "odd jobs" to survive. She dreams of having a small business that allows her to secure a better future for herself and her daughter.

Case 2: Aminata, 25 years old

Aminata's story presents a journey marked by pain and resilience, revealing the profound impact of sexual abuse and family hardships during childhood. Aminata grew up in an extended family, living with her grandparents, father, and aunts and uncles in the same yard, where she had an initially happy childhood (according to her accounts), despite being abandoned by her mother at birth. Her life was deeply affected by the presence of an alcoholic and violent father who, starting when she was 11 years old, began sexually abusing her and her older sister for several years, under threats and enforced silence. The abuse was only discovered when signs of physical and psychological violence became evident, leading to the report made by a teacher and the father's arrest. After the trial, Aminata was taken in by her grandparents, who began to exercise parental responsibility, while her sister was sent to live with their mother, who had previously abandoned both of them. With her grandmother's death, Aminata faced

new challenges while living with an aunt, beginning to suffer psychological abuse and dropping out of school. They reported that, at the time of the podcast recording, they were living in their own home, seeking to rebuild their life and maintaining a supportive relationship. Despite this, he reflected on the scars left by violence and the absence of family.

Case 3: Imani, age not declared

Imani's story reveals a journey marked by sexual violence, family rejection, illness, and overcoming adversity. Imani was the victim of an attempted sexual assault at the age of 9, in Jangamo (a district near the coast in the southern province of Inhambane) and, years later, at age 15, she was sexually abused by her cousin's teacher, which resulted in pregnancy. The family did not believe their version, rejected them, and offered no support, a situation that culminated in physical and emotional abuse. After giving birth, she faced new difficulties, including rejection by the wife of the man who raped her and the lack of socio-emotional support. Seeking a fresh start, she fled to Maputo (the country's capital) and, subsequently, to South Africa, where she experienced an abusive relationship and discovered, simultaneously, that she was pregnant and HIV-positive. The lack of family support, the fear of judgment, and the feeling of loneliness led her to suicide attempts. Despite everything, Imani managed to find the strength to move on and give new meaning to her story, even going so far as to share that she had forgiven the partner with whom she had the abusive relationship, although she did not resume that relationship. Currently, she works and tries to rebuild her life, and in her account, she emphasizes the importance of other women taking care of their own health, paying attention to the people around them, and not tolerating betrayal, warning of the risks of getting involved with someone without knowing their past.

Trajectories of sexual abuse and revictimization throughout life

The narratives showed that sexual abuse is not a one-time event, but a continuous process, marked by the repetition of violence throughout different life stages and social contexts. The reports, partially presented in Table 1, indicated trajectories of revictimization, frequently associated with men close to the victims' social circle, such as family members, partners, teachers, and men from the community.

The episodes of violence began, in many cases, in childhood and extended through adolescence and adulthood, spanning different relationships and contexts. The recurrence of these experiences was associated with the absence of effective protective responses and the continued presence of victims in environments marked by vulnerability. The analyzed trajectories also evidenced the continuity of violence in affective-sexual relationships, including situations of exploitation, control, and humiliation.

Table 1.

Trajectories of sexual abuse and revictimization throughout life

Excerpts
<i>"My story begins when I was 12 years old. [...] We came across two young men. [...] They dragged me into a very dark alley. [...] That was when the rape happened. [...] A man took advantage of my vulnerability because I was alone, took me to his house and tried to rape me again." (Zuri)</i> <i>At 14, due to the influence of my friends: I was dating, they would give me money for little luxuries. Then it became a necessity, to help at home." (Zuri)</i> <i>"I had the pregnancy with my daughter's father [...]. It was a huge trauma: he would leave without leaving anything to eat and come back at night. [...] I watched a pornographic video with a 15-year-old girl [...] and he said: 'Was that what you were looking for? You haven't seen anything yet, you're going to see the worst.'" (Zuri)</i> <i>"At 11 years old, I slept with my father and my sister in the same house. [...] Whenever he came back, he sexually abused me from the time I was 11 years old. [...] It was things that went on for years, it lasted about two to three years. [...] This happened under threats." (Aminata)</i> <i>It was also difficult at school. Many knew what happened. A friend asked in our circle of friends if it was true that my father slept with me. Everyone laughed. [...] From other classes they pointed: 'It's her'. [...]." (Aminata)</i> <i>"My story begins when I was just 9 years old. [...] I suffered an attempted sexual assault, where a boy from the neighborhood had been trying to pursue me for some time. [...] He tried to attack me, and that day he wasn't able to." (Imani)</i> <i>"Being violated once is one thing, imagine twice [...]!" (Imani)</i> <i>"Ever since then, my family has been against me. [...] I got beaten up by my cousin [...] while I was pregnant [...]." No one wanted to follow, to really find out what happened and confront that man." (Imani)</i>

Note. Prepared by the authors.

The recurrence of sexual violence perpetrated by men who are part of the victims' daily lives corroborates studies that point to its naturalization in contexts marked by inequalities of gender, age, and power (Cardin et al., 2025; Vieira et al., 2021). Such dynamics are embedded within adult-centric and patriarchal social structures, in which gender and generational asymmetries can facilitate the reproduction of violent relationships in both family and social spheres (Ferraz et al., 2021; Marchi, 2011).

The analyzed reports indicate that the episodes tend to accumulate over time, producing significant impacts on the subjectivity and life trajectories of the participants (Lira et al., 2017; Pessoa et al., 2024). Revictimization has been shown to be associated with the fragility of protection networks and the internalization of positions of female subalternity, increasing exposure to new situations of violence. In this sense, sexual abuse often does not occur in isolation, potentially lasting for years and manifesting in different contexts (Landini, 2011). The findings thus reinforce its understanding as a relational and socially produced phenomenon, associated with models of masculinity linked to the exercise of power and violence (Dell'Aglio et al., 2011; Faleiros & Faleiros, 2008; Ferraz et al., 2021).

Ambivalence of care networks, socioeconomic vulnerability, and psychosocial impacts

The narratives on this topic evidenced that family, school, and socioeconomic conditions articulate to produce trajectories marked by ambivalence, in which protection and risk coexist with processes of revictimization and produce psychic suffering. The family was described as a paradoxical space, in which experiences of care coexist with situations of violence and omission. While figures such as grandparents, sisters, and aunts and uncles assumed protective roles, parents and other guardians were frequently associated with episodes of sexual abuse, neglect, and victim-blaming.

The school also presented itself as an ambivalent context. In some cases, it acted as a protective space, especially in identifying signs of violence and referring to formal reporting networks. In others, it was configured as a space of revictimization, marked by stigmatization, humiliation, *bullying*, and exclusion. School trajectories were frequently interrupted due to violence, poverty, pregnancy, and family losses, compromising the continuity of studies.

Poverty emerged as a transversal element in the narratives, operating as a structuring condition of vulnerability. The scarcity of resources and food insecurity restricted the

participants' choices, leading, in extreme contexts, to sexual exploitation and transactional sexual relations as survival strategies.

The reports also highlighted significant impacts on mental health and on the relationship with one's own body. Persistent feelings of shame, disgust, guilt, and devaluation were identified, associated with symptoms of depression, anxiety, self-harm, and suicide attempts. The body emerged as a space for the inscription of violence, with negative repercussions on self-esteem, self-image, and the ability to project into the future.

This ambivalence, as well as the conditions of vulnerability and the psychosocial impacts, are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2.

Ambivalence of care networks, socioeconomic vulnerability, and psychosocial impacts

Excerpts	
Family	<i>"My mother gave everything she had, but I hid what was going on. [...] We lived surviving day by day." There were days when we could only get something for the girl to eat. We would drink tea, which she loves, and we would be happy with bread, but inside we were crying because we didn't always have something to eat." (Zuri)</i>
	<i>I have been abandoned by my mother since I was born. My grandparents were my true parents, my heroes during childhood. [...] Every morning we would go to my grandparents' farm. [...] It wasn't torture. I think it was the best phase of my life. I had a father in name only. I don't know exactly what it's like to receive affection or support from a father. [...] Everyone was afraid of him. "He was someone with a very aggressive temperament, and anything was a reason to get beaten." (Aminata)</i>
	<i>When the pregnancy was discovered, my family turned against me. Instead of supporting me, they kept judging me, as I had already foreseen. [...] I got beaten up by my cousin, a beating that left me in a bad way and I started bleeding while pregnant, in a situation where no one wanted to understand what I was saying." (Imani)</i>
School	<i>Thanks to a teacher (...), she watched time go by and realized that my family members were doing nothing. She filed a complaint. [...] After a few days, police came to get my father." (Aminata)</i>
	<i>"A colleague asked [...] if it was true that my father slept with me." Everyone laughed'." (Aminata)</i>
	<i>"The teacher noticed that I wasn't well. [...] She told me to go out to talk." All the teachers knew, they followed my situation. Measures were taken against the group..." (Aminata)</i>

**Socioeconomic
vulnerability
and
psychosocial
impacts**

“Classmates from other classes would point: ‘It’s her’.” I felt down, I lost the desire to go to school. After the eighth grade, I stopped.” (Aminata)

“I entered the teachers’ residence. [...] He pushed me into that little house, closed the door, and pushed me onto the bed. [...] I tried to struggle and scream, but there was no one else at the school [...] no one heard me.” “And it happened that that man managed to rape me, and I became pregnant from that rape.” Imani

“At 14, I met my friends, with whom I got along very well. [...] But I continued, because at home we were in great need; even eating was a problem. [...] I started dating in exchange for money. [...] I kept at this thing of dating so they would give me money.” Sometimes, my father would give me some money, but I used it for my school things, like worksheets and tests that cost about 300 to 400 meticaïs per week [...] I carry this pain, I feel ashamed of my body. I am afraid to leave my daughter with people, I fear the same will happen to her [...] I felt dirty, I would take baths, scrubbing my body to get rid of the smell of the sexual assaults. I even went to the river to wash off the disgust [...] Life has changed since I was 12. I became very withdrawn, with no friends. I live indoors, I only go out for necessary things or at night to get some fresh air. [...] I feel depressed, I have insomnia, I stay on my phone trying to forget. [...] I attempted suicide several times because of the traumas and what I did with no other option: I would buy rat poison, but I would stop because of my mother; I cut my wrists with a knife, but only a small scratch, I thought of her without me.” (Zuri)

Since I suffered sexual assault, I don’t feel like a normal young woman. Something changed inside me. It’s hard to accept myself as I am. From then on, I was never the same again.” (Aminata)

“On the same day I found out I was pregnant, I also found out I had HIV. [...] I thought, like, my life was over, and from then on I have never been able to accept this condition. [...] I feel dirty, I feel like a person who is worth nothing, who only serves as a sexual puppet for men”

[...] Sometimes, in the beginning, I wouldn’t even take my medication, like, it’s better if I die, so much so that I already tried to ingest an entire bottle of medication so I would die, because for me it’s like, life is over, there’s no way to live with it.” (Imani)

Note. Prepared by the authors.

The results indicated the family as a context simultaneously protective and risk-producing, corroborating studies that highlight the ambivalence of parenting practices in processes of sexual victimization (Monge et al., 2021; Pessoa et al., 2024). While care and monitoring practices can reduce risks, experiences of neglect, violence, and blaming contribute

to the perpetuation of lack of protection and revictimization. In this sense, the study showed that the victims' families acted as a central space in the simultaneous production of trajectories of protection and vulnerability.

Similarly, the school context proved to be ambivalent. The literature indicates that positive relationships with teachers, good academic performance, and school continuity can act as protective factors and promote resilience (Marriott et al., 2014; Pessoa et al., 2017). However, when the school fails to recognize the specific needs of children and adolescents who are victims of abuse or reproduces exclusionary practices, it tends to operate as a space of risk. The presence of stigmatization, *bullying* and rigid institutional relationships can intensify suffering and produce new forms of adversity (Demenech et al., 2021; Pessoa et al., 2017).

Furthermore, the results reinforce that poverty acts not only as a context, but as a structuring condition of vulnerability. In line with Pessoa et al. (2024), sexual exploitation emerges in these scenarios as a response to material deprivation, being mediated by asymmetrical power relations. Such dynamics must be understood as an expression of structural gender and class inequalities, and not as individualizing or moralizing interpretations (Lira et al., 2017; Vega & Paludo, 2015). Additionally, the integrated analysis of empirical data indicates that the experience of childhood sexual abuse is associated with an increased susceptibility to victimization by sexual exploitation in adolescence (De Vries & Goggin, 2020), suggesting the presence of a *continuum* of vulnerability throughout development.

The identified psychosocial impacts, including intense psychological distress and suicidal ideation, corroborate evidence that childhood sexual abuse is associated with adverse mental and social health outcomes (Antonichen & Karas, 2025; Cruz et al., 2021; Nogueira, 2022; Silva, 2024). These effects extend beyond the individual level and frame sexual abuse as a public health and human rights issue.

In light of this, the findings point to the need for integrated clinical and psychosocial interventions, guided by skilled listening and ethical principles of care, as well as for the strengthening of intersectoral public policies. Such responses must encompass not only the reparation of individual harm, but also the tackling of the structural conditions that sustain sexual violence against children and adolescents.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

This study aimed to understand, using a netnographic approach, the trajectories of women who publicly narrated experiences of sexual abuse lived during childhood and/or adolescence, with an emphasis on their psychosocial consequences throughout the life course. The results demonstrate that sexual abuse constitutes a structural, reiterated phenomenon, intersected by inequalities of gender, generation, and social class, and sustained by persistent contexts of lack of protection in family and school settings. The analyzed narratives indicate that such experiences are linked to trajectories marked by revictimization, socioeconomic precariousness, educational disruptions, and psychological distress, compromising processes of subjectivation, social bonds, and life projects.

Within the scope of public policies and intersectoral networking, the results reinforce the need for integrated responses among the health, social assistance, education, and justice sectors, aimed at both prevention and comprehensive care. It is evident that institutional fragmentation, associated with socioeconomic inequalities, limits access to protection and continuity of care, indicating the importance of articulated strategies that consider the multiple dimensions of violence and its effects throughout life.

The implications for professional practice point to the adoption of trauma-informed approaches, committed to qualified listening, the strengthening of protective bonds, and the recognition of the social vulnerabilities that traverse these trajectories. Furthermore, the study highlights the potential of digital environments as contemporary spaces for denunciation, memory, and the processing of traumatic experiences, expanding the possibilities for understanding and visibility of violence. While the results are not generalizable, the research contributes to deepening the debate on the psychosocial impacts of sexual abuse and to strengthening professional practices and public policies guided by integral protection and human rights.

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