

Civil Society' practices to end violence and abuse of women and girls with disabilities in Mexico

Conference: “Towards Social Integration: Rights, Roles, Recognition of Persons with Disabilities”

Panel: DISABILITY GENDER AND VIOLENCE

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Outline

- ▶ Definitions
- ▶ Context
- ▶ Theoretical approach
- ▶ Research question and design
 Case-study
- ▶ Conclusion

Definition: Gender-based violence against women

1. Result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women
2. Including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty,
3. Whether occurring in public or in private life

Source: Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 20 December 1993 article 1.

Violence against women with disabilities

*“is not simply a subset of gender-based violence; it is an intersectional category dealing with **gender-based and disability-based violence** resulting in an elevated risk to violence for women with disabilities” (International Network of Women with Disabilities, 2010 in Ballan & Freyer, 2012, p. 1083-1084).*

Context

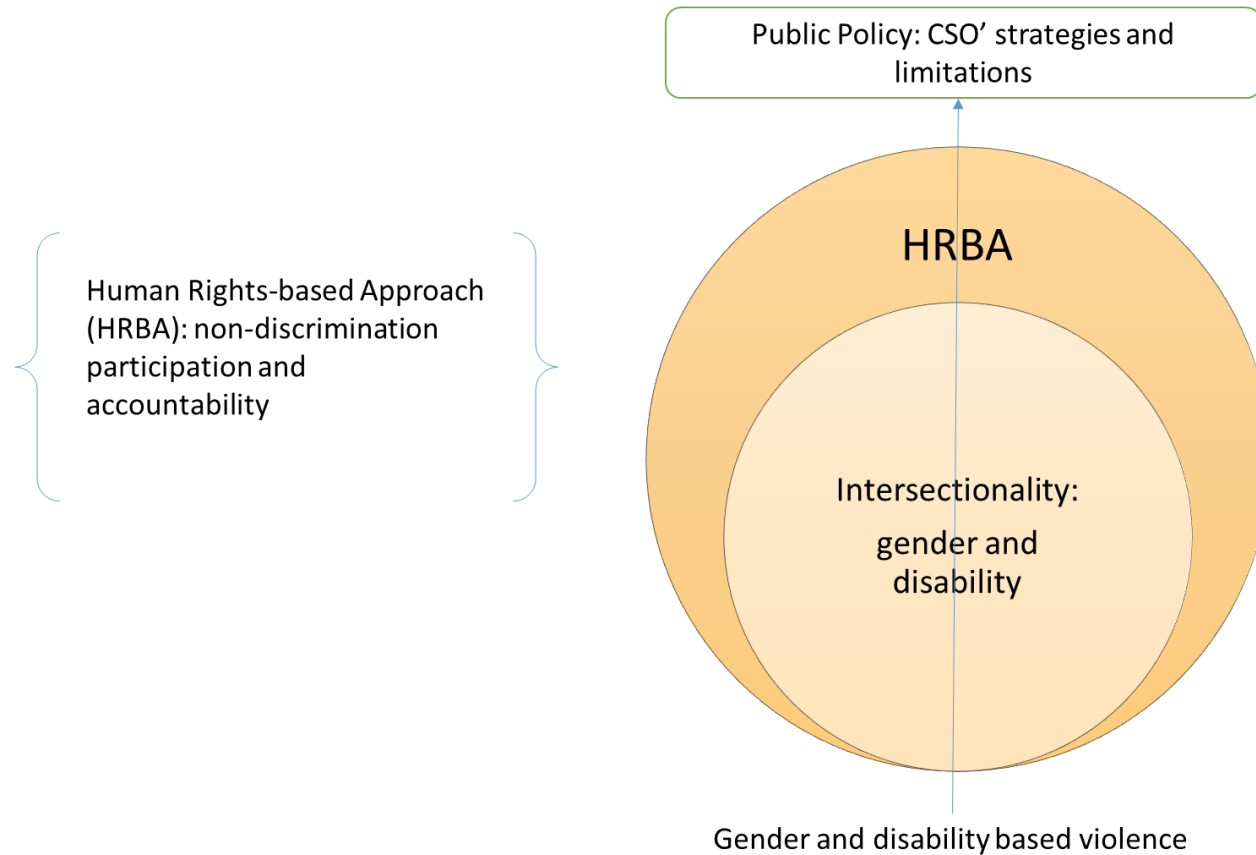
- ▶ Women with disabilities make up at least 10% (WHO, 2001)
- ▶ The male disability prevalence rate is 12 and the female 19.2 (UN special report on violence against women, 2012)
- ▶ Gender and disability stereotypes play a role in putting women with disabilities at greater risk of suffering gender-based violence.
- ▶ Lack of policies that address specific needs of women with disabilities

Forms of violence against women with disabilities

Physical	Sexual	Emotional
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• use of restraints,• withholding equipment, medications or transportation,• refusal to provide assistance with essential needs,• confinement and control of/use of/alteration of equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• sexual activity being demanded or expected in return for help,• taking advantage of physical weakness and inaccessible environment• forced/involuntary sterilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• denial of disability,• threats to withdraw care or services, ignoring requests for assistance,• threats of punishment or abandonment,• threats to institutionalize, threats to remove children, denial of rights

Source: Healey, Howe, Humphreys, Jennings & Julian (2008).

Theoretical approach



Source: Ana María Sánchez Rodríguez, 2015

Research Question

How are civil society organizations (CSOs) advancing policy to realize the right of freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse of women and girls with disabilities (article 16 of the CRPD) in Mexico?

Research Objectives

- ▶ Explore the Mexican' policy context in which CSOs work to end gender-based violence (GBV) against women with disabilities in Mexico
- ▶ Explore the gap between policy and practice in which CSOs work to end gender-based violence (GBV) against women with disabilities in Mexico, looking in particularly the states in which the selected CSOs work
- ▶ Explore and analyze CSOs' practices to address gender-based violence against women with disabilities
- ▶ Explore and analyze CSOs' practices to address GBV taking into account the complex intersection of women's different identities, in particularly looking at gender and disability

Case study: Mexico

- ▶ Pilot studies 2013-2015
- ▶ 17 interviews with governmental officials, feminists scholars, women's rights organizations, organizations working on gender-based violence, disability people organizations and scholars
- ▶ Focus group

Case study: Preliminary findings

- ▶ *“I think it has two explanations --- one that they were put together in the same box with all women and you lose sight of the disability condition....women have internalized and normalized that men have rights over them, I think then you have to fight for women’s rights and then look at other concerns, by fighting for all women, the subgroups didn’t appear for example class and indigenous women and age...” (Gender expert and former top government employee, personal communication, Dec, 2013)*

Conclusion

- ▶ Addressing the impact of the intersection(s) between disability and gender and other forms of oppression in relation to gender-based violence to inform policy
- ▶ Learning from CSOs best practices that are contributing to end gender-based violence against women with disabilities for policy-design and implementation
- ▶ Exploring forms of collaboration amongst diverse stakeholders to tackle GBV

Thank you

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